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# Fake ('replica') agent's radios

## REMARKS

Over the years, while occasionally perusing various Internet auction sites, I came across advertisements for fake and crudely replicated agent sets, often housed in suitcases. Friends also sent me several photos with a similar theme that were discovered on the Internet. Some of these sets seemed, at first glance, well-constructed and suitable as props. However, upon closer inspection, others, lacking any knowledge on this topic, appeared to be just a collection of components from a junk box hastily assembled in a suitcase.

I must emphasize that in many cases, most sellers did indicate that their object was a replica with no functionality. The photographs from the Internet auctions were published as they were placed. More amusing than astounding, the intention was not to provide a detailed account of each constructed object, but rather to create an anthology on this topic, focusing on the increasing value of genuine agent sets. No mention was made of well-crafted replicas built for personal use, such as the popular 'Paraset' and the Norwegian 'Olga' suitcase set, both the subjects of enthusiastic groups of builders.



Item #1: A crude and somewhat disproportionate (in relation to the oversized suitcase) 'replica' of a SOE B Mark II was listed for sale on a Facebook group as a 'Replica with limited functions,' with an asking price of £400 plus postage.



Compare the replica at top left with a genuine Type B Mk.II.



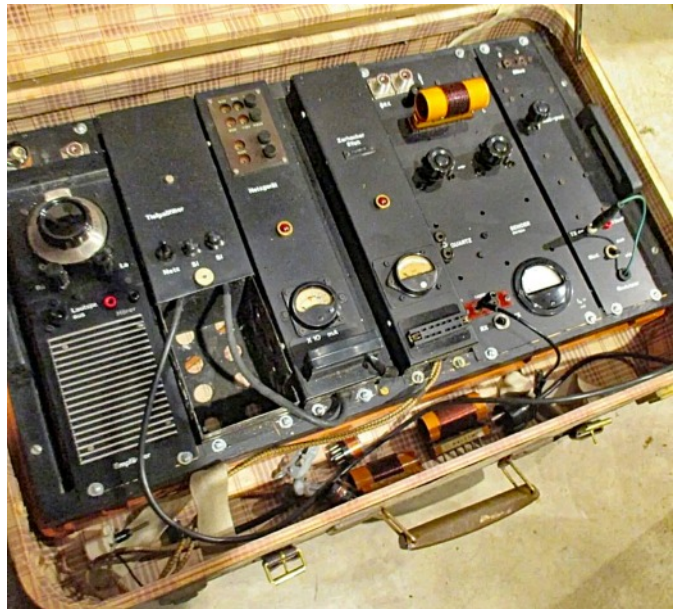
Item #2 was offered for sale at a Belgian auction site along with the next item, #3. What seemed ludicrous to see was the loop aerial.



Item #3 was also available for sale on the same Belgian auction site, alongside Item #2.



Item #4/1: This replica, roughly inspired by a Type 3 Mk.I (B 1), was well-crafted but lacked originality in almost any detail. The only apparent genuine items were the transmitter plug-in coils.



Item #4/2: A top view of individual units of the replica.



Original Type 3 Mk.I.



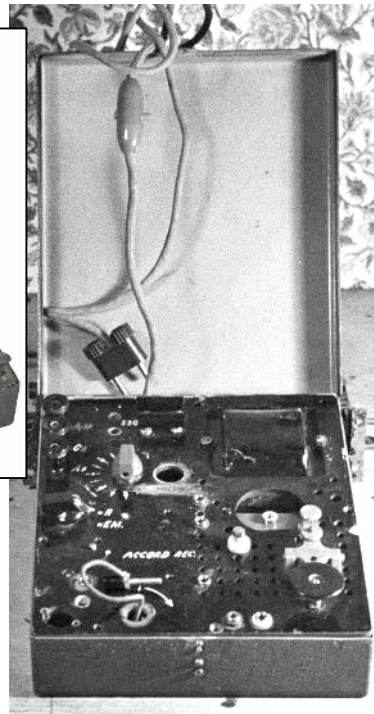
Item #5/1: Fake clandestine radio in a coffee tin. The seller described his object as a 'Clandestine receiver/transmitter concealed in a metal coffee tin ('Eduscho' brand). Typical World War II resistance. Battery or mains powered. Obsolete and out-of-order hardware. Ideal for resistance stage, maquis, or Radio London. EOS, Intelligence Service, OSS, BCRA'. The start price at a French auction website was 70 Euros.



Item #5/2: Internal view of the ostensibly clandestine radio, revealing an apparent German WWII module of unknown origin, two 1.5V batteries, and a rotary switch with a ceramic deck.



Original Polish A1 (above).



Item #6: In a photo of hitherto unknown origin, there was a rather crude replica that resembled a Polish A1.

Item #7: This item was listed as an 'annonce' on a French auction site with the description: 'Poste de la resistance FFI FTP pièce unique !!! Refabrication locale' (Resistance radio FFI FTP unique item !!! Local remanufacture). The seller provided additional details: 'A resistance radio handmade by a history enthusiast for a film on the subject, a unique piece suitable for a museum. Everything works on and off with a battery; the buttons are functional, and the lamps and other parts are movable! It comes with a French Forces of the Interior (FFI) armband with original badges and is ideal for a museum. The WWII-era suitcase is included'. The type number plate originated from a RAF TR 3173 Rebecca Mk.I. The start price was set at 1200 Euros.



Item #7/1: Suitcase with headphones, Morse key and accumulator cable (right).



Item #7/2: Front panel possibly inspired by Type A Mk.III.



Item #7/3: Bottom chassis view.

Original Type A Mk.III (right).



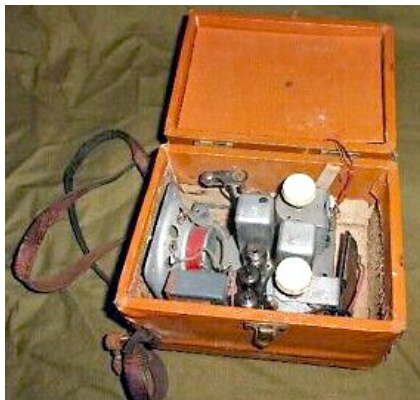
Item #8: Unknown fake / 'replica' suitcase set.



Item #9: Unknown fake / 'replica' set in a suitcase inspired by a Type B Mk.II with a close-up view of the type plate.



Item #10/1 was offered for sale on French eBay as: 'Radio Clandestine 1940/1944, sous occupation allemande, Radio Londres, Vichy, Libé'. Starting price was 1 Euro.



Item #10/2: An internal view showing the chassis of a dry battery-powered commercial medium-wave receiver. It's hard to believe that, during that period, batteries were available.



Item #11/1: Sale advert from eBay listed as: 'Transmitter radio FFI FTP Maquis, resistance, ww2, 1941. The title says it all. Marking under the Morse key: 'Sutton Horsey 1941'. Below this inscription is printed a broad arrow in a capital 'C'. which may indicate Canada. The assembly is included in a small box with a black cover for secret transport, typical of the resistance. A unique and rare model, hard to find these days. The starting price was 250 Euro. (The Morse key was a Key W.T. 8A No. 2, Design 1 ver A, with its forward bridge and contact missing)'.  
Sutton Horsey 1941  
C



"Item #11: An internal view showing an induction coil and a capacitor within the object.



Item #13: An unknown clandestine receiver with a set of plug-in coils. Details of the auction are unknown.



Item #12: 'Valise radio Maquis ww2' was sold on French eBay for 45 Euro. It was described as a 'Radio suitcase in the condition as found, missing cables and various elements. Sold as is'.



Item #14/1: A homebrew fake agent's set with a picture of its (nearly empty) interior. No further details were known.