



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

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Picture Credit: David Robertson

BAWDSEY - ROYAL OPENING



Main news of the month has to be the opening by the **Duke of Gloucester** of the magnificent restoration by the **Bawdsey Radar Trust** of the **Bawdsey Transmitter Block**, pictured above. Huge credit to all concerned – and in this issue *eDEN* uniquely devotes **Ops Board** to this one Trust and, on her retirement, its Chair for the last 15 years, Bawdsey's tireless advocate **Mary Wain**.

Our regular articles then again begin with **Sir Robert Cockburn**, this time on a visit in June 1945 to Schleswig-Holstein for 100 Group, together with Group Captain Tester (known to us from Bletchley Park, of course), Wing Commander Norman Cordingly (today known to us from his book *The Nocturnal Blip*) and Squadron Leader Baillie, of Baillie Beams fame. The visit report merits close reading – to discover in particular the high praise which Cockburn and his colleagues give to the **German Y Service** and their equipment, and to **German infra-red developments**. We next follow our focus last month on beacons with two accounts of **beaconry and related work by TRE for the Army**. Two complementary memoirs are also worthy reading between the lines for a little contrast – **Robert Hanbury Brown** tells us of his move from AI after bursting his eardrums, to ground level and Army **Rebecca/ Eureka** beaconry – enlivened with an account of a visit to the USA. This account was written almost 50 years after the event, and so the contrast is with the contemporary (1945) memoir of **John Pringle**, the man who stayed behind in TRE while Hanbury Brown went to the USA, and 'spotting the joins' in these narratives of the same events viewed from two different perspectives is an enjoyable summer pastime for us as electronics historians.

Our last month's article on the work on microwave propagation tests at **Strumble Head/ Garn Fawr** stimulated several members to write in, and as background context we reprint an article about the propagation work on **Radio and Space Research at Slough 1920-1981** by **G.W. Gardiner, J. A. Lane and H. Rishbeth**, before plunging once more into the interwar, wartime and postwar work at Garn Fawr, so extensive that it is described in eight parts, with many individual contributions; thanks in particular to **Mike Dean, Richard Moore** and **Nigel Godsell**. To conclude Part I, following **BAE Systems'** account of its winning the multi-billion-dollar **Australian Global Combat Ship** contract based on the **UK Type 26 Frigate** design, **Tailpiece** received an interesting e-mail from **Walter Blanchard** on the life and work of **Beatrice Shilling**, and I have used this to mount an appeal for more input on the work of the women electrical/electronic engineers and scientists in military service – think **Hedy Lamarr**, whose story we know, and **Joan Curran**, less well-known, to TRE's **Stella Budden**, who is not [yet] an everyday name. Input, please!

Part II focusses on the years after 1943 when it appeared that true submarines, rather than the submersibles to that date, could arrive very soon – and more, that they could be equipped with stealth technology to evade radar detection. **Mike Dean** has provided most of the material for this Part II, commencing with a review of the problem and of the problem as it was explained to a **DCD Review**. In **Schornsteinfeger** Mike then elucidates the different forms of German stealth sheathing of the submarine, in particular of the **Schnorkel**, and two articles explain the context from the perspective of each of the warring parties – a paper by **Axel Niestlé** presented to the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Battle of the Atlantic sets the **German context of submarine design and electronic development**, while **Professor Sir Bernard Lovell's** memoir explains how the **TRE** scientists approached the challenge. Finally, on a lighter note, in **Tailpiece II** a torpedo ends up where it shouldn't have in a photo of an **HMS Walrus exercise**. Accidents do happen!

Mike Dean has once more provided huge support and help for this issue, and, as ever, my most grateful thanks. As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

INDEX

Editorial: Bawdsey Royal Opening	1
Index	3
2018 Ops Board: Mary Wain & Bawdsey <i>via Graham Randall and Roger Townsend</i>	3
Obituary: Stanley Ratcliffe RIN <i>David Broughton/ RIN via Nick Ratcliffe</i>	6
Sir Robert Cockburn – Visit to Schleswig-Holstein <i>100 Group Report</i>	7
Airborne Radar and the Army <i>R Hanbury Brown</i>	30
Radar, the Army and D-Day <i>Prof J W S Pringle</i>	38
Radio & Space Research at Slough 1920-1981 <i>G.W. Gardiner, J. A. Lane, H. Rishbeth</i>	49
Strumble Head: Fitting the Jigsaw Together <i>Mike Dean, Richard Moore, Nigel Godsell</i>	64
BAE Systems: Global Combat Ship – Australia/ Type 26 Frigates	99
DEHS Publications	100
Tailpiece: Beatrice, Joan and Hedy <i>via Walter Blanchard</i>	101
Part II: Submarines, Schnorkels and Stealth	103
Schnorkel <i>compiled by Mike Dean</i>	104
ASV: the Schnorkel Problem <i>TRE/ DCD Review</i>	110
Schornsteinfeger (Chimney Sweep) <i>Mike Dean MBE</i>	112
Schnorkel & Stealth: German Technical & Electronic Development <i>Axel Niestlé</i>	124
Schnorkel & Stealth In Context: The TRE Perspective <i>Prof Sir Bernard Lovell</i>	140
Statistical Background <i>AVM A Tedder and Maurice Dean</i>	143
Tailpiece II: That's Not Supposed to Happen! <i>HMS Walrus</i>	144

OPS BOARD

BAWDSEY IS NOW OFFICIALLY OPEN – MAKE IT A SUMMER VISIT

Opening days will be: Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays up to the end of October, 11am – 4pm, with last admission at 3.30pm.

Admission charges: Adults £6.50, Children 5 – 18 £1.00, Under 5's FREE.

Friends of Bawdsey FREE. Defence Privilege card holders, Concessions £6.00 - over 65's, people with disabilities (free admission for an accompanying carer) and adults receiving benefits.