Plug-in transmitter French (Camera)
Country of origin: France

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: 'DRS/SR' French Intelligence Service in W. Berlin.

Year of Introduction: Mid 1950s.

Purpose: Agents.

Circuit features: A single valve operating as crystal oscillator/RF power amplifier. CW only.
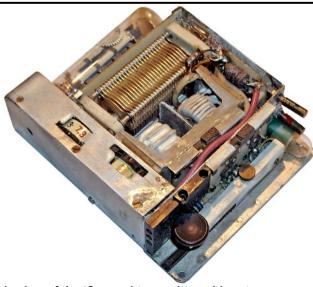
Valve: EL84.

Frequency coverage: 3-18 MHz in two ranges.

Power Supply: Taken from the AF output valve socket (with valve removed) of a broadcast receiver via a special cable.

Dimensions (cm): Height 4, Length 13, Width 9.

REMARKS

The last of the three variations of the 'Plug-in transmitter French' was the 'Camera' model (a type number or name had not been found, hence this provisional name). It was principally based on earlier sets described in Chapters 79 and 80, cleverly disguised as a photo camera. It had similar circuit design features, approximate equal dimensions and was also issued with a 'Sliding plate' Morse keying device.

Photograph taken by the former GDR MfS of a 'Camera' transmitter as it might have been used by an agent. Note a box with spare crystals for operation on alternative frequencies.

With its top cover closed the transmitter was easily overlooked as a contemporary photo camera.

Side view of the 'Camera' transmitter with outer cover re-moved showing from left to right: tuning condenser, aerial matching switch, two aerial coils, range switches and crystal socket . Visible just behind the Morse key was a bulb for tuning the aerial by max brilliancy. On the side in front was a 3-point socket for connecting a special cable leading to an EL84 valve socket. The Morse key could slide forward when in operational use.

It must be noted that the type EL81 valve fitted in the set on the photos is not correct and should be a type EL84.

References:
- Photographs and information courtesy Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.
- GDR document MsF SdM/Fo/341 Bild 1-5, 29.