



Mk. VII ('Paraset') hand generator  
Country of origin: England

#### DATA SUMMARY

**Organisation:** SIS, later also by SOE.  
**Design/Manufacturer:** SIS Section VIII. (Whaddon Hall).  
**Year of Introduction:** 1941.  
**Purpose:** Charging a 6V accumulator.  
**Power output:** 7V DC.  
**Size (cm):** Height 11, length 15, width 17.5.

#### REMARKS

The Mk.VII, commonly known as 'Paraset', was a self-contained miniature transmitter-receiver, designed to be used by agents and resistance groups in World War 2. The set was built into a metal box with a large hinged lid which accommodated the three metal valves fitted in clips when not in use.

An alternative version is noted where the Mk.VII was fitted in a wooden box without a lid, carried in a small suitcase with supply units and accessories.

It was normally used with an associated AC mains power unit or a vibrator power pack powered by a 6V accumulator.

Charging the accumulator was done by a Heayberd mains powered charger or a similar charger, or a hand generator unit which comprised a small DC generator with gear box and a detachable handle.

As rotating the handle at a speed of about 80-100 turns per minute gave heavy fatigue to the operator, a Norwegian Milorg resistance group removed the collapsible handle, and replaced it by a 18 toothed sprocket which was driven by the chain of a bicycle.



The Mk.VII hand generator pictured here was modified by a Norwegian Milorg group to be operated by a bicycle.

#### References:

- Photographs of Mk.VII handgenerator and battery charger courtesy Guy Millot, *Museum of Communications in Champagne*, France. <http://www.musee-des-communications.fr>
- Photographs Mk.VII, Mike Willenbroek, Holland.
- Photo of Milorg modified Mk.VII hand generator courtesy *Norges Hjemmefrontmuseet*, (Norwegian Resistance Museum), Oslo, Norway.
- Photograph of Oluf Reed Olsen published with permission.



Mk.VII 'Paraset' with valves fitted in clips in the lid.



Oluf Reed Olsen operating a Paraset in a hideout. (Published courtesy Oluf Reed Olsen)



AC mains battery charger Heyberd Type A 05.

Mk.VII power supplies.



AC mains power unit.



DC power pack: two versions were noted.

