



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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BURNS LECTURE DISPLAY

This year's **Burns Lecture Day** featured – in addition to an outstanding speaker! – a wide-ranging display of intercept equipment covering all three armed services plus BBC Caversham, a span of half a century from the pre-WW2 period onwards, and a range of countries from the USA through the UK to Germany – see more pictures later in this eDEN. It was a delight to see and talk to so many members and friends – the prize for longest distance travelled goes to **Robert Soek**, over from Brazil! – and we look forward to meeting you all, and more, in October at the Autumn Symposium.

In this issue, we again reproduce a number of original articles which “deserve to be better known”, and begin with two contributions dealing with the rarely-acknowledged contribution of the **Post Office Electrical Engineers**, taken from the January 1946 ‘Victory Number’ of the POEE Journal, and covering two lesser known areas of their activity – **communications in the Occupied Channel Islands, and the contribution of the Post Office to radar equipment**. In future issues, I intend to reproduce material showing PO Engineers’ contributions to Bomber and Fighter Command systems and the Battle of the Atlantic, together with accounts of the critical, but almost-forgotten, **Defence Teleprinter Network**, and the equally-important air raid warning system, and starting next month (June) with, appropriately, **cable communications for the D-Day invasion armies**. In this eDEN, we move on to **Dynatron Radio**’s September 1945 celebration of its wartime achievements across a very wide range of Air Ministry contracts, a valuable document preserved by **Tony Waller**’s thoughtfulness and prepared for publication by **Mike Dean**; this will be an excellent reference for students of just how the production of electronics was really managed under the stress of war. **Brian Mendes** contributes a short note on how WW2 equipment was then often re-used for post-war equipment – retro-fitting is not a modern invention! We then look at another preserved document, this time by the forethought of our Past President **Bill Penley**, from which I’ve drawn an illustrated version of **Army radio and radar equipment at ‘Land Day 1967’**; many members may have worked on, or used, the kit described, and do please let me know of your own military electronics memories of it. **Thales** then brings us up to date with two contract announcements, one of an intercom system for Australian vehicles, one of radar for Dutch ground and maritime air defence. Our own **Publications List** is then followed by details and a call to action of the **IEEE Reach Project**, and Ops Board gives members a couple of diary dates – note especially the popular **Old Crows History Evening on 20 May** in the RAF Club, London (you don’t have to be a member, but the AOC is well worth joining!), and the **14 May opening in Oxford of an exhibition on the physicist Henry Moseley**, killed at Gallipoli; this has been organized by our member **Dr Liz Bruton** who also has two talks in June, on 13 June (Oxford: WW1 anti-submarine warfare) and on 20 June (Brooklands Museum, WW1 radio-telephony in aircraft – hopefully with flying

demo!). **Tailpiece** has a wartime Naval radar poem, kindly pointed out to me by **David Robertson** (many thanks, David!).

As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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