



## HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE PINK PANTHER



The Land Rover was first made in 1948. It was inspired by the Willis Jeep, which was used throughout WW2, including by the SAS in the Western Desert, see black & white photo. The Pink Panther is a long wheel base land rover with a 2.286cc petrol engine with a range of 500Km. The Pink Panther was so called allegedly because its pink colour blended in with the desert and the sky seen in Aden, Oman and the Gulf States. The name might also relate to the Peter Sellers film of the same name! It was used for long range desert patrols, normally with a crew of 3. There were no doors and it was fitted with machine gun mounts and launchers for smoke canisters. It was first used in the 1960s, when the war in Aden (present day Yemen) commenced. This culminated in the British withdrawal in 1967, but the Pink Panther continued to be used in Dhofar and the surrounding areas of desert. There was no GPS available at this time so a sun compass was fitted to the dashboard in front of the driver, similar to the ones used in WW2. The vehicle carried 3 radios. The most important was the Wireless Set 123, shown below, which was an HF radio capable of Morse transmission only. It had a range of up to 500 miles, been developed in 1947, but not released until 1955. The first radios were delivered to the Foreign Office and later 200 went to the SAS. It was a valve set covering the frequency range from 2.5Mhz to 20Mhz. It was used by the patrol to communicate with its base.



The second set can just be seen in the top photo behind the driver. This was the A43, a VHF-UHF (240-300Mhz) set used to communicate with aircraft. It could also be used as a beacon for aircraft. The third set was a Larkspur A41, a VHF manpack radio which could be used to link to infantry units or local forces in the immediate area, but with limited range. A Pink Panther is on display in the Royal Signals Museum on loan from the Army Museum.