

# Marconi

*companies and their people*



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# Marconi

The Marconi Companies and Their People  
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COVER: *Dodie West, Television, Cabaret and Recording Star, featured prominently on Marconi Broadcasting Division's stand at the recent Montreux Television Symposium. She made five appearances daily in our colour studio, and also, bikini-clad by the Casino swimming pool, provided some appealing shots for our O.B. camera. See page 11*

LEFT: *Miss M.A.S.C., Christine Bull, drew from the drum the ticket which won the car in the M.A.S.C. Festival Week draw, and Charlie Smithers is announcing the winner, Mrs. Christine Hughes of Rivenhall. Christine Bull works in Cent. Prod. Eng. Services, Crompton Works. Pictures, pages 12, 13*

RIGHT: *When Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother went to Hertford to accept the freedom of the Borough on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment, two M.I. men were on parade: Dave Varney, a Methods Documentation Engineer, and Basil Josiah, Calibration Control. Dave is third from the right in the picture. He was a member of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Territorial Regiment for twenty years, Basil for sixteen. Basil is now Chairman of the St. Albans branch of the Burma Star Association*

## New space station built by Marconi

Our Managing Director, Robert Telford, went out to Bahrain himself for the opening of the satellite communications station which is the major part of the plan for linking the Gulf States with every part of the world.

This station was built by The Marconi Company for Cable & Wireless Ltd., who will operate it as part of a global telephone and data link scheme. It was opened by the Ruler of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa who made a telephone call via Intelsat III over the Indian Ocean, and Goonhilly I station in Cornwall, to the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor.

Features of this station are that it has a 90-ft. steerable dish mounted on a 60-ft. concrete tower. The dish was built for Space Division at the Marconi Gateshead Works, and Marconi is the only British company to have built civil satellite terminals.





# Colour for News

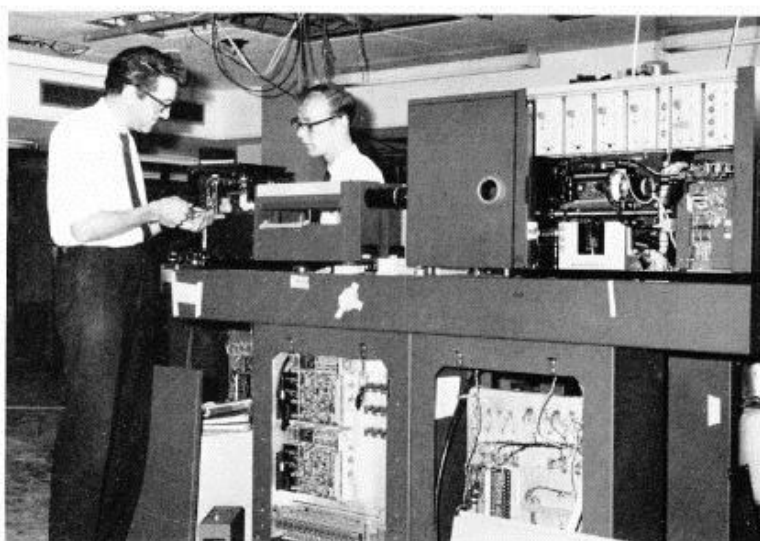
**London's complex television news station, now being built, is having a Marconi colour installation.**

**From 15 November the familiar ITN symbol will appear in colour**

A mere stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of Regent Street and the trend-setting mini-skirts of the West End stands a neat little eight-storey office block. You may think it's just another of those glass and concrete towers that loom in contrast to adjacent Victorian architecture, and you'd probably be right. But walk through the plate-glass front door and you enter the heart of a nerve centre of what is to be London's most complex TV news station. It is behind this door of the new Independent Television News House that Marconi is playing the vital role of equipping I.T.N. for full colour news programme presentation planned to start on 15 November; the date specified for the introduction of I.T.V. 2 and B.B.C. 1 on U.H.F.

For this new phase in broadcasting I.T.N. required a completely new headquarters so that re-equipping would not interrupt normal programmes. It had to be a building or site in central London, easily accessible and close to the G.P.O. tower, where programme switching is done. They plumped for a new unoccupied office block in Wells Street, just off Regent Street, and at the beginning of the year conversion started. Two studios were built on either side of the block and many existing offices were allocated for equipment bays and studio control rooms.

In January Dave Perkins and Ron Huntsman, of T.D.U., Waterhouse Lane, the two Marconi engineers assigned for the installation, moved in.



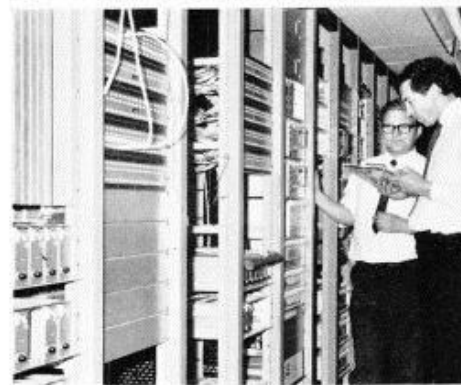
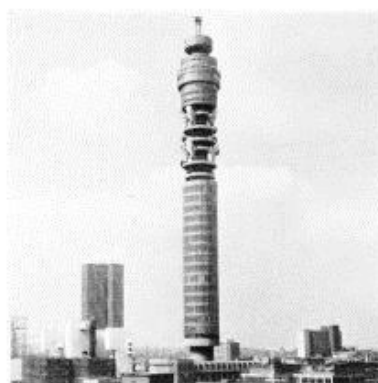


ABOVE: Studio One production room. Ron Huntsman, left, and Dave Perkins look at progress on the Marconi vision mixer. This is where the programme producer and director control the outgoing programmes

FAR LEFT: Here is one of the Mark VII colour telecine machines that have been installed in the Facility Area. There are four of these machines there. Colour films of news-reels brought in by the reporters and cameramen are projected through this unit and displayed for transmission selection by the producer. The two Marconi engineers seen here are Dave Percy and Tony Butt. They have come up from Waterhouse Lane to align them

LEFT: Ron Huntsman checks one of the Mark VII colour telecine control units in the Facility Area

CENTRE RIGHT: Jack Brittain, Broadcasting Sales, who was responsible for the overall design of the project. He is seen here discussing a circuit diagram of a unit being installed with Dave Perkins



ABOVE: The central apparatus room with some of the fifty-four seven-foot cabinets. In here all the switching, amplification both for sound and vision, standards conversion and all ancillary operations are carried out. Dave and Ron are looking at a plug-in vision mixing module from one of the racks. The complete programme is sent from this room via land lines to the G.P.O. tower where it is switched by the Post Office for distribution to the many transmitters scattered throughout the British Isles

They had literally four walls, a floor and a ceiling, and the rest was up to them. They worked amidst piles of wood, bricks, cables, builders, plasterers, electricians, and wheelbarrows full of cement.

First to go in were the racks for the equipment and then a team of contract wiremen moved in and started laying the miles of cables. 'We had to bring in an extra seventeen miles of it for the audio alone so you can imagine how much went under the floorboards,' says Dave.

The complete television system was designed back at New Street by Jack Brittain of Broadcasting Division and careful liaison between him, Dave and Ron ensured a smooth flow of equipment into the building.

'We are concerned with four major areas in the centre,' says Dave. 'The facility area which houses four Mark VII colour telecine machines and the video tape recorders; the central apparatus room for the sync generators, assignment switcher, vision distribution units and all the audio amplifiers; the dubbing-rooms where sound can be automatically superimposed on to video tape or colour telecine in complete synchronization; and probably the most important of all, the large studio 1 control room where producer, director and engineering manager sit at a console in front of black-and-white and colour monitors to preview, select and mix vision pictures from cameras, video tape, or telecine, using the Marconi vision mixer.'

News can be selected, and fed to the vision mixer,

from remote inputs such as the Eurovision network, satellite links from America, and local I.T.A. stations supplying area information.

The colour coding system in the U.K. and in most of Western Europe is the 625 line P.A.L. system, but on the American continent the system is 525 N.T.S.C. I.T.N. News headquarters can deal with both systems. They are able to transmit and record in either system in colour and to transcode one to the other.

To simplify the switching within the station Marconi have designed and built for I.T.N. a machine assignment switcher. This can select incoming news from any source and switch it to the standards converter so that an overseas system is converted for transmission to Britain. Conversely, outgoing news can be transmitted in either 625 line P.A.L. to British stations or 525 line N.T.S.C. to America or both. This machine is a one-off job. There is no other like it.

I.T.N. News supplies the whole I.T.A. network in the U.K. No matter where he is in the country the viewer sees news from I.T.N. House, London. Most of the equipment being installed there is being built at Chelmsford specially for I.T.N. and is unique.

Work at the centre is now almost complete but Ron and Dave will be staying there for a while to make quite sure that all is operating smoothly and to help the I.T.N. engineers to familiarize themselves with our equipment.

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# *A sail in Bloodhound*

## **Marconi apprentices crew the royal yacht**

Marconi apprentices had the honour of being the first crew from a private firm to man the royal yacht *Bloodhound* for a cruise.

Five apprentices went as crew, with Derek Steele of Central Personnel Services as Second-Mate and Clem Lister of Radar Division as First-Mate.

'We were met at Gosport by Lt.-Cdr. D. Gay, the Sailing Master, on Thursday 19 June,' reports Clem. 'It was blowing force 6-7 with a gale warning. We set sail, stayed the night off Yarmouth to review the situation, and sailed into Poole Harbour under

yankee and double-reefed mainsail on Friday. We left Poole at 6 a.m. Saturday and sailed for Alderney—wind force 3-4—arriving at 7.30 p.m.

'On Sunday winds were light, and as the tide turned eastwards we set off for home at 9 p.m. on the motor. Within a few miles of St. Catherine's point we hoisted the genoa, mainsail and mizzen and sailed via the Nab into Portsmouth Harbour tying up at Gosport at 1.30 p.m. on Monday.

'To mark the privilege of the cruise, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, an Eddystone, tran-