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South Street.

F. Wickstead. 1967

FW/MMH/JF.

21st February, 1969.

Mitcheldean Operations.

Your secretary asked for information concerning the Bell and Howell operations that used to be carried out at Mitcheldean. I am sure you will readily appreciate that the majority of the information will undoubtedly be with R.P.I. and Rank Photographic/Rank Audio Visual, however, I have been able to retrieve a certain amount of information which I trust will be of help to you.

If you feel that I could be of assistance in looking through any further data that you get, feel free to call upon me as I still have a pretty good knowledge of what went on between 1948 and 1965.

BRIEF HISTORY.

In 1946 British Acoustic Films and Bell and Howell signed a 15 year manufacturing and marketing agreement covering their photographic products. Bell and Howell retained the dollar markets, B.A.F. the rest of the world. It should of course be noted that the dollar markets represented a rather large percentage of the total world requirement for these types of goods.

16mm Projectors were the first product to be manufactured, and production started rolling in 1948. This was followed by 8mm Cameras and Projectors in 1950 and 16mm Cameras in 1952. There was virtually a continuous build up of production as the figures show.

In 1958 the Rank Organisation divisionalised and it was during the following year that we opened up our own selling Companies in France, Belgium and Germany. Prior to that, all overseas sales had been through agents.

In 1962, the restrictions on Japanese imports were being lifted throughout Europe, we decided to transfer back to Bell and Howell, their rights to manufacture and sell 8mm Cameras and Projectors into our markets, excluding the U.K. which we would retain the sole selling rights ~~for~~.

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continued.....

Mitcheldean Operations (continued).

Because of the growth of the Rank Xerox product, it was decided in 1964 to transfer back to Bell and Howell the manufacture of 16mm Projectors, Rank Audio Visual as it was then known, retaining the selling rights in this country.

During 1965, all Bell and Howell work was completed, equipment transferred to the Bell and Howell Factories in Japan and America. Mitcheldean became part of Rank Xerox approximately July 1st 1966.

I hope this is the kind of information that you require.

F. Wickstead.

Encls.

*I think to get you as much as possible*

( ) - six months only - change in financial year end.

\* - The value of production figure is actual works cost. To arrive at selling price these should be added up by approx. 50%. They only cover said costs. All factored items are excluded such as cameras, tripods, still cameras e.g. Pentax, etc.

I have included ... if you still want this information.

RW/MME.  
21.2.69.

MITCHELDEAN OPERATIONS.

Year	Personnel Employed	B&H PRODUCTION		R.X. PRODUCTION		Remarks.
		Units	Value £ 000 *	Units	Value £ 000 *	
1941	57					
1942/6	400					
1947	300					
1948	350					Start of 16mm. Proj. Prod.
1949	422	3500 *	250 *			
1950	400 *	5706 *	369			Start of 8mm. Cam. & Proj. Pr
1951	410 *	6546 *	424			
1952	377	11000 *	460			Start of 16mm. Cameras
1953	462	12052	439			
1954	576	20969	644			
1955	632	34991	753			
1956	532	35838	768			
1957	685	35687	781			
1958	700	54215	978			
1959	750	63815	1147			
1960	803	53843	1234			
1961	1209	( 22615	556	198	196 )	
1962	1151	16412	1169	1752	1330	Trans. of 8mm. Cams. & Projs back to B. & H.
1963	1325	9526	850	4250	2575	
1964	1438	6941	861	10765	5900	Trans. of 16mm. Proj. to B&H
1965	1718	3833	506	18560	9034	Completion of all B&H work
1966	1895	-	-	30846	11162	Mitch. transferred to R.X.
1967	2067	-	-	30019	13364	
1968	2472	-	-	18023	19576	

\* = Estimated.

( ) = Six months only - change in financial year end.

\* = The value of production figure is actual Works cost. To arrive at selling price these should be plussed up by approx. 80%. They only cover main models. All factored items are excluded such as Screens, Tripods, Still Cameras, e.g. Pentax, Mamiya, etc.

I have included R.X. but doubt if you will want this information.