

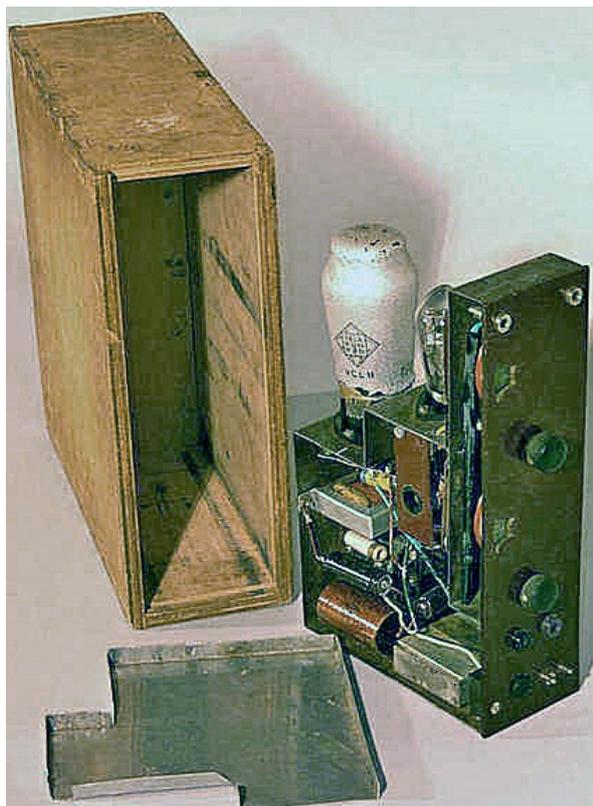
PoW radio # 7

'Modified DKE 38'

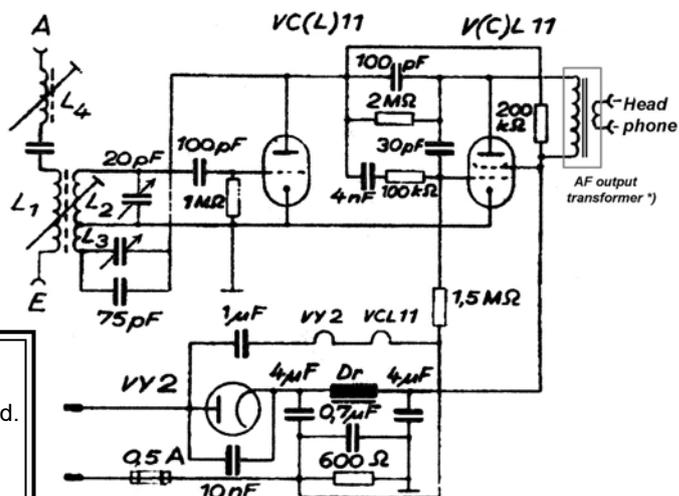
Country of origin: Germany

Remarks

Otto Roth from Germany and Gwidon Damazyn from Poland, both political prisoners in concentration camp Buchenwald, built a secret radio in the summer of 1942. The receiver was mainly based on parts from DKE 38 'Volksempfänger' (see chapter 208), disassembled and rebuilt on a metal chassis enclosed in a small wooden box. The latter was concealed in a wooden bunk bed construction. Modified to receive short wave, the circuit did not differ very much from the original DKE 38. Apart from the removal of the LW/MW switch and LW coil, the coils and reaction circuit were changed. It is believed that the AF output transformer was a (safety) addition in the replica which was constructed in the 1960s by a group of apprentices of a technical school in Dresden in the former DDR, led by Bruno Häberer.



Side view and wooden enclosure of the 1960s reconstruction (replica) of the 'Modified DKE 38'



Circuit diagram of the 'Modified DKE 38' radio.

*) The AF output transformer was not drawn in the original circuit diagram but fitted in the 1960s replica as shown on the bottom left photo.

DATA SUMMARY

Design/build: Prisoners in concentration camp Buchenwald.

Year of Introduction: Summer 1942.

Purpose: Listening to news broadcasts.

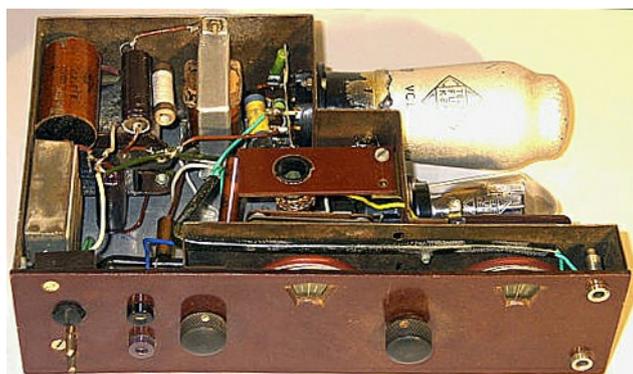
Receiver: TRF with variable reaction; AF amplifier.

Frequency coverage: Short wave.

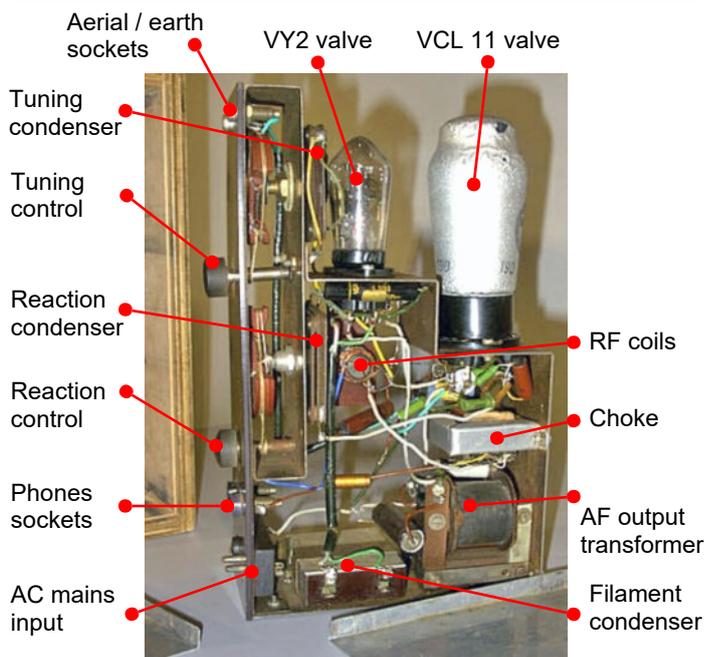
Valves: VCL11 and VY2.

Power supply: 220V AC.

Size (cm): Height 24, length 14, width 6 (an estimate).



Front panel view of the 'Modified DKE 38' radio.



Explanations of components and function of controls.

References:

- Wolfgang Eckhardt, Jena, Germany. 'Geheimer Empfängerbau im KZ Buchenwald', GFGF Funkgeschichte, Nr. 161, (2005) ©.
- Permission for the use of this article was kindly granted by the Gesellschaft der Freunde der Geschichte des funkwesens GFGF.
- Many thanks to Wolfgang Eckhardt for permission to use his photographs taken at his exhibition in Weimar, 2003.
- Helmut Hartung, 'Signale durch den Toteszaun', VEB Verlag Technik, 1974, Berlin, DDR.
- Bruno Häberer and Helmut Körner, 'Auch im KZ Buchenwald sprach Radio Moskau', Beitrag zur Geschichte der sowjetischen Buchenwald Empfänger, 'Radio und Fernsehen' No. 21, 1967.