



RZ-301

Country of origin:
Czechoslovakia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: ŠtB - Štátna bezpečnosť (Secret State Police)

Design/Manufacturer: Military Technical Institute (Vojenský technický ústav), Prague.

Year of Introduction: 1951.

Purpose: Portable short range direction finder.

Receiver:

Circuit features: RF amp, mixer/LO, IF amp, Det/AF amp, AF amp, BFO.

Frequency coverage: 1.3-20.3MHz in four ranges, selected by plug-in coil units inserted at the bottom.

Valves: 1F34, 1R5, 1S4, 1S5, 1T4.

Power supply: 1.5V LT and (believed) 67½V HT batteries.

Size (cm): Height 13, Length 30, Width 8. (Receiver unit only.)

REMARKS

The RZ-301, codename 'Pospisil 1', (Czech word which means 'a person who is in a hurry', or 'impatient') was a portable direction finder developed by the Military Technical Institute (Vojenský technický ústav) in Prague in the late 1940's. The set was intended for locating clandestine radio transmitters and could be operated from within a briefcase. The frequency range of 1.3-20.3MHz was covered by four different plug-in coil units: 1.3-2.8MHz, 2.5-5.4MHz, 5.3-10MHz and 9.5-20.3MHz. It was used by the Secret State Police (ŠtB) and the military intelligence service Zpravodajská Správa Generálního Štábu (ZS GŠ). Initially known as PRZ-48, the prototype was approved on 10 March 1948 after which the device was re-named RZ-301 (Radiova Zamerovic or Radio Finder). The first production run was released in 1951.

It is currently unknown how many RZ-301 units were built but as they were mainly used by the Secret State Police, it is likely that the receivers were produced in small quantities, probably a few hundred. At least four different series were built, as the set in the pictures shows 'Serie D' on the front panel.



Internal views of the RZ-301 receiver unit. Note the framework which housed the plug-in coil unit. The batteries were carried in compartments located at the rear of the enclosure.



The RZ-301 in the photos of this chapter is held in the collection of the Crypto Museum. Additional information on its actual use and a circuit diagram will be much appreciated by the Crypto Museum.

References:

This chapter is an abridged version based on a full account of the RZ-301 described in www.cryptomuseum.com. Photos taken from a RZ-31 held in the collection of the Crypto Museum and information from the website was published with kind permission of the Crypto Museum, Eindhoven, Holland.

