



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
No 88: November 2019 Part I



REMEMBRANCE

At this time of year, eDEN seeks to remember the war dead of all nations, in particular those with a connection to military electronics, and especially those who may for some reason be less familiar. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website above is that of Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, and it heads this issue of eDEN because two of those who died in the 'Bruneval Raid', the seizure by British paratroops of the major components of a Würzburg radar from a site at Bruneval on the North French coast, are commemorated here: 24 year old Private Alan Scott from Finchley and Cameronian Private Hugh McIntyre, 28. eDEN marks this for two particular reasons – first, there were dead from three combatant nations on the Bruneval Raid; the French resistance agent 'Pol', who had provided much information essential for the raid, was arrested and executed; and five Germans who, as was their duty, fought hard in defence of their position, and died in the fighting.

7 of the British attackers had been seriously wounded – one was to die after the war after complications and further surgery – and 6 were missing, though all had been captured and survived the war. A French couple who had sheltered two of the British missing as they sought to escape were imprisoned in Buchenwald and Ravensbruck; they survived the war, but as invalids. Two German defenders were wounded and three taken prisoner.

The second reason for Bruneval heading this issue is that a significant new book on the raid, “**SAS Shadow Raiders**” written by top ten best-selling author **Damien Lewis**, was released yesterday. I can attest to the meticulous nature of Damien’s research (would that all authors were thus!) and suggest this highly readable – and accurate – account has a place in all members’ seasonal gift-boxes. Go hunting for it!

eDEN 88 continues expanding our horizons, with, once more, articles on Army, Navy, Air Force, and clandestine electronics. Most significantly, **Arthur Bauer** records the unveiling of the IEEE plaque to **Christian Hülsmeier** in Cologne on October 19th, the granting of the plaque itself being a tribute to Arthur’s own research and to the driving impetus over many years of **Prof Hugh Griffiths**. As promised last month, we continue with **Sqn Ldr Mike Dean MBE’s** opening of the new **Radar Display building** at **South Yorkshire Air Museum**. Massive contributions to its success came from the **Communications and Electronics Museum Trust’s Mike Diprose** and **Tony Waller, Malvern Radar and Technological History Society** co-ordinated by **Mike Burstow**, the **South Yorkshire Air Museum** chaired by **Alan Beattie** and their hard-working ‘works and bricks’ team under **Bill Fearn**. **Jonathan Aylen’s** excellent lecture on the development of the Bloodhound missile, ‘**Bloodhound on my Tail**’ provoked many questions and useful contributions to aid Jonathan’s research.

Next, **Mike Ellis** shows us one present-day use of **Practical Semaphore** – the musical theatre! – before HMS Collingwood’s Clive Kidd reminds us that one of the Royal Signals Museum’s 100 Objects resonates this month with Keith Thrower’s talk at our Conference – yes, the object is the Fullerphone! There follow four intercept articles - **Mike Dean** describes his research on the ‘**Headache**’ **Pioneers**; **Prof Cathryn Mitchell** and **Bill Liles** tell us of their progress on their **Hallcrafters S27** restoration at Bath University; and **Mike Dean** shares another two research notes, one by AHB researcher **T C G James**, on the **Work of No 80 Wing**, and one on CEL, makers of the R1334. Radar pioneer **Dr H W B Skinner’s** account of the **Origin of H2S** is also brought to us by **Mike Dean**, and this is followed by an excellent article by **Martin Bolton** on the **St. Athan Trainers**. I then continue my campaign for members to use the **eDEN** and **Transmission Lines** Indexes for early articles of interest – **S R Price** tells us of the lot of a **radar mechanic in WW2**, while **Rex Boys** and **James Egan** extol the **GEE-H** system and **Tom East** brings to life the early days at **TRE Malvern**. **Peter Stock** and **Ian White** discuss **Jamming the V-2**, while **Roy Bullers** describes **Drone Hill** and **John Brown** the **ROTOR** station at **Cold Hesledon**. **Peter Bradsell** gives us his experience of **post-war microwave receiver work**, and **Peter Stock** returns to tell us about the ‘**Robert**’ **mortar radar**, and we reproduce British Army counter-insurgency **Wireless Communication in Malaya** leaflet; we then close with contributions from Nick Wheeler’s memoir and from the BBC Chief Engineer in their varied war work, and, finally, **Tailpiece** records with sadness the passing of **Dr Bob Shaw**, a stalwart of the **Defford Airfield Heritage Group**.

One main focus in Part II is again the history of that under-recorded activity of **TRE Malvern**, its ‘**Post Design Services**’ – this month, its work in **Bomber Command** and on the fast-moving world of **Electronic Warfare**! More next month; meanwhile **Tailpiece 2** shows us the stalwarts of **TRE’s PDS** who handled all these problems; another unsung group (except of course for **eDEN!**).

This month as always, my 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.

Warmest regards all
Phil

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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OPS BOARD

DEHS members are shown in RED – and we may note how many events involve DEHS members!

Currently open: Science Museum, London: Exhibition, 'Top Secret: from ciphers to cybersecurity', Tickets are free but can be booked at <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/top-secret>
The exhibition is curated by **Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Bruton**, Curator of Technology and Engineering, Science Museum, committee member, DEHS, and also IET History of Technology Network

Wednesday 13th November Radar Wars **Damien Lewis Malvern Radar and Technology History Society.**

Saturdays 16 & 23 November, 'Secret Communications' event, Duivendrecht, Amsterdam. Arthur Bauer and Paul and Marc of the CryptoMuseum present their ever-changing and ever-popular displays of crypto and secret communications devices of all vintages, up to very recently indeed!

Wednesday 27 November Smith Centre, Science Museum main building, Exhibition Road, London. **DEHS CONFERENCE: 'SECURITY & INTELLIGENCE'**; co-sponsors The Newcomen Society and the IET History of Technology Network. **NOW FULLY BOOKED.**

Saturdays 7 and 21 December 2019, and Sunday 12 January 2020; Kloosterstraat, Duivendrecht, Amsterdam. SECRET COMMUNICATIONS – see below.

Wednesday 15th January 2020 ASV radar **Professor Simon Watts Malvern Radar and Technology History Society.**

