



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Last December's Christmas quiz proved popular, so scattered throughout this issue of eDEN there are 13 mystery places to identify and 20 questions about them; all relate to the sensor or aerial end of systems, and warning, some may not be the first place which springs to mind, and only 5 of the 20 questions are based in the UK! All's fair in answering the questions – use of internet and search tools of whatever kind absolutely encouraged. Answers will be given in the January 1st New Year issue, #78. So, game on - **Question 1, above; a sound locator, clearly, but where in the world?**

Amidst all these puzzling images, this issue of eDEN looks across Army, Navy and Air Forces and across many years of conflicts and their legacies. We first look at a query about a Naval indicator unit from **Vin Robinson**, where much help came (as always!) from **Clive Kidd at HMS Collingwood** and our good friend and 'wise owl' **Jerry Proc** in Canada. We are a good way towards giving Vin a

comprehensive answer – but has any DEHS member direct experience of **RAF Shackleton sonobuoy systems** and particularly the **ARI 18108** system identified?

Next, an episode in another December 80 years ago – **David J B Smith** has allowed us to reprint his article in *'Britain at War'* about the end of the **Graf Spee**, and at what was “**Salvaged from the Trap of Montevideo**” - guns, as well as the radar unit now in Collingwood. David, who was most helpful to your Editor, earns his living as a writer, so do please respect his copyright. The original link to David was provided by our member Michael Ellis, to whom I am most grateful.

On to our own **Professor Simon Watts'** latest discoveries in the archives - the '**First Installation of LRASV in a Catalina Flying Boat**' and **Keith Woods'** diary account of this project; those who know Keith's invaluable diary of the early airborne radar story in the Bowen papers at Churchill College, Cambridge, will immediately recognise the value of Simon's article. Contemporary with the events in Keith's diary was the development under **Geoff Dummer** of the **radial timebase** at Dundee and Worth Matravers, and we reprint Geoff's own account of the circuitry from *'Wireless World'*.

Mike Dean next shares with us his summary of the military use of **Romney Marshes**, from the defensive to the offensive, taking us from the military canal and Martello towers through sound locators to the Chain Home, Chain Home Low and later radar installations on that area of the UK. We then pause to consider one of the intriguing but lesser-known systems of that period, in an article for the Radiolocation Convention by **G E Bacon** on **Variable-Elevation Beam Aerial Systems for 1½ metres**. **Ben Newsam** then wrote to us to highlight a project very worthy of support. Ben has placed the manuscript diaries of his father, **Bernard Newsam**, on the internet, and asks for help in transcribing them into print and explaining the various terms and abbreviations used. **Please follow the internet site references and give all the help you can to Ben in this endeavour**, which will be of great utility to future historians. To give a context to Bernard's work, we reprint one of his many papers, in this case on '**Precision Radar**' for the Radiolocation Convention, authored jointly with **Butement and Oxford**.

Following my Tailpiece last month on **War Surplus**, whence I suspect many DEHS members found their radio parts in the 40s, 50s and 60s, **Walter Blanchard** suggested we might run a series on this topic, and it seemed appropriate to begin with a centenary look at what happened in **1918**, when the entire Western Front and much of the Navy suddenly became 'war surplus'. **Horace White** of "scrappies" **Hughes Bolckow** wrote a very readable history, part of which we reprint here, of his own company's successes and failures in this field, from which we learn, among other facts, of a little-known offer by car magnate **Henry Ford**, of the fate of **Admiral Betty's flagship, HMS Lion**, and of the fate of a tower to rival that of Blackpool!

Thales announcements then bring us up to the minute with a series of new products – 4D radar, and their Talios Optronics pod, and to round off, Tailpiece has a very unusual item - a **Brass EF50!** Our member **Andy Young** turned this oddity up from his collection, and asks if anyone has seen another – has anyone, for certainly your Editor has not!

As always, many thanks to **Mike Dean** for his invaluable help, and suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Season's Greetings to all members of DEHS – have a great holiday, when it arrives!

Phil

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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Question 2. Where? As a clue, one for our Dutch colleagues!