



Morse keyer Country of origin: France

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: French Intelligence Service.
Year of Introduction: Estimated second half 1950s.
Purpose: Agents.
Size (cm) : Height 4½, width 7, length 7 (an estimate).

REMARKS

The 'Plug-in transmitter French 1', described in Chapter 79, had according to East German MfS documents a 'sliding plate' keying device for transmitting numbers 0-9 in Morse without knowledge of Morse code.

A scan from a recently emerged photograph taken by the GDR MsF kindly given by Detlev Vreisleben revealed a later type Morse keyer captured in possession of a French agent, most probably a replacement of the 'sliding plate'. It may be speculated that this Morse keyer could have been used with other French agents transmitters of that period. Morse code numbers 0-9 were transmitted by setting the pointer to a number in the inner row (1-5), and extending the slider for the numbers 6 to 0. Rotating the handle at the right hand side completed a single number. Obviously not at a high speed, but with some practice a speed of 9-12 wpm could be achieved.



The 'Plug-in transmitter French 1' retrieved its power from a normal broadcast receiver, substituting the AF output valve by a socket and cable. See also Chapter 79.



The 'sliding plate' with associated pointed slider was believed to be the predecessor of the Morse keying device described in this chapter.

References:

- With many thanks to Detlev Vreisleben who provided copies of the original GDR photo with reference to the 'Plug-in transmitter French 1'.
- WftW Volume 4 Supplement Chapter 79.