



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.

The French Colonial Empire

If you were to take a public opinion poll of Anglosaxons, I think you would be surprised to find that most people would have difficulty in appreciating how far flung the colonial world of France was, especially on the African continent.

Many would find it difficult to remember the old French possessions in the Indian Ocean and Pacific region. The various countries of that old empire gained their independence at different times, but 1960 was a "popular" year for many of the African territories.

Separation from Mother France was not an easy matter and even today many ties of different kinds remain, to varying degrees. I am thinking of economic and military arrangements (e.g. Tchad), not to mention the influence of French culture and language. On a personal level, I can still remember one day after World War II, walking into the French Club in Ismailia, Egypt. It was a hot, dry day and I heard someone playing beautiful classical music on a piano in an adjacent room. I enjoyed a cool drink along with that music and immediately felt at home. One cannot lightly

dismiss the effects of culture peremptorily!

The tensions between various racial groups in the African region are still important political factors today, as can be seen from the problems of North Africans residing in France.

Some of the status and terminology relating to the different countries surfaced in World War II when certain colonies sided with the Vichy government and others with the (Fighting) Free French forces who fought alongside the Allies. For example, one had broadcasts from Vichy supporters in Algeria and Senegal and support for the Free French from Lebanon and Brazzaville. Some of the wording chosen to represent the French position in respect of a country

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(French Indo-China)

Broadcasting on 11.78 megacycles, i. e. 25 meters
on the 4th September 1948 at 15.15 (GMT)

Our Wavelengths	Our English daily sessions (G. M. T.)
11.78 mcgs in the 25 m. band	²⁰ 0.45 to 1.00 AM
¹³ 6.19 mcgs in the 49 m. band	10.00 to 10.45 AM
1.05 mcgs in the 285 m. band	13.30 to 14.30 PM
	<u>23.30 to 23.45 PM</u>

RADIODIFFUSION TELEVISION
FRANCAISE

Services de la Réunion

BG/JR - N2 /REU/6

Saint-Denis, le 22 Janvier 1964

Le Chef des Services de la Radiodiffusion
Télévision Française à la Réunion

à

Monsieur T. B. WILLIAMSON

15, Avenue du Congo

LE CHEF DU SERVICE
DE LA MODIFICATION

K. S. — Inform. n° 8 lit. — I. O. D. 20. C. 0000-10).

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LEBANESE BROADCASTING STATION

TWO WAVES LENGTHS 1721, 33 METRES AND 411 METRES

Mr. L. T. B. Williamson

M. O. R. Hill End Hospital

ST ALBANS. HERTS.

ENGLAND

To attempt to cover the vast region of the old colonial empire would be impossible, so I have chosen a few QSL illustrations to remind you of earlier times. QSLs from Saigon, Brazzaville, Madagascar, Reunion and Algeria are much treasured by yours truly. Enjoy!

ANGLE TERRE