

Wheatstone keyer Country of origin: England

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: GMGCC. (GCHQ).
Design/Manufacturer: G.N.T.Co. (Ltd), Copenhagen and London. (Great Northern Telegraph Co.)
Year of Introduction: 1950s.
Purpose: Used as high speed keyer with an agents transmitter.
Speed: Max. 600 characters/min.
Power: Mechanically hand operated, no power required.
Size (cm): Not yet known.
Weight (kg): Not yet known.
Accessories: 12mm paper taper, cable to the key contacts of the agents transmitter.

REMARKS

In the 1950s the British secret service issued paper tape based G.N.T. Co. Wheatstone transmitters and punchers to their agents for use as high speed keyers. These instruments were commercial made, very robust, not complicated, not requiring electric power and could be used with any agents radio transmitter. The keyer was principally a hand operated version of the well known and widely used Model 122. The tape puncher was a standard hand operated GNT model. Both keyer and puncher were hand operated and did not require any electrical power. The paper tapes were prepared on the small puncher which had three buttons: dots, dashes and spaces. The G.N.T. Co. transmitter, hand puncher and the Mk.123 agents set on the photos of this chapter were captured by the MfS HA II (Hauptabteilung II Spionageabwehr), in the GDR.



Great Northern Telegraph Co, Wheatstone hand operated tape puncher used for preparing a tape.

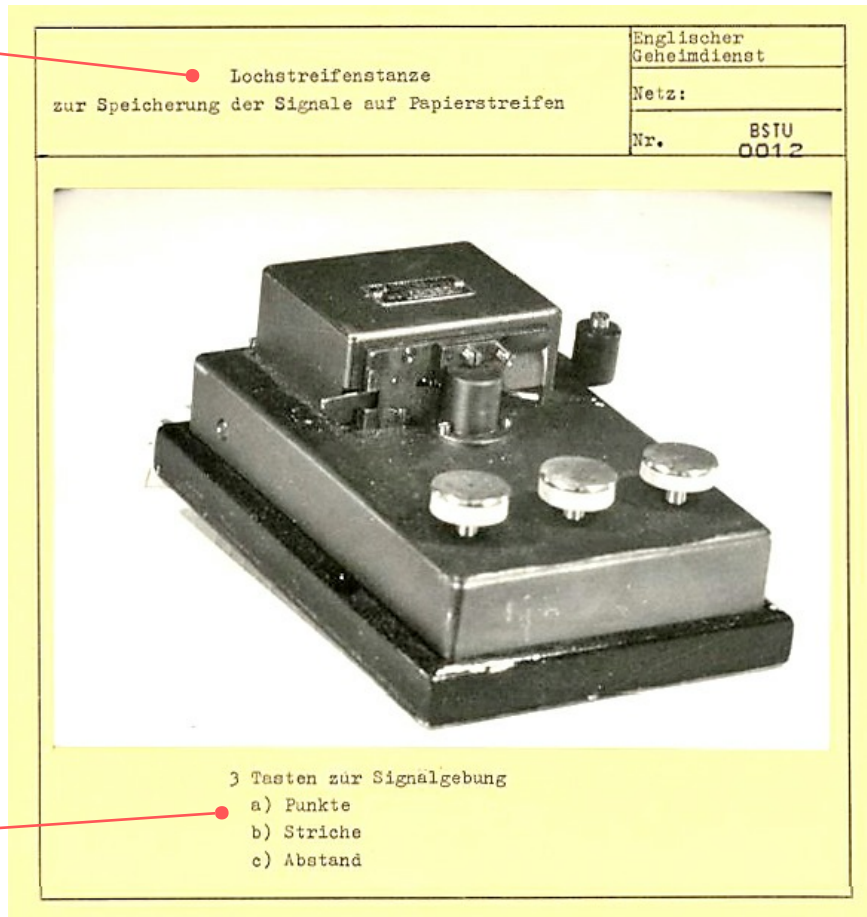


A hand operated Great Northern Telegraph Co. Wheatstone transmitter was used as a high speed Morse keyer.

References:

- Photographs and scans courtesy Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.

Puncher for encoding a message on a paper tape.

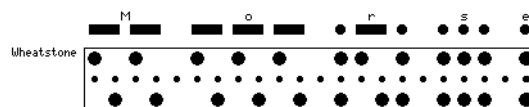


3 buttons for preparing a message:
 a Dots (left button)
 b Dashes (right button)
 c Spaces (centre button)

GDR MfS Abt. HA II data sheet of the G.N.T. Co. hand operated puncher.



This photo shows how a paper tape in Wheatstone code was prepared by means of a G.N.T. Co hand operated puncher, a very simple and almost indestructible little encoder.



An example of a Wheatstone tape