



Mk.VI var. 1c
(‘Libuše’)
Country of origin:
England

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: MI6 SIS.

Design/Manufacturer: SIS Section VIII, Whaddon Hall / Little Horwood workshops.

Year of Introduction: Believed 1941.

Purpose: SIS, Resistance, SOE.

Transmitter:

Circuit features: CO, RF power amplifier. CW only.

Freq. Coverage: 3.5-13MHz in three bands covered by plug-in coils: 3.5-7MHz, 6.5-8MHz and 8-12MHz. *)
Frequency doubling in the RF power amplifier at frequencies above 8MHz.

RF output: Estimated 20-25W.

Valves: 6V6, 807, 5Z3.

Receiver:

Circuit features: TRF with regenerative detector, AF stage, AF output.

Freq. Coverage: 3.5-16MHz covered by two plug-in coils: 3.5-7.5MHz and 7-16MHz. *)

Valves: 6SK7, 6C5 (2x), 6X5.

Power Supply: Internal 100-250V AC mains power unit.

Size (cm): Height 30, length 16, width 50.

*) Frequencies are estimates and not yet confirmed.

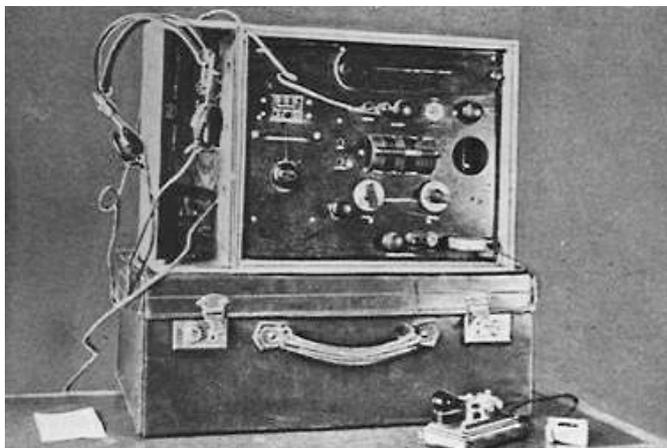
This Supplement chapter is a follow up and should be read in conjunction with the ‘Mk.VI’ section in the ‘Great Britain’ chapter of WftW Volume 4 for more information.

REMARKS

A Mk.VI variation 1c, (codenamed ‘Libuše’) shown in this chapter, used by the Silver-A Czech military operation, was dropped into occupied Czechoslovakia in December 1941 for re-establishing communication of the Czech government in exile and the home resistance movement during WW2.

The Mk.VI variation 1c was comprised of a self-contained combined transmitter and receiver with AC mains power supplies fitted in a wooden box. As the receiver proved unsuitable, a commercial Hallicrafters SX 24 receiver was supplemented. After the hiding place of the Mk.VI ‘Libuše’ was betrayed, the Germans seized both transmitter and receiver on June 30th, 1942. The operator was shot dead in the two days during his escape.

Celebrating the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of activity of the Silver-A group by the Rota Nazdar Association and Association of Czechoslovak Legionnaires, a replica of the ‘Libuše’ was built in early 2017, based on an original Mk.VI variation 1c, which is kept in the National Technical Museum in Prague.



Original German photograph of the Mk.VI ‘Libuše’ transmitter taken after the capture of the Silver-A group. Note the Mk.III suitcase. The Morse key was an Army ‘Key and Plug Assembly No. 6’. (Without its protective cover)



Working replica of the Mk.VI ‘Libuše’ which was used in the ‘Libuše calls London’ project, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the activities of the Silver-A group.



Rear view of a Mk.VI variation 1c suitcase transmitter. When taking this photograph the transmitter rectifier valve 5Z4 (right-empty valve holder-) was temporary removed in order to obtain an unobstructed view.



Top view of the Mk.VI variation 1c chassis showing the receiver section with separate power supply unit (left) and plug-in receiver tuning coil (right)



Side view of receiver section with 3 receiver valves and the rectifier valve at the right.



Hallicrafters SX 24 Skyrider Defiant receiver (left) and replica Mk.VI 'Libuše' transmitter (right) setup in April 2017. Permission was granted to transmit under the special temporary amateur radio call sign OL75SILVERA at a location originally used by the Silver-A group in 1942.



A commercial Hallicrafters SX 24 Skyrider Defiant was used by the Silver-A group as a replacement for the original Mk.VI 'Libuše' receiver, which was unsuitable for the task.

References:

- With thanks to Jan Lexa and Alois Veselý, Czech Republic.
- Rota Nazdar Association, Czech Republic. www.rotanazdar.cz
- <https://www.qrz.com> (search for OL75SILVERA)
- I am grateful to Dušan Klavík, Czech Republic, who pointed me to the 'Libuše calls London' project, and permitted me to use a number of photos for publication in this chapter.
- National Technical Museum, Prague, Czech Republic.