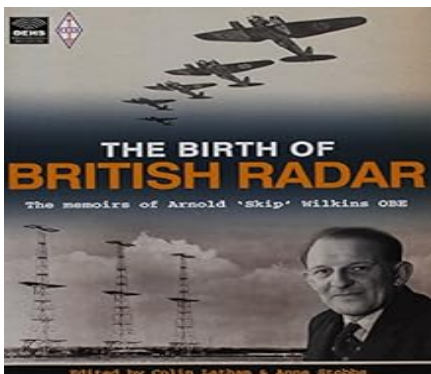


The birth of british parliament

This is one of the most valuable books for anyone like myself trying to get to the bottom of what really happened at Bawdsey Radar but it could be a lot better Arnold Wilkins has been described as a quiet man and as such reliable than the self publicising Robert Watson Watt but I wish he had said a lot in this book which is in fact put together by the RSGB from the document he filed away in a University library He does go into a lot of useful technical details about choice of frequencies aeriels his main area of expertise and methods of direction finding but he leaves me wondering exactly what he did day to day According to the BBC film 'Castles in the Sky' he spent a lot of time with Watson Watt getting drunk wearing a lab coat and chalking on the blackboard 'need power' He is portrayed there insultingly as one of 'the Weather Men' referring to the fact that he had worked with Watson Watt at the weather station researching lightening and the ionosphere but he was in fact a very capable and ualified man and certainly knew his theory when it came to propagation and aeriels he did the calculations for W W I am left wondering though what sort of conversations he had and who with There were many involved in the team and in firms Cossor Metropolitan Vickers that made the receivers and transmitters and I would like to have seen the nitty gritty detail on discussions with various people about pros and cons regarding dual front end receivers overload the merits of short wave versus VHF for the task in hand the source of the goniometer the search for lower noise levels and the development of a smaller receiver the first was the size of a room I also wonder whether he ever got involved 'hands on' a man who knew him says probably not or whether he managed others primarily and if so how much say he had in developments In this respect I was left wishing he were no so reserved More photos could have been included of equipment too there are some stunning ones and original equipment is in the science museum London The Birth of British Radar This book belongs on the shelf alongside AN Rowe's One Story of Radar and Watson Watt's Three Steps to Victory The book's subtitle The memoirs of Arnold 'Skip' Wilkins OBE describes most of its content The self effacing Wilkins was a Scientific Officer at the Radio Research Centre under its Superintendent Robert Watson Watt It was he who did the calculations which proved the putative Death Ray to be infeasible and it was he who calculated that a detectable radio echo could be obtained from a distant aircraft It was he who organised and conducted the now famous experiment near Weedon in February 1935 which verified his caloculations and set in train the events which by 1940 had an effective warning system covering Britain's vulnerable East and South coasts He went on to make further contributions to the rapidly advancing field The addendum contains much interesting information and in an interview with Professor EDR Shearman Wilkins is not afraid of talking technical The Birth of British Radar Does what it says The Birth of British Radar



This is great and really helps one to understand the pressures of the time The Birth of British Radar informative and not too techmical The Birth of British Radar This is a first hand account by one of the inventors of important parts of the invention of radar in Britain its use to make an early warning system for German air attacks on the British island and how it was a major factor in winning the Battle of Britain Many of these inventions plus the also British invention of the cavity magnetron the first high power generator of very high freuency radar waves were brought as significant critical

additions to the US radar effort and industrialization which allowed than 100 different radar systems of all sizes to be engineered and produced for all of the allies It is no exaggeration to say that radar was the determining technology of WWII and this book tells how it was developed in its early days The author is matter of fact and not out for glory and so his allocations of who did what are creditable than some of the other histories All in all a most valuable book The Birth of British Radar I give this book five stars because it is the best of several I have read on the subject of early radar history It was Arnold Wilkins who did the first calculations in Britain at least which showed that radio means for detecting aircraft should be feasible and it was he who set up the so called Daventry experiment which proved the concept This is explained in some detail in the first two chapters Wilkins then goes on to describe early work at Orford Ness and Bawdsey in 1935 and how shamefully Watson Watt patented the idea in his own name W W styled himself as the Father of Radar and its inventor The rest of the book describes the progress of the research and getting the Chain Home radars ready just in time to help win the Battle of Britain This book is a corrective to Watson Watts' somewhat bombastic account of his own role W W was invaluable as a project manager and for his enthusiastic salesmanship of the radar concepts but Wilkins whose ideas calculations and designs were the key to it all should get much recognition than Watson Watt in my opinion The Birth of British Radar The book provides a personal insight into the early development of British Radar The Birth of British Radar tr ttdt td To Look Inside This book you need to enable JavaScript in your browser learntd trtable The Birth of British Radar.

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