



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

THE e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY

No 9: April 2013

BURNS LECTURE INTEGRATED WITH AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM

'BEFORE EXOCET' LECTURE ON APRIL 18TH

In a change to DEHS' 2013 programme, our Burns Lecture has been rescheduled to October 17th and integrated with our Autumn Symposium on the Cold War, when M. Luc Berger, Deputy Director General of Dassault Aviation, will deliver his lecture on *Dassault Aviation*. We will of course still have a lecture in the afternoon of April 18th and a chance to meet face-to-face, when I will deliver a lecture, '*Before Exocet*', on the development and use of guided missiles by the Germans during World War 2. All those who have already booked have been e-mailed by me, and a booking form for '*Before Exocet*' is enclosed; please note that '*Before Exocet*' is free of charge, but **we must have booking forms** returned so that we can advise Shrivenham's Main Gate Security who is attending – because they won't let you in otherwise!!

As always, *eDEN9* continues DEHS' policy of deliberately widely varied content – remember, 'DC to light'; absolutely anything military in which electronics are involved, including tracing the stories of the people as well as the equipment. In this issue, we record with great regret the passing of **Dr Graham Winbolt**, whose collection of military electronics outshone many national museum collections. **Mike Dean** writes to ask if anyone can help on the intriguing story of the early radar Merryweather Telescopic Aerial Towers, and contributes a note on what he has traced so far. Following my opening article last month on the NATO Cold War tropospheric scatter system '**ACE HIGH**', **Hans Jucker** contributes further interesting detail on its technical aspects including the challenge posed by France's withdrawal from NATO and the neutrality of Switzerland; and I have an apology to record on abbreviating last month the surname of my original correspondent, member **Richard Stoodley**; Richard, sincere apologies, I should have picked this up on proof-reading. I describe how you might go about finding out about the **service careers of WW1 WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service) ladies** by giving two examples, including one of a **decoder**, and linking with this the story of the little-known **Stockton-on-Tees Naval Y station**. **The Whitlock memoirs** conclude (alas!) with a High Power Inverter, and Reginald's leaving the

industry. Below are details of our **Summer Visit to Bletchley Park** – with many thanks to **Mike Diprose** for arranging it (Mike’s simultaneously arranged IET Symposium at the South Yorkshire Air Museum, Doncaster was a great success – well done, Mike!), and *Tailpiece* illustrates a simpler form of recognition device – the **control box for aircraft visual recognition lights**, from an early-war fighter; marvel and weep, as they say.

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.

BOOKING FOR DEHS SUMMER VISIT

With many thanks again to **Mike Diprose** for organising the arrangements, our Summer Visit this year will be to Bletchley Park, the home of UK code-breaking. The date will be Wednesday 26th June, and the arrangements are to meet at the Park at 11.30, a hot meal (included in the price) at 1pm, and a tour of the Park at 2.15pm, concluding and departing around 4pm. Before lunch, we intend to make our presentation of the bound volume of the Proceedings of the 2013 Symposium, ‘Intercept’, to Margaret Sale, widow of Tony Sale, in honour of whose work the Symposium was held. Price £25, and a booking form is attached.

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