

Norman H Taylor

BBC Career Summary

- 1943-1946 Technical Assistant and later Maintenance Engineer on low and medium power MF, and high power HF transmitters.
- 1946-1949 Royal Navy as radio and radar mechanic.
- 1949-1950 Returned to BBC and after 3 months course at BBC Engineering School passed engineer qualifying examination.
- 1950 Transferred to Television at Alexandra Palace as Vision Control Engineer.
- 1951 Moved to Lime Grove studios.
- 1952 Promoted to Vision Control Supervisor.
- 1953 Promoted Assistant Technical Operations Manager in charge of crew of studio technical operators (cameramen, sound vision control etc.)
- 1955 Promoted Technical Operations Manager and from 1953 to 1964 worked on the complete range of productions, including technical planning, from "Andy Pandy" to Verdi's "Othello", Brecht's "Mother Courage" the first "Sportsnight" and the first 12 months of the "Tonight" programme.
- 1961 I left Tech Ops for 6 months to work as a Production Assistant in Drama department on the "Maigret" series.
- 1964 I left my normal duties to plan the technical arrangements for the General Election Results programme. The first of several for which I was responsible.
- 1964 My first visit to the USA to observe the US Networks' coverage of the Presidential Election, and to assist in providing EBU coverage of it using the Telstar satellite with 8 minute passes !
- 1964 Promoted to "Headquarters Assistant" at the Television Superintendent Engineer's headquarters, where I was responsible for some technical developments and a whole range of programmes using the new communications satellites. This involved visits abroad to liaise and co-operate with foreign broadcasting organisations.

1967 Became Chief Assistant to Head of Television Network. Network Department has about 110 staff and runs the BBC 1 & 2 Network Control Rooms, The Central Apparatus Room, two Presentation Studios, the International control Room and Standards Converters.

I was responsible for the equipment side of the operation, including developments, as well as continuing with the technical arrangements for complex programmes.

1970 Promoted to Head of Television Network. Became the BBC's International Contact Engineer and joined a number of EBU committees and working groups. Continued with overseas programme operations visiting many countries in the process.

1980 Promoted to General Manager Network and Recording. Recording run VTR and Telecine and have about 550 staff so, in all, I had approximately 660 staff the vast majority graduate engineers. At about this time we commenced the changeover from 2 inch to 1 inch format C video tape equipment. I gave up working on international programmes, but remained International Contact Engineer.

1982 The BBC decided that it needed a senior engineering representative on the international scene, and asked me to become Assistant Controller Engineering ^{Int} Television Operations. Which post I held until my retirement in November 1986. This involved concentrating on international operations and technical policy.

Among the international programmes for which I have been technically responsible for the overseas facilities are :

Four Summer Olympic Games

Two Winter Olympic Games

Four Apollo Space Missions (For the EBU)

Two World Football Cups

European Athletics Championships

World Athletics Championships

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