



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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VERDICT

Earlier in September, the BBC screened its programme '**Castles in the Sky**' on Watson Watt and the conflicts involved in the gestation of British radar, and DEHS members wrote to me in some numbers with their views! I have summarised these in the first article, and look forward to further input from those who may be viewing it on-line.

As a continuation of the World War 2 early days of British radar theme, I have provided an article on a person almost the polar opposite of Watson Watt – the Nobel Laureate **Sir John Cockcroft**, who was for much of the war in charge of British Army radar development. Sir John was famously a quiet man of very, very few words, a quintessential taciturn Yorkshireman (he was from Todmorden, a town of 15,000 which has produced two Nobel Laureates). Never one to make much of his achievements, his own summary of his war name-checks and praises everyone but himself, and so I have tried to illustrate the breadth of his achievements with those of his two protégés, **Wilfred 'Ben' Lewis** at TRE and **Basil Schonland** at the Army Operational Research Group (as well as, pre-Cockcroft, South African radar).

Our main event this month is of course our Autumn Symposium on Tuesday 7th October, and the booking form is attached for your last chance booking – **get them to Simon TODAY!** Dick Green provides information on one of the two announcements we will make there, the RAF100 initiative, and can I remind you that, thanks to tireless work by our President, **Keith Thrower**, we will have reprints of almost all our previous **Proceedings available at our Autumn Symposium**, together with copies of our good friend **Wolfgang Schroer's** CD book on the 'Main' receiver and **Stephen Phelps' Tizard Mission**.

In **Ops Board**, I draw members' attention to Liz Bruton's lecture at Paignton on the 11th. Also, should you not be exhausted by our Symposium, I will be lecturing at the Science Museum the day after, the 8th, on 'Power Struggles and Personality Clashes in German Radar'.

Tailpiece makes **eDEN** the first military electronics history publication to feature a fashion page!

As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com .
Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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