

CORRESPONDENCE AND DRAWINGS RELATE TO
THE OUTSIDE BROADCASTING VANS PROVIDED
BY MARCONI TO THE BBC IN THE 1950s

This information kindly provided by Basil Francis



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
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TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS LONDON TELEX

Mr. Basil Francis
G.E.C. Marconi
Chelmsford

5 December 1988

Dear Mr Francis.

Thank you very much for your help in establishing the details of Marconi Outside Broadcast Units used by the BBC.

It was most generous of you to give up your 'day-off' to meet me on my visit to Chelmsford, and I was extremely grateful to be able to benefit from your knowledge and experience of Outside Broadcast vehicle manufacture. I must say you came up with a few surprises, especially with reference to the earlier articulated trailer MCR's.

Since seeing you I have researched further, and have confirmed from the BBC vehicle fleet register that two earlier MCR's 3 and 5 were the ones that Marconi built as MCR's 8 and 9. MCR 10 was also equipped as a Marconi Image Orthicon camera unit for the Midlands Region. If this was not constructed at Chelmsford, it must have been installed by BBC P&ID. I have as yet been unable to confirm this.

The later fleet of vehicles MCR's 13, 14, 15 and 16 were initially allocated one to Manchester and three to London. The details of these are quite well documented, although as yet I have not been able to find a drawing of these units.

I had a most enjoyable day visiting G.E.C Marconi, and would like to thank you again for all the help and hospitality extended to me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy retirement, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

H.L. Arnall.

Howard L. Arnall



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Mr. Roy Rodwell,
GEC Marconi Ltd.,
Publicity Unit,
The Laurels,
Victoria Road,
Chelmsford. CMI 1PQ

24th February, 1989.

Dear Roy.

Thank you for your letter and your investigations into not only the 'missing' OB vehicles, but missing letters sent during the Christmas period. I have checked with the BBC post room Supervisor, who has not received any other notification of undelivered mail at this time. However, I have enclosed copies of the original letters and enclosures for Basil Francis and Peter Turrall, and would be most grateful if you could forward these to them.

With regard to the yet unidentified BBC Outside Broadcasts units, the information that I have been able to confirm to date is as follows:-

MCR 7 - Three of the original RCA Image Orthicon cameras were temporarily installed in an old sound recording vehicle, T29, a Thornycroft Signet.

These were later transferred to an articulated trailer, no details available.

MCR 8 - Marconi: Image Orthicons installed in a previously used trailer unit. No. TA4, a Dyson 3 ton. Bodywork by Spurling.

MCR 9 - Marconi: MK 2 Image Orthicons again installed in a previously used trailer unit No. TA3, a Dyson 3 ton. Bodywork by Marshall.

MCR 10 - Marconi Mk2 Image Orthicon installed in a new articulated trailer. No. TA 9, a Dyson 3 ton. Bodywork by Marshalls.

During our conversation with Basil Francis, he recalled carrying out work installing new equipment into two previously used articulated trailers, which are assumed to be MCR's 8 and 9, although he did not recollect details of MCR 10, which was a new unit.

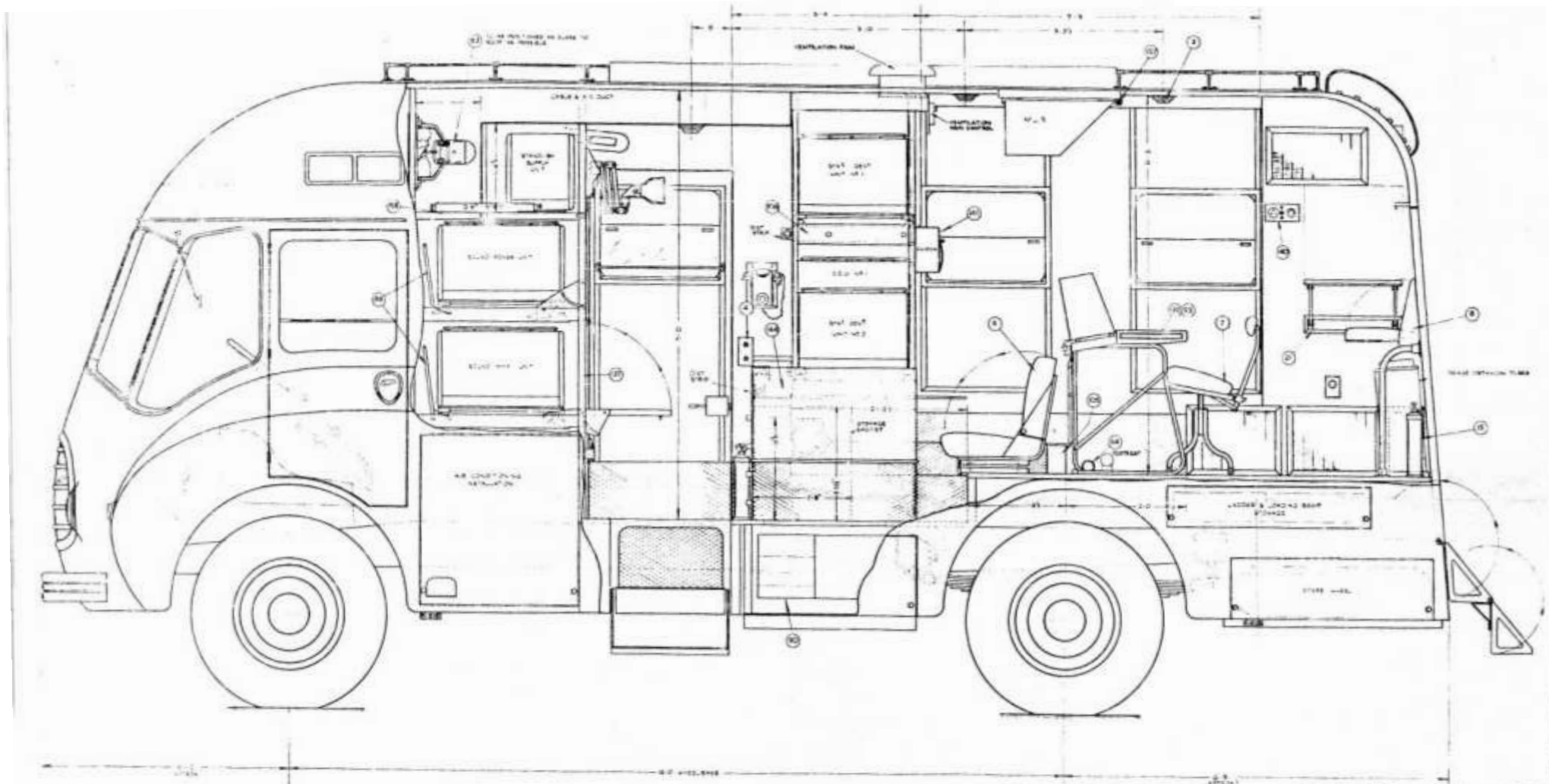
Perhaps if there is now more time available, some further researches into this period might be possible to confirm which ones were built at Chelmsford. The time span I believe would have been 1949 to the end of 1950.

The second group of Marconi MCR's, 13, 14, 15 and 16 were completed during the period 1954-55, and were allocated, 13 to Manchester, and 14, 15, and 16 to London. Registration Nos. were consecutive. PGN 813 to PGN 816. Bodywork again by Marshalls. Any works drawings or specifications regarding these would be most useful, although I have established that they were later converted to 625 working and 4 camera units by BBC P & ID during 1964-65.

I would like to thank you again for all the assistance you have given to me in my research, and look forward to seeing you on the 6th March,

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Arnall

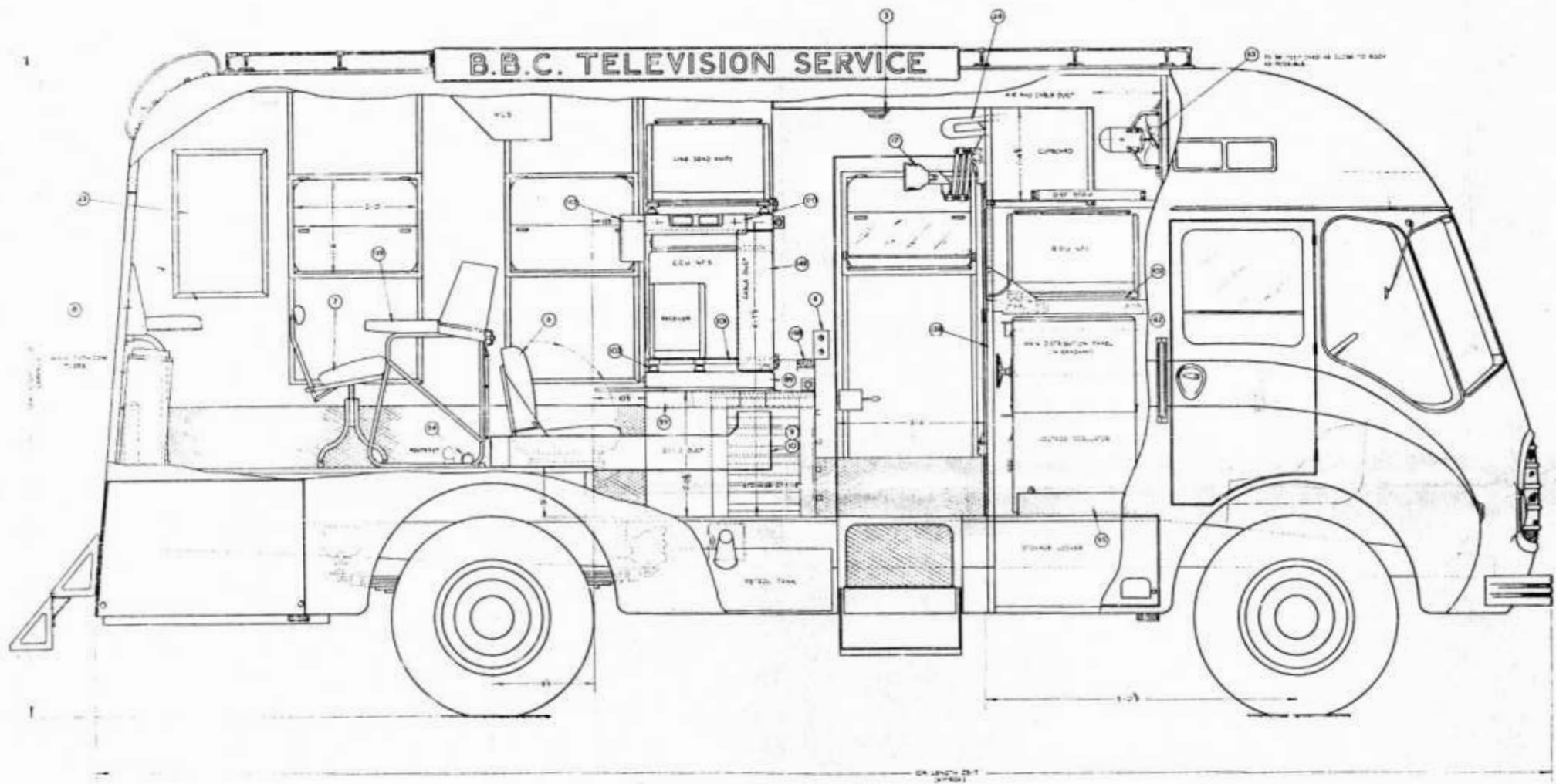


ARRANGEMENT OF MOBILE TELEVISION OB UNIT

NUMBER OF SHEETS	6
NUMBER OF COPIES	5
MCR Nos 13-16	4

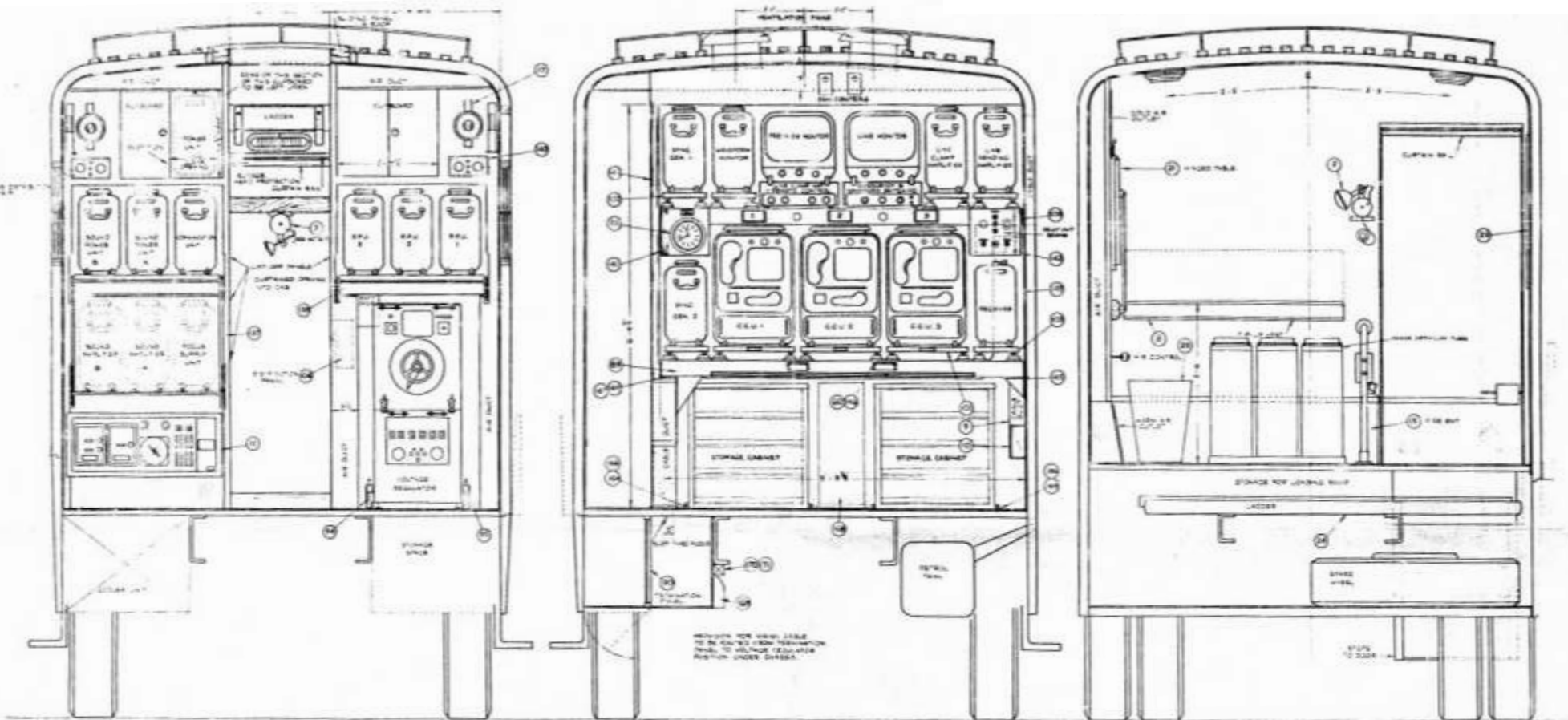
BBC

NO. OF SHEETS 4 NO. L 9446 SH. 1



ARRANGEMENT OF MOBILE
TELEVISION OB. UNIT
M.C.R. Nos. 13-16
BBC.

PRICE
SHEETS 4 **NPL 9446** JH 2
MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPHIC & TELEPHONE WORKS LTD. BIRMINGHAM



VIEW LOOKING FORWARD FROM BEHIND C.C.U. RACK.

VIEW LOOKING FORWARD FROM PRODUCTION DESK POSITION.

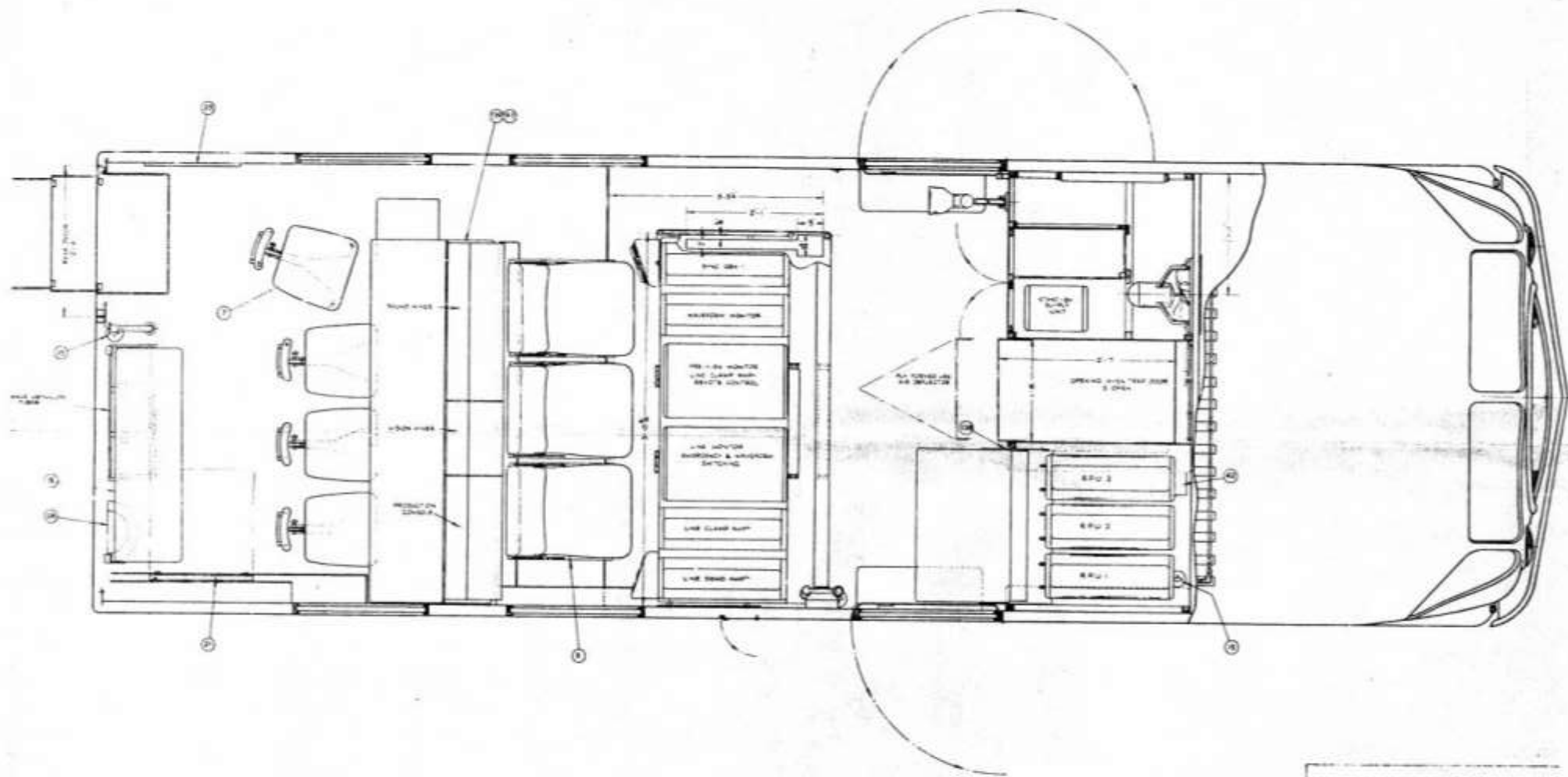
VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS REAR FROM PRODUCTION DESK POSITION.

NOTE: FOR VIEW LINE TO BE DRAWN FROM PRODUCTION DESK TO VOLTAGE REGULATOR POSITION UNDER DESK.

NOTES
 1. SW T. 1100000 & SW 1100000 - 108
 2. SW 1100000 - 1100000

DWG NO. 1040000 OF MATERIALS LIT. 1000, PARTS 11-8

ARRANGEMENT OF MOBILE	
TELEVISION OB UNIT	2
MCR NO 13 TO 16	4
BBC	2
No. 4 9446 3 10-11-52 4478	



ARRANGEMENT OF MOBILE
 TELEVISION OB UNIT
 MCR Nº 13-16
 B.B.C.

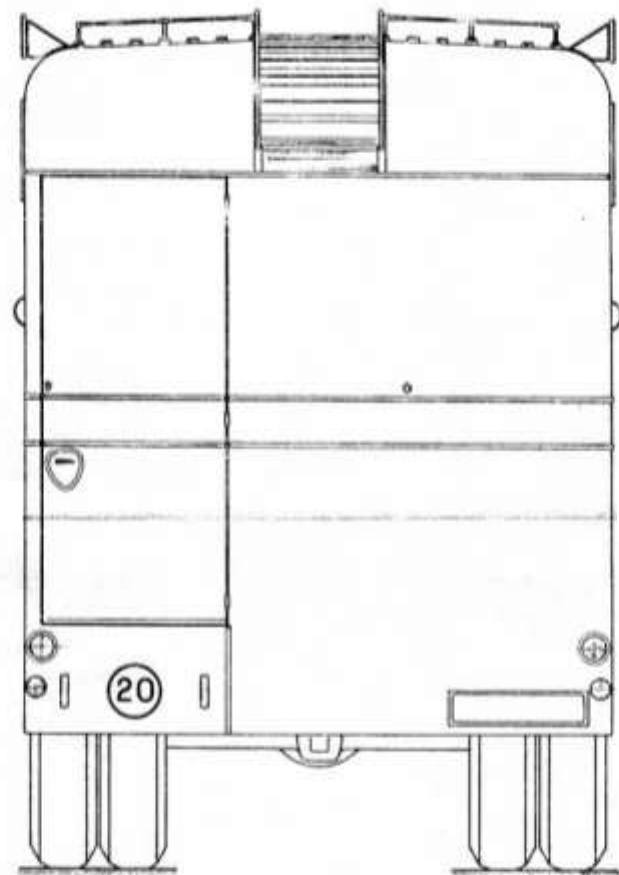
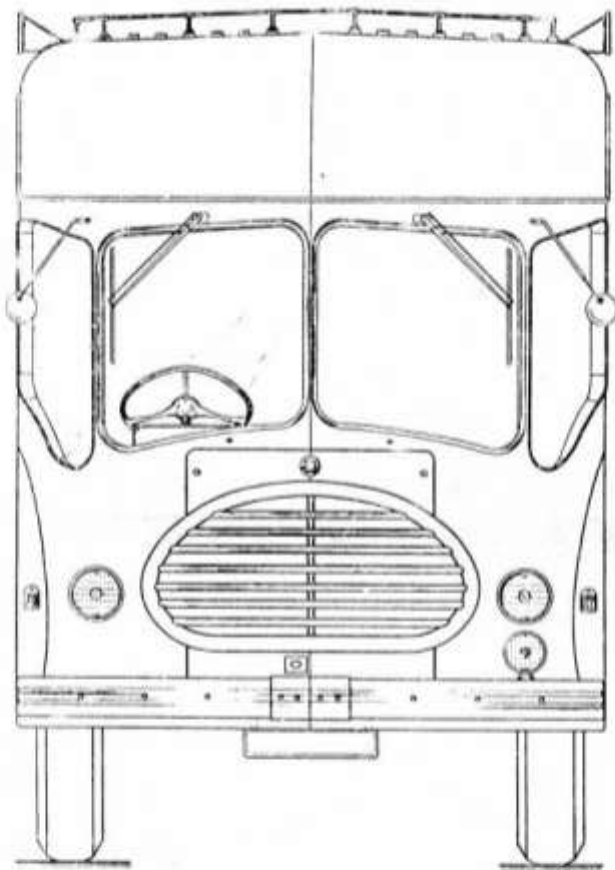
4 9446 4
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4 9446 4
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4 9446 4
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MOBILE TELEVISION OB UNIT
M.C.R. Nos. 13 TO 16
BBC.
NPL 9621
MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO. LTD. LONDON



MOBILE TELEVISION OB UNIT
 MCR Nos 13 TO 16
 BBC.

REF
 UNIT: 2 NO. 9621 OF 2

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