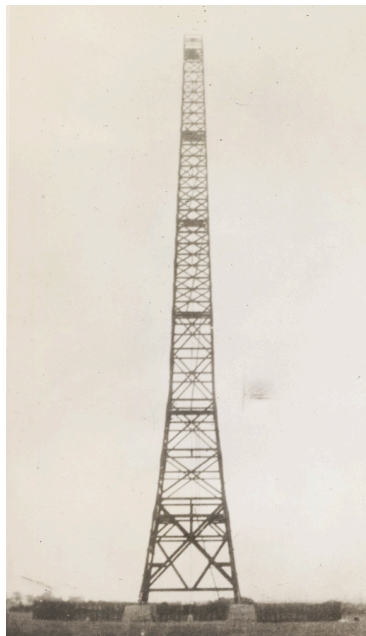


Notes by Bart Lee, K6VK, archivist,
on the SoWP Federal history article:

Cyril F. (C.F.) Elwell later built the (idiosyncratic) transmitting towers for the British Chain-Home radar system in the late 1930s. Each was different.

The Germans never figured out they were RADAR-related (quite a novel concept at the time, of course). Thus, they did not bomb them, despite close observation by a gas dirigible. The photo below shows one of the Chain-Home towers in 1936; it is labeled on its back: "The Birth of Radar..."



The tower photo comes from the Stanford University archives, "The Birth of Radar! 247 ft Self Supporting Wooden Tower supporting Six pairs of Double Dipole Antennas. Designed & Built by C. F. Elwell 07/08 (77 built in England)." typed on back. "247' S. S. wooden towers for British Radar - 1936. 66 off - designed, contracted by C. F. Elwell" written on back. Photo ID: 15067 Folder Title: Elwell, Cyril F. -- instruments -- #2 RADAR Tower photo [.]

Elwell went to England after giving up on Federal (and turning it over to Lon Fuller). Around 1909, Elwell wrote out to himself many stock certificates for millions of shares in the Poulsen Wireless Telephone and

Telegraph Company. (One can only speculate on his purpose, but it is a fair inference that the matter carried some emotional charge.)



This certificate purports to issue to Elwell, over his own signature, 4,489,900 shares.*

About a dozen of these appeared on the scripophily market in the 1990s. In Mike Adams's research for his De Forest book, he found, at the Case Museum in New York, a number of mid-1920s letters between De Forest and Elwell, who had been put in charge of the London Phonofilm operation. Elwell was selling De Forest sound conversion equipment and

* This image derives from a color-Xerox® of an original then in the Bart Lee collection, but donated to the Perham Foundation years ago.

organizing showings of sound short films, at that time shorts to accompany the feature.

Mike saw it as De Forest rewarding an old friend with an “ambassador” post, as in "Hey, send me!"

Mike’s book is available on Amazon:

https://smile.amazon.com/Lee-Forest-King-Radio-Television/dp/1461404177/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1533363015&sr=1-1&keywords=lee+de+forest+mike+adams

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