



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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AMBITION

That **Avro Vulcan XH558**, the last airworthy V-bomber provided eight summers of airshows was largely, if not entirely, down to DEHS member **Dr Robert Fleming**, who sadly died recently.

From October 18, 2007, the perfect autumn day that XH558 first flew as a 'civilian' plane, to her last flight to Doncaster, Robert was a problem-fixer, and very much a 'Marmite' character, as one probably has to be, given the unique problems. Whenever times were tough or the pot was empty, he found ways to squeeze a few extra pounds from sponsors, or from ordinary members of the public. After the 2007 financial crash, operating a four-jet Cold War bomber for airshow performances should have been impossible; for eight years, Robert proved that it wasn't.

His impact was immense; to have convinced the Heritage Lottery Fund to stump up to finance a Vulcan return-to-flight has been described as 'an act of near-sorcery'. Typical of the man, he did finally admit what the enthusiast community had suspected - that on one of its final flights, XH558 had been 'rolled' by the pilots. For Robert, it would seem, truly nothing was impossible.

In Part I, **eDEN #104** opens with **Feedback**, where **Brian Austin** responds to our previous month's Editorial with examples of '**Delusion**' from the British Army's kit at the **Battle of Arnhem** and from **Stanley Hey's** solar observations, with particular reference to the actions and views of **Sir Edward Appleton**.

Pre-World War 1, **Keith Thrower** adds to our article last month in an article on **Fessenden** and the Heterodyne, while once again **Clive Kidd** of HMS Collingwood's Heritage Collection produces, from a National Archives Admiralty file, another interesting lecture from 1926, this time at the Senior Officers' School, Sheerness, by **Captain Fitzmaurice, DSO** on '**Naval W/T**'. Brian Mulvana then unfolds his latest researches on **D/F at Scarborough** with input from **Mike Dean**, who produces his own article on the intriguing subject of **Meccano in Defence**. **Your Editor** provides a postscript on similar construction sets, and asks our international readers if such sets were used in prototyping in **Germany, the USA, or Holland** – does any member have any information on this? A query to **Bawdsey Radar Trust's Lynette Burgess** regarding a relative's query about the Bawdsey career of **RHA 'Dick' Carter** stimulates our reprinting Carter's own '**RDF and IFF: a personal reminiscence**' (and reminding ourselves that family history is complicated by nicknames; Carter was, in fact, christened Robert or 'Bob', but a pre-WW1 prolific pulp detective fiction writer's lead character caused him and many other Carters of this era to be called 'Nick')

We move on to Part 4 of our series on **Generators for Airborne Power**, where this month **Mike Diprose** relates the result of his own researches on a box of generator parts, undisturbed in his workshop for many years - which Air Publication 1095C elucidates as part of a **propellor feathering device**! In April's eDEN, **Simon Watts** will lead us back to generators proper, with an introduction to those used for ASV equipment. Next, episode 12 of **Tony Waller's** popular series **To Restore or Not Restore: That is the Question**, delves deep into the detail you require to make your own transformers – now go ahead, and take advantage of Tony's offer to provide advice - but **do please follow all his safety advice, as you will be working with lethal voltages**. **David Robertson** then continues our series on heritage aspects of military electronics, taking as his example his researching the fate of the vanished **Ace High tropospheric scatter dishes** at **Stenigot** and debating the many issues involved. We then look at the sad fate of an **Avro Anson** which met a **Ventnor aerial tower** in fog, before closing Part I by moving on to the present, with news from **Thales** of their **O-NYX Night goggles**, **AN/PRC-148D team radio**, **NS50 radar**, **SATCOM** and **EW**, while **Tailpiece** celebrates the achievements of a radar mechanic, **David Carter** - designer of the **Stanley knife**, and among many other items of **Le Shuttle**, the cross-Channel car shuttle train.

In Part II, we conclude the reprinted monograph by **CJ Carter & WR Beakley** of the original **AGLT** team (the first part appeared in last month's **eDEN #103**, and **March's Transmission Lines** will add a triumphant finale with a feature article by **Dr Mike Diprose** on AGLT's accompanying **infra-red F and Z IFF systems**). **MRATHS' Hugh Williams** provides us with the '**Developers' Story: AGLT from the perspective of the staff of TRE Group 36**' with oral histories from Hugh's own father **Norman Williams** and from **Orvin Hill**. **Tailpiece 2** closes eDEN sadly, with an obituary of **Michael Herman**.

Thanks, as always, this month to **Mike Dean**. Next month, more news and articles, so 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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Demolition of the ACE High dishes at Stenigot – see David Robertson’s article, p 94.