Monday 9th November

Hedy Lamarr was born Hedwig Kiesler in Vienna, Austria on this day in 1914. Her father encouraged her to take things apart and work out how they worked, while her mother was a pianist and introduced her to music.

Taking acting classes in Vienna she appeared in her first film as an extra aged 16 and gained her first starring role aged 18. Shortly after she married her first husband, a rich Austrian arms dealer 15 years her senior, who tried to stop her being an actress, so she fled to America 4 years later, gaining a studio contract with MGM and changing her surname to Lamarr. The studio promoted her as 'the most beautiful woman in the world' and she starred in more than 20 films over the next decade.

During WWII she used knowledge gained from her first marriage to work with composer George Antheil to devise a method for changing between 88 different frequencies (the number of piano keys) so that Allied torpedoes could be radio controlled without enemies blocking the signal. Lamarr and Antheil patented their frequency-hopping system in 1942, helping to pioneer techniques later used in wireless communications, including Bluetooth. From the 1950s she lived away from the **limelight**. She married 6 times in total and had 3 children. She died in her Florida home in 2000 at the age of 85.



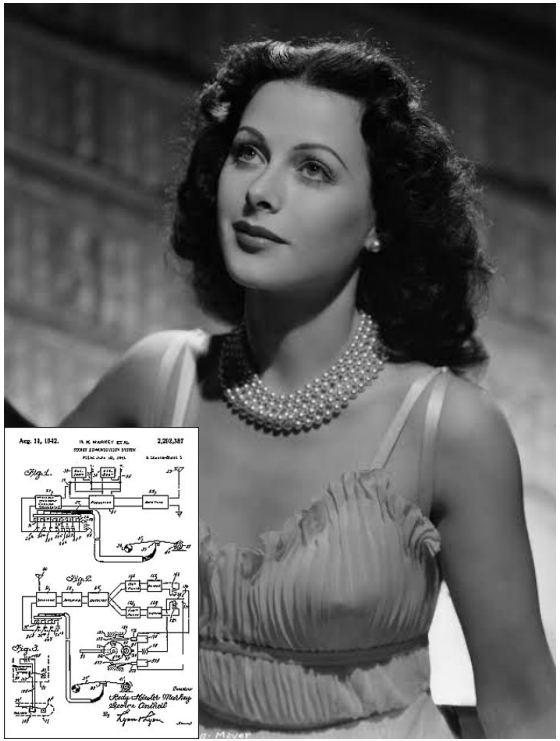
- Hedy's contribution to frequency hopping and other inventions took many years to be acknowledged. Why do you think this might be the case?

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Hedy Lamarr was born Hedwig Kiesler in Vienna, on this day 1914. She starred in her first film at 18 and was married to a rich Austrian arms dealer the same year. In 1937 she fled to America to leave her husband who'd stopped her acting. In America MGM changed her surname to Lamarr and marketed her as 'the most beautiful woman in the world'.

She made more than 20 films over the next decade amd during WWII invented a way to stop enemies blocking the radio signal to torpedoes using knowledge she'd picked up from her first husband. The 'frequency hopping' method led to GPS and Bluetooth after the war, but she wasn't credited for many years.

She lived away from the **limelight** from the 1950s and died in her Florida home in 2000.



- Why do you think it took many years for Hedy's inventions to be acknowledged?