



# **e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER**

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## **BLACK PROPAGANDA**

Wars are fought in many ways, one being to circulate false information or theories about real events to shake the confidence of people in those in authority, whether military or civil. Many conspiracy theories have swarmed around the events of 9/11; many are swirling around the storming of the Capitol. 'False flag' arguments hinge on assertions that the visible signs, such as banners, slogans or uniforms, carried or worn by those in images of real events are in fact deliberately employed by those of the opposite persuasion, to blacken the reputation of those they oppose. So, in our header image, the mob would not, as it might appear, be of supporters of (now ex-) President Trump, but of his Anti-fascist ('Antifa') opponents.

In World War 2, black propaganda was undertaken by the British Political Warfare Executive, PWE, with **Sefton Delmer** creating many ostensibly German radio stations (*Gustav Siegfried Eins*, *Soldatensender Calais*, *Atlantiksender*) to broadcast to German forces a string of popular programmes of dance music interspersed with real news (including details of recent prisoners taken and U-boats sunk) and items of credible but unverifiable 'fake news' about the corruption, venality and incompetence of their leaders. There is an excellent book on this subject written by **Wallace Carroll** under the title '*Persuade or Perish*', printed by The Riverside Press in 1948. Wallace arrived in London on 10th September 1942 to take charge of the American information program and psychological warfare operations in the European theatre. This is a remarkably detailed account of those activities, conducted in close conjunction with the UK staffs, throughout the rest of WW2.

The same battle, greatly magnified by the power of the internet, continues today and will expand in the future, and, with thanks to **John Stubbington**, we reprint in this issue of *eDEN* recent testimony given to Congress by one expert in the field, **Herbert Lin**. The jargon and tactics in this type of warfare may seem novel and complex, but their employment has a long history and is worthy of study, since disaffecting the mass of people from their leaders is one way of winning a war; we may recall that the Chinese military thinker, **Sun Tzu**, in his “**The Art of War**” pointed out that winning the war without ever having to fight was victory in its purest form. The only casualty, of course, is Truth. The current and ongoing cyber threat as recently demonstrated by **The DarkSide** hacking into the **Colonial Pipeline Company** computing services is a fellow traveller in this style of warfare.

*eDEN #107* continues our coverage of Army, Navy, Air Force and clandestine applications of military electronics of all vintages, and as usual we open Part 1 with ‘Feedback’, this month from **Arthur Bauer**, who provides us with an image of a rare item from his collection. We are much indebted to **Robert Soek** for sourcing recently-released images of the **Final Assembly of the Atomic Bombs** with commentary by **Ryan Crierie**; apart from their historical interest, one of these images finally solved the purpose of the **XED-12 unit** owned by **Tatjana Joëlle van Vark** and featured in *eDENs 82 and 83* – it is, as suspected, one of the units used to trigger atomic weapons! Keeping to a nuclear theme, our first major article is the unpublished memoir of **Geoffrey Bell, FIEE, CEng, via his son Robin Bell** covering Geoff’s early service as a **WW2 Ground Radar Mechanic** and some of his later work on the **Sellafield Atomic Pile**, details of which may make you feel that you were glad you didn’t know what was happening at the time! We follow with an account from the 1946 Radiolocation Convention by the Admiralty’s **OL Ratsey** of **British Radar Transmitters 1935-45: A Survey of Developments**, covering radars of all services. **Simon Watts** then appeals for our help in tracking down details of **ASV IIA** and its transmitter **T3140**; this is the high-powered version of the ASV II radar. Details of two elements of ‘**The Indicator 6 Tribe**’ follow – first, the **Indicator 96**, and second, the interesting **Test Set 81**, both as described in **Air Publication 2544A**.

It's back then to the World War II Admiralty radar, as **John Gould** recounts the story of the **Admiralty Research Establishment, Witley** and its remarkable clutch of future Fellows of the Royal Society, the ultimate recognition awarded in the UK to scientists - and more on one new Fellow of the Royal Society below! There then follows two papers from our 2003 Conference on Clandestine Equipment - **Z Sebastian Siemaszko** on **Polish Clandestine Radio in World War Two** and **Arthur Bauer** on **Aspects of German Wireless Espionage During World War Two**, before we print the testimony of **Herbert Lin** on **The Pentagon and Information Warfare**, with thanks to **John Stubbington**. I review **Ray Essen’s** new edition of his ‘**Revolutions in Time**’, and **Tony Waller** and I then close with **Tailpiece** devoted to our answers to our Holiday Quiz last month, ‘**Now we can go down to the sea again ...**’ – how many did you get right?!

Part II is devoted to a series of articles on and around **German Infra-red**, beginning with **Lt Cdr Elliott and Lt Mayes** on **German Infra-Red Devices and Associated Investigations**, followed by a second contribution from **Lt Cdr Elliott** in **BIOS Report 66** on **German Infra-Red Driving and Fire Control Equipment**. Infra-red equipment was also shown in the **Exhibition of German Electronics Equipment of March 1946**, and we reprint here the catalogue notes. **Tailpiece 2** then closes *eDEN 107* with images of one of German infra-red’s test sites, **Wasserkuppe**, and a personality associated with it.

Particular thanks as always to **Mike Dean**. More next month, and meanwhile, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me please at [philjudkins@btinternet.com](mailto:philjudkins@btinternet.com) or [info@dehs.org.uk](mailto:info@dehs.org.uk).

Warmest regards all, and keep safe,  
Phil  
Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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## PROFESSOR HUGH GRIFFITHS ELECTED FRS

On 6 May, the Royal Society announced the names of the new Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) which is the highest distinction awarded by a British body in recognition of the achievements of a scientist. DEHS was delighted to see that our member and Burns Lecturer Professor Hugh Griffiths, OBE, FREng, Royal Academy of Engineering / Thales Chair of RF Sensors at the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University College London, has now been duly and worthily honoured; a full report will appear in the June issue of Transmission Lines, our Journal of Record, which will circulate on 15 June.