

The following appeared in the St. Marylebone Society Newsletter and was submitted by Sheila Monnet who some of you will remember

THE NCR BUILDING AND MARYLEBONE



The NCR building, February 1937

The National Cash Register Company, later to become NCR Limited, was incorporated in Great Britain in 1895. It established itself in the Strand and then moved, as it quickly grew, to ever larger accommodation in Oxford Street and then Tottenham Court Road.

By the early 1930s, however, it became apparent that even the Tottenham Court Road premises were too restrictive for a company determined to take the lead in the new "Accounting Machine Era" and its directors decided to construct a purpose built headquarters — four times the size of the current offices.

In 1935 the company acquired land on Marylebone Road and commissioned architects J. Stanley Beard and Walter R. Bennett to provide a building that would prove efficient in its internal arrangements and at the same time be of a design "dignified" enough to befit its important situation in the Marylebone area.

Provision had to be made for the varied offices, workshops and production facilities whilst also catering for the ever expanding accounting machine sales. The original design called for the workshops and trade sections of the building to

be positioned on the upper floors, whilst the lower floors were to be used for showrooms, demonstration rooms and administrative offices. The design allowed for heavy loads on the fourth to sixth floors to provide for the printing department, a paper slitting department, which required storage for large rolls of paper, as well as plating and enamelling departments, repair and assembling shops and a photographic department.

The design called for the building to be constructed with a complete steel frame so that the whole load of floors and walls would be carried direct by steel beams and columns to the foundations. This meant that the walls would carry only their own weight, so that in future any portion of the walls and floors could be removed or modified without causing a problem with the structure. The steel used was the best quality of British Manufacture.

Work on the new premises began within the year and a large billboard announcing the advent of the new NCR Head Office appeared on Marylebone Road.

In keeping with the company's desire for a "dignified" building,

the exterior of the new building was fashioned in a "restrained classical style". The main facade fronted on Marylebone Road and was faced in natural Portland stone. The architects selected this stone as it was regarded as the foremost of the building materials used for city work of magnitude and importance. Both its aesthetic value and weathering qualities could not be surpassed. Not only would it satisfactorily withstand the attacks of smoke-laden atmosphere, but its appearance would actually improve. The exposed surfaces of the stone are washed clean by rain whilst the shielded and recessed portions take on additional colour from smoke deposits, thus producing that desired variation which enhances the attractiveness of the façade.

The lower portion of the elevation had the stone courses rusticated to give an appearance of additional strength and interest and to form the base for the classical colonnade of the six three-quarter fluted columns of the Roman Corinthian order, which were the central feature of the main façade. The columns were 30 feet in height and embraced three storeys. The sixth floor was set back from the main face of the building, with the stonework at the corners being carved and moulded cartouches. Bronze flagpole bosses and flagpoles were added for the company and country flags.

The main showroom was on the ground floor and was entered from Marylebone Road. This showroom was 65 feet long by 45 feet wide and extended in height through two storeys. At first floor level the sides of the showroom were set back with open balconies with balustrades constructed of bronze and

etched glass with internal illumination. The walls of the showroom and main stairs were finished in French walnut flush panelling, whilst the flooring was quartzite with ebonite jointing.

Opening off the main showroom and also off the balconies were numerous demonstration rooms treated acoustically to obviate all undue noise. Another feature of the ground floor plan was a large convention hall at the rear of the main showroom. On the second and third floors there were extensive suites of administrative and executive offices, and also a further showroom for accounting machines. The principal executive offices were panelled in French walnut in a style similar to that of the main showroom.

The official opening of the new Head Office took place on the 20th April 1937 by the Rt. Hon Reginald McKenna, P.C. The introductory speech was given by D.A.E Donald, the chairman of The National Cash Register Co. Ltd.

Today, with more than 70 years history behind it, the NCR Building can rightly be considered a Marylebone landmark.

Ian Ormerod

Ian Ormerod worked for NCR in Marylebone from 1965 to 2003. He is retired but is an active member of the NCR Fellowship which has assigned to his keeping the historical documents on which his article is based. He can be contacted at ian@ormerod.uk.net

Sheila Monnet

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Region 1 – Wallace Hay

Today, Wednesday 12th November, eighteen members from Region 1 had lunch and a good old get together in Glasgow at The Counting House (it used to be a branch of the Bank of Scotland before it became a pub hence the name). There were four notable absentees, **George Brown** (in London), **Jim Kerr**, **Bob McCarthy** and **David Graham** all had to call off. Ah well, there is always next year chaps!

Ian Lamb tells me that he is going to try and organise a May lunch in Edinburgh in 2009 so I will advise you of the date in due course. **Ron Williams**, ex NCR Retail salesman, joined us on the day and seemed to enjoy his visit and produced some old memories too.. As always keep well and warm everyone – Wallace.

Region 2E – Pat Keogh

We held our second lunch of 2008 at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday 15th October and once again had a wonderful day with a good lunch, meeting old friends again and some new ones and enjoying the odd glass of wine.

I had to open my after lunch information with the sad news that **Ron Lyle** had passed away a few months earlier. We reflected on Ron's working life and our various relationships with him and finished by remembering him with a minutes silence.

I had a number of responses from regulars who couldn't make it this time, some still working for a living, some

double booked and a couple not so well. We wish a speedy recovery to them and look forward to seeing them next year. **Maureen Burdis** couldn't make it this time but not because she was double booked, she couldn't make it because she was triple booked. I think this is Maureen's secret to good health and fitness. And to **Baz Pickard** who couldn't make it due to an ankle injury playing tennis. The team were quite envious that he was still playing tennis.

We still had a very healthy 41 attending this lunch, our largest figure yet. **Dave Collins** managed good timing again for one of his visits to the U.K. from Spain where he now lives. It was great to see Dave again even though he was complaining that the sunshine was sometimes down to only ten hours a day. It was a first visit to our Otley Golf Club venue for **John Moody** and **Brian Edwards** from Grimsby but not a first visit to Fellowship lunches for these two veterans. We also had a couple of new additions in **Vivien Irish** and **Colin Thomas** who came with his wife Kate. Although they now live in Yorkshire, they worked in London and Dundee some time ago and expressed an interest to visit these lunches some time in the future.

We continued by reading **Steven Swinbank's** report from the Trustees. There followed a lively discussion culminating in an instruction for me to pass on the strength of feeling to the Trustees.

We finished by noting that the dates of our lunches for next year are Wednesday 13th May 2009 and Wednesday 14th October 2009. I say finish but the discussion and banter continued for some time.

“At the Counting House – Edinburgh”



L to R Alan Pearce and Ian Lamb



L to R John McElroy and Peter Hardern



L to R John Allan Hughes and Scott Caldow



L to R John Gray (Ginger) and Jimmy Marshall



L to R Neil Bathie and Frank McCarroll



Joe Hall



John McElroy and Bob Stewart

Region 2W – Ian Ormerod

The Autumn Lunch was held on September 30th at the Grange Country Club in the Wirral.

The event was again well attended with 45 members and guests having an excellent three course meal and the opportunity to meet colleagues and reminisce about “the good old days”.

Sadly a number of our members were unable to attend due to illness or mobility problems, amongst others, was **George Laurence**, who has always been a great supporter of the Fellowship as he was not fully fit. **Bill Hampson** has had a recent hip op and **Bert Heyes** fell and broke his wrist in September. **Eileen Hull** also is having problems getting around and one of our regulars, **Sandy McMillan**, started out on the day only to be taken ill on the way.

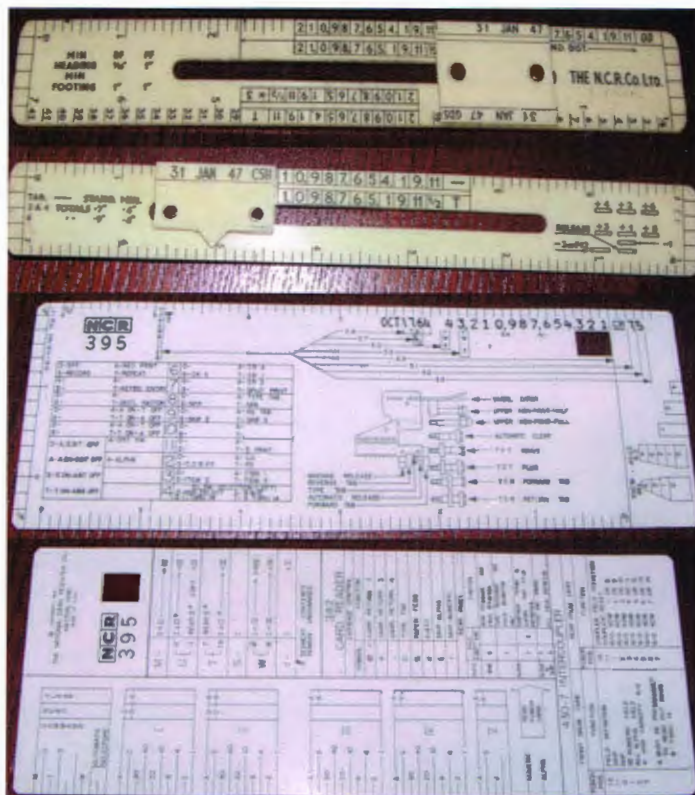
We were very pleased to welcome **Liam Walsh** and his wife Frances to the lunch. Liam had a career both Engineering and Sales. It was a special meeting for me as Liam was the first Technician I went to a call with at a customer store on my first day with the company in Manchester.

Our next lunch will be on Tuesday the 7th of April 2009. Everyone is welcome so, if you would like to attend and meet colleagues from another Region please get in touch.

Jack Hale

I have to inform you of the death of Jack Hale on the 23 October. He was 88 years old. He had been in hospital for only a short while after falling and breaking a hip.

I worked with Jack in Liverpool for more than 15 years where he was office manager. He had held this position for a number of years before this and he also managed the offices in Chester and Llandudno as part of the job. As the new man in 1974 I was very grateful for his support and friendship. He was a most efficient and capable colleague. He worked for NCR for 35 years and was 61 when he



Some readers will remember Stan Harrison arriving at the last meeting with an NCR Egg Timer. This time he brought along programming rulers for the 3000 and 395 machines. These were used as a pocket aid for programmers setting out program bars, stops and ledger sheet layouts.

retired, more than 27 years ago. He was part of the NCR Fellowship from its beginnings and never missed any of our lunches. On behalf of all his colleagues and associates in NCR and the Fellowship; I would like to extend all our deepest sympathies to “Bet”

We had a great many good times together.

Charles Southall



Region 2W at the Grange Country Club



*Jack is in the third row from the front
right in the middle*

Region 3 – Eric Grace

The Fellowship Lunch held at The George Hotel in Litchfield on 16th October 2008 was another happy occasion.

There were 31 Members and guests who enjoyed the usual good three course Carvery meal.

This time we were fortunate to have **Lin Sandell** and **John Atkin** attend, so Lin ably updated us on the situation with the pension scheme.

Dr Whitehead once again joined our merry band and **Joy Wright** brought **Margaret Ellis** from Sheffield.

Unfortunately **Cecil Staite** and **Joan** were unable to attend as they had been ill and are still recuperating.

But we were pleased to see **Brian Cox** who assured me that he is also recovering.

I had a call from a friend of **Frank White** to say he had fallen again and had a hospital appointment on this day.

We were also pleased to see **Lucy Tilley** so soon after her bereavement.

Gordon Carter's wife wrote to say he is now unable to walk far so will not be able to attend this or future lunches.

There were messages from the following members who were unable to attend but they all sent regards.

Malcolm Alliband sent best wishes and his excuse for not coming was that this was they were going on a Mediterranean Cruise!!

Harry Ridge and the **Biddulphs** are also on holiday.



Region 3



Region 4 - Roger Whelan

Region 4's annual lunch was held on Wednesday 1st October at its usual venue in Blandford Street, just off Baker Street in Central London. The venue used to be called the Cricketers' Club but recently changed its name to the Blandford Club. This disconcerted one or two guests who could be seen disconsolately walking past the restaurant until retrieved by one of our members who was fortunately standing watch.

Just under a 100 guests came and some had travelled from as far as Cornwall. One very welcome guest, **Rex Fleet**, former Chairman of NCR UK, had travelled from his home in Florida and it was a great pleasure to talk about the old days with him.

Stephen Swinbank gave us an up to date report on the state of the pension fund and he confessed to feeling apprehensive about some of the searching questions he might be asked given the current state of the financial markets. Fortunately he was able to report that the fund is still looking very sound and well positioned enough to weather difficult conditions ahead.

As usual with the large group in attendance the guests were split between two rooms and, as always when old colleagues get together there was lively conversation throughout lunch, dessert, coffee and beyond.

In spite of having to split into two groups, the venue seems well suited to our needs and we intend to remain there for next year's lunch which is scheduled for Wednesday 7th October 2009.

Region 6 – Alan Hutchins

Region 6 held their lunch on October 15th at the Caste Hotel Bramber West Sussex. It was the first time we had used this venue and, as with all first times, we were a little apprehensive as to how it would turn out. I need not have worried. I am pleased to report that the food was very good and the company splendid. I think that when a number of friends get together and talk of old times had in the past over a drink and good food all is well.

There were 24 of us including partners, the largest number since the reformation of the Fellowship. We were pleased to welcome **Ian Ormerod** who brought a brass cash register, a class 15 adding machine and several pictures and workshop manuals. This added a nice touch to the day and was much appreciated.

Frank Robinson was unable to come as he was visiting his son in Corfu. Also **Jim Lawmon** who was visiting his daughter in Canada. Perhaps you will be able to make it next time. This is the first time Frank has missed a lunch since his retirement and it seemed strange without him. You were both missed.

Region 5

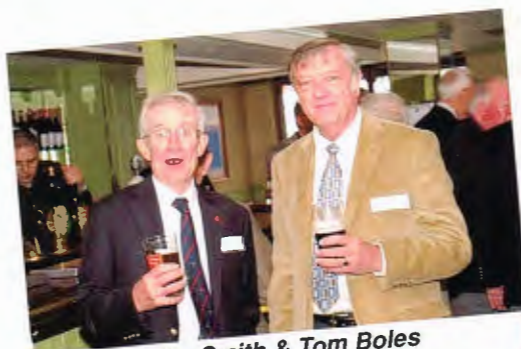


*Region 5's George and Dragon Lunch at Pluckley
(unfortunately no report this time)*



LONDON LUNCH

October 2008



John Smith & Tom Boles



?Sorry?, Basil Garsed & Barbara Locke



Roger Main. John Hill & Doug Milsom



Rex Fleet



?Sorry? & Dennis Pearce



John Hill & Doug Milsom



Michael Croneen & Mike McKenna



Roy Post - Posing!



Roger Whelan, John Atkins
& Ian Ormerod



Lin Sandell & Eric Page



Stephen Swinbank



Basil Garsed & Rex



Stan Sparrey & Beard!

Region 7 - John Jones

Lunch 11th June 2008

Officially the region's membership is 27 but I sent out 34 invitations not all by letter, some by Email and a couple by telephone. I had 28 replies and a total of 27 people attended our get together at the Carvery Company, Cribbs Causeway. The staff here make us very welcome and provide for all our needs and we all enjoy the food and the relaxed atmosphere.

It was really nice to see **Jim Kembery** in such good spirits despite being in a wheelchair, he was accompanied by his daughter Sue and is making a steady recovery from his op. All the usual regulars were there **Bill and Eileen Park, Dave and Jean Jones, Alan and Stella Wall, Maurice and Pat Keene, Dave and Pat Robinson, Roy Back, Bill Hudson** and with their wives for the first time **Ian and Mary Leader** and **Keith and Margaret Ponting**.

The Welsh contingent was well represented by **John Watts, Elwyn Davies, Ken Bloxham, Dave Calford** and the "ever-young" **Wayne Edmond**.

Chris Mumford was supposed to come but had to cancel at the last minute, whereas **Graham Watt** wasn't going to be there but turned up any way. Two complete new comers were **Paul Bryant** and our esteemed Editor **Geoff Jackson**. (who only came so his wife could go shopping in Cribbs Causeway Mall).

Several members were unable to attend, **Maurice Davis** and **Dickie Keitch** had prior engagements, **Maurice Chivers** was in Le Mans, **Tony Churchman** in Portugal, **Betty Vickery** in Poland and **Anne Cunningham (Weekes)** on holiday. They all sent their best wishes as did **Dorothy Davies** and **Geoff Batcup** who are unable to travel these days.

Peter Bodley who usually comes along to keep an eye on my organising, had to stay at home to supervise some building work. (don't worry Peter, Geoff was making notes). Dave Jones, Geoff Jackson and myself had our cameras and between us managed to get a few pictures of the occasion.

We are due for another get-together in October, which I hope will be as successful as this one.



Geoff Jackson and Ken Bloxham



Jimmy Kembery



Johnny Jones



*Left to Right, Sue (Kembery), Keith Ponting, Jim Kembery, Alan Wall, Stella Wall, Margaret Ponting, Roy Back, Graham Watt, Maurice Keene, Pat Keene, Paul Bryant, Jean Jones, Wayne Edmond, Dave Robinson, Pat Robinson, David Calford, Eileen Park, John Watt, Bill Hudson, Mary Leader, Ian Leader, Elwyn Davies, Ken Bloxham and Geoff Jackson. (Dave Jones & John Jones taking photos, Bill Park was in the loo)
If I've got any names wrong I apologise.*

Region 8 – Richard Craigie

We met at The Black Horse as usual on the 16th October, there were 27 of us this time. **Peter Timlett** sent his apologies. **Geoff Walter** sadly was ill and best wishes were sent. **Dennis** and **Hazel Gill** together with **Des** and **Beryl Woodall** all had other commitments. Also, **Tom Atkins** was on jury service which meant that he and **Margaret** could not make it, they were all missed and it is hoped that they can make the April lunch.

It was nice to welcome **Tom** and **Rita Boles**, **Ted Miller's** wife **Deborah** and **Brian** and **Ina Bourdon**, **Brian** and **Ina** having come from Alicante.

The meal was a little better than before as there was a new chef, unfortunately the manager was a caretaker until the new team arrives. It does raise a small query as to whether we can get the same deal as previously or whether I shall have to find a new venue. Because of this I am unable to give you all a date for next April's lunch. Best wishes Richard.

Region 10 – Ron McGowan

Ron was unfortunately unable to be at the lunch due to a family bereavement but has sent the following report:-

The 11 members present at the lunch really enjoyed themselves. It was held on 29th October at the 10 Square Hotel, Belfast City Centre. The meal was as good as ever and the chat followed the normal lines of recalling the good old NCR days. Sadly, since last year, we have lost one member, **Alf Lucas** who had latterly been in a nursing home and passed away on Christmas Day 2007 aged 91.

Our next lunch will be held on Wednesday 28th October 2009 at the same venue DV!

Regards Ron

Giving Blood at NCR (Physically not metaphorically that is!!!)

When I received my copy of **PostScript** this summer I was charmed by the lovely front page picture of our Chairman, **Lin Sandell** with that of the young married couple. This picture was taken at a Presentation Dinner by the Blood Transfusion Service on 22nd November 2007.

It took me back to my early days with NCR when the Blood Transfusion Service used to visit the company a couple of times a year so as to enable staff to donate on site.

At this time I was playing football for our Sports and Social Club and, on one occasion I was travelling home after a match with a few of my workmates. For some reason the conversation got round to comparing how many pints of blood each had given over the years. I kept very quiet as I had never even thought of giving blood let alone being a regular donor. My mates soon made it clear to me that I should consider joining their little club!

When the next session was due I did attend with them although I really wasn't looking forward to it. Petrified might have been a better way of describing it! Mainly because I had heard that it was quite possible that one would pass out at the first session (what a load of rubbish). I know now that, if your general health was good, then fainting is very rare indeed.

It wasn't all that bad being laid flat on a comfortable bed by a pretty young nurse who assured me that she would be very gentle, my having explained that it was my first time. The needle didn't hurt at all and it was all over in a few minutes. After a cup of tea and a sandwich I was soon back at work none the worse for my experience and wondering what all the fuss was about.

There are no down sides apart from when you get an

inexperienced nurse who, finding it difficult to find a good vein leaves you with six holes in each arm and purple forearms the next day! This, luckily, is a very rare experience.

It was then that I realised that there was no reason why I should not give blood regularly in the future, so I attended all the sessions in future years. I was unexpectedly contacted by the Blood Bank in the mid 70's and asked if I would be prepared to attend a session at my local hospital. It transpired that donors of my blood type were urgently needed as this type of blood could be used for new types of operations as it contained a larger percentage of iron than is normal. This type of use being ongoing I was asked to attend the Blood Bank four times a year. This I did until I was 65 and no longer eligible to give blood. By this time I had made over one hundred donations.

I now remember being invited to The Royal College of Physicians in Regents Park where I, together with many other donors, was presented with a certificate and commemorative plate in recognition of our achievement. The thing that made it memorable was the fact that the function was attended by many ex-patients who had required our blood but who had made a complete recovery. This made me realise that, had I not been press-ganged into giving blood all those years ago by my mates in the Rework Centre I would not have given any blood at all.

I must say, when I chat to my old mates who were fellow donors, we all agree that we would still like to give blood in view of the current shortage but time catches up with all of us.

Best wishes to everyone in the Fellowship.

George Cass (ex FED) - A sad old bleeder!!!!!!!

BILL STURGESS

*One of the pleasures of being the historian for **postscript** is being contacted by people from around the world asking not only for information about the historical company products, but also about the many people who worked for "The Cash" and made it the great company it was in the 19th and 20th centuries. Occasionally I am contacted by someone who wants information about their service, one such letter came in the Spring of 2008 from Bill Sturgess in the USA; this is his story:-*

I returned to London from evacuation [2nd time] a couple days before my 14th birthday, from a big house between Sunninghill and Sunningdale. Our school for the Londoners was in the village hall. I was welcomed home by a Jerry raid which hit the Adeney Road, Fulham area pretty hard, I gather that a large part of that area has since been knocked down.

My dad was a guard on the London Transport and also in the Home Guard; Mother was a charlady, and, I as I understand, worked for someone a bit high up at NCR, and that was how I got an apprenticeship. I went to Marylebone Road two days after my March 30th, 14th birthday, [one pound a week, half day Saturday].

One thing we learnt was to make keys then gradually got to repairing old registers. At some point I was switched to electrotype, the foreman there was a little fellow and the typesetter was a fairly old fellow, with a short temper, who set the type very fast without looking. The procedure then was to press the type print into flat wax that was set on a lead plate, carve the high points down to a flat surface, cover that with a black powder [which got everywhere] put it into an acid bath and electrically send the copper plate onto the wax face. When it was thick enough [16th of inch] we took it out, poured boiling water on it to release the lead sheet from wax, cut away the extra lead off the back and voila you have an electric plate with the stores address etc.

What I remember mostly was that the foreman had a very, very big rupture and at times he had a lot of pain, the typesetter hated it when the foreman tried to break down the type and put it back into the drawers because the foreman would make a few mistakes.

The workshop was quite long, and if the setter saw that he had a wrong letter in his holder he would take out and hurl it down the room, along with a few choice words.

I was caught the first time by several pieces, but after that I kept an eye out for him.. When I came back from the RAF I believe they had switched to some sort of warehouse in Paddington and I went there for a while. I was with Chelsea Football Club for a while, never got higher than 2nd team. Mostly Scotsmen there (the manager was a scot if I remember right). I was shifted to Queens Park Rangers for a while then I came over here, to the USA, to play and coach.

I played against a few international teams for the USA, became a systems analyst with American airlines, then Bobby Riggs and Pancho Segura recommended me to U.S. Tennis Pro. Association; and that is about it. Most I do now is to referee.

Seems like I got carried away here. I have printed out the front page of the NCR Post you sent me, and it looks great, just like yesterday. I don't remember names, but I remember that the fellow on far left was very, very concerned about the result of that game, there are about four or five of the fellows that I knew pretty well.. Just think nearly 60years ago.

Very best regards. Bill

(Bobby Riggs was the World No. 1 tennis player in 1941 as an amateur and 1946 and 1947 as a professional, Pancho Segura was ranked No. 1 in 1950 and 1952)

If anyone remembers Bill please contact me and I will put you in touch:

Ian Ormerod

VOL 3 No. 5

National POST



LONDON versus DUNDEE (See pages 16 and 17).

STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY LTD.

MAY, 1950

The NCR London team members (top team depicted) are: 1 to r standing:- Williams (secretary), W Sturgess, A Page, E Birdseye, R. Jones, G. Bradley, B Worley, W Ide (equipment), A Smithers (trainer).

Seated C Rawlings, D. Hobbs, J Bowie (captain), E Burton and S Roberts.

THEY ARE EVERYWHERE!

Peter Withey has recently returned from a trip to Australia and, whilst travelling in the outback beyond Sydney, came upon "The Settlers Arms" in a little place called St Albans. In one of the rooms was displayed a renovated NCR cash register together with details of its history. A point made was that it was renovated by one **Bill Moss**. Peter remembers a Bill Moss working out of Croydon and wonders if they are one and the same? Any thoughts anyone?



AROUND THE PROVINCES

ALAN BOWLEY continues his memoirs of reporting on the Company's news in 1949 and the 1950s. In February 1949 he paid his first visit to a provincial office to write about its staff in a new series of articles in the National Post. The war had been over for three or four years and rationing of certain foods was still in force.

The towns he visited were still untouched by modern development and apart from wartime bombing remained as they were in Victorian and Edwardian times. They had an air of old world charm even in their industrial districts and the shop keepers had not yet converted to modern business methods.

NCR in those days had an impressive network of 70 branch offices varying in size from the small with a Sales Agent (a term deriving from pre-war), secretary and three or four mechanics (as they were then known) to the largest with, perhaps, 60 sales and service staff.

The first visit I made, in February 1949, was to OXFORD where, at No.3 Park End Street, near its County Hall, I met Sales Agent **Humphrey Turner**, his secretary **Mary Absalom**, Chief Mechanic **Charles Grout** and his three mechanics, **Jimmy Garley**, **William Morgan**, and **Derek Holt**.

Oxford must have been one of the smallest offices in those days —so small that there had to be a quick turn round of machine deliveries out to customers because of a lack of storage space.

When I visited them they had just taken one thousand sales points from local retailers in only four weeks and delivered and installed 46 machines in six weeks! They were all very proud of their team spirit encouraged by Humphrey who had been a wartime fighter pilot only a few years before!

His was an interesting story. He was serving in the RAF in the Middle East and after capture he spent 10 months as a prisoner-of-war in Italy before escaping with the help of the partisans to Switzerland where a local NCR office enabled him to return to Allied Lines. An example of the world-wide 'brotherhood' of NCR.

My second visit took me to BOURNEMOUTH, a small office with a noticeable team spirit. Its Sales Agent was 'big, square-jawed' **J.P. Edwards** who before joining NCR was Divisional Detective Inspector of the famous 'C' Division of the Metropolitan Police. He had brought several jewel thieves and other criminals to justice and on retirement from the Force joined NCR where he devoted his investigative powers to shopkeeper's systems.

His secretary was **Olive Broughton** and the Chief Mechanic **Ted Hayes** who began as a junior mechanic at Tottenham Court Road in 1928. He had four junior mechanics in Bournemouth.



Harris

The POST goes to the Provinces— BOURNEMOUTH

by A. H. BOWLEY

A fashionable resort is the background to the activities of ex-detective J. P. EDWARDS and his team

BUILT on the cliffs overlooking the wide impressive sweep of Poole Bay is the fashionable resort of Bournemouth, famous for its public gardens and parks, brézy chines, its hotels and its climate. Home of over one hundred thousand people, its shops and main streets have an air of prosperity about them, the squares have spaciousness, and its modern churches and public buildings a stately aspect.

The novelist, Sir Thomas Hardy, in his book "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" described Bournemouth as "A Mediterranean Lounging Place on the English Channel," and in the sultry summer months when the streets and beaches are heavy with heat, lounging is the order of the day; and whilst the holidaymakers have the choice of a cool walk in the gardens or a dip in the briny, the suffering tradesmen and shopkeepers have to remain at their posts until the perspiring last.

Bournemouth's shopping centre is impressive, most of the well-known London firms being represented in Commercial Road, the main thoroughfare. This is divided into two by the hub of the town, Central Square, where garish

J. P. EDWARDS and Helper OLIVE BROUGHTON

Harris



Harris

yellow omnibuses sweep round in all directions, and each section is built on a steep gradient.

If one walks up steep and winding Commercial Road towards the West Station, one comes to Poole Hill and the Pembroke Hotel, where, across the road, in a small block of shops built on to the fronts of houses, is the Branch Office of the N.C.R.

In cream and brown paint, and with its large windows, it has a bright and cheerful appearance and stands out to the eye. Up one or two steps and you are standing in a wide, airy office, the sanctum of the Agent and his office clerk. At the back of the office is the Service Department taking up the remaining three rooms.

At the Agent's desk sits JOHN P. EDWARDS, Retail Representative for Dorset and part of Wiltshire. Big,

LEICESTER was my third visit — in March 1949. The NCR office was at 107 Granby Street, a few yards away from its Central Station. Here I met **Jimmy Bell**, a Durham man. A former refrigeration engineer, he had worked in Canada, USA and Australasia before joining NCR in 1930. He had spent five wartime years in the Royal Navy in the first World War and in his time was an all-round sportsman having won medals for rowing. He had many strange stories to tell including the day he called on a customer to find in a back yard full of sacks of old bric-a-brack and a National 1700 class perched on an old table. He was a rag and bone man who believed in modern business methods!

Jimmy's secretary was **Sylvia Payne** who worked in a munitions factory during the war and his Chief Mechanic was Stan Gater who served in the RAOC during the war, being one of the last to leave France after Dunkirk and fighting through to Germany and VE Day.

There were five mechanics, one of whom was **A.P. (Alf) Hartshorn** who later became manager in Pakistan and then Staff Assistant to the regional Vice President for the Middle East.

In April 1949 I took the train (steam, of course!) to CANTERBURY, and was picked up at the station by the sales representative for the area, **John Casement**. I was driven in his baby Fiat to the NCR office which turned out to be in a prefabricated shop, one of many in an area which had suffered badly in one of Hitler's Baedeker raids. The miracle was that while most of the area around the Cathedral including the High Street was devastated, the Cathedral was untouched

John Casement was from an old seafaring family and began his career as a shipping agent for the fur trade before joining NCR in 1933 as a Service Canvasser in London. He came to Canterbury after flying with the RAF during the war. He was finding plenty of business amongst the shopkeepers of the coastal towns of Thanet.

In the office was Clerk **Sylvia Wass** from Faversham, and in the Depot its chief Mechanic **Bert Saward**, 19 years with NCR and Mechanic **Sidney Stanley** who had spent several months of the war on a coral island in the Indian Ocean as a RAF radar mechanic. **Young George Guest** just out of training and **Leslie Morris** were the other mechanics.

DERBY in the post war years was a drab, industrial town with extensive locomotive sheds and repair shops for the London, Midland and Scottish railway company and also thriving chemical works and textile industries. But, as it is today, it was a gateway to that land of hills and dales -the Derbyshire Peaks.

When I entered the NCR office in the Strand and met 'jovial' **Vic Turner**, the Sales Agent, it wasn't so much the whiff of engine oil from the local railway works, but of the salt sea for Vic, an Australian by birth, had sailed before the mast in the grain ships trading between his home country and England. He recalled one voyage which took over six

OXFORD - 1949



Westmoreland

Top : H. TURNER and Secretary MARY ABSALOM.

Left : JENNIFER—part of portfolio ?



Below left : Mechanic JIMMY GARLEY.

Below right : Chief Mechanic CHARLES GROUT.

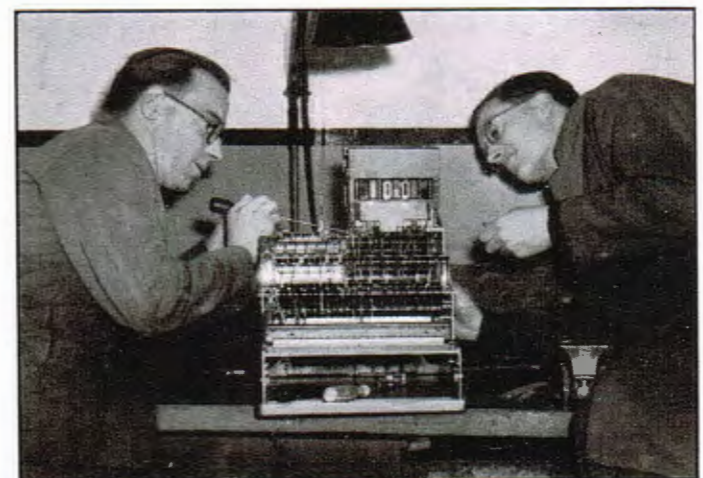


Westmoreland



Westmoreland

Below : Junior Mechanics MORGAN (left) and HOLT.



months. Vic came to England as a young man in 1904 and began his sales career with NCR in the east end of London in 1913. He was the proud possessor of a tattered Quota Getters Banner in a yellow silk for the year 1914. Vic's Assistant was **Raymond Marsh**, a local lad who had been a railway clerk before joining NCR in 1942.

Chief Mechanic was **Danny Hurst**, who opened the Service Depot in Derby in 1930. He was proud of his Cockney upbringing, living near to London's Monument and learning to be a Boy Scout in the moat of the Tower of London. He was in the Army in the first World War serving in France and North Russia.

Danny's staff were Dave Allen, Leslie Morris and Tony Mather.

The NORTHAMPTON office that I visited in the following month gave me plenty to write about — an Agent who had topped the Roll of Honour for District 5, had also produced and starred in a musical revue; an office clerk who was an accomplished pianist; and Mechanics which included a water colourist, an ex Army man who had performed in a Black & White revue in Lagos, and another who had built his own workshop where he completely overhauled the engine of his Austin Seven.

The Sales Agent was **Campbell Lees**, known as 'Jock', who had served with RAF flying crew during the war, and flown Lancasters on bombing missions over Europe. While training in America he joined an RAF Gang Show and toured Canada. In NCR he produced a 'Krazy Night Revue' for the an amateur dramatics group.

The office clerk was **Gwen Cross** from Towcester, an accomplished pianist who had played in several charity concerts. She had also helped to sell several machines and was a Gold Cross holder. Chief Mechanic **Jack Thompson** started with NCR at Tottenham Court Road in 1929. During the war he was in charge of the Armaments Section at Elstree. There were three mechanics, **Gerry Lawley**, the water colourist who had been a RAF technical instructor, **Ken Goodwin** who had served in India and West Africa in REME where he performed in a Black & White Revue for the troops in the Lagos heat, and Accounting Machine Mechanic '**Nick**' **Nicholls** who had built and equipped his own workshop at home where he built model planes and carried out all the repairs on his car. In those days you could.

Looking back at my reports it is painfully obvious of the drastic changes which have taken place since those days. Take WOLVERHAMPTON for example, which I visited in September 1949. Part of my description of the area runs as follows: *"If you go by train from Birmingham to Wolverhampton you pass through what must be the most highly industrialised stretch of country in Britain. Like so many huge fingers pointing to the sky the factory chimneys belch smoke across the flat land and from a distance it appears that the land itself is smoking and flaming. It is riddled with slag heaps, derricks and stacks of timber, iron and coal."* That was the Black Country sixty years ago.

My visit took me to the narrow, winding thoroughfare of King Street where, in the NCR office I met Sales Agent **George Carr**, a Yorkshire man who had settled in Wolverhampton after working for NCR in Sheffield and York. He had begun his working life in the provision trade spending eight years with a mercantile cold-storage company in Singapore — fortunately leaving that city and returning to Britain in 1939 before the Japanese arrived. He was a good cricketer and was vice-president of the town's rugby club, holding several cups for rugby, football and boxing. He had gained CPC membership six times in eight years. His office clerk was **Audrey Anslow** who was a member of the town's Archery Club.

The mechanics depot was headed up by Chief Mechanic **Leslie Hawkes** — a great Wolves fan and very proud of their team, which had won the F.A. Cup for the third time that year. His senior Mechanic was **Frank Wooldridge**, described to me as a 'mechanical wizard' who could solve any problem on any cash register model, old or new; and who was also a model steam engine enthusiast. His staff were Accounting Machine Mechanic **John Dickenson** who joined in 1938 and was a RAFVR photographer in the war and who also narrowly missed capture in Singapore; and

Junior Mechanic **Stewart Shorthouse**, a former military policeman in Palestine. Another surprising fact about the people I met Around the Offices in those days were the differences in their working backgrounds and their widespread interests. Also the strong camaraderie there was between offices and depots. Undoubtedly they were working in the best of times, reaping the financial harvest from the gradual return to profitable business on the High Street after long years of war and the post war depression.

In the next installment I will be reporting on the offices along the South Coast and the South East.

Footnote:

Please write to Geoff Jackson if you would like to add any of your own memories of those days or to correct anything I may have written in error. After all, it was nearly 60 years ago!

Betty Ross 1927 – 2007 Died 20 October 2007

Norman Bowen writes: Sadly, dear Betty, known to so many, died just before Christmas 2007. Her family, **Anne** and **Maurice Pearce**, who many London employees will recall, will miss her so much.

Many FED personnel will remember way back when Betty operated in the FED stores and her gentle and gracious manner was always to the fore. Apart from being so attractive, her charisma was always portrayed and enriched us all.

Betty, we all loved and respected you and we must not forget Stan, your late dear husband and colleague who again demonstrated the NCR spirit. God bless you both!

New life for the NCR Factory site in Dundee by Con Dailly

In January of this year **Ian Ormerod** contacted me and asked if, as an ex-employee of NCR manufacturing in Dundee, I could help two property developers (Gladman & Millards) with information relating to the original lay out of the now demolished, 10 acre NCR Dryburgh factory site where they are about to build offices. As I had worked in the factory previous to transferring to the European Education Centre, which had just transferred from the London area to Dundee in 1973 (would you believe it was 35 years ago?), I was able to meet the structural engineers at the site and advise them about the locations of the various departments and processes on the original layout, in particular the location of oil stores, cellars etc.



Six of the nine Dundee Factories are shown in this photograph from 1969.

The Developers had no knowledge of the previous buildings or their use on the site and having contacted Dundee Council, and the local library without success NCR suggested contacting Ian to see if he could help.

Ian's collection provided aerial photographs of the area as well as internal scenes showing where various production facilities were located. This included the zinc plating plant in the Dryburgh Factory, which, at the time of its installation, was reputed to be the largest in Europe.

With the exception of one low volume outlet, machine production ceased at the last NCR Factory in Dundee at the end of 2006 when NCR made 650 people redundant so that it could move production of its cash points to cheaper overseas factories in Beijing, India and Budapest.

The developers started work on the site of the old NCR factories on September 8th despite the current market conditions, albeit the first phase of development will be slightly smaller than previously anticipated.

In a letter at the beginning of November Alan Cunningham, from Gladman Developments, told us "The development is

progressing well, and we are encouraged by enquiries for our buildings now that things have started on site. We are aiming towards having a show suite open in February or March 2009, however we have interested parties visiting our other developments in Aberdeen and Livingston."



The Developers and their Consultants appreciated the help and co-operation given to them and agreed to our suggestion to donate any fees to the Retirement Fellowship.

Both companies readily agreed and during a meal at the Invercarse I received two cheques totalling £400 on behalf of the Fellowship.

Con Dailly

Obituaries

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

Mr	I	Shotton	18/04/08
Mr	EDA	Patten	25/03/08
Mr	AM	Ross	4/04/08
Mr	KJ	Haynes	23/05/08
Mr	RB	Lyle	05/05/08
Mr	D	Gray	17/05/08
Mr	GW	Cole	12/04/08
Mr	JN	Hulme	18/04/08
Mrs	BM	Woods	01/04/08
Mr	TM	Wilkin	29/03/08
Mr	C	Roberts	05/08/08
Ms	M	Tagoe	28/08/08
Mrs	HM	Newman	12/09/08
Mr	AW	Pluckwell	21/09/08
Mr	A	Hurlock	30/09/08
Mr	HV	Walker	03/10/08
Mrs	J	Bown	28/06/08
Mr	W	Rock	01/06/08
Mr	GC	Cowie	10/08/08
Mr	AG	Partridge	31/08/08
Mr	DW	Tilley	02/09/08
Mr	RA	Burton	02/08/08
Mr	GE	Sillett	01/10/08
Mr	MJ	Stanley	07/07/08
Mrs	R	Mizon	22/10/08
Mr	J	Hale	02/10/08

CLASSIC CARS - A SUMMER EVENT

The village of West Bergholt in the northeast of the county of Essex some 3 or 4 miles from the Essex/Suffolk border which here is the river Stour, is not a place which you would associate with a major classic car show.

But, the Essex /Suffolk border area of East Anglia seems to be a particularly popular part of the country for classic vehicles of all types. During the summer months there is a car/vehicle rally every weekend somewhere in the region.



This West Bergholt village did just that during the weekend of 26/27 July, and indeed has done so for the last 25 years, and during that time it has always been well supported..

My son, Steve, has sort of introduced me to it recently, although he has always been interested in the 'classics' ever since he owned his first Ford Cortina Mk 3 GXL.

The event starts early on the first day with the arrival of the cars during the Saturday morning and the various stands are set up ,including of course the Beer Tent and those which provide the necessary Burgers and Sausages etc, which are part and parcel of this type of event.



Then all of the classic car entrants parade in the Grand Ring where each of the owners in their cars are interviewed by the Presenter/Event Co-ordinator, who, in the case of this West Bergholt show, was extremely knowledgeable regarding the history of each car which was entered, even before he had asked each driver to describe his/her vehicle. He should do, he has compered this event since its inception. No doubt the same drivers with their cars tour all of the shows during the season.

Almost every make and marque of 'classic' car is represented with American, UK, and Continental models from as early as pre-WW II period.

The 'line-up' is very impressive,with the high level of restoration and TLC very much in evidence, and the dedication of the owners can only be admired. And of course they change hands quite frequently as an owner sells on to another enthusiast, only to take on another restoration or to purchase another elegant model.. It is I am told quite an expensive 'hobby'.



Day 2, the Sunday, brings the Concours d'Elegance, the big Competition to judge "best of marque" and "best in show". To the enthusiasts/owners, this is what it is all about – winning the Cups for the trophy case at home!

And there they are, all lined- up for judging – the 1950's Fords, the Rileys, Morris's, Austins, Rovers, Triumphs, and Jags – Remember them all? – The Sunbeams, the Vauxhalls Velox's the Austin Healey's. Even the ex-Emmerdale Ford Anglia – black with a blue lamp on top was there .Oh Nostalgia!

Then the up-market types :- Aston Martin, Bentley's, Rolls Royces, Daimlers, and Lanchester even!.

And no self-respecting enthusiasts car event would be complete without the big American classics:- Galaxy, Fairlane, Bel-Air, Mustang, Corvette, Dart, Lincoln, and Mercury etc. Lots of Fords, Buicks and Chevies. They go to all of the shows - always immaculate!.

The winners in the various classes take their trophies home, and then prepare for the next weekend, another event, another town, another opportunity to take the Silver.

This unique event which I describe included a section for classic motorcycles – Nortons, Triumph T100's, Matchless and AJS' in abundance. Every make has its enthusiasts, even though they may ride Kawasakis and Suzukis in their 'later' years.



During this event they included a Shire Horse demo (this being farming country) and a fly-over by a BBMF Spitfire. – a bit special!.

On this particular weekend in July we were blessed with warm and sunny weather and there was a very good public turnout – and at £6 per head excellent value.

If you, dear Fellowship Reader, are not already a follower of the Classics give it a try yourself, there is sure to be an event near you during the Season – you never know, you too might get hooked.

By the way we had a nice reunion at the London Lunch this October, it was great to meet everyone once again – it was nice to meet up with Rex Fleet after all of these years! – Looking forward to next year. Good venue, good company, and not a bad lunch either. What more could you want?.

Best Wishes to you all.

Bryan Turner.

Message from the Chairman

As another year of the fellowship comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. The Fellowship is still flourishing and I welcome the 19 new members who have joined during the year. I have recently had the pleasure of attending several of the regional lunches and I very much enjoyed meeting the members who I did not know. We also had the pleasure of **Rex Fleet's** company at the London lunch this year and I know that many of the attendees were delighted to see him again.

During the lunches which I attended I was asked some Pension related questions some of which I could not answer. These questions I later referred to the Trustees and I have listed below two of the questions, and the answers received, as I am sure that all our members would be interested to read them.

The Organisers also reported questions from their lunches regarding the pension increase submissions and the lack of feedback from Dayton. Having reviewed the input received the Fellowship Committee decided that a letter should be sent to the Trustees on behalf of all our members, expressing the level of concern. As a result I sent a letter to the Chairman of the Trustees in mid November and we will await their response.

I should like to also remind all our members that the new Fellowship year will start on January 1st 2009 as per the article in the last **Post Script**. This will bring our year into line with the calendar year and hopefully remove the previous confusion over dates. The renewal forms for 2009 will therefore accompany the December issue of Post Script.

Finally I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2009.

Lin Sandell

Questions and answers:

Q1: When a pensioner dies during a period for which a pension increase submission has been made to Dayton, how will any subsequently approved increase be reflected in the late pensioner,s and/or the spouse's pension payments.

Answer: If an increase is approved and backdated the arrears that are due are split into 2 components, the first is from the date of increase to the date of death, this should be paid either to the spouse or the estate. Secondly from the date of death any spouses pension would receive an uplift so there will be arrears in this respect as well.

Q2: What would be the situation with pension payments if either of the two following situations should occur.

a. The Pension plan did not have sufficient funds or collapsed.

Answer: Under the Terms of the Deed of Guarantee that the Trustees entered into in February 2006 the Corporation is liable to meet any short fall in funds to ensure that Pensions are paid.

b. If the Corporation went bust and the Pension Protection Fund had to step in.

Answer: Our Scheme is registered for protection with the PPF. Generally the PPF pays out 100% of existing pension payments for people who have reached their scheme's normal retirement age. Members who have not yet retired, or who retired early receive 90% of their pension once they reach retirement age.

However in all cases there is a cap on the maximum pension the PPF will replace of £27000, which is adjusted each year for inflation.

Autumn Pension Plan Update From your Trustees

The Trustees would like to begin by welcoming and extending our warmest greetings to your new Chairman of The NCR Retirement Fellowship - Lin Sandell. As a past Trustee herself Lin is well placed to support all of you and we look forward to working closely with her.

....What turbulent financial times we are living through at the moment.

Originally I was just going to give you a short update on the status of the next Pension Increase and this will follow in a moment.

But perhaps first, before I do that, I should re-assure you that although our £500m Pension Fund is invested across a wide spectrum of the market and is therefore subject to the normal market up's & down's - that the fund did not have any direct investment exposure to either Lehman Brothers or Merrill Lynch. However, such is the complexity of financial instruments these days that this does not mean that we are completely immune from any fallout, as some of the companies the fund is invested in may in turn have taken positions with these Banks. For example we do hold some 20 Year Bonds with BGI (Barclays Global Investors) and they in turn may or may not have some exposure to these Banks related to their own Bond instruments.

The Trustee's have asked our Investment advisors to check & report to us on not only the impact of the demise of these two Investment Banks but also on the broader effects of what has been happening in the markets so that we can take any necessary appropriate action as soon as the markets begin to stabilise further.

Now, onto Pension Increases.

As you may be aware from Lin's Sandell's excellent report

in the Spring edition of [PostScript](#), your Trustee's submitted a formal request to Dayton for a Pension increase at the turn of the year.

This increase request covered the 12 month period since the award of the last increase on 1st April 2006, up to 31st March 2007 (last year). Official RPI inflation over this period was 4.8% and in-line with the Corporations normal RPI replacement practice the Trustees would expect a backdated increase in the region of around 3% to be considered.

The Trustee's and the Company have a legal obligation to review Pensions once a year and so, again, in July this year we submitted a further Pension Increase request to cover the next increase period due, from 1st April 2007 up to 31st March 2008, (bringing us up-to-date).

RPI inflation for this period was 3.8% and in-line with the Corporations normal practice the Trustees would expect a backdated increase of around 2.85% to be considered. However, unless the Corporation is feeling particularly benevolent it is likely that the increase for this period will be capped at 1.5% with 1.35% carried forward to the next Pension Increase review.

The likely reason for this cap will be in order to keep within the new Pension Increase 'SELF-FUNDING' guidelines. Under these guidelines Pension increases should be fully affordable from the Fund itself and not cause the Corporation to have to contribute any further money.

The most recent Statutory Valuation of our Plan in 2006 showed there to be a 'Surplus' of approximately £5m. The two increases requested (of 3.0% up to March 2007 + a further 1.5% up to March 2008) can be afforded from within this Surplus amount. (FYI, the next Statutory Valuation is due in April 2009).

The Trustees understand from recent conversations with Corporate Treasury that these increase requests are unlikely to be considered before later this year and it is the Trustee's opinion that the recent market turmoil may further complicate their review. We shall continue to talk with Dayton at regular intervals.

As soon as the Trustees are aware of any decision from Dayton we will write to advise you.

In the meantime thank you for your continued interest and support in the work of your Trustees.

On Behalf of the Trustees,

Stephen Swinbank
Chair of Trustees
NCR Ltd Pension Plan

ENIGMA

In 1918, a German inventor named Arthur Scherbius decided that German commercial companies needed some advanced means of encrypting their correspondence. Manual encoding and decoding took too much time, so he worked on a mechanical method and invented the Enigma machine.

The German military needed some method of sending secret strategic messages and eventually adopted the Enigma. During WWII, they bought 30,000 machines and shrouded them all in total secrecy.

The system was deceptively simple and was able to encode messages and then allow the recipient to use another Enigma to decode them. One of its main advantages was that it did not require any specialised knowledge from the operators. All they needed was to be able to read and write.

The way it worked was to change the input plaintext to output ciphertext in such a way that they bore no apparent relationship to each other. Pressing a key on the keyboard caused a signal to be sent to the first of three encoding discs. These discs had a number of internal connections so that the signal was directed to a different position on the output side of the disc. It was then passed to the second disc which had different internal connections. The signal then passed to a third disc which converted it yet again. In early machines a light then showed the encrypted letter on the output light display. In order to avoid duplication of double letters, the first disc was rotated one sector for each character entered. This rotation brought up a different internal connection. When the first disc made a complete

revolution, it turned the second disc one space and this was carried on to the third disc in the same way. Five discs were supplied with each Enigma machine but only three of them were used at any one time and put into Enigma. Which three of the five discs, their sequence and their starting positions were all essential to the encoding and decoding performance of the Enigma.

There was a manual supplied to each operator which gave the sequence of the discs to be used and their starting positions for each day. In case of imminent capture by the Allies, the manual and the Enigma machine had to be destroyed.

When the encoded message reached its destination, the receiving operator simply entered each ciphertext character into the key board and provided the two machines had the same three discs inserted, in the same order and at the same starting positions, the lights would show the original plaintext characters.

There were some modifications which made Allied decoding more difficult. One was a disc with different internal connections which reflected the signal back through the three encoding discs. This meant that each character of the plaintext had to go through seven encoding operations before turning on a ciphertext light. There was a plug board which could alter up to six entered plaintext characters and change them to other characters. Another change was to machines which needed four encoding discs. This last put the Enigma beyond the scope of the bombs.

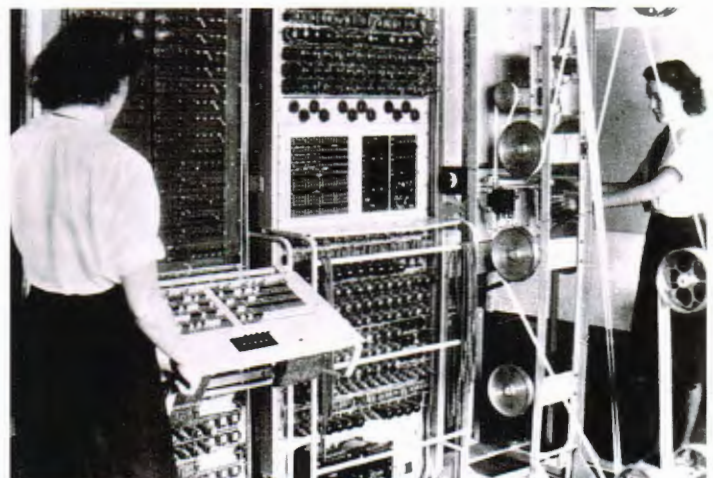
Alan Turing recognised this and designed the world's first programmable computer called Colossus which now undertook the breaking of the Enigma code.

The total possible number of encodings for each character of plaintext was now up to 159,000,000,000,000,000 which made the deciphering achievements of Alan Turing and the Bletchley Park team incredible and made an enormous contribution to the winning of the war.

From John Hughes (New Zealand) as a follow up to Ian Ormerods feature on NCR Bombe



The Enigma



Colossus Computer at Bletchley Park

The NCR Retirement Fellowship

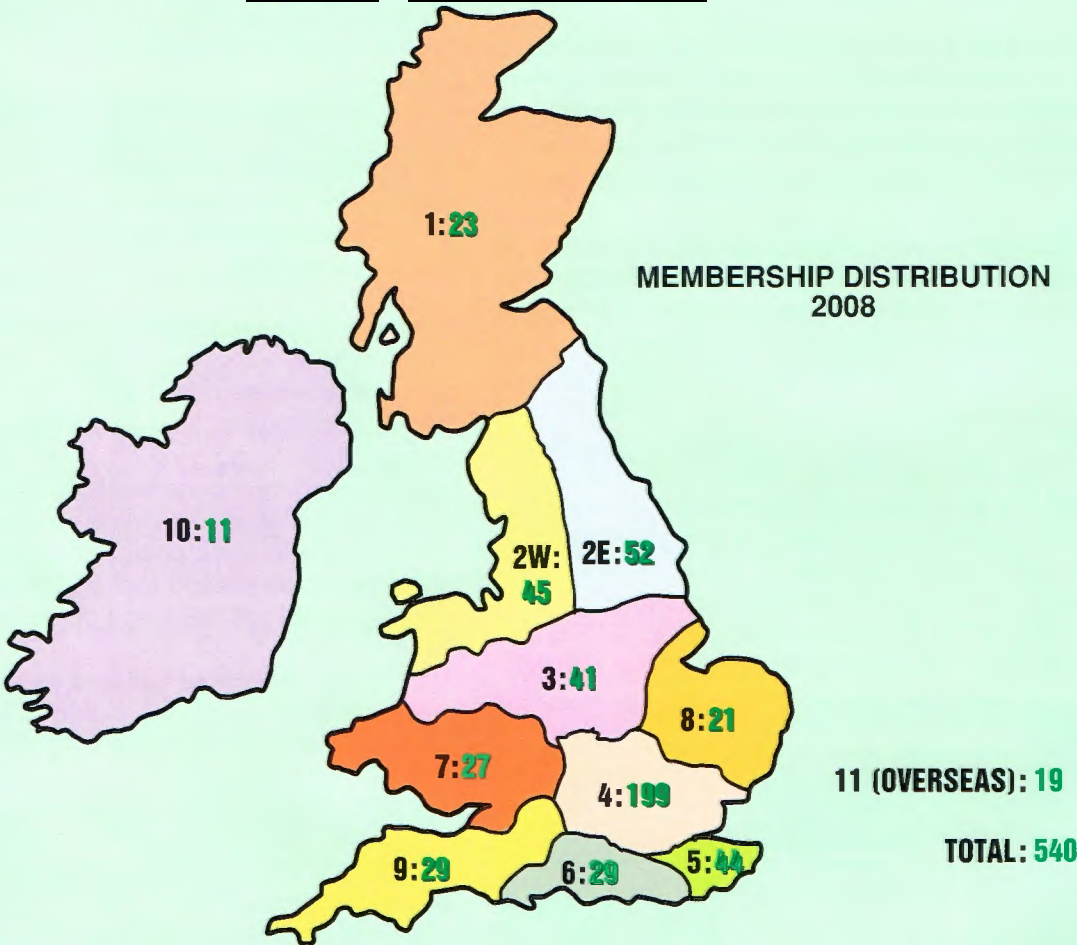
PRESIDENT: Harry Redington

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