

# A 1960's outside Broadcast and how it works!

MCR21, is

Mobile Control Room 21

In 1963 video recorders were new, rare and were very expensive. They used 2 inch wide tape and their on site use was reserved for the most important programmes.

This was all a very long time before action re-plays were possible.



Outside Broadcast vans use a lot of electricity. Often the best and most reliable choice was to bring your own generator and make your own! The BBC had a number of generators, large & small



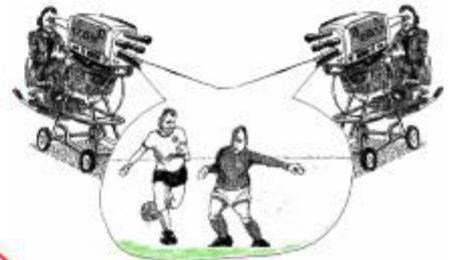
It is important to remember just how long ago 1963 was, a whole 56 years! Much nearer the birth of TV broadcasting in 1936 than to today. Many of the wizz-o features of today's television had yet to be invented and much ingenuity was needed to produce good and exciting programmes.

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The Sound and Pictures from the OB were sent to the presentation control studio by microwave link. In some cases when the OB was a long way away several "hops" might be needed. All this long before satellites and fibre cable.

MCR21 was at the centre of the outside broadcast. it was capable of operating 4 cameras, if more were needed a second sister OB van would be used.



When a caption was needed the message was written in white on a black card. This was viewed by a camera and the caption could then be electronically inserted into the picture. The camera when not being used for a caption would be strategically placed to view the action and/or an announcer.

The commentary that supports the pictures is an important part of the programme and the commentator has one or two picture monitors to view what is being transmitted There is comprehensive talk-back equipment to maintain close contact with the producer.

If you have any questions please ask any of our volunteers for further information.

The Broadcast Television Technology Trust [www.bttt.org.uk](http://www.bttt.org.uk)