#### Wireless for the Warrior - Volume 4

# Supplement, Chap. 339 - 1

Clandestine (Midget) Receivers #16

Country of origin: Poland and Holland



The radio was hidden under a removable section of the parquet floor, with a heavy wardrobe placed on top of it.

## A secret radio concealed in an electric stove. (Poland).

## DATA SUMMARY

**Design/Manufacturer:** 1) Philips Poland model 4-39A radio receiver (Poland). 2) Home made TRF receiver (Holland). **Year of use:** WW2 after 1941.

**Purpose:** Illegal listening in occupied countries to BBC. **Power Supply:** AC mains.



Internal view of the Philips Poland model 4-39A broadcast receiver. The green dotted lines show the chassis and AC mains transformer, which were later stripped and fitted into an electric stove. The large loudspeaker was substituted with a pair of headphones.

#### Remarks

Hidden in a Warsaw apartment, a clandestine radio receiver used by the resistance during World War II was discovered in 2016. An address, associated with the renowned underground courier Jan Karski, had housed the radio for over seven decades. The Philips radio, found during apartment renovations at 6 Czerwonego Krzyża (Red Cross Street), was primarily used by the Polish underground resistance movement ZWZ (The Union of Armed Struggle). Later, the Armia Krajowa (Home Army) utilized the radio to listen to English and French broadcasts from abroad. The main stations they tuned into were the BBC and Radio Londres, which transmitted in French from London to occupied France. Concerns about discovery led to the radio being transformed into an electric stove that could still receive broadcasts and concealed beneath the floorboards with a heavy wardrobe placed on top. The electric stove with concealed radio is now on display at the Warsaw Rising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego), a tribute to the 1944 uprising during which the underground resistance, led by the Armia Krajowa (Home Army), aimed to liberate the city from German occupation.

#### References

- Warsaw Uprising Museum https://www.1944.pl/en
- https://notesfrompoland.com/2022/02/11/secret-wwii-radio-
- found-under-floor-in-warsaw-apartment/
- The Frankenhuis Collection.
- https://frankenhuiscollection.com/radio-sets-and-bbc-broadcasts/



The Philips 4-39A was the simplest model of a broadcast receiver produced by Philips Poland factories in the 1938/39 season. It was the first time the company offered a superheterodyne design, allowing reception of stations in the long, medium, and shortwave range. The receiver was built in a Bakelite enclosure with a vertical clock scale in the middle on the front and speaker grilles on both sides. Below the scale was a single knob used for tuning the receiver. On the right side panel, there was a range change knob, and on the left, a volume control coupled with the on/off switch. Please refer to the circuit diagram on the next page.

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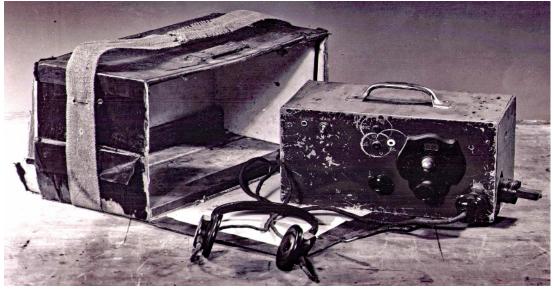
# Supplement, Chap. 339 - 2

#### CLANDESTINE RADIO WHILE IN HIDING (Holland 1942).

Excerpt from the 'Frankenhuis Collection Diary', Volume 1, 'In Hiding'.

'...What a change, when with a special radio device, built to silently listen in. At the time of the news messages we took this box out and listened. No music, but always the messages. Also, not tuning, Because the Germans could figure out when a device was tuned and could probe this. A box was made for it and every time we put it away and into the cupboard. You could hardly wait for it, at 1 o'clock, 6 o'clock and 8 o'clock.

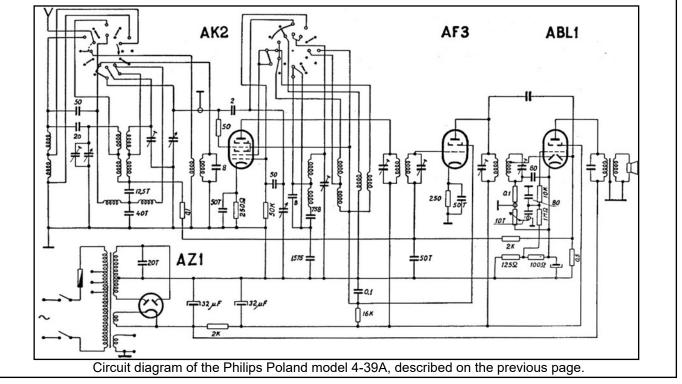
It was an upheaval in life. The interference was such, that you were still able to grasp everything, if you understood English properly. Now you heard the news messages yourself and no twisting of facts, if you understood it properly with solid English and the explanation was often quite different from what you were told. The interference was annoying. The device did help something, but not by much. The Germans didn't want you to hear the truth and they put up quite some effort to interfering the radio broadcast signal. What a criminal people they are...what a people...'



This is a photograph of the receiver Maurice Frankenhuis used to listen to the news broadcasts of the BBC in London while in German-occupied Holland, after he had to hand in his luxury Blaupunkt broadcast radio receiver. The details of its construction are not known, although it is assumed to be a simple one- or two-valve straight receiver.

#### The Frankenhuis Collection (See the on line collection: https://frankenhuiscollection.com)

The Frankenhuis Collection website is dedicated to Maurice Frankenhuis, who purposefully assembled a vast collection to document the history of the two World Wars and commemorate the Holocaust. It exhibits a selection of archives such as diaries, memoirs, posters, coins, medals, documents, letters, autographs, photographs, and other relevant artifacts pertaining to the two World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945) and the Holocaust of the Jewish people in Europe. The collection also includes materials related to his home country, the Netherlands.



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