



Mk.17  
Country of origin: England



Front panel view (above); Rear view of enclosure (right).

**DATA SUMMARY**

**Organisation:** MI6 SIS.  
**Design/Manufacturer:** SIS Section VIII, Whaddon Hall/ Little Horwood workshops.  
**Year of Introduction:** Probably 1943.  
**Purpose:** Agents, Resistance groups.  
**Receiver:**  
**Circuit Features:** Superheterodyne with RF stage, mixer, local oscillator, 3x IF stage, (probably) discriminator, and AF output. R/T only.  
**Intermediate Frequency:** Not known  
**AF Output:** Headphones.  
**Valves:** 6AK5 2x, 954, 6SK7 3x, 6H6.  
**Transmitter:**  
**Circuit features:** Master oscillator/doubler, RF power amplifier, modulator. R/T only.  
**Valves:** 6V6 2x, 6J7.  
**Frequency Coverage:** 30-36MHz.  
**Power Supply:** 6V accumulator. Vibrator 4256 - G5, rectifier 6X5.  
**Size (cm):** Height 28.5, Length 27.2, Width 15.2.  
**Weight (kg):** 9.6.  
**Accessories:** Microphone, headphones, aerial.

**REMARKS**

The Mk.17 was believed the first ground version of the 'Ascension' VHF communication system which allowed agents to have direct voice contact with an operator in an aircraft fitted with similar equipment. Very little is known about this system which most probably used frequency modulation. The Mk. 17 was built in two separate units, combined into into a single self contained set.  
 It is interesting to note that the support/protection plate for the frequency calibration chard is identical to that of the Mk.21. See the 'Mk.18' section in the 'Great Britain' chapter of WftW Volume 4 for a different and more simplified version.



Top of chassis transmitter Mk.17. Left is the vibrator power unit with (missing 6X5) rectifier valve. On the right hand side the transmitter with 6V6 local oscillator, 6V6 RF power amplifier (valve is missing) and 6J7 modulator/pre-amplifier.



Internal view of Mk.17 showing transmitter/power unit (upper chassis) and receiver unit (lower chassis) fixed to a metal plate covered with two paxolin front plates.

**References:**

- Photographs and general (technical) information kindly submitted by Eric Pierret, France.