



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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NEW YEAR FIREWORKS!

In many nations, the advent of New Year is celebrated by fireworks, and so I have taken a 'flash bang' approach to this 30th issue of **eDEN** – hence the SAS stun grenade above! We first congratulate **David Fordham** for being the first to give the answers to our Tailpiece Christmas quiz '**I saw three ships come sailing in**', and then reflect with sadness on the passing of our good friend **Sir Arthur 'Bill' Bonsall**, for whom **W/Cdr John Stubbington** has kindly provided an Obituary. We move on to the **GEC 'flash bang' project of 1940-3**, with many thanks to S/Ldr Mike Dean, and ask if anyone has further details on this project '**SALI**'? Sound and light then figure in my response to a VMARS query for information on **VIE**, one of the many developments attributable to our colleague **Simon Blumlein's father, that circuit genius Alan Dower Blumlein**. Continuing our intent to have information in little-known publications better publicised, we reproduce an article on **Radar and the Battle of the River Plate** from the perspective of a New Zealand radar pioneer, and then bringing us up to the present day, AOC and DEHS member '**Jacey**' **Wise** writes on **Dongles (what? – read his excellent article)**. Thanks to member **Brian Mendes**, we can print an article of radar war from the 'sharp end' in the memories of an air raid on a radar site by the late **WO1 Jim Humphreys**, and reproduce Jim's notes of wartime AA equipment. A press release tells us of the allocation of the French armoured vehicle contract to a consortium of **Renault, Thales and Dexter (who? – read the article)**. For those wondering why the French sometimes feature in **eDEN**, take a look at Tailpiece, and the slightly stunning (*to me, anyway*) announcement in December's '**Navy News**' that RN pilots are gaining aircraft carrier certification by flying – **the Super Étendard, of Falklands fame (in Argentinian hands)**. Given the certainty of continuing defence cuts post-UK elections, and the (very quiet) announcement that the UK's carriers might, while awaiting the F35, be leased to the USA (!), one wonders quite what, any longer, constitutes UK defence strategy.

There are several **DEHS initiatives** to report – the first decade of our journal, **Transmission Lines**, is now available on CD; we have news of the good work by **Liz Bruton and Keith Thrower** in arranging our **Summer Visit on 7 May to the Churchill War Rooms and the Science Museum Information Age Gallery**; and attached to eDEN is a booking form for our **Burns Lecture by GCHQ's Professor Niel Kempson on April 9th**, so **GET BOOKING!** - and note particularly my **appeal for you to bring along relevant equipment** for our exhibition!

As always, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or chairman@dehs.org.uk.

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you all
Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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