

Side Valve 918cc Morris Engine Use

Engines were widely used in powering more than just cars and trucks.

My interest in the 918cc Eight has led me down a few paths over the years, but the shortest one to date is the so called Industrial Engine. To find they powered tank generators was quite an eye-opener, but that was just the start.

The list includes pumps, generators and many forgotten uses. They could be found being used in ships, landing craft and tractors. No doubt there is an even bigger list to be found. There is of course also the Vedette marine engine which the Club has an example of on display.

The motor in our cars is more widely recognised through the years of use in the Pre Series, and Series 1 & 2 Eight from 1934-1938, the Series E Eight up to 1948 and the Minor until 1952. Then there is the Wolseley Eight which had an overhead valve head added to the 918cc block. Essentially this was sold from 1946-1948.

British Motor Boats (BMB) designed the President tractor which was built by Brockhouse Engineering between 1950 & 1956. The Brockhouse Industrial Engine is most likely how the engine was known to most users rather than Morris.

From what I have read, there are many instances of 8s and Minors using suitably adapted industrial engines. If a car distributor was used and suitable mounts organised, they would have been quick, cheap fix.

One issue that could catch these users out is that various threads and nuts were used so that they were compatible, for example with American tools when used in military applications.

Reconditioning of various units went to Morris and possibly BSA as well in those times.



BMB President Tractor

The President engine probably had 29.6 BHP, which is the Series E output, the Wolseley 33 BHP and the Series 1&2 23.5 BHP. The Series Z van which has a non-counter-balanced crankshaft, but Series E style pistons will fall between the Series 1&2 and Series E output. As the Z continued until 1953 later ones may have had the USHM2 rather than the USHMV engine.



Wolseley Eight

Morris Eight Series 1&2



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