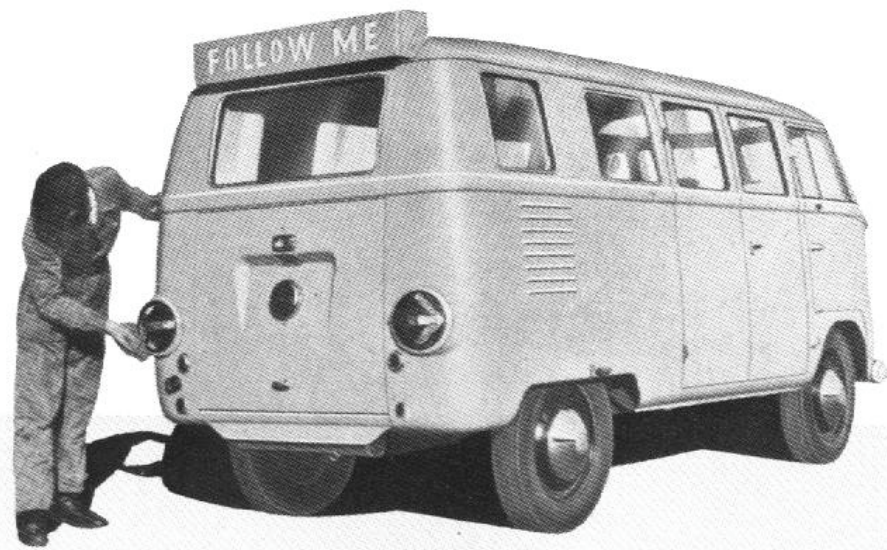


AIRPORT BARNDOORS

We all know that the type 2 VW has seen many, many uses. Let's see how it has been used in airports, especially in Germany.

First of all, when an aircraft landed, there was usually a vehicle to guide it where it could be stored. Sometimes a barndoor was used for this duty. Some modifications were made to help this purpose.



On the picture [1], you can notice a big "FOLLOW ME" sign that was fixed at the rear. It looks like it could blink or at least be lit.

Then there are two big arrows nicely bonded in the body. Indeed, semaphores must have been barely visible from the airplane following. With a closer look, you can also have a glimpse at side indicators just above the rear wheel arch.

There is no registration plate but a big light in the middle of the barndoor lid. That could be a bigger stop light.

You can also see other modifications to help the driver of the bus see the aircraft: one more window on each side (narrower than the others) and a bigger rear window. These windows look very neat. They have a nice aluminium surround. Hence I think we can assume the rear window doesn't come from a Samba bus.

Finally, a very cool feature is the glass above the driver compartment. You can see it through the side windows.

Other barndoor vans were used on airports to carry people. They were mainly Microbuses and sometimes Samba buses. It is to be noted that in America the Samba without sunroof and roof windows were used in vast numbers for this use. But that was after the barndoor era...

To illustrate this, I have chosen some pictures (see below):

the first two are quite well known and have been seen many times. They are a Microbus driven by a man in quite a bad mood and a Samba bus. These two pictures have been published in *Super VW Magazine* and *VolksWorld*. They have been since printed in Keith Seume and Michael Steinke book.



One other picture (below) is far less known. It comes from Tonny Larsen's site.



There are also two pictures of rows of barndoors for different duties including airport ones.

The first one (below, [4]) is the least known of the two. Please note that the Transporter on the right is the famous red and yellow Coca-Cola panel with rotary fan. A big embossed logo replaces the VW front logo.



Also note the indicators on the left barndoor.

The other photo is quite famous ([2] or [4]).



I have studied this picture for quite a long time and I have always been fascinated by the second and fourth barndoor from the left. Indeed, they feature a kind of high roof but only at the center section. I even once read these were high roofs! I found out one day while studying Zeichner's book once more. LOOK BELOW!



Yeah!

This is a boot for a ladder!!!

The caption at right reads "VW Box Van with racks for special oil and lubricant containers for the airport ground service crew."

(Both pictures: [1])



VW Box Van with racks for special oil and lubricant containers for the airport ground service crew.

Christian PRUVOT
<http://barndoor.free.fr>

Pictures come from:

[1] VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER / BUS 1949-67 (Walter ZEICHNER, Schiffer Automotives Series)

[2] *Super VW Magazine* n°34

[3] *VolksWorld*, June 2000 issue

[4] *VW Bus, The First 50 Years 1949-1999* (Keith SEUME with Michael STEINKE)

[5] Tonny Larsen's website (www.barndoor.dk)

Here are two more photos I found recently on the web:



This one is a late barndoor Microbus or Kombi... (from Tonny LARSEN's site)



...while this Samba is no barndoor but it is so nice!