



R-131

Country of origin: USSR

Remarks

The R-131 (Russian P-131) was a small self contained HF transceiver with built-in rechargeable batteries. It was primarily designed for CW and FSK communication by special forces, particularly forward reconnaissance.

Developed in the late 1950s, it had a conventional mechanical and electrical design using sub-miniature pencil tubes. Both receiver and transmitter operated on the same frequency, determined by the receiver local oscillator (for transmit mixed with an oscillator operating on the intermediate frequency), or by one of ten crystals which could be selected from the front panel. Of interest was an illuminated projection frequency scale with a magnifying lens.

Frequency changes, caused by temperature, could be compensated by a calibrated table and a thermometer fitted in the protective front panel cover

Apart from hand speed Morse, a R014D 'Datchik' (Датчик) high speed Morse keyer could be connected to a socket at the bottom at the right hand side of the front panel. The R-131 was replaced by the R-129 (see Chapter 251).

DATA SUMMARY

- Organisation:** Warsaw Pact special forces.
- Design/construction:** USSR.
- Year of Introduction:** Late 1950s.
- Purpose:** Special forces; forward reconnaissance.
- Frequency coverage:** 1.5-8MHz covered in two ranges: 1.5-3.67MHz and 3.69-8MHz. VFO or crystal controlled.
- Operating modes:** CW, FSK. The latter in conjunction with a high speed keyer R014D.
- Receiver:** Superheterodyne. CW only.
- Transmitter:** VFO or crystal control.
- Transmitter RF output:** 0.5W.
- Aerial:** Dipole wire aerial.
- Power supply:** Two sets of two 1.25V rechargeable batteries. Type 2NKP-20U2.
- Size (cm):** Height 17, length 27, width 27; Weight: 9kg.



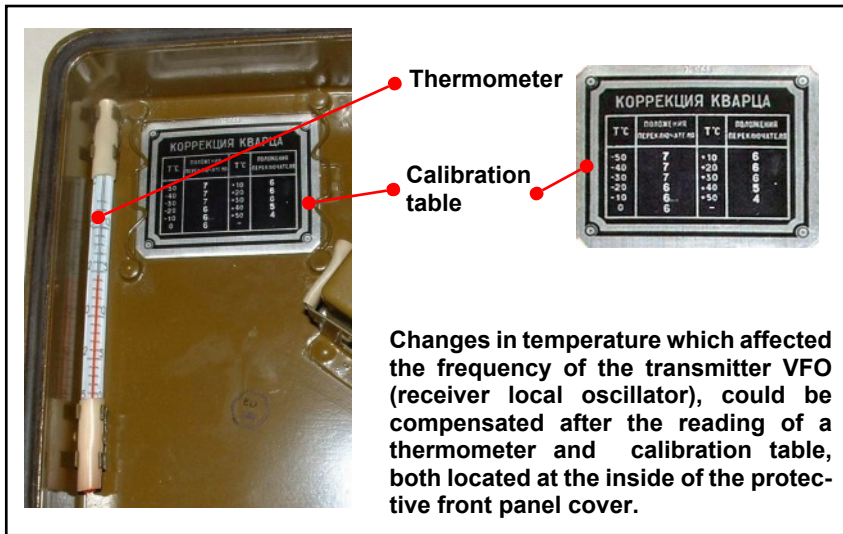
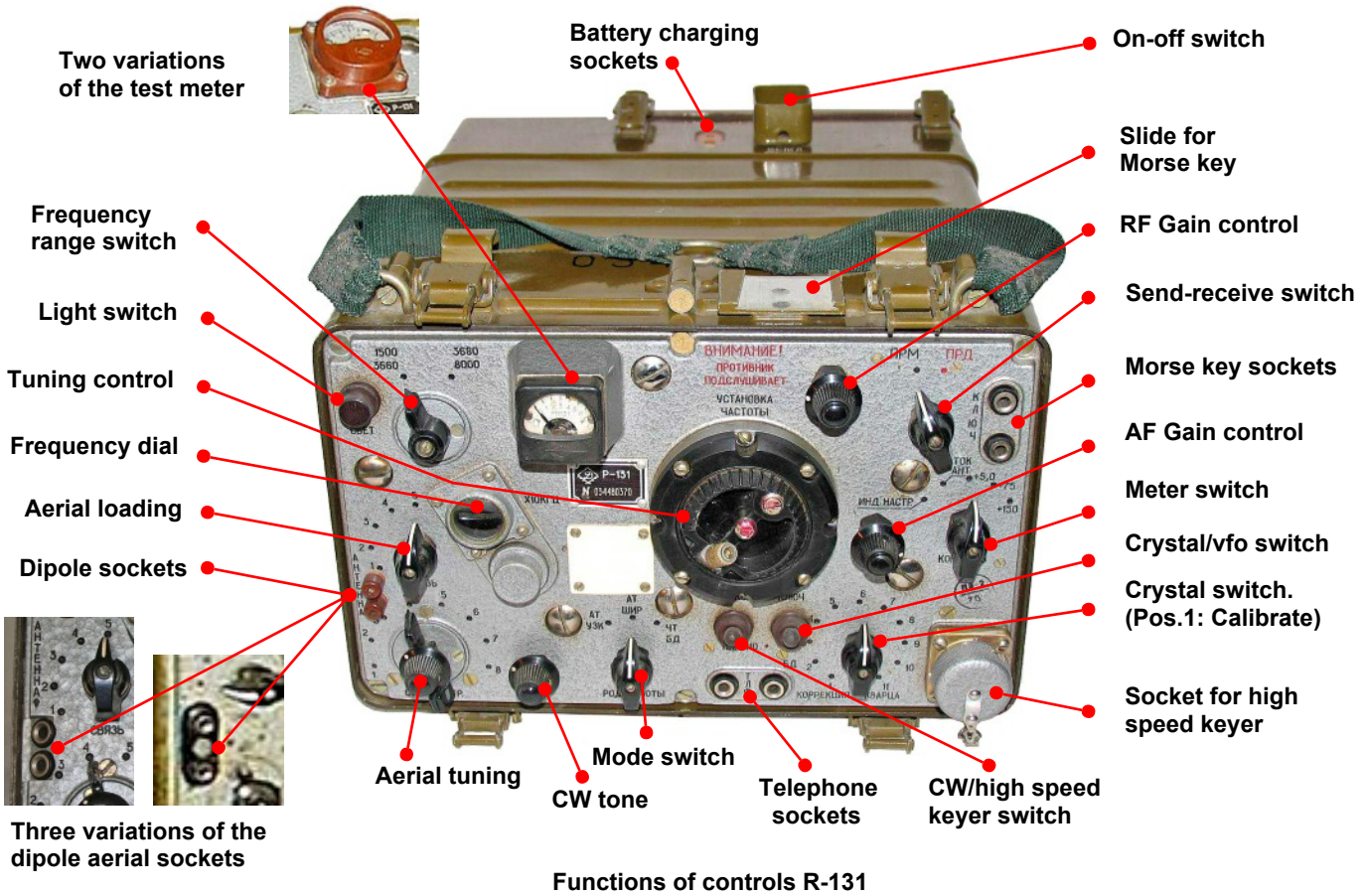
Dial reading was in kHz x10 indicated on a projection scale with lens (here set to 2520kHz).



R-131 with Morse key attached and Z-348m hand cranked generator for charging the internal batteries. Inset: on-off switch and charging sockets located on top at the far end.

References:

- Photos and information courtesy Alexander, Donesk, DNR.
- Greenradio.de; http://www.greenradio.de/htm2/s_r129.htm
- cqham.ru forum.



Complete R-131 with all accessories packed in a padded canvas carrier bag.



The rechargeable accumulators were placed in a separate waterproof compartment located at the rear of the set (right).

Internal view of R-131 showing its modular construction (left).

