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**The Institution of Post Office Electrical Engineers.**

**Development of Telegraph Switching  
in Great Britain**

**J. A. S. MARTIN, A.M.I.E.E.**

and

**J. W. FREEBODY, Whit. Schol., B.Sc. (Eng.), D.I.C., A.M.I.E.E.**

**A Paper read before the London Centre on the 14th March, 1944,  
and at other Centres during the Session 1944-45**

The objects of the Institution of Post Office Electrical Engineers are to promote the general advancement of electrical telegraphic and telephonic science and its application, and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on these and allied subjects amongst the members ; but, in furthering these objects by the publication of selected papers read at meetings of the Institution, the Council does not accept responsibility for the statements made, or the opinions expressed, by the author of any such paper.

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# Development of Telegraph Switching in Great Britain

## 1. HISTORICAL.

### 1.1 The Umschalter Switch.

One of the earliest switching devices employed in telegraphy was the "Umschalter" or Universal Switch which was used for the switching of Morse circuits. It comprised two sets of insulated bars arranged in lattice formation, so that each bar of one set crossed all the bars of the other set and could be electrically connected to any one of them by means of a metal plug inserted into holes in both bars at the point of intersection. The arrangement is shown in Fig. 1.

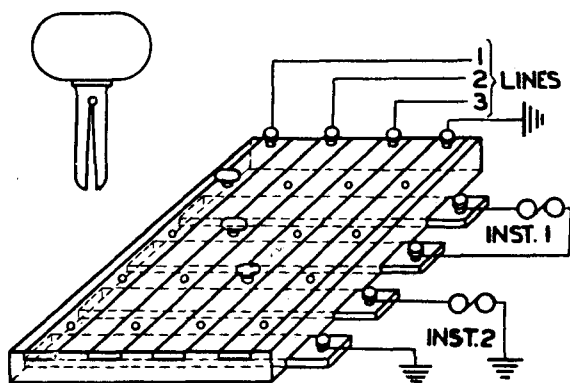


FIG. 1.—THE UMSCHALTER SWITCH.

This method of switching was adopted in England about the year 1854 by the Electric & International Telegraph Co., the switches being fitted at selected centres including London, Leeds, Manchester and York. Switching was chiefly confined to local lines connected to the particular centre. On occasions local lines were switched to main lines, but generally main lines were never connected together. The use of switching for morse circuits was abandoned when the Government took over the British telegraphs in 1870.

Of the private telegraph companies taken over by the Post Office, several had developed private wire services to renter's offices. One of these, the Universal Private Telegraph Co., had its largest installation at Newcastle-on-Tyne, comprising some thirty-five lines and instruments, the type of instrument employed being the Wheatstone A.B.C. which required no particular skill to operate. About 1874, owing to development, additional space was required to accommodate some sixty lines and instruments. As an alternative to this, a switch of the "Umschalter" type was installed, which enabled the instruments at the head office to be reduced to fifteen. In order to provide intercommunication facilities between any two renters, an A.B.C. indicator was connected permanently in each line to provide supervisory facilities. During slack periods the lines were connected to earth via a bell-set in order to provide an audible alarm. At other centres such as Glasgow, Sunderland and Swansea similar systems were installed. About 1884 these systems were ousted by the development of the telephone.

### 1.2 Telegraph Concentrators.

The extension of telegraph facilities to practically every country district led to a great increase in the number of circuits that had to be accommodated at head offices. Many of these circuits, although very necessary from the point of view of public utility, carried a very small amount of traffic. In order to economise in staff, space, and apparatus, concentrator switchboards were introduced at head offices about 1892, thus providing a means whereby any line connected to the switchboard could be connected to one of the head office instruments. The concentrators were constructed on similar lines to the telephone switchboards then in use, and comprised line jacks and suitable calling and clearing indicators. Each line was connected via a jack to an indicator and the connections from the instrument sets were terminated on plugs and cords. The insertion of a plug into a line jack connected that particular line to an instrument and at the same time disconnected the line indicator from the line and connected it via the sleeve of the jack to a push-button circuit between the instrument and concentrator, in order to provide a clearing signal when a circuit was no longer required. Concentrators of this type with various improvements such as lamp signalling were in use until the general introduction of teleprinter working in the Inland Telegraph Service.

A special type of concentrator where incoming calls were automatically fed to the various instrument positions was tried out at a provincial office, but its use was never extended.

For some years prior to 1935 there was a serious and progressive decline in telegraph traffic which resulted in a considerable reduction of the number of long distance circuits and the conversion of a large number of local circuits to telephone-telegram working.

In 1935 the outlook for telegraphs became considerably brighter, as a reduction in telegram rates resulted in a large increase in traffic. The Post Office was, however, well prepared for meeting the increased traffic requirements as a result of the following developments:—

(1) The adoption of the Teleprinter No. 3A in 1928 as the standard operating instrument for the inland service, apart from a few Teleprinters No. 7 used for the printergram service and the telephones used on telephone-telegram circuits and phonogram services.

(2) The introduction of multi-channel voice frequency telegraph working in 1931 which enabled up to 18 send and 18 receive telegraph channels to be derived from a normal 4-wire telephone circuit by the use of V.F. carrier frequencies. This arrangement effected substantial economies in the provision of telegraph circuits and gave a much higher grade of service as compared with the use of physical circuits. By 1934 practically the whole of the inland telegraph network had been converted to V.F. working. Two standard types of equipment were used, namely, an 18-channel system for main routes and a 4-channel system for minor routes.

A number of telephone-telegram circuits were converted to teleprinter working and although the traffic carried was too heavy for telephone-telegram working it was not sufficient to justify the continuous attendance of an operator at one circuit. It therefore became essential to re-introduce some form of concentration, not only for local but for other circuits during their lightly loaded periods. To meet these requirements the ancillary type of concentrator<sup>(1)\*</sup> was introduced. The original type of telegraph concentrator had lines and instruments connected to one switchboard, an operator being employed to deal with calls to and from the several instrument positions connected to it. For the ancillary, a switchboard is fitted at each teleprinter position, thus each operator is given access to all circuits connected to a particular ancillary. The number of operating positions for a given number of lines depends entirely upon traffic requirements.

### 1.3 London Intercommunication Morse Switching Scheme<sup>(2)</sup>.

The large number of local offices connected to the Central Telegraph Office, London, where any message from one local office to another necessitated a re-transmission, raised many problems in the efficient and expeditious handling of traffic. In an attempt to improve conditions, the London Metropolitan Switching System was introduced in 1904 and completed in 1907. This was the most ambitious scheme of manual telegraph switching that had been attempted up to the outbreak of the present war. The number of circuits that had to be provided for was 1150, comprising 350 to offices forwarding telegrams only, 600 to offices forwarding and receiving telegrams and 200 local instruments in the Central Telegraph Office.

Each office was designated by a number, and street lists were provided showing the offices to which messages for every address within the Metropolitan area should be sent. In the Central Telegraph Office itself, the local instruments were divided between the different floors, in order to facilitate the circulation of telegrams. Each particular set of instruments on a particular floor was given a special code. For example those instruments installed on the 2nd Floor had the code TSB and all messages to and from towns with telegraph circuits terminating on that floor were dealt with by those instruments. The circulation lists issued to each office indicated to which section of the C.T.O. messages should be transmitted. Separate instruments were allocated for the reception and transmission of telegrams.

In the design of the switchboard the principles of telephone switchboards of the multiple type were followed, with central battery working suitable for telegraph purposes. The board was made in 12 sections, each section consisting of three operator's positions, with two panels per position, the full multiple occupying six panels. At the beginning and end of the suite a dummy section was installed to give the end operators access to the full multiple.

\* Numerical references are to the bibliography at the end of the paper.

The multiple was accommodated on the top portion of each panel, the bottom being occupied by answering positions. The multiple contained the 600 circuits to forwarding and receiving offices and also the 200 head office instrument sets. The 350 circuits to forwarding offices only appeared on the answering positions, special facilities being provided for the few instances where it was necessary to transmit service messages to any of these offices.

The answering field on an operator's position was provided with lamp signalling, but the engaged signal in the multiple was provided by means of an indicator with a white disc. Each cord circuit comprised two re-transmitting relays, a clearing relay and lamp and an answering and calling key (telephone type). A morse speaker circuit was provided on each operator's position and could be interpolated into any cord circuit by the operation of the relevant answering and calling key. The apparatus at out-offices and at the Central Telegraph Office consisted of a morse key, polarised sounder and a special plunger type key and indicator, the use of which was to give calling and clearing signals to the switchboard and to give an indication when calls were answered and cleared.

This switching system was worked until 1922. Under normal loads traffic was dealt with fairly expeditiously, but the heavy seasonal increases caused considerable congestions and delays, due to the line provision not being adequate for maximum traffic loads. It is doubtful whether, under the conditions of hand speed morse signalling, such a system could ever have justified itself economically.

### 1.4 Automatic Switching.

During the period 1935-1938 a detailed survey was made of the problem of providing a complete automatic switching system for the inland telegraph service.<sup>(3)</sup> The aim was to provide a system in which an operator at any teleprinter office in the British Isles would be able to dial any other office and so set up a telegraph circuit by automatically connecting together various intermediate telegraph links between the teleprinters concerned. Experimental equipment which, as far as practicable, made use of the most modern telephone switching apparatus and practices, was designed and installed in London and a number of provincial centres. Prolonged and exhaustive trials were made, and it was demonstrated that a satisfactory service was practicable. In consequence, it had been decided just prior to the war to embark upon a programme of conversion of the inland network to automatic working and as a first phase to convert the Birmingham zone, which involved provision of switching apparatus at Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham and London. This project was suspended, however, upon the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 owing to the pressure of higher priority works.

### 1.5 Continental Systems.

Although this paper deals with telegraph switching developments in this country, it may be of interest to give a brief review of continental practice.

Up to the outbreak of war in 1939, morse switching systems were employed in Holland, Belgium and Germany. With the teleprinter gradually replacing morse there is little doubt that these systems would gradually disappear.

The German administration employed an automatic switching network for the use of private renters, worked on a teleprinter basis, with linkages from Germany to several European countries. Connections to subscribers in Holland were received at Amsterdam on a D.C. basis and converted to A.C. (1500 c.p.s.) for transmission to subscribers over the normal telephone network on a Telex basis. Connections for England were similarly converted at Amsterdam and passed over normal telephone circuits. Calls for Germany were converted at Amsterdam from 1500 c.p.s. to D.C.

With the extension of multi-channel voice-frequency working from this country to France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, a teleprinter switching system for private renters was in the process of being set up, but the outbreak of war necessitated the abandonment of the project.

### 1.6 Development of Switching Facilities for Teleprinter Private Wire Services.

When the teleprinter private wire services were introduced in 1932,<sup>(4)</sup> the majority of long distance circuits were provided by means of by-product circuits (phantom and double phantom). Their transmission characteristics, while satisfactory for point-to-point working, did not permit of circuits being switched. Facilities were, however, provided for switching a main circuit to a local extension at one or both ends of the main circuit. Intercommunication between a main and local extension teleprinter could be provided if required. In addition a teleprinter broadcast system<sup>(5)</sup> was introduced, designed for broadcasting messages from a central office to a number of out-stations over short physical circuits. Simplex connections between headquarters and any out-station were also provided.

In order to permit of the switching of long telegraph circuits for teleprinter working, it is essential that the various links in a connection should be made up of stable high grade circuits such as are provided by multi-channel voice frequency telegraph systems. At the beginning of 1939 the growth of the inland voice frequency telegraph network had been considerable and between London and certain provincial centres one or more 18-channel systems were provided entirely for teleprinter private wire services, in addition to a large number of channels appropriated in public service systems.<sup>(6)</sup> The availability of suitable circuits made it possible to consider the introduction of switching on teleprinter private wire circuits, and development work was commenced about 1937. This work was considerably accelerated as a result of the increased defence programmes which gave rise to requests from the Services and Government Departments for teleprinter intercommunication between widely separated centres.

In the physical design of switchboards, telephone practice was naturally followed as far as practicable,

but special problems arose due to the need for accommodating a teleprinter on the operator's switch section. The basic signalling arrangements presented peculiar problems, and some of the factors influencing the circuit design are discussed in the following sections.

## 2. BASIC FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DESIGN OF A TELEPRINTER SWITCHING SYSTEM.

The teleprinter<sup>(7)</sup> & <sup>(8)</sup> works on a start-stop principle in which the transmitting and receiving mechanisms are constrained to "start" from a fixed mechanical position of rest and to "stop" at the same rest position each time a character is transmitted. Thus correct mechanical phase relationship is maintained between the transmitting and receiving mechanism at the beginning, *i.e.*, the "start" of each character signalled and any accumulation of mechanical phase displacement between the transmitting and receiving teleprinters due to speed inaccuracy, is limited to that which occurs in the duration of the signal for one character. This form of maintaining synchronism is simple compared with earlier forms of telegraph printing systems and a high standard of accuracy in teleprinter speeds is made possible by the use of a centrifugal type of electro-mechanical governor, which ensures a constancy of speed within  $\pm 0.5\%$ . These characteristics of the teleprinter are an essential requirement in a switching system where it is necessary for any two machines taken at random to work together with accuracy.

The teleprinter uses a 5-unit code for the signalling of each character, and to enable operation on a start-stop basis, a start signal precedes the 5-unit code and a stop signal completes the transmission of each character. The five code units, each known as an "element of signal," are of equal duration. The duration of the start signal is equal to one code unit while the duration of the stop signal has a minimum duration of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  units. Thus the minimum duration of a complete signal combination for a teleprinter character is equal to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  units and for a Teleprinter No. 7 this is equivalent to 150 milliseconds (ms). Each code unit may be one of two conditions known as "Mark" or "Space." These expressions are derived from the days of morse when signals were recognised by definite marks and spaces on a paper slip. The significance attached to these expressions when referred to teleprinter signalling, is that the rest condition of the teleprinter corresponds to "mark" while the start signal is "space." A mark signal following the 5-unit code operates as the stop signal. The five units of the code are called either "mark" or "space," depending whether they have the same sense as the signal during the rest condition, or the start signal. On the majority of present-day telegraph circuits employed in Great Britain, and all circuits suitable for use in a switching system, the teleprinter is arranged to transmit  $-80V$  for mark and  $+80V$  for space signals. Practically all long distance telegraph circuits in Great Britain are routed over channels of M.C.V.F. telegraph systems and a mark signal in a V.F. channel involves the transmission of

the carrier frequency, whereas for a space signal, the carrier is suppressed. A V.F. channel is designed to transmit only these two types of signal, and it will therefore be clear that to meet the signalling requirements of a switching system only two basic signals are available, *i.e.*, a mark or space, and the distinction between various signals must be one of sequence and time duration. With M.C.V.F. telegraph systems a line disturbance has the effect of producing a spurious "space" condition during the period when the carrier frequency is being transmitted, or a spurious "mark" during the carrier suppressed period, and may therefore give rise to false calling or clearing conditions. The possibility of transient line faults must therefore be taken into account in determining the signalling arrangements.

It is desirable that the design of a switching system should cater for the possibility of expansion on a national basis and provide for complete inter-communication between all subscribers. Also for flexibility and economy in the provision of junction circuits it is essential to be able to set up calls which involve through switching at a number of switching centres. The line transmission limits are therefore a major factor in design. It will be appreciated that the limitations imposed on the make-up of circuits must be more severe than for point-to-point circuits, as any circuit may be linked with any other circuit in the system. Furthermore it may be necessary to impose special limits to obtain satisfactory operation of supervisory circuits.

The factor which limits the satisfactory transmission of teleprinter signals between two points is the total distortion which arises in the transmission of the signals over the circuit. The distortion due to the line is dependent on the electrical characteristics of the transmission circuit and the magnitude of any interference currents which may be present. Satisfactory teleprinter working is possible, however, so long as the total distortion which occurs during the formation of signals at the transmitter and their subsequent transmission over the line is less than the margin of the receiving teleprinter. The fundamental characteristics of telegraph transmission and the factors which determine the limits for satisfactory working have already been treated in other papers<sup>(9)</sup> and reference should be made to these for fuller information.

The transmission standards adopted must include a factor of safety to ensure satisfactory operation of teleprinter circuits under average maintenance conditions allowing for slight inaccuracies in the adjustments of teleprinters, lines and associated equipment. For the private wire teleprinter manual switching network the transmission standards have been established on the basis that on any call the connection shall not contain more than four V.F. channels in tandem and any physical links or extensions from the V.F. channels are less than 10 miles in length and have negligible distortion. When the connection contains a physical link longer than 10 miles, the permissible number of V.F. channels is reduced to three and the permissible number of physical links in excess of 10 miles is two. In physical circuits over 10 miles the maximum permissible length for satis-

factory teleprinter working is determined by the characteristic distortion of the circuit (which is dependent upon the KR of the line) and fortuitous distortion arising from interference from adjacent circuits. The practical limits used, therefore, take account of these factors and vary, depending upon whether the circuits are worked simplex or duplex, and whether one or two telegraph circuits are operated in the same cable quad. For public telegraph circuits increased limits may be obtained by the use of two loop simplex working.

Undoubtedly the biggest single factor which made the introduction of telegraph switching possible was the use of V.F. channels for the provision of telegraph circuits. These provide a standard of transmission and stability of service over long distances greatly superior to that possible using direct current transmission links and in addition give the following advantages:—

1. All channel terminations are standard, and thus channels may be interconnected simply, on their D.C. extensions.
2. The transmission characteristics of all channels are similar and the distortion per channel is sensibly constant and independent of length of line.
3. The provision of circuits is more economic than equivalent physical circuits.
4. It is possible to couple a number of channels in series without exceeding the transmission limits for teleprinter working, and
5. As all channels and the system line are standard, re-routing is much more readily carried out under fault conditions.

The signalling arrangements employed in manual teleprinter switchboards in use for private wire teleprinter switching services will now be described.

### 3. SIGNALLING AND CIRCUIT ARRANGEMENTS EMPLOYED IN MANUAL TELE-PRINTER SWITCHBOARDS.

#### 3.1 The Calling Circuit.

Fig. 2 is a schematic circuit showing a teleprinter subscriber connected to a switchboard. The switch-

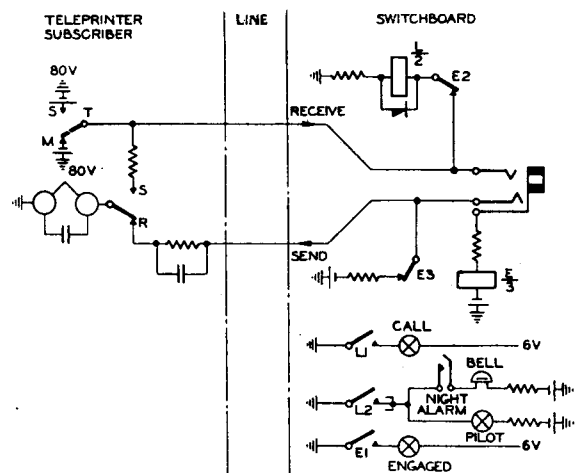


FIG. 2.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. TERMINATION OF THE SUBSCRIBER'S LINE.



board calling circuit is connected to the receive line and earth, and consists of a telephone relay (3000 type) shunted by a rectifier so that the relay does not operate to marking ( $-80V$ ) signals, but does operate to spacing ( $+80V$ ) signals. The calling relay L therefore remains unoperated during the idle condition of the line, when a continuous marking signal is received, but an element of spacing signal is sufficient to operate the relay, which is made slow to release by the presence of the rectifier. The characteristics of the relay are such, that it will operate from any normal teleprinter signal and remain operated until after the end of the stop signal. Thus to call the switchboard, the out-station operator taps the space bar and this causes the call relay L to flash. Contact L1 completes the 6V circuit for the white calling lamps in the switchboard multiple and L2 flashes a pilot lamp and rings a bell if required. During the call, the out-station teleprinter receives a local record of its own signals, via the send-receive switch of the teleprinter.

flash, which is ignored by the operator, or a permanent glow which indicates a prolonged interruption, and is immediately reported as a fault condition and the circuit is plugged up.

### 3.2 The Clearing Circuit.

In designing the cord circuit supervisory clearing arrangement the problem is to obtain a circuit, which is sufficiently sensitive to respond to a normal clearing signal from a line of maximum transmission loss, but at the same time must be insensitive under the most favourable conditions to false operation from normal teleprinter signal transmissions. In addition it should be proof, so far as possible, against false operation by interruptions in V.F. channels. The clearing signal employed is a prolonged spacing signal, and in this connection the worst teleprinter signal combination liable to produce false clears is therefore letter T, which consists of 100 ms. spacing signal followed by 50 ms. marking. The circuit which has been adopted and which is shown in Fig. 3 was the best and simplest

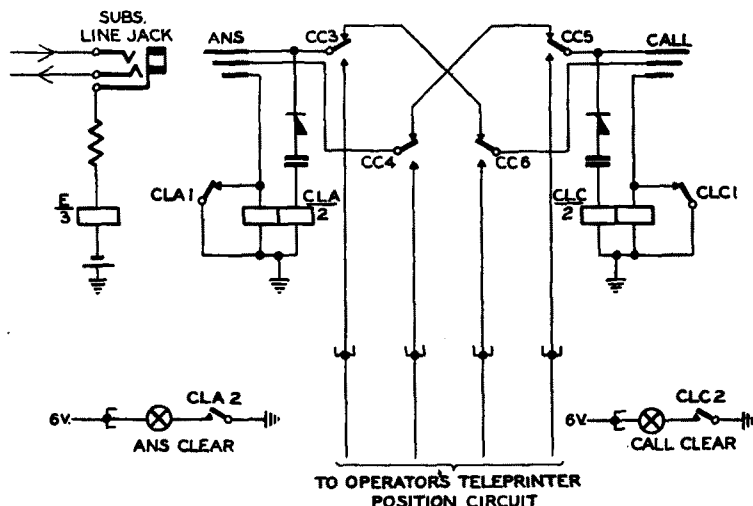


FIG. 3.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. CORD CIRCUIT CLEARING ARRANGEMENT.

The switchboard operator answers the call by inserting the answering plug of a cord circuit into the calling line jack. An earth is then applied from the sleeve of the plug and bush of the line jack to a line cut-off relay E which then operates. Contact E1 lights a red engaged lamp, contact E2 disconnects the call relay from the receive line, while contact E3 disconnects the continuous marking current from the send line, the marking current now being replaced by that from the switchboard operator's teleprinter and answer cord circuit. With large multiple type switchboards a free line signalling system is employed instead of line engaged lamps, and contact E1 then disconnects the F.L.S. lamps of the calling circuit and completes a circuit for the F.L.S. lamps of the next free line in the group.

The reason for the choice of a non-locking call relay is to overcome the difficulty which would otherwise occur from false calls produced by line interruptions on V.F. channels. With this arrangement V.F. interruptions normally produce either a transient

compromise which could be found. The clearing relay circuit is connected from earth to a rectifier and condenser in series to the tip of the cord circuit plug, a locking circuit for the relay being provided via the sleeve connection of the plug and line jack and the line cut-off relay E. When a cord is connected to a line the clearing circuit is therefore connected in leak from the receive line, and during periods when a continuous marking signal is being transmitted in the line, the condenser in the clearing circuit is fully charged negatively to earth. When spacing signals are being transmitted, however, a positive charging current flows into the condenser, through the backward resistance of the rectifier. The backward resistance is approximately 80,000 ohms, so that the reversal of charge on the condenser occurs slowly. During normal teleprinter signalling the maximum periods of spacing signal are never sufficiently long to charge the condenser positively to earth, but only sufficient to effect a reduction in the negative charge. Immediately a marking signal follows a space, however,

the direction of the charging current is through the forward resistance of the rectifier, which is low compared with the resistance of the relay and the condenser therefore rapidly regains its full negative charge.

To operate the clearing relay, it is necessary to transmit a spacing signal continuously until a reverse charge, positive to earth, is given to the condenser. Then, upon restoration of the normal marking signal in the line, the surge current through the rectifier to charge the condenser negatively to earth is sufficient to operate the clearing relay. Operation of the relay removes the short circuit from its locking coil which then holds.

Referring to Fig. 3 CLA and CLC are the clearing relays for the answering and calling cords respectively, both relays being 3000 type. When the calling subscriber clears CLA operates, contact CLA1 removes the short circuit from the locking coil, which then holds in series with the E relay of the line to -80V. Contact CLA2 completes the circuit of the white answering supervisory lamp, whereupon the switchboard operator withdraws the answering plug from the line jack, the holding circuit of relay CLA is thus broken and the clearing circuit reverts to normal. When a switched connection is established through several switchboards, the clearing signal is received simultaneously by each switchboard operator, so that through clearing is given.

The operation of the clearing circuit provided on the calling cord is similar. The characteristics of the clearing circuit are such that with relays in standard adjustment it requires a minimum period of 200 ms.

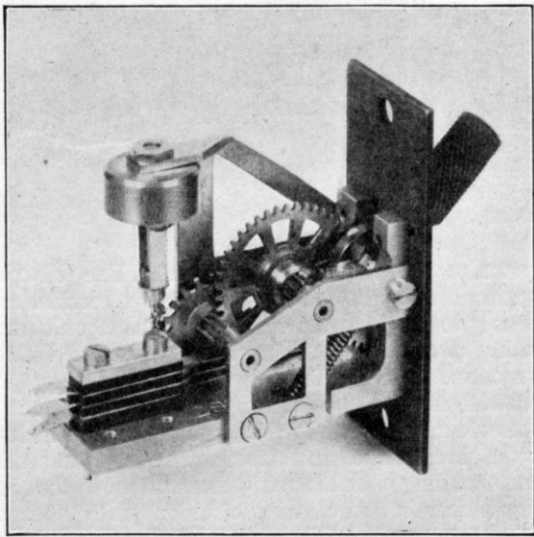


FIG. 4.—DELAYED ACTION LEVER-TYPE KEY.  
EXPERIMENTAL MODEL.

of spacing signal for operation under the most favourable circumstances, *i.e.*, when the clearing signal is received from  $\pm 80V$  over a line having negligible resistance. On the other hand for operation under the most adverse conditions, that is when the clear is received over a line of maximum resistance, a period of not less than 3 secs. of continuous spacing signal is required.

For the purpose of sending a clearing signal all teleprinter subscribers' tables are fitted with a non-locking key (connected in series with the send line) which, when operated, transmits a continuous spacing signal.

Switchboard operators' positions are provided with a press button to give a clear when required on junction circuits to other switchboards. Operators are instructed to depress the clearing key for five seconds, to make certain a sufficiently long signal is always given to ensure satisfactory operation of supervisory signals. To simplify the operating procedure a delayed action lever time key<sup>(10)</sup> has been recently developed for clearing purposes, which can be preset to give a spacing signal of the requisite duration. The operator simply depresses and then releases the key, which restores to normal under the control of a standard telephone dial governor. Fig. 4 illustrates, in its experimental form, the key which can be fitted to the present standard teleprinter table equipment.

### 3.3 Recall Facilities.

Recall facilities are not provided on teleprinter switchboards. Furthermore provision of such facilities is made difficult by reason of the transmission arrangements of telegraph circuits, in which any signal transmitted from a subscriber is repeated throughout the sending line and a recall signal would therefore recall all switchboard operators in the connection instead of the first operator only, as in the telephone case. Any possible recall circuit is also complicated by the fact that a subscriber will often be connected to the parent switchboard by a V.F. channel and in consequence it is only possible to employ a signal comprising mark and/or space conditions. When a teleprinter subscriber desires to recall a switchboard operator it is necessary first to clear the established call and then make a fresh call.

### 3.4 Answering and Calling.

Fig. 5 is a schematic circuit diagram of a cord circuit and operator's position equipment. Each cord circuit is provided with a switching relay CC and one single-throw key labelled "Print and Monitor" (KPM) by means of which the operator's position circuit may be connected to the cord circuit in use.

A position key which is common to the operator's position enables the operator's position circuit to be connected to either the answering or calling side, and in the normal position of the key the operator's teleprinter is connected to monitor the cord circuit. Normally the cord circuit is connected tip to ring via contacts of the switching relay CC. This provides a direct transmission path with negligible transmission loss from the send to receive lines of connected circuits.

To answer a call the answering plug is inserted into the jack of the calling line, the position key KCA is operated to answer and the cord circuit key KPM is operated. The operation of KPM energises the switching relay CC which operates and locks via the "x" contact CC2. Contact CC1 connects an earth to the common point of battery supply to the other cord circuit CC relays, so that these cannot be

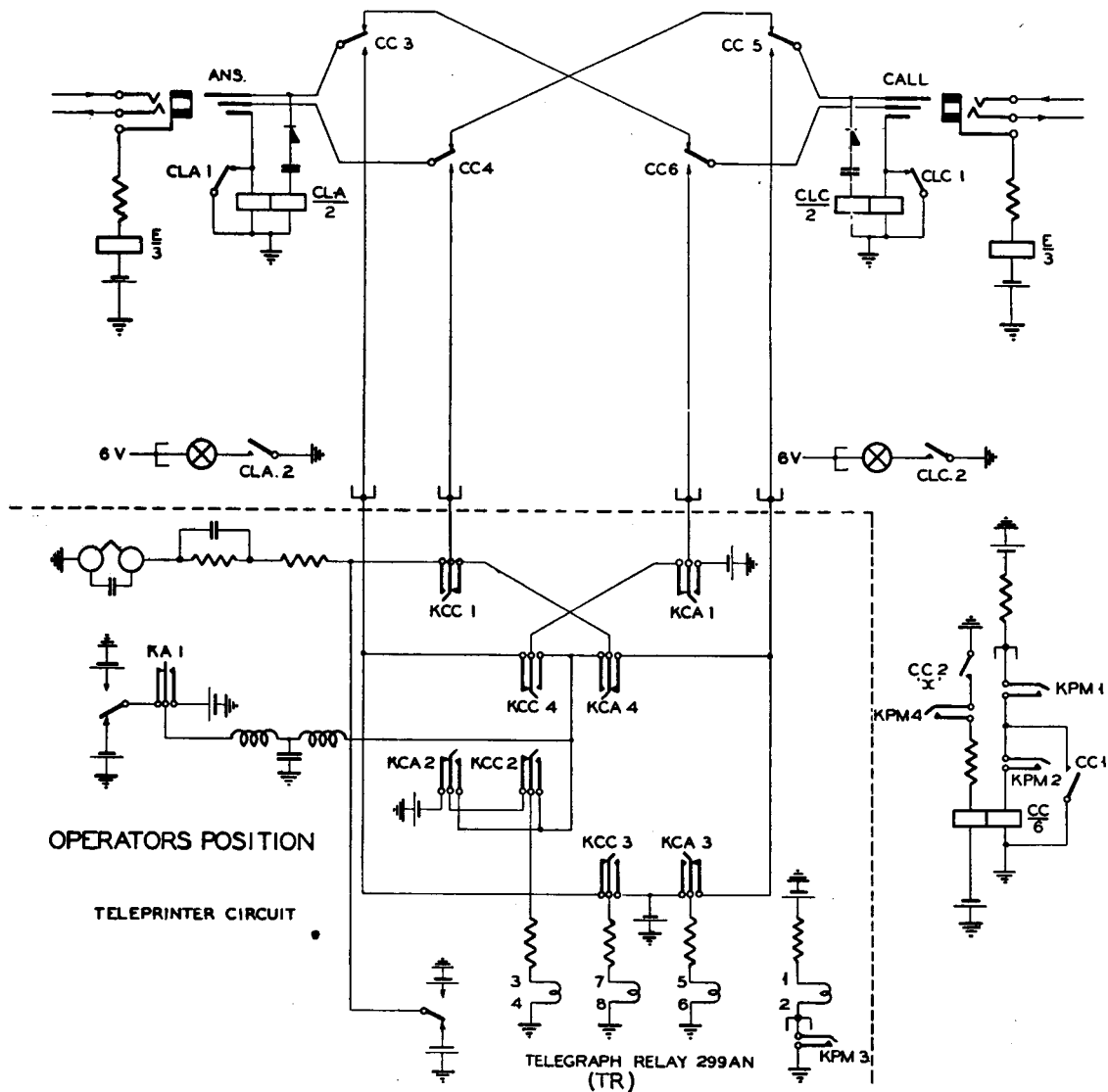


FIG. 5.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. CORD CIRCUIT AND OPERATOR'S POSITION EQUIPMENT.

operated until the cord circuit already in use is restored to normal—thus preventing two cord circuits being connected together. Contact CC4 connects the send line of the calling circuit to the operator's teleprinter transmitter, while CC3 connects the receive line of the calling circuit to one coil of a telegraph relay TR. A second coil of this relay is connected to the operator's teleprinter transmitter, and the relay is also given a permanent spacing bias. The currents controlling the relay TR normally cause it to mark, but if either the calling subscriber or the operator transmits, the relay repeats the signals to the operator's teleprinter. Thus it will be seen that a simplex connection with local record facilities is established between the caller and the operator's teleprinter. The switchboard operator teleprints the call sign of the switchboard, whereupon the caller will teleprint the details of the connection required. The operator then inserts the calling plug into the jack of the line required and signals "K" or "THRU" depending

whether the connection has been completed to a teleprinter extension or extended over a junction line to another switchboard for completion of the call. In the former case the caller operates the WRU key to confirm correct connection and then proceeds, whilst in the latter case he calls the second switchboard as before.

The first switchboard operator will immediately restore the cord circuit key to normal thus releasing the switching relay CC and completing the through connection between the tip and ring of the answering and calling plugs, via the CC relay contacts. As the final operation the position key will be restored. It is important that the operation and restoration of the cord and position keys should be in the order described, otherwise the telegraph relay will operate to space and cause the operator's teleprinter to race.

It is perhaps of interest to mention that the cord circuit facilities contemplated originally were that the parent switchboard operator should handle the call to

completion and verify correct connection to the required party before switching the caller through. For this reason the cord circuit incorporates the facility, whereby all signals exchanged between the operator and the called party are repeated by the telegraph relay in the position circuit, to the operator's teleprinter and also to the calling subscriber. The calling subscriber's receive line is disconnected during this stage of the connection to prevent interference, but the caller is able to note the progress of the call at all stages.

### 3.5 Monitoring.

To monitor an established connection the switchboard operator throws the appropriate cord circuit key KPM. The position key should be left in the normal, or monitor, position. This operation energises the cord circuit supervisory relay CC and contacts CC3, 4, 5 and 6 divert the calling and answering lines through the position key. The through connection between send and receive lines is thus maintained, but at the same time a coil of the telegraph relay TR is connected in leak to earth from the receive line on the answering plug. A second coil is similarly connected to the receive line on the calling plug and the relay is also given a permanent spacing bias. The resultant controlling currents in the relay coils when the current in the receive lines are marking cause the monitoring relay to mark. When either the calling or answering subscriber transmits however, the monitoring relay repeats the signals to the operator's teleprinter, thus providing a record of all signals transmitted by the calling and answering subscriber. During monitoring the operator's teleprinter transmitter is disconnected so that any inadvertent operation of the keyboard cannot interfere with the transmission in progress through the cord circuit, nor affect the monitoring record. Similarly, when the answer back unit of the switchboard operator's teleprinter is tripped by the transmission of WRU signals in the lines, no interference can occur.

The monitoring circuit arrangements introduce a small transmission loss in the cord circuit but the effects are not appreciable, and in any event, as monitoring is usually only necessary at the termination of a call, and when a single clear only has been obtained, the transmission loss introduced is of small consequence.

### 3.6 Duplicate Connections.

With multiple type switchboards, the possibility of duplicate connections between operators, arising from simultaneous answering or calling on one line, by two or more operators, must be guarded against. This is done by providing a duplicate connection guard relay in series with the transmitter of each position teleprinter. The circuit arrangement is shown in Fig. 6 and consists of a relay A polarised by a rectifier in series so that it will operate to marking currents of 75 milliamps or more. The relay and rectifier is shunted by a low resistance to reduce the bias distortion of teleprinter signals, which is caused by the non-linear impedance of the polarised relay.

Should a number of operators answer a call simultaneously, their transmitters will be connected

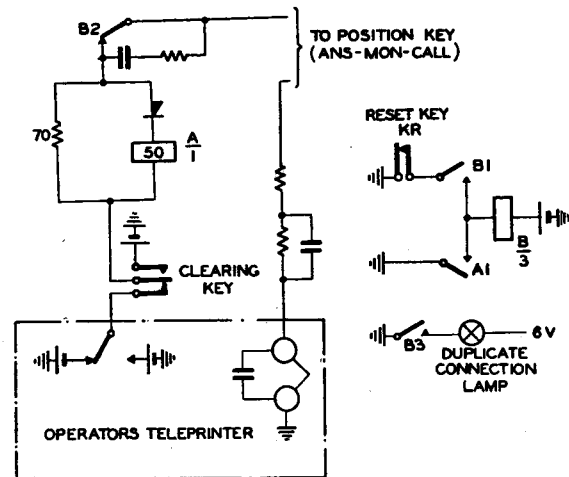


FIG. 6.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. DUPLICATE CONNECTION CIRCUIT.

in parallel to the send line of the calling subscriber. The first operator to teleprint will connect + 80V to the common connection during the start signal and spacing elements of a character, and a heavy marking current will flow from the transmitters of the other position teleprinters to this battery. The respective A relays on each of these positions will therefore operate and contact A1 will complete the circuit for relay B which operates and locks via contact B1. Contact B2 disconnects the teleprinter transmitter from the circuit and B3 causes the duplicate connection lamp on the position to glow. Thus the first operator to teleprint to the calling line automatically cuts off any other operators connected to the line. These operators will receive an indication by means of the duplicate connection lamp and will take down their cord and depress the duplicate connection reset key KR which disconnects the hold current of relay B which releases and restores the position circuit to normal.

### 3.7 Broadcasting Facilities.

The basic circuit arrangement used for teleprinter broadcasting is shown in Fig. 7. The signals from

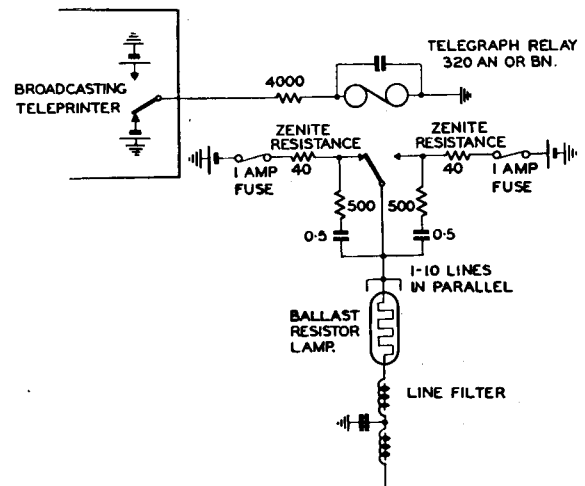


FIG. 7.—TELEPRINTER BROADCAST CIRCUIT.

the transmitting teleprinter pass through the coils of a telegraph relay to earth and the relay repeats the signals to the send lines of the circuits connected to receive the broadcast. A maximum of 10 send lines can be connected to the tongue of one broadcasting relay and if the broadcast is required to be sent to more than 10 teleprinters then an additional relay is connected in series with the first for each 10 lines.

It is of interest to mention the factors which have determined the choice of the circuit components used. The first is that when  $\pm 80V$  is transmitted into 10 lines in parallel the surge current may rise to 3 amps due to the capacities of the line and the low pass filter which is fitted in each line to prevent interference to adjacent telephone circuits. This will produce severe sparking at the relay contacts if bounce occurs and give rise to rapid contact build up until finally the contact gaps become choked, producing a short circuit and welding of the contacts and tongue. To reduce the surge currents and increase contact life, protective resistances are fitted in the battery feeds to the contacts, but as it is necessary, from the point of view of signal distortion, to limit the voltage drop which occurs to a minimum, it is necessary to keep the protective resistances as low as practicable. They should, however, be such that they will safely carry a short circuit current if this occurs and limit it to a value of 2 amps which is insufficient to produce welding of the contacts. The battery fuses are rated to blow under this condition. Sparking at the contacts is reduced to a minimum by a double spark quench circuit which consists of a  $0.5\mu F$  condenser and  $500\Omega$  connected from the relay tongue to each contact; this arrangement is found to be more satisfactory than a single quench circuit from tongue to earth.

In order that faults occurring on one line shall not interfere with broadcast reception on the remaining lines, a ballast resistor bulb is fitted in series with each line. The characteristic of this resistor is 100 ohms when cold, rising to 700 ohms when earthing a current of approximately 100 milliamps. Thus if a full earth occurs on one line it increases the load on the relay by approximately 0.1 amp, but the increased distortion of signals which occurs on this account is not sufficient to prevent satisfactory reception on the remaining circuits and a visual indication of the earth fault is given by the resistor bulb glowing.

Various broadcasting facilities are required by private wire renters, but the broadcast circuit is basically always the same and is as described in the foregoing. The differences between the various systems in use arise due to different supervisory requirements and the flexibility for partial broadcasts.

Lines are sometimes set up permanently for broadcast reception from a central office and for this type of network a standard broadcast relay panel is available which is suitable for wall or rack mounting and which caters for broadcasting to 10 lines. The broadcasting teleprinter is connected to the coils of the broadcast relay of one of these panels which is situated at the most convenient point from which lines can radiate to the receiving teleprinters direct or to additional broadcast relays at other centres from which other lines radiate. Any number of receiving teleprinters can be connected to a broadcast network

of this type provided that where more than 10 lines are to be connected in broadcast at any point in the system then a number of broadcast relays will be connected in series so that only 10 lines are connected from the transmitting tongue of any one relay.

Usually supervisory signalling is required in a broadcast network to enable acknowledgement of reception to be given and a broadcast switchboard is then used. One type of switchboard used for this purpose but suitable for short physical lines only, has already been mentioned, but this type is now obsolescent due to demands for intercommunication facilities in addition to broadcasting. As a result all intercommunication teleprinter switchboards either incorporate facilities for broadcasting as a standard arrangement or may be worked in association with a broadcast switchboard.

A typical circuit arrangement in principle is shown in Fig. 8. The line is connected to the switchboard

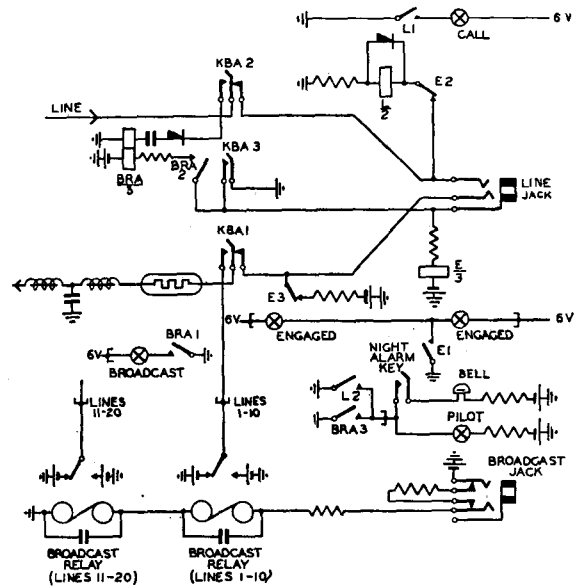


FIG. 8.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. LINE TERMINATION WITH BROADCASTING FACILITIES.

multiple via a broadcast key on the switchboard face equipment, and in the normal position of the key the line is connected to the switchboard line calling equipment as already described. One or more groups of broadcast relays are provided, the coils of which are wired to broadcast jacks in the multiple; only a single group of relays, and associated line keys and broadcast jack, are shown in Fig. 8.

When a teleprinter subscriber wishes to broadcast, a call is made in the normal manner and when the switchboard operator answers, details are passed of the lines required to be connected for broadcast reception. The switchboard operator inserts the call plug of the cord circuit into a free broadcasting jack and operates the broadcast keys (KBA) of the lines required, to the broadcast position. The calling subscriber is then advised to go ahead and the operator immediately restores the cord circuit and position key to normal. The signals from the broadcasting teleprinter operate the broadcast relays which repeat

the signals to the lines connected. When a line is connected for reception of a broadcast its send line is connected to the tongue of a broadcast relay and the receive line is terminated on a broadcast acknowledgement relay circuit.

When the broadcast transmission is completed the broadcasting subscriber and all receiving operators will transmit a normal clearing signal. The supervisory clearing circuit of the switchboard answering cord is therefore operated and the broadcast acknowledgement relay BRA in each line connected to the

For certain forms of broadcast traffic it is essential to receive a printed acknowledgement of reception. This involves the switchboard operator in connecting each receiving line in turn to the broadcasting subscriber and when a large number of lines are involved this imposes a prohibitive load on the operator. For such traffic the normal broadcast acknowledgement circuit can be modified to enable printed acknowledgements to be given without the intervention of the switchboard operator. This is done by the circuit arrangement shown in Fig. 9.

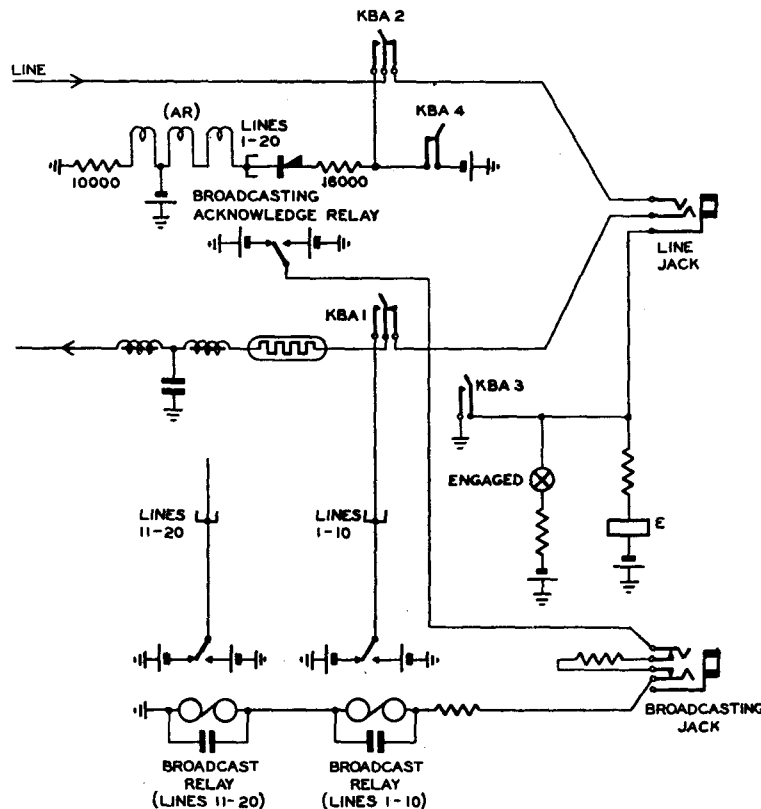


FIG. 9.—TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD. BROADCAST ARRANGEMENT FOR PRINTED ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

broadcast will operate and lock via contact BRA2. Contact BRA1 completes a circuit for an acknowledgement lamp associated with the line broadcast key and contact BRA3 causes the switchboard pilot lamp to light and also ring a bell if required. When an acknowledge lamp signal is received the switchboard operator restores the broadcast key for that line to normal. Finally, when all acknowledgements have been received the switchboard operator withdraws the calling and answering plug of the cord circuit.

It will be seen from Fig. 8 that when a line key is operated for broadcast reception, an earth is applied to operate the line cut-off relay E and also prepares the locking circuit for the broadcast acknowledge relay.

Contact E1 lights a red engaged lamp above the line broadcast key in addition to operating an engaged lamp or stepping the F.L.S. in the switchboard multiple appearance of the line.

Immediately the broadcast transmission is completed the broadcasting subscriber sends the call sign of each line in turn and upon receipt of this signal the line teleprints an acknowledgement. The acknowledgement signal operates the telegraph relay AR which repeats the signals to the broadcasting subscriber. When an acknowledgement has been received from each line the broadcasting subscriber clears in the normal manner and the switchboard operator then restores the line broadcast keys and takes down the cord circuit.

#### 4. TYPES OF SWITCHBOARDS IN USE FOR TELEPRINTER PRIVATE WIRE SERVICES.

The principal standard types of teleprinter switchboards will now be described and will include brief details of the facilities provided and the apparatus and power supplies required for operation.

#### 4.1 The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 9.

This is a multiple type of switchboard used for large switching centres. It provides for full intercommunication for a maximum of 560 lines, while broadcasting facilities are provided for by means of special equipment associated with the C.T.S., as will be described later. Fig. 10 shows a typical suite of switchboards teleprinter No. 9.

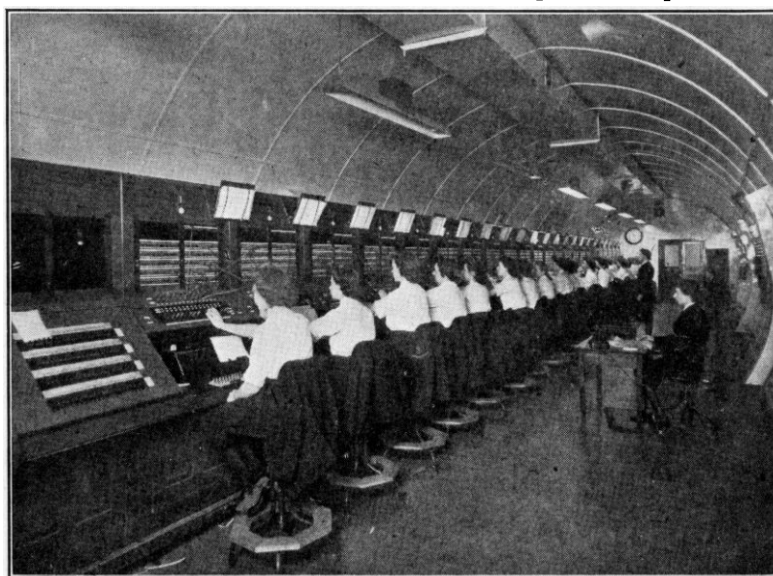


FIG. 10.—24-POSITION TELEPRINTER SWITCHBOARD HAVING SPECIALLY EQUIPPED C.T.S. FOR BROADCASTING.

An installation consists of the following equipment, viz. :—

- (i) A suite of Switchboards Teleprinter No. 9 with a cable turning section (C.T.S.).
- (ii) A common equipment rack which contains the apparatus for 24 operators' positions.
- (iii) A number of line equipment racks each containing the line relays and associated apparatus for 100 lines.
- (iv) A miscellaneous equipment rack on which is mounted line filters and telegraph repeaters for physical circuits.
- (v) An I.D.F. on which to terminate and jumper the cabling from the above equipment and lines, and
- (vi) Mains operated power equipment for 80 + 80V and 6V supplies.

The design of the switchboards follows normal telephone practice, except that in order to accommodate the operator's teleprinter under the keyshelf a special frontal design has been necessary.

Each section which is known as a Switchboard Teleprinter No. 9 comprises an operator's position and is equipped with two jack panels. The multiple is used for both calling and answering on an ancillary basis and has a capacity of 140 lines/panel, so that with a 3-panel multiple the maximum number of lines is 420. A 4-panel repetition can be employed, and the multiple capacity is then 560 lines. This arrangement, however, has the disadvantage that access on the last operator's position is restricted.

Free line signalling is provided on all lines, the first free line in each group being indicated by a lamp glowing behind a green stile strip. The lines are terminated on the switchboard panels in strips of 20 arranged with a call lamp below and an F.L.S. lamp and designation label above each strip.

The keyshelf, which is mounted immediately below the line panels, slopes downwards towards the

operator and is hinged to facilitate maintenance work. The keyshelf accommodates 15 cord circuits each consisting of one answering and one calling cord each with an associated supervisory clearing lamp, and one "Print and Monitor" key per cord circuit. An "Answer-Monitor-Call" key common to the position is fitted on the right-hand side of the keyshelf together with a "clearing" press button. On the left of the keyshelf is a duplicate connection lamp with a press button reset key.

The operator's position teleprinter is a "No. 7B Tape" mounted on a sliding shelf below the keyshelf. The printing position is illuminated by a lamp and an "end of line" red lamp is provided to indicate, when transmitting to a subscriber, the end of a line of printing on a page machine. Both lamps are fitted below the keyshelf. The motor power socket and switch, and instrument jacks for the position teleprinter are mounted on the vertical panel behind the operator's teleprinter.

The cord circuit equipment of each position is mounted in the back of the switchboard, which also accommodates a miscellaneous tag block and bars for termination of the rack and signalling earths, as shown in Fig. 11. Additional blocks are provided in the C.T.S. for the termination of  $\pm 80V$  and 6V supplies and monitoring relay wiring from the rack equipments. In addition, cables from the miscellaneous blocks in each switchboard terminate on these blocks.

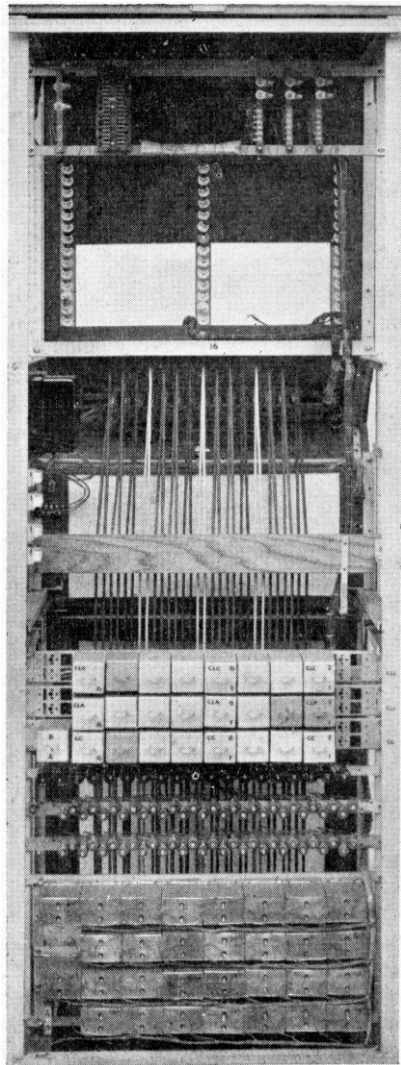


FIG. 11.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 9. REAR VIEW.

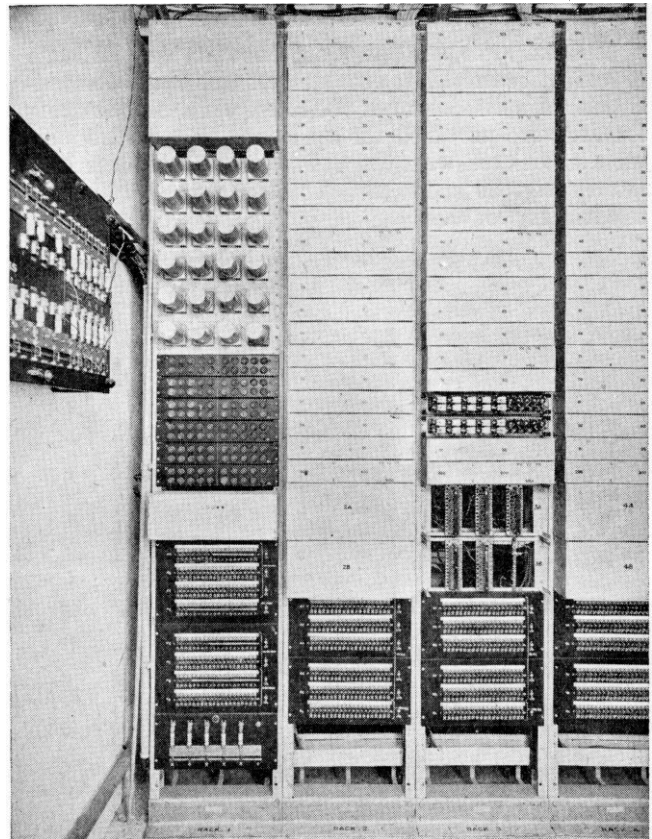
#### 4.1.1. Apparatus Racks.

The apparatus racks which accommodate the position and line equipment are standard racks 1ft. 8½ in. wide and 10ft. 6in. high and where possible are installed in an apparatus room. Where head room is restricted 6ft. 6in. racks are used and the common equipment rack then caters for 12 operators' positions and each line rack for 60 lines. The following descriptions refer only to the 10ft. 6in. types.

#### 4.1.2 The Common Equipment Rack.

This is shown in Fig. 12 as rack 1 and contains:—

- (i) the monitoring relays and position apparatus for 24 operators' positions ;
- (ii) centralised fuse alarm circuits for the whole installation ;
- (iii)  $\pm 80V$  and 6V fuse mountings for the common equipment, and
- (iv) rack and signalling earth bars from which connections are made to the line and miscellaneous racks.



Rack 1. Rack 2. Rack 3. Rack 4.

FIG. 12.—APPARATUS RACKS FOR SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 9.

- All rack wiring is terminated on connection strips at the top of the rack from which cables run to the switchboard C.T.S.

#### 4.1.3 The Line Equipment Racks.

These are shown in Fig. 12 as racks 2, 3, and 4.

Each rack contains the line and cut-off relays with their associated circuit equipment for 100 lines. The line equipment is assembled in panel form with five circuits per panel, while alarm type fuse mountings provide supplies for  $-80V$  line holding currents and 6V power for the call and F.L.S. lamps. The line panels are cabled direct to the I.D.F., a 5-wire connection, viz., T.R.S.C. & E., being made for each line to the appropriate tags on the line panel. Rack wiring for the call and F.L.S. lamps and alarms is terminated on strips connection at the middle of the rack from which cables are run to the I.D.F. and to the common equipment rack for the alarm circuits.

The line jacks and the call and F.L.S. lamps in the switchboard multiple are cabled to the I.D.F. and so by suitable jumpering any line may be connected to any multiple appearance and any line appearance with any line equipment. Thus full flexibility is obtained.

The F.L.S. arrangements required are obtained by making suitable straps on a connection block at the middle of the rack. The maximum number of lines in one F.L.S. group is limited to five and where more



than five lines exist on one route they are split into groups of five each for F.L.S. purposes.

#### 4.1.4 *The Miscellaneous Equipment Rack.*

This rack is fitted adjacent to the line racks and accommodates any miscellaneous items of apparatus, e.g., line filters and telegraph repeaters, as may be required for physical lines. 80V alarm type fuse mountings are provided and the alarms may be extended to the common equipment rack or station alarm system. All rack wiring is terminated on connection strips at the top of the rack and is cabled from these to the I.D.F. where jumper connections are made to the lines.

#### 4.1.5 *Power Supplies.*

The 80 + 80V supply for the installation is derived from a single battery float scheme using either a motor generator or rectifier cubicles and the 160V outers of this supply are used to provide current for operating the teleprinter motors on the switchboard positions. The 6V supply is either a charge-discharge battery with a trickle charging rectifier or a single battery float scheme with a 6V rectifier.

The battery capacities may be designed to ensure continuity of service for any reasonable period of mains failure.

#### 4.1.6 *Alarms.*

All fuse mountings on the rack equipments are fitted with bead type fuses to give a visual indication of failure and each mounting is also fitted with a pilot lamp. The alarm from each mounting is extended to a central alarm panel on the common equipment and if desired may be connected to operate any external alarm system. "No-volt" alarms are provided in the main feeds.

### 4.2 **The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 14.**

This is used in association with a Switchboard Teleprinter No. 9 and provides broadcast facilities on a maximum of 80 of the lines terminated on the No. 9 switchboard. The lines required to receive broadcasts must be preselected and wired accordingly via the broadcast keys of the No. 14 switchboard before terminating in the No. 9 switchboard multiple. The broadcast facilities permit any line connected to the No. 9 switchboard to broadcast, but only the 80 preselected lines may receive. A maximum of two simultaneous partial broadcasts can be made.

The line broadcast keys are mounted together with their associated engaged and clearing lamps in a special panel fitted as an extension to the keyshelf of the C.T.S. of the No. 9 switchboards, as shown in Fig. 10. The wiring from the broadcast panel terminates on blocks in the C.T.S. and is then cabled to the miscellaneous equipment rack and I.D.F. for jumpering to the appropriate lines. The clearing and broadcast relays and other circuit equipment is mounted on the miscellaneous equipment rack. The two broadcast jacks are fitted in a miscellaneous jack strip on the first switchboard operator's position and all requests for broadcast transmissions are passed to this operator for completion.

When a request for a broadcast is received, the switchboard operator throws the keys of the lines to be included to Broadcast Position 1 or 2 whichever is free. This disconnects the line from the switchboard multiple, steps the F.L.S. lamp, and lights an engaged lamp associated with the line broadcast key. It should be noted that if a line is engaged at the time on a normal through call, then the engaged lamp for the line will glow on the broadcast panel.

When the broadcast keys have been operated, the operator extends the caller to Broadcast jack 1 or 2 as appropriate, signals "K" and restores the cord circuit and position keys to normal. Upon completion of the call, all subscribers clear in the normal manner, a broadcast clearing lamp is lighted for each line and a clear is received on the answer cord, whereupon the operator restores the broadcast keys and takes down the cord circuit.

### 4.3 **The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 8.**

This, shown in Fig. 13, is a multiple switchboard for one or two operators positions; it has a capacity

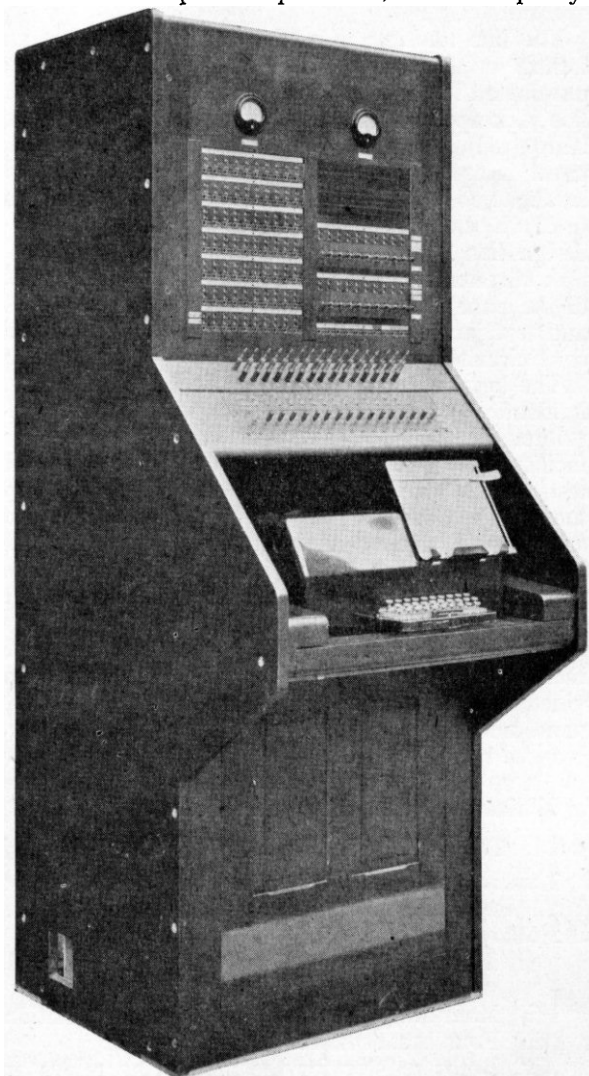


FIG. 13.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER No. 8.

for 70 lines and provides for full intercommunication and broadcasting by any line, with broadcast reception on a maximum of 20 lines which must be preselected. The broadcast arrangements cater for either a full broadcast or two simultaneous partial broadcasts to any selection of the 20 lines.

An installation consists of the following equipment:

- (i) One or two switchboards teleprinter No. 8.
- (ii) An equipment rack, which contains the common equipment for two operators' positions, and line relays for 70 lines.
- (iii) An I.D.F.
- (iv) A miscellaneous equipment rack, and
- (v) Mains operated power plant for 80 + 80V and 6V supplies.

The construction of the switchboard is almost identical with the switchboard teleprinter No. 9. The face equipment is, however, different from the No. 9 switchboard and consists of two panels, of which the left hand accommodates the line appearances and the right is equipped for broadcasting.

The broadcast panel is, however, only equipped on the first operator's position and is used by both operators.

The line multiple is used for both answering and calling on an ancillary basis and the lines are terminated in strips of 10 arranged so that above each line jack appears a calling lamp (white), an engaged lamp (red) and a designation label. The broadcast panel is equipped with two strips of 10 keys each, arranged so that above each key is an engaged lamp (red), a broadcast clearing lamp (green) and a designation label.

A miscellaneous jack strip is provided at the bottom of the panel and accommodates two broadcast jacks and test jacks, the latter for use in connection with cord circuit tests.

The keyshelf and operator's teleprinter equipment is identical with that provided on a switchboard teleprinter No. 9 except that a duplicate connection facility is not provided and a test cord is fitted. The test cord is wired to two milliammeters fitted above the switchboard panels and is used to check the send and receive currents in the lines and currents in the broadcast relays. The test jacks used in conjunction with the milliammeters enable the cord circuits to be checked.

All cord circuit relay equipment is mounted in the rear of the switchboard and two tag blocks are provided for the termination of wiring from the broadcast panel and one block for miscellaneous leads. Earth bars for rack and signalling purposes and an insulated 6V lamp return bar are provided and cabled direct to similar bars on the equipment rack.

#### 4.3.1 The Equipment Rack.

This is shown in Fig. 14 and is a standard rack 1ft. 8½in. wide and 10ft. 6in. high and accommodates the following equipment:—

- (i) The line and cut-off relays for 70 lines mounted on five panels.
- (ii) Monitoring relays for two operators' positions.
- (iii) Four broadcast relays.
- (iv) Bulbs resistor for the monitoring relays and operators' teleprinters.

- (v) A fuse alarm panel.
- (vi) ± 80V and 6V alarm type fuse mountings, and
- (vii) A 6V mains transformer for lamp signalling supplies.

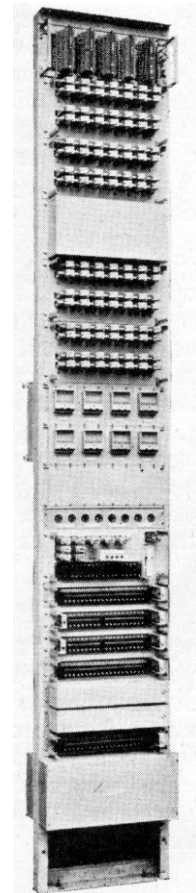


FIG. 14.—EQUIPMENT RACK FOR SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 8.

All rack wiring is terminated on connection strips at the top of the rack from which cables are run to the I.D.F. for the line circuits (five wires T, R, S, C and E per line) and to the switchboard for miscellaneous leads. The switchboard line jacks and their associated call and engaged lamps are cabled to blocks on the I.D.F. and the broadcast connections.

Thus by suitable jumpering any line may be connected to any line equipment and multiple appearance, and any selection of 20 circuits may be connected for broadcast reception facilities.

#### 4.3.2 The Miscellaneous Equipment Rack.

This is used for similar purposes and is equipped in a similar manner to that already described for a No. 9 switchboard installation.

Where the amount of miscellaneous equipment is small, however, a wall-mounted rack may be used.

#### 4.3.3 Power Supplies.

The 80 + 80V and 6V power supply and alarm arrangements are similar to those already described for the Switchboard Teleprinter No. 9. In some

cases, however, battery standby is not provided and the 6V supply is then derived from the 6V mains transformer on the rack equipment. On earlier type installations the 6V supply was normally taken from the transformer and under conditions of mains failure a no-volt alarm was given and mercury switches automatically changed over to a 6V battery supply. Upon restoration of the mains supply the load was restored to the mains transformer and the battery disconnected. A 6V change-over panel, mounted external to the rack equipment, was used for this purpose.

#### 4.4 The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 13.

This has been designed to meet the requirements of small switching centres. This switchboard has a capacity for 30 lines (including teleprinter extensions) and one operator's position and provides full intercommunication and broadcast facilities on all lines. Only one broadcast can be made at a time, during which any line can broadcast to all, or any selection of the other lines terminated on the switchboard. The switchboard is shown in Fig. 15. It is a floor-

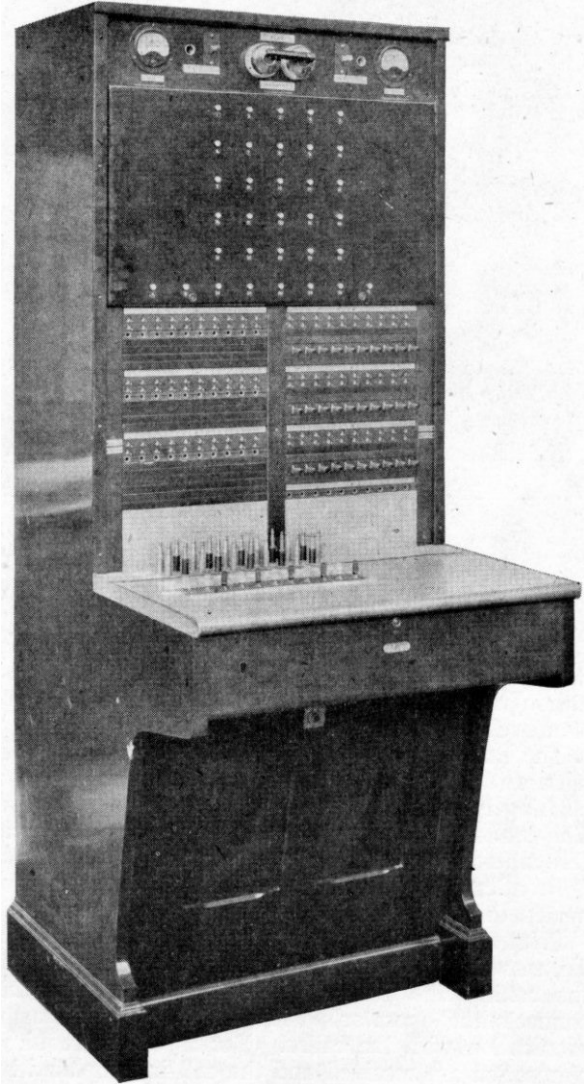


FIG. 15.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 13.

mounted switchboard and is self-contained except for the power supply and the operator's teleprinter, which is a standard teleprinter instrument table equipped with a No. 7B page or tape machine. The switchboard installation is therefore simply and quickly installed and has proved to be one of the most popular types of board in use at present.

The switchboard face equipment comprises a left-hand panel which accommodates the 30 line jacks in strips of 10 and having a white call lamp, red engaged lamp and a designation strip above each; and a right-hand panel for broadcasting and test facilities. The right-hand panel accommodates three strips of 10 broadcast keys and above each key is a green broadcast clearing lamp, a red engaged lamp and a designation label. A strip of miscellaneous jacks is mounted beneath the broadcast panel and includes a broadcast jack and three test jacks for cord circuit tests. Above the line and broadcast panels is a "broadcast failure" display panel which gives a visual indication of failure of a broadcast transmission to any line due to an earth fault.

At the top of the switchboard are mounted a Send and Receive milliammeter, a 6V A.C.—D.C. change-over switch, a fuse alarm lamp and bell off key, and a pilot calling lamp with night alarm key.

The switchboard keyshelf is of orthodox telephone design as the operator's teleprinter is not accommodated on the switch section. It contains 10 cord circuits and one test cord used for line testing. Each cord circuit consists of one answering cord and one calling cord, with a supervisory lamp associated with each cord; and one "Print and Monitor" key per cord circuit. An "Answer-Monitor-Call" key common to the position is mounted on the right-hand side

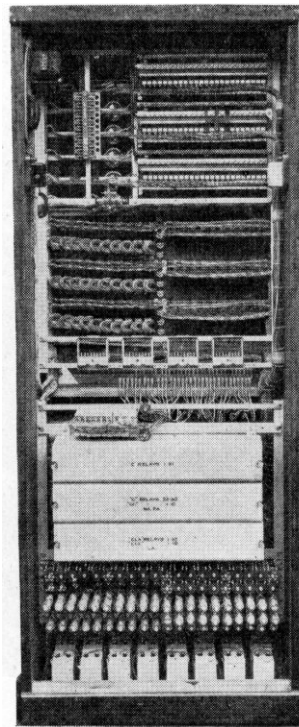


FIG. 16.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 13. REAR VIEW.

of the keyshelf. All the keyshelf equipment is displaced to the left so as to be most readily accessible to the operator whose position teleprinter is fitted adjacent, and to the left of the switchboard. The operator's clearing key is that fitted on the teleprinter table.

A rear view of the switchboard is shown in Fig. 16, which indicates the assembly arrangements for the various lines and common equipment. It includes a 6V mains transformer for the lamp signalling supplies and alarm type fuse mountings for the  $\pm 80V$  and 6V supplies. All external connections to the switchboard for incoming lines and the operator's teleprinter are terminated on a tag block.

The  $80 + 80V$  supply for signalling and the 160V for the operator's teleprinter motor are derived from a Westat rectifier. If continuity of service under mains failure conditions is essential then an  $80 + 80V$  floating battery is used and the 6V supply is also derived from a rectifier with a floating battery.

#### 4.5 The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 15.

This is a 10-line switchboard which provides full intercommunication and a broadcast facility which permits any line to broadcast to all, or a selection of the other lines on the board. The switchboard is designed for table mounting and works in association with a wall-mounted rack equipment which contains the line calling and clearing relays, the broadcast and monitoring relays,  $\pm 80V$  fuse mountings and alarms. The switchboard operator's teleprinter is a No. 7B Page or Tape and is mounted on a standard teleprinter table position adjacent to the switchboard.

The cord circuits are loose double-ended cords wired tip to ring and are hung on a hook at the side of the board until required for use. Fig. 17 shows a face view of the switchboard, the front panel of which is hinged to give access for maintenance, and

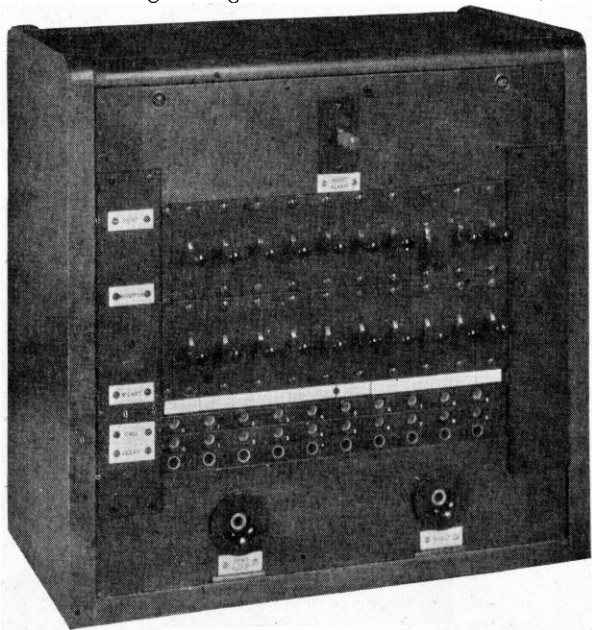


FIG. 17.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 15.

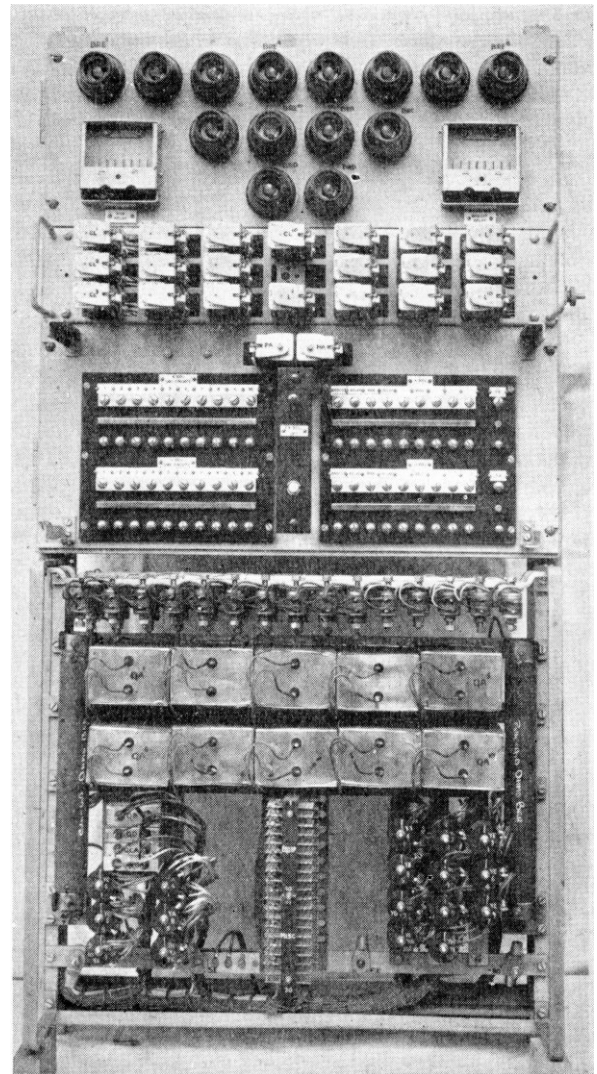


FIG. 18.—RACK EQUIPMENT FOR SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 15. (COVERS REMOVED.)

Fig. 18 shows the rack equipment. An  $80 + 80V$  supply is required for operation of the switchboard and is obtained from a Westat rectifier.

The circuit operation of this switchboard is slightly different from those already described for other types, although the basic calling and clearing circuits are standard.

The lines terminate on the switchboard line jacks with an associated calling relay, but in addition a clearing relay is connected permanently to each line. The connection of a line to its jack appearance is via the contacts of a "Print and Monitor" key and a "Broadcast" key. The position teleprinter is connected through a switchboard jack to contacts of the "Print and Monitor" keys of lines 1 to 10 in series. To answer a call, the "Print and Monitor" key of the calling line is operated to "Print" and this connects the operator's teleprinter in simplex communication with the caller. Details of the required connection are received and the call is completed by patching a double-ended cord from the line jack of

the calling line to that of the required party. The operator transmits "K" to the caller and then restores the print key in readiness for the next call.

To monitor an established connection the "Print and Monitor" key of either of the connected lines is operated to "Monitor," and this connects a telegraph relay in leak from the send and receive lines and the relay repeats signals passing to the operator's teleprinter.

To set up a broadcast, the calling subscriber is answered in the manner already described, the operator then operates the broadcast key for each line required and finally makes a patch using a double-ended cord from the calling line jack to the broadcast jack. The operator then signals "K" and restores the print and monitor key.

Clearing signals from the lines after completion of intercommunication or broadcast calls are obtained by each subscriber operating the clearing key in the normal manner—this lights a clear lamp associated with each line jack.

The facility is provided to enable the operator to broadcast by making a patch from the operator's position jack on the switchboard to the broadcast jack.

#### 4.6 The Switchboard Teleprinter No. 18.

This is shown in Figs. 19 and 20 and is the most recent addition to the range of teleprinter switch-

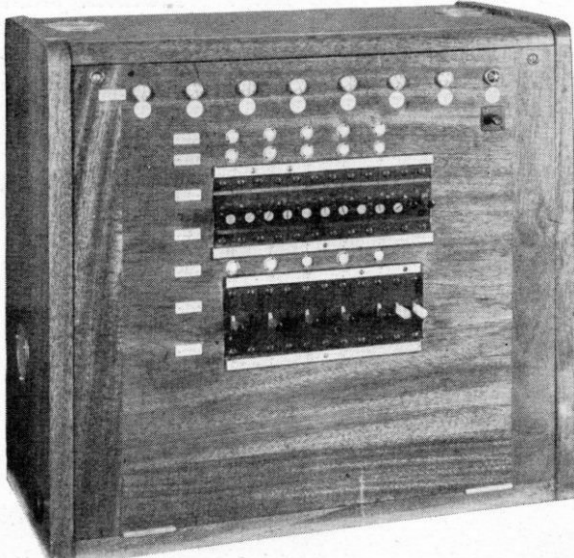


FIG. 19.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 18.

boards. It is a cordless board and caters for five lines plus an operator's teleprinter. It is equipped with two connecting "Links" which are accessible to all lines by means of lever keys. Thus two separate connections may be made simultaneously. The operator has direct access to each line by means of a print key, for answering calls or challenging connections. The operator can also monitor on either connecting link and so supervise calls in progress.

Broadcast facilities are provided so that the operator or any line can broadcast to any or all of the remaining lines. The connection between the broadcasting subscriber and the broadcast relay is established via

a connecting link. Each line is equipped with a "receive broadcast" key by means of which it can be associated with the outgoing broadcast. Lamp acknowledgement facilities are provided on lines receiving broadcast, the normal clearing relay performing the acknowledge function under these conditions.

The switchboard embodies the latest development of the clearing circuit in which the backward resistance of the rectifier used is stabilised by means of a shunt. A further point of interest is the method employed in the cordless switching to provide the cross-connection between "send" and "receive" lines which is an essential requirement when switching telegraph lines. To provide for this by a system of key switching has added to the number of contacts which would otherwise have been necessary but, owing to the high voltages used in the circuits concerned, the fault liability should not be materially affected.

#### 5. MANUAL SWITCHING FOR THE PUBLIC TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

Owing to war-time conditions it has been necessary on the grounds of vulnerability from air attack to reduce the volume of telegraph traffic dealt with at Zone Centres by deconcentration of the traffic to Area offices. This scheme while serving the purpose for which it was introduced has quite naturally resulted

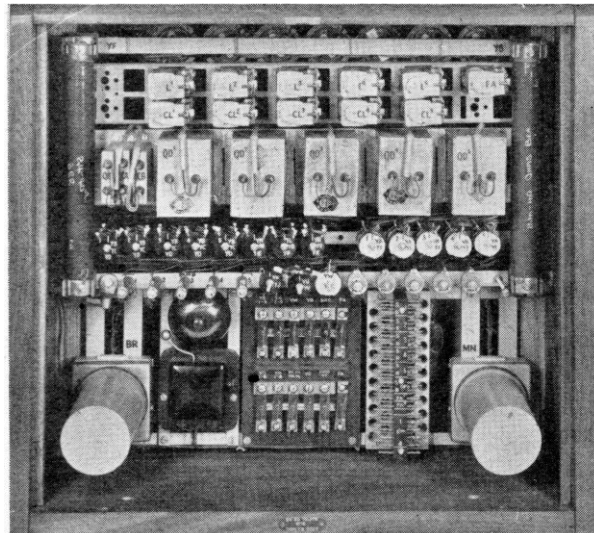


FIG. 20.—SWITCHBOARD TELEPRINTER NO. 18. REAR VIEW.

in a substantial increase in the number of retransmissions per telegram, with a consequent increase in both transit time and operating costs. With a view to reducing these factors, a manual switching network is being provided, using multiple switchboards known as Switchboards Teleprinter No. 17. This switchboard is similar in design and facilities to the Switchboard Teleprinter No. 9. The main differences are that the teleprinters used are the No. 3 type and as duplex working has to be catered for, this has involved some changes in cord circuit design and operating procedure. At present, switchboards have been installed at Birmingham and Leeds.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS.

Private wire teleprinter services have been an increasingly thriving branch of telegraphy in this country since their inception in 1932 for the provision of simplex point-to-point teleprinter circuits. Large networks of private wires providing point-to-point services and a variety of switching facilities had already been provided before 1939, but the impetus of the present war with the resulting increase in demands for rapid intercommunication between many and widely scattered points has considerably accelerated developments. Very extensive manual switching networks have been built up giving intercommunication and broadcast facilities and catering for many special forms of traffic. The most common types of switching equipment in use for these services have been described in this paper. It will have been seen that a wide range of facilities are available and these at present are providing an invaluable service in commerce, administration and defence. It must be acknowledged that the many diverse applications of teleprinter services during the war years has enabled valuable experience to be gained which will assist in the future development of these services. Furthermore it is anticipated that by reason of the extensive uses made of teleprinter services in the war effort it will be found, as a result, that new fields for development will be opened in post-war commerce and industry.

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