

# Royal Navy Eureka beacon A.P. 57454 Country of origin: England



## REMARKS

Eureka homing beacons with designation number 'Admiralty Pattern 57454 Transmitter - Receiver' were developed for and used by the Royal Navy. Housed in a modified Army Wireless Set No. 22 transceiver enclosure, the beacon had a built-in power unit, powered by a 6-volt accumulator. This construction rendered the beacon as self contained, man transportable and weather proof. It may be safely assumed that the Royal Navy beacon was based on the standard T.R.E. Eureka Mk.II operating on a pre aligned set of two frequencies

*A Eureka beacon, in conjunction with the airborne Rebecca, had three main functions:*

- 1) Use as a homing beacon whereby an aircraft could home to a required spot in order to drop paras/agents, supplies, stores etc, or home to its own or another airfield.
- 2) Use as a marker beacon, whereby an aircraft flying on course which passed near the beacon, could use the beacon to check its position, e.g. obtain a fix.
- 3) Use as a blind dropping beacon whereby, with the beacon correctly placed in relation to the required dropping point, the

*aircraft could drop supplies blind on the required spot.*

*A coding button was incorporated on all types of Eureka in order that the operator could send a pre-arranged call sign so that the aircraft could identify the beacon. With the supplied headphone the Eureka operator could receive the airborne Rebecca within range (15 miles or more).*

At the time of writing the original use and deployment of this Royal Navy Eureka beacon was not verified and not found mentioned in any Eureka-Rebecca related document. Its actual use was recorded by supply drops in early 1945 to the Bjørn-West group of Norwegian resistance Milorg, using an A.P. 57454 beacon located on Blyfjellet, North East of Bergen. This Eureka beacon is held in the collection of the Bjørn-West museum in Matredal, Norway.

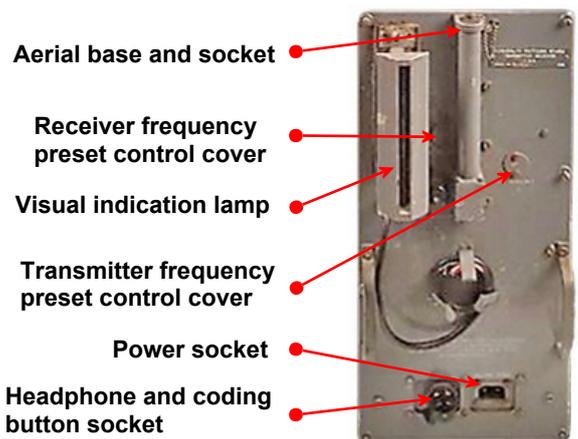
The museum owes its name to a Norwegian resistance group which had its headquarters in the hills around Matre at the end of the Second World War, while Norway was occupied by the Germans. The group was to operate behind German lines in event of an allied invasion. At the end of the war, the group numbered 259 soldiers.

## DATA SUMMARY

**Organisation:** Royal Navy.  
**Design/Manufacturer:** Not known.  
**Year of Introduction:** Late WW2.  
**Purpose:** Eureka homing beacon.  
**Power:** 6V accumulator  
**Size (cm):** Height 46, length 33, width 21.



Wireless Set No. 22 with associated power supply unit.



Front panel view of the RN beacon. Note the rectangular object at the left hand top which *might* have been an upwards pointing visual indication lamp.

## References:

- Photograph taken from an Eureka beacon held in the collection of the Bjorn West museum, Matredal, Norway.
- <https://bjornwest.museumvest.no/english/>
- Permission for using the photo requested and still pending.