

Box 256 11-10

Mrs. Deser
Miami 04660

17 Nov. 1981

Dear Gwen,

Thank you for your letter of the 10th. I enclose a photo of the pulley as it now exists.

I think I told you how, when I returned after spending 1939-46 in the Royal Navy, I saw this pulley on the scrap heap at Dollis Hill. It was just what I wanted for the azimuth protractor for a 6" reflecting telescope I planned to build. The pulley came from the "bedstead" of Colossus No 11 which never reached Bletchley Park because the war ended. It was years later when I discovered that!

The telescope was completed in 1957 except for the azimuth drive. So when we came to live in the USA in March 1958 I brought both the telescope (my son has it in Ayrtonville Hixson NY) and the pulley intending to complete the project some day.

I had as you can see machined off one of the flanges which guide the tape and removed the central boss through which a spindle passed. The boss contained two ball bearings and I still have one of them in a piece of workshop equipment I build and often use. I just took it out to measure it. They are common ball bearings. The outside diameter = 1.125", the inside (shaft) dia = 0.500" and the thickness is 0.250".

It would be easy to restore the pulley. I could myself restore the boss. The missing flange would be more difficult on my small 9" lathe but I could find a way. The section of the flange is, of course, a reflection of the existing flange which is virgin.

If you can enlist the services of a model shop machinist with access to a large lathe the job would be simple. He would shrink on a ring $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick, $\frac{3}{16}$ " high & turn the tape to match the existing one. He could then proceed to make 2-3 exact copies & you could have a mini-bedstead with some 5-wire telegraph tape running at 5000 characters per second!

If you cannot get such help and would like me to restore the pulley I will do so.

Please let me know which way to go. If you want the pulley as is I will bring it to Westford Mass when we come to stay over Christmas / New Year with our daughter, Cathy Allen. I would phone you or, if you will be away, someone you nominate.

It was a great experience to see your museum, to see you and feel your enthusiasm and to meet again so many old friends. I had lost sight of Jack Good & we are corresponding again now. I look forward to visiting the museum again & will try to bring Brian Pollard, an old friend who sails his boat down to Maine every other year to see us. He was manager of Ferranti computers during the early days (photo Early British Computer). Westford Conn. now.

Sincerely,

Toby & Minnie.