

Echo

The internal newspaper of Marconi Radar Systems and its people



Mrs. and Mr. Chelmsford

Pretty Pru Letheren, above, won The Essex Chronicle's Mrs. Chelmsford competition. Here she is with husband Hugh who is in Marconi Radar Systems Engineering A at Baddow. They have two children.

Apprentice's success

David Stanford wins Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award

Talking of hitting the nail on the head, Mr. Sutherland, in his editorial, quotes Prince Philip on human relationship to work.

Prince Philip is a great advocate of training young people to be of use to themselves and the community; and his scheme offers them opportunities to develop qualities which may not be brought out by technical training.

Different interests

David Stanford, an MRSLS technician apprentice, was at school in Shrewsbury when he became interested in mountaineering, and he found that training could be organized through people connected with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. So he joined, and in three other sections of the scheme—a service, physical activity and an interest—took first aid, physical training and his hobby bell-ringing, or campanology as it is officially termed.

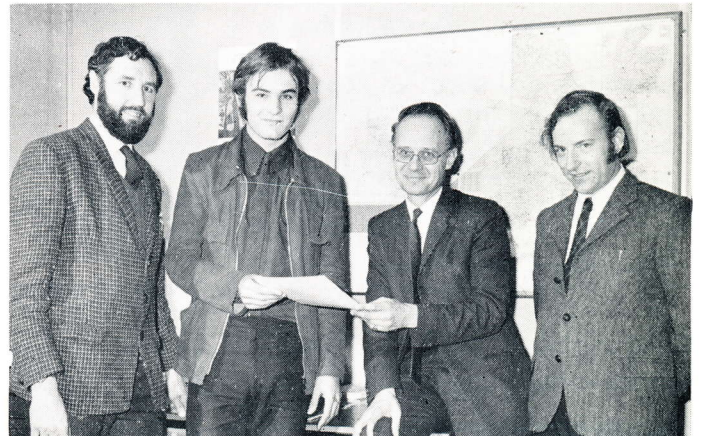
He and his father joined the local tower to help out when two of the ringers had

to leave the district. But David enjoyed his ringing, became proficient, and has gone a long way into the complexities of change and method ringing. He has rung in several Chelmsford churches, including the Cathedral.

He joined this Company just over a year ago as a technician apprentice, and is doing

Training team

Right: David Stanford, left centre, receiving his certificate of the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award from C. D. J. Anderson, Personnel Manager, Marconi Radar Systems Limited. On the left is his Senior Training Officer, Alan Stevens, and on the right, Terry Ford, Training Co-ordinator, Marconi Apprentice Association. Below: Familiar country, the Nant Francon Pass.



the three-year accelerated course for his Higher National Certificate. In the meantime he has had no difficulty in continuing his Duke of Edinburgh's Award activities. This scheme is actively fostered by Marconi Personnel and Training management, and next summer's practice expeditions and final test will be arranged by Terry Ford, the Apprentice Association's Training Co-ordinator, through the Essex Youth Service.

Three-day expedition

David says that on his final expedition this year he and his group were out for three days and two nights. They followed a route he had planned himself which included climbs over four peaks in a wild part of Snowdonia; and they were checked on the route at points unknown to them and awarded marks on their ability to keep to their own schedule.

These are the examining officer's remarks: 'A well organized expedition, with hill mist and hot weather providing the group with many serious tests. The group came through the test very well with good route planning, and compass work an outstanding feature.'

(Continued on page 2)

To wish you a happy Christmas



'Echo' is all about human communication, one of the most difficult problems facing us all in industry today. It is important that each of us should feel that we are an individual and not just a number. That is where communication can help. Prince Philip hit the nail on the head in his recent speech when he said... 'It is as important to solve the problems of human relationship to work as it is to improve efficiency and productivity.' I personally believe that when the first is solved the second will follow.

Now I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas, and let us all hope that the New Year will bring us the new orders we so badly need.

John Sutherland
Managing Director

Best wishes for the New Year



Mrs. J. W. Sutherland, wife of our Managing Director, left, with Mrs. Marjorie Thorogood. This picture was taken before Marjorie had her operation, and we are very glad to say that she is back at home again now, and beginning to feel much better. We hope to see her again at the party at the MASC on 19 January.

Apprentice's success

(Continued from page 1)

David is nineteen. He will be twenty in February. There is just time now before the limit age of twenty-one for him to qualify for the gold award, and he is all set to get it.

If anyone wants to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and you do not have to be an apprentice for this, information can be obtained from Terry Ford, Training Co-ordinator, The Marconi Apprentice Association, Training Methods Dept., Y Block, Crompton Works. Tel. int. and ext. 2678.

A new layout for production



Another big push is under way to lay out full facilities at Crompton Works for the manufacture of the Company's products.

Jimmy Eaton has been installed as our own Plant Engineer, and he has set up his Design Office in B Block.

The first big effort of his new organization is being concentrated on G Block, the production unit. The shop floor, in fact, is one of his first assignments, and he is working on the new layout now in liaison with the Works Manager, R. F. Bernhardt.

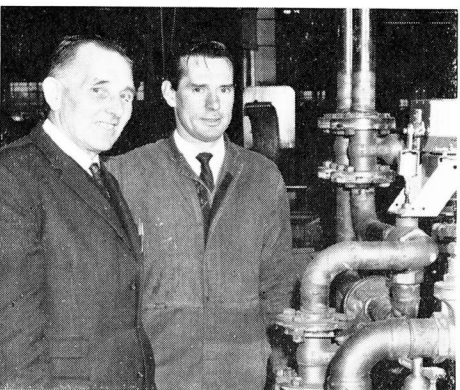
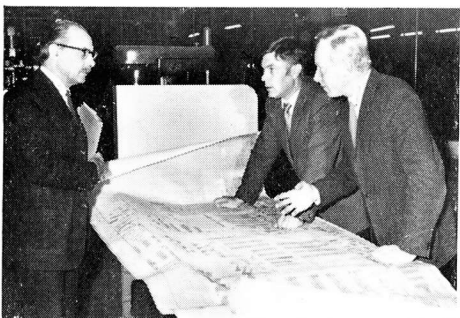
Plant Engineer on the spot

G Block has already got going as the production unit. The Works Manager and his team, Production Engineering, Production Control, Estimating and Accounts, occupy the new offices all along the north wall of the block. These were all designed by Jimmy and his staff while he was working for Building and Facilities Group, New Street, where he was deputy to Ron Ryder for sixteen years. Now he is on the spot, and he has brought most of his original staff with him: Ken Garrett and Don Ketley, layout engineers; Roger Woodcock, surveyor; and Eddie Miller, project co-ordinator; and "Dobby", Mrs. Maisie Dobson, his secretary. The department is also responsible for Maintenance Section under Percy Wyatt, Foreman.

Percy was responsible for supervising the heating contractors who have now installed a complete new heating system for the production area in G Block. This, and the layouts of the shop floor have all been prepared by the Plant Engineer.

The next stage of the project is now going ahead—a new vinyl floor for assembly area, new lighting and redecoration, and then the installation of benches and machinery can be carried out by the Maintenance Section.

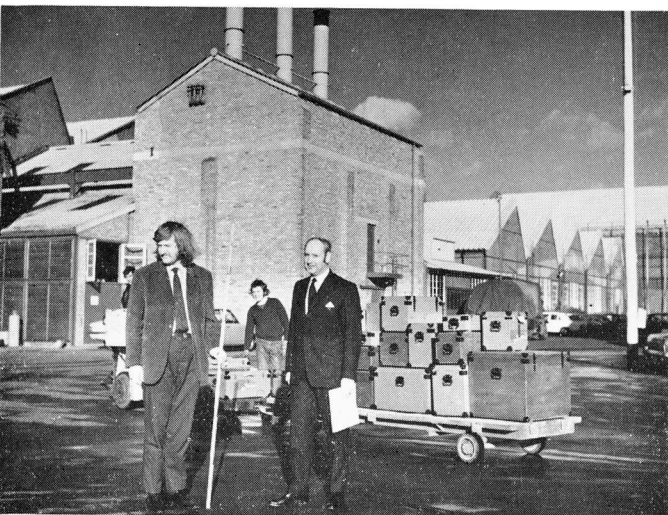
In the meantime, the Production Controller, Brian Carey, is pressing for the new purchasing office in C Block. Similar plans are in hand for that, and the new environmental test unit in W Block is also on the cards. The renovation of the old power house is well under way in preparation for the building of one of the finest environmental test chambers in the country.



Top: The New Marconi Radar Systems Plant Engineer J. E. (Jimmy) Eaton has an office in B Block. Left, his secretary "Dobby", Mrs. M. Dobson.

In the Plant Engineer's Design Office: left to right, Don Ketley and Ken Garrett, layout engineers, and Roger Woodcock, surveyor.

Working out the layout of the production area in G Block: R. F. Bernhardt, Works Manager, left, with Don Ketley and Eddie Miller, Project Co-ordinator.



Percy Wyatt, Maintenance Foreman, left, and Peter Clegg of Electrical Maintenance with a new calorifier in G Block. This is part of the new heating system which entailed new mains and heaters all through the block.

New roofing has recently been fitted to all these factory buildings at Crompton Works by the present Plant Engineers Department when they were operating from Building and Facilities Group, New Street. In the foreground are Roger Woodcock and Ken Garrett.

New ATC System

Experimental data processor solves air traffic control problems

A new £1.5 million system for developing and proving new automated air traffic control techniques has been handed over to Eurocontrol, and accepted by the French Minister of Transport.

It is a complete, automated air traffic control system which works with computer simulated aircraft so as not to put actual aircraft at risk. By this means all the processes carried out by an operational ATC system can first be put to practical test to assess their efficiency. It has been installed at Bretigny by a consortium of European manufacturers headed by this company.

Front door key people

Gerald Arrowsmith holds the door of D Block. It opens as if by the magic of his password. Only when you have credentials, when he has set you up with a pass and an appointment will the magic work. And then you will not see his finger creep round to the button which calls his Genie. He works in contact with Visitor Liaison, types all passes, and is responsible to Security for the list of those issued. Here he is, below, with Bill Ford, left, who looks out for him on occasions.



Flight plan processing system handed over

Safety in air travel over England took a major step forward with the handing over of the fully automated flight plan processing system to London's Air Traffic Control Centre.

Designed by MRSL, this £5 million computerized system processes and displays to air traffic controllers details of pilots' flight intentions in the middle air space and allows progressive up-dating of flight information for the many aircraft under control.

Right: This computer room will form the heart of the Marconi Myriad Flight Plan Processing System (FPPS), one of the most advanced systems of its type in the world and well ahead of any comparable system in Europe when it goes into full operation next year.



Toys for the children

Preparing for the MASC's Christmas salò are Mrs. Connie Bigden, Mrs. Dot Stevens and Lindsey Swinton of the MASC staff, and Mrs. Olive Partridge, wife of Brian Partridge of Systems A.

A Christmas Service

People in hospital at Christmastime enjoy the festive programmes put on by the local hospital service.

Robin Webb of Systems C, Cromptons, is one of the Colchester team who run a regular service to the five hospitals in Colchester and three in Braintree from the central studio in High Street, Colchester.

Programmes are broadcast on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings and every evening except Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Robin concentrates on the OB side of the

organization, and this Christmas will be broadcasting, live, the carol service from St. Mary's. There will be other carol concerts too, and shows from the Mercury theatre are a regular feature.

Standards are high; it takes as long as two hours to rig St. Mary's for broadcast. The Service has its own (rented) land lines, and operating expenses run up to over £1,200 a year. Funds are raised by other enthusiasts and patients enjoy features such as Dial a Disc and Down your Ward.



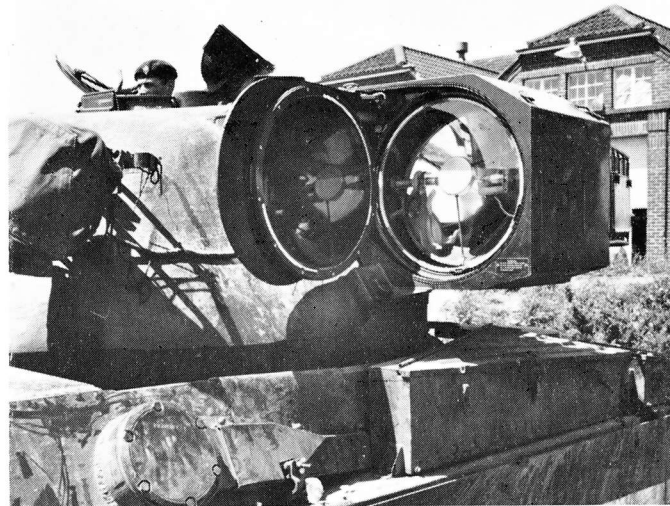
Leicester lights Chieftain's way

We have won a contract worth more than £2 million, for tank searchlights. Over 500 have been ordered for the British Army's Chieftain tanks to enhance their nightfighting capability.

The very high intensity light operates as a target illuminator and is mounted directly on the gun turret. Its output can be normal white light, or infra-red, with ranges well in excess of 1,000 yards. The installation is capable of withstanding the sudden, severe shocks of the gun firing, as well as the sustained vibration from the tank in motion.

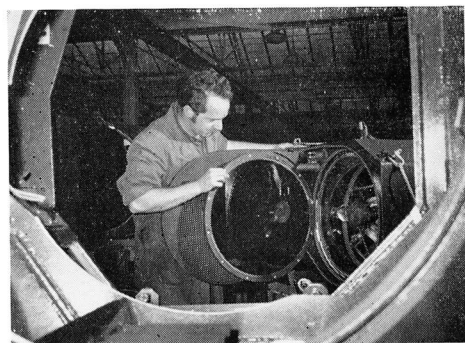
Searchlights for this contract will bring the total number supplied by Leicester for Chieftain tanks to over 1,300.

Right: This shows how a searchlight is mounted on a tank gun turret to illuminate the target. It will operate with white light or infra-red.



Below left: Roger Johnson assembling a searchlight at Blackbird Road Works. Many hundreds of them have been supplied to the Army.

Below: A searchlight on test at Blackbird Road Works.



of twenty-five years of service. Congratulations from his colleagues who wish him many more happy years at Gateshead.

Other members of the Association at Gateshead are R. E. Amos, Works Engineer, and A. Watson, Quality Control.

Leicester ex-service reunion

The Leicester Ex-service Association comprising people from New Parks, Blackbird Road, and GEC-Elliott Process Automation, held its reunion dinner on 1 December.

Among the guests were F. J. St. Clair, Works Director of EPA; W. O. P. Jones, Works Manager, MRSL, Blackbird Road; R. S. Gilling, former Manager, Mfg. and Plng., Blackbird Road; and J. L. Higson, Works Supt., EPA. Good entertainment was compered by K. A. Benson of New Parks.

LEICESTER AUTO CLUB'S FULL PROGRAMME

The Marconi Auto Club (Leicester) has now been running for just one year, and meets monthly for a 'natter and a noggin' at a local hostelry. Club nights included film shows, table top rallies and slot car racing.

The Club is now RAC recognized, and has organized, during the past twelve months, ten to twelve car rallies, the best six to count for the championship; two auto tests, four treasure hunts, one touring rally of the Peak District in Derbyshire and one camping and touring week-end in Wales.

Three of the rally teams have received sponsorship this year; two from Lathams (BLMH main dealers), who have supplied a 1293cc Group 2 Mini prepared for this year's RAC Rally and an unused Austin 1800 specially made for the London-Sydney Marathon. The third team drove their own Ford Cortina GT sponsored by Hill Top Freezer Centre.

The members have also been asked to marshal on one national autocross event, two national restricted stage rallies, and this year are helping with a stage on the RAC rally.

an evening of western music, dancing and a barbecue meal. All arrived back safely.

Foremen and Supervisors' Association

The annual dinner will be held on Friday, 26 January, 1973, in the 'Prince of Wales Room' at the County Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This event was the highlight of the year's activities and a number of guests have been invited. Among them are retired members of the Association and two members from the MRSL Leicester Association. Entertainment will be provided and it is hoped that our guests will be able to understand the Geordie comedian.

Those who have accepted invitations are: J. Sutherland, Managing Director; J. Aikman, Director of Manufacturing Services, GEC-Marconi; B. R. Carey, Company Production Controller; and P. Way, General Manager, Leicester; all of whom are vice-presidents of the Association.

Marconi Veterans' Association

R. Hedley, Progress Officer, has become a member of the Association on his completion



A team of apprentices of Leicester Training Department have built two models of the type 40 radar aerials installed in Saudi Arabia, for presentation to the Saudi Arabian princes. The models were made to a scale of 160:1—approx. 3 ins. high, and enclosed in a glass dome. As a touch of realism they rotate by press-button control. Left to right, Roger Cosgrove, Steve Prince, Mick Finmore, Dave Hawkins, Dave Page, B. Carey, Company Production Controller, W. O. P. Jones, Works Manager, and Ian (Nigel) Warner.

Leicester's auto club winners with their cars.

News from Gateshead

Social Club's Children's Christmas parties

For the older children a visit to Sunderland Empire theatre to see the pantomime Dick Whittington has been arranged for Wednesday evening, 24 January, 1973. See notice board for details.

The party for the younger ones, ages five to nine, was held in the canteen on Saturday, 16 December, 1972.

Gateshead girls go west

The ladies — unescorted — dressed in typical western gear, went on an outing to the 'Rancho Del Rio' at Weardale and enjoyed

