



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
No 89: December 2019 Part I



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

December's issue is, as is our custom, the issue with our popular quiz 'Where in the World?', in which DEHS readers are invited to guess the location, name or event shown in particular images of significance in military electronics history – the identification of which usually leads to articles early in the New Year as readers almost always have new information or identifications to add! Question 1 relates to the image above, a seasonal one of skaters on a frozen pond. Where in the world is it? The huts might give you a clue.... Further images and questions appear throughout *eDEN*; answers to your Editor, who will refund this year's subs for the winner from his own pocket! Good luck!

eDEN 89 this month opens with a triumphant DEHS conclusion to 2019, with the outstanding **Science Museum Conference 'Security and Intelligence'** arranged by **Keith Thrower** and **Dr Liz Bruton**, an event from which, alas, illness yet again barred your scribe; Peter Butcher's report will appear in December's Transmission Lines. Next, more photos of the **Hülsmeier plaque unveiling** in October (an event crowning work by **Arthur Bauer** and **Prof Hugh Griffiths**); the **Suffolk 'Museum of the Year'** award in its category to DEHS members **Bawdsey Radar Trust**,; and the first two sessions of **Arthur Bauer** and the **CryptoMuseum's 'Secret Communications 3'** event – there are three more sessions still to come – take a trip to Amsterdam and enjoy! **Jos de Groot's** excellent **Lancaster Project**, set out in detail for us by **Jos**, asks for our help in tracing a **Londex Relay 219 or 220**, and **Resistance Unit 47** – please help if you can!

eDEN 89's rich mix of articles on Army, Navy, Air Force, and clandestine electronics then continues to span the years, beginning with **'Early Marconi Radio Equipment'** described by **Keith Thrower**, from which we move onto several articles around interception and the family of German navigational and bombing beams, **Knickebein, X-Verfahren and Y-Verfahren (X and Y Gerät** if you must, though that refers to the aircraft equipment). **David Pritchard** provides us with an overview in **'The Battle of The Beams'**, and then a very useful – but often forgotten – challenge to the conventional story by **Dr Alfred Price**, in **'Really? A New Look At 'The Wizard War'**, plus an antidote (of a sort) to our **'Where in the World'** quiz – a seaside chalet whose highly secret and sensitive location and purpose you don't have to guess, but will form an intriguing article next month!

We look next at the rich legacy left to us by those of Christmas Past, beginning with **Colin Latham's 'Prelude to CH and Defence Electronics in WWII'**, with a letter from **O.H. Davie**, and a dialogue on **'Chain Home's Spongy Lock'** between **Colin** and **P Vickery**. Colin then illustrates the **'High Life of RAF Radio (Radar) Mechanics in WWII'** with further reminiscence from **Peter Hall, OBE**, which is matched by three WAAF memoirs - **Knowler Edmonds' 'WAAF High Life'**, the wartime story of his wife **Greta**, and the stories of **Anne Stobbs** and **Pauline Walkinton**, while **Maurice Brockman** recounts what RAF life could be like between postings in **'Between Gee and Oboe'**.

Keith Thrower next illustrates the story of perhaps the war's most renowned valve, in **'The Famous EF50 Valve of WWII'** after which **Rex Boys** and **Walter Blanchard** give the history of the **'Eureka – Rebecca'** beacon system. We then move post-war as **Guy Jefferson MBE [via Brian Pegden]** gives his account of the **'Voice Rotating Beacon'** (note therein his reference to CEEFAX!), and **Wing Commander John M Brown OBE**, with a letter from **Talbot K Green**, recounts the story of **'A British Success - The Console Type 64'**. Our own **Richard Trim** (to whom, after a grim year, special Christmas Greetings in his northern home near Corbridge) then details two of his own successes – the **'IFF Interrogator/Decoder for the Rapier Short-Range Air Defence Weapon'** and the **'Development of the SSR1500 and SSR1520 Transponders'**, originally for the ill-fated **TSR-2** but eventually selling over 2,000 units worldwide. **Thales** has been busy, selling the **French Navy** flight simulator for their **E-2C Hawkeye**, and we close with **Tailpiece's** rather 'harsh' reminder of Christmas Past with **Bawdsey Radar Trust's** acquisition of **Authentic Izal Loo Paper** for its **award-winning Chain Home T Block** exhibition!

One main focus in Part II is once again the history of that under-recorded activity of **TRE Malvern**, its **'Post Design Services'** – this month, its work Overseas! The concluding part of this history next month; meanwhile **Tailpiece 2** records some **'Health and Safety'** of Christmas Past, in the exploits of **Magnus Pyke**, courtesy of **Mike Diprose** and **the Orkney Times!**

This month as always, my 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.

Warmest regards, success in our quiz **'Where in the World'**, and Season's Greetings to all!

Phil

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

'Where in the World?' Quiz appears on pages 1,33,67,72,84,86,92,96,100,103,107,110,111.

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OPS BOARD

DEHS members are shown in RED – and we may note how many events involve DEHS members!

**DON'T FORGET - THERE ARE CURRENTLY
TWO SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE EVENTS
ORGANISED BY DEHS MEMBERS**

Science Museum, London: Exhibition, 'Top Secret: from ciphers to cybersecurity', Tickets are free but can be booked at <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/top-secret> The exhibition is curated by **Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Bruton**, Curator of Technology and Engineering, Science Museum, committee member, DEHS, and also IET History of Technology Network

Saturdays 7 and 21 December 2019, and Sunday 12 January 2020; 'SECRET COMMUNICATIONS 3' by Arthur Bauer and the CryptoMuseum at Kloosterstraat, Duivendrecht, Amsterdam.



Tuesday 14th January 2020 @ 6:30 pm Failures of Marine Medium Speed Diesel Engines **Peter Filcek** Newcomen Society; Hood Room, The Royal Maritime Club, 78-80 Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HS

Wednesday 15th January 2020 ASV radar **Professor Simon Watts** Malvern Radar and Technology History Society.

DEHS CONFERENCE 'SCIENCE AND INTELLIGENCE'

Keith Thrower and Liz Bruton



Attendees at the DEHS Conference on *Security and Intelligence* in the prestigious surroundings of the Science Museum's Smith Centre rated it an **OUTSTANDING SUCCESS FROM START TO FINISH.**
[READ ALL ABOUT IT IN DECEMBER'S TRANSMISSION LINES!](#)

