

MRCA MEET

At the military radio collector's association meet on September 6, 2003, I presented to the group the history of television for military purposes during WWII.

The presentation included a discussion on the development of the technology and it's applications.

Concluding was a demonstration of the technology and a recreation of how the technology would have performed during combat.



This a complete transmitting and receiving military television system used during WWII to guide bombs to the target.

The equipment is known as Block 3 and was developed by RCA. This is the first time known in over forty years that a complete block system has been full restored and transmitted an image over the air exactly the same way as in 1944

The light box on the right generates the test pattern image. The camera is picking up the image and sending it to the transmitter. The antenna with the reflector sends the signal to the receiving antenna where the receiver picks up the image. A duplicate of the image is relayed to the repeat monitor at the very end of the table.



The transmitting equipment that was used during WWII to guide a bomb by television to the target. This equipment was considered to be expendable. On display is the TV camera, junction box, dynamotor, transmitter and antenna.



This is the iconoscope television camera, known as a conversion unit. This camera uses the first design of a pickup tube that RCA developed. Normally the lens in the front is more recessed with lock down wing nuts. The lens had to be extended to get a proper focus on an image so close. The camera was designed to have focus at an object at great distance



The receiver used to pickup the television signal transmitted by the bomb. A television operator in the controlling plane would tune the signal to give the bombardier a clear picture on his repeat monitor.

The image is the actual test pattern used in WWII to align the equipment. This image is being transmitted over the air by the television camera



Part of the display is an information section. Copies of books on WWII TV bombs, original military TV service manuals, pictures of the complete WWII military TV collection I own that were not on display, and full size example of an iconoscope were shown.



I presented a powerpoint presentation of the history and the development of military television by RCA. Actual movie clips from WWII were shown on the various bombs that used television during the war and kinescoped footage from the receiver of the actual images transmitted. This picture is not of me presenting.



Myself tuning the television receiver. It does not have any automatic frequency circuits.

Maurice Schechter
590 Willis Ave
Williston Park, NY 11596
516-294-4416
mauricsch@cs.com