



# **e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER**

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY  
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## **SEASONS GREETINGS**

### **CHRISTMAS NOSTALGIA: YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN ...**

.....the first naval drone carrier is retired! Yes, I know there are masses of articles written and tea-towels printed on the theme of "You know you're getting old when ....", but when I saw the news in 'Warship' of the retirement of USS *Halyburton* (above), I did muse to myself a little that I did remember drones as a novelty not so long ago! Then again, I thought, the first drones are WW1, so the first naval drone carrier must have retired a while back. Must research that!

In this Christmas Bumper 50-page issue, I hope we have something to please everyone. Feel free, over Christmas, to start a long-running argument over two discussion articles – a film review, of '*The Imitation Game*': '*Castles in the Sky on Steroids?*'; and '*What is Radar?*', a query you'll see has a 1946 debating pedigree. Our RAF colleagues can immerse themselves in what **5 Group Bomber Command** thought of the strengths and weaknesses of its signals and radar equipment, ground and air, and of its expedients to improve matters, in a previously little-known 1945 radar and signals history, and this is followed up by **Geoff Dummer's short description of the H2S trainer**. Naval members will find the Christmas puzzle to their liking, I hope – just what is truly unusual about the three vessels featured in **Tailpiece's seasonal "I saw three ships come sailing in"?** We hark back to last month's Mills & Boon history of **HMS Tarlair at Hawkcraig** with a further account, this time by **Brian Head**, where I ask for members' help in identifying whence this article originated. The Army is represented by a **personal story of an ATS AA radar operator, the late Rowena Argent**, and by a truly Olympic feat of **restoration of a British centimetric radar, the GL3B**; thank you to new member **Brian Mendes** – himself the activist who has done so much to ensure the preservation of its **Canadian counterpart, GL3C, at Shilo, Manitoba** – for triggering my memory on this worthy and heroic project. Private company R & D is not forgotten, as I show how members **Peter Waddell** and **Miranda Andrews** have contributed to filling in the gaps on the history of the inventive **Gustav Wikkenhauser of Scophony and Kelvin Hughes**, thereby helping **Rebecca Northfield**, Editor of IET's always-interesting E&T Magazine and our own ever-helpful IET link, **Anne Locker**, head of Archives and Library. Bringing us up to the present day, AOC and DEHS member '**Jacey**' **Wise** writes on **SHF Intercept Targets**, and a press release advises us that **Dassault have partnered with BAE on studies for an unmanned combat air system** (UCAS drone), so now you know why we asked Dassault's **Luc Berger** to deliver 2013's Burns Lecture! Since we are nearing Xmas, there are reviews of two worthy members' books– **Jeff Jefford's Observers and Navigators 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, and **Miranda Andrews' Follow My Dreams**. There are plenty of DEHS publications to absorb your Xmas gift monies too, and Ops Board gives you some excuses for tip-toeing off from family duties to gain a little professional input!

I draw your attention once more to our [Burns Lecture by GCHQ's Professor Niel Kempson on April 9<sup>th</sup>](#), and note particularly my [appeal for you to bring along relevant equipment](#) for our exhibition! [Arthur Bauer](#) also has a meeting on [Sunday 21 December in Amsterdam](#) as a brainstorming session on the [Nachtfee night-fighter control system](#) for which Arthur gained our 2014 Restoration Award; expressions of interest to Arthur, please.

As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at [philjudkins@btinternet.com](mailto:philjudkins@btinternet.com) .

Season's Greetings to all

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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