

Company Predictor Radar course at Chelmsford

The Predictor was the latest radar manufactured by Marconi Marine in Chelmsford.

It was one of the first radars to be able to predict the outcome of any number of targets in true or relative motion, and contained the latest technology for video processing and noise reduction. It was the Marconi answer to Digiplot from Raytheon, which contained a digital computer, and though very good, could only display a limited number of tracks. Computers - especially at sea - were still very new. Compared to the modern machines, they were not much more than pocket calculators, but were still able to do impressive things with radar data. The training course took place at the company headquarters, Elettra House in Chelmsford. Again, I could stay at home and enjoy home comforts. The instructors were sometimes the development engineers themselves, or top technical staff. It was very thorough, and technically first class. We were a small "elite" group, as the equipment was still very new, expensive, and not many were presently fitted. I gather I was quite honoured to be one of this group, I think the first that Marconi had trained for this new radar.