



'Unknown Partisan set' with original Morse key. Serial number 142.

'Unknown Partisan set' Country of origin: Russia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: GRU/Partisan organisations.
Design/Manufacturer: Russia.
Year of Introduction: Unknown, believed 1942/43.
Purpose: Partisan groups. Probably agents/special forces.
Receiver: TRF with aperiodic RF stage, regenerative detector and AF amplifier. AM R/T and CW.
Transmitter: CO, RF Power amplifier. CW only.
Frequency coverage: Unknown; possibly 3-6MHz.
Valves: Receiver 2K2M 3x; Transmitter 2P4M (SB244) 2x.
Power Supply: Dry batteries, believed 3V LT and 120/240V HT.
Size (cm): Height 11.5, Length 23.6, Width 10.4, Weight 1.9kg.
Accessories: Headphones, batteries (probably in a separate box), crystals, aerial and counterpoise.

References:

- Photographs and information of s/n 205 kindly provided by Hans Saethre, LA9LT and Tommy Antonsen, LA9LE, Norway.
- Photographs and information of s/n 142 courtesy Kari Sirkänen, OH5YW, Finland.

REMARKS

The 'Unknown Partisan set' was a small battery operated HF transmitter-receiver. A set that survived the years was found in Finnmark (North Norway), where during the war Norwegian/Soviet partisan groups (and Soviet Marine commandos, see next page) were active against the German occupying forces. A similar set with serial number 142 found in a scrap yard in Finland, was more complete and differed in a few details to the 'Finnmark' set with serial number 205. Though not having much direct resemblance, the 'Unknown Partisan set' had a number of mechanical, electrical and operational elements which might indicate the same factory and/or designer team as the Sever. The serial number of both sets was punched in the hinged lid of the enclosure and in the transmitter-receiver chassis. The actual set was comprised of a transmitter-receiver chassis which would slide into an enclosure with hinged top, and a separately carried battery box. Valves and crystal were easy accessible in a compartment on top via the hinged lid. The Morse key was fitted on the front panel section of the hinged lid, connected to the transmitter via a couple of knife and slot contacts.

Both sets had inscriptions in English as a disguise, it is therefore believed that they were primary used by agents, Soviet commandos and Russian partisan groups operating in occupied territory.

Note: Considering the rarity of this set, and the availability of good quality photos of both samples, it was decided to add an extra page to this chapter.

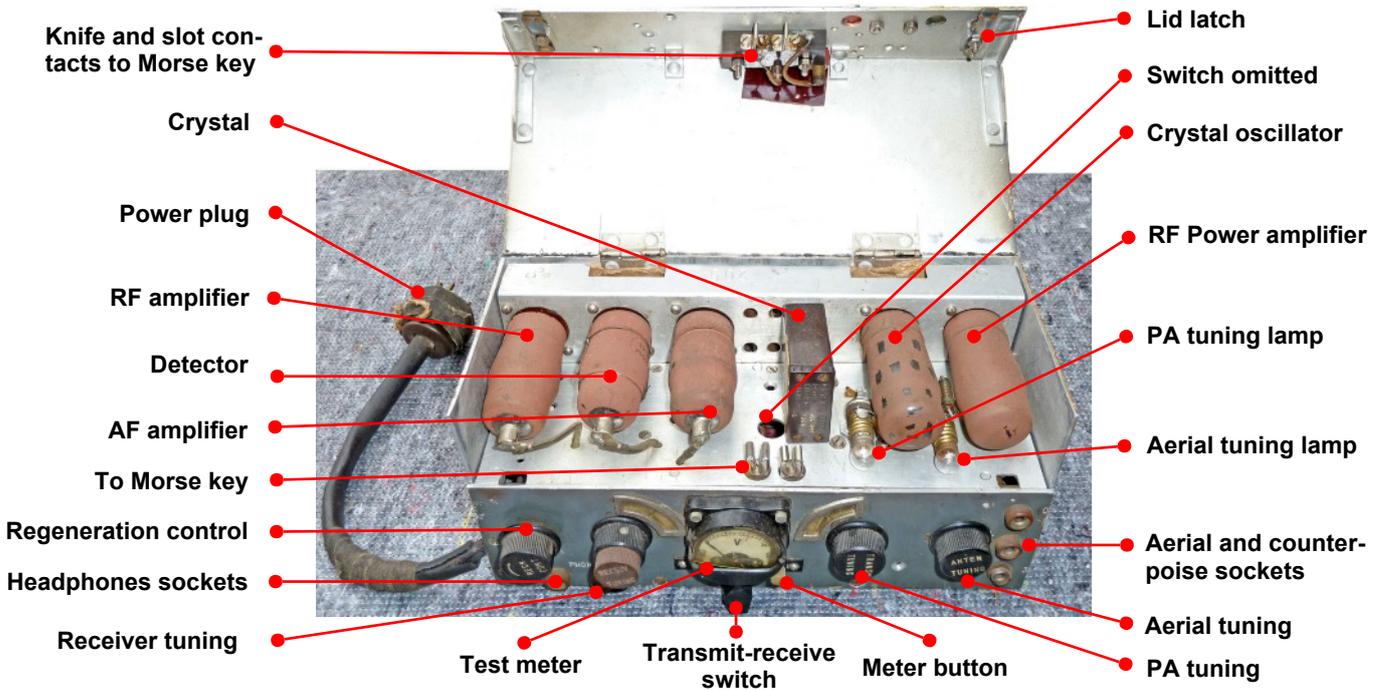
'Unknown Partisan set' serial number 205. This set had a couple of push latches to open and close the hinged top, whereas the other set had two knurled thumb screws.

Note: The two banana type sockets on top of the front panel of the set on the photo were not original but a much later addition, intended for connecting an external Morse key.

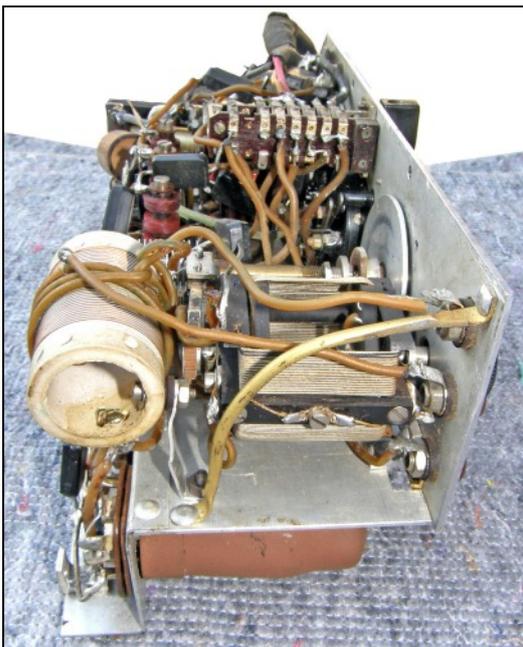


Comments by Walt, RA3CC, director of the Walt Gromov's Radio Museum, Moscow.

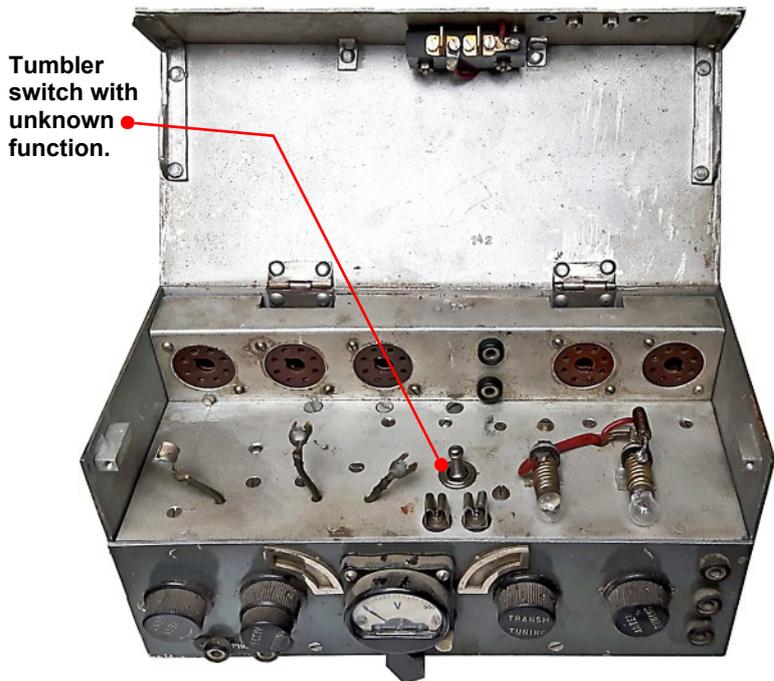
...Nobody over here in Russia today could tell exactly what was the model. One thing which I may consider a piece of reliable information is the name of the manufacturer. It sure was Radio Works No. 616 of Leningrad. This was part of famous Kozitsky Radio Works No. 210 which was evacuated to Omsk, Siberia, in September, 1941. The guys who were left behind (in Leningrad) continued some limited production of 'Sever' HF radios in the remainder of 1941 before situation in Leningrad blocked by Wehrmacht troops became a catastrophe. Despite all the obstacles, in May 1942 Radio Works No. 616 reinstated its radio production. As the official documents say, in 1942 there were several radios made based on 'Sever' parts to meet various demands of Soviet Navy and Marines. The following radio model names could be found in the documents: 'Кефаль' (KEFAL or Grey Mullet), 'Камбала' (KAMBALA or Sole Fish), 'Залп' (ZALP or Volley), 'Заряд' (ZARIAD or Charge). All such devices were manufactured in very limited quantities, and no factory documentation have survived the Leningrad blockade period. That is why we have no exact knowledge of how those devices have looked. I have seen elsewhere on our forums, that KAMBALA was a portable radio for Soviet Marine commandos. It's a sure thing that Soviet commandos were active in Northern Norway when Germans were there. No wonder some of the radios have been left behind when Soviet commandos returned to the USSR. Some of those radios survived just in Norway because in the Soviet Union all such radio equipment used to be destroyed in late 1940s and in 1950s...



Transmitter-receiver (s/n 205) with hinged lid opened showing the front panel and positions of valves. Note the two contacts in front of the crystal leading via knife contacts to the Morse Key on the hinged top.



Bottom view of s/n 205 seen from right hand side showing RF tank coil and variometer. (Left)

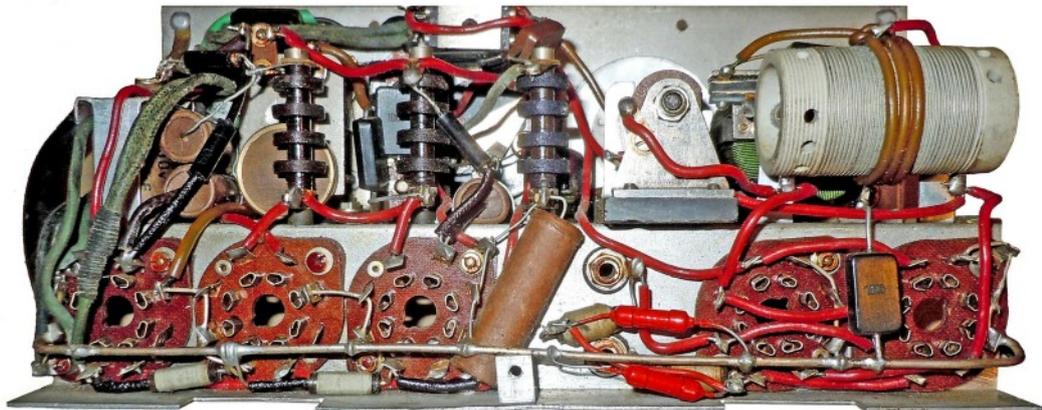


Transmitter-receiver s/n 142 with valves and crystal removed. Note the switch with unknown function fitted just behind the Morse key contacts.

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Close-up view of front panel s/n 142 found in Finland.



Rear view of s/n 142 showing valve holders, tank coil and PA tuning condenser.



Bottom view giving an overall view of the construction of s/n 142.