



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

THE e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY:
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eDEN LAUNCH WELCOMED BY DEHS MEMBERS

The Royal Mail may not applaud our attempt to deprive them of revenue by going electronic, but there has been a widespread welcome to the launch of **eDEN** by DEHS members. In my covering letter last month, I asked you to reply to me confirming that you had received **eDEN 1**, and was delighted that well over half of you did so, allowing me to renew many friendships with DEHS colleagues whom I had not seen for some time. Almost everyone added congratulatory and supportive messages, for which many thanks – let me see now if I can stimulate from you a continuing flow of information, articles and queries of interest to you all!

In this **eDEN2**, you'll find some answers which were contributed by you all to the queries raised last time – and you'll find me using these as something of a 'teaching aid' to show where to find the answers to other queries. The same applies to my article about tracing the careers of Army personnel during World War 2, where I've used as examples some of the people and units mentioned by Peter Waddell in his thought-provoking research on John Logie Baird. I've also tried to give substance to the width of DEHS interests, for we have boldly said we are concerned with 'everything electronic from DC to light'; so I have included an article on the late 1930s 'Silhouette' scheme for spotting enemy aircraft at night, an experimental scheme which absorbed ten times as much money as the original research budget for radar – *and which later led to a proposal to create an artificial aurora borealis above southern Britain, against which German bombers would be visible!* Don't believe me? The evidence survives... What is important is to read how the Tizard Committee dealt with many ideas other than radar (and indeed thought some of them more important than radar); and how even an expensive and outlandish idea can be accepted when backed by a scientist of eminence to whom an influential Chairman owes a debt of gratitude. Is there an echo here of Professor David Edgerton's thoughts in his Spring lecture to us? There is also a further trio of book reviews, plus a tip or two on how to get books rather cheaper.

Your Chairman's next job after despatching these copies of **eDEN2** will be to envelope and post to you the next hard-copy **Transmission Lines**, with the AGM Agenda and Accounts. As I said last month, the TL '*may, to assiduous readers, have a certain air of déjà vu about it. This is because it is intended as a recruitment vehicle, and so is*

*made up from a variety of articles which have already featured - and no, that's not because we have no copy left, but because it has been suggested to us that members could do with a small stock of copies of **Transmission Lines** which they could hand to prospective members without giving away their own copy.'* You will each receive three as hand-out copies, and I will hold a central stock of this edition of **Transmission Lines** from which you can order more.

I can do no better than to reinforce my last month's plea – *Now you have no excuse not to pester your colleagues to join DEHS, so go get 'em!!'*

As ever, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or chairman@dehs.org.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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