

Echo

The internal newspaper of Marconi Radar Systems and its people

Marconi teams in key locations

Chelmsford men off to Australia

This MRSL team from Chelmsford was photographed before leaving for Australia to test part of a Royal Navy weapon system. Left to right, back row: Mick Dalton, Peter Graves, David Breen, Chris Preece, team leader, John Meakes; middle row: Harvey Collett, Martin Nicolini, Brian Yates; front: Chris de Combe. Also in the team, but not in the picture, are: Peter Bailey, Peter Speed, Charles Dieppe, John Trumpeter and Elvin Hart.

Wives going too

Even though they are bound for the outback for up to two years, seven wives are going too: Mrs. Preece, Mrs. de Combe, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Speed, Mrs. Dieppe and Mrs. Hart.



Roger Tew disappeared from his office in Field Services a couple of weeks ago, and turned up a few days later with photographs he had taken of some of the Marconi Radar team in Turkey.

The Project Controllers of Field Services fly out to the frontiers of Europe to visit a number of Marconi teams freezing or sweating on installations between the Arctic and the Middle East.

Our engineers are working at key sites which form the links in the great Nato radar air-defence chain stretching from Northern Norway, 3,000 miles through Europe, to Eastern Turkey.

Maintaining supply

Marconi has installed many major radar units in this early warning system, known as Nadge (Nato Air Defence Ground Environment), and there is still much work being done in up-dating, making improvements to early warning radars and supplying new equipment.

Marconi Radar Systems Ltd. is one of the main equipment suppliers to Nadgeco, and Nadgeco is the six-nation company responsible for the whole multi-million project.

The complexity of our own operations alone is immense, and besides Nadge we have



other installation projects overseas, totalling over thirty, all of which are administered by E. D. Holman, Manager, Field Services, and his team at Cromptons.

Just an echo

And so, this New Year, we hope that all Marconi Radar Systems people overseas, perform unheralded and unsung, will pick up from the blue this tiny *Echo* and mark up on their displays early reception of warmest greetings from us at home.



Above: Team leader Ron Howe in Turkey. With him is a Nadgeco systems testing engineer and Bill Peach, right, Nadgeco site supervisor.

Left: A team of seven have their hostel in a block of flats. This is Gordon Burbidge in the bar.

Points for the S600

Important visitors at Rivenhall

Pointing out the S600 mobile radar equipment to visiting VIPs at Rivenhall. Left to right, R. W. Simons, J. D. Crispin, Air Commodore J. R. Rogers, CBE, (M.O.D.); H. N. C. Ellis-Robinson, Air Vice-Marshal D. C. Lowe, CB, DFC, AFC, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operational requirements), (M.O.D.); N. F. H. Smith, Sir Thomas Shirley, KBE, CB, DL.



The First Echo



I am pleased to be asked to write the editorial for this first issue of *Echo*, our own Systems Company newspaper, as it gives me the opportunity to communicate directly with every member of the Radar Systems Company.

The *Echo* replaces Marconi News, and becomes truly our own newspaper. I trust that through its pages, we can establish a real and positive identity for ourselves, our Company and its projects. It is in our hands to do this by contributing to *Echo* as much interesting and amusing material as we can. For my part I hope to use it as a channel through which to keep you all informed about our Company, and, from time to time, to give you my assessment of our prospects.

People in the picture

I shall continue to make *Radar Systems International* available to all of you. This contains hard news written for the information of our customers, but circulation throughout the Company will enable all of you to read about new products, the progress of some of our major projects and new orders.

I hope that the combination of the two papers will go some way towards keeping our Company and our people in the picture.

The decentralization of The Marconi Company into the individual systems companies has been largely completed in recent months by the allocation of Marconi factories. In addition to our Headquarters at Crompton's, Marconi Radar Systems Limited is now responsible for the Gateshead Works, where our large aeriels and mechanical structures are made, the Blackbird Road Works at Leicester, which concentrates on big naval radars and specialized control engineering products, and the present Baddow R & D Workshop. All these establishments together form the nucleus on which we shall build up the manufacturing capability of our Company.

The right combination

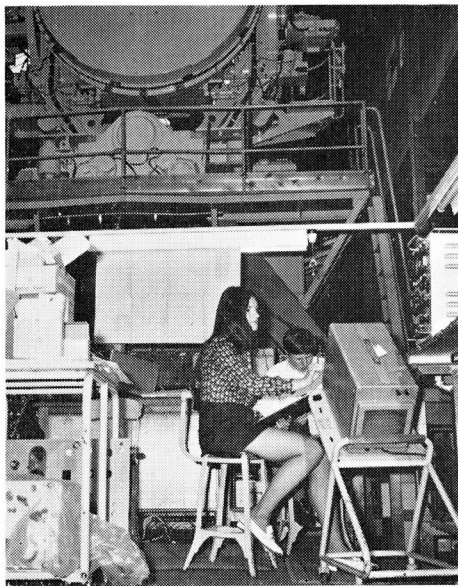
At present world trade is far from buoyant; and this has far-reaching effects. It is essential, therefore, that we remain competitive. This calls for that extra bit of efficiency and cost consciousness from all of us.

We have a first class team of people, and we have a fine range of modern products. With this combination we should attain an overall level of profitable business in the coming year.

It remains to me to wish 'Dusty' Miller success as editor of *Echo*, and I hope you find it informative, interesting and pleasant reading.

Good wishes to you all.

JOHN SUTHERLAND,
Managing Director



The Blackbird Road Works, Leicester, concentrates on big naval radars and specialized control engineering products. Here, next to a naval director, is Mrs. Linda Shenton, who is studying at Salford University, with Dale Vernon, a third-year technician apprentice.

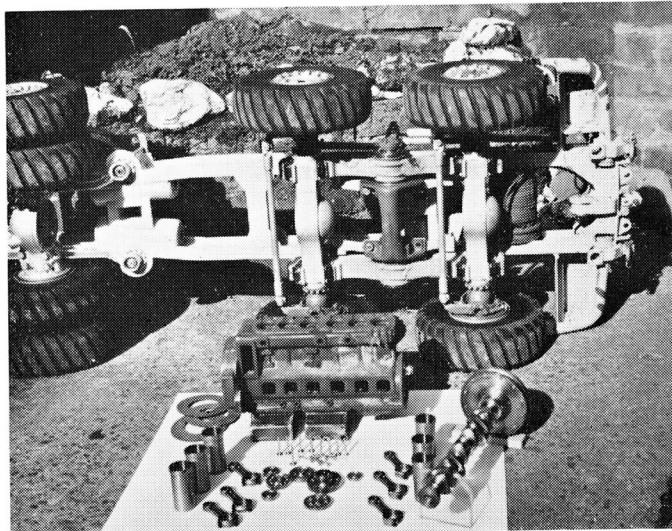
Apprentices help out

An interesting problem was presented to the apprentices and staff of the Training Centre, Blackbird Road, Leicester.

The Company cricket club arranged to run a general knowledge quiz on the lines of television's University Challenge, and the apprentices were asked to produce two sets of electronic equipment which would be similar to that used in the television programme.

Frank Heighton, Project instructor, and Mervyn James, Technician apprentice, came up with a very sophisticated system involving buttons, lamps, bells and buzzers.

It is mounted in aluminium desk/console which were constructed by J. Bentham, G. Noon and M. Chawner, first-year Craft apprentices, with the help of Jim Pywell, Mechanical instructor. The wiring was carried



Roy Payne's model

This is the heavy duty recovery vehicle which Roy Payne of Blackbird Road Works, Leicester, is building to one-sixth scale. 'Everything,' he says, 'has been made by hand. There are no castings at all, and the only job I was not able to do myself was to mould the tyres. These were specially made for me by a tyre manufacturer.'

(See Mini modeller)

out by Mervyn James and David Glover, Technician apprentices, and Andrew Frosh and John Bibby, Craft apprentices. B. Clancy, Mechanical technician, also gave a helping hand making it a combined operation.

After a couple of false starts the system settled down and has since continued to operate very efficiently.

To Canada for Christmas

Christmas brought a romantic trip to Canada for Joy ('Jo') Scotney, a secretary with SAGEU, New Parks, who flew with her fiancé to spend the holiday with her future in-laws at Hamilton, Ontario—just around the corner from Niagara Falls.

Joy was recently engaged to Dennis Gullis, an engineer with Airwork, who has been on a course at New Parks in preparation for service on our radars in Saudi Arabia.

Mini modeller

Roy Payne's ambition is to build a working scale model of a heavy-duty recovery vehicle; and now he is within two years of finishing this spare time project.

Roy is a horizontal borer at Blackbird Road Works, and has been with the Company since 1958. For many years before that he was in a fighting vehicle repair section where he became keenly interested in heavy duty vehicles such as this.

His model will be powered by a diesel engine, equipped with its own torque converter and a nine-speed gearbox, and capable of a top speed of 12 m.p.h.

Dr Whiteley retires

Dr. A. L. Whiteley who was head of Control Engineering, New Parks, retired at the end of December after 44 years' service.

He graduated at Leeds University and joined the BTH Company at Rugby in 1927 as an apprentice. In 1934 he was given charge of electronic control design and development.

At the end of the war Dr. Whiteley was appointed Manager of BTH Electronic Engin-

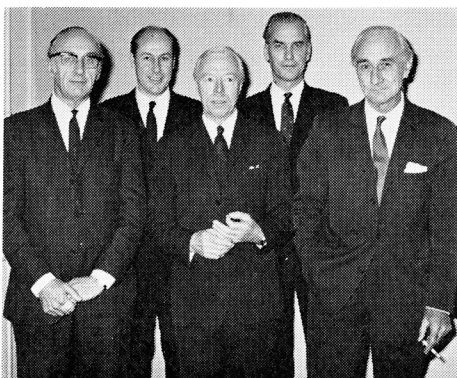
cering Dept., and in the late 1950's he became Divisional Chief Engineer of the newly-formed AEI Electronic Apparatus Division with headquarters at New Parks. As a result of the re-organization after the merger with GEC, he was appointed, in 1968, Head of Control Engineering Dept., which is now part of Marconi Radar Systems.

He is married with one son and two daughters, and is retiring to Dartmouth.

Marketing men

with veteran distinction

Five MRSL executives—all Marconi veterans with long radar experience. L. C. D. Freeman, Sales Controller, centre, is the longest serving veteran in MRSL, with forty-four years' service. P. W. H. Ball, Controller, Sales Services, back row, left, is the youngest Radar veteran: he joined at the age of fourteen. M. C. Wolf, Marketing Director, right, quali-



fied as a veteran in 1970. F. L. C. Firmin, Marketing Adviser, left, qualified as a veteran last year, and so did R. J. Day, Business Manager. Mr. Day, Mr. Firmin and Mr. Freeman are founder members of Radar Division.

Long service awards

One hundred and fifteen members and guests of the Leicester Long Service Association attended the annual dinner of the Association held at New Parks. The Company was represented by The Director of Manufacture GEC-EPA Ltd., F. St. Clair, Vice-President of the Association. He presented awards for thirty-five years' service to: D. R. Paterson, Administration, MRSL; J. L. Anderson, Post Design Services, MRSL; E. G. Watson, Radar Drawing Office, MRSL; D. A. Widdowson, Control Drawing Office, MRSL; O. F. Gullick, Standards & Eng. Services, GEC-EPA Ltd.

Mrs. W. A. Boccock, wife of the Chairman of the Association, presented a bouquet to Mrs. St. Clair.

* * *

Five members of Blackbird Road Works received long service awards in 1971. These were presented at Blackbird Road by W. O. P. Jones, Works Manager, to: C. Cloke, General Foreman, Model Shop, 35 years' service; W. Fellows, Foreman, Plating Shop, 35 years; A. Raynor, Mechanical Assembly, 30 years; G. Pegg, Tool Room Chargehand, 30 years; S. Brewin, Mirror Polishing Dept., 30 years.

Rivenhall commissioning team

Right: *The Rivenhall team who have commissioned six S600 convoys. Left to right: Jim Coates, George Selvester, John Pearse, Ray Wombwell, Chris Ellis, Don Clayden, Section Leader; Tom Walker, John Gordon, Peter Check, John Dunn.*



Below right: *George Selvester and Don Clayden on a heightfinder aerial at Rivenhall.*

Turning out the S600 convoys

At home Marconi teams have been turning out the S600 convoys. These are the mobile radars which, for quick action, can be flown long distances, moved by helicopter or towed cross-country by light vehicles. But the S600 has a variety of applications and will meet almost every civil air traffic control and defence requirement.

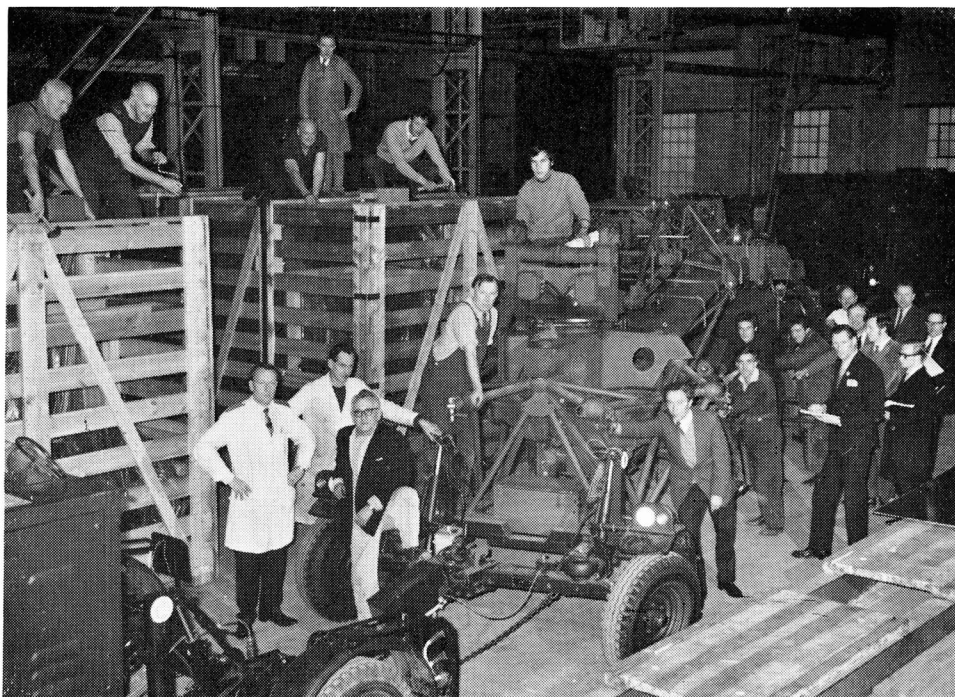
MRSL has lately built, commissioned and despatched three mobile convoys to Malaysia. Three others have been sent overseas, and there are many more in process of fabrication. In the meantime there have been exhibitions at Rivenhall with notable home and overseas visitors.

Rivenhall is the commissioning site where the various elements of the system are brought together for final tests to prove the working of the system as a complete unit.

In future issues of *Echo* we will show some of the pictures of people who are concerned with the fabrication and testing of this many-purpose modular equipment, which has been so successful since its inception.



Below: *A diesel unit and a heightfinder being drawn up for crating with other units of a convoy in Crompton Works.*





Going shopping

Janet French and Christine Bull who work in Personnel won 10,000 Green Shield stamps in an *Essex Weekly* competition.

The girls are sharing the prize, and are busy counting up the books. Now comes the decision on what to get. But that's not difficult for Christine who will be married in July. She has a big bottom drawer.

Robinson Crusoe

The Welfare Committee at Blackbird Road once again arranged to take the children to the pantomime—*Robinson Crusoe*, featuring Al Read. The children, 110 of them, all 5 to 11, went in double decker buses, and were looked after by Marconi volunteers. They all had sweets and ice cream and enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Retirements

C. M. Lloyd, Systems B, 4 years' service.
S. M. Whight, Field Services, 14 years.
W. G. F. Porter, Engineering C, 5 years.
W. T. Thornhill, Engineering C, 34 years.
Mrs. D. L. Vessey, Design Office, 16 years.

54 years' group service

W. T. Thornhill, of General Services section, is retiring after long service. Bill is an all-groups GEC-Marconi Electronics man. He served his apprenticeship with AEI, was with GEC for twelve years after that, has been a Marconi engineer for thirty-four years, and is an A.M.C.T., an M.I.E.E. and a Ch.E. Here he is, centre, with Jim Brazendale, Chief of Radar General Services, front left, and colleagues who all wished him good luck.



New personnel officers

Miss J. Kendall has joined us at Chelmsford from GEC Semiconductors, Witham. Joan Kendall is well known to Marconi people for she was in Personnel at Basildon for eleven years before she went to Microelectronics Division at Witham in 1965.

Mrs. H. Carver left us in November to await the arrival of her baby.

T. Murphy has transferred to Marconi Space and Defence Systems, Frimley, Surrey, and has been succeeded by F. Cotterill from Basildon.

Leicester activity

Seventy members of Accounts and their guests assembled at the Empire Hotel for their annual dinner. There was dancing afterwards with a number of spot prizes.

Over sixty people booked for the Sales Department's party at the Tudor Hotel. They were entertained by Ken Benson and his magic and the Pandemonium Disco.

Once again Antennae Dept. held their Christmas buffet and dance with great success at the Shakespeare Hotel.

Thirty people from Radar Sales, Control Engineering, Commercial Services and Contracts toured the centre of Leicester singing Christmas carols. This happy band collected in aid of Muscular Dystrophy.

The Technical Department invited their families and friends to a buffet dance at the Airman's Rest, Kirby Muxloe. They had an MC who made a go of it.

Technical tradition

Radar Technical Publications Section had their party at the Crown and Thistle, Dunton Bassett, and started with traditional Christmas dinner.

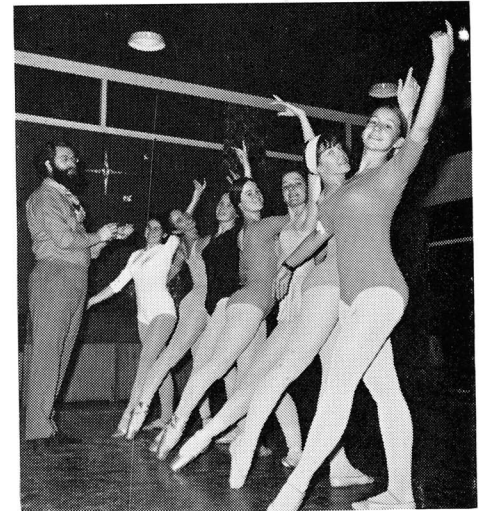
The Ex-Service Association continued their ten year old custom of a trip to the theatre. Eighty members went to see the Birthday Show; and later forty went to the pantomime starring Basil Brush. The annual dinner was held at the Forest Rock restaurant at Woodhouse Eves, in the heart of the Charnwood Forest. The President was H. Massey.

The Forest Rock restaurant was also chosen by Contracts people for their party.

Eighty-five of them danced, and were also entertained by musicmakers Doris Benson, xylophone; Carole Meadows, recorder; Jean Osbourne, bells; Jeffrey Webb, triangle; Brian Holt, recorder; William Hulme, Jew's harp. Ken Benson gave a polished performance of magic followed by impressions of personalities. Eric Hayes replied to this in song and was declared a 'jolly good fellow' by all.

Father Christmas joined in the fun and games and gave out presents to Leicester children at their party. Over 320 of them were present at this annual event run jointly by Marconi Radar Systems and Elliott Process Automation.

Festivity makers



Marconi people are taking part in the Chelmsford Arts Festival from 29 Jan. to 27 Feb. Prominent among them are Alan and Brenda Hartley-Smith. Brenda is dancing in the Chelmsford Ballet Company, and Alan is the choreographer of *Ballade*, one of the ballets (music by Chopin). Alan is particularly busy with the arts now, for he is producing 'The Boy Friend' for the Braintree Musical and Operatic Society.

Brian Greatrex of Radar Engineering is also much concerned with the Chelmsford Festival. He is the Director of Publicity.

Gateshead News

FA's topical news

This has been a quietly successful year for the Foremen's and Supervisors' Association. Members have been to the Tyne Shipbuilding Consortium yard at Wallsend to see the m.v. *Texaco*, the quarter million ton tanker with Marconi equipment aboard. They have invited speakers on the Industrial Relations Bill; visited Cameron's Breweries in Hartlepool; seen films on 'Communicating to people', and Peter Way, General Manager, MRSL Leicester, gave a talk on Company changes.

Thirty-six members went to Leicester to see over the Works and to see Newcastle United play Leicester City. Leicester won 3-0.

The highlight of the year will be the annual dinner, attended by almost 100 per cent of the members and officers, held at the Black Bull, Wardley, on Friday, 21 January, 1972.

Children's parties

The younger children had their Christmas party in December. All had a great time with big eats and Father Christmas.

The older children will be going to see *Cinderella* at the Sunderland Empire.

Bowls

Although this is the close season, the Club have arranged a visit to the 'Thornaby Indoor Bowling Centre', Teesside, for Sunday, 23 January, 1972. This Centre is one of the finest in the country and everyone is looking forward to a pleasant day out.

Apprentice activities

The apprentices' very successful dance at Hebburn closed the year's activities which included visits to other factories of differing products, and a trip down the mine at Dawdon Colliery, Co. Durham. This is one of the very high productivity pits with the very latest equipment. On the lighter side, a Folk Evening proved very entertaining and very successful.

Retirement and new appointments

T. Houghton, Tool Fitter, after 20 years' service. Many happy years of leisure Tom.

E. J. Murdy, who was Works Accountant, Gateshead, took up his new appointment on 1 January, 1972, as Works Accountant, Blackbird Road, Leicester.

D. S. Steel, Assistant Works Superintendent, transferred to Marconi Space and Defence Systems, Hill End, as Works Superintendent.