

MEMO FOR RECORD

The attached were photographed from the "record of inventions" kept by Don Seiler when he ran the Code & Signal Laboratory at the Washington Navy Yard. Item #103 shows a means of controlling the stepping of "cryptographic rotors" by sending circuits through a set of 5-point "control rotors". Date of conception June 21, 1932. I got these photos through Capt. Safford, who told me that Seiler and Navy did nothing toward trying out or exploiting Seiler's idea in this case. It is important to note in this connection that the date of my conception of electric control of stepping of cryptographic rotors (U.S. Pat. App. No. 682,096- On M-134-A) is April 23, 1932.

Seiler's invention has some bearing on Rowlett's invention and concept of using rotors in cascade as a key generator; it appears that Seiler anticipated Rowlett in that idea, first described in Rowlett's paper dated 29 June 1935. See folder on SISDE #11 - Patent papers on SIGABA.

29 June 1951

William F. Friedman
William F. Friedman

WORK RECORD
OF
DONALD W. SEILER

CASH

45A

APRIL 1932

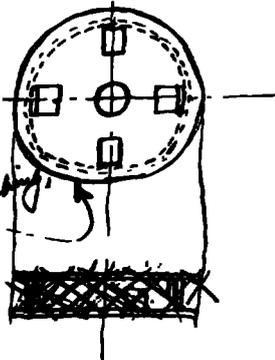
Designed and built model
 of new portable code machine
 similar to design no. 71, ^{and 87} made Apr. 18, 1932
 many improvements including
 new detainer new leg locking
 method stronger frame work
 this machine it requires to use
 ribbon clasp no. 49

(100)

Designed carrying case Apr 18, 1932
 for portable machines (original Mar. 14,)

(101)

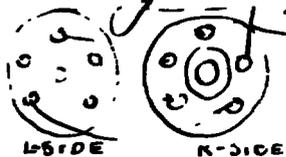
Designed new pulley for
 portable code machine (Des. # 71687C(100))
 it was designed to lower the cost
 of manufacture by using punch
 and die work



(102) May 18, 1932



(103) Designed a circuit and
 mechanical arrangement to control
 the operation of pawls (which engage
 and turn the code wheels of the Electric
 code device), which consisted of five
 wheels wired electrically ^{which} rotated the
 circuit ~~into~~ ^{which} cranked thru the magnets
 & releasing the pawls.



June 21, 1932

