



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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DR LIZ BRUTON APPOINTED JODRELL BANK HERITAGE OFFICER

Last month, we announced the £1.4 million Lottery Grant to our member the **Bawdsey Radar Trust**; this month, we announce and feature the appointment of our webmaster, **Dr Liz Bruton**, to one of the most iconic jobs in UK electronics heritage – **Jodrell Bank Heritage Officer**. We congratulate Liz and feature inside the stories both of the project and of Liz herself in her own words. Congratulations are due, too, to an EW specialist who is to be the next **Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach GBE KCB ADC DL**, who again features within. **eDEN** is also especially delighted to make these announcements at a time when we have an entire **Part 2**, of original fieldwork by our member **Brian Mulvana**, the source and stimulus of which lies in our last supplement (September 2015) on archaeological work at the site of the Ravenscar, Yorkshire, radars – **read Part 2 and discover just how much more Brian has unearthed!**

Following **Ops Board** and a repeat of the information on **DEHS 2015 Accounts**, the main section of this month's **eDEN 44** opens with a piece of interest especially to our intercept members, an extremely intriguing article from the **Friends of the National Archives' Outreach Journal**, in which **Toby Ewin** tells the story of the **Russian Admiral Ernst Fetterlein, recruited to British cryptanalysis**, of his naturalisation process, and of his work at GCCS. **Dr Tony Wakeford** then tells us of the good work being done by the Friends of the National Archives – the National Archives being the only UK Government body to have a Friends organisation! – and I can confirm that their work, their website and their magazine are all well worthy of support. **John Liffen** then illustrates for us the Science Museum's historic **Bawdsey RM1 mobile radar receiver**, and we open an **eDEN** inquiry on two deaths of scientists involved in radar – the first radar casualty, **Hunter Gray**, off Felixstowe in 1938, and the RAF crew who perished with him; and in the second case, the mystery surrounding the death of the radar scientist involved with the **pre-OBOE 'Broody Hen'** near Oakington in Cambridgeshire - is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission mistaken, or are there in fact **two** deaths of similar date in the same locality of two men with similar names? Do not forget last month's appeal by **John Liffen** for information on the Science Museum's **Roderick Denman**, lost on a special mission in the Western Desert. **Research, please!**

Mike Dean provides an article on the **Baillie Beams** of which **'Broody Hen'** was an element, and **Marconi's Beam Wireless Station at Dorchester** is then described in the second half of the booklet by **Paul Hawkins**, and following our article on **detonators and GEE** last month, **Phil Racher** provides a photo-record of where the charges fitted! In the second of a series of articles by **Amy Bridson**, commemorating the almost forgotten group of WAAF radar mechanics, we hear from one of the **male** radar mechanics in the same section of 76 Squadron – **Ken Haley**, who would later marry Amy, and who relates some interesting information about **'Window's' demolition of the bombers' IFF aerials!** **Brian Austin** considers further the **Daventry Demonstration**, with input on last month's question from member **Bill Liles**, **MagWatch** has a crop of interesting articles, and we learn more

about **V-2 detection by Chain Home** from one of the operators, **Harvey Sterling**. **John ‘Jacey’ Wise** brings us back to the present day, in a review of events in the world of **ATC**, in **Syria**, and in **Armenia**, and we record the passing of a Marconi personality, **H N C Ellis-Robinson**, always known in his long career as ‘E-R’. **Thales** have, as ever, been busy publicising contract successes, this month to upgrade the **Royal Navy’s Type 23’s** communications management systems, **Estonia’s minehunters**, and the **German Navy’s tactical training suite**. We then ask about the early history of **DENCO** and its founder, **Denis Heightman**, and finally close Part 1 with our **Publications** – as always, with thanks to the hard work of **Keith Thrower** – and in our **Tailpiece** feature, the forgotten story of the women who programmed the **ENIAC** computer. More thoughts and input are always welcome!

Now, **ACTION THIS DAY** for those who have not yet booked for our **Burns Lecture** on **Wednesday 13th April** when we are delighted that the distinguished author and Institute of Physics Kelvin Medallist **Graham Farnelo** will address DEHS on ‘**Winston Churchill – A Nuclear Pioneer?**’ Graham’s book ‘**Churchill’s Bomb**’ about the early British development of nuclear weapons received huge international acclaim, and we are indeed fortunate to have secured such an outstanding speaker – so **don’t delay, book now, on the form attached!** Finally, a diary note - our forthcoming **Autumn Symposium jointly with VMARS** will be held on **Thursday, 6th October**. More details within. As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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