

TYPE 79Y

Type 79Y is a traditional W/T set at least by its two digit nomenclature. That argument can also dictate that the 79X and 79Z were also W/T sets. But were they ? After all, the outfit was listed in the W/T fit of warships in the 1939 listings.

Certainly the sets were RADIO and thus WIRELESS, but TELEGRAPHY they were not!

There were in fact the very first RADIO DIRECTION FINDING {RDF} - [RADAR] equipments in the Royal Navy, and HMS *Sheffield* trialled the first of two sets only called the 79Y in September 1938, followed in January 1939 by HMS *Rodney*: both had power outputs of 15-20Kw. They proved a great success. An improved set, the 79Z {70Kw} was fitted into HMS *Curlew* in September 1939, a cruiser specially adapted as an AA ship. Thirty more 79Z's were to be fitted thereafter and as soon as possible.

This is covered under the RADAR section of course. Since this outfit, the very first Radar, all radar sets have carried a three digit number followed by an alphabetical suffix where necessary.