



RANK PRECISION INDUSTRIES LIMITED
PRESS INFORMATION

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MITCHELDEAN - HOME OF BRITISH
PRECISION-MADE CINE EQUIPMENT
Rank Precision Industries Ltd.

Precision is stressed at every stage during the making of Bell & Howell cine equipment at the Rank Precision Industries factory at Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire.

The company have been established in their present factory in the Forest of Dean, about 12 miles from Gloucester, since 1940. In 1946 they entered into an agreement with the American company Bell & Howell to manufacture products in England under licence. Since that time the range of cine cameras and projectors made by the firm has increased, and it now includes most of the products of the Chicago company.

The Mitcheldean factory employs more than 900 workers, concentrating mainly on the production of 8 and 16mm. cine equipment. It is almost completely self-contained and includes its own development laboratories. Many of the personnel employed are from Gloucester and other towns some distance from the factory; to encourage them to travel the comparatively long distances involved, special coach services are provided.

A large part of the factory's production is concerned with the more popular 8mm. equipment, favoured by amateur film makers, which uses 8mm. double-run film. So great has the demand for this equipment become, in Great Britain and overseas, that the company has greatly increased its output during the past few years, and plans a further programme of expansion of production.

The main Mitcheldean factory building was at one time a brewery and at first this housed the entire production and assembly line. As the demand for Bell & Howell products has grown, new one-storey buildings have been completed to house the automatic lathes and presses - machines chosen from all over the world to give the finest possible performance. Another stage in this building plan was provision of a two-storey building to house a plating shop, providing facilities for 18 different plating processes, and a new polishing shop.

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