



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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CONTINGENCY

First of all, our good friends in the **Bawdsey Radar Trust** re-open their Transmitter Block again today, Thursday October 1st, with many thanks to its volunteers for all the hard work back of house, front of house, side of house, etc. Please check with their website, to make visit bookings for today (if local and quick!), the 4th, 8th or 15th October.

It has been rather a bumpy month or so in the Editor's office (three weeks of the last six having been lost in illness/hospital), and your Editor muses that contingencies do sometimes have value; a skeleton **eDEN** is maintained here to cover such eventualities, and – thanks to a magnificent input from DEHS members - an outstanding array of newly written articles rapidly filled up **eDEN #99!** However, several articles promised last month have, due to lack of editorial resource, had to be held over into November's **eDEN #100**, these being continuing articles on the **Helmovertorpedo**, on **Racal and Doppler Navigation**, on the women of the **South African Special Signals Services**, and on the **very early US and UK 10cm AI and ASV radars** – fear not, these articles are simply delayed, not forgotten!

This month, as usual, eDEN spans Army, Navy, Air Force and clandestine applications of military electronics of all vintages, and we begin with our members' **Feedback** from our previous issues, this month from **David Eaton, Arthur Bauer, Margret Doring, Brian Austin and Andy Young**, with much more **Feedback** to come next month as your Editor catches up with his postbag.

In our first article, the firm with the symbiotic relationship with the Royal Navy, and so first to bring centimetric radar to operations – **Allen West Ltd** – matches the 'Silent Service' in its shyness of publicity; we reproduce one of its few post-war publications available to the general public, its Golden Jubilee brochure. **Tony Waller** then continues his fascinating journey through the variants of early **GEE**, before we look at one of the rare adaptations of a church to military service – **J.M. Lee's** account of the adaptation of **Petersham Church** (before it was consecrated) to **radar training and Army radar O.R.**

Continuing the theme of training, TRE's **Geoff Dummer** wrote a number of articles on his development of a dizzying array of **radar simulation and training devices** and we reprint one such in the hope that his work may be of value to those now developing software variants of wartime systems. The contemporary post-war discussion at the end of Geoff's paper is also of considerable interest in itself. From the tireless **Mike Dean** comes a truly novel and outstanding piece of research on the **radars for Britain's home defence in the desperate period between Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain**. This is completely unpublished research, which casts a new eye on the hasty work done in those frantic days by the RAF and TRE, and is very well worth your reading.

On our continuing theme of Radar's Forgotten Elements and People, your Editor contributes his own attempt to focus a little light on the use of polythene in WW2 radar, and the contribution of the almost unrecognised **Dr Tom Walmsley** in a lecture your Editor gave at the Royal Society some years ago – '**Wire in the Blood: Polyethylene and Radar, 1939 – 1945**'.

Researching deeper into the intriguing history of magnet manufacturers **Shaw's of Sheffield**, **Dr Nina Baker** illustrates the need to re-work even apparently recent company histories with the more modern sources of analysis and information made available via the internet – read her fascinating work on '**Magnetic Hannah: Shaw's of Sheffield and magnet manufacture**'. Next, **Claud Powell** tells us, via **Walter Blanchard**, of an interesting incident in **GL Radar: An Elementary ECCM Technique**, and **Tailpiece** closes Part I with a brief profile of '**The Ekco Man**'.

Part II: reprints a series of 1996 Conference papers covering Sonar and related topics, beginning in the First World war with **Dr Rowland F Pocock's** '**A Third Dimension in Naval Warfare: Underwater Weapons and the Change in Naval Strategy, 1914-1915**'. **Dr W K Grimley** takes us forward with his '**Anti-Submarine Warfare: A British Viewpoint**' while **Arthur Bauer** illustrates '**Lesser Known Aspects of the U-Boat's Group Listening Apparatus 'GHG'**'. Moving into the post-war period, **S.D. Mason** provides '**A Personal View of UK Sonar Signal Processing 1945-65**' while, speaking in the early 1990s, **Professor Vincent May** and **Dr Carolyn Heeps** discuss '**Sonar and Related Submarine Acoustics Today**', before **Tailpiece 2** on **China's carriers** rounds off **eDEN #99**.

Particular thanks this month to **Mike Dean** for his tour de force in Part I's article, and for much other support. Suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me please at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Warmest regards all, and keep safe,

Phil

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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