



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

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22

WIRELESS WORLD

JANUARY, 1944



Magnets

He earns no medals; his name will never make headlines; his way of life is modest and his work unexciting.

He melts metals—very special metals which are used for making 'Ticonal'* permanent magnets of unusual power

MEMORIES ...?

We have a thought-provoking set of original material in this month's *eDEN*, and these, together with some current correspondence and a couple of your Editor's recent talks, stimulated a few thoughts on the nature of memory and what we remember – or not. We devote quite a few column inches in both *eDEN* and *Transmission Lines* to discovery and innovation, but we are a little selective in both areas – if we consider the resonant cavity magnetron, almost every image presented concentrates on its internal structure, while almost none show the surrounding magnet without which, of course, the device is a useless chunk of copper. It is quite true that a certain 'magic' lies in the structure, but it is reasonable to devote some space also to those who developed the magnets, and to those

who exercised the practical skills to make them – hence, this eDEN header image celebrates the makers, at Sheffield's firms of Darwin's under J E Gould, and Jessop's under D A Oliver, and the researchers such as Professor Willie Sucksmith who features in Tailpiece. We balance this with a extremely interesting piece of research by Emilio Ciardiello (via Yves Blanchard) on the story of Bowen's 6-slot and 8-slot magnetron.

The relatively overlooked British AMES 12 radar and its Red Queen incarnation, together with the German EGON system, are the subject of a meticulous investigation by Mike Dean; Mike thoroughly covers the system's development, locations and operational history in this major and well-illustrated article. Next, we follow on last month's look at the later career of the wireless-controlled target ship (ex-battleship) HMS *Centurion*, by going back in time to the first such converted vessel – thanks to HMS *Collingwood's* Lt-Cdr. Clive Kidd, we reprint the pamphlet with copious illustrations and diagrams covering the 1922 conversion of battleship HMS *Agamemnon* to target-ship status; read, and marvel at the ingenuity shown in this early Naval use of 10 metres and of steering and engine control systems! Our main articles are concluded in Part II by the beginning of a series of articles on D-Day, commencing here with the planning and execution of the wired and radio communication links as told by Brigadier Harris in 'Signal Venture'.

Correspondence continues to shine more light on the cross-Channel micro-ray link, with thanks to David Robertson; and John 'Jacey' Wise provides both an intriguing look at Chinese military radar nomenclature and reminds us that MF-DF does not seem so well remembered as its sibling HF/DF in the U-boat war. More sadly, we mark the passing of Bram and Ann Grisnigt, where so recently we celebrated Bram's work as an MI6 Dutch agent.

Amidst this emphasis on remembering, DO NOT FORGET TO BOOK FOR BURNS LECTURE DAY 2019; details of our (short) DEHS AGM on the same day - 2 May at STEAM, Swindon, are included in this eDEN, with thanks to Dick Green for the Accounts and Membership details. A booking form is attached – don't delay, act now while you remember! Note also for the future, the date of HISTELCON 2019.

As always, many thanks to **Mike Dean** for his invaluable help, and suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Phil

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

BRAM and ANN GRISNIGT

Members will recall that, last September 20th, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the parachute drop when Bram Grisnigt, the last living MI6 agent dropped in Holland, sent his last morse code message.

Robert Soek reports that Bram Grisnigt died on January 11, two weeks short of his 96th Birthday; his wife Ann had died on December 26th, barely two weeks earlier. The couple were very close, and Bram had cared for Ann for the last 5 years; she had had a stroke, and had also developed Alzheimer's.

We mark the passing of this courageous couple.

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BURNS LECTURE DAY 2 MAY 2019

GWR STEAM MUSEUM SWINDON

JONATHAN AYLEN, President-elect of the Newcomen Society and DEHS 2019 Burns Lecturer, will at 2pm deliver the Burns Lecture under the intriguing title “Cold War to Coal Trains”; there will be two lectures in the morning – “Choosing System Batteries” by **Peter Butcher**, DEHS ‘Transmission Lines’ Editor; and “The last Franco-British War”, by DEHS Chairman **Dr Phil Judkins**, who will describe the little-known war of Britain with Vichy France, the destruction of the French fleet, the landing at Dakar, the campaigns in Lebanon and Syria, and the invasion of Madagascar. During the day there will also be a display of equipment under restoration.