



Looking Back

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Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.

"DUTY-FREE RADIO"

As has been often said, the only things one can be certain about are death and taxes!

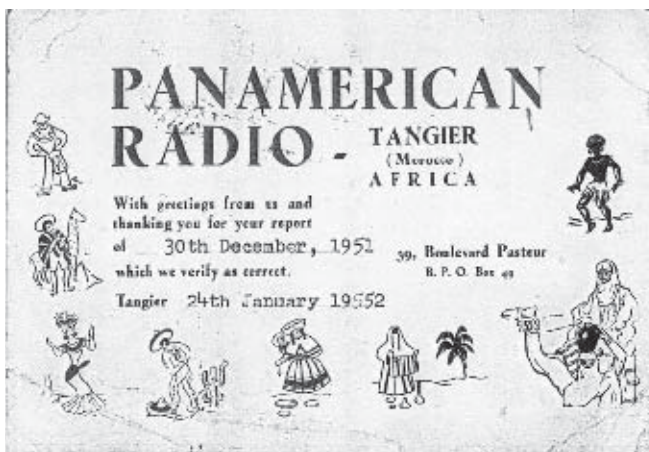
I won't comment on the first, but in respect of taxes there have always been various ways mankind seeks to avoid or minimize our government's "take" out of our pocket. One of these has been to establish a port or small "country" where taxes of the import-export type can be avoided.

One of these in past years has been the country of TANGIER in North Africa. Historically this region has been in-and-out of the present country of Morocco.

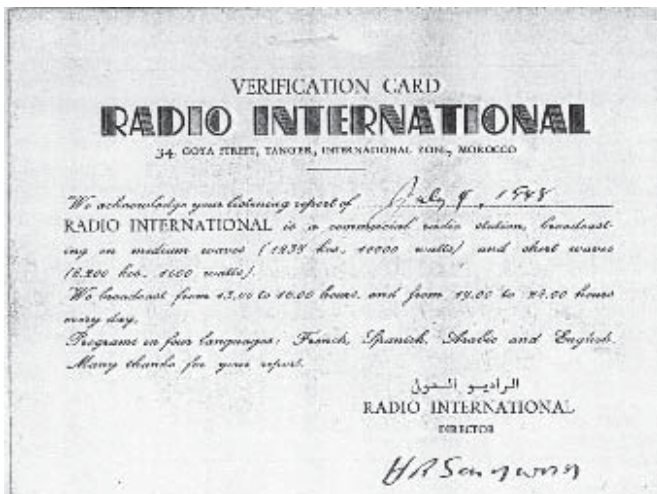
In 1924 and again in 1945 this port was designated as an "INTERNATIONAL ZONE" with a "free port" where taxes (import & export "duty") could be avoided.

were quite well heard around the world, especially in Europe. To the best of my recollection, they were commercial enterprises with a motley collection of "popular music" as their main programme fare. The former was logged on 7400 kHz and the latter on about 6200 kHz. Both catches were verified by the station's QSL card. I have no record of their operating power, but I feel sure they were not real high-power stations.

Another interesting port was TRIESTE in Northern Italy at the head of the Adriatic Sea, close to Slovenia (part of the former Yugoslavia). In 1920 it was under Italian administration and became an important financial and trade center. After WWII it was "divided" between a northern half and southern portion, with military forces from AngloAmerican and Yugoslavian origins administering the area. About eight years later the northern part was handed over to Italy and the south to the (then) Yugoslavia.



A radio station of the B.F.B.S. operated from Trieste in 1953 and was logged and QSLed by yours truly on a 19 meter channel. This seems today to be an extraordinary choice of frequency, but it made it quite easy to hear. According to the verification letter, this was formerly a channel of F.B.S. in Malta.



Not unnaturally, taxation leads to other - shall we say - "less orthodox" methods of evasion. For example, smuggling goods across country borders and the setting-up of "tax havens".

Now I must point out here that I have never personally had the opportunity to participate in such activities, so what follows is - except for the radio part - based on news media comments.

Around 1948-1952 there were at least two shortwave radio stations operating here, namely PANAMERICAN RADIO and RADIO INTERNATIONAL. These

The tiny European country of ANDORRA, located in the Pyrennees mountains between Spain and France, had a reputation - in the past at least - for being an active area for smuggling. It is officially classified as a "Principality" under the guidance of the president of France and a Spanish Church official. Back in the

"good old days" there was a famous radio station here known as RADIOANDORRA. It had a big signal and a famous cheerful lady announcer whose clarion call was "AQUI RADIOANDORRA!" followed by long sessions of bright pop music of the day. They issued some attractive QSL cards. (This was not the only station operating. Another, less well known station was Andorradio. Both operated on SW and medium wave bands.)

As for tax havens, they are still with us. One of the more "important" is in is Georgetown on Grand Cayman, reputed to have more banks than stores. I don't know how accurate that is; they certainly do have a large number

Many years ago I spent a short holiday in Grand Cayman and enjoyed the turtle farm and dinners. The climate however, was steamy and tiring, and the cost of living expensive. At a later date I logged RADIO CAYMAN while in Guatemala, this however being a medium wave transmission on 1555 kHz. They are a government operation for the islands and I understand now on FM only.

I trust this article has been of interest and I hope to step back in time with you next month;

73 from Tom (Granpa!)



RADIO CAYMAN

1555 kHz (10,000w), 1205 kHz (1,000w) & 105.3mHz-FM (250w)

P.O. Box 1110
Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

Telephone: 9-4030
Cables: BROADCAST GRANDCAYMAN

5th May, 1978



The CBC in 1961

On Nov. 2, 1961, the CBC celebrated its 25th anniversary. By this date, CBC Radio reached almost 98 per cent of Canada's population, and CBC Television reached more than 94 per cent of the population. Altogether the CBC employed a staff of more than 7,000 and operated at a cost of just over \$59,000,000 in public funds or, according to CBC Times, "about one cent per day per Canadian."

In a 1961 address to Quebec's Richelieu Club, CBC president Alphonse Ouimet outlined the goals of the CBC. "The CBC believes people have an innate curiosity, a thirst for knowledge, and a receptivity with regard to the world about them," he said. "Whether it be in the political, social, artistic or cultural realm, the CBC programmer's constant endeavour is to attain scientific accuracy and intellectual integrity."

1961 also saw the introduction of the CBC's first major competitor in the Canadian television realm. The privately owned, English-language CTV Television Network (originally called the Canadian Television Network) opened in 1961. According to University of Western Ontario professor Michael Nolan, the arrival of CTV on the scene "shattered the status quo" for Canadian television, ending the CBC's monopoly in the Canadian TV world.

