

THE VMARS EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY – PART 5

The Hallicrafters S-27 (Richard Hankins, G7RVI)

Type: “UHF” communications receiver.

Usage: Apparently originally designed for the US amateur market, it was reckoned during the Battle of Britain to be the only receiver that could receive the “Knickebein” radio beams the Germans were using to guide their bombers! Also fitted during WWII into many Naval vessels for use by the “Headache” operator (Headache was the codename of the shipborne ‘Y’ intelligence service), who had the task of intercepting air and naval R/T traffic.

Frequency range: 27.8 – 143MHz in 3 bands

Modes: AM, FM, CW.

Rx circuitry: single conversion superhet, with an IF of 5.25MHz, which has two selectivity positions. The front end uses Acorn valves in the RF amplifier, mixer and LO. The back end of the IF strip splits into separate AM and FM processing sections. The audio output stage is a high quality push-pull arrangement. On AM a BFO, S-meter and noise limiter are also available. On FM, the S-meter becomes a centre-zero tuning meter. There is a mains PSU built in.

Power requirements: 110 or 230V AC (some variants are 115V AC only).

Variants: An S-27B is mentioned in the manual with a frequency range of 36 to 165MHz. It should be noted that there are versions for the US Navy, rack-mounted (the CHL-46130), and table cabinet version (the RBK-1).

Notes: one of the very first commercial receivers available for the “UHF” bands (this was so early, that no-one had quite worked out where VHF and UHF actually were!). Just about everything on this set is adjustable from the front panel, hence the impressive array of knobs.



An Eddystone GDO (Roger Spear, G4BXM)

Type: test gear

Notes: A piece of test equipment is probably not a very exciting item, but I thought this one was quite a find at a recent rally and might interest Eddystone enthusiasts. It has all the usual functions one would expect with a GDO.

It is very early solid state with the trademark Eddystone dial format and in pretty good nick complete with original if battered box. This piece of equipment should really be kept in the display cabinet but it works so well and that dial is nice to operate that it is constantly in use. Vintage rigs need vintage test equipment!

