

## Transcript of Barbara Stephens clip

I was the only other girl. And it was all a bit of a shock. Basically, there were 199 boys and me [Laughs]. And coming from an all girls school, this was a bit of shock! Also, most of the technician apprentices were 16 because you could start a technician apprentice immediately after GCEs. And basically, I was told on that day that I was the first technician apprentice that they had had at Marconi since 1945. The first female technician apprentice. Because it was prior to equal opportunities, it was never envisaged. At that time, women comprised 0.5% of the engineering profession. So the proportion I was on that first day actually mirrored the number that were in the profession as a whole. And most of those that were in the profession had actually qualified during the Second World War and were still working 24 years later. I started my apprenticeship and in the first year you spent time in the training centre learning basic skills, turning, milling, welding, draughtsmanship, interspersed with times at college. So it was half a term each, you know, half term, half term, half term. I loved it. It was wonderful. And I was really, really good at it [Laughs], much to the annoyance of quite a lot of my male colleagues.