



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

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'WINSTON CHURCHILL – NUCLEAR PIONEER?' BURNS LECTURE 2016: LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

First and foremost, **ACTION THIS DAY** for those who have not yet booked for our **Burns Lecture** on **Wednesday 13th April** when distinguished author and Institute of Physics Kelvin Medallist **Graham Farmelo** will address us on **'Winston Churchill – A Nuclear Pioneer?'** Graham's book about the early British development of nuclear weapons, **'Churchill's Bomb'**, 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!**

Second, an apology on my part for describing **Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach** as an EW specialist – **Walter Blanchard** rightly reminds me that, though Sir Stu has also qualified in and instructed in EW, his RAF 'trade' is Navigator, and indeed our good friends in the **Royal Institute of Navigation** have written to congratulate him, as have the **Association of Old Crows**. On now to **eDEN 45**, in which **Ops Board** has important new dates for our diaries – **Sunday May 29th**, for the **IET/South Yorkshire Air Museum Historical Electronics Lecture Day** (with free lunch!), and the three Saturdays **November 12th, 19th, and December 3rd** for the second **Secret Communications** events in **Arthur Bauer's** amazing museum at **Duivendrecht, Amsterdam**. Members may recall the astonishing range of equipment on display at the last event, reported in **eDENs 17 and 18**; a full family display of **all the different varieties of ENIGMA** – see photo!

- plus their relatives the **American/ Allied Sigaba, Swiss Nema and Russian Fialka** formed only (only!) one component, and that tells you of the richness of what those attending this year are likely to see. Details for both events in **Ops Board**. There follows a repeat of the information on **DEHS 2015 Accounts**, and then the major articles are led by **S/Ldr Mike Dean's** detailed research into the **Admiralty Type 74X** magnetron-based decimetric communications set; **Ian Brown's** article on the **Civilian Technical Corps** (and congratulations, Ian, on getting the massive **East Fortune Museum of Flight** new hangar and displays opened!); the first part of **Norman Vidler's** account of the building of **ASWE, Portsmouth**; **Clive Kidd's** glimpse into some domestic aspects of Naval radio station life, in **Brass Bedsteads and Dog Biscuits**; the first part of the late Astronomer Royal, **Professor Sir Martin Ryle's** story of the **early post-war radio astronomy research at Cambridge**; and **Peter Jennings'** sharing with us of the important **228 Squadron logbook of 1938 IFF tests at Bawdsey**. We then close with our **Publications** – as always, with thanks to **Keith Thrower** – and in our **Tailpiece** feature **Mike Dean's HF/DF aerial donation to HMS Collingwood** - on the roof-rack of Mike's car rather than the foremast of a destroyer! - and a remarkable **sound-guided interception device** spotted by **John 'Jacey' Wise** – but what was its origin? More thoughts and input are always welcome!

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.

INDEX

Editorial	1
Index	3
April 2016 to 2017 Ops Board: IET Lecture Day, 29 May; Secret Communications 2, November 12th, 19th, December 3rd.	4
AGM 2016: 2015 Accounts	7
Admiralty Type 74X W/T Set <i>S/Ldr Mike Dean MBE</i>	8
The Civilian Technical Corps (CTC) <i>Ian Brown</i>	18
ASWE – The Building of Portsdown <i>Norman Vidler</i>	23
Brass Bedsteads and Dog Biscuits <i>Clive Kidd, HMS Collingwood</i>	30
Search and Research: Cambridge Radio Astronomy <i>Prof Sir Martin Ryle</i>	32
Bawdsey Research and 228 Squadron <i>via Peter Jennings</i>	48
DEHS Publications	51
Tailpiece: 1 Car-mounted HF/DF <i>S/Ldr Mike Dean MBE</i>	52
2 ‘Autobombics’ <i>John ‘Jacey’ Wise</i>	
3 Surviving remains of WW1 German destroyers V44 and V82	