

3WU Country of origin: Germany (W)

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: Organisation Gehlen (OG).

Design/Manufacturer: OG Signal Section. Produced in the USA.

Year of Introduction: Developed 1947; first used in 1948 with eventually 143 sets issued to agents operating in the Soviet Occupation Zone in Germany.

Purpose: Agents.

Receiver:

Circuit features: Believed TRF with RF stage and regenerative detector.

Frequency coverage: 2.8-16MHz in 5 ranges: 2.8-4, 4-6.5, 5.5-8.5, 8.5-13 and 11-16MHz.

Transmitter: Crystal control. CW only. Other details yet unknown.

Power Supply: AC mains and 6V DC.

Size (cm): (Estimated from pictures).

Transmitter-receiver: Height 11, Length 24, Width 9.

Mains power unit: Height 12, Length 18, Width 9.

REMARKS

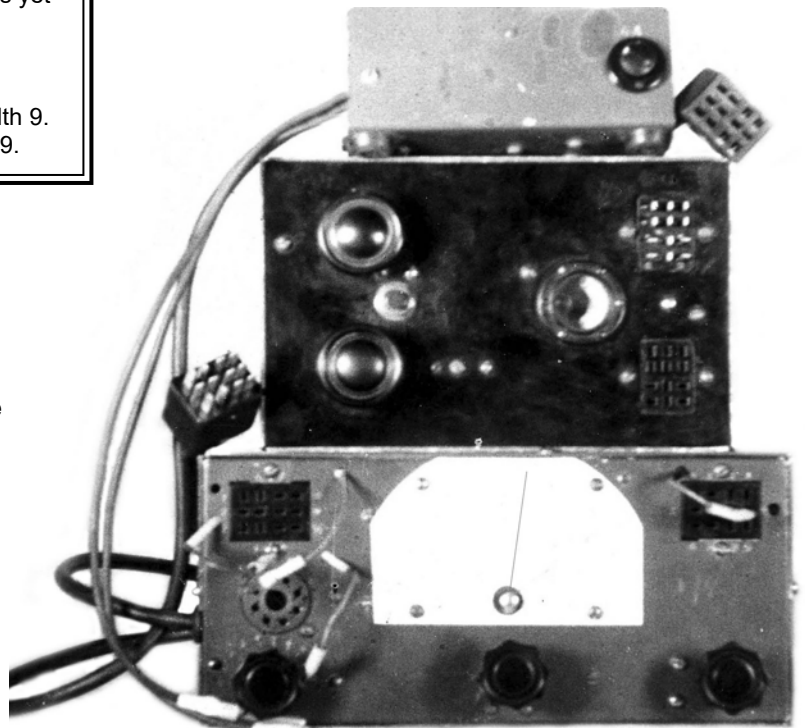
The 3WU was one of the first agents transmitter-receivers of the Organisation Gehlen, introduced in late 1948. The set was comprised of a combined transmitter-receiver, AC mains power unit and 6V accumulator power unit, all produced in the USA. It may therefore be speculated that 3WU was an abbreviation of '3 Watt USA', and the later 12WG '12 Watt Germany'.

Very little technical details of the set are known today. The 3WU was eventually superseded by the more powerful 12WG station in 1953, though it remained in use till March 1959. In October 1950 watertight containers were available, allowing a 3WU station to be buried in an underground cache.

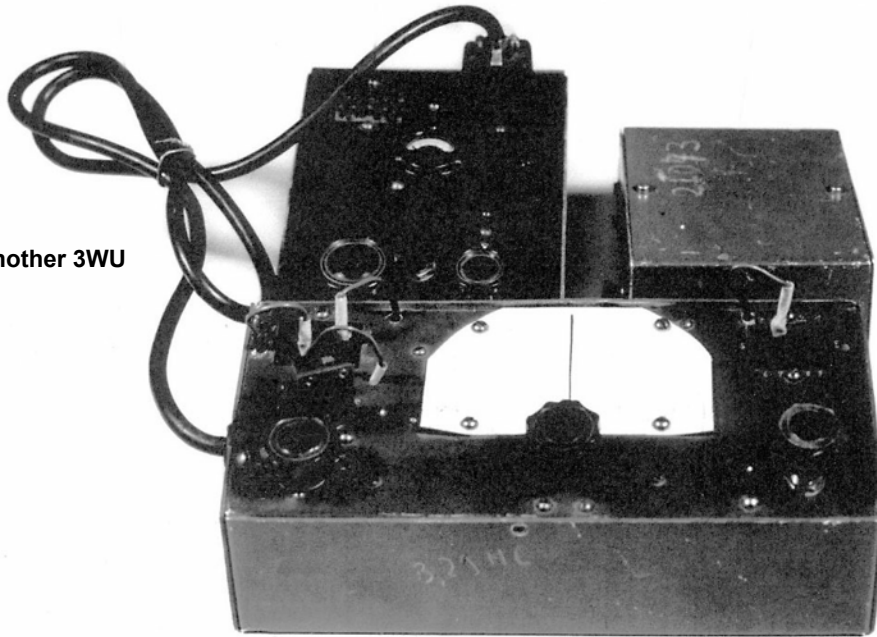
Photograph of a 3WU set that survived. (right) The 6V DC power unit is on top, AC mains unit centre, and transmitter-receiver at the bottom.

Mains power unit: It is believed that the lower knob (with contact adjustment sunken in the front panel slightly at the right hand side of the knob) was a built-in Morse key. The transmitter-receiver plugged into the lower socket, and the 6V power unit into the upper socket.

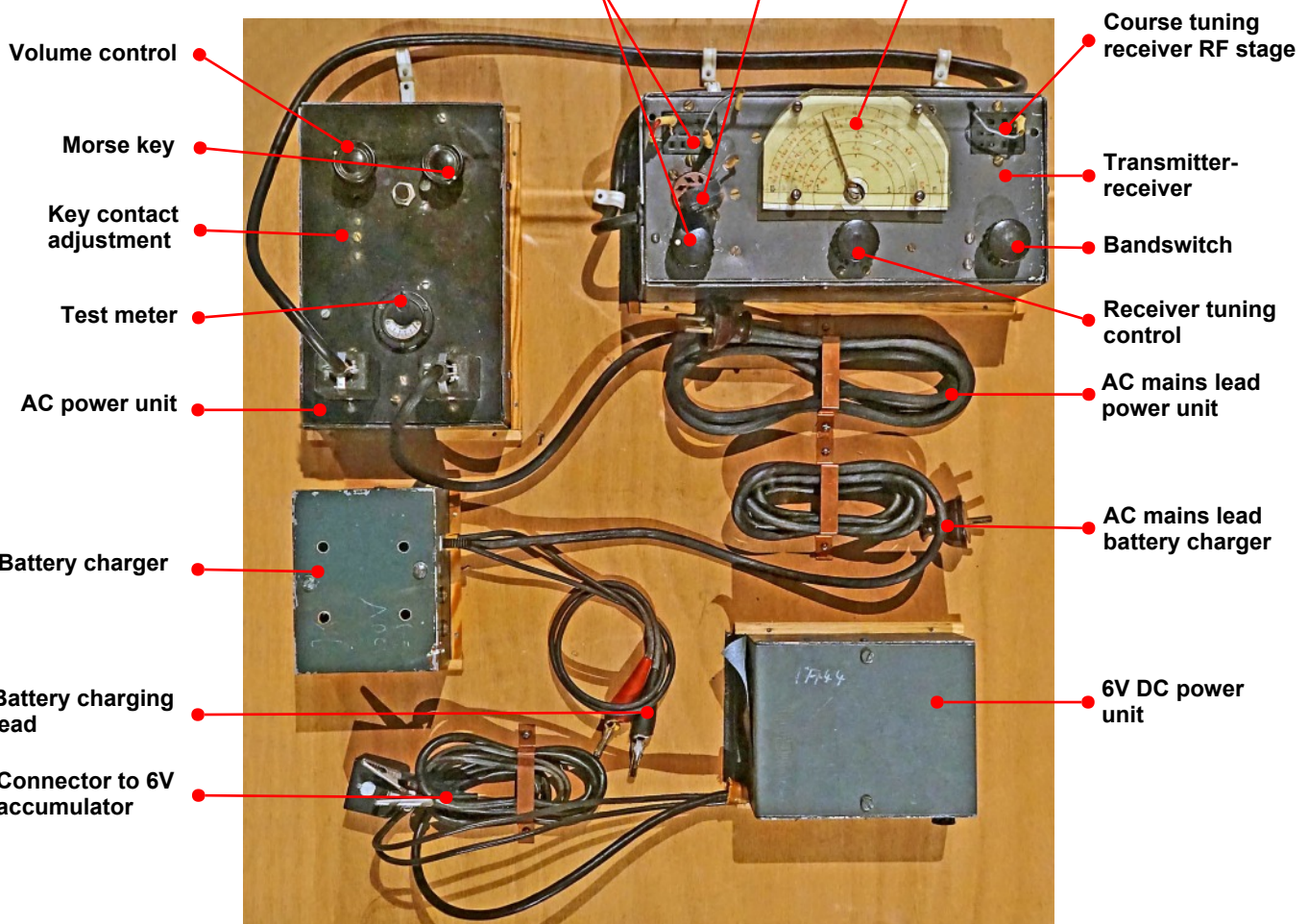
Transmitter-receiver: The transmitter crystal was plugged into the octal socket (centre left); the control below left and socket with wander plugs (above left) was for aerial matching of the transmitter. The dial in the centre was for the receiver, fine tuning was accomplished by the knob below.



Photograph of another 3WU that survived.



Transmitter tuning/matching Crystal Receiver tuning dial



Complete 3WU mounted on a board (for display only) with explanation of parts and functions of controls.

References:

- Photographs and technical-historical information was kindly provided by Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.
- Black/white photos courtesy Alois Veselý, Czech Republic.