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**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA
RADIO BRANCH**

**PPI ANTENNA
FOR
LONG RANGE EARLY WARNING**

**OTTAWA
OCTOBER, 1943**

DECLASSIFIED

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6054397

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA
RADIO BRANCH

PPI ANTENNA
FOR LONG RANGE EARLY WARNING

I. Requirements:

The PPI (LREW) was developed to provide an all-round looking early warning system on 90 mc. The considerations leading up to the choice of this frequency will be found in PRA-85*. It was required to obtain ranges of 150 miles with an azimuthal accuracy of $\pm 1^\circ$. This meant that as narrow a beam width as possible was required, and as great a gain. To obtain raid handling capacity, the array was to rotate at a speed of approximately 4 r.p.m. Low angle coverage was to be accomplished by mounting the antenna on the top of a two-hundred foot tower. This latter fact made the problem of wind resistance of great importance.

II. Developed Array:

A bill-board type of array was developed using three collinear arrays as radiators, rather than the conventional stacks of dipoles. These collinears are stacked in a vertical array with the spacing between collinears equal to $\lambda/2$. The collinears consist of seven half-wave radiating elements, and operate at a frequency of 90 mc/s. The array is fed at the mid-point of the centre collinear. The upper and lower collinears are fed in phase by means of twisted $\lambda/2$ lines, (1/4" tubing at 2-inch spacing i.e. $Z_0 = 330$ ohms). A parasitic reflector is inserted 25 cms. behind the centre element of each collinear. The reflector causes the centre element to be driven harder. This fact, accompanied by the natural power distribution along the array due to radiation, tends to minimize the side lobes.

To decrease the back to front ratio, the array was backed up by a screen composed of horizontal wires (#12 ga. copperweld) with approximately three inch spacing. This type of screen was chosen to minimize wind resistance. The phasing stubs of the collinears project back through the screen. Where a wire would interfere with the stub, the wire is cut and fastened to the gusset plates. The wire is then bonded to the adjacent ones.

* NRC Report PRA-85, "Long Range Early Warning".

S E C R E T
PRA-36 Page 2

The impedance of the collinear stack, backed by the screen, is 165 ohms. This impedance is stepped up to 415 ohms. to match into the coupling ring system. This is done by means of $\lambda/4$ transformer. The transformer may be calculated and inserted. There are no other adjustments in the feeding of the actual array.

A schematic of the array is given in Fig. 1.

The radiation pattern of the array is given in Fig. 2. This pattern was taken while receiving on the array. The beam width at half-field strength is 18° , and the maximum size of minor lobes is 13%. The back radiation is of the order of 4% or less. As this antenna is to be used in conjunction with a T-R system, the effective pattern width is 12° , the minor lobes 1.6% in power, and the back radiation negligible.

The radiators are made of 5/16" brass tubing. The corners and "U" ends of the stubs, are made of 5/16" brass rod, turned down and then bent into shape. The radiating elements are supported by Johnson #65 type insulators. No insulation is placed nearer than 15 cm. from the high-voltage end of a radiating element. A third insulator is placed in the centre of the element for support. The exceptions to the latter are the centre elements, of which each half is supported by two insulators. The stubs are supported by three insulators, one on each side and attached to the frame, the third insulator is in the centre of the "U" portion of the stub.

The array is mounted upon a frame of 2" x 2" dressed oak, of dimensions 43'6" x 13'9" (Fig. 3). The frame is made in three sections for ease in assembling and erection. The horizontal reflector wires are held in place by means of specially constructed eye-bolts (Fig. 4). These bolts are attached to angle irons (Fig. 5), along the edges of the three sections. Additional support is given these angle irons by bolting adjacent ones together when the array is assembled.

A theoretical interference pattern of the array, mounted upon a two hundred foot tower, is given in Fig. 6. This pattern has been checked against actual flight tests. Data concerning these flight tests will be given in a forthcoming report PRA-94.¹

¹ NRC Report PRA-94, "Flight Tests for LREW".

III. Gap-Filling Using Elliptical Polarization:

In order to achieve partial gap-filling using only one antenna, it was decided to incorporate elliptical polarization (see PRA-73)². This was accomplished by mounting eight full-wave dipoles, vertically polarized, on the same frame as the collinears. These dipoles are fed by means of half-wave lines $1/8$ " rod at 2" spacing $Z_0 = 415$ ohms. A schematic of this array is given in Fig. 7. The centre dipoles are spaced at slightly less than half-wavelength, due to physical difficulties in mounting them. The dipoles are 32 cms. from the screen.

To eliminate back radiation vertical wires were added to the screen. These wires were interlaced with the horizontal wires forming a net of 3" mesh. These wires were supported and tightened in the same manner as the horizontal wires.

The pattern of the vertical portion of the array is given in Fig. 8. The beam width at half voltage is 16° , and the largest minor lobe is 20% in field strength, or 4% in power. The measured impedance of the array is 147 ohms.

To compensate for lesser gain on the vertical array, due to: (a) the smaller number of dipoles and, (b) the fact that over sea water the power radiated by the vertical elements is distributed over a larger volume of space due to the existence of some gap-filling, the vertical array is fed twice as hard as the horizontal array. The impedance of the vertically polarized array is transformed to 220 ohms. The two arrays are then joined by the proper phasing length of 415 ohm line. The combined array impedance is then transformed to 415 ohms to match into the coupling ring system.

As the first gap in the ground interference pattern occurs at $1\ 1/2^\circ$ elevation, i.e. well under the Brewster angle for land, the use of elliptical polarization for gap-filling will not be effective at low angles looking over land. However, where reflection takes place over sea water, the Brewster angle is 2° approximately, and 40% gap-filling in the first gap should be realized. In this case, the maximum range on the bottom lobe will be less than that for horizontal polarization alone.

² NRC Report PRA-73, "Part I - The use of Elliptically Polarized Radiation for Gap-Filling in the Vertical Pattern of the Canadian ZPI Antenna" and "Part II- Comparison of Horizontally Polarized and Elliptically Polarized ZPI Antenna".

IV. Mechanical Support:

The frame is supported by a stool truss, Fig. 9, which is then bolted to an RWG turntable. This turntable provides the rotating mechanism for the array. A 5 h.p., 550 volt, 3-phase motor is used to drive the turntable, which rotates at approximately 4 r.p.m. The underpart of the turntable is bolted to a small five-foot steel tower on top of the larger tower. When the array was erected at the National Research Council Field Station, the array and truss were assembled on the ground and then raised as a complete unit to the top of the two hundred foot tower. See Photograph, Fig. 19.

V. Coupling Rings:

In order to obtain constant, balanced, feed conditions with continuous rotation use is made of inductive coupling rings. Details and the assembly of the system are given in Fig. 10. This system has been subjected to powers up to 300 KW without any indication of break down.

VI. Feeder System:

The feeder system originally consisted of shielded, balanced line, $Z_0 = 465$ ohms. The coupling ring system was designed to match this line, and by means of adjusting the spacing between rings, a standing wave ratio of 1.1:1 was easily obtained.

Subsequent use was made of a coaxial feed, $Z_0 = 75$ ohms. This line is terminated in a $\lambda/4$ balancing sleeve, followed by a $\lambda/4$ transformer to match into the coupling ring system. A 2 5/8" diameter coaxial line was used for the two-hundred foot run up the tower. This coaxial line was enlarged to 4" diameter at the bottom of the tower to accommodate a Westinghouse type spark gap system, and to fit the American transmitter then in use.

VII. Spark-Gap System:

The spark gap system consists of two 4" diameter "T" stubs, with 1/4" inner conductor. One stub is used for T-R, the other for anti-T-R. The system used is shown in Fig. 11. When the spark gap fires, it nullifies the effect of the condenser C, presenting an inductance in parallel with that of the shorted end of the T. These two impedances paralleled and then transformed, act together to give a high impedance across the line, preventing power from getting into the receiver.

When the gap is not firing, the effect of the condenser is to introduce a capacitance which resonates with the shorted end of the T. In the anti-T-R the resulting high impedance is

transformed into a low impedance across the coaxial line. This is transformed into a high impedance across the T-R stub. On the T-R stub there is an additional tuning stub to which is attached the receiver line. When the gap on this stub is not firing, the condenser is tuned to resonate with the stub as above, and the load presented across the coaxial is dependent upon the characteristic impedance of the receiver line. The receiver line consists of 7/8" O.D. coaxial line coupled to the stub through a half-wave length of AS-48M telcothene cable.

To line up the spark gap system, a video line is run from the receiver to a test oscilloscope at the gap system. The condensers are then tuned until a maximum signal is obtained from a fixed echo. This tuning is fairly critical.

The above spark gap system is a direct modification of the Westinghouse system, except that in their system no use is made of an anti-T-R stub.

VIII. De-Icing:

De-icing of the screen is provided for by tying all of the horizontal wires in parallel, and then current is passed through them from a specially designed transformer. The three sections of screen are bonded together by means of copper bus-bars 1" x 1/4". A 4 1/2 KVA transformer, with 110 volt primary was used at first but did not have a high enough power rating. Furthermore, the power slip rings (See Fig. 10) and brushes could not carry the high currents necessary for the primary. Corrective measures to be applied are to use a 9KVA transformer with a 220 volt primary. It is also planned to parallel two slip rings in each side of the line.

IX. Beam-Split:

In the earlier stages of development when operational policy was undecided, the problem of using beam split for accurate azimuthal determination was considered. A system using the horizontally polarized array was devised and tried experimentally. The system proved satisfactory up to limitations imposed by switching. No development was carried out on the switching problem as the idea of beam split was discarded because of (a) mechanical problems involved were very great and (b) subsequent tests showed that an azimuthal accuracy of $\pm 1^\circ$ could be obtained with the array rotating continuously.

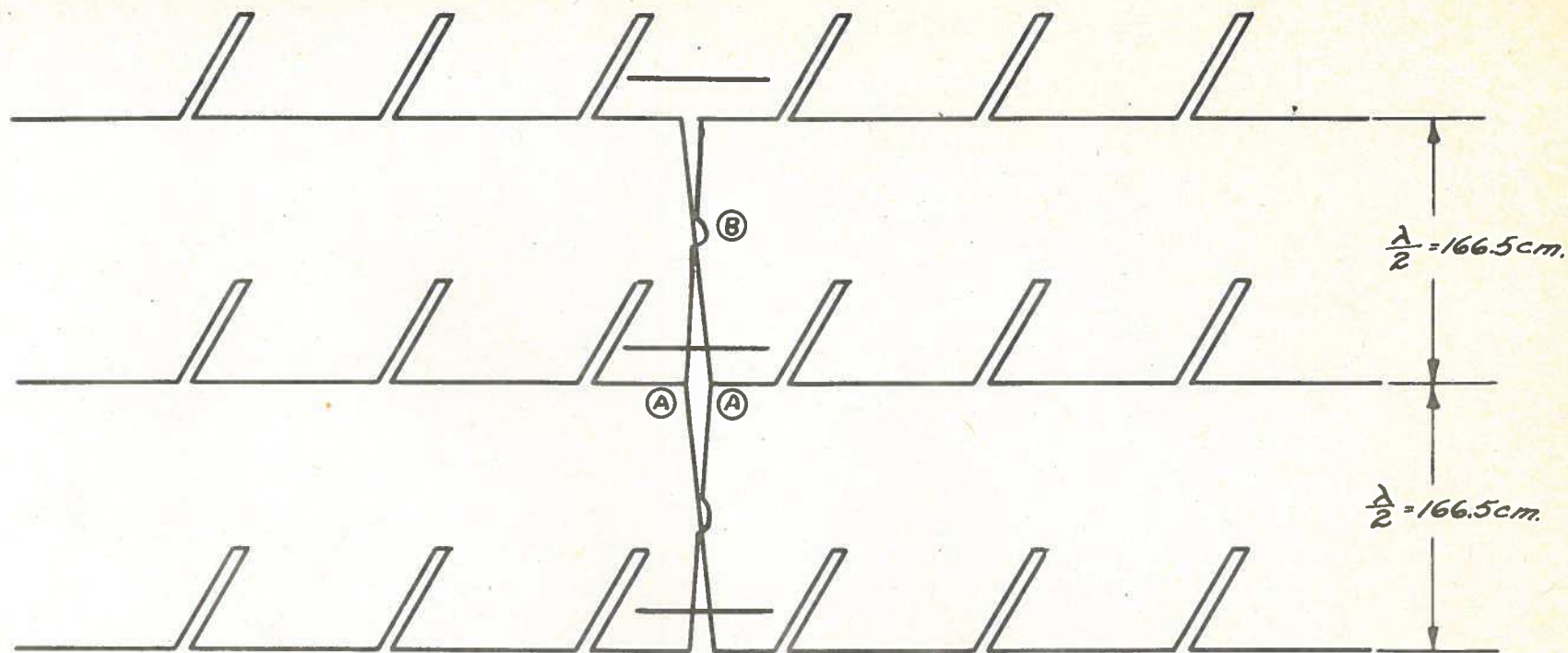
As a matter of interest the proposed system for beam split, together with patterns, are outlined in this report. Figs. 12 and 13 show a schematic of the system. Figs. 14 and 15 show the patterns obtained. The method of operation was to transmit from the centre of the array, and receive from the ends. Thus the array is split only on receiving.

To incorporate beam split would require a double coupling ring system in which use could be made of a small ring with lumped C for the receiving ring.

J. H. Bell.

OTTAWA

September 10, 1943.



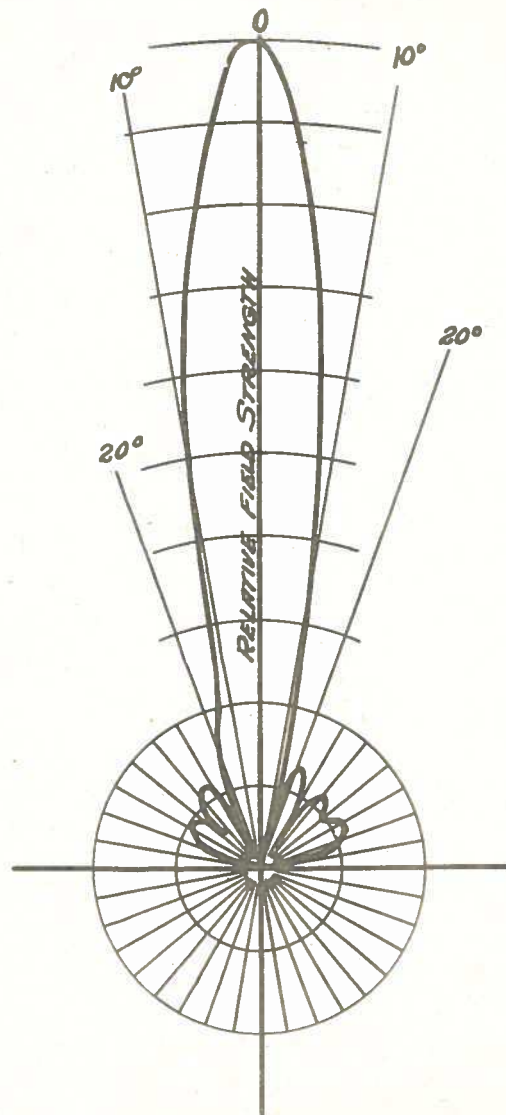
SCHEMATIC OF HORIZONTALLY POLARIZED ARRAY
(OMITTING SCREEN)

Ⓐ-Ⓐ FEED POINTS

Ⓑ ~ 1/4" BRASS PIPE @ 2" $Z_0 = 330\Omega$

FIG. I

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY <i>EH BELL</i>		DATE <i>JUNE 7, 1943</i>		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV. <i>J. H. Bell</i>		DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME <i>HORIZONTALLY POLARIZED ARRAY SCHEMATIC</i>				DWG. NO. <i>P-A-FI.</i> <i>RL-350-A</i>



HORIZONTAL RADIATION PATTERN
OF HORIZONTALLY
POLARIZED ARRAY ($f = 90 \text{ mc/s}$)

FIG. 2

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	E.H.B.		DATE	JUNE 8, 1943
CHECKED			DATE	
ENG. APPROV.	<i>[Signature]</i>		DATE	
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME	ANTENNA PATTERN I		DWG. NO.	P-A-FI RL-349-A

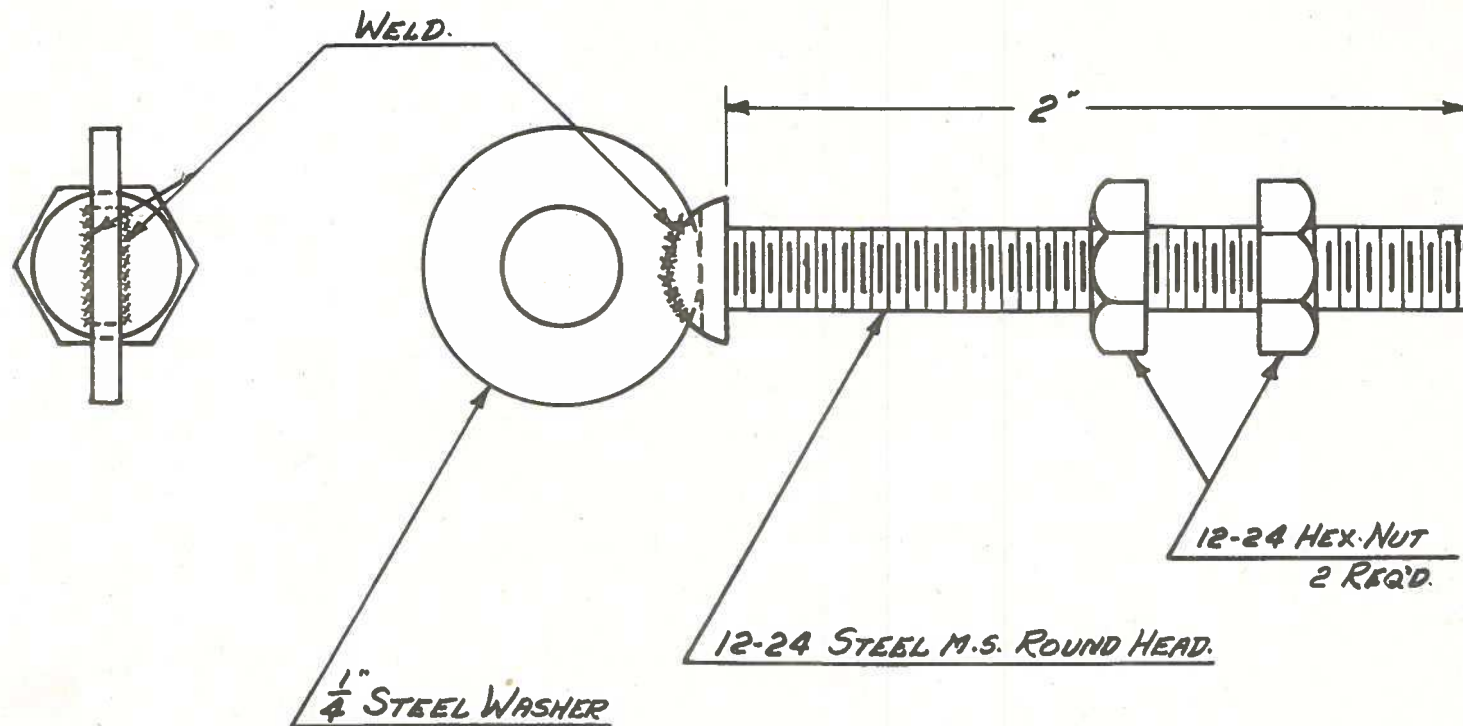


FIG. 4

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	K.E.K.	DATE	27-4-42	SUPERSEDES
CHECKED	AS	DATE	20-9-43	SCALE
ENG. APPROV.	J.H. Bell	DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME				DWG. NO.
SCREEN WIRE HOLDING BOLTS.				RL-36-A.

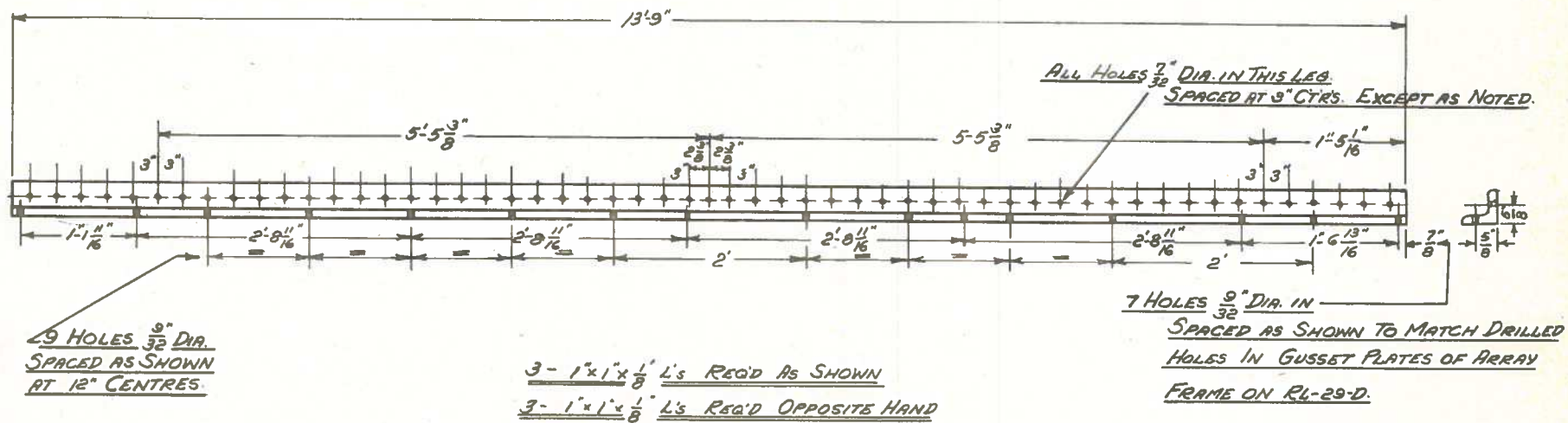


FIG. 5

REF. DWG. RL-36A & RL-29D.

REVISED-AUG. 21-43-J.W.- 13 HOLES ADDED.

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	C.E.R.	DATE	11/5/43	SUPERSEDES
TRACED BY	D.C.	DATE	20-9-43	SCALE
CHECKED	AS	DATE		N.T.S.
ENG. APPROV.		DATE		FINISH
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME	DWG. NO. A-A-K			
SCREEN WIRE SUPPORTING ANGLES	RL-35-B			

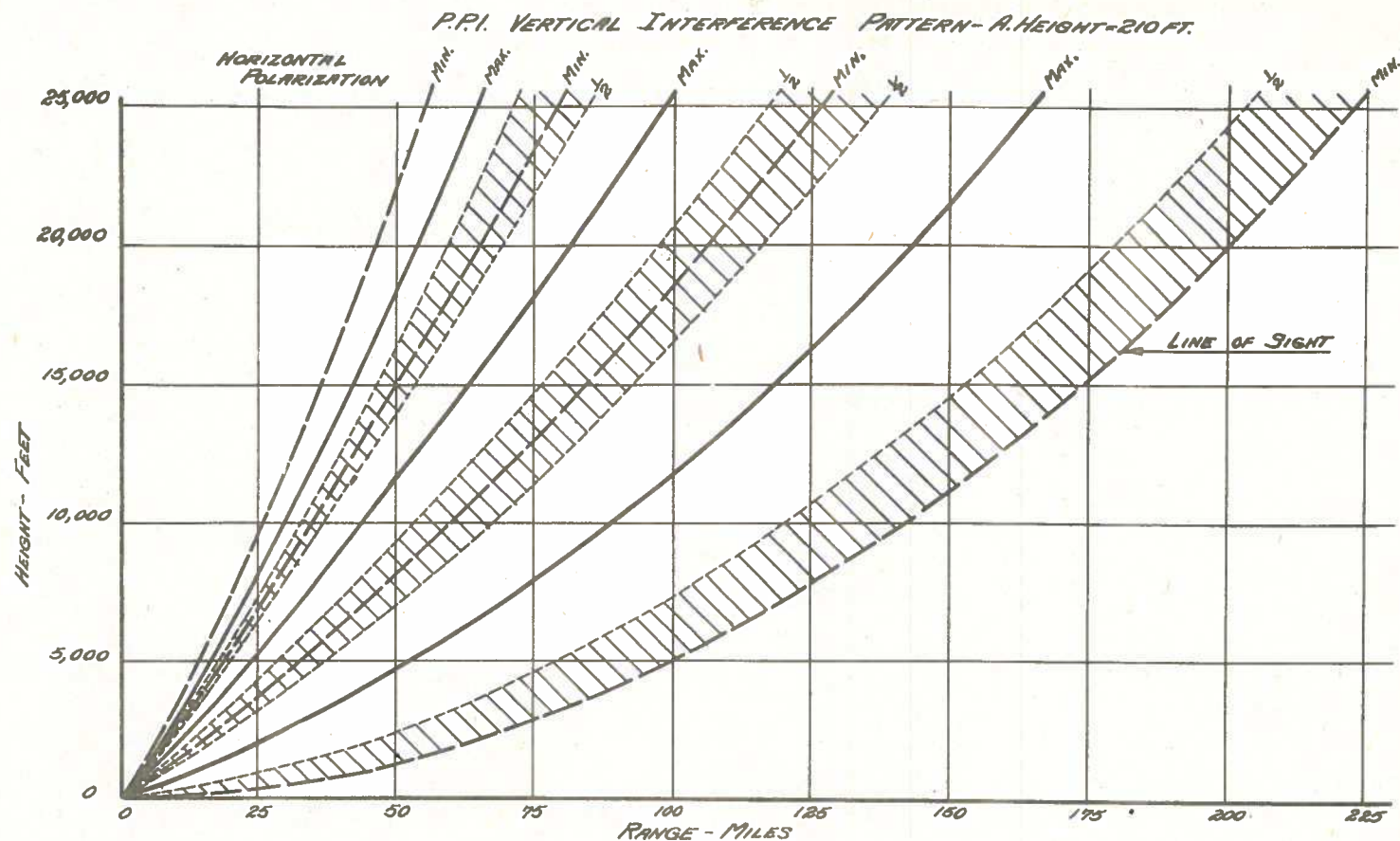


FIG. 6

LEGEND

MAXIMUM —————
 $\frac{1}{2}$ FLD. STRENGTH - - - - -
 MINIMUM

$K = \frac{4}{3}$ EARTH'S RADIUS

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY <i>EN.B.</i>		DATE <i>June 7, 1945</i>		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV. <i>J.H.B.</i>		DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME <i>P.P.I. VERTICAL INTERFERENCE PATTERN</i>				DWG. NO. <i>P-A-PI</i>
				RL-352-B



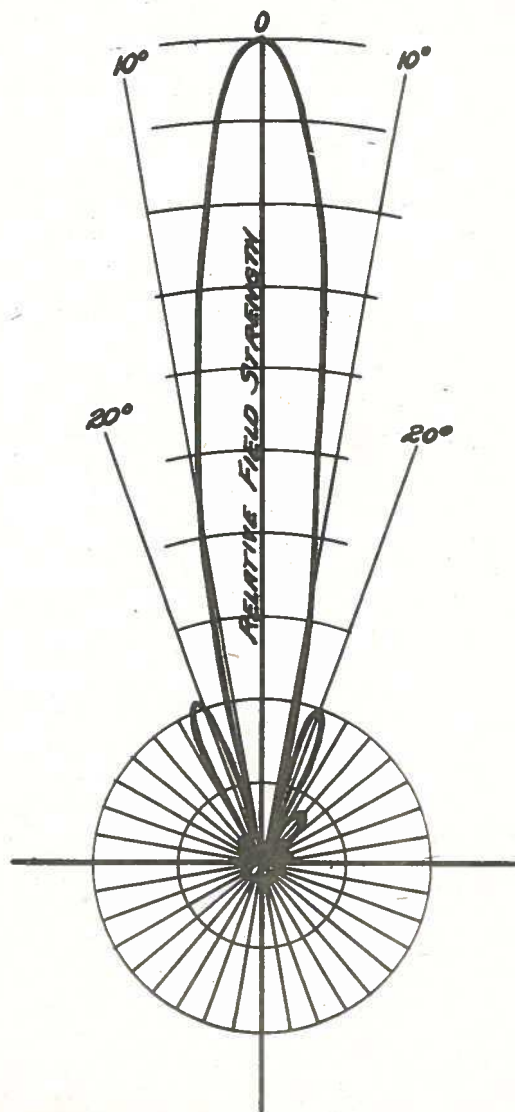
$D = 18$ BRASS ROD @ $2''$ SPACING
 $Z_0 = 4.15$ OHMS
 $C =$ FEED POINTS.

165 cm
 45 cm
 25 cm
 865 cm
 172.5 cm
 172.5 cm
 164 cm
 SCREEN

HORIZONTALLY POLARIZED ARRAY

NOTE: CENTER REFLECTOR - 172 CM. LONG.

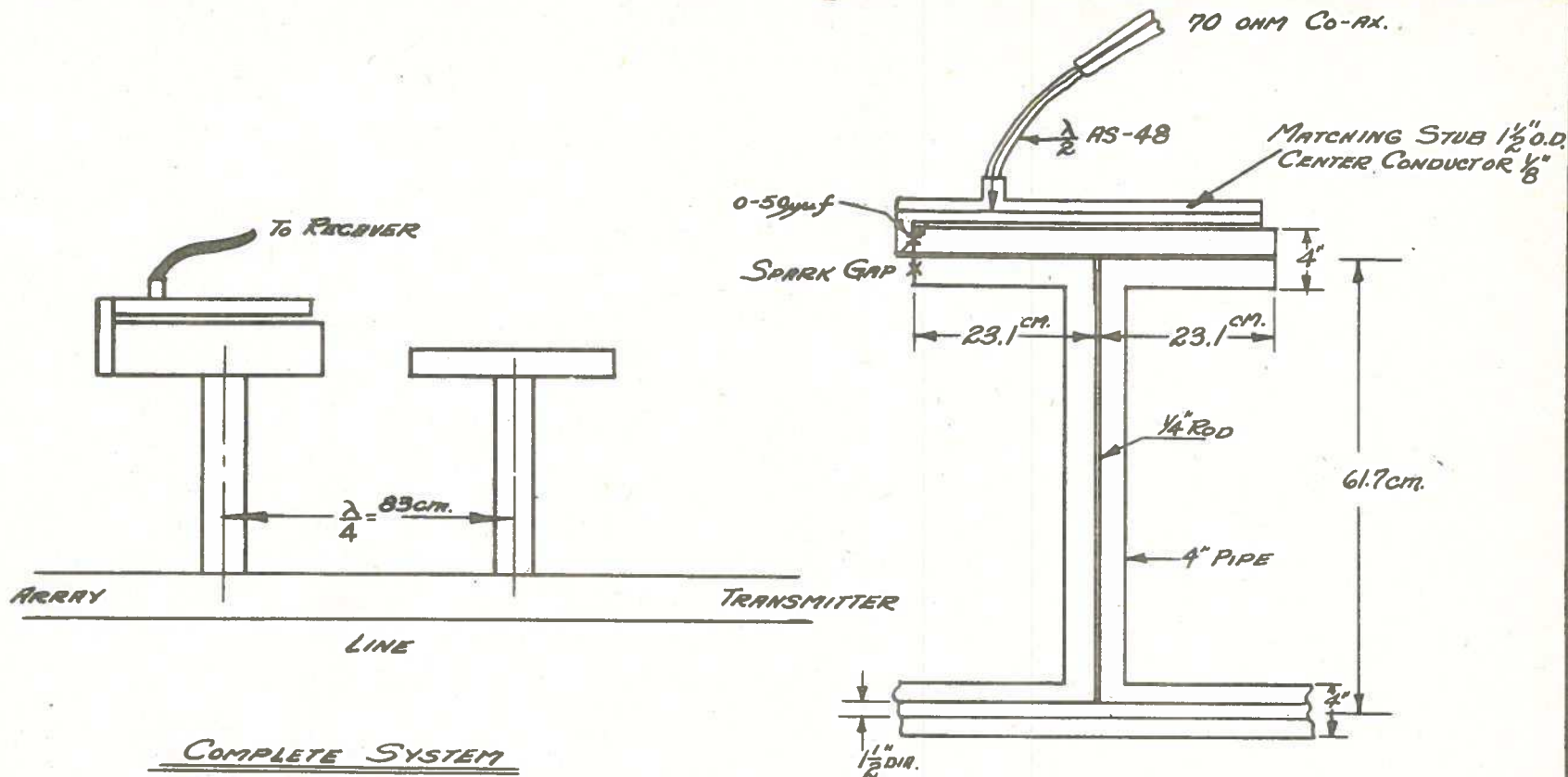
ITEM	PART NO.	QTY.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY <i>ENB</i>		DATE <i>JUNE 7, 1949</i>		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV. <i>J. H. Ball</i>		DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME <i>VERTICAL HORIZONTAL ARRAY SCHEMATIC</i>				DWG. NO. <i>P-A-1</i> <i>RL-351-B</i>



HORIZONTAL RADIATION PATTERN
OF VERTICALLY POLARIZED
ARRAY AT 90 MC/SEC.

FIG.8

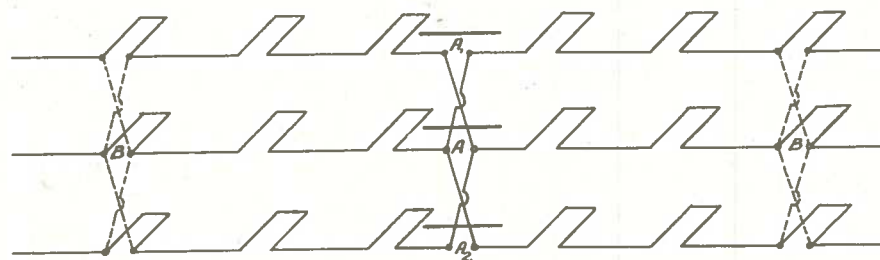
ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	E.H.B.	DATE	JUNE 8, 1943	SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV.	J.H. Bell	DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME	ANTENNA PATTERN II			DWG. NO. P-A-FI
				RL-34B-A



T-R SYSTEM (WESTINGHOUSE)
 ANOTHER SYSTEM WITHOUT MATCHING
 STUB IS USED FOR R-T.
 USED AS RL-376-A.

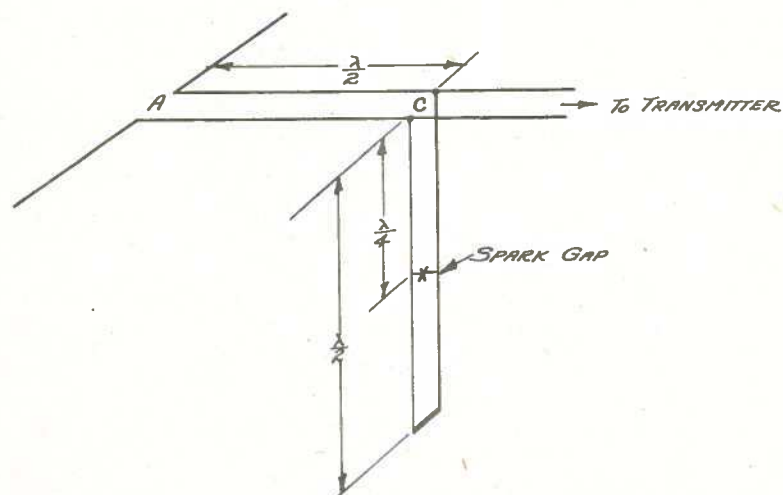
FIG. 11

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY <i>ENB</i>		DATE <i>JUNE 18, 1943</i>		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV. <i>A.H. Bell</i>		DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME <i>SPARK GAP SYSTEM</i>				DWG. NO. <i>T/RL</i> <i>RLX-40-A</i>

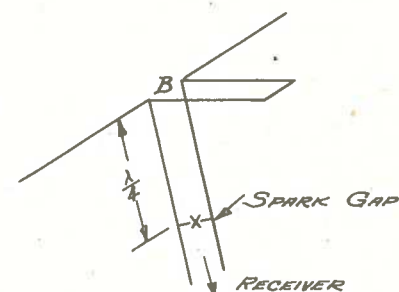


BEAM-SPLIT ON P.P.I.

NOTE: TRANSMIT AT POINT A; RECEIVE AT B.



NOTE: WHEN TRANSMITTING, SPARK GAP FIRES GIVING HIGH IMPEDANCE AT C. WHEN RECEIVING, EFFECTIVE SHORT ACROSS C; HENCE A, HENCE A1, AND A2. BEAM WOBBLE OBTAINED BY WORKING ANTENNA OFF FREQUENCY.



NOTE: WHEN TRANSMITTING, SPARK GAP FIRES GIVING HIGH IMPEDANCE ACROSS B. THUS ANTENNA BEHAVES NORMALLY.

FIG. 12

ITEM	PART NO.	QTY.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY		DATE		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV.		DATE		FINISH
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME				DWG. NO.
BEAM-SPLIT SCHEMATIC				P-A-L
				RL-372-B

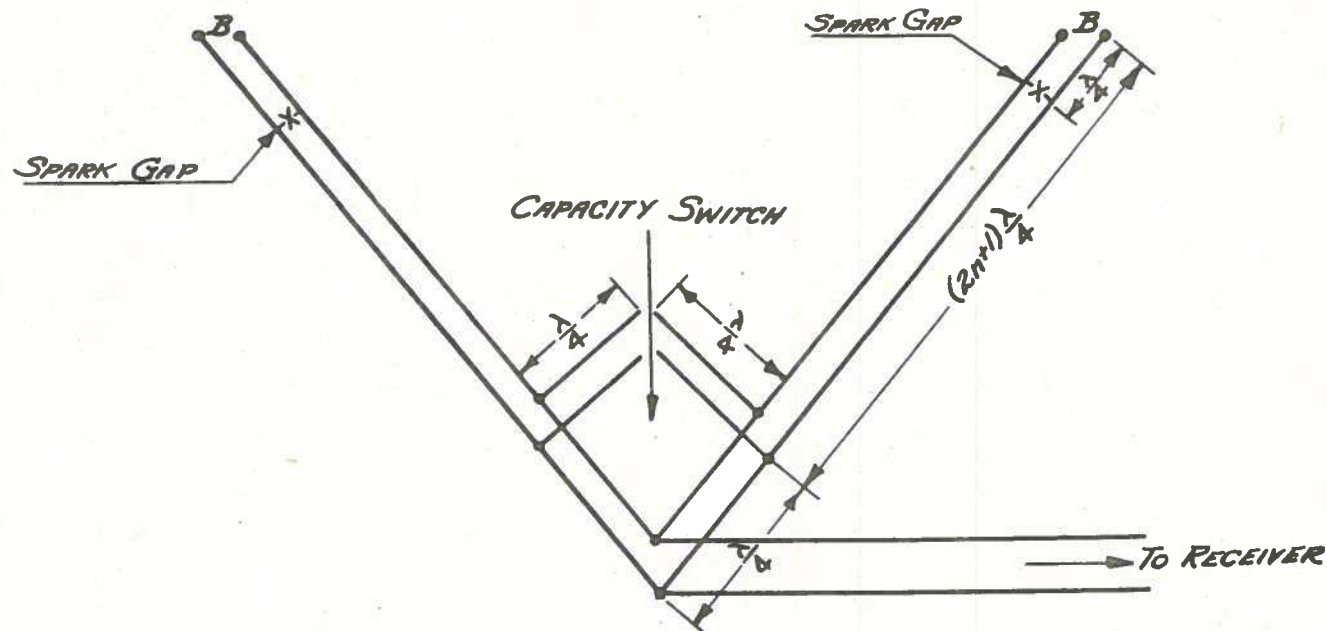
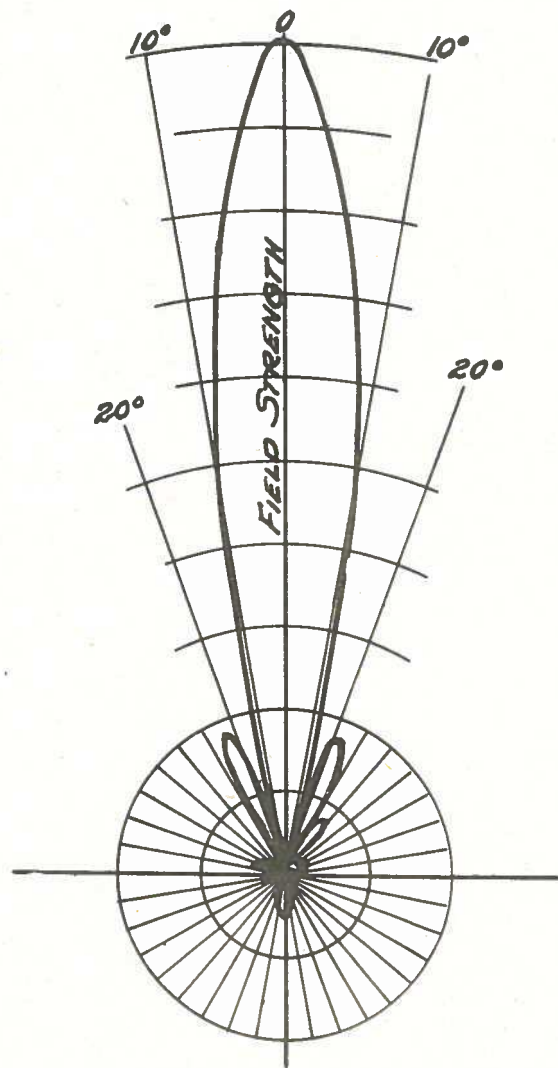


FIG. 13

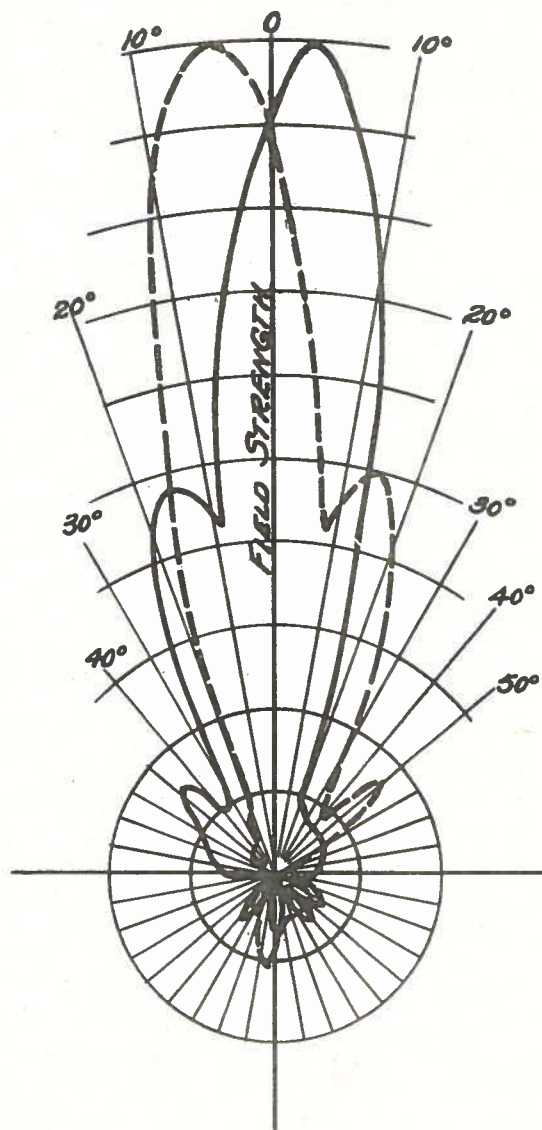
ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY <i>ENB</i>		DATE <i>SEPT. 4, 1949</i>		SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV. <i>J. H. Bell</i>		DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME <i>SCHEMATIC OF RECEIVER LINES & SWITCHING SYSTEM</i>				DWG. NO. <i>P-A-L</i> <i>RL-373-A</i>



HORIZONTAL RADIATION PATTERN
OF ARRAY, MODIFIED FOR BEAM SPLIT,
WHEN TRANSMITTING. ($f = 90 \text{ mc/s.}$)

FIG. 14

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	ENB	DATE	SEPT. 4, 1943	SUPERSEDES
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE
ENG. APPROV.	<i>J. M. Bell</i>	DATE		FINISH.
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME	ANTENNA PATTERN			DWG. NO. P-A-FI
				RL-374-A



HORIZONTAL RADIATION PATTERNS SHOWING
BEAM SPLIT OBTAINED BY RECEIVING ON
EACH SIDE. ($f=90\text{mc/s.}$)

FIG. 15

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION	
DRAWN BY <i>ENB.</i>		DATE <i>SEPT. 8, 1943</i>		SUPERSEDES	
CHECKED		DATE		SCALE —	
ENG. APPROV. <i>JMBell</i>		DATE		FINISH.	
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA					
NAME <i>ANTENNA PATTERN</i>				DWG. NO. <i>P-A-FL</i> <i>RL-375-A</i>	

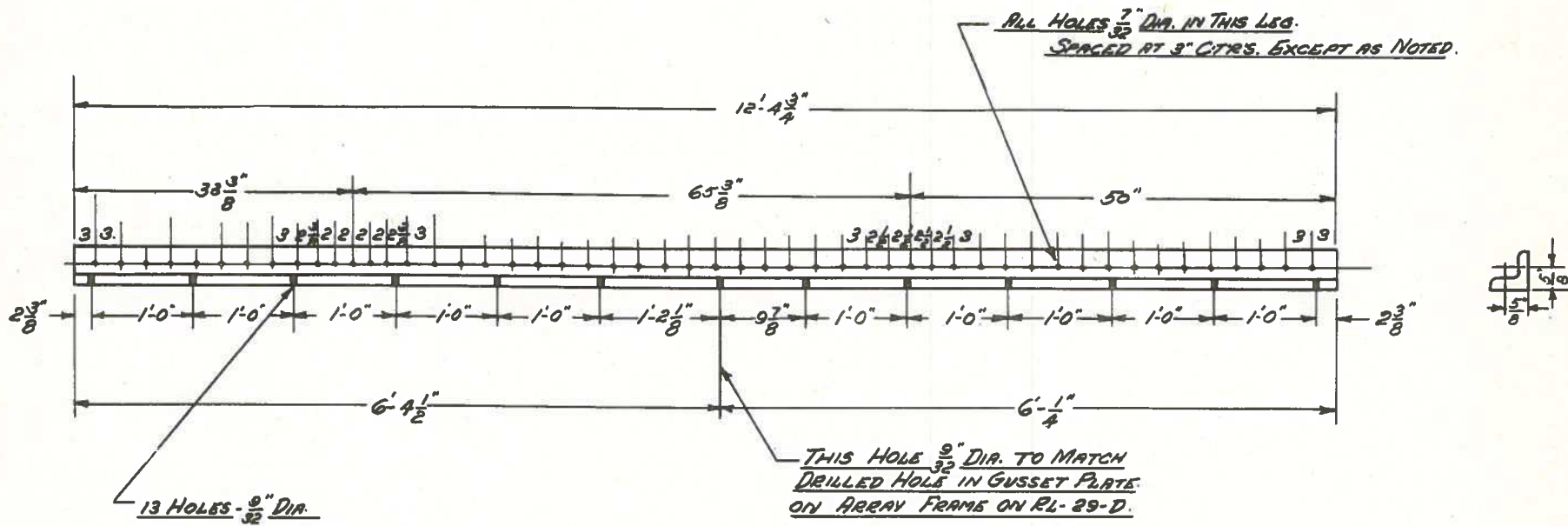
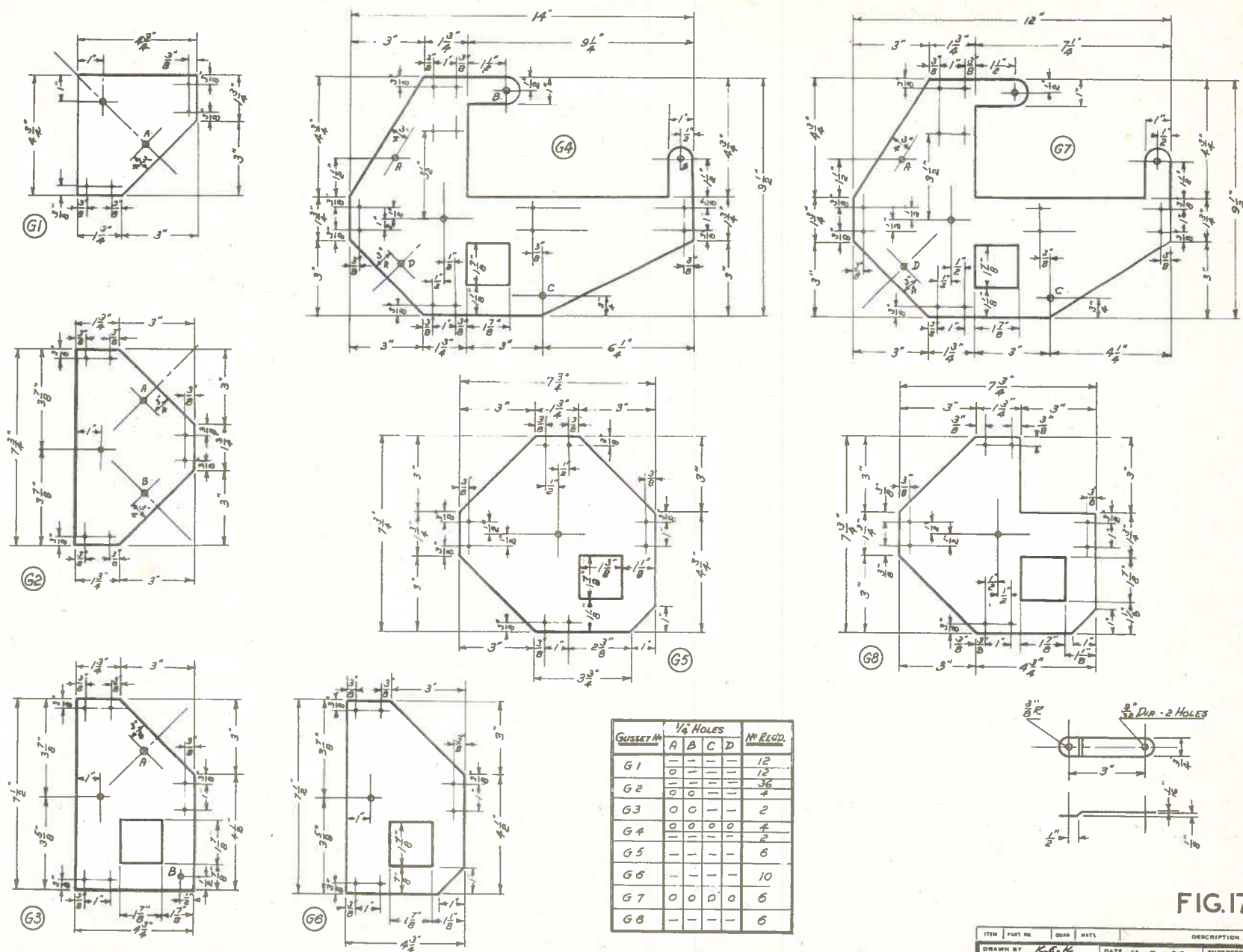


FIG. 16

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MAT'L	DESCRIPTION	
DRAWN BY	J.W.	DATE	28/8/43	SUPERSEDES	
CHECKED	AS	DATE	20-9-43	SCALE	N.T.S.
ENG. APPROV.		DATE		FINISH	
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA					
NAME	SCREEN WIRE SUPPORT ANGLES			DWG. NO.	RL-371-B

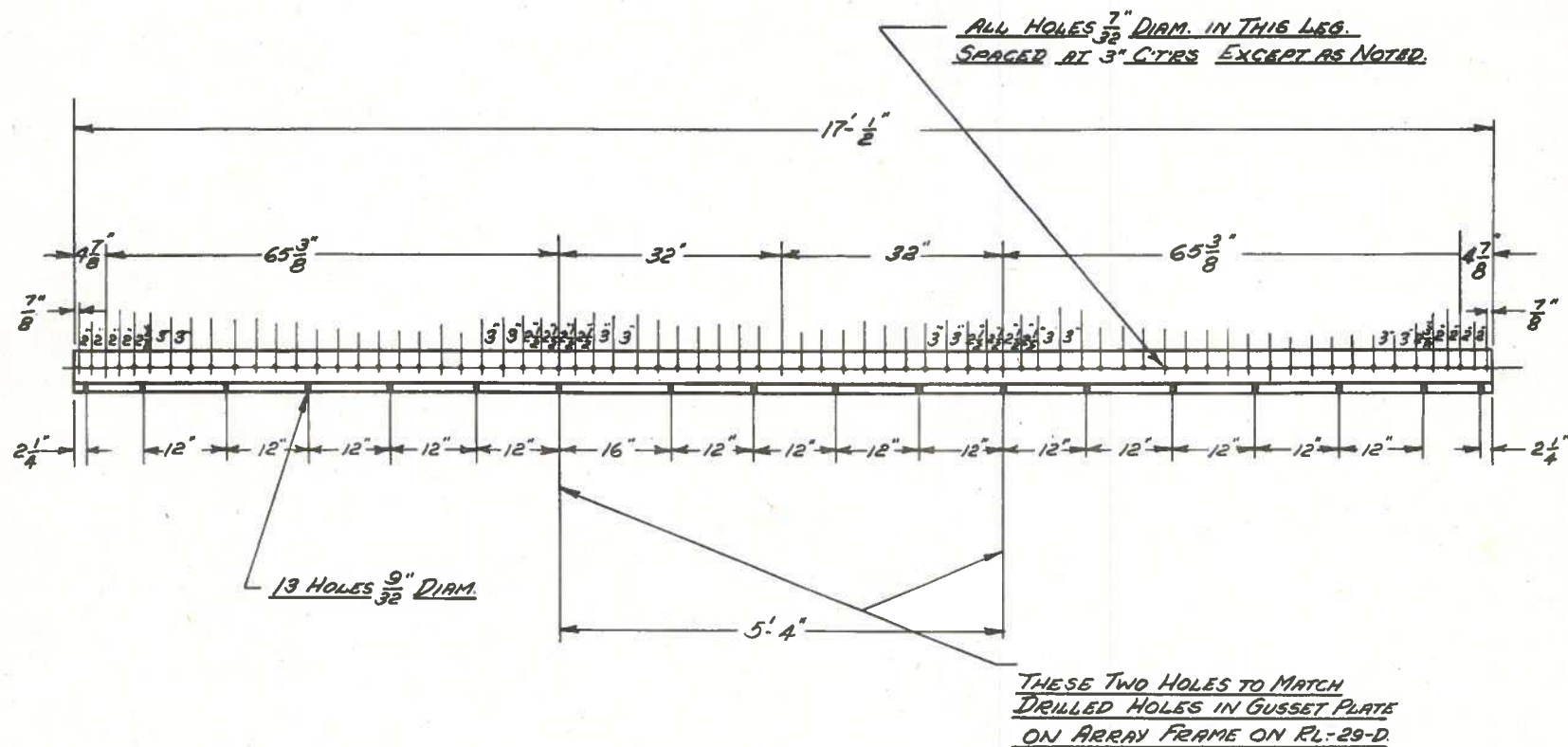


GUSSET #	1/4" HOLES				N° REQD.
	A	B	C	D	
G 1	0	1	1	1	12
G 2	0	0	1	1	12
G 3	0	0	1	1	36
G 4	0	0	1	0	4
G 5	1	1	1	1	6
G 6	1	1	1	1	10
G 7	0	0	0	0	6
G 8	1	1	1	1	6

O - INDICATES $\frac{3}{32}$ " DRILLED HOLE
 • - INDICATES $\frac{5}{16}$ " OR $\frac{3}{8}$ " DRILLED HOLE
 MATL - 14 GAUGE STEEL

FIG.17

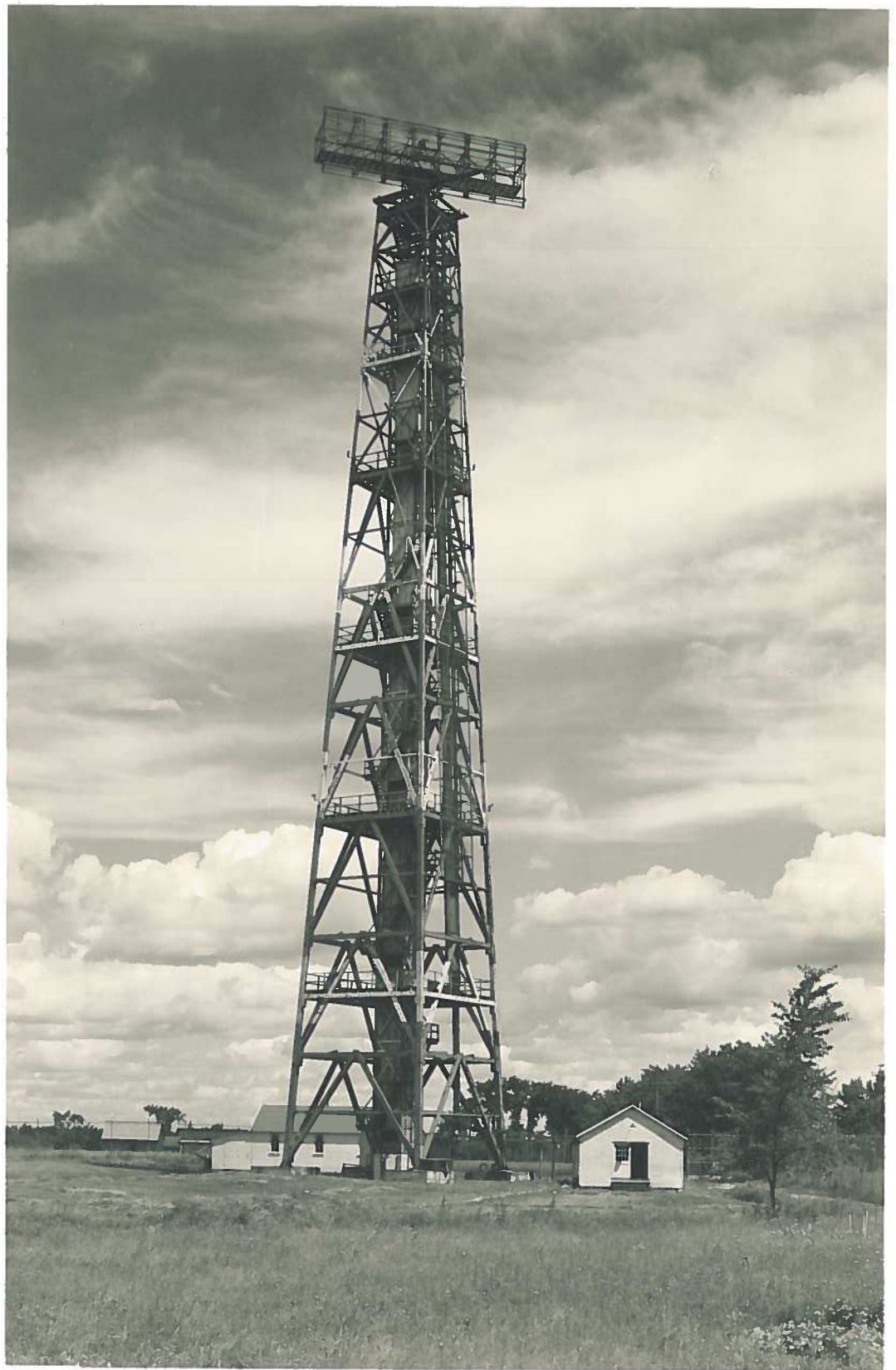
ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION	
DRAWN BY: R.E.K.		DATE: 11-8-43		SUPERSEDES	
CHECKED BY: R.E.K.		DATE: 11-20-43		SCALE: 3/8"=1"	
END APPROV.		DATE:		FINISH	
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA					
NAME: GUSSET PLATES FOR ARRAY				DWG. NO. RL-30-C	



1 REQ'D.- AS SHOWN $1 \times 1 \times \frac{1}{8}$ " L's
1 REQ'D OPP. HAND $1 \times 1 \times \frac{1}{8}$ " L's

FIG. 18

ITEM	PART NO.	QUAN.	MATL.	DESCRIPTION
DRAWN BY	J.W.	DATE	30/8/43.	SUPERSEDES
CHECKED	BS	DATE	20-9-43	SCALE N.T.S.
ENG. APPROV.		DATE		FINISH
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL-RADIO SECTION - OTTAWA CANADA				
NAME	SCREEN WIRE SUPPORT ANGLES			DWG. NO. P-A-K RL-370-B.



N R C
PHOTO
FIG.19