

John Page was the last LEO apprentice. The first was probably George Manley. Others who successfully made the transition in Commissioning were Ray Boughtflower and Derek Bensted. It involved one day release for National Certificates and experience in the engineering departments.

John elected for Commissioning and after training successfully mastered assemblers from input to output including Special Anelex and Magnetic Tape. I gave him responsibility for III/46, a LEO 326. He was the only engineer not commission and install a IIS first. He then went on to do III/47, Ministry of Social Security in Prague and III/51, Post Office Edinburgh, the last LEO to be installed from Minerva Road, I believe. In between he did the IIF main frames for III/55, Post Office Portsmouth and III/58, Post Office Derby, which Jack Thompson and Brian Elsey went on to install. We were very busy at that time, also preparing for 4/50s at Minerva Road. Machine numbers were out of sequence by then.

I did resurrect the apprentice scheme in English Electric days.

I don't know where John went when they closed Minerva Road Commissioning.

However, I did make contact with him in 2007 when he, through a LEO engineer friend in Scotland, alerted us to III/33 in Scotland. We exchanged phone numbers and I talked to him - in California, Silicon Valley!

John was very talented. Second only to Alan Potter in understanding the IIF mainframe.

Tony Morgan.