

AC Railbus W79978 – restoration update September 2022



The driving cab floors have suffered severely from water damage. When the remains of the Lino and wood in No2 cab were removed it was found that a section of the floor had been repaired in the past with concrete!



Under the wooden floor is a corrugated steel panel which is in reasonable condition. Replacement plywood has now been cut to shape and fitted; the next step is to install new lino floor covering. While the cab seat is removed it is being retrimmed by Stan Scott. The cab floor at No1 end is also rotten and will require the same treatment.



The heater air intake and filter housing were badly corroded. New steel has been welded in place by Martin Luffman



Repairs to the bodysides have begun with corroded sections of outer skin being replaced at No.2 end. The framing behind is severely corroded and will be replaced later. This will involve removal of the windows, luggage racks, interior panels, and seats.



And finally for this month, W79978 in British Railways service,



W79978 at Boscarne Exchange platform on 15th December 1966

Picture courtesy of Bernard Mills from his book "Backtracking from Plymouth to Padstow" which is due to be published in October.