



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
No 101: December 2020 Part I



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WHERE IN THE WORLD?

With this ***eDEN #101*** December issue, we open our seasonal quiz with an easy one, based on the image above. The usual rules apply – any method of getting to the answer is fair, so image matching technology, Google, books and your memory are all fair game; the Editor's ruling is final; and the prize is a year's free subscription or, for standing order payers, an equal donation to a charity of your choice. So, **Question 1 – what is the above's connection with radar?** No jokes about 'solid state', please! And because I said it's an easy one, the answer is somewhere in this ***eDEN***, just as the answers to several others are in 2020 ***eDENs*** or past DEHS presentations.

In Part I, ***eDEN #101***, as always, spans Army, Navy, Air Force and clandestine applications of military electronics of all vintages, and we begin with Feedback, in this case with an article unearthed by **Mike Blom**, featuring the ubiquitous **ASV II** under the intriguing title ***It Ain't True, McGee***. We follow with a promised look at **RACAL's Airborne Doppler**, held over from August's issue, before **Tony Waller** opens the ninth article of his popular series ***To Restore or Not Restore: That is the Question***, looking at the **US ASB radar**. **Mike Elfed Williams** then contrasts his own and a relative's service in RAF air defence in ***RAF Air Defence: An Historical Glance at 1950 and 1962***.

The tales of **JRR Tolkien** will no doubt feature in many people's Decembers, but one you will not have heard – **Tolkien and the Zeppelins** – is presented here by **Sqn Ldr Seamus Hamill-Keays**, and is an excellent example of thorough and painstaking research, well worthy of its subject. After Tolkien's First World War, there were many predictions about technology in future wars; we reprint one from 1928, **R. Heath Bradley** and the use of airborne television in **The Battle of the Ridge**. The reality - the use of television technology in radar – is shown by two articles illustrating the genesis and development of the famous **Pye IF strip**, both by Pye Ltd notables; **BJ Edwards** discusses the design of 1939 TV IF strips in an extract from his paper **The Design of Television Receiving Apparatus** [due to be read before the IEE's Wireless Section in February 1941 but delayed for reasons we might guess], and selected extracts from **JE Cope's** 1946 paper cover similar ground, but now with an entire war's experience on which to build.

To bring us more towards the present day, **Lt Col JJ Clarke**, writing in 1980, describes **A New Generation of Field Artillery Systems**, and we have a specific look at **Bates: Britain's Second-Generation Computerized Artillery Control System, Israel's David Field Artillery Computer** and **Canada's MiliPAC Portable Artillery Computer System**. To lead us into Part II and the continuing saga of ASV I and II's use around the world, our recent past is described in **M. Ferrari's** description of **Search Master: Australia's Maritime Patrol Aircraft** and its two radar options. Finally, picking up from our last month's celebration of centenarians, **Tailpiece** tells of the **oldest living WW2 radar operator, 103-year old Jamaican Ena Collymore-Woodstock**, who served on Army radar in Britain and Belgium from 1943-6 including the V-weapons campaign, and post-war qualified as a barrister, becoming in a series of firsts both a Crown Solicitor and a Resident Magistrate.

In **Part II** we examine **Light-Weight Air Warning in WW2**, in particular the need for portability on beach landings and in jungles – the especial needs of the Pacific campaign. **Mike Blom** first tells us of the **Japanese copy of the ASV Mk 2**, and we then move to examine the official accounts of the **British Story** of Lightweight Air Warning radars, starting with **Brigadier Sayers** account in Army Radar; **Mike Dean** then shares his research on the story of 'Pack Set' Air Warning on the ground, and we then look at the results, **AMES 6**, as illustrated in Air Publication 2276. The **American Story** follows, with a look first of all at the bewildering varieties of the **SCR 602 family**, and then the **Signal Corps Official History** of the SCR 602 radar, before **Hugo Guerlac** takes us through the US view of the **Australian Group of the (US NDRC's) Radiation Laboratory (AGRL)**. Part II closes with the **Australian Story**, introduced by **Guerlac** again in his **Aspects of the Pacific War**, and then gives the Australian view by their WW2 head of radar, **Wing Commander Pither**, in extracts from his 'Pither Report'. **Ed Simmonds** and **Norm Smith** give a less official perspective in their **Echoes over the Pacific**, of which we will hear more next month, and **Mike Dean** closes with more of his own research in **SCR 602 Down Under - The 'Skippy' Effect?** **Tailpiece 2** is also contributed by Mike, describing the strangest of all sites for a radar, in **Light Warning Set protects the Cairo Conference**, and **Tailpiece 3** by **Phil Racher**, with a speed camera story - anyone know if it is true or a myth?

Particular thanks this month to **Mike Dean** for massive help on Part II and to **Mike Blom** for many images from his collection. More next month, and meanwhile, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me please at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Warmest regards all, and keep safe,

Phil
Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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