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

Approved for Release by NSA on 09-12-2013 pursuant to E.O. 13526
Work Record
Of
Donald W. Seiler
Cash
April 1932
Designed and built a new model of a new portable code machine similar to design no. 99 made Apr. 13, 1932. Many improvements including new design of new key locking method stronger frame with
this machine is designed to use
ribbon guide no. 99.

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

Designed new pulling for portable code machine Sep. 11, 1932. This design does not the cost of manufacture by using punch and die work.

May 18, 1932

Designed a circuit and mechanical arrangement to control the operation of parts (which engage and turn the code wheels of the electric code device) which consisted of five wheels wired electrically to rotate the circuit when exposed thus the magnets releasing the code.

June 21, 1932