

## TREASURERS DO GIVE AS WELL AS TAKE



*Pictured is the young woman with her husband who presented the award to Lin (centre)*

On November 22nd last year our Treasurer, Lin Sandell, together with her husband Arthur attended a presentation dinner in the Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden given by the Blood Transfusion Service where she was presented with a crystal plate in recognition of having donated 75 pints of blood. The event was attended by some 80 donors and their partners and commenced with pink champagne followed by a three course dinner. Lin has been donating blood since her late teens when she accompanied her father to donation sessions. Also during her time in the Finchley office she and John Atkins organised for the mobile blood donation vehicle to come to Finchley twice a year. It was parked outside the office and attracted donors from both NCR and local businesses including Sainsbury's and the neighbouring police station.

It was stated at the dinner that only 3% of the population actually donate blood, a number which has slowly reduced from 5% over recent years and so it was very satisfying for Lin to be part of that small number. It was also very touching to have the award presented by a young woman who had herself received many pints of blood in the course of her treatment for leukaemia. Some of these may well have been donated by people at the dinner.

Some 15 of those donors receiving awards had achieved the 100 donations level, and it is Lin's aim to also reach this total before she has to give it up. To this end she has made a good start and will be donating pint number 78 in June.

### IMPORTANT FELLOWSHIP CHANGES

- Fellowship year changes to a calendar year basis
- Fellowship year 2008 will run from May 1st to Dec 31st and renewal forms are included with this version of Postscript
- Fellowship year 2009 will run from Jan 1st 2009 and renewal forms will be included with the December 2008 version of Postscript
- Membership fee stays at £10 however diaries will no longer be distributed

*For full details of these changes please refer to the Chairman's report.*



## Region 2W – Ian Ormerod

The region has had a very successful year, two lunches having been held at the Grange Country Club in the Wirral. The lunch in October 2007 saw forty four friends getting together and we surpassed that number on April 1st 2008 when fifty five were able to attend.

At our April meeting we were told of the death of **Eric Patten**, a nonagenarian, who had served NCR for many years and who had been a regular attendee at the regional lunches.



**Region 2W lunch**

We welcomed several new members and guests to the lunches during the last twelve months. Recent retirees from NCR included **Phil Bickerton** with recently retired **Walter Bullen** and **Ian Beveridge** visiting from region 2E. Also from region 2E we were pleased to welcome **Sandy McMillan**.

Former NCR employees who have joined the fellowship this year are **Iain Simpson**, **Roger Wood**, **Les Owen** and **Ron Farrelly**.

At previous meetings we have had one or two unusual items of NCR memorabilia and the April lunch was no exception when **Stan Harrison** brought along his NCR egg-timer which he tells us also doubled as a teething ring for the junior members of his family.

The next 2W lunch is scheduled for September 30th 2008. We are always very happy to see members from other regions, so if you would like to meet up with your friends from the North West please contact me to be added to the Invitation list.



**Stan Harrison's Egg Timer**

## Region 3 – Eric Grace

The Fellowship Lunch which, once again, was held at The George Hotel in Litchfield on 17th April 2008 was another happy occasion.



There were 39 Members and guests who enjoyed the usual good three course Carvery meal. We were to be as 40 members and guests but **Peter Whitehead** had to pull out at the last minute for personal reasons.

Monday, **Cecil Staite** called to say that his wife had fallen and broken her arm earlier and had just got a hospital appointment for this day for her checkup.

We were unfortunate that **Stephen Swinbank** was unable to attend but sent his best wishes and sent me an update on the pension increase status etc so I was able to update the meeting.



We were pleased to welcomed **Iain Simpson**, **Tom Aubrey**, **Dave Beattie**, **Ken Jones** and his wife, **Tom Mills**, and **Keith Templeman** and his wife to their first lunch with the new Fellowship.



There were messages from the following members who were unable to attend but they all sent regards. **Vic Etheridge, Jill McPhail, Duncan McConochie, and Pamela Webb** all had the good fortune to be on holiday again at this time.

**Joy Wright** had the bad news that **Brian Cox** had fallen seriously ill and we hope he can make a good recovery



## BACK TOGETHER AFTER 10 YEARS

There was a mini reunion at region-3s April lunch, ( Photo - Right to left ) **Tom Aubry, Ken Jones** and myself who were "TAC" (Technical Assistance Centre) in NCR Sheldon back in the 1990's . The three of us met up for the first time in over 10 years. For non engineer readers TAC supplied fixes, information, part numbers and quite a lot of chat to the UK's service engineers and NCR customers. Tom joined NCR in 1960, Ken in 1963 and I came to NCR from a job in Land Rover in 1969. I think I can say for the three of us that the job was very rewarding and we had a great time.



It was amazing how many machine faults turned up again and again. We heard Ken say to FE's so many times during a particular 'dead' printer call ... " It's the lid switch " Tom and I on hearing a call for help on that "Class 6440" mentioned, would call out " It's the lid switch " and were right so many times. We had far too many 'techie' type stories to recall at this fellowship lunch so I guess the others will have to wait for the next time.

PS. Thanks to **Eric Grace** for organising the lunch.

Les Clarke

## Region 6 – Alan Hutchins

Region 6 has not had a meeting since the one at Smalldole held in October 2007. We intend to have another at Smalldole or somewhere near later in the year. Due to the lack of interest in the western part of the region last year I have not arranged anything for 2008. If anyone would like me to try and arrange a lunch and if I can get enough support I would be pleased to see if I can find somewhere. **Jim Lawmon** has kindly said he would help me with finding a venue.

## Region 7 – John Jones

We had a very well attended meeting on 9th October 2007, as reported in the last issue of **Postscript** which had two notable absentees, namely **Jim Kembery** and **Ken Bloxham**. Jim had had his right leg amputated at the knee and Ken's wife had sustained severe injuries in a holiday accident.

I'm happy to report that both are progressing well in their recovery, and hope to join us at our next get together in the middle of May. This will almost certainly be at the same place the The Carvery Company near Cribbs Causeway.

We have two new members and happily no losses. I'm still hoping to convert a couple of others.

## Region 8 – Richard Craigie

Region 8 had a successful luncheon at the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck on the 10th April.

There were 27 sitting down to a prearranged menu at a good price. We missed **Des** and **Beryl Woodall** as well as **Ted Miller**, but greeted **Frank** and **Gladys Bellamy** as new members together with **Dave Debnam** who was testing us out as a guest with the view of moving regions. It was good to see **Dennis** and **Hazel Gill** back in good health and **Jimmy Wickham** and **Eileen** also back in good health after all missing October's lunch due to illness.

The next lunch is arranged for 16th October again on a Thursday as it seemed to go well this time not upsetting any of the locals.



## Region 9 – Jessie Wallace

The Annual Lunch was held on 15th October, 2007 at the Three Horseshoes Inn, Cowley near Exeter.

13 Members and Guests were able to come along to enjoy the food and the company. 6 of our members were unable to attend due to other commitments and 6 members were unable to attend due to illness and I do hope all concerned are now recovered.

At this Lunch it was felt by the members present that for the 2008 meeting, we should seek a new venue offering a more varied menu and better value. In view of the fact that so few members could attend we did discuss whether October is the best time of year to meet. I will be corresponding in the near future with all the members to get their views. **Geoff Jackson**, who lives near Exeter, has already been looking at alternative venues which would provide suitable dining arrangements and adequate car parking.

The membership of Region 9 has increased recently and we welcome the new members to the West Country and hope they are enjoying their new homes. I do hope they will be able to come to our annual lunch.

## FAIR COP!

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The Officer says "I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, Sir! The driver says "I was using my cruise control set to 60 and wonder whether, perhaps, your radar gun needs recalibrating?

Not looking up from her knitting the wife: "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control."

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks at his wife and growls "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?" The wife smiles demurely and says "you should be thankful that your radar detector went off when it did." As the officer makes out the second ticket for illegal possession of a radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Dammit woman can't you ever keep your mouth shut."

The officer frowns and says "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, Sir. That is an automatic £60 fine". The driver says "Yes Officer, I did have it on but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my licence out of my back pocket".

The wife says "Now dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you are driving" And, as the officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks "WHY DON'T YOU PLEASE SHUT UP!" The officer looks over at the wife and asks "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am? \*\*\*I LOVE THIS PART\*\*\*\*" Only when he has been drinking!!!"

## AIR RAID

*By John Hughes*

In '1940, squadrons of German bombers made an easily recognisable sound as they were coming to raid England by night,. It was a rumbling and undulating roar. With Teutonic efficiency, they always seemed to come over at the same time each evening. Whether they planned the noise and timing in order to try to frighten the English I'm not sure but when the sirens went off and we heard their noise we knew that there was to be a night of destruction and death for someone. But of course, not for us.

The English people never admitted to being frightened of air raids but were determined to show the Nazis that they could not win this battle. The men folk were in the services and so the Nazis only had the women and children to frighten. This was a major mistake. The English women said, "To hell with Hitler, Goering and the rest of the Huns, they don't frighten us". Because of the Spitfires and Hurricanes and their pilots, the bombers could not mount daylight raids so they had to come over by night.

It was sensible to think about taking shelter during the raids, particularly if they were in the local area. People set up community clubs in the air raid shelters and it was a social occasion to be sheltering amongst your friends. My mother had a theory that if you stayed in your house and the shelter was bombed, your house would fall down and you would probably be killed, but if you went to the shelter and your house was hit, you would survive because the shelter would not fall down. I now have a feeling that this was her sense of humour making itself felt.

There was a small brick built shelter built in the street outside our house but we never used it because passers-by used it as a lavatory, presumably to show their contempt for the Germans. So occasionally, we used the main underground shelter just outside the local village and about half a mile away. Not that we went there very often. It was a twenty-minute walk and because of the air raid precautions, there were no street lights so you had to go by memory.

You couldn't use a torch because the the air raid wardens would have been upset and German navigators might have seen it. Anyway, batteries were just about unobtainable because of the war effort.

A main railway line ran past the village. This was very important for the war effort because it ran through Crewe to the north of England. About 20 miles away, A V Roe had their factory, building bombers. The AVRO airfield, Woodford, was also used by the Government for the parachute training of British secret service people. These all made the whole area very attractive to German bombers. They were all targets the Germans could not resist but maybe the lack of streetlights hampered their navigators,



because they kept on missing and scattering their ordnance over the local area. Occasionally it was the turn of our village to receive these unwelcome gifts and this sparked off boys' hunts for genuine Nazi shrapnel. For some reason, girls didn't seem interested in shrapnel; they must have had other things on their minds.

In order to protect the major targets, searchlights and anti-aircraft guns were stationed just outside the village and on occasion, even barrage balloons. There is no doubt that we mere civilians were not the major reason for their presence. I'm not sure if they actually brought down any enemy aircraft but they made a magnificent noise and often sprayed us with shrapnel from airbursts which we kids collected avidly and used for money amongst ourselves. These were not as valuable as bits of Nazi bombs.

One night the sound of German bombers was very loud when the air raid siren sounded, It seemed likely that Manchester, Woodford and the railway were possibly to be the night's target. We decided that it would be wise to go to the village shelter. Creeping out, thoroughly wrapped up, clutching our gas masks and a thermos of tea; we listened for the sound of falling bombs. The searchlights were trying to capture enemy aircraft in their beams and the guns were firing but apparently not hitting anything. They were trying to scare the enemy away but without a great deal of success.

We got to the railway bridge and ran across because this was the most dangerous part of our route. When we got safely to the other side, about 150 meters from the shelter, we heard the sound of a falling bomb. We took shelter under a stonewall and the bomb fell in the next field. There was a huge flash and a sharp burst of noise. Clods of earth rained down on us but thankfully containing no hard centres, although I did hear some metal falling nearby. Because of the lack of light, there was no point in searching for it. Besides, for some reason my mother seemed anxious to get to the shelter as quickly as possible.

Once we reached the safety of the shelter, the people asked if we had seen the bomb. My mother told them how we had expected to be killed and spoke with much courage. I wasn't now frightened but was rather excited by it all. I would have a good tale to tell my friends at school the next day. We stayed until the all clear sounded and went home to find our house, fortunately, still standing.

On my way to school the next day, full of my adventure. I had to cross the railway bridge. On the other side, I examined the stonewall we had sheltered under in the dark and to my surprise I found it wasn't a stonewall at all but only an old iron railing. It would have given us no protection at all had the bomb fallen closer.

I was relieved that we had survived. I was also very disappointed to find that someone had got there before me and scooped up the bits of Nazi shrapnel that I felt belonged to me.

## YOU ARE SO LUCKY TO LIVE IN SPAIN

*By Brian Bourdon*

This statement is quite often made by acquaintances when I return to the UK for visits.

I am one of the Region 11 overseas men living abroad permanently and I do agree with the sentiment. However I was not chosen by some deity to live in a foreign country. I did make the decision myself. The choice to retire abroad started back in 1982, when I attended an exhibition from a small estate agency which had about ten percent of its space made over to overseas property. The newly developing town of Torrevieja was starting to build villas for foreign investment and the price was a really low £9000 for a 3 bed villa on a good sized plot on the edge of the town. For £12000 a pool was included and the plot was obviously much bigger. The inspection visit was pricey at £99. I took a while to make up my mind and I declined the offer on the grounds of every year in the same spot and the then charter flights were a steep £90.

Those same villas are currently priced around 1/2 million euros!

Anyway when I retired finally after leaving NCR with redundancy, then starting another career for a further 6 years, I moved lock, stock and barrel to Spain.



The area is south Costa Blanca not far from Alicante and called Orihuela Costa. The climate is quite balmy all year with Summer temperatures around 36C and Winters with no frost, although the night can see a drop to about 5C at times. The sun shines for about 320 days a year so all through the Winter the days are sunny although not hot. I can sit outside on the terrace and eat my lunch almost every day of the year. It is a good spot for the sun lovers although it is not advisable to lay out and spit roast yourself every day. The beach is a mere 20 minutes slow walk and very pleasant with daily swept sand and some rocks for interest. There are beach bars on all the beaches throughout the Summer and this makes for a nice break from beachcombing. Feet up with a cocktail or a decent cool beer!



The exercise of transferring yourself abroad is fraught with bureaucracy and form-filling but once completed everything runs smoothly.

It is of course compulsory to learn some of the language as this is not Benidorm so the locals do not do much English. I find it somewhat difficult now not to break into Spanish when ordering food or drinks. It is most tempting to ask for *cafu con leche*, instead of white coffee!

My life is not one long day on the beach as I help run a social club and am a member of the RAFA organization here. I do have a brilliant social life as the cost of living is much lower and therefore the cost of eating out is also low. Just for example. I live on an "urbanizacion" which is like a housing estate, but is totally autonomous. This means we pay for our own upkeep including the pool and gardens and the electricity used for our own lighting. This keeps the council out of our hair and therefore the council "tax" is only 300 euros a year. There is of course a payment to be made for the services we use, but they are about the same again per year.

The local health service looks after us well and is on a par with the UK for waiting times, but is CLEAN. There were no recorded case of MRSA in Spain last year.

The local climate is acknowledged by the World Health Organisation as one of the best in the world and the salt lakes locally produce a micro-climate which help prevent rheumatics and chest conditions. It also helps clean the air.

So I am pretty well set up and will visit some reunions when and where possible. Maybe I will see you there!

### Locate a Lost Colleague?

I was going to call this "Find a Mate" but that sounded too much like a Dating Agency.

How does it work?

If you have lost touch with somebody you used to know in NCR and would like to renew their acquaintance. Get in contact with your Regional Representative, with Geoff Jackson or with me. Tell us everything you can remember about the person and enough about yourself so we can get back to you.

We will endeavour to locate the person you are seeking and will if possible pass on your contact details. It is then up to them to contact you.

If we are unsuccessful we will let you know.

You may contact us by Post, Telephone or by Email, Email is preferable because it is free.

John Jones  
Region 8 Representative  
jjswingband@fsmail.net

### DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT!

**ALAN BOWLEY** left NCR in 1972 after 25 years' service with the company, including over 20 years in the Advertising and Public Relations Department. In his first article he recalls memories of the Department, the staff and the National Post in the 1950s.

They say that when you start looking back at your life rather than forward, it's the beginning of the end! I forget who wrote the immortal words of the title of my article but it is very true..

Perhaps, but just lately, inspired by the many interesting reminiscences in the **POSTSCRIPT** pages, I hunted out two bound copies of 'National Post' (before it became NCR Post) for the years 1949 and 1950 which I had not looked at in 30 years.

It took me back almost 60 years to the time when I was 'recruited' by Advertising Manager, **Denis Butlin** to join the staff of the company's house magazine which had been resurrected after the war.

Denis was the publisher and Magazine Editor and he had brought in a member of the wartime staff of the BBC's Foreign Desk, **John P. Wynn** as Editor. The Art Editor was **Tony Wood**, (son of **Marjorie Wood** of Staff Training) who was in the Advertising Department's Art Section, and the Editorial Assistant was **Peter Flower**, who many will remember as a very useful member of the Company's cricket team. The Secretary was **Sylvia Taylor** who many will also remember. In charge of the fully equipped Photographic Studio was **Ted Askem**.



**"The Post" editorial staff in 1951: Left to right Peter Flower, John Wynn, Alan Bowley and Sylvia Taylor.**

I was brought in as 'Special Correspondent', a grand title which gave me a roving brief around the Company starting a column called, whimsically, 'By the Way' under the pseudonym of *The Stroller*. I also wrote a series of interviews with a number of the Post correspondents and a 'Portrait Gallery' series on many old-serving members such as **George Danson** who was in charge of the Head Office's



busy Packing Department and who had started as a Porter in 1920. I also interviewed **Elsa 'Buckie' Buckner** who was in charge of demonstration and installation of Accounting Machines and had worked for the company since 1928. Others followed which could be an article on its own.

One of the many feature articles I wrote for the Post was on **Arthur Beeching** who, from 1898 to 1945, witnessed the growth of the British Company and when I interviewed him in 1951 was still coming into Head Office once a week to see old colleagues!

In February 1949 the first article in a series entitled 'Around the Provinces' appeared which would take me to over 50 provincial offices in the next four years and to towns and cities in the UK only just recovering from the second World War and untouched by development. The factories of the north of England were still mass producing goods for the world; even the last of the cotton mills was still going. All was to change in the years following.

In addition I reported on the major exhibitions such as the Business Efficiency Exhibition at which NCR was a major exhibitor and the sales conventions in London and travelled up to Dundee Factory once a month to liaise with the Editorial staff on the sister publication NCR Factory Post.

**Denis Butlin** was a 'one-off. Considered by many as a flamboyant eccentric, he nevertheless conceived a number of brilliant advertising schemes which gave the company a highly regarded reputation in outside business circles. He was not only an ideas man but he was highly literate and a competent 'wordsmith', writing much of the advertising copy. As with anyone with his rather bombastic manner, some schemes were not approved by the then management, but Denis had a wonderful 'gift of the gab' and could 'stand his corner' with the best. In this he had the support of Mr. **DAF Donald**, our gentlemanly managing director, for whom Denis wrote a leading article each month on the progress of the Company.

I am sure that anyone around in the 1950s will well remember the window displays in Head Office, created by that brilliant artist and another eccentric, **Roland Emmet**. In those days, Denis was 'Mr. NCR' in outside business circles, giving talks at many business management meetings. In those days the company was highly regarded in business circles, not only in the UK but around the world. Sadly, when the NCR management changed Denis did not have the same support as he had enjoyed before and he decided to set up his own advertising management consultancy from home. Two years or so later he died suddenly at home early one morning from a massive stroke.

**John P. Wynn** was in NCR when he devised a radio programme for the BBC which is still running today – 'Brain of Britain'. It was presented by Robert Robinson for many years and lately by Peter Snow. John is still named in the credits. I can claim to have a small part in the success of this idea, for, at lunchtimes in the department, **Peter Flower** and I used to think up general knowledge questions for

John who paid us 6d. for each question he accepted! In July 1953 it was announced that **J.P. Wynn** was leaving NCR to set up a company publishing house magazines and offering public relations services. Years later, I heard he and his wife, Joan Clark, a BBC producer, had retired to Skibbereen in County Cork, Eire, where he died some years later. **Peter Flower** left NCR to go into local government in East Anglia. In the meantime **Tony Wood** had married **Hilda Francis** and emigrated to New Zealand. Back to the National Post:

In January 1949 a Readership Survey showed that the combined circulation of the National Post for the sales company and NCR Factory Post for Dundee, then employing 1000, was 3,250 and that each copy was read by about four persons, including family and friends of the readers. NCR Factory Post had been set up in that year. **DAF Donald** announced in a New Years' Eve broadcast to the Dundee Factory employees that Dayton management had agreed to tooling up for production of the Adding Machine and the 3000 Class Accounting Machine at a cost of £750,000.

Sales were booming. Barclays Bank had ordered 500 Class 3000. Cash registers sales included 8,700 class 100s from three chain stores. "Never, in our 60 years' existence has the outlook been brighter and our opportunity greater," said Donald.

It is well-known that NCR was closely involved with the early development of self service stores in this country; and in the April 1949 issue appeared an article entitled 'The Service of the Future', based on a talk by **Eric Johnson** baird at a recent Owl Class in the H.O. Convention Hall. He was just back from the US where self service was already in use in 75% of the independants and over 90% of the food chains.



**A Self Service Shop in Head Office**

At another Owl class, Self Service Bureau Manager, **Bill Starkey** said that a checkout operator on a class 6000 Register could check 54 items from three customers in 2 minutes 16 seconds --no doubt an impressive performance for those days. I wonder if the present day system in supermarkets can equal that! In June 1950 a model Self



All those who worked in London in those days will recall a

With the Editor's agreement I will write about some of the more interesting people I met around the provinces in the 1950s in the next issue.

*In writing these memories it is inevitable that errors of fact creep in and I must apologise for any that do occur. I am sure that the Editor will be delighted to publish any corrections necessary.*

## by Alan Perryman &amp; Ian Ormerod

The collage features several educational resources for the decimalisation of the British currency:

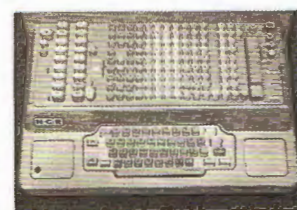
- Top Left:** A blue book cover titled "PREPARING FOR DECIMALISATION" with a repeating pattern of the number 66.
- Top Center:** A document titled "Decimal Currency Act 1967" featuring the Royal Coat of Arms and sections on "Arrangement of Sections" and "Currency and value".
- Top Right:** A poster titled "GETTING READY FOR DECIMAL CURRENCY" with a stack of coins and a large number 100.
- Middle Left:** A blue book cover titled "A DECIMAL GUIDE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FROM NCR".
- Middle Center:** A fan of five banknotes (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p) with circular callouts explaining the new denominations.
- Middle Right:** A yellow book cover titled "A GUIDE FOR RESALES FROM NCR".
- Bottom Left:** A table titled "DECIMAL EQUIVALENTS" showing the conversion of old pence and shillings to new pence and decimal pounds.
- Bottom Center:** A chart titled "Know the new decimal currency" showing the obverse and reverse of new coins (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p) and a 50p coin.
- Bottom Right:** A table titled "DECIMAL PARTS OF £1" showing the decimal equivalents of various old coins.

NCR CONVERSION KIT			
PC TO ROM 2	PC TO ROM 1	PC TO ROM 1	PC ABOVE ROM 1
10	10	9	10
16	16	8	16
14	14	7	14
12	12	6	12
10	10	5	10
8	8	4	8
6	6	3	6
4	4	2	4
2	2	1	2



DATE	DETAILS	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
			Balance Forward Statement	89,09.7
1 MAY	Q25 41,214 CARDIFF	2432.8		114,02.3
2 MAY	Q25 41,296 GLASGOW	10,02.8		
3 MAY	Q25 41,297 ABERDEEN	8,11.0		132,15.1
20 MAY	NET 425 CARDIFF		432.8	128,03.3
21 MAY	Q25 41,737 MANCHESTER	100,08.0		228,11.3
22 MAY	Q25 2,150		371.7	
24 MAY	Q25 2,150		16.9	189,17.0
24 MAY	Q25 42,120 BRISTOL	135,00.0		324,17.0

## WHAT MAKES AN NCR POINT MACHINE DIFFERENT?



**NCR**

**THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY LIMITED**  
205 Marylebone Road, London NW1 2AD, UK



Towards the end of the preparatory period an increasing number of many leading businesses, particularly retailers, were convinced they would gain a major competitive advantage by switching to decimal pricing on D. Day. This placed additional pressure on overburdened machine manufacturers to reduce or even eliminate the government agreed changeover period.

By the time the Government confirmed their decision and the date to convert NCR had supplied more than half of all the cash registers, adding and accounting machines in use in the country. In order to meet the expansion of the company business and the demand for conversions and new machines a new 283,000 square feet building was acquired at the end of 1966. NCR 1000 North Circular Road became the centre of the decimalisation services. By the spring of 1967 nine departments from Head Office had moved in and plans were well advanced for the London Repair Centre to relocate from NCR Brent. The engineering conversion department of **Fred Fowler**, Superintendent-Decimalisation for the Technical Service Division, had been one of the first established in the new building and swiftly expanded to meet the new challenges.



NCR were facing a potentially damaging situation which could impact on our excellent reputation built up over a century. Fortunately our loyal, albeit suitably incentivised technicians, came to our rescue by working round the clock to perform the final conversion of blue and red point machines to the satisfaction of our demanding users.

Customers' equipment deemed suitable for conversion to 'Blue Point' machines were collected and converted in one of 73 centres by over 1300 specially trained engineers.

The cost of conversion of the basic models of cash registers was £50 for a class 3 and 21, £80 for the 51 'High Grade' register whilst the Dundee produced Class 96 could be converted for £30. The most numerous registers converted were the class 100 press down key machine and the Dundee D100 which cost the customer £45. Adding machines were charged at between £50 for the simplex and £90 for the two total 160. The accounting machines were understandably the most difficult logistically to convert requiring two or more engineers to collect, transport and convert before having to return the machine to the customer in time for their payroll or other critical run in as short a time as possible. Charges reflected the extra work and parts required and conversions were priced at £260 for the 31 and 32, and £380 for the Class 33.

In 1967 white Ford Escort and Morris Mini vans were deployed with signs advertising decimalisation conversions. These replaced the 'chocolate and tan' Bedfords and older Fords in use previously in Field Engineering Centres. Decimalisation also meant an increase in the numbers of vehicles available, engineers used to travelling by bus or train, now had to have vans to transport customers' machines to workshops.



In the years leading up to 'D day' engineers worked overtime at nights and weekends doing 'Blue Point' conversions and then almost round the clock in the first few months of 1971. The incentive payments were made based on piece work and many engineers enjoyed generous rates by finding ways to install the modifications in a more efficient way than had been planned and costed when the work had been when the work involved had first been evaluated. An error doing the work could mean the loss of an entire evenings pay but those like Walter Bullen, whose work in 1968 was inspected and passed by the nominated 'workshop inspector', received a payment in their monthly pay; in Walter's case £4 for a 100 class conversion.

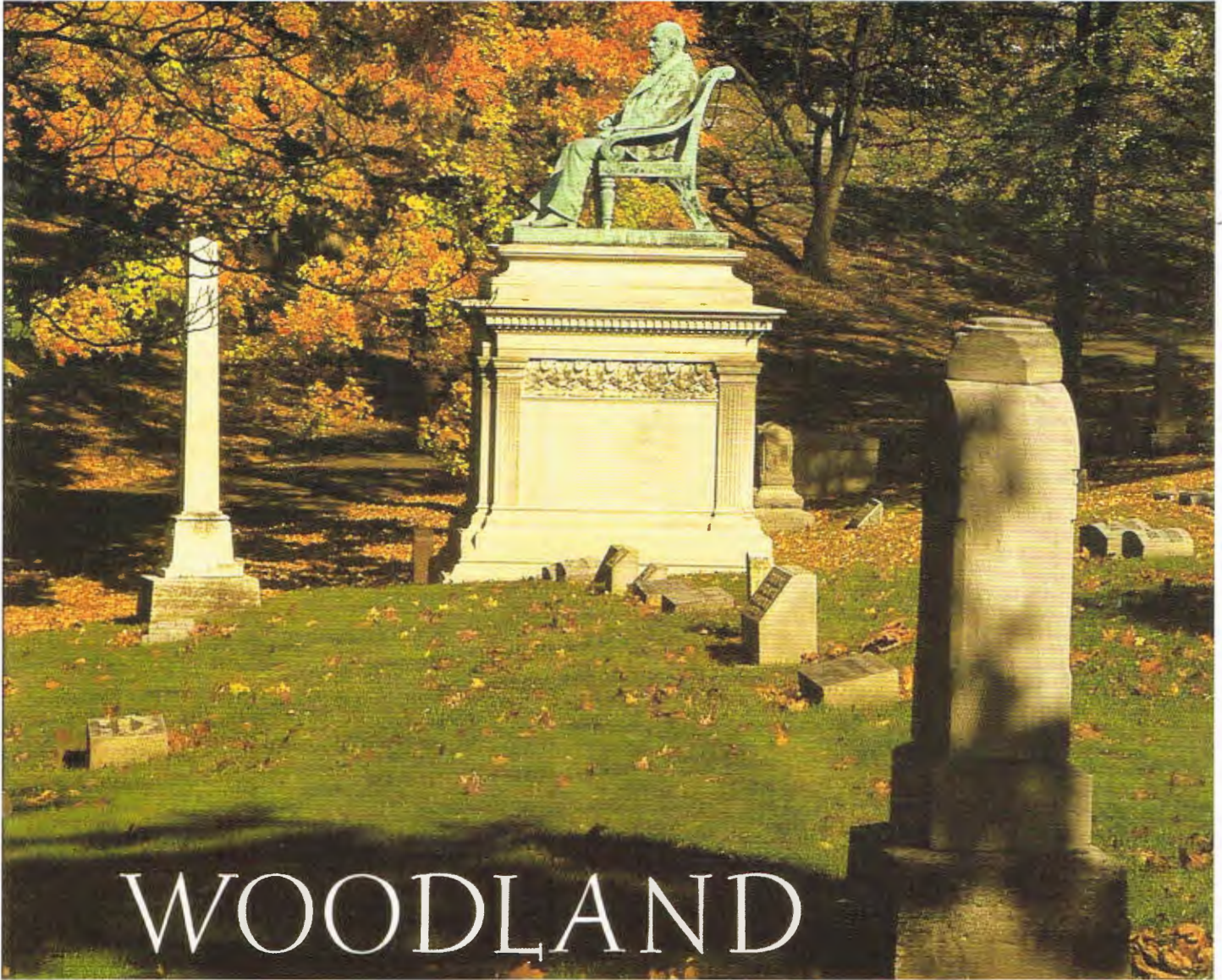
BLUE POINT PAYMENT NOTICE		Nº 150684	
DATE TESTED : 7-7-71	DATE COMPLETED : 7-7-71	PAY TO : W. BULLEN	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS
SIGNATURE OF TESTER : [Signature]	LOCATION : PHOENIX	THE SUM OF £ 2.50	d.
AUTHORISED SIGNATURE : [Signature]	DATE CLAIMED : 7-7-71	TECHNICIAN'S SIGNATURE : [Signature]	

In summary NCR UK delivered on all the major benefits we identified from our decimalisation project. Moreover, 1970 and 1971 produced outstanding results which helped to offset a temporary downturn in the Domestic marketplace.

At the conclusion of the successful introduction of decimal currency those involved posed the question what was all the fuss was about!

NCR Nigeria and NCR Malta, the last countries to go decimal, were eager to learn from the UK's success. As a consequence **Alan Perryman** carried out a whistle stop tour of the major cities in Nigeria followed, in 1972, by several presentations in Philip Toledo's Malta.





# WOODLAND

*Photo: Woodland Cemetery Association*

## A DEAD END IN DAYTON

Much of NCR's past is recorded in Dayton in a place most company employees who are interested in the company history, would never think of visiting.

Woodland a rural cemetery in 1841, but now in the centre of Dayton, was opened to provide a last resting place for the dead of the rapidly expanding city, the population of which in that year had reached 6000. In 1805 a 'new' graveyard had been opened at the corner of Ludlow and Wilkinson, Colonel Robert Patterson's daughter Catherine passed it each day on their way into school from the family home on the Rubicon farm land and recalling that in 1805 that, "We walked to Dayton to school, taking dinners with us and could go on horseback to church if we liked. From the sawmill a few rods north of the house, a road led through the woods to Dayton, the road we used entering the site of the new graveyard. South of our house was the Sugar camp, and I think in February we tapped quite a hundred trees, making some molasses, mostly sugar.

Robert Patterson, her father and John Henry Patterson's grandfather, had been an Indian fighter, one of the Kentucky

pioneers of Lexington the most famous of his friends being Daniel Boone. Patterson was one of the three founders of Cincinnati but left his lands there to move to Dayton and the more fertile lands of the Miami valley in 1803, lands he had first heard of from Daniel Boone and seen in battles with the Miami Indians. On the 9th November 1827 Colonel Patterson, the founding member of the Dayton Patterson family, died partly as a result of unhealed wounds sustained in the Shawnee Indian wars of 1786. He was buried the next day in the Fifth Street graveyard. Twenty years later his son Jefferson Patterson removed the body to the newly opened Woodland cemetery.

On his memorial is inscribed: - To the memory of Col. Robert Patterson who died Nov 9th 1827. In the 75th year of his age in consequence of a wound received by a shot from an Indian when escaping capture in Oct., 1776 (sic). During the following years a further 32 descendants of the Colonel were buried in this plot, including Jefferson Patterson, John H. Patterson's father.

John Henry Patterson the founder of NCR was laid to rest





ROBERT PATTERSON'S  
TOMB IN WOODLAND CEMETERY  
DAYTON, OHIO

*Photo: Concerning the Forefathers. J.H. Patterson*

on the knoll on the hillside to the north side of the cemetery. His tomb, which appears to have replaced the earlier Patterson Monuments bears, on one column, the inscribed names of 43 of his family buried with him in this quiet, beautiful location whilst around the monument are smaller stones with the names of those buried beneath. The other column has a fitting tribute to the Patterson family:-

HERE ARE COMMEMORATED COLONEL ROBERT PATTERSON, PIONEER AMERICAN, AND HIS DESCENDANTS WHO OCCUPY THIS RESTING PLACE. COLONEL PATTERSON WAS OF THAT HARDY FRONTIER RACE WHO WON THE WEST FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE MOVED TO DAYTON FROM KENTUCKY IN 1804 AND DIED AT NEARBY RUBICON FARM IN 1827. THE FIRST OF HIS NAME AND FAMILY TO BE BURIED HERE.

HIS DESCENDANTS DID THEIR PART IN PRESERVING THE FOUNDATIONS WHICH HE HELPED TO LAY AND IN BUILDING WORTHILY THERE UPON THEY LABORED AND FOUGHT TO SAVE THE UNION WHICH HIS GENERATION WON. IN THE INDUSTRIAL ERA WHICH ENSUED THEY ASSUMED THAT NOTABLE LEADERSHIP WHICH THEIR PIONEER ANCESTOR SUPPLIED IN EARLIER TIMES. HERE ARE GATHERED IN ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAMILY LOYALTY, PERSONAL INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC SPIRIT WHICH HAS MAINTAINED THE AMERICA OF THE PIONEERS EFFORT AND HOPE.



Down the hillside from John H. and his family is the grave of James Ritty the inventor of the Cash Register. He lies in a stone Tomb built into the hillside, protected by heavy metal doors.



Colonel Deeds, who joined Patterson at NCR in 1899 as an Electrical Engineer, left the company in 1915, setting up his own business with Charles Kettering which they named DELCO, later to become part of General Motors. Deeds returned to NCR in 1931 as 'Chairman of the Board' a position he held until 1957. The substantial edifice that is the last resting place of Col. Edward Andrew Deeds, is the most impressive in Woodland, standing on high ground this Greek Temple with its 12 Ionic columns can be seen through the trees from a great distance by visitors to other





graves or those out for a stroll in this vast park area in the city.



In contrast to Deed's Mausoleum, Charles Kettering, who joined NCR in 1904, has a simple memorial in the Main Mausoleum.



*Kettering Monument Photo: Courtesy of Terry Baer, Dayton*

Charles Kettering's achievements at NCR included the OK Charge Phone, the class 1000 register, the electric motor for the cash registers and the subtraction mechanism enabling counters to subtract instead of add. Whilst still at NCR he invented the modern car ignition system and using the principles of the cash register motor, the self starter for the car.

One of Deed's and Kettering's closest friends, and arguably with his brother Wilbur the most famous residents of Woodlands, is Orville Wright – they are with their family just a short distance from the Patterson Memorial.

On my first visit to their graves one Friday evening in April 2001 I found that there were a line of six dimes on each of their memorial stones. It was late in the evening and the light was too bad and the cemetery was due to close so having found the graves I resolved to return the following



morning to take photographs. On my arrival the following day at 9:00am I walked up the hillside past the Patterson memorial and found, on reaching the Wright family plot that the dimes on the two memorial stones were now arranged in the shape of a cross.

On a return visit to the Wright graves in June 2001 the dimes were still there on both memorial but this time, in a line – and there were only five on each!

There is another memorial to John H. Patterson in Dayton, although it is not in Woodlands it deserves a mention here.

In Hills and Dales Park to the south of Dayton, stands an equine statue, erected by public subscription, of John H on his favourite horse, Spinner, to commemorate "a Daytonian whose career revolutionised business machines and business practices throughout the world". The monument committee, made up of Dayton's leading citizens, including Orville Wright and Charles Kettering raised \$92,000. The memorial was commissioned in April 1925 and dedicated on May 26, 1928.



The sides of the base feature bronze allegorical figure groups. On Patterson's right side, the figures represent Industry and Education. Industry is a male figure with his left hand on a large gear; Education is a female figure kneeling with an open book in her hands. On Patterson's left side, are figures representing Progress and Prosperity. Progress is a kneeling male figure holding, in his right hand, a torch; Prosperity is a male figure standing with his hand resting on a cornucopia on top of a globe.

Ian Ormerod

*(With the exception of the three acknowledged photographs all others are from the collection of Ian Ormerod)*

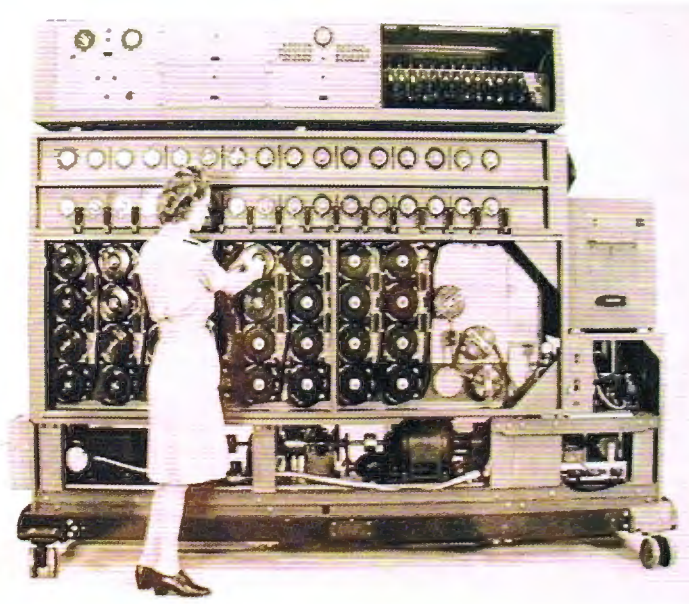


## IAN ORMEROD PRESENTS: NATIONAL CASH REGISTER – TOP SECRET

If the members of the fellowship were asked which NCR invention was the most important to society, the answers would be many and varied. The cash register...? NCR paper...? Accounting machines...?

If the question were asked "which NCR invention saved most lives" there would be few answers especially as most NCR people were, and still are, unaware of the device in question or its use.

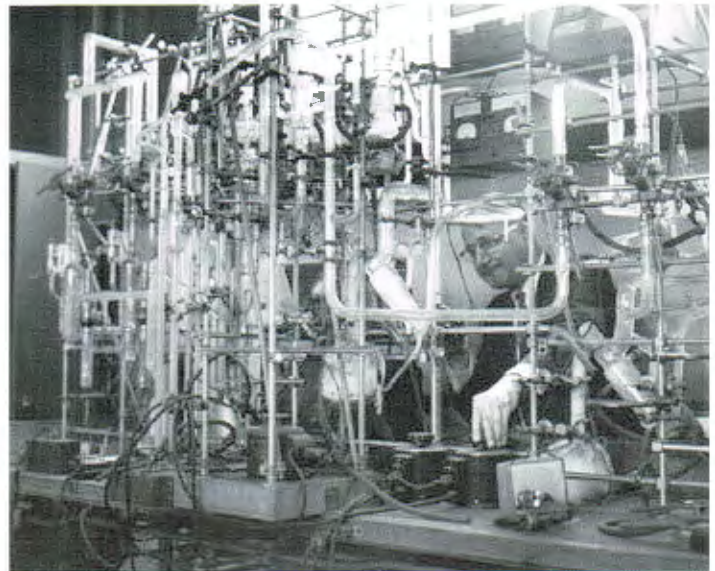
*This is the Ultra Machine...*



Today most people with an interest in the Second World War have heard of the Enigma machines used by the Germans to encrypt messages and the part played by the Code Breakers of Bletchley Park in developing the Bombes to decode the transmissions of the German Army and Navy. But how many know that one of the Bombes was actually developed and made by NCR.

Joe Desch was thirty-one when he joined NCR in 1938 as head of the electrical research laboratory. He was an expert inventor designing fast firing gas tubes for use in the first electronic counter and accounting machine. These tubes operated at one hundred pulses per second: a hundred times faster than any other valve of the time.

There were only two companies in the United States capable of developing a bombe – NCR and IBM, and it was NCR that the Navy picked in 1942. By this time Joe Desch's electronic counter was being used to develop the atomic bomb, other NCR products design by Desch included a remote detonator, a superfast communications system and an 'Identity Friend or Foe' (IFF) system for aircraft. The NCR Bombe was viewed at the time equal in priority to the Atomic Bomb and second to it in priority as an initiative to shortening the war.



*Joseph Desch and his Laboratory.*

Building 26 on NCR's Dayton campus became the equivalent of Bletchley Park, the Top Secret location for over 1000 US Navy and NCR staff all sworn to secrecy on their work on project 'Ultra', in fact very few knew what they were working on as the area assigned to each task in design, assembly and final testing was restricted to those who needed access. Very few saw, used or knew what the final product was or did.

The Navy had the idea that NCR could produce an all electronic bombe but to their chagrin Desch stated that this was impractical as it would have taken more than 20,000 tubes just to emulate the British machine. Desch proposed a similar system of commutator wheels as the British machines to do the decoding but an electronic tracking system to record when a 'hit' was made. In Desch's words "The memory device will consist of two banks of 26 miniature thyatron tubes each, one tube in each bank being ignited when a hit occurs".

The original estimate was for the production of 336 NCR Bombes to decode the 4 wheel encrypted messages although this was later revised to 120.

Before the USA entered the war a team of US experts was sent to Bletchley Park to exchange information on code breaking and the development of decryption devices. This exchange of information and ideas continued and in December 1942 Alan Turing was sent by the British Government to NCR Dayton partly to assist Desch but also to report back on how much the British could rely on the promised NCR Bombes.

While the British System worked on relays and manual recording of the wheel positions. NCR's bombe equipped with Desch's electronic computer created a digital tracking and control system which recorded reel positions, controlled the motor and clutches and printed the locations.



The devices never received an official NCR number but were known as N-530 and the first two prototypes were given the names Adam and Eve. On May 28th 1943 while on a test run Adam stopped then backed up, rewound and stopped again as it was designed to do. Thinking there may have been an electrical fault the same set of input details were fed into the second machine Eve which immediately came up with the same sequence of rotor positions. The results were sent to Naval Intelligence who, a few days later, reported back that the one hit, enabling a message to be decoded, had been worth the entire cost of the project.

By December of 1943 German Navy 'Shark' messages were decrypted at an average of eighteen hours using the Bombes and the information obtained was vital in the defence of convoys and the attack on U-Boats and their supply ships in the Atlantic. Until the end of the war NCR Bombes broke the keys for all German, Army, Navy and Air Force codes.

In May 1943 the US WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) moved into Dayton to work at NCR. The Centenary Booklets given to all NCR staff in 1984 has a picture of the Waves leaving their billets at Sugar Camp to go to work it was said on an "Accounting machine course" when in fact they were the code breaking clerks assembling and operating the decryption machines in building 26. The only recognition in published NCR History material of the work they did is a passing reference to Desch having "worked on a secret U.S. device which, in part, involved electronic counting devices".



**WAVES, housed at Sugar Camp in 1943, took accounting machine courses**

No records exist at NCR about where all the Bombes were shipped to, but in an interview with the Smithsonian historian, Tropp, in 1973 for their records Desch said "[The British] must have had to swallow hard because we had to make 100 machines for them".

In 1942 NCR earned the first of its "E" awards from the Army and Navy, an award given to only a few companies that had gone beyond the call of duty. NCR staff were presented with lapel badges in recognition of the work they and their company were doing.



In 1943 NCR produced a bigger Bombe with 32 banks to decode messages between the Germans and Japanese, this was known as 'Granddad'. Further variations were named Copperhead, Rattler and Viper, for use against Jade and Coral, Japanese codes.

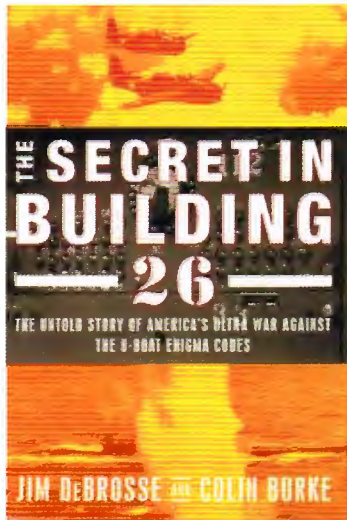
At the end of 1944 twenty-five enhanced four wheel bombes were provided by NCR to Britain for their code breakers and a new bombe named Duenna to the US Navy which was capable of handling an 80 letter menu.

At the end of the war NCR were ordered to destroy all the Bombes and parts in Building 26. Although it was said that all but one of the Bombes were destroyed there is evidence that thirty were sent to a military store. The Americans kept project Ultra and NCR's part in the development and production of the Bombe classified until the late 1990s when some documentation was released. It is suspected that some design features are still classified and the reason that the project was kept under wraps for so long is that the US were still using the NCR machine to decode messages from the many countries who retained the German Enigma machines for use after the war ended.

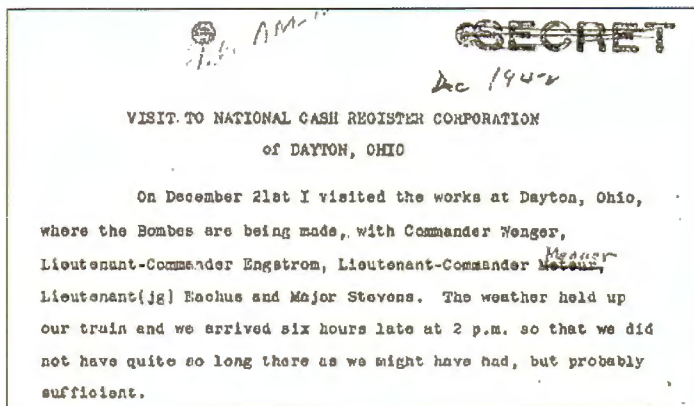
There is one known remaining NCR Bombe which is on loan from the National Security Agency to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. It is displayed there behind glass as part of their 'Development of the computer' exhibition, perfectly preserved in full working order ready for when it is next needed!!

The story as we have it so far only came about because of the in-depth research carried out by Debbie Desch Anderson, the daughter of Joseph Desch. In the spring of 2001 the Dayton Daily News had an eight part series about the NCR Bombe. The author, Jim DeBrosse along with Colin Burke published, in 2004, "The Secret in Building 26, the untold story of America's Ultra war against the U-Boat enigma codes", published by Random House, New York.

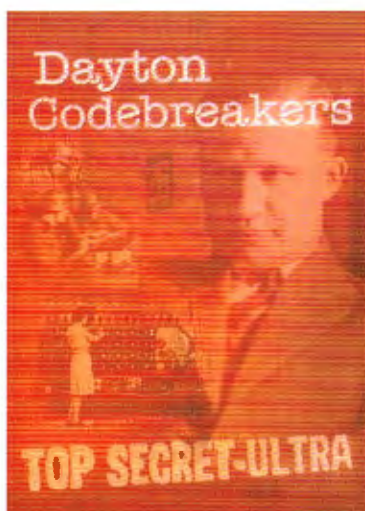




Alan Turing's report on his visit to the USA was released from secrecy by the British Government in 2004. It can be found in the National Archives, box HW 57/10. His report on his visit to NCR Dayton is in the Records of the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, 'Bombe Correspondence' (Crane Collection) CSNG LIB, Box 139, RG 38.



In 2005 Debbie Desch Anderson was instrumental in the production of a one hour TV Documentary about NCR and the Bombe. I have a copy of 'Dayton Codebreakers' the DVD produced at the time, and will be happy to lend it out in return for a small donation to the NCR Retirement Fellowship.



NOTE: I have seen it and it is well worth viewing – Ed.

## Pension Payroll - Tax Changes

As a result of the removal of the 10% tax band Mercers were asked to clarify the situation. Their reply is as follows:

You will be aware that for the first time in several years bandings as well as upper limit changes have been confirmed by the Government. These changes are to be implemented by paying agents ahead of the 18th May at the latest. We carry out each of the changes in a staged process over a 2 week period and always aim to have these in place for the month of April rather than wait for May. The stages are as follows;

- Suffix uplift
- 10% banding removal
- 22% to 20% adjustment
- Upper banding limit increased for 40% tax application

These changes require system updates and sign off before the next stage occurs. With payrolls running throughout the month there will be payrolls that are released to ensure payment date is met prior to all the updates. At the point of running the NCR payroll the suffix uplift and 10% banding removal had been updated and 22% to 20% was being tested.

I trust this answers the tax query.

For your information monthly payslips detail our Mercer generic pensioner helpline number, 0845 602 4710, and it is this number that should be used for the bulk of our pensioner enquiries. The helpline staff, although not payroll experts, are able to field the majority of frequently asked questions and they have been trained to redirect technical queries such as tax explanations to my team here in Chichester.

Any helpline calls received that require further action result in workflow items being created by helpline staff for either my team or that of Marie-Clare's team. For example if the helpline received a notification of death of a pensioner a workflow item would be created for both Marie-Clare's team to establish if any dependants' benefits are due and for my team to ensure that the pensioner record is adjusted accordingly.

Mark Bloomfield, Senior Associate  
Chichester - Pension Payroll



NO FISHING – WHAT SIGN?

John Burchfield



## Obituaries

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the following fellow employees:

Mrs	R	Attwood	07/11/07
Mr	A	Badran	01/03/08
Mr	BCP	Bradby	27/03/08
Mr	HC	Bunce	26/02/08
Mr	JJ	Campbell	19/12/07
Mr	PF	Condon	08/02/08
Mr	GAM	Dray	03/11/07
Mr	GC	Gosling	20/01/08
Mr	EP	Greenaway	25/11/07
Mr	AH	Lucas	25/12/07
Mr	BP	McLoughlin	20/03/08
Mr	C	Martin	11/02/08
Mr	JM	Nash	25/02/08
Mr	E	Nichols	09/12/07
Mr	RGW	Pateman	13/03/08
Mrs	JW	Price	14/01/08
Mrs	MC	Price	17/01/08
Mrs	EB	Ross	20/11/07
Mr	R	Savage	26/01/08
Mrs	IJ	Thurgood	20/01/08
Mr	E	Young	04/04/08

## John Hulme

We were very sorry to hear about the death, in April, of John Hume one of the engineers from the Wolverhampton and later Birmingham Centres.

John joined NCR in 1966 when he was 31. He was trained on mechanical retail products then on the electronic 210 cash register, 250 & 280 Point of Sale Terminals, 299 Electronic Accounting system, 751, 2151 & 2152 Point of Sale Terminals, 7740 Bank cheque encoder, 8100 Series & 8140 Computers.

He was one of those engineers who centre managers enjoyed having on the team, one who could be relied on to carry out his work conscientiously and without any problems, always being putting the customer first. Although he was working some distance away from the Birmingham office he was always ready to travel to any customer with a problem and to help any engineer needing support. He retired in 1994.

During his life John made lots of friends, work colleagues, neighbours, fellow dog walkers and golfers, many of whom attended the cremation and memorial service.

The NCR retirement gang from the Wolverhampton Office still meet regularly for lunch and chat and were together with John only two weeks before his death.



## Charlie Parfitt

It was sad to see Charlie's name in the Obituary List in the last **PostScript**. I had lost touch with the magazine until recently. Charlie was recruited by Newton Chambers as the first engineer on the first National Elliot 405 on a customer site. He was an ex Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy and was a great find. He was energetic, technically brilliant and always smiling despite many challenges with those early computers.

One lasting memory, on Good Friday in 1959 or 60 he was carrying out heavy maintenance on the power supply to the 405. He came to me and asked if I could act as his labourer and hold a large transformer. I agreed and went in to the bowels of the plant room and lifted the transformer while he carried on. Suddenly in his CPO voice he said "Don't move!" He left to turn the power off. Both of us subsequently joined NCR, but we nearly didn't!

My condolences to his family, he was a lovely man,

Regards, Paul Livesey

## A letter from Rex Fleet

Dear Lin,

Thank you for your kind letter - as I told John on many occasions, I am anxious that the Retirement Fellowship remains strong - not only for the help that it can give to NCR Retirees but it remains the only focal point for members to meet, to talk to, and to keep in touch with what many people refer to as the old NCR !! Not that I totally agree with that designation!!

The Fellowship will miss John but I am sure that other people will step forward and keep things going.

We are currently planning to be home for a few weeks in September and October this year - we try to do this every two years. If the dates for the London Lunches have been set, I would like to know so that I can plan to join you - I would look forward to that very much.

Thank you again for your letter and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely, Rex Fleet



**STEAM & MIST - BLAENAFON**

John Burchfield



## NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

2007/2008 has been a sad yet successful year for the Fellowship. The death of **John Burchfield**, our Chairman, in July was both a shock and a loss to the Fellowship. I can only say again that John's contribution to, and enthusiasm for, the Fellowship is sadly missed as is John the individual whom we all got on so well with. Many tributes have been paid to John at regional lunches and via *Postscript* and were a fitting tribute to his memory.

Also in late February 2008 we received the sad news that **John Nash** had also died suddenly. As you will remember from the *Postscript* of last July, John had given support to the Fellowship for more than 10 years, ably keeping the member records and assisting with the London lunch etc, and he only retired as Secretary last summer. I had known John, personally, for many years, as I worked with him on one of my early projects to automate the pension records back in the 1970's. He was always a pleasant and willing individual and brought these values to the Fellowship.

In early April **Ted Young** also passed away. Ted had been involved with the Fellowship for many years as a regional organiser for region 5, west London. When we rationalised the regions Ted took on the role of Regional advisor and continued to bring valuable experience to the Committee. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Ted had been unable to join us for the most recent meetings and his jovial character and loyal support has been a loss to the group.



*Tony, John and Ted in happier times packing diaries for members. They are all sorely missed by the Fellowship*

From a membership viewpoint the Fellowship is flourishing, regularly receiving new members, and with the majority of existing members renewing year on year. It is also good to see that support for the regional lunches goes from strength to strength and from the feedback received these events are always thoroughly enjoyed. Long may this continue.

To replace **John Burchfield** as region 4 organiser I am pleased to confirm that **Roger Whelan** has agreed to take on this role. Roger worked for NCR for many years mainly in the Finance and Administration arena and is well known to many London based Fellowship members. I am sure that he will be a valuable addition to the Committee and I would like to thank him for getting involved.

Early in 2007 **Charles Southall**, who had been region 2W organiser, decided to stand down after giving several years of support to the Fellowship and nominated **Ian Ormerod** as his successor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charles for the effort and support which he gave to the Fellowship and wish him best wishes for the future. I would also like to welcome Ian to the Committee and to thank him for taking on the role. With Ian we get a double bonus, as not only is he an enthusiastic organiser but as the recognised NCR historian we gain access to a wealth of interesting material about NCR over the years. The value of this is already apparent from the fascinating articles which have recently appeared in *Postscript*.

Ian is also a great champion of the Fellowship and has recently generated two donations to the Fellowship by working with third parties and providing information about NCR and its sites to them in support of their own projects. Our sincere thanks go to Ian for giving his time to activities from which we will all benefit.

I am also pleased to report that **Des Woodall**, regional organiser for region 8 for many years, has agreed to replace **Ted Young** as Regional Advisor. Des brings back to the Committee a wealth of experience of the Fellowship, and we thank him for his continued support.

As is customary I will now report on the Annual meeting of the Committee held on April 23rd 2008 in the Century Suite at Head Office. All but two of the Committee members were in attendance and were joined by **Keith Pyle**, Secretary NCR Pension Plan, who was invited to address the meeting. The Chairman's report for the year 2007/2008 was presented by **Lin Sandell** and was accepted by the Committee. The Treasurers report was also presented and accepted and it was agreed that both should be published in the next edition of *Postscript*. The regular agenda items were discussed, and the main decisions taken were:

- The Committee proposed that **Lin Sandell** be appointed Chairman to replace **John Burchfield**. Lin accepted this proposal and will take on this responsibility as well as that of Treasurer.

- After much debate and consideration of projected income and cost figures for the next three years it was concluded that due to increased printing, diary and postage costs the current membership fee could not be maintained for 2008, and it was likely that a further increase would be needed in two years time. If, however, we discontinued the distribution of diaries then the current fee of £10 would remain sufficient both now and for several years to come. The Committee, therefore, decided to remove the diaries as it was felt that the majority of the membership would be in agreement with this approach.

**The membership fee for 2008 remains at £10.**

- Several of the Committee members felt that significant confusion has been caused by the Fellowship year running from May 1st to April 30th, with many members not knowing



when they had to renew. It was therefore agreed that we would move to a calendar year basis - Jan 1st to Dec 31st.

**In order to make this transition the year 2008 will run from May 1st 2008 to Dec 31st 2008 and the renewal forms issued with *Postscript* in June 2008 will cover this period.** Although it would appear that this is a very short year the regular two editions of *Postscript* will be produced during the period.

**The 2009 year will start on Jan 1st 2009 and renewal forms for this year will be issued with the December 2008 *Postscript*.**

Prior to his death **John Burchfield** had sent out the invitations for the Region 4 lunch to be held in October 2007. As this is an event attended by some 110 members it requires careful organisation and some considerable administrative time. I must therefore thank **John Atkins**, our Secretary, for taking on this responsibility and for ensuring that all was well. Feedback received from attendees testified to a job well done.

Out thanks must also go to **Geoff Jackson** the Editor of *Postscript* which is a fantastic magazine and which improves with each edition. Not only does Geoff have to collect, collate and often write the articles, he has to liaise with the printers to ensure that the copy is correct whilst at the same time maintaining the best price that he can. However even more onerous is the distribution of the magazines. Purchasing envelopes and stamps, enclosing the magazine and other material, sealing envelopes, attaching address labels and stamps (for some 8 different countries) and transporting to the Post Office for some 550 members is no mean task and we should all be grateful to Geoff and his wife Marion for all their time and effort. Also we had received compliments on the quality of the magazine from **Rex Fleet** who stated how much better it was than the one produced in Dayton.

One other item of interest is that **Stephen Swinbank**, Chairman of the Trustees NCR Pension Plan, retired from NCR last September and is now a member of the Fellowship. However NCR Corporation have asked Stephen to continue in his role as chairman of the Trustees for the foreseeable future and this can only be excellent news for us all. Stephen has chaired the Trustee Board through the long and involved discussions of the last few years including the Corporate guarantee, Investment strategy and the more recent pension increases and thus he has in depth knowledge of these vital issues. Retaining him as Chairman provides both experience and continuity which is essential.

You will remember from the Chairman's report of last summer that the Corporation had finally signed the guarantee document which in effect means that they would underwrite the Pension fund in perpetuity. This of course followed the granting of pension increases on a back-dated basis. The final part of the dialogue between the Trustees and the Corporation relates to the provision of future cost of living increases. The definition of the formula for such increases is complex and discussions have been and continue to be held. However these were further complicated by NCR's decision to separate the Teradata division from NCR UK. This split was made for strategic business reasons which were designed to benefit both parties going forward. The separation was completed in

September 2007, at which time some 100 NCR staff became employees of Teradata Ltd and for whom the NCR pension Plan would no longer hold any responsibility.

The latest update from the Trustees is that the provision of annual increases has been agreed in principle with the Corporation. However the increase package, relating to 2006/2007, submitted to Dayton late last year is still awaiting a response and no commitment has been made as to when a decision will be received. However, in line with the agreement, the Trustees will prepare and submit the package for the 2007/2008 increase and will continue to press for some response from the Corporation.

The other major current activity is a review of the investment strategy. Whilst the balance between equities and bonds will not be changed, a more diverse approach to equity investments will reduce the risk levels while maintaining the returns, in what are very volatile financial markets.

Our thanks should again be passed to the Trustee Board for their committed efforts on our behalf.

It is also worth noting that the financial status of the NCR Pension Plan is significantly improved over that of the 2003 actuarial valuation. The pension update of August 2007 stated that the valuation of 2006 showed that the funding position had improved over the three years by some £72million as a result of good investment returns and contributions from the Company.

Finally I would like to thank you all, the members of the Fellowship, for your continued support. I think that we have a fantastic organisation and it is great to see the amount of enjoyment which is apparent at the reunion lunches. The Committee members receive regular feedback from you to support this view. I would therefore encourage you to renew your membership for 2008 by completing and returning the form which is enclosed with this edition of *Postscript*. Also may I extend my thanks to all the Committee members for their continued effort in supporting the Fellowship and for freely giving their time. My personal thanks, also, go to them all for the support given to me during this difficult year.

Lin Sandell, Chairman



*Your Organising Committee 1 to 10 back row: Pat Keogh (Reg 2E), Wallace Hay (Reg 1), Alan Hutchins (Reg 6), John Atkins (Secretary), John Jones (Reg 7), Des Woodall (Regional Adviser), Richard Craigie (Reg 8), Ian Ormerod (Reg 2W & Fellowship Archivist), Geoff Jackson (Editor - PostScript), Seated: Eric Grace (Reg 3), Lin Sandell (Chairman and Treasurer), Jessie Wallace (Reg 9). [Roger Whelan (Reg 4), Peter Bodley (Reg 5) & Ronnie McGowan (Reg 10) were unable to be present.]*



## NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP CONSTITUTION

### TITLE:

The NCR Retirement Fellowship (Hereinafter referred to as 'the Fellowship')

### OBJECT:

To promote fellowship among NCR Pensioners by way of occasional lunches and other social activities, if required, plus a periodic magazine named 'Postscript'. The UK and Ireland will be divided into regions, and the lunches will be arranged by Regional Organisers.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Membership shall be open to all NCR Pensioners, their spouses and surviving partners, and all other past and present NCR Employees.

### COMMITTEE:

The Committee shall consist of the Honorary President, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Magazine Editor and all Regional Organisers, who shall be elected at the AGM each year. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees. Six members shall form a quorum.

### VOTING:

Voting shall be by show of hands or by ballot, if required. In the event of an equal division of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

### MEETINGS:

The Fellowship year shall run from Jan 1st to December 31st and the AGM will be held in April. (For 2008 only the Fellowship year will run from May 1st 2008 until Dec 31st 2008 to facilitate the transition to a Calendar year basis). A Chairman's report, together with the Accounts of income and Expenditure for the previous year, shall be presented.

The Secretary may call a special meeting at the request of the Chairman or the written request of 10 members, and four weeks notice of such a meeting shall be given to Committee members. If the subject matter has been circulated to members, then the Organisers will vote in accordance with the wishes of their members. The Constitution may be amended at each AGM at the discretion of the Committee.

### GUESTS:

Each member may, at the discretion of his/her Regional Organiser, invite a guest/s, and shall be responsible for the payment of his/her own lunch and that of the guest/s.

### NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE:

Each member must inform his/her Regional Organiser of his/her intention to attend the next lunch meeting, and pay in advance for the costs involved.

### SUBSCRIPTION:

The Annual Subscription shall be determined by the committee at the AGM, and shall be payable on election as a member and thereafter within 30 days of the date of the reminder notice. Non Payment of the subscription by a member shall be deemed to be a resignation from the Fellowship.

Version 3 May 2008

## NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP May 2007 - April 2008

### Membership Summary:

UK members	528
07-08 New members	34
<b>Total membership 07-08</b>	<b>562</b>

Deceased members	06
Duplicates and non renewals	16
<b>Starting membership 08-09</b>	<b>540</b>

### Membership by region:

Region 1	23
2E	52
2W	45
3	41
4	199
5	44
6	29
7	27
8A	21
9	29
10	11
11 (overseas)	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>

### Financial Summary:

<b>Income</b>	
Total b/f 06-07	1153.56
Membership fees	4970.00
New members	290
Donation	75
Early payment 06-07	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>6538.56</b>

<b>Outgoings</b>	
Expenses	1135.03
Postscript/diaries	4787.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>5922.53</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>616.03</b>
----------------	---------------

NB. Subject to audit planned June 08  
Expenses cover all administrative costs (eg. postage, copying)



# The NCR Retirement Fellowship

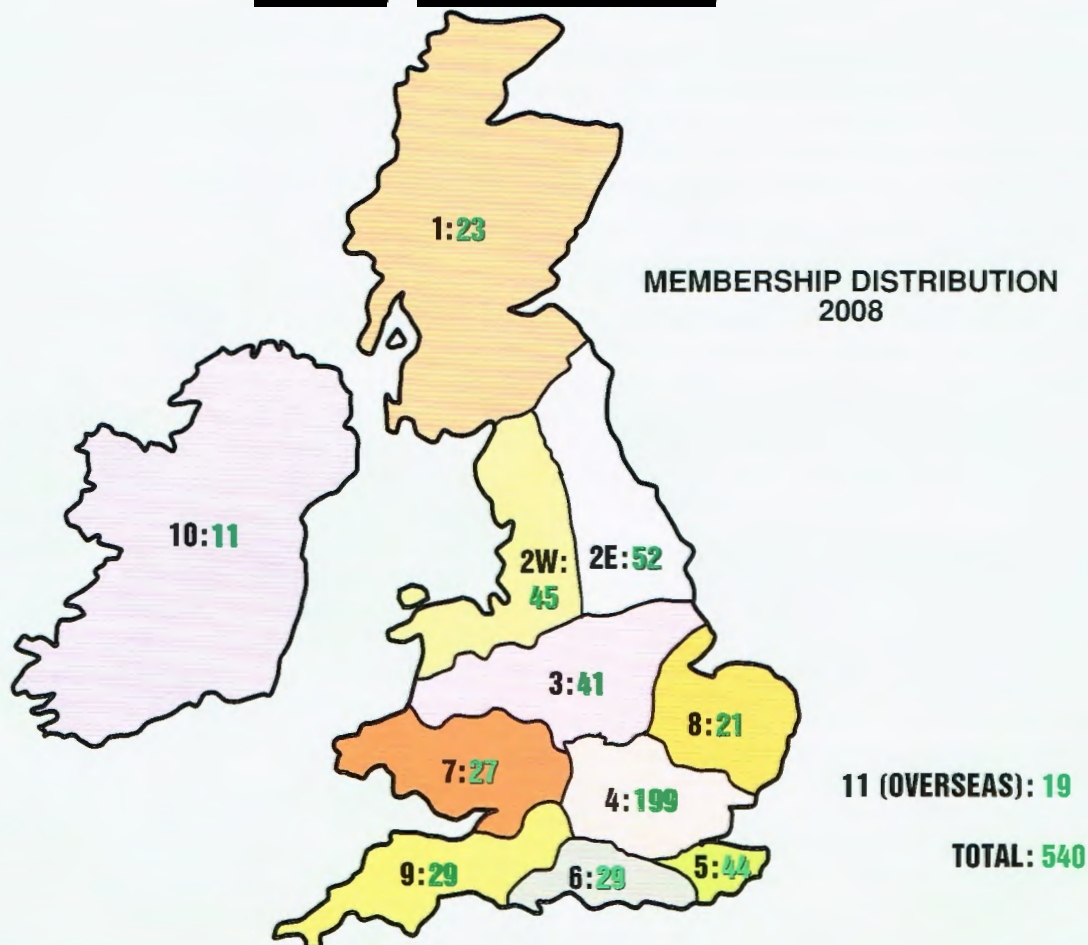
PRESIDENT: Harry Redington

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN & TREASURER: Lin Sandell

SECRETARY: John Atkins

EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT": Geoff Jackson



## REGIONAL ORGANISERS

Region 1: Wallace Hay

Region 6: Alan Hutchins

Region 2E: Pat Keogh

Region 7: John Jones

Region 2W: Ian Ormerod

Region 8: Richard Craigie

Region 3: Eric Grace

Region 9: Jessie Wallace

Region 4: Roger Whelan

Region 10: Ronnie McGowan

Region 5 (Kent): Peter Bodley

Regional Adviser: Des Woodall