



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

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### **CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER**

The deployment of the **USS Carl Vinson** (in US Navy-speak, the 'Chuckie V', *above, at 34 knots*) to operate off North Korea illustrates the importance of naval power, and Part I of this issue of eDEN contains many articles devoted to aspects of naval technology involving electronics.

We open with the beginning of a series of articles charting the history of **Radio Warfare in the Royal Navy 1900 – 1945**, which **John 'Jacey' Wise** has most kindly agreed to serialise here in eDEN; this will appear in twelve parts during the coming year, and judging by this first part, I'm sure you will agree it looks like an excellent read. We follow this with **Bernard Blake's** 1980s assessment of the **British Torpedo Industry** which originally appeared in Jane's; the reader may well compare today.

As an interlude from matters naval, I follow with an article provided by **John Kaesehagen**, showing a **Dutch approach of the late 1930s to the rotation of massive wooden aerial towers**, and John poses the challenge of whether **Chain Home** might have benefitted from such a system. Answers, ripostes and debate to me please – comments from Dutch colleagues welcome! **Mike Dean** has started the ball rolling with a comment on Dutch engineers making use of the concept on the **Defford Interferometer of the 1960s**.

We then return to matters naval, with two short articles originally published in late 1940s *Wireless World* – a brief summary of **Communications Equipment on British Warships** by **G M Bennett**, and then a look at one of the many less renowned but still important pieces of kit, **the Ardente amplifier** in naval service, by **P Hickson** of that company.

**Thales** have been busy as ever, selling their **SOTAS vehicle communication system** to Denmark, and we repeat our Publications List and Accounts for 2016 (the reason for these repeats of the Accounts is so that every member can see them, raise questions if they so wish, and get full answers before the AGM, thus speeding that process); *Tailpiece* returns to matters naval, with a look at recent **Russian transits of the Channel and British responses**, as published in the *Huffington Post*, not a usual eDEN source, but indicative of the world treating such matters seriously. Many thanks to **Mike Dean** for spotting this.

Part II contains nothing naval! Our look at **RAF ground communications vehicles** continues with the description of the wartime **RVT 130 and 131**, their kit being the T1154/R1155 sets. We then review the **AMES 15 convoy** with its numerous vehicles (note the IFF vehicle, which in general is forgotten); your Editor loved the picture showing all the operators, mechanics and drivers lined up

– presumably an instruction to count them all against the picture, to see that none had gone AWOL! *Tailpiece II* , with many thanks to **Roger Skinner** of the 76 Squadron Association, shows Roger’s father’s **wartime cartoon of his Halifax bomber**, with appropriate captions for all crew members (including the wireless op) and parts of the aircraft, including the H2S blister.

As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at [philjudkins@btinternet.com](mailto:philjudkins@btinternet.com) or [info@dehs.org.uk](mailto:info@dehs.org.uk).

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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