

Echo

The internal newspaper of Marconi Radar Systems and its people

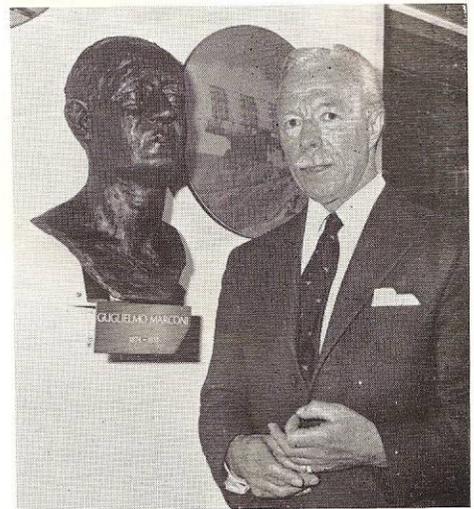
Milestone Year

This issue of Echo will be published on or close to 25 April, which is a most significant date—the Centenary of the birth of Marconi.

There is a very interesting special magazine in preparation, sketching the history of Marconi himself and his great Company of which we are part. I have arranged for every member of Marconi Radar Systems Limited to have a free copy of this publication and I am sure you will find it absorbing to read and to keep as a souvenir.

exhibition at the Science Museum which you may like to see. In Marconi Radar we can regard this as a milestone year from which we can progress to even greater strength in the future. We have the heritage and tradition of Marconi behind us, coupled with today's talent and resources to meet every challenge in the years to come.

JOHN SUTHERLAND,
Managing Director



Marconi commemorated

L. C. D. Freeman, Sales Controller, MRSL, with the bust of Marconi by Clare Sheridan which has been placed in the front entrance of D building, Crompton Works. Mr. Freeman is the only veteran in the Company to remember Marconi.

Marconi's flair

Marconi had a fascinating career; his particular flair was not only as a brilliant experimenter but also to see the practical applications of his inventions and to exploit them. His were special talents which established the Company in a leading position in the world in the application of radio for several decades, a position we are now continuing to foster in many different markets.

Radar predicted

As some of you may know, in 1922 in a speech in America, Marconi foresaw the application of radio techniques to the location of ships, aircraft, etc., and predicted the development of radar, in which we now play such a dominant part.

Talent and resources

There will be events associated with the Centenary during the year, including a special

Our Founder at New Street

Marconi with HRH Prince George leaving New Street after their visit in June 1932—Marconi's last visit to Chelmsford. In the centre is B. St.J. Sadler, then Works Manager, who called for Leslie Freeman to lead the party round the Works. See this page, below. Historic equipment is now on view at the Science Museum. See page 2.



This picture was found in the loft of The Rising Sun, London Road, Chelmsford, by John Howitt, the landlord, whose father, W. N. (Bill) Howitt, was Stores Controller at New Street in Marconi's time. John handed

the picture to Arthur Webb who is now Controller, Materials Handling, at New Street. Arthur happened to mention this to us in conversation (about three years ago) and offered us the picture.—Editor.



Marconi's Transmitter

A replica of Marconi's original ten inch, induction coil, spark-gap transmitter was made by second and third year apprentices at Crompton Works for presentation to the Controller of the Navy, Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, on his visit to MRSL, Chelmsford. Left to right, Stuart McLatchie, Tony Murray, Bob Haworth, Instructor; David Pearce, and John Loom, a Maintenance carpenter who made the base.

I'll open the door for you sir!

Marconi and the heavy fire-doors at New Street Works are inseparable in Leslie Freeman's mind.

Leslie had finished his spell in the Works and was in Planning at the age of twenty when Marconi himself visited Chelmsford.

It happened that the occasion, in 1932, was Marconi's last visit to the Works at New Street. He accompanied Prince George who came to see the rapid progress Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. had made since the historic broadcasts from one of the buildings on the far side of the railway siding next to Marconi Road.

Leslie tells us that working at the hub of production in Planning he knew pretty well

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everybody in the Works and exactly what was going on in each department. On the day before Marconi's visit the Works Manager sent for him to come to the front door. 'Freeman,' he said, 'you are going to lead the party of visitors tomorrow.' He explained which departments to visit and exactly what he wanted. 'Now,' he said, 'I'm Marconi. Lead on.' The flabbergasted Leslie collected his wits and his bearings and went ahead. Works Managers were big men; he had never spoken to one before. En route he hauled open—and shut—all the heavy, iron, sliding, fire-doors.

Those doors again

Next day he led Marconi and his party round the Works; all went successfully, according to plan—and he opened and shut all those doors again. For months afterwards he was teased about it, and everywhere he went came shouts of 'I'll open the door for you, sir.'

Leslie Freeman, now Sales Controller of MRSL, has completed forty-six years' Marconi service. He has been associated with many of the large radar contracts the Company has handled, particularly those for naval equipment, and has travelled all over the world since the formation of Radar Division twenty-six years ago.

I'll put a girdle round about the earth

This is the title of the exhibition at the Science Museum commemorating the centenary of Marconi's birth. Puck undertook to put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes, but Marconi once said 'I'll do it quicker than that.'

The exhibition will be opened by the Marchesa Maria Cristina Marconi, Marconi's widow, on 24 April and will be open to the public on 25 April for about six months; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., admission free.

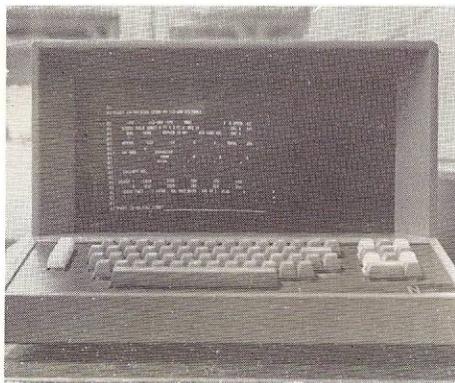
It will be on two floors, with a display of historic equipment and a large selection of original documents, on view for the first time, which trace the struggle to make wireless telegraphy commercially profitable. Marconi the obscure youth experimenting at home soon becomes a Director of the Company that will make his name a synonym for radio; the first man to transmit a signal across the Atlantic becomes, over twenty years later, a central figure in the development of the short wave beam system by which he finally achieves his dream of transmitting to the ends of the earth.

Veterans - please note

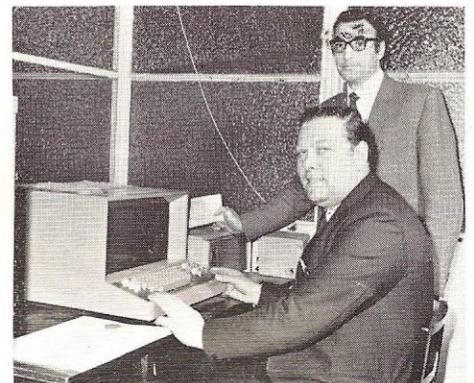
This year's reunion of the Marconi Veterans' Association will be significant. This is the centenary year of the birth of the founder of the Association, Guglielmo Marconi, and we are particularly pleased to tell you that the Marchesa Maria Cristina Marconi, his widow, has graciously accepted an invitation to be our guest of honour.

The reunion will be held in the Works Dining Hall at New Street on Saturday, 27 April, at 12 noon. Luncheon at 1 p.m., Cabaret at 3 p.m. followed by the Annual General Meeting.

If anyone has not had an invitation to this, the thirty-eighth annual reunion, will he please get in touch with the Secretary, C. E. A. Lovell, Room 4F, Marconi House, New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1PL.



The computer display in Cromptons stock control department.



Stan Sewell, Stock Controller, at the display with Stan Medcraft.

New system of stock control

A new system of stock control which gives the stock situation at any moment and eliminates the need for hand-written stock cards has been installed by MRSL Supplies Division at Crompton Works.

This is a new and forward-looking approach to the stock control problem. The system is linked to the 4/70 computer at Baddow and has a video display terminal in the stock control office in E building at Cromptons.

By using the typewriter keyboard of the display the Stock Controller is able to communicate with the computer, call for the present situation of any item of stock, and the information will appear on the screen in front of him.

This is the system Bryan Carey, Manager, Supplies Division, had envisaged for the speeding up of handling, and the accurate costing, of vast numbers of separate items

which he expects to have in stores as future contracts progress in the Works.

It is the first of its type in Chelmsford and never before have we been able to do this work at push button speed.

The system is basically the brain-child of Marconi Management Services, Chelmsford, under Claude Stokes, who specialize in the installation of systems of this type and also in systems for purchasing and supplies accounting. Claude and his team worked in liaison with Bryan on his interwoven and complicated problems of works supply, stock records and accounting, broke them down into technological terms and evolved a system for working with the computer.

Full on-line facility

Claude Stokes says that the video display provides a full on-line interrogation facility. All items of stock are continuously monitored for movements, costs and forward allocations. The stock controller receives early warning reports so that he can focus his attention on those items of stock which require his urgent consideration.

The computer therefore warns him when to order stock—even though we may now hold it—so that before we use it up we can buy in time to meet the next contract date. The computer also indicates how much to order in accordance with agreed formulae based on all available information. The computer also advises when a physical stock check is to be made for a particular item.

Secret of success

But the secret of the system's success is that the reality of the situation is always evident. For example, the computer reviews all supplier invoices and re-calculates new standard costs whenever necessary. This means that all raw material stock can be accurately valued at any time and also that there are no discrepancies caused by time-lag in quotations for new contracts.

Fifty years' service

Bert Holloway, a Senior Installation Engineer, Field Services, has retired after fifty years' service with the group. He started installation work with AEI and was responsible for radar for RAF stations. He was awarded the MBE. He joined MRSL in 1970. He lives at Overstrand near Cromer and is a J.P. Here he is in the centre of the picture, left, with Morris Burrage, Planning Controller, left, and Percy Williams, Installation and Maintenance Controller, Field Services.

Margaret Miller, left, and Gail Jackson who handle Stock Control paperwork.





Working on the Tepigen project at Leicester: Stephen Phillips, left, with Terry Rowley, Group Chief, Computer Applications Dept.

of his staff are drawn from the Company's training schemes and he has a good selection of young lady students.

The work is challenging and his team is young and enthusiastic. All the ingredients you might say of a perfect working environment. But like most people in responsible positions Terry has his fair share of frustrations and disappointments. And when not at work, well don't be surprised to learn that he is leading his team on a brisk ten mile hike up the Derbyshire Dales or across the Staffordshire Moors.

In a man's world

Something has happened in the Control Engineering Systems Department at Leicester recently, or to put it another way, another breakthrough has occurred. Could it be a revolutionary new inverter, an automatic voltage regulator perhaps or even a new servo mechanism? No, Barbara Atkinson, Graduate Engineer, has joined the department. What's so special about that you might ask. True like any other young woman she has a shapely figure and often wears feminine clothes, but today you are more likely to see her in a pair of jeans with an armful of test equipment or wheeling an oscilloscope through the laboratory.

Barbara joined the Company last September having gained a First Class Honours degree in physics at Nottingham University. She spent her first training period in the Company's training centre at the Blackbird Road factory and acted as group co-ordinator for the graduate trainee project. In January she joined the Control Systems Department for a further period of training before her first appointment.

Quite at home

How does Barbara find working in a man's world? 'I felt rather self-conscious at first, being the only female engineer in the section and I think some of the men also took a while to adjust to my presence. A sudden silence often occurred in the middle of a conversation as an unfortunate man tried

Charles Rand, Football Referee



Charles Rand, Chief Production Engineer, Crompton Works.

Charles Rand, Chief Production Engineer, is a very keen footballer. He referees all through the season for senior amateur leagues such as Eastern Counties and Isthmian; and here, above, he was just about to start a Company interdepartmental match, Radar Works v. EEV (Maldon). See page 4.

Who's who at Leicester

A prominent feature in the current product development programme at Leicester is the Television Picture Generation project, known locally as Tepigen. This system of using computer programming techniques to generate animated scenarios on an ordinary domestic television monitor is a comparatively new concept and can be used to simulate navigational or combat situations for training.

The Computer Applications Department at Leicester is among the forerunners in this field of work and the man responsible for this particular development programme is 36-year-old Terry Rowley.

Breaking new ground

Terry joined the Company in 1958 as a Student Apprentice. In 1963 he joined the Computer Department as a Junior Engineer and in 1972 was appointed Group Chief of Computer Applications.

Today he leads a team of Engineers, Mathematicians and Programmers engaged in using the most up to date technology to break new ground in computer applications. Many

Off abroad to build up the order book

Here, before leaving on tours of Europe and the Far East to build up the order book, are John Crispin, Sales Manager, Export, left, and 'Bunny' Austin, Area Sales Manager, third from left, with Alan Matthews, Senior Systems Engineer, and Bob Holloway, right, of the Sales Projects team. John went on a

tour of Europe, and to participate in a symposium in Vienna to the Austrian MOD; 'Bunny' went to the Far East, in particular, to Malaysia to follow up the expansion of business there—a second contract is being negotiated for air traffic control radar.

desperately not to use bad language in my presence. But I soon settled into the department and became accepted as an equal rather than a novelty. I feel quite happy in my position now and I certainly have no regrets about breaking into a man's world.'

One final observation, before there is a flood of requests to transfer to Leicester, Barbara is married and her husband too is an engineer in Control Systems.

Contact for Hams

Radio amateurs in the Company will be interested to know that during the opening days of the Marconi exhibition at the Science Museum transmissions to amateurs will be made from GB 2MT on 25-28 April. The operator—Ralph Barratt of BBC.

Centenary dance

Leicester held a buffet dance to mark the centenary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi. Guests were entertained by The Mighty Quinn, and by Ken Benson of Sales. Ken and his uke are always a must.

The top spot of the evening was a free-draw prize of a half gallon bottle of whisky. This was won by Mrs. Elsie Ainsworth of Control Systems and was presented on behalf of the Company by Mrs. Jean Richardson, wife of Contracts Mgr. Ivan Richardson.

At Leicester's dance, below, are, left to right, W. M. Stothard, Technical Manager; T. H. Amos, 909 Project Engineer; I. Richardson, Contracts Manager; Mrs. G. Brocklesby, and R. T. Brocklesby, Chief Accountant.



Full credit to Sidney Morleigh



One of the first to pass his finals for BA, Open University, is Sidney Morleigh, a Senior Systems Engineer, and in May he will be going up to Alexandra Palace for the award ceremony. Now he is working for an Honours BA in maths, with literature as well, which he will sit within the next year.

Sidney already has a number of engineering qualifications, and has also a great deal of experience in mathematical and computer work. He received the Charles Babbage award for a paper he read to the IERE on dielectric storage. At Elliott's he was responsible for developing the central computing equipment for the TSR2 aircraft; and after he joined Marconi in 1966 he became responsible for the system design of the FPPS. Now he works in a consultancy capacity in MRSL Systems.

Determined to have a go

But, he says that he was disappointed at not having the chance of getting a university degree at the start of his career and when the opportunity arose to graduate with the Open University he decided to have a go.

In his first year he took two full credit courses—about equivalent in spare time work to full time university; and he has kept this pace going. It's the cooking chores, he says, which take the time.

Now he is very much enjoying the study of the legacy of the 19th Century novel, one of the honours subjects, which makes a break from computer science; and he also finds a great deal of enjoyment in writing poetry.

Radar accounts challenged by auditors

In response to a challenge from De Loittes, the Company auditors, Radar Accounts took on the 'enemy' at 5-a-side football, basketball and squash.

The Auditors proved themselves the better footballers, winning by the narrow margin of 5 goals to 4. Accounts, not wishing to be outdone by such an opponent, gained revenge in basketball by 20 points to 16.

Petticoat influence

The Radar team, Dick Foy, Nick Wright, Terry Smith, Arthur Hayden, Steve Aldred, Peter Stuart and Andrew Hutton, was inspired by the female staff supporters who were entertained by the 'skills' of both sides, but particularly by Dick Foy's tactics of 'lie on the floor and trip them up'.

Jeff Mayle of De Loittes then proceeded to defeat Terry Smith at squash by 4 games to nil. This was just to build a thirst for the bar afterwards.

The saga continues at the MASC, Beehive Lane, on 24 April when a Marconi Accounts XI meets the Auditors in a full scale football match. K.o. 6.15 p.m.

Retirements

H. Holloway, Field Services, 50 years' service.
W. L. Lang, Govt. Loan and Relief Documentation, 38 years.

B. T. Borley, Finished Stores, 34 years.
F. L. Johnson, Baddow Workshop, 32 years.
G. W. Slack, Engrg. Div., Baddow, 24 years.
J. R. Haslett, Production Control, 7 years.

Well done, Julian and Shirley

Chelmsford and District table tennis finals at the MASC and here are the mixed doubles runners-up, Julian Levett and Shirley Carroll. They lost narrowly in the third game. Julian, a member of Central Division, is now with MRSL. Shirley took the ladies' singles title, for the third time, and with Chris Willcock won the ladies' doubles as well.

Polo players (Bottom left)

Martin Crick is one of the apprentices working on a sheet metal course in G Building training centre under Instructor Ernie Oliver. Here he is, front row, left, with the Chelmsford water polo team. Martin has played water polo regularly for Chelmsford and Essex. Kevin Chapman, back row, right, also plays regularly for Chelmsford. He is an apprentice in the instrument section under Bob Haworth.

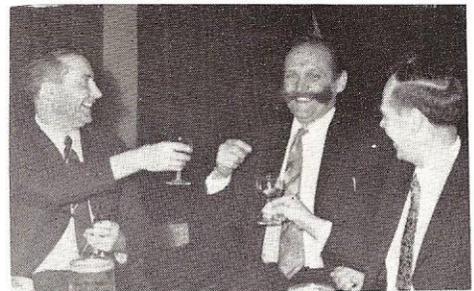
Football

MRSL who beat EEV (Maldon) 3-0 in the inter-departmental league match refereed by Charles Rand. Back l. to r., Alan Martin, Bob Johnson, Alan Raynor, Phil Reeve, Tom McSweeney, Derek Harbour, Brian Holdsworth, Alan Hare, Manager; Cyril Boden, trainer. Front, Neil Smith, captain; Dave Rivett, Steve Pentz, Kevin Mansfield, Mick Batcher, Peter Stacey.



Trophy's first winner

Lou Pavitt, Technical Services DO, Baddow, right, is the first winner of the Mike Cunningham memorial trophy. There were twenty entries in the billiards k.o. competition for this hall-marked silver vase, and Brian Brewer, Contracts, Cromptons, MASC Chairman, made the presentation.



After-dinner drinks at Gateshead. L. to r., G. Landreth, N. Strong and F. G. Holloway.

Gateshead's FSA dinner

The eleventh annual dinner of Gateshead Foremen's and Supervisors' Association was once again a tremendous success.

The President, R. Sherwin, welcomed Vice-Presidents J. W. Sutherland and B. R. Carey. Leicester Foremen's and Supervisors' Association was ably represented by A. C. Copson and J. McReynolds, and it was good to see retired members Robert Kime, George New and Daniel McOnie.

Chairman O. McClurry welcomed guests, including Works Manager W. I. M. Henderson, now back at Gateshead, and he had a special word for absent friends J. Aikman, P. Way and R. Simmons. His speech was in humorous vein, with a delicate touch of shop floor communications. The Vice-President's address was given by J. W. Sutherland, who briefly outlined Company business, which is continually improving, and made special mention of the historic fact that 25 April is the Centenary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi. R.A.

