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.

William F. Friedman

29 June 1951

William F. Friedman

WORK RECORD OF DONALD W. SEILER

CASH

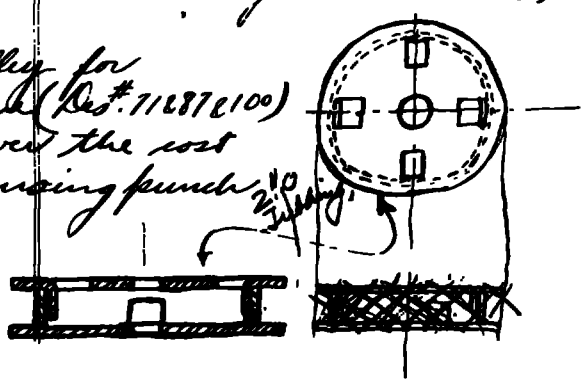
W5A

APRIL 1932

Designed and built model of new portable code machine similar to design nos. 7 and 87 made many improvements including new retainer new leg locking method stronger frame work this machine is designed to use ribbon clasp no. 99 (100) Apr. 18, 1932

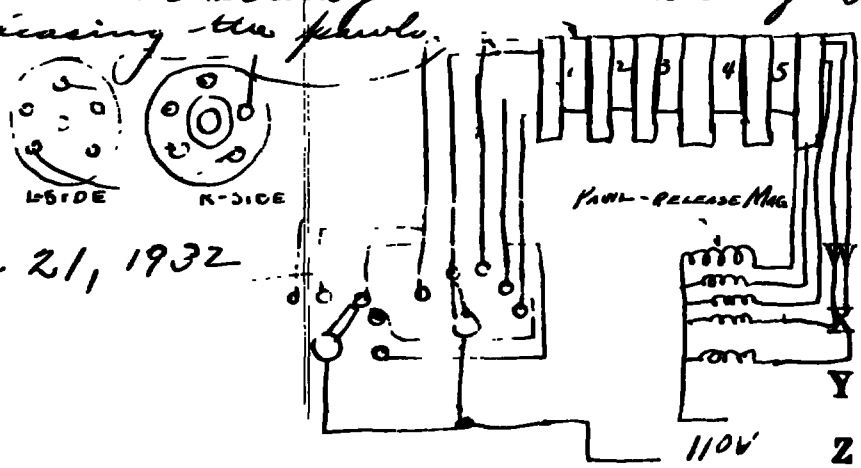
Designed carrying case for portable machines (101) Apr 18, 1932 original May 14,)

Designed new pulley for portable code machine (Des #. 11687 (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 consists of five wheels wired Electrically so that when rotated the circuit is arranged thru the magnets of releasing the pawls.



June 21, 1932