

Dr. Lewis A. Gebhard, 85, a former superintendent of the radio division of the Naval Research Laboratory and an early researcher in radio and radar, died Thursday at Greater Southeast Community Hospital after surgery for an abdominal disorder.

Dr. Gebhard, who was born in Buffalo, got his radio operator's license in 1910. During World War I, he served in the Navy at the Great Lakes Naval Radio Station. In 1919, he moved to Washington and joined the old Naval Aircraft Radio Laboratory. In 1923, he transferred to the Naval Research Laboratory and remained there until his death.

In the course of his career, Dr. Gebhard developed inventions on which he held 92 patents, according to the NRL. In the 1930s, he helped develop the first radar to become operational on Navy ships. For this he received a Certificate of Merit from President Truman in 1946.

From 1945 until 1966, Dr. Gebhard was superintendent of the laboratory's radio division. From 1966 until last year, he was a consultant in the electronics division. He then was a consultant in the technical information division.

Dr. Lewis Gebhard



DR. LOUIS A. GEBHARD

Dr. Gebhard attended the Marconi Radio Institute in Cleveland. He earned a doctor of laws degree at Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at George Washington University.

Until the death of his wife, the former Marguerite A. Strauss, in 1977, he lived in Washington. Since then he had lived in Temple Hills.

Survivors include a daughter, Katharine Stevenson of Bethany, Conn., and two grandchildren.

9 November 1980.

To: Mrs. Mary Stark Semans.

In addition to other important aspects of the illustrious career of your father, Admiral Harold R. Stark, U.S.N., he is recognized as the one, who as Chief of Naval Operations, on 18 November 1940, was first officially, to establish the word "Radar" as a name for an electronic system absolutely essential, not alone for the Defense of Our Nation, but also to the conduct of its economic activity, particularly in the universal operation of air, surface and space craft. The name was adopted internationally in 1943 and is now universally used throughout the world by all nations (See Page 170 of this Document).

In 1934, the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) developed the first Radar in this Country (Page 172). As Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, Adm. Stark was present at NRL's first official demonstration of Radar on 26 June 1936 (Page 173). NRL, with its "First Operational Radar," demonstrated the many unique uses of Radar during the Fleet's annual "Battle Exercises" held in Caribbean waters in 1939, resulting in an enthusiastic report by the Fleet Commander, Adm. A. W. Johnson, received and acted upon by Adm. Stark as Chief of Naval Operations which led to the initiation of an extensive, still continuing, procurement program with the first Radars being available in time for action as we went into World War II in 1941 (Page 180-183).

From one who has served the Navy in "Radio-Electronic" research for over 63 years.

Louis A. Gebhard.

NRL Report 8300

**Evolution of Naval Radio-Electronics
and Contributions of the
Naval Research Laboratory**

LOUIS A. GEBHARD

1979

EUGENE SHEDDEN FARLEY LIBRARY

1983

WILKES COLLEGE WILKES-BARRE, PA.



NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
Washington, D.C.