



# **e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER**

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY

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## **SEASON'S GREETINGS**

Within the UK, the practice at this time of year used to be for magazines to produce a "Bumper Fun Book" as part of their seasonal offering, which included puzzles, mysteries, colour illustrations, longer articles, book reviews and a couple of less serious pictures. In this larger than usual larger than usual 'Bumper Fun Book' issue of **eDEN** to peruse over the holiday period, you should find all of those – and Season's Greetings to all our readers!

I've mentioned previously that, though our mission is defence electronics, we are also interested in the alternatives to electronics – and above is one, which also exemplifies the alternatives to winged flight! This picture, of the use of semaphore to signal from an airship to a convoy in the First World War, is taken from Captain Barrie Kent's '*Signal! A History of Signalling in the Royal Navy*' (Hyden House, 1993) a well-illustrated and highly enjoyable read. For an alternative to more normal aerial photoreconnaissance, see Tailpiece.....

This month, the long article is Part II of ***Air Defence: Y Intercept or Radar***, dealing with the National Archives papers on the post-war debrief of Generals Kammhuber and Schmid and some surprises therein; there follows an article in our World War I series, this time covering in more detail ***Intercept, SIGINT and the Air Defence of Britain*** Puzzles and poetry flow from some less well-known features of the air navigational system GEE, covered in ***GEE Answers and Puzzles***. A mystery you may want to take a part in solving can be found in ***Desperately Seeking Felkin***, while, turning to more modern times, then as a subject for a good old debate over the festive season, I also include information about ***Dassault Aviation*** in '***The Way They Do Things In France***' which might not be familiar to many DEHS members, and which may add a little to our 2013 Burns Lecture. A pictorial report is given on DEHS' visit to the Arthur Bauer/ Cryptomuseum '***Secret Communications***' event, and a call for papers for the ***WW1 Conference being organised by Dr Liz Bruton in Oxford in January*** – the deadline for abstracts to be submitted is ***4<sup>th</sup> December so DO IT NOW!*** Thoughts for getting out in the festive period are contained in ***Ops Board*** – but if you'd rather stay in, then ***Jonathan Ayles***, who gave such an excellent lecture on ***Blue Danube***, the first UK deterrent, has located an internet repeat of a radio interview of an engineer which will

refresh your memories of that device. It being a season for presents, I review three books which may well turn up in DEHS members' stockings – *Richard Overy's 'The Bombing War'*, *Peter Matthews' 'SIGINT'* and *Graham Farmelo's 'Churchill's Bomb'*, his account of Britain's '*Tube Alloys*' project. As ever, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at [philjudkins@btinternet.com](mailto:philjudkins@btinternet.com) or [chairman@dehs.org](mailto:chairman@dehs.org).

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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