



# ***e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER***

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY  
No 19: February 2014

## **THE FAR NORTH**

This issue of *eDEN* has been slightly delayed as your Chairman has been off northern Norway, aboard the mail ship *Polarlys* on a journey from Tromsø to Kirkenes and return. The relevance to *eDEN* is threefold; I was in search of the **Northern Lights/Aurora Borealis**, which did show themselves and which reminded me of **Professor Bailey's 1938 proposal to Tizard's Committee to stimulate an artificial aurora** against which a night air defence of Britain could be created; the **North Cape**, from which I looked out over a Force 8 sea towards the routes of the **Arctic convoys** to Russia, and towards the seas where **Scharnhorst's** defective radar proved her doom as that of **Duke of York** and attendant cruisers closed in; and **Murmansk**, near which, during the Cold War, **Norwegian and British trawlers** operated for many years in their task of gathering intelligence. The signposts in **Kirkenes** (a community still with a couple of WW2 German bunkers) carry the directions to **Murmansk** in both Russian and Norwegian; today, happily, the border is crossed many times a day both by Russians descending upon Norwegian supermarkets (the most demanded items are Pampers disposable nappies, apparently!) and Norwegians entering Russia to buy cheap petrol and vodka. Long may it remain so!

This month, our articles are designed somewhat as teasers for two events. The many excellent papers delivered at the **Oxford Conference 'Innovating in Combat', Telecommunications in WW1, on 23/4 January** are likely to be reproduced in printed form, and to encourage you to acquire that publication once it is prepared, I have set out the abstracts of those papers; authors include such renowned experts as **our own President, Keith Thrower**, on Army Radio Communication, and **Professor Tony Davies** on his special subject of wavemeters, together with the latest research from Germany, Denmark, the military museums, our good friend **Professor Graeme Gooday of Leeds University**, and of course **our own Dr Liz Bruton**. My own role at the conference was to give an overview of wireless intercept intelligence and naval radio, and because these subjects will form part of the presentation at **DEHS Autumn Symposium 2014 by Arthur Bauer and myself**, I've included my paper **Trawling the Waves** in this issue of *eDEN* as a taster – Arthur and I will go into much greater and wider depth in October! First and foremost, though, on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Shrivenham, our own **Professor Hugh Griffiths** will deliver **DEHS' 2014 Burns Lecturer**, when he will share with us the results of his latest historical researches, likely to include an assessment of the Bruneval Raid and of the radar defences used by Britain as the first anti-cruise missile and anti-ballistic missile air defence systems; again, to set some background and 'tickle your interest' in what will be a fascinating talk by Hugh, I've provided a background to the intelligence jigsaw, including information gained from intercept and Enigma decrypts, which finally identified the V-weapons and which underlay the structuring of the

British defences – including the problems caused by a V2 which fell in Sweden; to know more, read the article and come to Hugh’s lecture!

It is with great sadness that I must also report the passing of one of DEHS’ most staunch supporters, **Roy Bullers**, for so many years the face and stimulus of the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum at Neatishead. I am advised that Roy’s funeral will be at 3pm on 11<sup>th</sup> February at Salhouse Church, Norfolk, on the B1140 from Wroxham to Salhouse; details from Broadlands Funeral Service, Wroxham.

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.uk](mailto:chairman@dehs.org.uk)

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

## INDEX

Editorial; Index

<i>The Prof, Churchill and Science at War</i> – DEHS Publication	3
1 April 2014: DEHS Burns Lecture: Professor Hugh Griffiths	3
<i>Intercept, Cruise Missiles, Rockets and Superguns – First Time Round!</i>	4
Oxford Telecommunications in WW1 Conference January 2014: Abstracts	17
<i>Trawling the Waves: Intercept and Intelligence in WW1</i>	20
Ops Board including IET/BCS 2014 Turing Lecture	29
Tailpiece	30