

# *S600 series* — *the story* *of success*

THE possibility of providing a second S600 series convoy, with few major items in stock — and within a timescale of six to eight weeks — would seem an impossibility!

But this very tight timescale had to be met, so what did we do? All people involved rolled up their sleeves, got down to work — and completely reconditioned the prototype equipment standing at Bushy.

The equipment had naturally deteriorated in some areas and needed a major re-fit, with some items requiring entire replacement.

In a normal timescale, the task would have taken at least six months intensive activity. With speedy planning, rapid improvisation and hard work, the job was done in the very minimum time.

One of the worst problems was that the prototype — being a prototype! — differed in numerous ways from the production drawings. In consequence, it was impossible to handle the task in a normal manner. Due to this and also the exceptionally short timescale, it was decided that Technical Services Department, who also manage Bushy site, would be asked to provide the engineering expertise, ably assisted by Writtle Road works.

This type of emergency repair service is, of course, one of the specialties of Technical Services, as one of their prime tasks is to provide customers with emergency services at home and abroad.

A team of specialist engineers was therefore set up, together with the support of systems engineers, contracts and the skills of production and test.

The work started in earnest on Monday, 14th June. Two transmitter cabins were moved from Bushy to E Block, Writtle Road. Here, the cabins were stripped, waterproofed, reinforced, repainted, completely rewired and refitted. Although a number of

major units were replaced from stock, one of the transmitters was completely stripped and rebuilt and many smaller parts were made good.

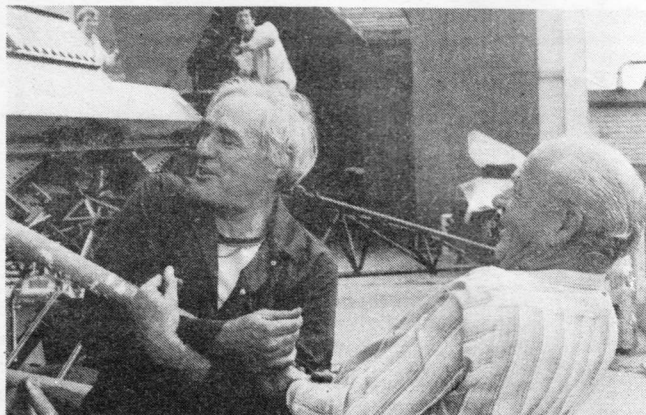
While the work on the transmitter cabins proceeded, the heightfinder and surveillance cabins were refurbished on site at Bushy by engineers from Technical Services. This included the major overhaul of one antenna turning gear, carried out with great resourcefulness in the absence of complete workshop facilities.

The prototype Anvil display cabin was in too bad a condition for re-use. Because of this Writtle Road works fitted out, in an especially short space of time, a complete new cabin to complete production standards.

— By Jon Ellis —

All this intense activity involved considerable weekend and overtime working, including night shifts by personnel from all departments. By these means, re-assembly of all cabins and antennas was completed on time and the transmitter cabins and antennas were moved, within schedule, to Rivenhall for systems test and commissioning, with the Anvil following almost immediately.

At this stage, Field Services, who normally undertake complete systems test in readiness for handover to the customer, took over responsibility for the convoy, supported by Technical Services and Systems engineers. Again the timescale was exceptionally tight, requiring hard work and strain to meet the delivery date.



● Ken Yates and Will Neave working on the 600 series search head at Bushy. In the background Tim Phillips and Mike Creasey.