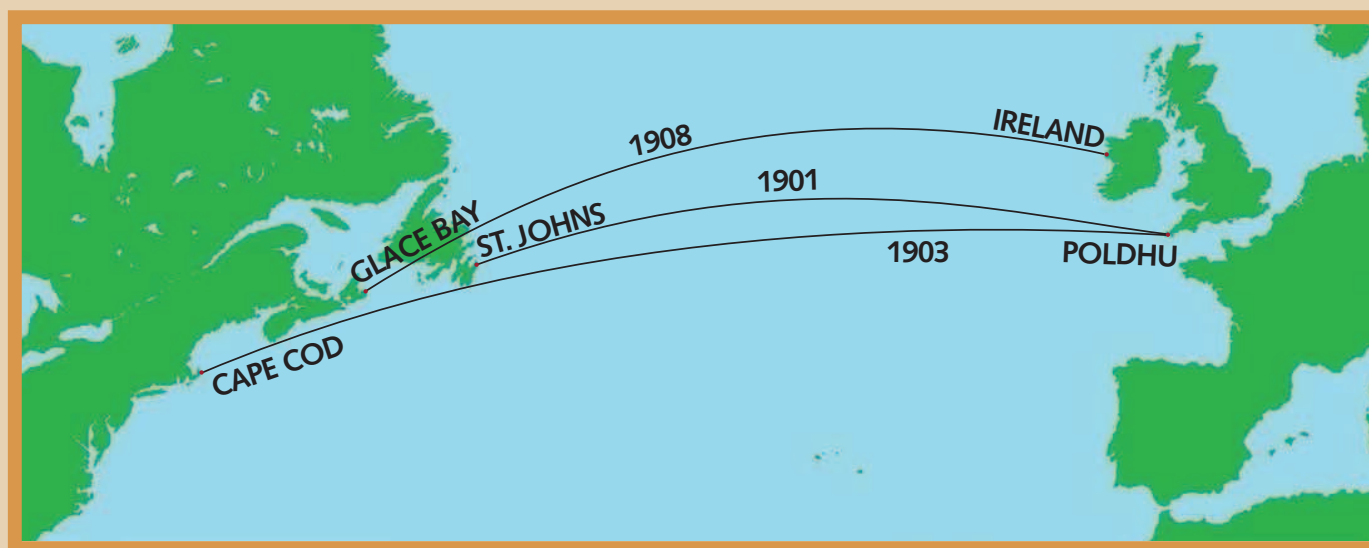


Beginning with his earliest experiments, Marconi sought to achieve wireless communication over ever greater distances. He set his sights on wireless communication between continents, to form a business that would compete with the established wired communication networks of the world.



1897 *"My work consisted mainly in endeavoring to determine how far these waves would travel in the air for signalling purposes."*

Guglielmo Marconi



1901 First transoceanic wireless signal, Poldhu, England to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

1902 Messages sent from Canada to England

1903 First message from the United States to England.

1908 Commercial transoceanic message service began between Canada and Ireland.

the Glace Bay and Clifden stations were opened for a limited public telegraph service in October 1907, and an unlimited service at the beginning of February 1908, four years after the first message had been sent across the Atlantic from Glace Bay, and after many difficulties and disappointments. Only those who worked with Marconi throughout these four years can realize the wonderful courage he showed under frequent disappointments, the extraordinary fertility of his mind in inventing new methods to displace others found faulty, and his willingness to work, often for sixteen hours at a time when any interesting development was being tested.

R. N. VYVYAN WIRELESS OVER THIRTY YEARS 1933

1908 - 1912 Plans were developed to link the far reaches of the British Empire wirelessly, with a network of stations known as the Imperial Chain. The project would fall victim to a series of setbacks.



BIG JERSEY STATION FOR OCEAN WIRELESS

New Marconi Transatlantic Service from Belmar Plant Will
Open June 1, 1913.

SECOND STATION PLANNED

Will Permit Sending and Receiving
Without Interruption—Marconi
System for 480 More Ships.

The New York Times

Published: June 7, 1912
Copyright © The New York Times

of the land is that it shall be free from stumps, rocks, or any hard substance that would interfere with the underground wires.

Options have also been obtained, he said, on the Pacific Coast for land on which a high-power station for communication with Hawaii and the Philippines will immediately be erected. There is also an option for a site in Honolulu.

Will Equal Cable Time.

The arrangement of the Marconi Company with the Western Union Telegraph Company, Mr. Bottomley said, will facilitate to a great extent the progress of business, and when these new stations are completed the time of transmission of a message from New York to London will equal that of any cable company.

He also added that the Marconi Company will take over the entire assets of the United Wireless Company early next week with the permission of the courts, and that the infringement on the Marconi patents will be removed and replaced with Marconi apparatus entirely. This means that 480 steamships plying the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts will be equipped with the Marconi system in addition to the land stations which have been erected by the United Wireless Company. The

1912 A major construction program in the United States began. Stations would be built to link America with Europe and Asia. The first station would connect New Jersey with Ireland, to serve the great business centers of New York and London.

1913 Announcements in professional journals described the ambitious transoceanic wireless program. A site somewhere "in eastern Massachusetts" was mentioned.

Transpacific Wireless Stations

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company has placed contracts with the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, New York, for the erection of eight wireless telegraph stations, two pairs for Atlantic service and two pairs for Pacific service. Receiving and sending stations 30 miles apart will be constructed at Oahu, in the Sandwich Islands; Tamales Bay and Bolinas, Cal.; near Belmar, N. J., and in eastern Massachusetts at a point not yet definitely selected. These stations will be part of a globe-girdling system which will continue to the East by way of Japan and thence ultimately to India. Twelve towers ranging in height from 400 ft. to 450 ft. will be spread out over a semicircle covering a square mile at each station, and it is estimated that the range of each station will be from 4000 to 6000 miles.

ELECTRICAL WORLD February 8, 1913

1914 The coming of the great station to Chatham Port was revealed in an offhand remark by the local correspondent of the Harwich Independent at the bottom of the paper's last page.

Largest Wireless Station in World

Marion is to have the largest wireless station in the world. The Marconi Company has secured an option on 150 acres of land west of the railroad station along the tracks of the New Haven Railroad, owned by Hiller Bros, W. H. H. Ryder, Capt. George D. Allen, heirs of W. E. Sparrow and the heirs of Barnabas Holmes.

The station will be for sending messages and it is expected that work will begin very soon on clearing the land and the erection of the buildings, towers and other equipment. It is stated that some twenty-five men will be employed.

Electricity for light, heat and power will be furnished by the Marion Gas company.

The Barnstable Patriot. February 2, 1914

CHATHAM PORT

[Left over from last issue]

The report is that there is to be a wireless station erected here, also that the Larchmont property is sold.

The Harwich Independent. March 11, 1914

1914 Cape Cod readers were informed of the prospects for a world-class wireless station to be built in Massachusetts. The powerful transmitter was destined for Marion, across Buzzards Bay. The reporter neglected to mention the Chatham receiving station.



1914 By June, the work had begun and progress at Chatham Port was reported in the local papers throughout the rest of the year.

From the Monitor, May 19:—

New Wireless Station.

That big Wireless Telegraph Station, so long talked of about town, is now a settled fact and the contract for its entire construction has been awarded to the J. G. White Engineering Corporation of New York and London.

Mr. Paul Burrows has arrived in town and is to have charge of the entire matter. A large number of men are wanted to work for the Company. It is said that from 150 to 200 men can find employment here for nine months.

This enterprise is said to be a great thing for Chatham. It will not only bring a large amount of taxable property increase, but will bring a large number of educated and expert citizens.

Let the good work go on.

The Harwich Independent. May 27, 1914

Wanted At Once CARPENTERS AND LABORERS

In Construction of Wireless Station at Chatham Port, Mass. Job will last about nine months; work steady. Apply to J. S. WHITE, Eng. Corporation, Chatham Port School House.

The Harwich Independent. May 20, 1914

CHATHAMPORT.

The contractors for the Wireless Station have arrived with a number of men. Their headquarters and main office for the present will be in the schoolhouse which has not been used for a number of years.

THE HYANNIS PATRIOT. May 25, 1914

CHATHAMPORT.

Work on the Wireless Station is being pushed ahead rapidly. The foundations for several of the houses are laid. The carpenters expect to raise the frames this week.

The Barnstable Patriot. July 20, 1914

WANTED

Laborers at the new wireless station at Chathamport. A

J. G. WHITE ENGINEERING
Chathamport, Mass.

The Barnstable Patriot. August

CHATHAM

The Marconi Wireless Station contractors are employing a large number of laborers and nearly all that can be hired in town are occupied.

The Harwich Independent

CHATHAMPORT.

You would not think that Chatham Port is a small town if you walk up to the new Wireless Station. The fine buildings make it look like a city.

The Harwich Independent

PORT
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ere is to be a
ere, also that
is sold.

March 11, 1914



1914 The directors of the
Telegraph Company of
stockholders that good
the transoceanic station
an ominous note regar

1914 The task of raising the
great antenna support masts
carried fearless workers and
heavy steel sections high into
the air.

WANTED

Laborers at the new wireless station
at Chathamport. Apply to
J. G. WHITE ENGINEERING COR.
Chathamport, Mass.

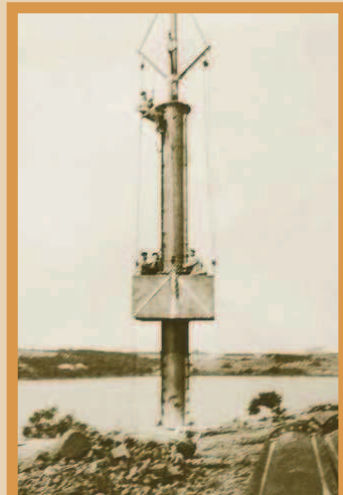
The Barnstable Patriot. August 24, 1914

The new wireless station now going
up at Chatham Port is located princi-
pally on the estate of Mr. Lewis F.
Smith's old home, the late Stephen
Smith's place.

The Harwich Independent. June 10, 1914

One of the large steel poles for the
Wireless Telegraph Station has been
erected. It is said by our fishermen
who go off shore, that these poles are
going to be excellent guides for them
in coming in, as they will be seen
many miles out.

The Harwich Independent. October 14, 1914



CHATHAM

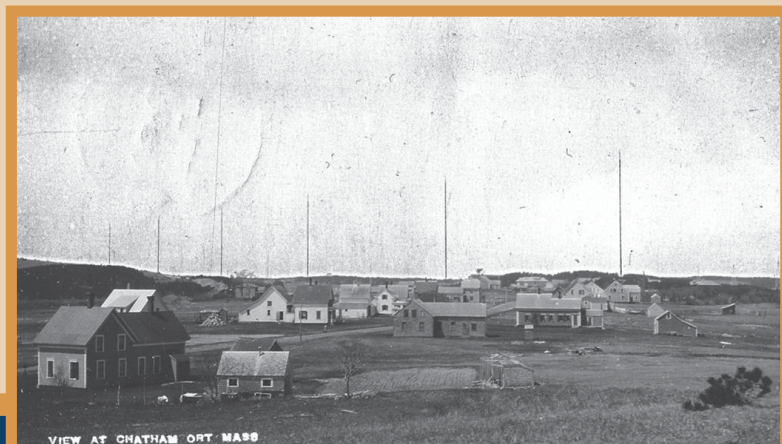
The Marconi Wireless Station con-
tractors are employing a large number
of laborers and nearly every house
that can be hired in town is now oc-
cupied.

The Harwich Independent. October 7, 1914

CHATHAM

You would not think you were in
Chatham Port if you should take a
walk up to the new Marconi Wireless
Station. The fine new buildings
make it look like a small city.

The Harwich Independent. November 4, 1914



VIEW AT CHATHAM PORT MASS

1914 The directors of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America reported to stockholders that good progress was being made on the transoceanic stations, but they sounded an ominous note regarding unforeseen circumstances.

The Report of the Directors

The work of erection of the high-power long distance stations is progressing and unless unforeseen circumstances should arise, we hope they will be completed and open for business early in the summer.

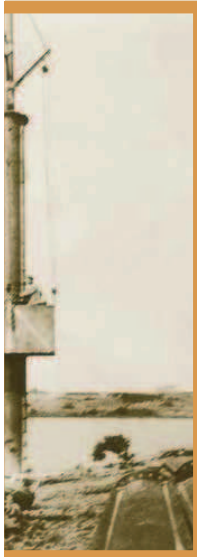
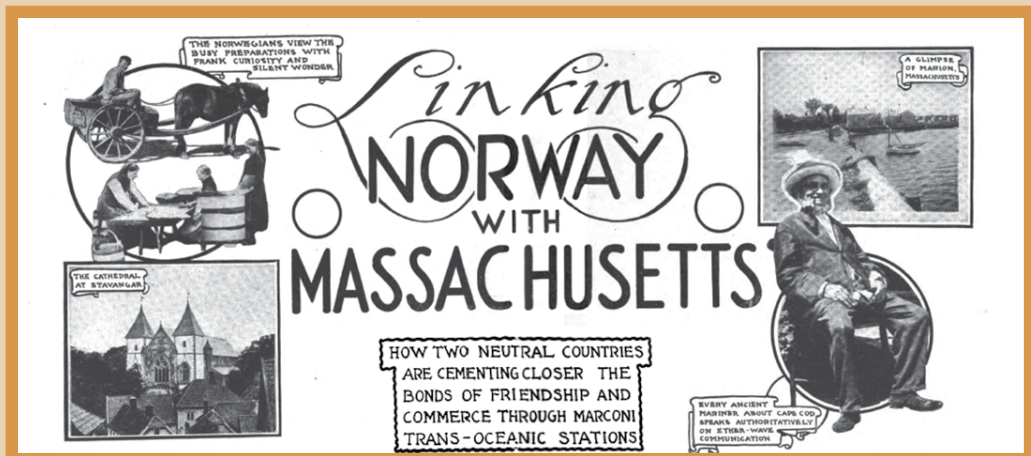
THE WIRELESS AGE MAY, 1914

1914 August. World War I broke out in Europe. It would have crippling consequences for the transoceanic project.

of raising the
support masts
s workers and
tions high into



1914 December. While the War was raging in Europe, the U.S. remained neutral. It was hoped that the completion of the wireless link between stations in Norway and Massachusetts would permit the free flow of uncensored news. News from England via undersea cable and from Germany via the great wireless station at Nauen was subject to the censorship of the belligerents.



1915 April. The directors reported to the stockholders that the Great War had blocked the construction of the Massachusetts stations.

1917 April. The United States entered the war. The Navy took control of all U.S. wireless stations, and would not return them to private owners until March 1920.

1918 November. World War I ended

1919 The Wilson administration developed a plan to establish the United States as the world leader in wireless communication. At the urging of the government, the Radio Corporation of America was formed. RCA acquired the Marconi holdings in the U.S. from the parent British company.

1920 The government returned the seized Marconi wireless stations to the new owners, RCA. Initially, the Radio Corporation pursued the transoceanic plans of the Marconi company, but soon undertook a major reorganization.

1921 RCA inaugurated marine service for connecting ships on the high seas with shore, and discontinued transatlantic operations at Chatham.

1921-1997 The conversion of the Chatham station to marine service guaranteed its long and prosperous future, serving mariners on the seven seas for eight decades before closing in 1997.

The direct service between Boston and Norway through the trans-oceanic stations which have been building at Marion, Mass., and Chatham, Mass., has also been blocked by the war. The construction work on both the stations of your company and those in Norway is almost finished and the installation of the apparatus could have been completed before now had it not been that the equipment is being made in England. It is doubtful whether it can be delivered here or in Norway until the war is over.

THE WIRELESS AGE MAY, 1915



"Via RCA"
Coastal Stations

W C C	MARION—CHATHAM (Cape Cod) MASS.
	Transmits on 2200 and 2300 meters C. W.
	Continuous watch on 2100 meters (ships calling wave). Multiplex transmission with simultaneous multiplex reception.
	The World's Greatest Coastal Station.

RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA
SPECIAL ORDER NO. 138

On or about April 10, 1921, the Radio Corporation's Cape Cod marine station will be opened for general public service. Continuous watch will be maintained on 600 and 2200 meters.

Continuous and interrupted continuous wave tube transmitters will be used. (Interrupted continuous wave signals are similar in character to those emitted by spark stations).

The receiving apparatus for all wave lengths is located at Chatham, Mass., as is likewise the 300-450-600 meter transmitter. The 1800-2200-2800 meter transmitter is located at Marion, Mass., same being distantly controlled from Chatham.

Wave Lengths—300-450-600-1800-2200-2800 meters.

Call Letters—WCC.

Coastal station charge ten cents per word, no minimum. Land line charges—same as those applying through our present New York (WNY) station.

Geographical location—

Chatham:	Longitude	70.00.00 West.
	Latitude	41.42.00 North.
Marion:	Longitude	70.46.30 West.
	Latitude	41.42.45 North.

On or about the same date, we shall open to general public service a spark station, receiving apparatus for which will be located at Belmar, N. J., and the transmitter at New Brunswick, N. J.