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Fake ('replica') agent's radios



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.

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.



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



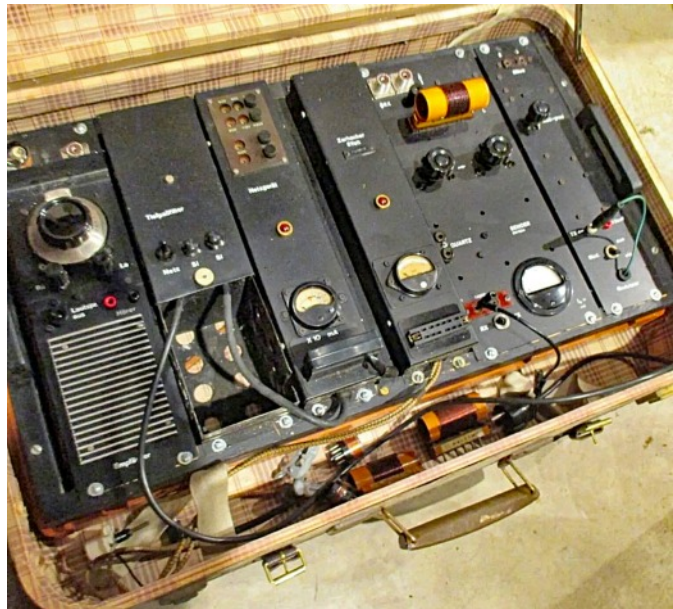
Item #2 was offered for sale at a Belgian auction site along with the next item, #3. What seemed ludicrous to see was the loop aerial.



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.



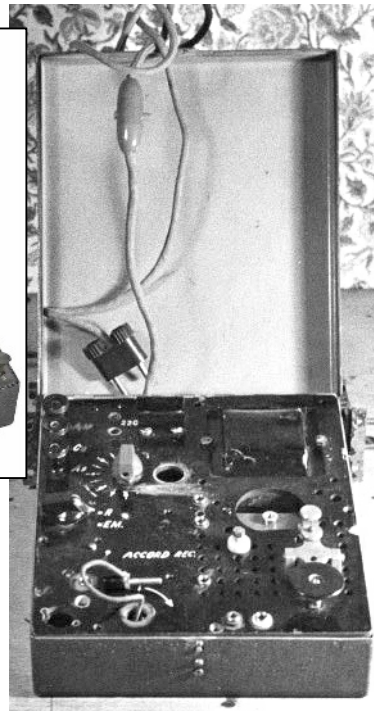
Item #5/1: Fake clandestine radio in a coffee tin. The seller described his object as a 'Clandestine receiver/transmitter concealed in a metal coffee tin ('Eduscho' brand). Typical World War II resistance. Battery or mains powered. Obsolete and out-of-order hardware. Ideal for resistance stage, maquis, 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).

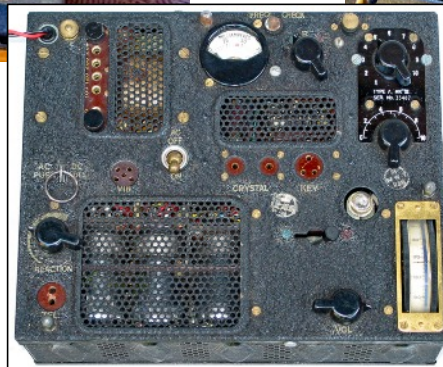


Item #7/2: Front panel possibly inspired by Type A Mk.III.



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.

