



## ***e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER***

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY  
No 35: June 2015

### **KEITH THROWER, DEHS & CEMT PARTNER LEEDS UNIVERSITY IN MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

This month we celebrate the inception of a major research project under which the University of Leeds will be recruiting a post-doctoral research fellow to investigate how far the electronic advances of the First World War fed into wireless, radio and electronics developments of the period between the two World Wars. This research has been funded in part by the University through the tireless work of **Professor Graeme Gooday**, in part by our affiliate **the Communications and Electronics Museum Trust (CEMT) and ourselves, DEHS**, and in very great part by an extremely generous personal donation from our President, **Keith Thrower, OBE**. Sparing his blushes, Keith has had a truly exceptional career – joining Racal in October 1960 as a junior development engineer from the domestic radio and hi-fi industry, Keith's first product was the SA520 frequency counter, the progenitor of the successful 500 series. In 1963, Keith took over frequency synthesizer development, and applied this to create the MA921 Syncal and its wider frequency sibling the MA321. Keith became Technical Director of Racal Instruments in 1968, creating a broad range of measuring equipment based on digital technology, and was then asked by Racal Chairman Ernest Harrison to set up the division which would become Racal Research, spanning everything from thick film circuit manufacture to frequency-hopping radios such as Jaguar (for whose success Keith was awarded the OBE). Additionally appointed Technical Director of Racal Chubb, Keith was also appointed president of the Institution of Electrical and Radio Engineers; he retired in 1995, and has produced a steady flow of outstanding technical histories. Our thanks are due to Keith for his splendid generosity and leadership in setting up this project; the advertisement for the job is on page 3, so if you want to apply, now's your chance!

**eDEN 35**, after photos of our enjoyable **Summer Visit**, once more reproduces original articles which "deserve to be better known", with again two contributions from the **Post Office Electrical Engineers Journal**, this time (D-Day anniversary) **cable communications for the D-Day invasion armies**, and also **the UK's Air Raid Warning System**. In recent months, **Peter Waddell and Douglas Brown's paper on German and Swiss Resonant Cavity Magnetrons** has stimulated debate with members of the **Tube Collectors' Association**, and we reproduce their original article with input from the TCA Editor and from myself – feel free to join the discussion! Two WW2 RAF publications – **'Evidence in Camera'**, a photo-recce publication, and the **Coastal Command Review** provide articles on unexpected additions to the **Arado 234 jet**, recce pictures of **radio targets**, the **German 'Tunis' radar warning receiver**, the **end of U-681** as seen by both combatants, and a puzzle for **Tailpiece!** **Power supplies** rarely get much of a mention, so we provide articles on those of the WW2 **Luftwaffe** and those of the **1960s British Army**. **Thales** announce contracts for **Merlin kit** and **radios for the US Army**, followed by our own **Publications List**, and **Ops Board**, reminding us of the

important current **Oxford exhibition on the physicist Henry Moseley**. We feature a brief note on the **Malvern Radar and Technology History Society**, whose members are doing great work in ensuring that the legacy of Britain's pre-eminent radar research establishment is preserved and available for study – support their work all you can! As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at [philjudkins@btinternet.com](mailto:philjudkins@btinternet.com)

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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