

(Lightning)
Blyskawica
 (Armia Krajowa #9)
 Country of origin:
 Poland

DATA SUMMARY

Design/Maker: Antoni Zebik.

Year of Introduction: 1944.

Purpose: Broadcast transmitter used during the Warsaw uprising in September 1944.

Frequency: 32.8M (9.146MHz) shortwave.

Circuit features: Crystal oscillator, driver, RF output (2 valves in parallel). Suppressor grid modulation.

Valves: 6L6 (2x), PC 1.5/100 (2x), 4683 (2x), AL4, AF7.

Power: 200W; **Aerial:** Windom.

Power Supply: AC mains 220V. Rectifiers: 866 (2x), 83, 1915 and AB2.

REMARKS

Here Warsaw. Here Warsaw.

Warsaw is fighting!

After five years of terrible terror, after years of underground fighting, Warsaw took to the streets to openly level the accounts of wrongs with the German invader in the glare of the day and gain the desired freedom!

With this message on August 8th, 1944, at 9.45, radio station "Blyskawica" (Lightning) started its first transmission. News of the Warsaw Uprising flowed into the world.

Blyskawica (Lightning) was the main insurgents broadcasting station during the Warsaw Uprising providing vital information, initially transmitting on the 8th of August 1944 from the Post Office Savings Bank, known as PKO. On the 25th the station was transferred to Cafe 'Adria'; the 4th of September it was moved to the former USSR embassy and finally to the Warsaw Public Library. The daily broadcasts on shortwave 32.8M, two in Polish and two in English, were relayed by 'Burza' (Thunderstorm) on 52.1M (see Chapter 300).

On orders of Armia Krajowa, Antoni Zebik was commissioned in 1943 to build a 100-200W National Army Headquarter broadcast transmitter (later known as "Blyskawica") in Częstochowa, as a preparation to the later uprising. Prior to the outbreak of the uprising, the station was transported in a number of loads to the Warsaw PKO building. However, the crates with the equipment of the station, to be launched in the early hours of the uprising, did not reach their destination and by late night their fate was unknown. The crates were eventually located in the yard of a house, but due to heavy rain completely soaked. After being transported to the PKO building the transmitter was dismantled into smaller units and dried by exposing to three electric stoves and fans. In the mean time a makeshift transmitter known as Burza (Thunderstorm) was built in the Main Post Office premises by Włodzimierz Markowski (see Chapter 300). On the 8th of August 1944 the originally intended broadcasting station Blyskawica was repaired and came on the air from the PKO building. On October the 4th 1944, when the Warsaw Uprising came to an end, after the last 10 minutes broadcast, the station was destroyed by the team leader. A replica of Blyskawica is on display in the Warsaw Uprising Museum.



Post Office Savings Bank (PKO): pre-war and the remains after the war.



Original Blyskawica (Lightning) transmitter with its designer Antoni Zebik (1943).

References:

- Technical documentation of replica insurgent radio station Blyskawica, Zygmunt Seliga, SP5AYY, Warsaw, 2004.
- *Zolnierze Lacznozej Warszawy* (Communications Soldiers of fighting Warsaw), Kazimierz Malinowski, Warszawa, 1983, isbn 83-211-0378-2.

<https://sites.google.com/site/sq5ebo/b%C5%82yskawica>

<https://www.qrz.com/db/SN0MPW>

[https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C5%82yskawica_\(radiostacja\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C5%82yskawica_(radiostacja))

Daily programs during the Warsaw Uprising.

Blyskawica's editorial team leader was Stanisław Zadrozny, his deputy Zofia Rutkowska who took over the management of the program. The broadcasts in English were conducted by Jan Nowak-Jeziorański and RAF pilot John Ward. Zbigniew Świętochowski, Jeremi Przybora, Stefan Sojecki, Zbigniew Jasiński, and Mieczysław Ubysz also worked as announcers. Diaries and reports were led by Jacek Wołowski.



Improved studio of Blyskawica with announcers of the National Army and Polish Radio.

Polish Radio broadcast.

Kalina I and II were 1kW and 500W high power broadcast stations, assembled by the University of Technology in Warsaw, intended to be used by the Polish Radio broadcasting as soon as the Warsaw Uprising would start. Located at the University, Kalina I was damaged by an artillery shell in the first days of the Uprising, and Kalinka II was not completed. After the Lightning transmitter was on the air again, it was also used by the Polish Radio.

Other broadcast stations at the Warsaw Uprising.

Apart from the Lightning and Thunderstorm, there were a few other broadcast stations. These operated on medium wave, but with a relative low power.

Although no technical details were recorded, the names of these stations were 'Rafel', led by Kazimierz Moczarski, 'Kowal' by Adam Dobrowski, and 'Anna', operating from ul. Marszałkowski 62, led by Kazimierz Ostrowski. Broadcasts of these stations, in Polish, were a picture of insurgent life.

One of these stations, located in Warsaw, operated on the wavelength of a Radio Krakow, a German Wehrmacht station on 224M, with propaganda and morale breaking broadcasts.

During the uprising, radio receivers were exhibited in various places in Warsaw, allowing by-passers to listen to the broadcasts. Over 150 broadcast receivers were acquired after the Philips plant warehouses were captured by insurgents.

2004: Antoni Zebik, SP7LA (Pre-war SP1ZA), the designer of 'Blyskawica' (Lightning) transmitter with a replica prior to its delivery to the Warsaw Uprising Museum. (Photograph taken by Zygmunt Seliga, SP5AYY).



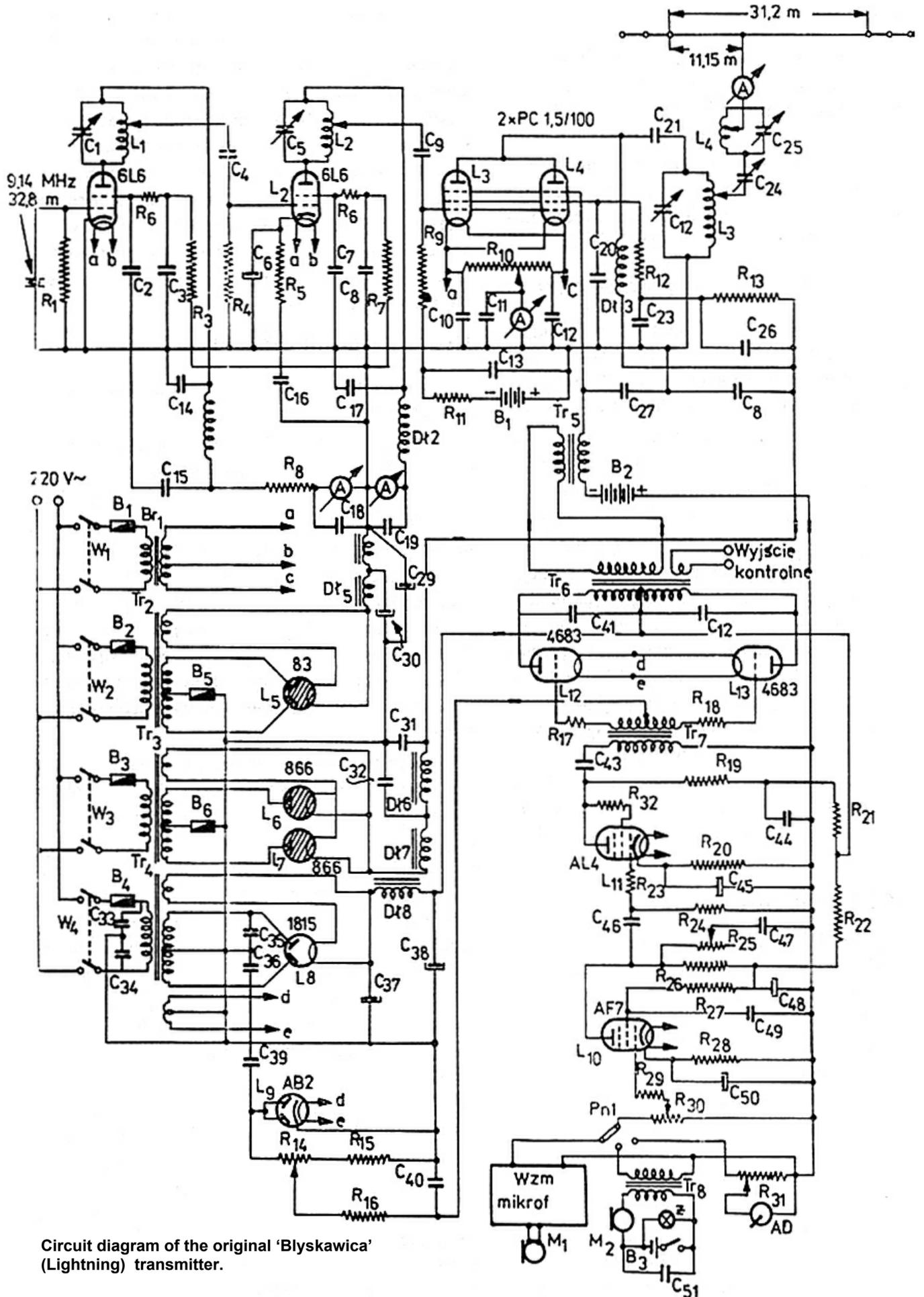
Front panel view of the three units of the replica Blyskawica transmitter: Modulator unit (top), AC mains 1500V HT power unit (centre) and actual transmitter (bottom).

The replica transmitter designed to operate in the 40M radio amateur band, was actually used from August 8 to the 4th of October 2004 during the remembrance of the 60th year of the Warsaw Uprising. (Photograph taken by Zygmunt Seliga, SP5AYY).



Radio amateur QSL card issued to stations who made contact with the replica Blyskawica station in 2004.





Circuit diagram of the original 'Blyskawica' (Lightning) transmitter.