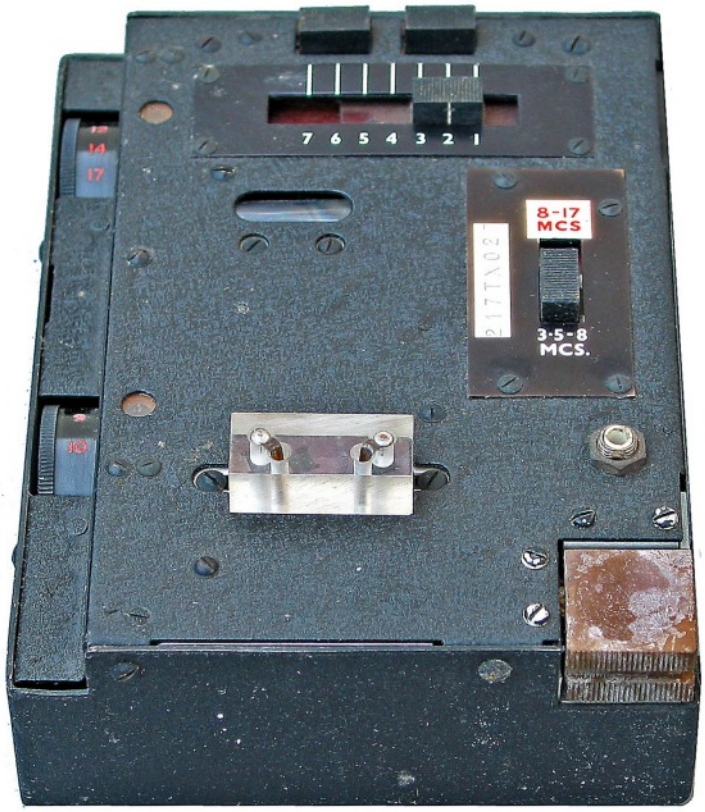


Mk.217

Country of origin: England

This supplement chapter replaced the 'Mk.217' section in the *'Great Britain'* chapter of WftW Volume 4.

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: HMGCC (GCHQ)

Design/Manufacturer: Believed HMGCC Production Unit located in Borehamwood.

Year of Introduction: Estimated early 1950s.

Purpose: Special Forces, DWS, agents.

Circuit features: Crystal oscillator/doubler, RF power amplifier. (CW only)

Frequency coverage: 3.5-17MHz in two ranges: range 1: 3.5-8 MHz and range 2: 8-17MHz.

Power Supply:
- AC mains supply unit; 110, 125, 150, 205, 225, 245V.
- Possibly a 6V DC vibrator power unit.
- Hand generator Mk.818A providing 6V AC and 400V DC.

Size (cm):	height	length	width
Transmitter	5	14	11
AC supply unit	7	14	10
Accessories box	6	16	11

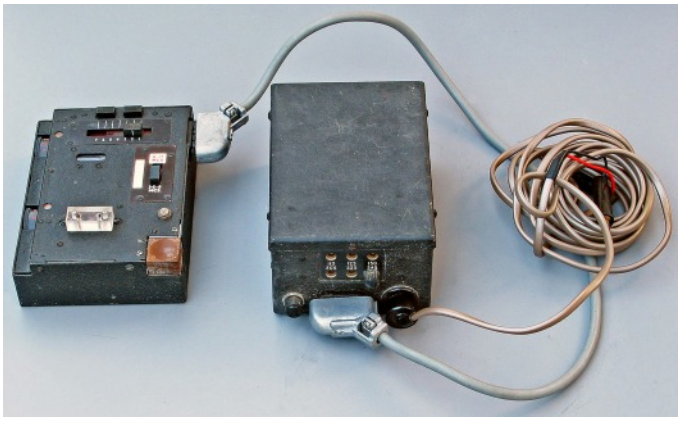
Aerial: Quarter wave wire or reel aerial.

Accessories in metal box: Reel aerial, aerial wire and ground lead, crystal adapter, screwdriver, universal mains socket adapter, fuses, crystals and neon mains tester.

REMARKS

The Mk.217 was a miniature HF transmitter, used with a separate receiver. This might have been a commercial short wave receiver or possibly a Mk.301. The set had a number of mechanical and electrical resemblances to the Mk. 124 which lead to the conclusion that it was developed by the same team. It should also be noted that the construction of the Morse key was similar to that of the Mk.123 which was developed a few years later.
Considering the low serial number (027) and that of the associated Mk.818A (028) hand generator, it is not believed that many Mk.217's were produced.
The Mk.119, 123, 124, and 301, mentioned in this chapter, were described in the *'Great Britain'* chapter of WftW Volume 4.

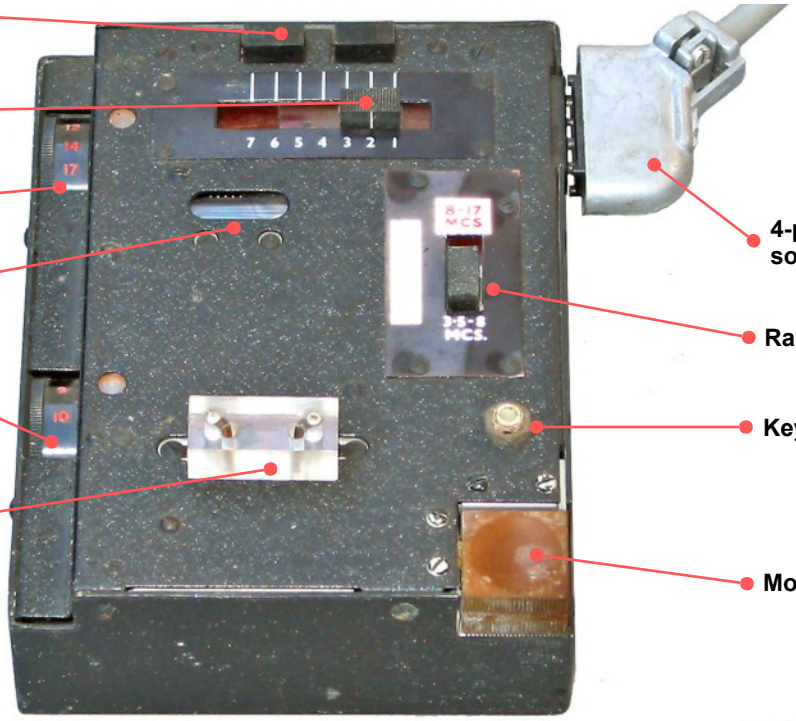
Accessories box for transmitter Mk.217.



Complete Mk.217 with AC mains supply unit (left).

References:

- Photographs taken from a Mk.217 that survived, currently held in the collection of the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Forum, UK.



Function of controls Mk.217 transmitter unit.

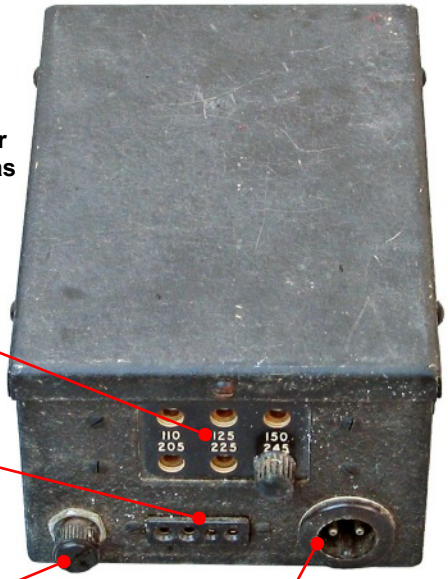
A neon mains tester was issued as a simple device to ascertain the voltage and nature of the mains.

Reel aerial containing 15m of wire to make up a provisional aerial.

Both items were standard issue accessories with post-war British agents, special forces and DWS radios.

Power supplies

Transmitter Mk.217 received 6V AC and 400V DC from its associated AC mains power unit, via a 4-pt connector. (right)
Considering the main components of a Mk.124, which was basically a similar set comprising a transmitter, receiver, an AC mains and DC power unit, it was believed that a 6V DC vibrator power unit was issued with the Mk.217.



Hand generator Mk.818A was believed to power a Mk.217 in case of an emergency when no other means of power was available. (left) See also Chapter 215.