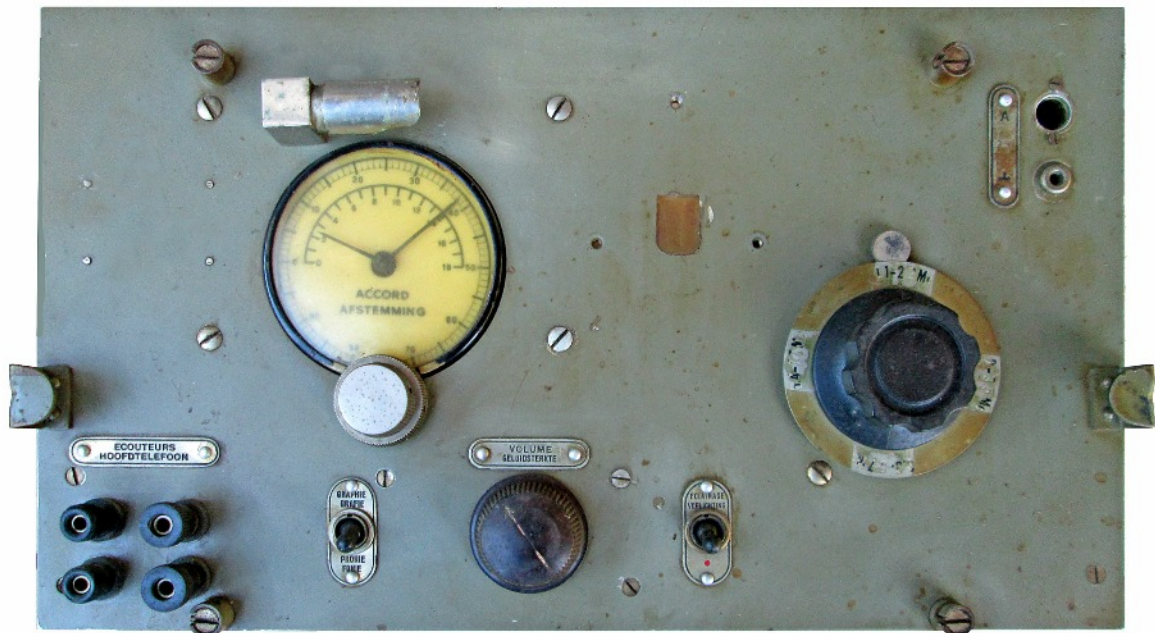


Belgian Army Mod 39 RP 39

Date of issue: April 2023.

After publishing over 340 Wireless for the Warrior Volume 2 'Supplements', the amount of source material gradually dried up. Not directly related material, but within the scope of the WFTW website and interest, will be published in a new range entitled the 'Various Series'.



RP 39 Country of origin: Belgium

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: Belgian Army**Manufacturer:** Société Belge Radio-Electrique, Brussel.**Year of Introduction:** 1939.**Purpose:** Portable field receiver.**Receiver:****Circuit features:** Superheterodyne with RF stage, mixer/local oscillator, IF/BFO, Det/AF and AF output.**Frequency:** 40-260m in 4 ranges.

1. 39-55.5m
2. 52.5-90.9m
3. 85.7-150m
4. 136.3-272.7m

IF: 550kHz**Valves:** 33, 34 (2x), 1C6 (2x).**Aerial:** Wire aerial, 20m at 2-4m height.**Power supply:** 6V 36Ah accumulator and rotary converter 6/130V.

Size (cm):	height	length	width
RP 39 (set only)	41	27	35
Transport case	75.5	44.5	38.5

Weight complete set: three packs of 20kg.**Accessories:** Headphones, 2m masts (4x), aerial and counterpoise wire, accumulator.

(All technical data retrieved from D 59/13, see references).

REMARKS

RP 39 was a portable receiver used by the Belgian Army for radio communication in the field, believed to be developed in the second half of the 1930's. The text on the labels on the front panel were in Dutch and French. The receiver was comprised of two units: the actual receiver, and rotary HT converter fitted in a separate unit below. Both items slid in a sheet metal case with two front flaps to protect the set against weather conditions and damage during transport.

The actual receiver was a conventional superheterodyne with RF stage and BFO for reception of CW signals.

The valves were all 2V DC types, it is for this reason believed that the RP 39 could possibly be powered from a dry HT battery and a 2V accumulator for the filaments as an alternative to the 6V accumulator and rotary converter.

Unfortunately the clock and type/serial number plate is missing from the RP 39 on this page.

At the time of writing no circuit diagrams, user manuals or development details were found. Any information on these is most welcome.

References

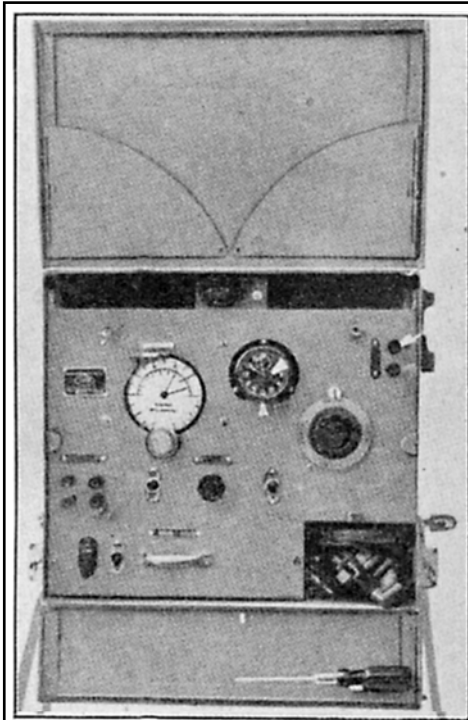
- Photographs retrieved from Internet.
- Kennblatter fremden Gerats, D 50/13, Belgien. 234 24(b) (1.2.1941).
- Wireless for the Warrior, Compendium 3, Foreign Equipment Data Sheets - Volume 13, Facsimile reprint of a German WW2 publication, L. Meulstee (editor), isbn 978-90-819271-0-9



Front panel view of RP 39 and associated 6V power unit in its metal enclosure. The controls fitted on the (probably not original) panel of the right hand side of the power unit were a later addition.



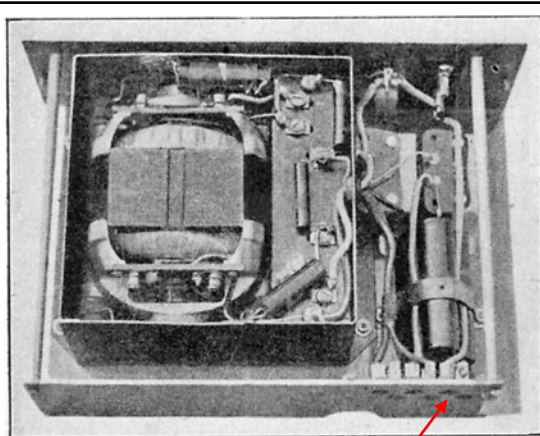
The photo above shows the top side of the chassis with a massive rotary coil block at the left, believed to be a separate assembly. Sockets slid into a 6-pin contact block fitted in the case.



Scans from photographs taken from a German Data Sheet.

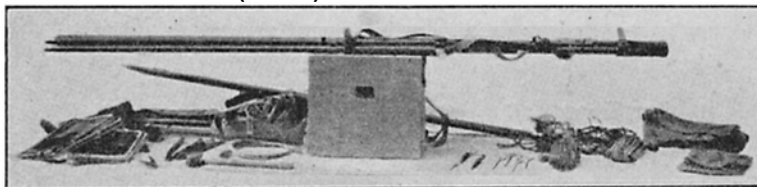
Note the station clock and type number plate on the left hand photo which were missing on the RP 39 that survived (photo above).

The photo on the right was taken of the rotary HT converter unit with filter components.



Sockets slid into a 6-pin contact block fitted in the case.

View of a complete station without 6V accumulator (below).



Retrieved from the Internet were two photos of a (probably converted to medium wave) receiver built with salvaged parts of the Belgian RP 39 receiver. The rotary coil block was removed, a single range (believed medium wave broadcast band) coil block and an AC Mains power unit fitted in its place. The wooden case and front panel were painted olive drab, a loudspeaker was fitted on the place of the former range switch and a test meter mounted in the front panel.