

The BBC in QSLs – Part III

by Jerry Berg,
jsberg@rcn.com

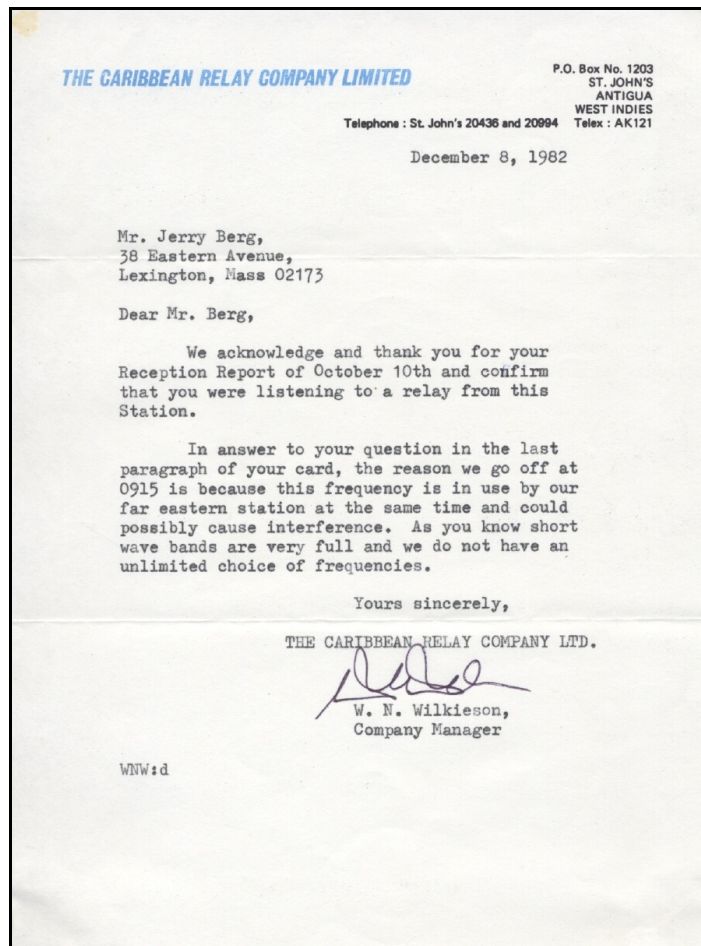
The BBC has utilized shortwave relay stations across the globe ever since opening its first, in Singapore, in the late 1940s. In 1997 the BBC privatized the operation of these stations, but retained ownership. Many have now closed, but Ascension, Oman and Singapore remain.

The BBC no-QSL policy has not been applied rigorously at the relay stations, and most have been willing to at least acknowledge reports directly rather than through London, and many have issued their own QSLs, often full- or partial-data. The QSLs shown below illustrate what the relay station responses have looked like. No attempt has been made to be comprehensive with regard to QSL designs, which often changed.

VII. The Relay Stations

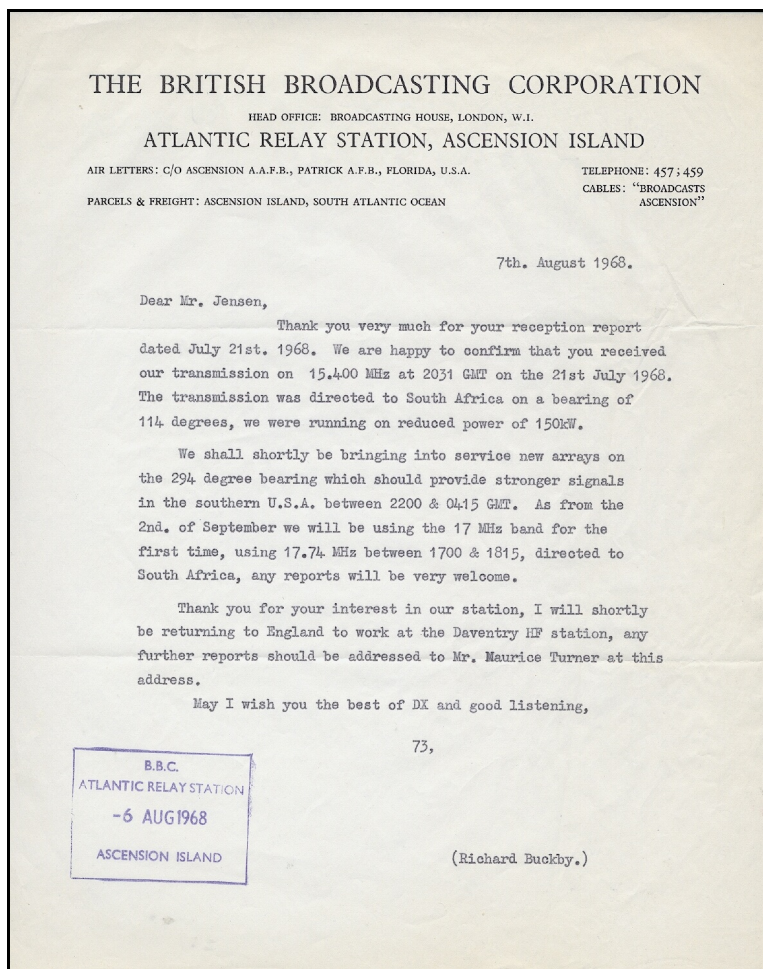
Antigua

The BBC and Deutsche Welle jointly owned a relay station on Antigua from 1976 to 2005. It operated under the name The Caribbean Relay Co. Ltd.



Ascension Island

The BBC Atlantic Relay Station came on line in 1966 and is still on the air. Through the years it has issued many QSL letters. Ascension was the shortwave transmitter site for broadcasts of both the British Forces Broadcasting Service and Radio Atlantico del Sur during the 1982 Falklands War.



**ATLANTIC
RELAY STATION**

ASCENSION ISLAND

**Babcock International
BBC Atlantic Relay Station,
Ascension Island,
South Atlantic Ocean
ASCN 1ZZ
TEL: + 290 66800
FAX: + 290 66117
www.babcockinternational.com**

To:

Date: 3rd June 17

QSL VERIFICATION

Thank you for your valuable reception report. I have checked the details against our frequency and programme schedules.

I can confirm that you have now heard the following programmes listed in the table provided via the Atlantic Relay Station.

Programme Details	Date	Time	Frequency MHz
Reacin Beyond (Religious prog to Africa)	26/7/14	21:45 - 22:15 UTC	11.985MHz

All requests for our schedules and programme guides should be sent to:

BBC World Service,
Audience Relations Team,
1st Floor Brock House,
19 Langham Street,
London
W1A 1AA

We hope that you found the attached information regarding our Station informative and interesting.

Luceana Leo-Francis
Communications Engineer

Botswana (Bechuanaland)

The Central African Relay Station operated from 1965 to 1968. Its purpose was to provide programming for Rhodesia, which had gone into rebellion with the unilateral declaration of independence by Prime Minister Ian Smith. It left the air in March 1968, whereupon the shortwave transmitter was handed over to Radio Botswana. The letter shown below is from *Shortwave Voices of the World*, written by Richard E. Wood and published by Gilfer in 1969 (pg. 73).



B.B.C. Central African Relay Station,
P.O. Box 29,
Francistown,
Botswana.

14th November 1967.

Professor Richard E. Wood,
University of Hawaii,
Department of European Languages.

Dear Professor Wood,

Thank you very much for your report of reception of our 4.845 MHz transmission on 27th October 1967. The details you give are consistent with our programme and we therefore confirm your identification of our station between the times 03.55 and 04.15 GMT on this date.

Our programme is radiated on this frequency daily from 04.00 to 05.45 GMT and from 16.30 until 20.45 GMT. The early morning programme is preceded by the "Bow Bells" interval signal and the evening programme by the "B.B.C." interval signal.

We also transmit programmes from approximately 06.00 until 08.30 GMT on 7.295 MHz. In both cases the transmitted power is 10 KW and the antennas are J-wire folded dipoles, cut to resonant length, but since they are intended for quite short-haul service areas, they are at comparatively low levels.

This station also radiates the same programmes simultaneously on 926 and 602 kHz with powers of 50 KW on each frequency during all the times quoted above. The medium wave transmissions are made using vertical mast radiators. Power for the transmitters is generated on site using Rolls Royce diesel sets.

We employ quite a number of Botswana African nationals on the site, some of whom are engaged on minor technical duties, both on the transmitters and the diesel engines.

This station does not issue its own QSL cards to acknowledge listeners' reports, which are normally sent to U.K. for acknowledgement, but in view of your special interest I thought I would write to you before forwarding your letter to U.K.

Best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "N.H. Sedgwick".

N.H. Sedgwick,
Engineer-in-Charge.

Cyprus

The BBC station on Cyprus traces its lineage to Sharq al Adna, the Near East Broadcasting Station, which moved from Palestine to Cyprus in 1948. It became the BBC East Mediterranean Relay Station in 1957, and operated on shortwave until 2013 (it is still on mediumwave).

British East Mediterranean Relay Station
P.O. Box 219 Limassol
Cyprus

Telephone Limassol 2038/2039

Your reference
Our reference
Date 25th June 1982

Mr Jerry Berg
38 Eastern Avenue
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173
U.S.A.

Dear *Jerry,*
Many thanks for your Dx-report of 23rd May .

The programme contents you described were correct for our transmission on 6180 KHZ and I have forwarded your report to the BBC, Bush House, London.

The transmission you listened to was carried by a Marconi BD 253 100KW transmitter and a 2 x 2 aerial array with reflector on a bearing of 328 degrees.

I wish you successful Dx-ing.

Yours Sincerely
H. R. Lemmon

H.R. Lemmon
Engineer in Charge

Your guess that we were running a tape of "The Pleasure's Yours" is quite correct. We carry a lot of this type of programme on tape, which is not synchronised with London, but does improve the transmission quality, when compared with relay.



BRITISH EAST MEDITERRANEAN RELAY STATION
P.O.Box 219 LIMASSOL CYPRUS

BBC

CONFIRMING YOUR REPORT MR JERRY BERG - U.S.A.

DATE	G.M.T.	FREQUENCY	AERIAL	POWER
24.9.88	21.31	6180 KHZ	CURTAIN	250 KW

Hong Kong

The East Asia Relay Station began operation in 1987. It left the air in November 1996, prior to Hong Kong's return to China on July 1, 1997. The transmitters were moved to the then-new BBC relay station in Thailand.



BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 76
BUSH HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON W.C.2.B 4PH

Thank you for your recent reception report on our transmission from the BBC's East Asia Relay Station.

We are grateful for your assistance in helping us obtain reception information on our transmissions from this new BBC Relay Station and we have pleasure in sending you this copy of our special QSL card to acknowledge your report.

Yours sincerely
D.J. Corbett
D.J. Corbett
Chief Engineer, External Broadcasting

亲爱的听友：
收读您寄来的
并寄录了收听本台
转播台转播节目的
感谢。

随信附上本台的
听证明卡片，以兹
听本台节目。您的
我们了解新转播台的
很有帮助，希望今后
多的来信。此致

John Harding (中)

BBC EAST ASIA RELAY STATION

BBC EAST ASIA RELAY STATION,
SHORT WAVE ANTENNAS.

BUSH HOUSE, LONDON HOME OF
BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES.

Lesotho

The BBC set up a facility at Lancers Gap for the joint use of the BBC and Radio Lesotho. Radio Lesotho personnel operated the installation. The BBC transmitted from Lesotho until 1996. The card below was a prepared card. BBC cards from London also verified relay station transmissions; see the German-language London card in Pt. II of this series, pg. 6, verifying a Lesotho transmission.

QSL

This will verify your reception of this station as follows:


Station name and location: BBC Shortwave Relay Station, LESOTHO
Date of reception: November 3, 1985
Time of reception (GMT): 0355-0430
Frequency: 6190 kHz.
Power: watts

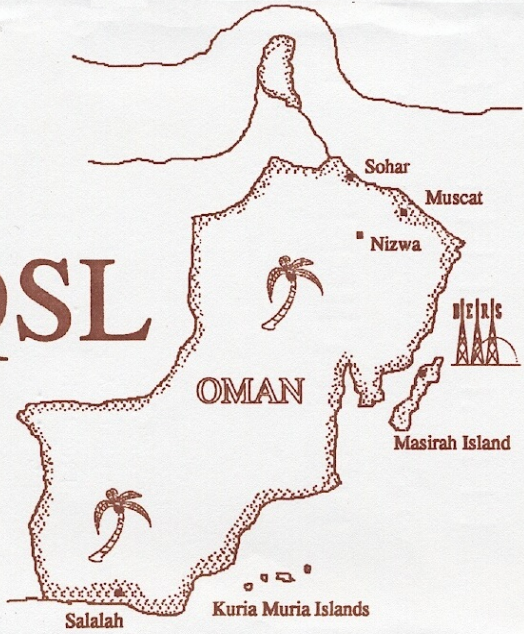
M. Phisoee
[Signature]

BROADCASTING **MINISTRY OF** **INFORMATION**
P.O. BOX MS 36
MASERU
AND
[Station stamp, seal, etc.]

Oman

The BBC Eastern Relay Station on Masirah Island, which had been on mediumwave since 1969, added shortwave in 1978. In 2002 the station moved to A'Seela on the mainland, where it still operates today.

QSL	Senior Transmitter Engineer, British Eastern Relay Station, Masirah Island, Sultanate of Oman.	
Dear <i>Richard</i>	thank you for your reception report of our transmission detailed as follows :-	
Date	Time (UTC)	Frequency (KHz)
<i>Nov. 4, 1990</i>	<i>0700</i>	<i>17790</i>
I can confirm that the above transmission was radiated from this station. Full schedule details of world service broadcasts are available for a small annual fee from :-		
London Calling, PO Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London, England.		
Signed <i>Paddy O'Reilly</i>		

QSL		Dear Mr Behr,
		Thank you for your reception report of our transmission detailed as follows :-
		Date <i>22nd Sept 1991</i>
		Time (UTC) <i>0300</i>
		Frequency <i>15310 KHz</i>
		Signed <i>D. Bones</i>
		DAVID BONES, Senior Transmitter Engineer, British Eastern Relay Station, Masirah Island, Sultanate Of Oman.

QSL



Dear Hans

Thank you for your Reception Report of our Transmission detailed as follows:-

Dates :24th October 1996
Time (UTC) :0530 to 0600
Frequency 15.310Mhz


I have checked your Reception Report against our Transmission Schedule and have the pleasure of confirming it as correct.

The Eastern relay station consists of two sites 11Km apart on the island of Masirah. The North site has two 750KW Medium wave transmitters, on 702Khz and 1413Khz. The South site has four 100Kw Short wave transmitters. It is the smallest of the World Service transmitting sites. Pictured above is the Short-wave site.

Your report will be included in our file of confirmed reports.

BBC On Air Magazine has full details of all BBC World Service Programmes and Frequencies.

I am sorry, but I cannot confirm your reception of 5.975, as this station does not transmit on that frequency.


Chris Dolman (G4VUO, A45XL)
SENIOR TRANSMITTER ENGINEER
B.E.R.S
Masirah Island
Sultanate Of Oman.

rec 16/09/07

VT
Merlin
Communications

Jerry Berg
38 Eastern Avenue
Lexington, Mass. 02421
U.S.A

12 July 2006

Dear Mr. Jerry,

I am happy to confirm the following reception report you have kindly submitted:

Date of reception: 17. November 2002.
Time of reception: 01:59 - 03:00 UTC.
Frequency: 11750 KHz
RECEPTION QUALITY: SINFO 55445
Programme in Arabic language.

Equipment used: Darke R8 Communications receiver, 50 meter long outdoor long wire antenna.


All the above were transmissions from the BBC relay station here at Aseela, Oman.

Details of equipment used follow:

1. Frequency: 11750KHz
Transmitter Power: 250kW
Modulation Type: AMC
Bearing: 335°

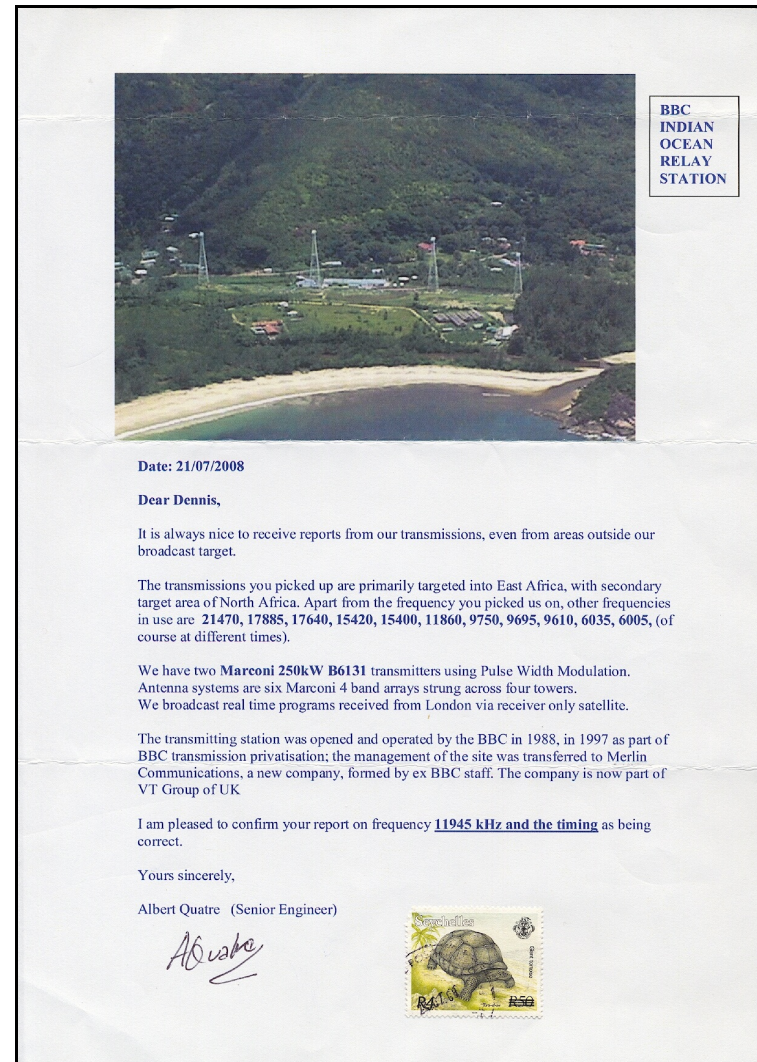
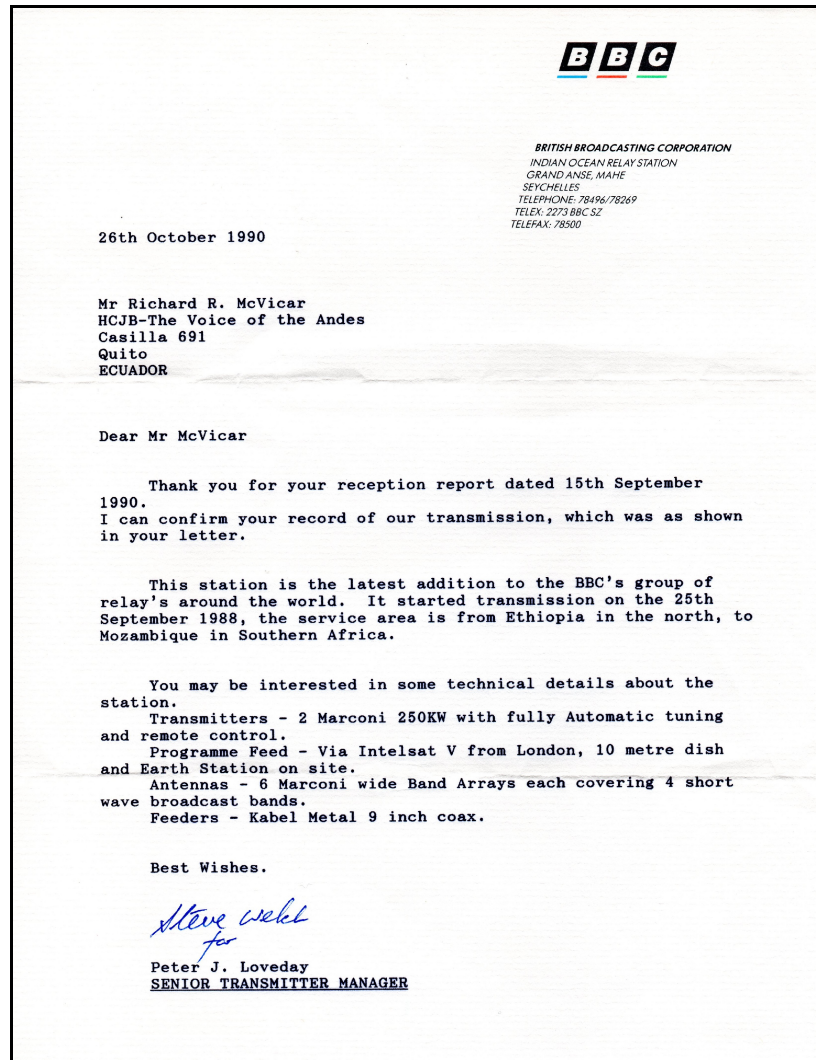
I hope the above is of interest to you and thank you once again for your report.

Regards,


Afrah Al-Orimi
VT Communications, BBC Relay Station
POB 40, Al Ashkarah, PC 422
Sultanate of Oman

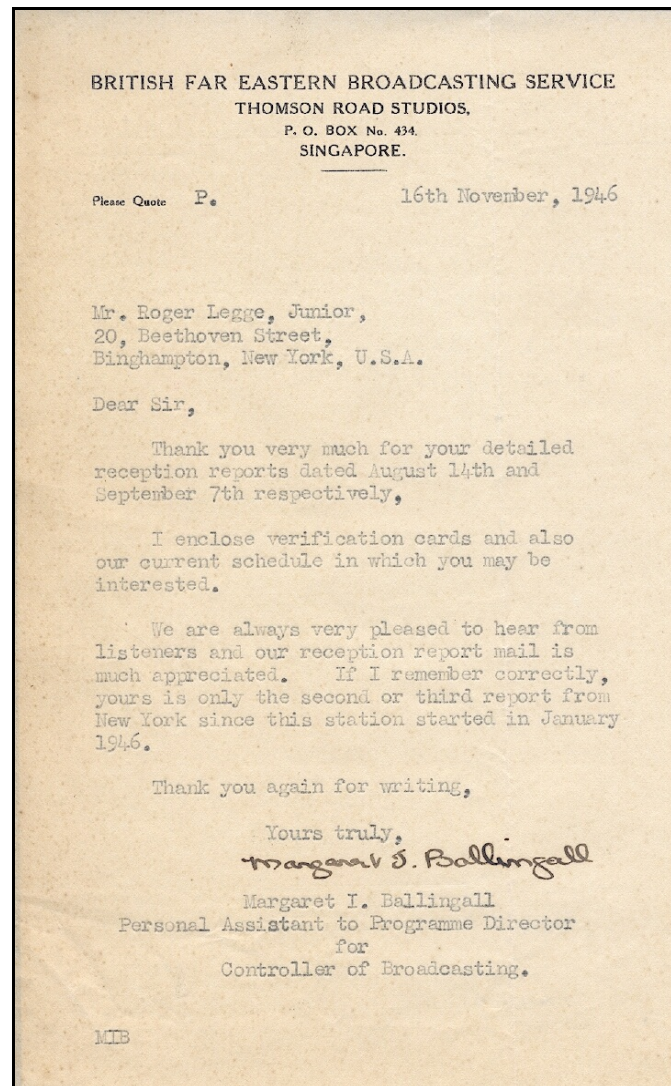
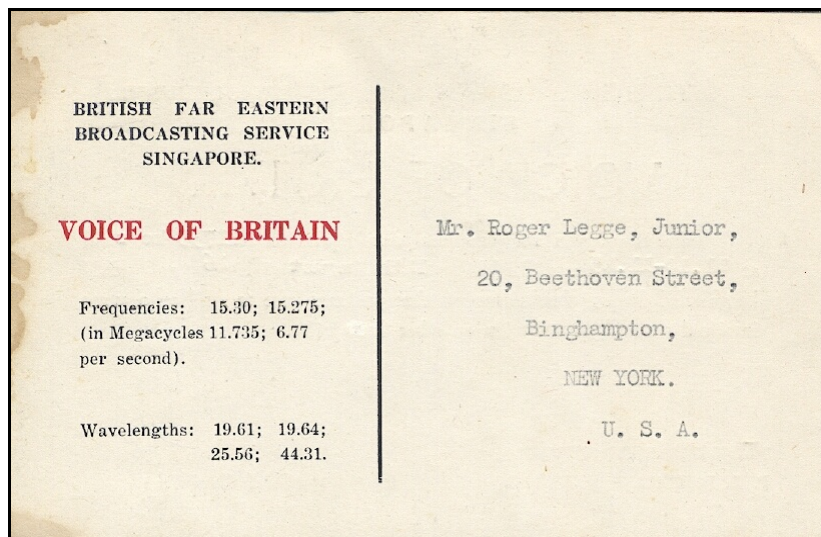
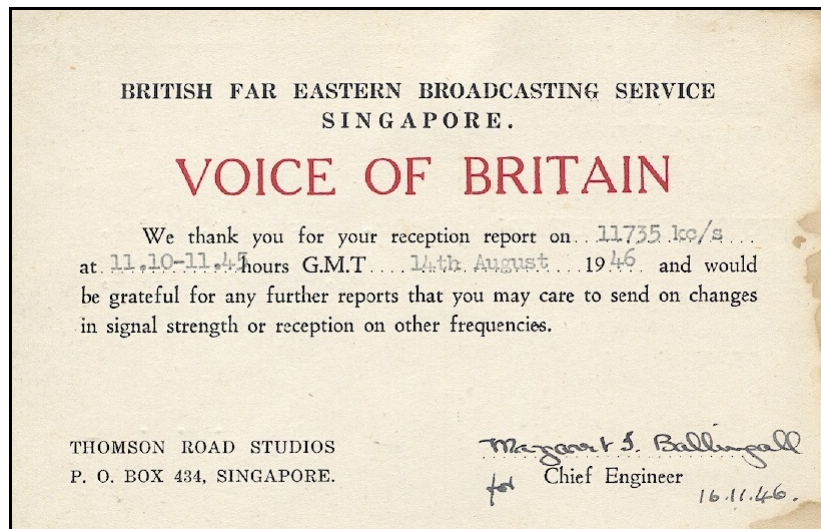
Seychelles

The BBC Indian Ocean Relay Station operated from 1988 to 2014.



Singapore

The British Far Eastern Broadcasting Service, Singapore, started out as the SEAC (South East Asia Command) headquarters station. It began identifying as the Voice of Britain in 1946, and soon became BFEBS. It was run by the Foreign Office, and was the first BBC broadcasting facility outside the U.K. It served non-British areas throughout the Far East and relayed the Eastern, Far Eastern and Overseas services of the BBC. It became the BBC Far Eastern Station in 1956, and the BBC Far Eastern Relay Station in 1974, and it is still on the air.



British Far Eastern Broadcasting Service
SINGAPORE.

We thank you for your reception report on 15.30 Mc/s 19.61m.
at 1415-1515 hours G.M.T. 30th November 1947 and would
be grateful for any further reports that you may care to send on changes
in signal strength or reception on other frequencies.

THOMSON ROAD STUDIOS
P. O. BOX 434, SINGAPORE

Yours truly,
Margaret Ballingall
for Programme Director.

B.B.C. Far Eastern Station

British Far Eastern Broadcasting Service
SINGAPORE.

Thank you for your letter of 23rd June, 1956...in
which you report reception of our transmitting station during the
period 1659 to 1705 G.M.T......

Technical reports, which give details of how our transmissions
are received, are very much appreciated here and give valuable
information for the improvement of our transmissions. A report of
reception covering a period long enough to indicate that it is not
merely freak reception or deterioration will always receive a personal
reply.

Now that we are part of the British Broadcasting Corporation
we regret, however, that we have to inform you that it is not the
Corporation's practice to verify reception reports which require details
of transmitted programme matter.

THOMSON ROAD STUDIOS
P. O. BOX 434, SINGAPORE.

10th July, 1956.

[Signature]
Resident Engineer.

**BRITISH FAR EASTERN
BROADCASTING SERVICE**
SINGAPORE

All transmitters: $7\frac{1}{2}$ kilowatts

0530-0630 & 0800-1700 GMT

Frequencies: 15.30; ~~15.725~~;
(in Megacycles 11.735; 6.77
per second). 21.72; 9.69.

Wavelengths: 19.61; ~~18.64~~;
25.56; 44.31.
13.81; 30.98.

Certified Official
MIB

Paul Kary, Esq.,
153 Suppes Avenue,
Johnstown,
Pennsylvania,
U.S.A.

BBC FAR EASTERN STATION

ONE BARRU

0200-1630 GMT

Frequencies Wavelengths

JULY 56
21.720 Mc/s 13.81 M
17.870 " 16.79 M
15.310 " 19.60 M
11.725 " 25.59 M
9.690 " 30.96 M
7.120 " 42.13 M
17.755 " 16.90 M
15.435 " 19.44 M
11.820 " 25.38 M



10 JULY 56
Christer Hederstrom,
Storgayan 26,
Skelleftea 1,
Sweden.

1958

**B.B.C. FAR EASTERN STATION,
SINGAPORE.**

DATE AS POSTMARK

Thank you for your letter of 12th Jan. 1958 in which you report reception of our transmitting station.

Technical reports, which give details of how our transmissions are received, are very much appreciated here and give valuable information for the improvement of our service. A report covering a period long enough to indicate that it is not merely freak reception or deterioration will always receive a personal reply.

As part of the British Broadcasting Corporation we regret, however, that we have to inform you that it is not our practice to verify reception reports which require details of transmitted programme matter.

We hope you will continue to enjoy good reception of our programmes.

THOMSON ROAD STUDIOS
P. O. BOX 434 SINGAPORE

[Signature]
Resident Engineer.

22.1.58

1962

**B.B.C. FAR EASTERN STATION,
SINGAPORE.**

DATE AS POSTMARK

Thank you for your request for verification. The appropriate finding is indicated thus (x):—

(X) Your report was in accordance with our published schedule.

() You probably heard one of our transmissions but the information you give does not entirely confirm this.

() This may have been a rebroadcast of our programme by another organisation.

() Your reception does not seem to agree with any of our transmissions at the time you give.

We hope you will continue to enjoy our programmes.

Best Wishes from
We have diversity reception station just outside the city which beats our studio by time with the signals. The programmes are then passed on to our Transmitter site in the state of
THOMSON ROAD STUDIOS
P. O. BOX 434 SINGAPORE

[Signature]
Head of Service.

1967

**BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
FAR EASTERN STATION.**

DATE AS POSTMARK

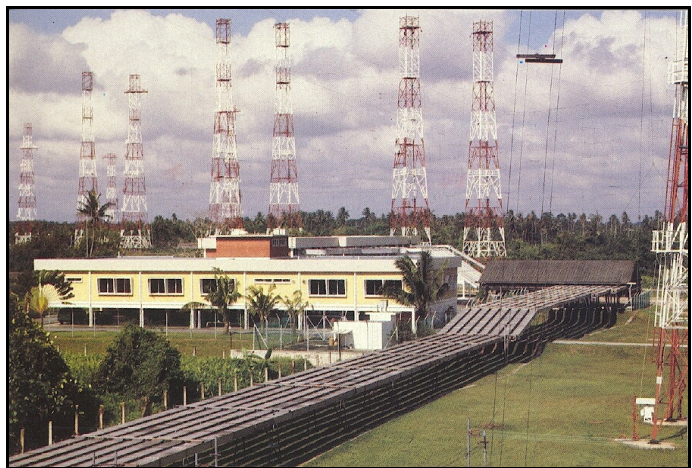
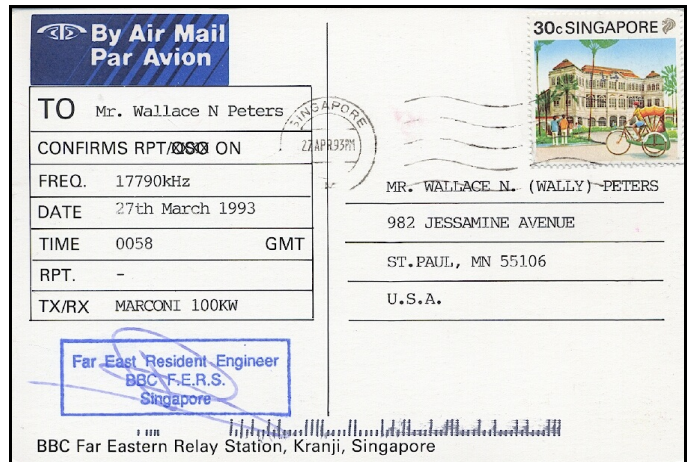
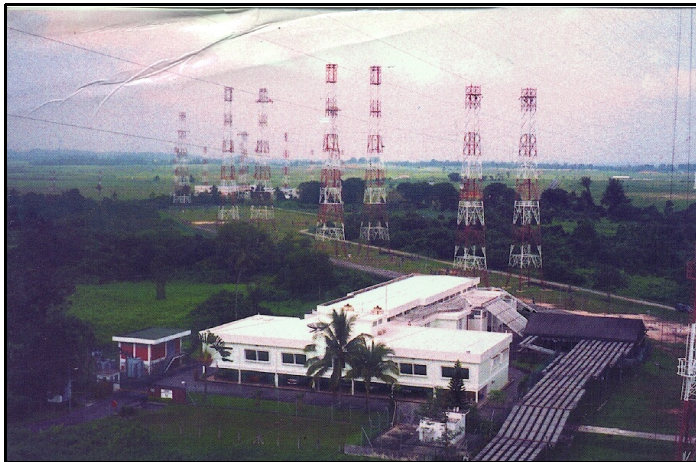
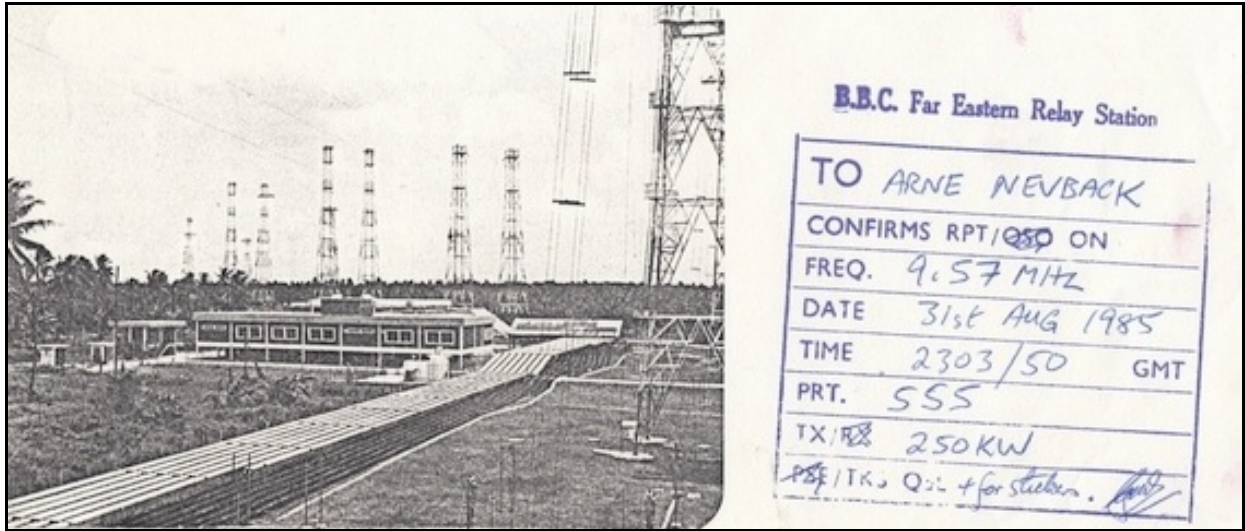
Thank you for your reception report which we are pleased to verify. The appropriate finding is indicated thus (x):—

Your report confirms that you were tuned to our station.	X
The frequency you mention is not used by us, but the programme details agree with our schedule.	
You probably received the transmission directly from London.	
You were probably tuned to one of our frequencies but the programme details do not confirm this.	
Your report does not agree with our frequency or programme schedule.	

Best wishes for the continued enjoyment of our programmes.

P. O. BOX 716,
JOHORE BAHRU, MALAYSIA.

[Signature]
(K. Corrigan)
Presentation & Administrative Officer



QSL CARD



BBC FAR EASTERN RELAY STATION IN SINGAPORE.

TO:	
ADDRESS:	Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
EMAIL:	

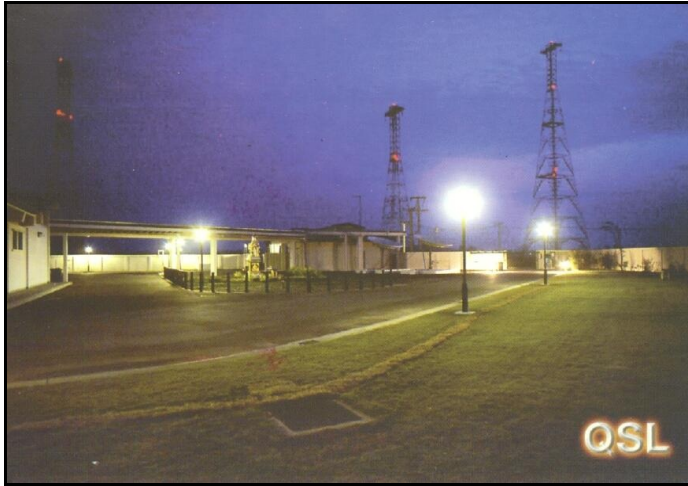
CONFIRMS REPORT / QSL ON	
FREQUENCY :	6195 kHz
DATE:	23 March 2019
TIME:	09.58 to 10.35 UTC
RPT:	SINPO 55555
TX / RX	250kW Marconi Transmitter

This confirms that your reception report corresponds with our station scheduled transmission.
Thank you for your interest and report.

TAN LAM SOON (Senior Engineer)
ENCOMPASS DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES LIMITED

Thailand

The BBC Asia Relay Station in Nakhon Sawan Province, 250 km. north of Bangkok, operated from January 1, 1996 to December 31, 2016. It took over transmissions from the Hong Kong relay station as a result of Hong Kong's return to China and the closedown of the Hong Kong relay station.



BBC ASIA RELAY STATION THAILAND

This notice confirms that your reception report of
BBC ASIA RELAY STATION 11955 kHz,
 from **0000** to **0100** GMT on **25 Sep 2002**
 corresponded with our station log of the same
 day. Thank you for your interest. Further reports
 are welcome.

BBC Asia Relay station is operationally managed by
 Merlin Communications International Ltd.
 For information about our range of services :

- Facilities management
- Global transmission rental
- Comprehensive satellite services
- Project management

Please call : +44 171 909 0000 Fax : +44 171 396 6223 or visit our website
 www.merlincommunications.com

From. Miss. Puangtip O.
 BBC Asia Relay Station
 PO. Box 20, Muang
 Nakhon Sawan 60000 Thailand

To. Jerry Berg
 38, Eastern Avenue,
 Lexington, MA 02421
 U.S.A.

MERLIN COMMUNICATIONS

BBC ASIA RELAY STATION Nakhon Sawan Thailand

This notice confirms that
 your reception report of
 **02 Dec 2003**
 on a frequency of **15310.. kHz**

From **0030** GMT.
To **0100** GMT.

Corresponds with our station scheduled transmission.
 Thank you for your interest and your report.

From. Mr. Eakkalak K.
 BBC Asia Relay Station
 PO. Box 20, Muang
 Nakhon Sawan 60000 Thailand

To
 Dennis Rodway
 P.O. Box 483
 Oamaru
 South Island
 NEW ZEALAND

VIII. Special Situations

There are a number of instances where other stations have verified their transmissions via the BBC, or via specific BBC transmitter sites; or where the BBC has verified its transmissions over non-BBC facilities; or where a third-party has verified reception of the BBC (shades of the monitored verifications of the 1930s; see Pt. I of this series, pgs. 3-6). Some of these are shown below. They are: a QSL issued by the Ardic DX Club (India) commemorating the BBC's final Tamil broadcast (2017); a VOA QSL for Voice of America transmissions via the BBC (1959); a Radio Japan QSL for its broadcasts over the BBC Skelton transmitters (1992); and (next page) a BBC QSL for the company's transmissions over Radio Ceylon (1950), and an e-QSL issued by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. for BBC test transmissions from the SLBC Trincomalee station in March 2019 (this QSL was for mediumwave).

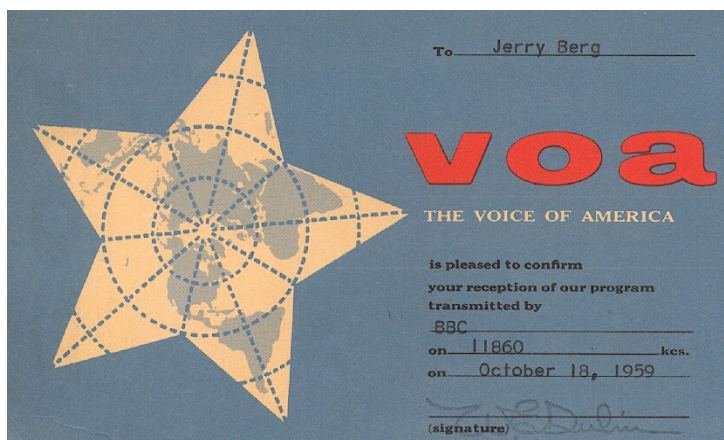
Farewell to BBC Tamil on Shortwave

Dear Mr. Hugo Matten,
We are pleased to verify your reception of
BBC Tamil last broadcast on
30 April 2017,
1545-1615 UTC,
15330 kHz, Woofferton, UK.

Dr. Jaisakthivel.T
President of Ardic DX Club

Listen 24 hours on
www.bbctamil.com

Picture: Bush House, Strand, London



*Relay Broadcast via Skelton, U.K.
July 1, 1992*

**Radio Japan
Special Verification Card**

VERIFICATION CARD

Thank you very much for your reception report of Skelton (U. K.) relay broadcast of Radio Japan.

The information given is in accordance with our schedule.

We hope you will continue to enjoy our programmes and send us your thoughts about them.

イギリス・スケルトン中継についての受信報告ありがとうございました。内容はラジオ日本の放送と合致しております。これからも番組についてのご感想をお寄せ下さい。

RADIO JAPAN
NHK TOKYO 150-01, JAPAN

Dear Mr. Jerry Berg

We are pleased to confirm that the station you heard is Radio Japan.

The details are as follows:

DATE: 9 August 1992
TIME: 23.43 ~ 24.00 (UTC)
FREQUENCY: 6160 kHz (49 mb)
TRANSMITTER SITE: SKELTON, U. K.
ANTENNA DIR: 150°
OP POWER: 250 KW
SERVICE: General Service in English

Thank you for contacting us and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

We wish you very good reception conditions.

Kunitoshi Hishikawa

K. Hishikawa (Mr.)



THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

(CEYLON OFFICE)

P. O. Box 194, COLOMBO, CEYLON

TELEPHONE: COLOMBO 9269 CABLES: LONCALLING, COLOMBO

30th May, 1950.

Ivar Karlsson, Esq.,
Gotgatan 87, 4tr.,
Stockholm, SWEDEN.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reception report of our transmission on 16.84 metres on the 18th May. I should like to verify this report, and in doing so enclose for your future interest a basic schedule of the BBC's transmissions from Radio Ceylon which may prove of interest to you, since you are a keen shortwave listener.

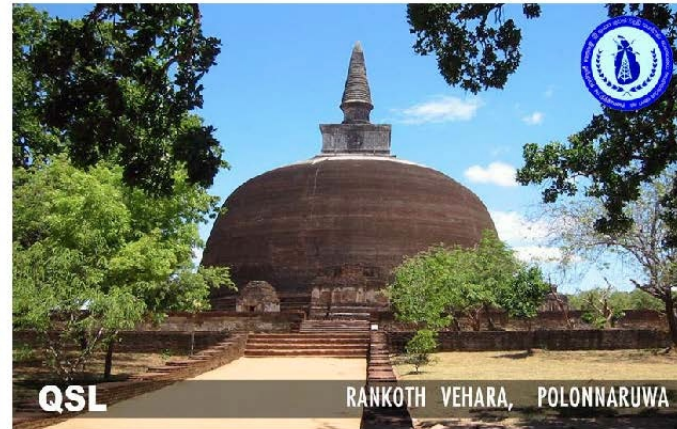
As you surmised, the transmission you heard was a special test being carried out from this Station to try and ascertain the best evening frequency for India and Pakistan. Nevertheless, it is very interesting to know that our signal reached as far as Sweden.

Thank you once again for your interest.

Yours faithfully,
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Y. P. Archer
(Y. P. ARCHER)
Administrative Assistant

MB.



SRI LANKA BROADCASTING CORPORATION
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA
www.slbcl.com



Dear Tony Magon

We are pleased to confirm your reception report of our transmission on 21st March 2019

Time: 1400-1430 UTC
Frequency: 1548 kHz
via Trincomalee TX site
Power: 300 kW
Language: BBC TEST TRANSMISSIONS

Ref:
To,

Thank you very much for your Reception Report via HK and Hanoi Kiwi SDRs. Happy to QSL Tony. 73's!

Director Audience Research

Date: 1st July 2019

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENGINEERING

United Arab Emirates

The Voice of the United Arab Emirates at Al Dhabbaya in Abu Dhabi came to the air in 1985. In 2001, the BBC transmitter operator, then VT Communications, took over operation of the facility and made it available for leased-time transmissions by various broadcasters, including the BBC. (Transmission of the Voice of the United Arab Emirates was dropped in 2002.) The author is not aware of any QSLs, whether from the BBC itself or from the Al Dhabbaya facility while transmitting BBC programs, that specifically reference the Al Dhabbaya transmitter site.