



CAPT. J. A. KEILLER.



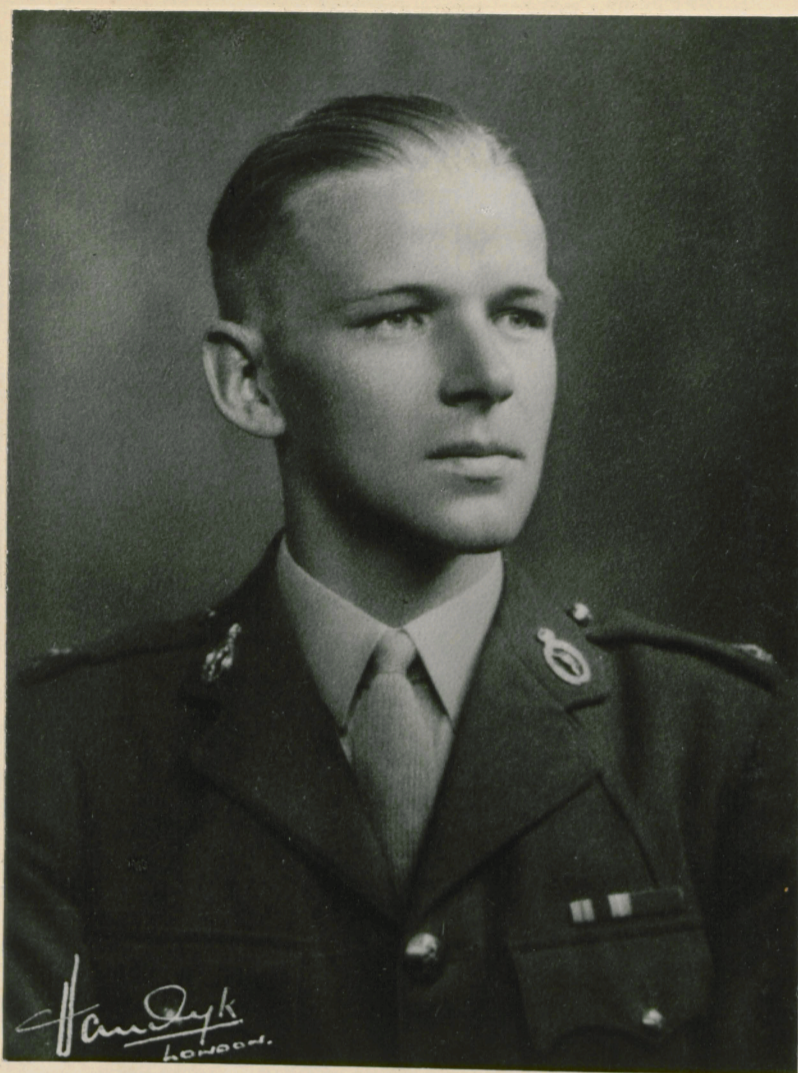
LIEUTENANT ANDERSON.

Normal radio material was not always quite suitable and a considerable amount of material was constructed ab-initio in the workshop. The latter was under the charge of Mr. J. A. Keiller (later Captain Keiller), of the Bernard Price Institute staff, and extra assistance was given him by Mr. Anderson (later Lieutenant Anderson), who had been released from the Post Office Engineering Branch for this work.

This team set to work in October, 1939, each research officer being responsible for a portion of the experimental radar set and the first experimental model was ready by the beginning of December, 1939.

After some very optimistic, but fruitless, attempts to detect a balloon at a range of 12 miles, the first positive result was achieved on Dingaan's Day, 16th. December, 1939, by the reception of an echo from the water tower on Northcliff.

From this point development was rapid and the experimental model was improved to the stage where it was felt that a prototype working set could be constructed. Designs for this set were drawn up early in the New Year and two further research officers were engaged in the persons of Mr. F. J. Hewitt (later Major Hewitt), newly graduated from Rhodes University College, and Mr. J. H. Browne, a past graduate of Cape Town University, (later Captain Browne).



MAJOR F. J. HEWITT



CAPTAIN J. H. BROWNE



THE RESEARCH TEAM, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1940.

BACK ROW : J. A. KEILLER , C. ANDERSON , P. G. GANE , F. J. HEWITT.
FRONT ROW : G. R. BOZZOLI , B. J. F. SCHONLAND , N. H. ROBERTS.

The first completed set was known as J.B.I. and consisted of a transmitter, a modulator and power rack, and a receiver. The operating frequency was 100 megacycles/second and the power in the pulse about 5 kilowatts. Judging from echoes received from hills and buildings, the performance seemed promising, but it was felt that a better opinion could be formed only after a field test in a suitable locality.

Arrangements were consequently made for field trials at the coast and a testing party left Johannesburg in May, 1940, for Avoca in Durban North.

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