Telex Service Installation with Automatic Transmitting Equipment
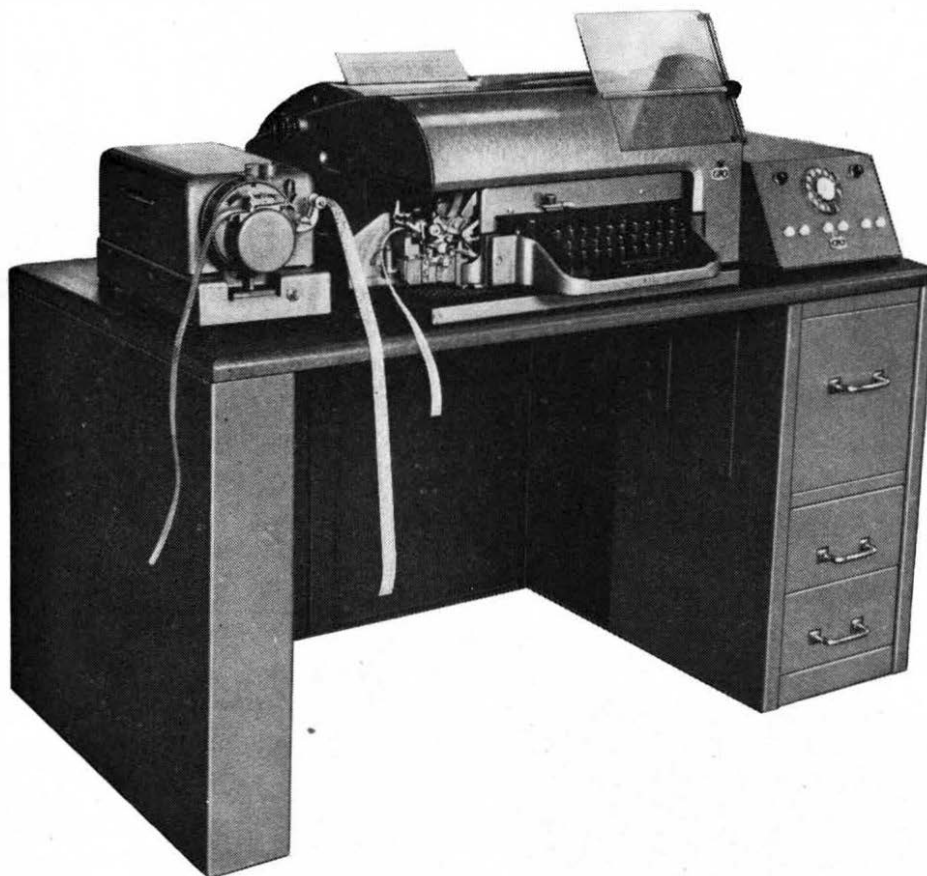
This installation, consisting of a teleprinter with perforating attachment and an automatic transmitter, enables subscribers to prepare messages and send them automatically over the telex system at a constant speed of about 70 words a minute. This is particularly useful when sending complicated messages containing accounting details, stock figures, or statistical information, or when the same message needs to be sent to more than one destination.

Messages for automatic transmission are prepared by typing on the keyboard of the teleprinter in the normal manner. The teleprinter produces a printed page copy of the message and at the same time the perforating attachment punches the message on a paper tape in code form.

To transmit the message, the perforated

paper tape is fed into the automatic transmitter, the telex call is set up in the usual way, and when connexion with the called telex number has been established, the transmitter is switched onto the line and the message sent automatically at a constant speed.

By using automatic transmitting equipment, messages can be sent more efficiently and economically. Incoming messages can be reproduced simultaneously as printed page and perforated tape, or as printed page only, as required. The teleprinter can also be used as a normal telex installation for sending messages manually.

THE REPERFORATING TELEPRINTER–
arrangement and function of keys

The keyboard is the same as that of the standard teleprinter, but on this machine there are three additional separate keys. These are:

WHO ARE YOU

When this key is pressed the 'answer-back' code, which identifies the other machine, is printed on both teleprinters.

HERE IS

When this key is pressed during a call the teleprinter sends its own 'answer-back' code which is printed on both machines.

RUN-OUT

When this key is held down the last character typed is printed and punched continuously. This feeds the message clear of the perforator so that the perforated paper tape can be torn off, and identifies the end of a message with a block of repeated perforations.

There are two additional controls on the perforating attachment.
These are:

THROW-OUT LEVER

When this is moved to the right, perforated paper tape is produced at the same time as printed page copy. When moved to the left the perforator is disengaged.

BACK SPACE KEY

This key is pressed to feed back the tape on the perforating attachment when it is necessary to correct an error on the tape during preparation. Each depression moves the tape back one character.

FACILITIES

This equipment provides all the facilities offered by the standard installation.

The equipment also gives the following additional facilities:

The teleprinter can be set to produce printed page copy alone, or printed page copy and perforated paper tape on which the message has been simultaneously recorded.

Messages can be prepared on paper tape on the teleprinter, before making a call. When the call is made the message is sent automatically by running the tape through the transmitter.

The message is transmitted at the maximum speed of about 70 words a minute instead of the average typing speed of 35/40 words a minute. Transmission time is shortened and the call charge is considerably reduced.

A printed page copy is produced on the machine as the tape is being prepared. This can be checked continuously for accuracy against the original text.

Errors on the tape can be corrected as soon as they are noticed on the page copy.

A taped message can be 'played-back' on the equipment before sending to ensure that it is correct.

As the call is made, a printed page copy is produced which can be checked to ensure that the message was transmitted correctly.

A message on perforated paper tape can be used many times to transmit to several different destinations, or to produce additional page copies of messages for local use. A heavier duty parchmentised tape is available for larger numbers of transmissions.

A perforated paper tape can be produced in addition to the printed page copy on an incoming call. This is particularly useful when the message needs to be relayed to another office.

The teleprinter and transmitter can be used to prepare and copy messages, or for practice, without preventing an incoming call from being received. If a call is received during preparation or practice, an alarm bell rings and a red light shines on the dialling unit to indicate that the installation should be restored to normal use.

An automatic transmission can be interrupted by operation of the teleprinter at the distant installation. Each time a key is pressed on that machine the red light shines and the alarm sounds, and the transmitter should be switched off to find out the reason for the interruption. Similarly, if a call is cut off, or the tape gets caught up in the transmitter, the alarm signals operate and the transmitter stops.

Alarm signals are also given during a call as soon as a tape has passed through the transmitter—which then switches off, automatically.

The connexion can be verified during a call (though not while transmitting automatically) by pressing the WHO ARE YOU key. The 'answer-back' code of the distant teleprinter is printed on both machines.

The teleprinter's own 'answer-back' code can be sent and printed on both teleprinters by pressing the HERE IS key.

A character can be printed and punched continuously by holding down the RUN-OUT key. This can be used to identify the beginning and end of a tape with blocks of repeated perforations and also clears the tape from the perforator for tearing off without mutilating a message character.

The spool of paper tape for the perforator can be easily changed by the customer. It is housed in a metal holder on the outside of the teleprinter cover and is readily accessible.

The teleprinter is fitted with a sound-reducing cover from which the front left-hand corner has been cut away to give easy access to the perforating attachment. The cover has a window through which the page copy can be read, and the rear part is hinged so that fresh supplies of paper can be put into the machine without removing the entire cover. A transparent lectern, fitted with a spring-clip for holding messages, can be fixed to the front of the cover, if required. The table on which the teleprinter, dialling unit, and automatic transmitter are mounted contains two drawers for filing and storage purposes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The overall dimensions of the teleprinter, including the sound-reducing cover and lectern, are approximately 2′ 5″ by 2′ 3″, by 1′ 6″ high. The dialling unit is 1′ 9″ by 11″, and 7″ high, and the transmitter 1′ 4″ by 8″, and 8″ high. The teleprinter, dialling unit, and transmitter are hammer-finish grey and the table on which they stand measures approximately 4′ 3″ by 2′ 3″, and is 2′ 3″ high. The transmitter, table and dialling unit house all the necessary power and auxiliary apparatus. The installation works from AC or DC mains, 200/250 volts, supplied from a 3-pin, 5-amp socket outlet provided by the customer. Allowing adequate room for the operator's chair and for maintenance purposes, the total floor space required is not more than 5′ by 5′.

The total weight of equipment is about 280 lb.

The total rental for a telex installation with this equipment is £73 15s a quarter, and there is no connexion charge.