

# Echo

The internal newspaper of Marconi Radar Systems and its people

## THE NEW CROMPTONS

Mr. Sutherland in his editorial says that Marconi people who set up our shop window for Open Day can be proud of their efforts. Everyone could see the progress which has been made in building up the new Cromptons in preparation for new business.

Now with more work on the horizon—orders for radar equipment and installations from customers at home and overseas—more jobs are available in the works.

Visitors were able to see a mobile radar station in operation, and there were oppor-

tunities to see the kind of work we do to build our equipment, as well as examples of jobs done by young people during training.

### Vital statistics

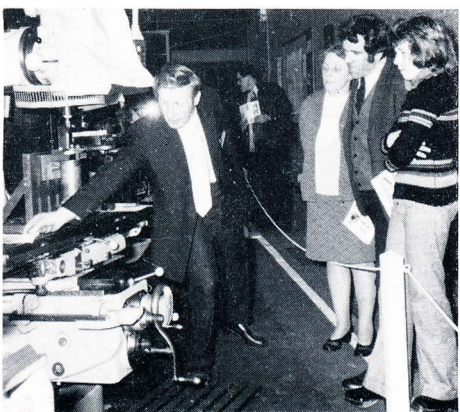
All over the world Chelmsford is a name synonymous with the most advanced electronics technology. Marconi Radar Systems Limited is part of GEC-Marconi Electronics, and is in the forefront of technical progress in the radar systems which are vital to modern air traffic control and air defence throughout the world.

Left: One of the cable ducts used in a radar transmitter, an example of high quality sheet metal work. On the left is Brian Henderson, C/h, Sheet Metal Section, with Trevor Revill, C/h, Instrument Making.

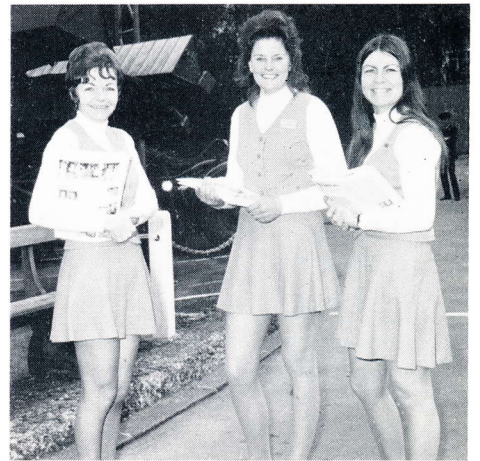
Below: Here, having a look at some of the products of Sheet Metal and Instrument Shops are, left to right, Denis Kerridge of Quality Control; Brian Henderson, C/h, Sheet Metal Section; Fred Quilter, Inspection; Jim Ridley, Inspection; Charles Lodge, Superintendent, Development Workshop, Baddow; George Mott, Chief of Test; Ken May, Instrument Making Section; Eric Fewell, Production Controller; Ted Dexter, Foreman, Sheet Metal; and Jack Myers, Foreman, Instrument Making.



Below: Cyril Eves of Machine Shop explaining some of the kinds of work that are done on a milling machine. Jobs can be turned out to limits as fine as two thousandths of an inch.



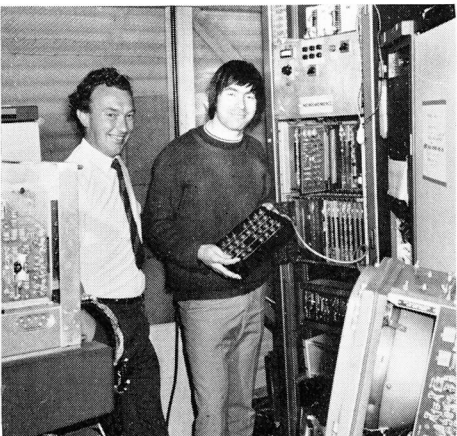
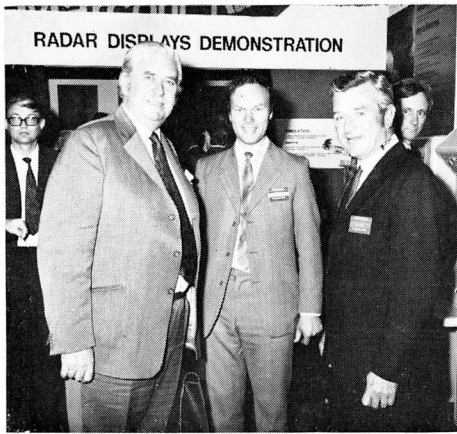
Above: A cableform for a servo unit made by apprentices at Cromptons. This is Tony Grimwood, Training Instructor, Wiring, and Apprentice Steve Orrin.



### Welcome

Above: Tina Marshall, H. N. C. Ellis-Robinson's secretary; Jill Spencer, J. D. Crispin's secretary; and Jean Mackney of GEC-Marconi Exhibition Unit; in their smart Farnborough outfits. These three gave visitors a pleasant welcome and helped them find their way.





Top left: The Marconi Radar Systems stand in the GEC-Marconi Electronics enclosure was crowded like this for most of the time. The ST801 mounting can be seen through the window on the right.

Top right: The Mayor of Chelmsford Les King, left, on the stand. He is one of our sales team, and here he is with Robin Webb, leader of the Chelmsford Engineering team, and Archie Orr who was responsible for co-ordinating Leicester's part in the exhibition.

Centre left: The S600 mobile surveillance aerial, heightfinder and operations cabins on display.

Centre right: Engineers from Cromptons and Baddow hired coaches to go to Farnborough.

Bottom left: Joe Corfield and Pete Boyfield transmitted radar search signals from Rivenhall by land line to Farnborough for the data handling demonstration. Signals from the S264 were processed by plot extractor and data serializer, sent via modem and Post Office telephone to the Forge cabin at Farnborough and were reprocessed by Myriad III for the automatic tracking display.

Bottom right: Tina Marshall, left, and Jill Spencer were constantly busy with the liaison of visitors and engineers.

(Continued from page 1)

It is appropriate to mention by name one particular individual, partly in connection with Farnborough but also in a more general context. Leslie King has organised the administrative side of the Marconi Radar contribution to Farnborough for many years with great energy and efficiency, and 1972 is no exception. What is exceptional as some of you know, is that he has combined this effort

not only with his work in the Sales Department but also with the enormously time-consuming job as Mayor of Chelmsford. He is now about half-way through his year of office and has already made a great impression on the town with the dignity, ability, vitality and above all, humanity, that he has brought to the position of First Citizen of Chelmsford.

J. W. SUTHERLAND, Managing Director

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Julian Ryley and Keith Harding, both of Engineering B. Baddow; Ron Emery, Nadge Project Office, Cromptons; and John Brindley, Leicester; who have all been awarded a Diploma in Management Studies (Block Release) by the Anglian Regional Management Centre, Danbury Park. Their course, over a period of two years, consisted of a series of lectures in six two week blocks at the Staff Development Centre, Springfield Place, Chelmsford, several residential weekends at hotels in the Southend area, and three days at a factory in Cheshire for a management consultancy activity requiring a full-scale report.

★ ★ ★

## Head of Leicester model shop retires



C. J. Cloke, right

C. J. Cloke retired in October after 36 years' service. He joined BTH Rugby in 1936 as head of Research Laboratory model room. In 1960 he moved to Experimental Planning, New Parks, and in 1967 transferred to MRSL, Blackbird Road, where he has been concerned with the development and manufacture of prototype equipments.

Mr. Cloke takes a great interest in social work. He enjoys travel, and is now planning a trip to Canada with his wife to visit their daughter.

## Radar weddings

Linda Rider, Field Services, West Drayton, and John Cushing were married recently. On the same day Janice Wotton, Systems Sales, Cromptons, became Mrs. Paul Vowles.

## No smoking

Mrs. Jean Goodman, below left, secretary to G. N. S. Taylor and F. L. C. Firmin, Marketing Advisers, Crompton Works, being interviewed by Valerie Darlington for the Chelmsford Hospital Radio Service programme "Woman at 8". Jean was a heavy smoker, but with the aid of hypnosis has succeeded in giving it up.





### Mobile amateur enthusiast

*D. R. Dryden of Test Dept., Blackbird Road.*

Dave Dryden of Blackbird Road Test Dept., operates from home—G3 BKQ—and from his car—G3 BKQ/M. He is a contributor to 'Short Wave' magazine and is in great demand at Leicester Polytechnic where he lectures and gives demonstrations on radio techniques.

He is a member of the Amateur Emergency Network, an organisation called upon in times of emergency to supplement national communications networks; and he operates on all bands from 1.8 Mc/s to 12.96 Mc/s covering A.M., C.W. and S.S.B. modes. He is also connected with an amateur television society and transmits and receives pictures to and from Birmingham. His two sons, Dave Jr., of Blackbird Road and Les of New Parks, are also keen amateurs.



### County Champions

Ron Casey of MRSL Commercial Services and his partner Jack Gregory won the Essex pairs cup in the bowls finals at Woodford.

The champion pair went on to play in the National Championship at Mortlake but were beaten by Hertfordshire.

Ron and Jack, in the picture above—Ron on the right, are both members of the Belfairs Bowls Club, Southend, and the presentation of the Essex pairs cup will take place on 18th Nov., during the annual dinner of the Essex County Bowling Association at the 'Lion and Lamb', Chelmsford.

### Long service awards

Long service awards have been presented to the following Blackbird Road personnel:—S. F. Freer, General Foreman, Electrical Assembly, 30 years' service; B. T. Baverstock, Foreman, Model Shop, and B. Atkins, Test Equipt. Engineer, both with 35 years; Miss M. Powell, Production Control; W. A. E. Crisp, Mechanical Assembly; F. N. Tyers, Test; H. B. A. Langmaid, Material Listing; A. E. Potterton and N. W. Langley, Light M/c. Shop; and F. A. Mackness, Chief Inspector, all with 30 years.

## Marconi team working in Saudi Arabia

**The biggest overseas radar defence project ever undertaken by this country is being run by a special team of MRSL men. This is the Saudi Arabian Defence Contract and the team, known as SAGEU (Saudi Arabian Ground Environment Unit), has its main project office in Saudi Arabia and a corresponding office in Leicester.**

The Project Manager, John Lawrence, resides in Riyadh, and Alan Walton, Deputy Manager, although a frequent visitor to Saudi Arabia, is based in Leicester, together with Alan Grindey, Chief Accountant, Ken Brook and John Mills, just returned from a long spell in the territory, looking after technical matters.

### In Riyadh

In the Riyadh office, Wing Commander Bennett ('Benny') has been the mainstay of the technical aspects of the project ever since his retirement from the Royal Air Force over four years ago. Tony Wade supervises the office work, and Chris Bagguley and Ron Cummings, who have both quite recently arrived in Riyadh, are directing the final stages of commissioning. Mike Bartlett runs the Chelmsford installation team, having taken over from Bob Horton.

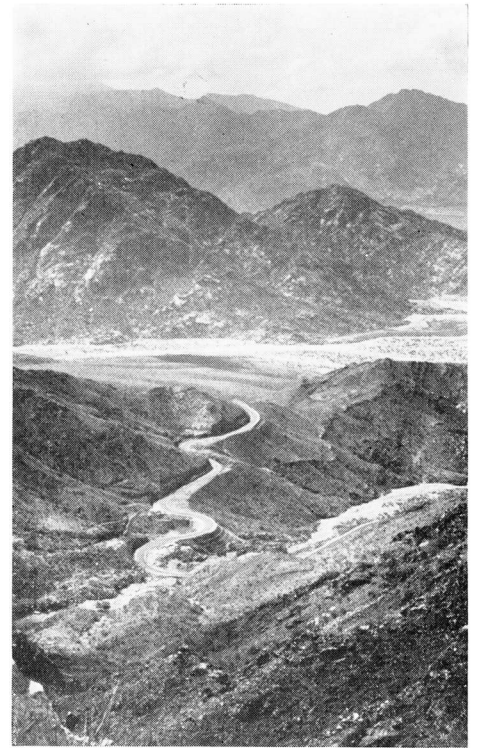
The contract was originally signed by AEI International Limited, although the then Radar Division and Communications Division of Marconi undertook major slices of the work as sub-contractors. Since the GEC merger and the formation of MRSL, we have had full responsibility for the whole contract. The five, high powered, stacked beam, three-dimensional radars, which are amongst the

*Top right: The road from Jeddah to Taif passes through desolate rugged country. Jeddah is the Red Sea port for Mecca and the faithful pass this way on pilgrimage.*

*Right: The hub of Marconi operations is in the old city of Riyadh, the capital, situated almost in the centre of the country. This is one of the mosques in Riyadh.*

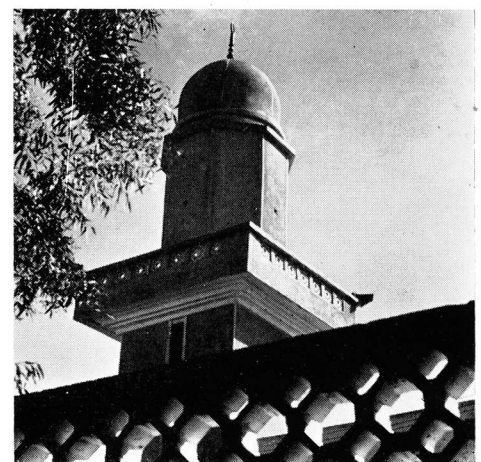
*Below: Eroding cliffs are features of the desert landscape.*

(Photos by J. W. Sutherland)



most powerful in the world have been supplied by MRSL, Leicester, five Myriad computer-based sector operations centres and an air defence centre, all with most comprehensive display facilities by MRSL, Chelmsford, and a country wide network of tropospheric scatter stations by what is now the Radio Division of Marconi Communication Systems Limited.

It is difficult to realise the wide variety of climate in Saudi Arabia; in Jeddah on the Red Sea or Dharan on the Gulf, it is always hot and very sticky, but in Riyadh, although very hot—up to 125°F in the shade, it is not



too oppressive because the air is so dry. Some of the elevated towns have a less extreme climate, and down in the South-West it is sometimes very stormy and wet.

On the sites, the Marconi people live in camps built adjacent to the job, and although not the Hilton, the accommodation, the food, medical attention and the recreational facilities are of a good standard, and morale is high among the hundred or so Marconi people still in the territory as the job draws to a close.

The ultimate success of this project owes everything to the skill, energy and sheer 'guts' of the people who have built it. J.W.S.



## Taking the floor at Beehive Lane

Left: *Dancing stars Bill and Bobbie Irvine at the MASC during Modern Dancing Section's gala evening in Festival Week.*

## Pirates in Chelmsford

Right: *Brenda and Ted Francis, Pat Viles and Peter Dobson on stage at Chelmsford's Civic Centre in 'The Pirates of Penzance'.*



## The picture story

Every picture tells a story and the one above tells Bill Irvine's story of poise and balance in ballroom dancing. For in his television programme Bill pointed out how the girl is the picture, the man the frame, and that there must be complete harmony between them. Clothes too, play their part in enhancing the performance.

Modern Dancing Section was formed in 1965. Tuition is given by qualified Imperial Teachers every Thursday evening.

## Good show

Over 350 entries were received for the Blackbird Road flower and vegetable show held on 9th September. This was the AEI Ex-Service Association's 16th annual show which was open to all Blackbird Road and New Parks people, their families and friends.

The cups for the vegetable section, the flower section, and the cup for the highest number of points gained in the show were won by J. Coleman. The Ladies Cup went to Mrs. A. Fox and the Manager's Inter-Departmental Cup was won by Mechanical Assembly Department, with the previous holders, Inspection, a close second.

## A model major-general?

"I am the very model of a modern Major-General," Ted Francis, Engineering A,

Below: *Modern Dancing Section's committee with the champions. Left to right: Mrs. Jill Pearson, Jean Lock, Frank Geer, treasurer; Tony Barker, Margaret Barker, Phil Buckman, secretary; the Irvines, Fred Chittenden, chairman; Hans Lembeck.*



Baddow, told us. He was "very good at integral and differential calculus," he knew "the scientific names of beings animalculous," and a host of other things. Yes, you've guessed it. He was playing the part of Major-General Stanley in the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's latest production, 'The Pirates of Penzance' by Gilbert and Sullivan. Here he is with his wife Brenda as Isabel, one of his 'daughters', left, and Pat Viles, wife of John Viles, Airadio Division, MEASL, Basildon, another 'daughter', Mabel, who married the pirate apprentice. Completing the picture is learner policeman (he had an L plate on the back of his helmet) Peter Dobson, also of Airadio Division.

## Also in the picture

John Lowe, Post Design Services Design Office. Baddow, was one of the pirates and Norman Roache, EOSD, Basildon, a member of the orchestra.

Shall we see them all again in March in 'Fiddler on the Roof'? Let's hope so.

## Brigade on the spot

Two fire fighting teams have recently been formed in Marconi Radar Systems, an eight-man crew at Crompton Works and a six-man crew at Great Bromley, Ken Gamblin, Fire Officer, says that the task of recruiting the right type of men has been very successfully

Below right: *The newly formed fire fighting team at Crompton Works. Left to right: Firemen Bill Payne, Spencer Brooks, Ldg. Fmn. Norman Bays, Brian Clarke, Alec Burnett, Peter Clegg, Tony Blake and Fire and Safety Officer Ken Gamblin.*

achieved. They are training together as units and aim to reach a high standard of efficiency and be able to deal with any emergency which may threaten works personnel.

## Can you beat it?

**EXPERIENCE**—Business man's definition of his own mistakes.

**DIETING**—The penalty of exceeding the feed limit.

**EGOTIST**—One who is always me-deep in conversation.



Above: *The team in action. The fire in this gutted building was completely extinguished—it was a smoke cannister. The building is being renovated.*

