

Echo

The internal newspaper of Marconi Radar Systems and its people

A LINE IS DRAWN

Air defence from Arctic to Near East

Nearly three thousand Company people at Chelmsford and Leicester have already seen the film "A line is drawn" which shows something of the tremendous project of building the Nato radar air defence chain from the Far North to the Near East.

This is the line of stations, positioned so that there is no gap between their fields of search, which forms the shape of a crescent facing east as it passes down through Norway, across Europe to mountainous and desolate country where Noah's ark is thought to have come to rest.

The film starts off with pictures of the castles along the Rhine, the line as it was first drawn, and it shows fortresses which defended this and other European countries. It then gives a very clear picture of the enormous area of defence now covered by the Nadge (Nato air defence ground environment) early warning system. It shows the vast site preparation programme: special roads being cut in mountainsides to reach exposed positions in arctic cold and desert heat: snow cats and helicopters in operation, the only means of transport to lift engineers

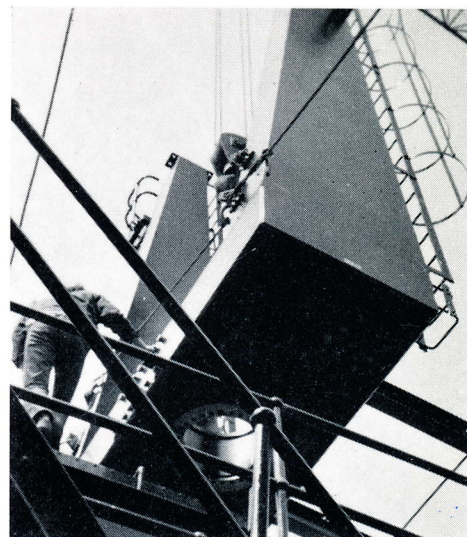
and equipment: lorry loads of hardware on their way across the continent from the consortium's manufacturing centres. In evidence were Marconi aerals, particularly the heightfinders. We also saw equipment being "dropped" in crates on a mountain top, but actually put down without a jolt near a half-built radome by a pilot with hands as sensitive as a show jumper's.

This enterprise

Shots of this kind and more making up a thirty minute film gave some idea of the enormous amount of organization and work that has been put into this enterprise. People here at home throughout the Company who spent long hours building Nadge equipment could see for themselves, or else see between the frames of the picture, where our equipment has been installed, how it is being used, and how important the whole project is to the Western World.

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Below left: Honningsvåg in winter. This is over 300 miles inside the Arctic circle. Below right: "A view of our street". (Photos by John Masters).



One of our heightfinders being installed on the Nato air defence chain.



Here is a party with a puncture. The hazardous corkscrew road is one of many cut to mountain-top sites.



(Continued from page 1)

Marconi Radar Systems Limited has been, and still is, one of the main equipment suppliers to Nadgeco, the six nation company responsible for the whole multi-million pound scheme.

On the Arctic horizon

During the last year, photographs of Marconi constructional work for Nadge and accounts of installations have appeared in the pages of "Echo". Two of the pictures which appear on the front page were beyond the reach of even the film producer—unless he had



A Marconi Field Services team in eastern Europe. From second left: Tom Ashby, Irvine Young, Jim Yetton, Harry Wilson. Sitting: Dave Harrison, Dusty (J. P.) Miller, Billy Arthur.

made a special flight. John Masters, one of Field Services' Project Controllers, picked out of his box some slides for us of the spot where he and his installation team had worked for a year right through an arctic winter. These were taken up on the extreme north end of the line, in the land of the midnight sun, in the area of the North Cape itself.

On his trips north, John flew up to Tromsø and went on to Honningsvåg by boat. Sometimes he got a seat in a seaplane on the last stretch, but once he had to go all the way by steamer which took several days.

Up there the people live almost entirely on fish. They gut it, hang it, dry it and eat it like chips—a high protein food. They make great stacks of it, let it mature, and then ship it south as meal.

Other Marconi teams worked on Norwegian sites and all faced long periods of isolation in arctic conditions. Our engineers worked all down the chain, and while some froze others sweated.

Before John had finished sorting the pictures on his desk in the project controllers' office, he was shouting down the phone to someone who had difficulty in hearing him. "I always seem to get a bad line to Ankara," he said. "That was Ron Heath. Yet I was on to Honningsvåg this morning and the line was as clear as a bell."

Up-dating

The Field Services engineers still frequently go out to the stations, for maintenance work and up-dating is always going on. Organizational necessities are quickest settled from base by phone, with the result that Eddie Holman's HQ team at Cromptons is in touch with some section of the line each day.

While this was being written, John himself disappeared, and turned up again from Turkey.



Ins and outs of keeping watch

Jack Mayhew, Chief of Security at Crompton Works, tells us that between a hundred and fifty and two hundred people visit Crompton Works every day. Many of them come in cars and require directions, and of course all identities must be checked and names and addresses recorded. This uses five pages at least of the gate-keeper's log book every day.

A number of the visitors are Company people; they too must be checked in but once inside probably know their own way.

There are seventeen in the security team altogether; and these include three who man Bushy radar site. Six are on duty at Cromptons during the day time, at the main gates, the gates to the restricted compound and in the car park.

Two men take over at night to hold the fort and go the rounds. Three times a night

they visit forty-two clock points to check that all is OK; and they are not alone either: for additional protection they are linked by mobile radio telephone to New Street Works.

* * *

Left: At Bushy three Security men work eight hour shifts in rotation. Here are two of them with Jack Mayhew, Ivan Baxter, left, and Tom Alston, right. Tom has been at Bushy ever since the station opened in 1956.

Below: Jack Mayhew and some of his security team at Cromptons. Left to right, Tom Trigg, Ted Bull, Bob Stock, Jack Mayhew, Jack Bourne and Joe Thompson. Other members of the team not on duty at the time, nor able to come in for the photograph, are: Ben Basham, Alec Earley, Ted Gowers, Mel Joyce, Sid Foreman, Tom Ripper; on night duty: Burt Pulsford and Bill Stone, and at Bushy, Ernie Thorne.



Party with a record crowd

MRSL's annual party, held at the MASC, Chelmsford, drew a record crowd. Among them were J. W. Sutherland, our Managing Director, and Mrs. Sutherland, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford. Leslie King, the Mayor, a member of MRSL's sales team, once again organized the dance.



Left: Here are some of the party people. Left to right, Charlie Carter, Chief of Order Control; Dick King, Project Co-ordinator, S600 Series Convoys and Violet King, his wife; Betty Safe, wife of Dick Safe, Company Chief Inspector; and Joan and Eric Fewell. Eric is Production Controller, Crompton Works. Photo above: Joyce Fairhurst, Sales Administration, and Sue McCarthy, Registry, right, did spartan work selling raffle tickets.



Sally Holman who plays right inner for Essex and Eastern England.

A new cap for Sally?

Sally Holman of Programming plays hockey for Essex. This is her second year in the team. It is also her second year in the East of England under-23 team and her first year in the East of England B team.

She's an all-rounder too: plays football, cricket, squash, and snooker as well. She's evidently a chip off the old block—her father is Eddie Holman, Manager, Field Services Group.

But hockey is Sally's game. She spends all her spare time at it and has already used up a week of this year's leave playing matches.

International champions

Last year Essex won the Eastern Counties and All England championships, and, as the winners of the national championship, were invited to Holland for a three-day international tournament against the Dutch, Germans and French. Essex won it, and Sally has been invited to go with the team again this year.

She has had another invitation though, and there could not be a better one. She has been asked to go for an Under-23 trial for England in April. Good luck Sally. Here's hoping you get your England cap.

Long service awards

Long service awards have been presented to the following Leicester personnel: P. L. Jeanes, Manager, Production Services, and K. G. Simmonds, Production Control, both 35 years' service; A. G. Copson, General Foreman, G. Perry and J. A. Randall, Mechanical Assembly; E. G. Sumner, A. S. North and C. Stevens, Operation Planning; L. R. Grocock, Foreman, V. J. Toseland and G. T. Whitehead, Large Machine Shop; S. W. Heath, Superintendent of Manufacture; F. W. Cox, T. O. Cooper, G. M. Stirk and Miss L. J. Spare, Inspection; Mrs. A. E. Hughes and Mrs. M. Johnson, Electrical Assembly; and M. Woodcock, Production Control, all with 30 years.

Leicester lights the way

MRS L. Leicester has just received an order from MOD (PE) for another £420,000 worth of searchlights and spares for the Chieftain tank. This light, mounted on the gun turret, operates with white light or infra-red. The total number supplied is now nearly 1,400.

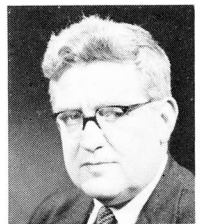


MRSL's big project

A giant 50 centimetre radar station, the most powerful ever built for civil use, will be set up on a 6,000-foot mountain in Malaysia. This £750,000 turnkey project will be the air traffic control station for Kuala Lumpur airport, one of the most modern in the world. Equipment is now under construction in Chelmsford, and the aerial is being made at Gateshead works.

Congratulations Sir

Congratulations to Sir Eric Eastwood, Director of Research of GEC, who was recently knighted. He is President of the IEE, and has been for many years Chief Scientist of The Marconi Company.



FSA's success at Gateshead

The tenth annual dinner of the Gateshead Foremen's and Supervisors' Association held in the "Prince of Wales Room" in the County Hotel Newcastle, was a huge success. R. Sherwin, the President, welcomed all the vice-presidents, J. W. Sutherland, J. Aikman, B. R. Carey and P. Way. The Leicester Association was represented by R. J. Porter, Hon. sec.; J. McReynolds, I. Richardson and W. O. P. Jones also came. Bob Kime and George New, retired members of the Gateshead Association, helped to make a total of sixty-four for dinner.



Vice presidents present

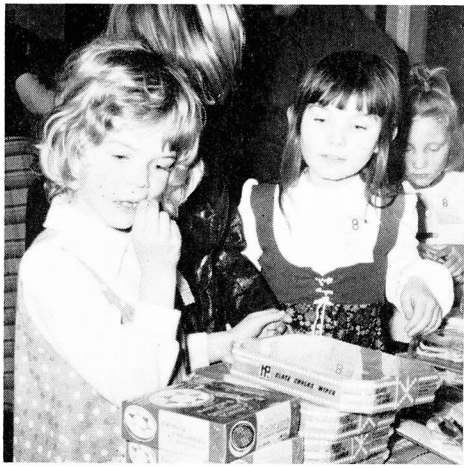
Above: At the Gateshead Foremen's and Supervisors' Association's annual dinner are, left to right, J. Aikman, Director of Manufacturing Services, GEC-Marconi, a vice-president; R. J. Kennedy, honorary secretary; P. Way, General Manager, Leicester, also a vice-president; T. A. Lavin, Accountant, Gateshead; and O. McClurry, chairman.

Left: D. Keith, Waveguide Section, left, with G. Harrison, Machine Shop; and, right, S. Rodham, Assembly.

The evening, in true north-country fashion, was a stag affair, and informal. After dinner Tyneside comedian Dick Urwin and singer Maureen Thompson entertained. Maureen soon had many offers to help out with a chorus, particularly during her French act when her charms were amply displayed.

Chairman Ossie McClurry made a

humorous speech with a touch of reality on communications. Mr. Sutherland gave the Vice-President's address and outlined the Company's situation. He was confident that when marketing conditions improved we should most certainly get a better share of the business. He closed in a humorous vein well suited to an enjoyable evening. RJK



Party time

More than 900 Marconi children went to the two parties at the MASC this year. There was a Punch and Judy show, a magician and other entertainment; and they all had a bottle of pop, and a gift as they left. Above: the thrill of choosing a toy. The little girl in the right foreground is Lesley MacDonald. Her father is A. W. MacDonald of Post Design Services, Baddow.

Bowls awards winners



Above: Roy Lucking, right, and Martin Collins, both of the Design Office at Baddow, were among the Bowls Club prizewinners who received awards at the club's buffet dance, held at the MASC. Roy was singles champion and he and Martin were in the Processes team who topped the A league.

Panto project

Two hundred Gateshead Marconi children and their parents went to Sunderland Empire theatre to see the pantomime Dick Whittington. It was a real family show and everyone enjoyed themselves. The transport arrangements all went smoothly, thanks to the grand work of a gallant band of helpers—Stan Kingston, Ken Graham and Ron Elliott.

Retirements—Gateshead

Joseph Woodward, Transport, 20 years.
Albert J. Scott, R.F. Group, 17 years.
Norman Watson, Machine Shop, 2 years.

Chelmsford retirement

S. J. Pearce, Field Services, 20 years.

Leicester foremen's dinner

There was a Company gathering at the Leicester Foremen's and Supervisors' Association annual dinner held in January.

The guests were R. M. Foulkes, Managing Director, GEC-Elliott Process Automation; R. Sherwin, Works Manager, Gateshead; R. F. Wright, Chairman of the Foremen's Association, Rugby; G. R. McCullough, representing the Foremen's Association, Gateshead, and their wives. The Company Production Controller, B. R. Carey, was present, and T. A. Lavin, Works Accountant, Gateshead.



Above: Sure shot and supa jet—the boys at Chelmsford soon made their choice.

The surprise of the evening was the presentation of a pair of binoculars to R. J. S. Huxham on his retirement from the Chairmanship of the Association. Mr. Huxham has been a member for twenty-one years, a committee member for fifteen years, and Chairman on three occasions.

R. J. S. Huxham retires

R. J. S. Huxham, Materials Control Manager, Blackbird Road, retired in February after twenty-six years' service.

He joined BTH at Rugby, transferred to New Parks as General Foreman of the Model Shop, moved with that shop to Blackbird Road, and later set up and ran the Marine Radar Department there.

On behalf of his colleagues Mr. Huxham was presented with decanters and glasses and a Teasmade by W. O. P. Jones, Works Manager.

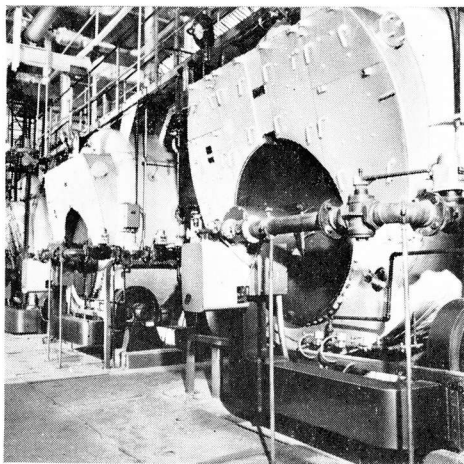
Plus gas

The new Paxman boiler fired by natural gas and three high pressure Economic hot water boilers newly converted to natural gas at Blackbird Road Works have come into their own.

The supply of natural gas has not been affected by strikes so far and the works and office heating services during the last cold spell have continued as normal.

The Paxman boiler has an output of 12,000 pounds an hour and, with the largest of the Economic boilers, heats the whole factory.

The plant is now located in one boiler house. Right: An old Lancashire boiler being dismantled. Bottom right: The new Paxman, and, below, two of the three converted Economic boilers.



All part of the family

Gallant helpers entertained MRSL and Elliott PA children at Leicester's party. They put on a disco dance, tea, and films and even got a cup themselves. Top: Three of over 300 guests who all had a present.

Right: MRSL helpers at Leicester's party. Left to right: A. Chadwick, Miss M. Nicholson, Mrs. J. Macdonald, A. Barratt, G. E. Baker, Mrs. A. Barratt.



Control Engineering held a very successful dinner dance at New Parks; and there were 100 guests at the Radar and Antennae's dance at the Shakespeare.

