



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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FIRST STEALTH FLIGHT OF TARANIS

For those who may have missed it, the British Taranis stealth UAV made its first ‘stealth flight’ this month (yes, I’ve heard all the “How did anyone know?” jokes), and the bulk of a £1bn series of UK defence announcements was concentrated on electronics and on intercept. Sadly, the month was overshadowed by the loss of the Malaysian Airlines 777 over the east of Ukraine, with all passengers, in the main Dutch citizens, and crew; at the time of writing, the apparent victim of a radar-guided missile attack. More on this miserable event when there is more known for certain, but immediately all our sympathies go to the families and friends of all involved.

eDEN seeks to present *original* information to DEHS members to allow you to make up your own minds on aspects of military electronics and this month, with summer reading in mind, we provide a range of original information from many periods of conflict. We begin with a ‘**Summer Puzzle**’ where you can sit in the sun and unravel the gremlins in one of C E Prince’s circuits in last month’s eDEN, and move on to discover what the British General Staff knew in March 1918 about the German use of wireless in aircraft. Much ink has been spilt about British bombing inaccuracies in the Second World War, but I have never seen any previous reproduction of what, in 1939, the aircrew themselves thought, and of the conclusion British scientists drew. In summer 1939, Henry Tizard visited all the main bomber groups and asked the aircrew, then set down his conclusions, and here they are for you to read (and perhaps to marvel at). We have not, to date, had an article which deals with the operation of the many different power valves of the Second World War, and so here, as promised, and with thanks in particular to our Australian member **John Kaesehagen**, is an original article on the ‘**Resnatron**’ valves which powered the final amplifier of the mighty Allied **AN/MPQ-1 ‘Tuba’ jammer** installed on the East Anglian coast to jam the German AI radar **Lichtenstein B/C**. It’s been a good month for books: **Mike Dean** reviews a most useful book on the WW2 air war in North Africa, and I am pleased to announce that our good friend **Wolfgang Schroer** has produced a further CD book, this time on the ‘Main’ receiver, and makes this available on special offer to DEHS colleagues (many thanks, Wolfgang). A second most useful, and inexpensive, book is **David Wilcox’ ‘Army Radar’**, the first book for many years on this neglected subject. In **Ops Board**, I draw members’ attention again to **Dr Liz Bruton’s** forthcoming talks around the country; and finally, fill in the booking forms - 7th **October**, when our **2014 Autumn Symposium, ‘Looking Forward, Looking Back’** will be held at **Shrivenham**; **details attached!** Tailpiece looks at the opposite of TUBA – the German head-mounted **Liliput!** As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or chairman@dehs.org.uk.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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