

A13-13

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

*WORK RECORD  
OF  
DONALD W. SEILER*

CASH

APRIL 1932

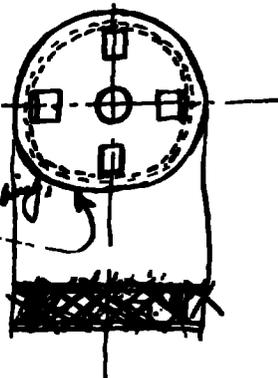
Designed and built model  
of new portable code machine  
similar to design no. 79 made Apr. 18, 1932  
many improvements including  
new returner new leg locking  
method stronger frame with  
sho. machine it requires to use  
ribbon clasp no. 99 -

(100)

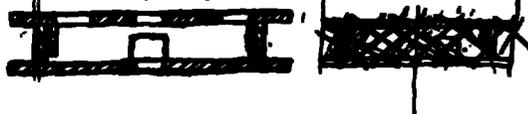
Designed carrying case Apr 18, 1932  
for portable machines original Mar. 14, 1932

(101)

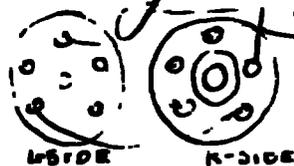
Designed new pulley for  
portable code machine (Des. # 71287 (100))  
it was designed to lower the cost  
of manufacture by using punch  
and die work



(102) May 18, 1932



(103) Designed a magnet  
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 <sup>when</sup> isolated the  
circuit ~~into~~ <sup>through</sup> arranged thru the magnets  
of releasing the pawls.



June 21, 1932

