

ARMED FORCES RADIO STATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN BROADCASTING AREA FROM

J_ y rrO

by Svern Martinen

For several years now, I have been working on the project "AM Radio Days in Norway"(1945-1993) (Previously: AM Broadcasting Stations monitored in Norway) and in this connection, much interesting material has been discovered and secured. We hope that the publication will appear this year, but there are some interesting fields and stations that we would want to know more about.

Britain's chief Anorak, the late Roland "Buster" Pearson wrote 12 years ago: "I was given my first radio as a Christmas present in 1945. One of the first receivers to be manufactured after the war, it was a utility model made of polished white wood and had a rudimentary metal plate with no glass in front of it. It could receive only the Medium Waveband, but I was delighted to discover what an enormous number of American Military stations it could pick up. I listened to American Expeditionary Stations located in Italy; the numerous American Forces Network outposts in France and Germany, and the unforgettable Blue Danube Network from Austria which seemed to be run entirely by cowboys judging by the amount of C&W music they used to play! I quickly found out how easy it was to get name-checks and record requests on these stations, a thing almost impossible to do in my own country at that time." [Ref:1]

American Forces Network (AFN) Europe dates back to World War II when the network began broadcasting from London at 05.45 pm on July 4th, 1943. Using BBC emergency facilities, the first radio broadcasts included less than five hours of recorded shows, a BBC newscast and a sportscast.

AFN London, part of the Armed Forces Radio Service, used land lines and five regional transmitters to reach U.S. troops in the United Kingdom. During the next 11 months, AFN broadcast day expanded to 19 hours, 50 additional transmitters were installed (Including six in Northern Ireland) and six more soldiers joined the original staff of seven broadcasters and technicians. Because Nazi "buzz bombs" kept knocking the station off the air, AFN London moved from its original BBC studios at 11 Carlos Place to 80 Portland Place in May 1944. As D-Day approached, AFN combined with the BBC and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to form the Allied Expeditionary Forces Programs.

On June 6, 1944, AFN personnel accompanied the invasion force when allied troops stormed ashore in France. After the invasion, the combined forces broadcasting operation disbanded, and AFN began broadcasting from near the rapidly moving allied front-line. Mobile stations complete with personnel and records were deployed to broadcast music and news to the troops in the field and feed news reports back to studio locations in London.

The liberation of Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands saw AFN stations at Paris, Nice, Marseilles, Rheims, Le Havre, Cannes and Biarritz. Although the network's administrative headquarters remained in London, its operational headquarters moved to AFN Paris. When Germany surrendered in May 1945, the network had grown to some 700 people and 63 stations scattered throughout Central Europe. [Ref:2]

Other sources indicate the number of stations from England to North Africa to be 68 at the end of hostilities in the European War theatre. [Ref:3] The original 5 transmitters of AFN London had, according to the same sources, a power of 50 watts. So where were those transmitters sited, and what kind of programs did they send, local or network?

The second question has some answers. The first weeks saw the schedule starting with SSB, Star-Spangled Banner at 5.45 pm, and a sign-off procedure at 11.00 pm. Later, this was to be extended. Some of the programme material was syndicated radio shows imported from the APRS in the

USA, which had been started on May 23rd, 1942. It is also documented that when AFN teamed up with BBC and CBC to form the AEF Radio service after D-Day of May 6th, 1944, there were local AFN gates. However, the question if there were local studios at the actual transmitter sites is quite unsolved. The same also goes for which 55 sites that were utilised.

1

AFN LONDON

Let us then turn to the mother station of APRS stations in the European, North Africa and Middle East area, AFN London. Its final sign-off was Dec. 31st, 1945. But there are many interesting sides to this station. I will concentrate on frequencies and the sites.

The two channels used were 1402 and 1420 kHz. This is mentioned in the excellent book: *BBC Engineering 1922-1972*. [Ref:4] It is uncertain whether this means that all 55 sites were placed here, and if they all were synchronised. Even with low wattage on each site, it is almost certain that such a set-up would create heterodynes. The last mentioned source also mentions that the stations were housed at US Bomber Command Stations, in East Anglia, Scotland and the West Country.

I have researched this field to some extent, and found two sources, one being *USA in World War II*, [Ref:5] which on p. 244 has a map, and on the following page some text that may shed some light upon this matter. The map shows US 8th Air Force bases in East Anglia on 15th October 1943, and might suggest clues to the answer to the siting question, as at least 25 Bomber Command airfields are shown. Also, valuable material might be found in the 9 part book series *Action Stations*. [Ref:6]

The ABSIE (American Broadcasting Station in Europe), also called the "Stripes Network", started on April 30th, 1944, on SW, and MF. Here, transmitter sites at Moorside Edge, Westerglen and Rampisham were used, on 977 and 1122 kHz, the two groups being designated Y1 and Y2. The transmitters itself were 50 kW each, while "masking" transmitters of 250 watts each were in use at Start Point, Bartley, and Alexandra Palace. It finally went off the air on July 4th, 1945.

The (Supreme) Allied Expeditionary Force Radio Service, called AEF Radio, radiated on 583 kHz, from D-Day June 6th, 1944 at 0600, with the signature tune "Oranges and Lemons", utilising Start Point in Devon, which previously had radiated the General Forces programme on 877 in a synchronised group. It was advertised as AEF radio on 514 m. in the press at the time. Start Point re-appeared soon as BBC Home, the West of England regional version, on 977 kHz, as of July 29th, 1945. [Ref:7] (On 583, the Third Programme started in September 1946.)

I am now seeking the co-operation of you for more information on this subject in general, but first and foremost: which sites, and, eventually, which other frequencies were in use? Does anyone have press clippings of program material and similar? Write to Svenn Martinsen at Tj0dnhaugen, N-5340 Solsvik, Norway if you can add any information, updates or corrections to help Svenn's research into Armed Forces Radio in Europe.

2

AFN PARIS

On March 20th, 1946, this station's outlets and channels were [Ref:8]:

610	AFN Paris, Paris
1204	AFN Paris
1420	AFN Paris
1500	AFN Paris
1510	AFN Sweden???(Printing Error for France?)

All stations were closed during 1946.

Which stations that were on these channels is unclear to me, but 6 sites were employed in addition to 610 Paris. AFN Rheims was situated at the Polignac castle.

The network re-appeared on FM as AFN FRANCE in May 1958, but this is not covered here. It closed again with the move of SHAPE to Belgium.

3

BELGIUM

The same source as in Section 2. mentions this outlet:

1492	American Expeditionary Station, Belgium
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The site might have been Namur, as the US 12th Army Group was here. Also listed on the same channel was Namur, though, and Hainaut.

The later AFN station AFN SHAPE Belgium is not covered here. The same goes for AFN SOESTERBERG in the Netherlands, APRS Spain, and AFEBS Oslo. All were/are only FM.

GERMANY

4.1 BFN GERMANY

- 658 BFN/BBC Norden. Erected during the War to broadcast Reichsender and "Lord Haw-Haw", the station, located at Osterloog, was used for the BBC European service from September 1946 on this channel. It remained there until the Copenhagen plan was implemented. Noted with BFN programs in 1946. It re-entered service in February 1953, on 1295 kHz, and broadcast the BBC programmes until 1962.
- 1095 BFN Pinneberg. Noted here in 1946 and onwards.
- 1095 BFN Hannover
- 1095 BFN Langenberg
- 1095 BFN Berlin
- Unclear if 1095 was synchronised all the time. Stations partly closed or moved to 1149 after the Copenhagen Plan was effective.

Later, we find the stations on:

- 1214 BFN Hamburg, this should again be the Norden transmitter. Verified to Sweden in July 1953, when local programs were toned down, in favour of mere relays of BBC Light.
- 1214 BFN Hannover. It is unclear if other 1214 operations had local gates. They all appeared here after the Copenhagen Plan came into effect.
- 1214 BFN Langenberg
- 1214 BFN Herford
- 1214 BFN Berlin
- 1366 BFN Herford, noted 1946 and onwards until March 1950.
- 1367 BFN Bonn mentioned here(1952) ID:" This is the British Forces Network." Schedule: Weekdays: 0530-2303, Sundays: 0600-2300.

4.2 AFN GERMANY

On June 8th, 1945, AFN Munich signed on the air and was soon followed by AFN Frankfurt on July 15th, 1945. On July 28th, 1945, AFN Bremen began broadcasting to US personnel in Northern Germany and on August 4th, AFN Berlin joined the network. On March 17th, 1948, AFN Stuttgart signed on the air, and in 1949 AFN Bremen moved north, and changed its name to AFN Bremerhaven. On Jan.28th, 1950, AFN Nuremberg started broadcasting from the Grand hotel in downtown Nuernberg. AFN Frankfurt's radiating power made a big jump in May 1951 when the station started broadcasting from a 150.000 watt transmitter at Weisskirchen. In February 1953, AFN Kaiserslautern began broadcasting from a mobile van.

In 1949, the ID was: "This is the AFN, serving American Forces in Germany." The schedule was 0500-2300.

It is unclear which stations were on this channel in 1952:

- 1223 AFN Germany (1952) (6 stns)

In 1957, AFN had a SW outlet, on 5470 kHz.

4.2.1 AFN MUNICH

Originally the Voice of the 7th Army, later the 3rd Army.

- 1249 AFN Munich(1946)
- 548 AFN Munich(1952)
- 1106 AFN Munich(1957)

The transmitter was 100 kW, later reduced to 50kW and was located at the BR site at Ismaning.


Relay stations: It is unclear where the following three channels were sited:(1946)

- 1348 AFN Germany
- 1420 AFN Germany
- 1447 AFN Germany



1249 Kc. 240 Meter Band

200,000 watts



AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK
U - S
ARMY - NAVY

APO 407-A
U.S. Army

In verification of your reception of the AFN-Munich-Medium Wave
Transmission at 1.7.1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30. hours...»»»

This transmitter is located near Munich, Germany and broadcasts from
0500 -2300 hours GMT daily. Other AFN
stations are AFN-Munich-Slutfgan AFN-
Frankfurt Medium Wave AFN-Bayreuth AFN-Bremen . . . 200 Kw 1249 Kc
AFN-Berhn 10 Kw 1*11 Kc
AFN-Bremerhaven 10 JCw 1204 Kc
AFN-Bremerhaven 1.5 Kw 1 1429 Kc
AFN-Bremerhaven Kw 50 H20 Kc
AFN-Bremerhaven W 1500 Kc

Then we have AFN Bayreuth 10 kW(1950)ex 1204, ex 1411. See also under AFN Nurnberg. (1950) later 1142(1957) AFN Fussen. Closed. AFN Sonthofen(1950) Closed. AFN Berchtesgaden; later 1304, now 1485.
665
1034 AFN Garmisch-Partenkirchen, (later 1502) was quite common on this channel, obviously having an excellent skywave, as it is known for only reaching 3 km out of town.
1367
1034
1394 AFN Augsburg, (now 1485) used to be a powerhouse on first channel in the 70s. AFN Frankfurt (1946), 10 kW, later 1411 (1949),593(1950), later AFN Frankfurt, this being the 150 kW transmitter at Weisskirchen, that opened in May 1951.
601
872/873

AFN Wetzlar(1950) Closed.
Relay stations: AFN Kassel-Rothwesten. 50 watts only. (1950)1034,(1952)1502 (1957) Closed.
AFN Wiesbaden(1950) Closed
854 AFN Eschwege(1950) Closed.
998 AFN Fritzlar(1950) Closed.
998 AFN Darmstadt(1950) Closed.
1169 AFN Heidelberg(350 watts),(1946) later see AFN Stuttgart.
1268 AFN Marburg(1950) Closed.
1268 AFN Aschaffenberg(1950) Closed.
1500 AFN Fulda(1952) Later 1304, and 1143.
1502 AFN Monchengladbach is from the 80s.
1502 AFN Hersfeld(1950), later 1142. Was on 1140 for some time in the 70s.
854 (1957) then 1143 AFN Giessen
1143 (1957) then 1143 AFN Wildflecken.

1034 4.2.3 AFN
1502 BREMEN/BREMERHAVEN
1304

Has been "Radio City" in local

shows.

854 AFN Bremerhaven(1950)
1034 AFN Bremerhaven 350 watts(March 1954)
1142/1143 AFN Bremerhaven 1000 watts(1954) The latter two do not seem to have been the same transmitter, as both are mentioned in a QSL from that year. The 1142 transmitter, later increased to 5000 watts is in the city dock area. Now 1143, with a very good groundwave path over the Southern North Sea.
1500 AFN Bremerhaven 50 watts(1948)
Relay stations:

1429 AFN Bremen, 350 watts, (1948)1.5 kW(1949). Originally, the studio was here. This one later went to 998. Closed, and became Radio Bremen, 1358?

4.2.4 AFN BERLIN

1420 AFN Berlin 1 kW(1949)
611 AFN Berlin(1952), later 935(1957) and 1107 after Geneva came into use. 10kW. Has been "The Bear-AM," and relay of AFN-FM.

4.2.5 AFN STUTTGART

1142/1143 AFN Stuttgart(1957)ex 1106(1950)ex 1249 (1948)The transmitter was 100 kW, later reduced to 10 kW, and located in Hirschlanden.

Relay stations:

1034, AFN Karlsruhe; then 1142/1143
1142 AFN Ulm, Closed.
1142/1143 AFN Goppingen.
One of the latter two drifted to 1130 in 1972, where it one afternoon interfered with WNEW in New York in a strange North American daytime opening in December!
1169 AFN Heidelberg; 1169 (1952), then 1304 (1957), now 1143.

4.2.6 AFN NURNBERG

1500 AFN Nurnberg, originally only a relay for Munich, 350 watts.(1946), moved to
728 AFN Nurnberg, (1948),
1390 AFN Nurnberg(1952),
611 Nurnberg(1957), now 1107 XT at Furth, 10 kW.

Relay stations:

611 Grafenw0hr(1957) 10 kW; now 1107
1169 AFN Regensburg; later 1304, now 1485
1367 AFN Bamberg; later 1304 and 1485.
1385 AFN Ansbach; then 1034, then 1485; Often heard with N'berg programs with a SE beverage.
1394 AFN Crailsheim heard widely on this channel in the 70s, later 1485, has a splendid groundwave.
1502 AFN Hof, right at the old DDR border, to 1394, then 1142, now 1143.
1502 AFN Hohenfels; 1502 in 1957, now 1485
665 AFN Bayreuth (1952) Closed.
1268 AFN Coburg, Closed.
1502 AFN Straubing, Closed.
998 AFN Wurzburg; later 1142. The later offshoot, AFN Wurzburg, 1143, which started 1980, is not covered here. It also uses the former Nurnberg relays:
1143 AFN Bad Kissingen. (formerly 1385 and!034) Quite possible to hear even with few watts.
1142/1143 AFN Schweinfurt.
1304 AFN Wertheim; 1304 in 1957, later 1143

4.2.7 AFN KAISERSLAUTERN

665 "K-Town Radio." Originally mobile, it eventually turned up on 611 from its permanent tx site at Sembach, 10 kW. Now 1107.

Relay stations:

1394 AFN Kaiserslautern, Bitburg AFB-Eifel; later 1304, now 1143. 250 watts. Quite possible to hear.

5

AUSTRIA

5.1 BLUE DANUBE NETWORK, AUSTRIA

In 1946, the station had these outlets:

629 Blue Danube Network

1104 Blue Danube Network
The WRTH for 1949 lists these channels:

629 Blue Danube Network ,KOFA Linz
1068 Blue Danube Network,WOFA Vienna
1104 Blue Danube Network ,KZCA Salzburg. This one also SW, first 9585, then 9617.

After the implementation of the Copenhagen Plan, March 15th, 1950: [Ref:9]

773 KOFA,Linz
1142 WOFA, Vienna
1313 KZCA Salzburg

The WRTH for 1952 has these outlets:

674 BDN Salzburg
881 BDN Linz
890 BDN Zell am See
1034 BDN Vienna(the latter four all 1 kW)
1223 BDN Tulln(100 watts)
1367 BDN StJohann(350 watts)

In January 1953, a BDN QSL to Sweden [Ref:10] has this information:

881 BDN Salzburg
890 BDN Linz
1034 BDN Vienna

SW was now on 9617/6055/5080

A QSL from August 1953 is somewhat contrasting:

674 Salzburg
881 Linz
1034 Vienna.

The same situation prevailed in 1954, but the SW 6055 was missing. ID: "This is the Blue Danube Network." Also: "BDN serving United States Forces in Austria". Schedule 1949:0500-2300, Sun 0600-2300.

BLUE DANUBE NETWORK

IAOIO BROADCASTING SERVICE FOR
UNITED STATES FORCES, AUSTRIA
AFFILIATE. U. S. ARMED FORCES IAOIO SERVICE

B1V Shortwave STATIONS 5.080
9.617 lic

Ron KC

Your reception report of greatly
appreciated. . Vr 73, de entire BDN
St««

5.2 BRITISH FORCES NETWORK, AUSTRIA

565 BFN Klagenfurt C12 FBS 250 watts(1948-52)
565 BFN Graz B7 FBS 1 kW
868 BFN Vienna C13 FBS 800 watts

ID: This is the British Forces Network, Austria, or: "You are listening to the Forces Broadcasting Service, Austria, operating from stations in Graz, Klagenfurt and Vienna."

Sched: 0558-0800, 0928-1315, 1555-2200. Sat: same but 0928-2300, Sun: 0658-2200.

Note: The BBC European Service used 886 kHz from Graz-Dobl from August, 1948. After March 15th, 1950, 1025 kHz was in use. This arrangement lasted until April. 1955.

53 OTHER STATIONS IN AUSTRIA

1267/1250; Sendergruppe ROT-WEISS-ROT (Austrian)
1294/1394;
1429/755
565/519; Sendergruppe ALPENLAND (British funded)
886/1025;
1285/719(syncro)
519/629 (syncro) Sendergruppe WEST (French funded)
592/584; RAVAG (USSR funded).
1312/1475

6

EAST GERMANY

283/722/7615 were the original frequencies of the USSR operation of Radio Wolga, transmitting from Burg, nr. Magdeburg, an operation "on the other side," together with
908 Freiheitssender 904, Burg.= German Freedom Station 904, VO Emigrant, VO Italian Workers, VO Greek Democrats Abroad.
935 Deutscher Soldatensender, Burg= German Soldiers Station.

7

ITALY

7.1 AFN ITALY

The same source as in 2. mentions these outlets:

695 AFN Italy, Rome
1438 AFN Italy

In addition, this one may be mentioned:

1465 American Expeditionary st, Italy

Also, from the war itself, I have seen these loggings:

???? Voice of the 8th Army, Rimini, 800 watts, heard by Arthur Cushen in NZ! (1944)

1474? APRS Syracuse Beach, Sicily, also a logging from the Pacific [Ref: 11]. More recent FM-only operation of the SEES, Southern European Be Service, is not covered here. Stefano Valianti in Italy writes, "In 1964 three US Air Force stations are listed [Ref:22] in Italy with 5 watts on 540kHz at Leghorn, Verona and Vicenza"

7.2 BFN ITALY

This note from 1946:

565 BFN Milan
1487 BFN Italy. Noted in 1946, it is unclear which site that was used.

7.3 AFRS/BFN IN TRIESTE

1304 APRS Trieste(1952) 1 kW; Sched: 0600-0800, 1000-2400, Sat: 0600-2400, Sun 0900-2400.

1385 FBS Trieste(1952)1 kW. Was on 15120 kHz SW testing in June 1953. The schedule then was 1600-2300. Sched: 0630-0830, 1200-2400, Sun: 0730-2400.

8

CANADIAN MILITARY STATIONS

In BBC Engineering 1922-1972, the number of Canadian Military Stations in the UK during WW II, is mentioned as 6, and two of these stations were at Hindhead and AldershoL In March 1946,1 have a listing of a Canadian Military Station, still on British soil:

1438 CFRS Ludshot

In the late 50s, this station is found on

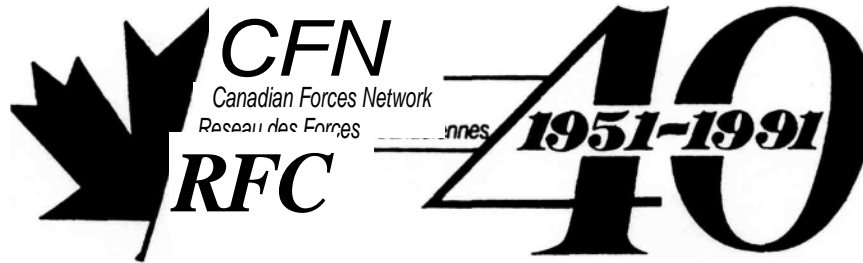
560 CBL Langar. It operated from the RCAF base at Langar near Nottingham. It was a low power operation of around 10 watts. [Ref: 12]



"In 1951, the department of national defence requested CBC to provide radio programs on shortwave and tape for rebroadcast by Armed Forces stations in Korea, England, France and Germany. By 1956, six stations had been established to serve air bases from Metz, France, and army bases from Werl, Germany. The CBC's Northern and Armed Forces Service contributed both programming and specialist managers. When Canada's NATO Forces were consolidated at Lahr and Baden-Soellingen in 1967, CFN/RFC assumed its present form." [Ref:13]

I have discovered 3 AM transmitters so far:

1620 CFN Zweibrucken, Germany 10 watts, No.3 fighter Wing RCAF, 1954
1620 CFGT Grostenquin, France, 10 watts, on air Dec 1954. RCAF station.
1640 CFNY Marville, France, 15 watts, on air August 1957. RCAF station. [Ref:14]
For your information, also CFN Werl, 96.9 FM was in operation by 1958.



US OPERATIONS IN GREECE

1390 VGA Courier Radio Ship: "VOICE OF AMERICA SEABORNE RADIO STATION DODECANESE ISLANDS." Part of "Operation Vagabond", it tested in the Panama Canal Region Spring 1952, and commenced transmissions off Dodecanese Isl. in September 1952, still on a Panamanian Channel, and Region 2 channel spacing! (Remember also that Radio England/Britain Radio had planned 650/850 [Ref: 15] and Laser originally billed itself Laser 730!) This later changed to 1259 kHz. In 1964 replaced by VGA Rhodes 1259, later 1260 [Ref:16].

In 1955, the local ID was: "This is the COURIER, seaborne radio station of the Voice of America." Schedule on MF: 1500-2130. Also SW 6185, 7125, 9530, 11760 and 15195. (1415-0130) Its local address was: VOA, Courier relay Base, c/o American Embassy, Athens. Greece.

1590/1580 APRS Athinai airport, Athens started April 1959, changed to 1580 Feb 1960.

Later on 1594, and later added a relay at 1484 Kato Souli. After the Geneva Plan came into effect, the channels became 1584 and 1480! [Ref: 17] Now called AFEBS or just EBS (European Broadcasting Squadron).

1570 APRS Iraklion noted 1958. Regularly heard in the 70s and 80s on this channel, later 1584 kHz. 250 watts.

1484 Kato Souli

10

BFBS IN MALTA

870 FBS mentioned here in 1948.

1425 BFBS Valetta heard in Norway during the 1961 season, verified to Sweden January 1962. Had 800 watts. In February 1968 on 1430 with 1 kW. Later, Radio Malta used this channel.

Note: BBC Delimara Point started in 1960 on 1079, and went to 1178 in March 1961. In September 1969, it went to 1546, and was last heard on 1511 in 1971.

11

AFRS IN MOROCCO/TANGIER

1484/1490/1512.5 WNAF, later WNAA Port Lyauteau 50 watts, and later AFRS Kenitra 1956 1 kW (Navy BC See) Was in the WRTH 1978. Heard at least in Wales and in Sweden 1953. Heard regularly in 1966/67 in the UK. Addr: Station WNAF, Navy #214, Box #4, c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, N.Y. Later: Box 21, USNTC, FPO, New York 09544.

- 1594 APRS KFAD Rabat 100 watts, "Your voice of information in Rabat."
- 1594 APRS WCOX Sidi Slimane airport, Tangier, "Your voice of home." 100 watts On the air April 1959. Also on
- 1586 Sched: NSP, but silent MMs. Addr: Operating location #11, 7122nd Support Sqdn,(AFRS-TV), Sidi Slimane Air Base, Sidi Slimane, Morocco.
- 1594 APRS WLEM later WBOS Ben Guerir 100 watts(1956)
- 1594 APRS WIND Nouasseur 100 watts "The news broadcasting system"(1956)

12

FBS MIDDLE EAST

ID: "This is your Forces Broadcasting Service, Middle East," or "You are tuned to the FBS, Middle East." [Ref: 18]

- 1420 FBS Nairobi was FBS Middle East no. 1, this one not covered here.
- 1420 AFBS Kabrit is mentioned 1948, Libya?

12.1 FBS CANAL ZONE

First, the following station may be mentioned:

- SW/7220 JCJC Cairo(1945-49)
- 1420 FBS, 7500 Watts. Verified to Sweden December 1953.

12.2 FBS CYPRUS

An old note from 1945-49 has this one as:

- SW/41 FBS Cyprus. No.4 under FBS Middle East.
- 1420 FBS Cyprus channel in 1948, a change to 1484 after Copenhagen is mentioned.
- 890 uied from Limassol in 1968 with 7500 watts. 1093 was the frequency when this verified to Sweden in January 1955. The site was Akrotiri, same as was used on 1089 and frequently heard during the 80s.
- 1403 BFBS Zyvi, heard April 1964 in Sweden, 7500 watts. The same site later used for BBC East Mediterranean Relay on 1322/1323.
- 1502 was used from Nicosia in 1968 with 1000 watts.



BRITISH FORCES RADIO

12.3 BRITISH /US OPERATIONS IN LIBYA

- 1420 FBS Benghazi, Also SW 4930/7220. It seems the station stayed here after the Copenhagen plan, the planned channel being 1594.
- 881 FBS (no. 5 under FBS Middle East) Benghazi. Verified to Sweden December 1953. 1000 watts.
- 1394 The likely source of a BFBS logging in Norway 1964 season on 1394.
- 1420/1484 FBS(no.2 under FBS Middle East) Tripoli 7,5kW. Also 4782, later 4985, 250 watts, this one was verified in Sweden May 1953.

In 1968 the set-up was:

- 1439 Tobruk. Heard in Norway as early as 1961 season by Rolf L0vstr0m
- 1484 El Adem, both 1000 watts.

- 1510 AFRS Wheelus Field(Tripoli Airport?) On the air March 1954. 100 watts, 1956
 IkW Reported on
 1590 in June 1966 in the UK. [Ref:19]
 1594 was the channel for tentative loggings in the UK in May/June 1967. Addr: Station
 APRS, 1603 D Air Transport Wing, APO 231, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

12.4 OTHER OPERATIONS IN N. AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

- 601 The US operational forces used a floating radio station aboard the USS Texas in
 the Mediterranean, transmitting VOA programs to counter Nazi propaganda.
 Programs commenced on Nov. 7th, 1942, with a power of 5000 watts, targeted
 at North Africa. However, the project finished the same year [Ref:20].
 1204 APRS Lebanon(1946)
 FBS Algiers December 1943 with ex German tx

SW/7192/7220 JCKW Jerusalem

BFBS Gibraltar not mentioned here.

1600 Here might be the place for this logging of an AFRS(?) signal at 0302 UTC April 16th, 1974,
 when Bayerischer Rundfunk was off the air for maintenance. The station sounded like a NA, but
 obviously was not. I tuned in at the end of the news, and then it was said; "..... The main points
 again...Outside the KO..broadcasting studios it is now XX degrees, it went into a jingle: "K... more
 music!" Then MoR/EZL music, and vanished. I have of course thought of Ascension Island, ZD8VR
 Volcano Radio, as the conditions were typical La Plata and Chile. But was this an APRS outlet not
 listed anywhere?

13

ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

- 1000 AFRS/KANU Kagnaw Air Base, Massauah, Asmara, Eritrea(1955). Later went
 to 1500. Heard in Norway all seasons between 1969 and 1973 on newer channel
 1475. Later went to
 1500 In 1958, then to
 1475 Heard in Norway all seasons between 1969 and 1973 on newer channel 1475,
 usually after the Spanish SER stations closed, from around 0000-0300.

14

BFBS ADEN

- 1241 Steamer Point heard in Sweden November 1962. The same site later used for 755
 and!88DYBS.

15

AFRS SAUDI ARABIA

- 1215 AFRS Dharan (1958), it was verified in Sweden for reports late 1960. This one
 doubtless re-appeared in connection with the Gulf War, but not on MF?
 1195 AFRS logged November 1971 in UK. Addr: Area Command #2, Operating
 Location #2, 7122D Support Sqdn(AFRS-TV) APO 616, U.S.Forces.

16

AFRS TURKEY

- 1570 CFN, Communications Facilities Network, Diyabakir, noted in 1958, 10 watts,
 later a relay of
 1590 CFN, Adana, Incirlik Radio CFN, 10 watts
 1590 CFN Karamursel, KCFR, Radio 1590, 10 watts. The latter heard by Norwegian
 DX-er Arvid Fr0sland in Lakselv in the autumn of 1974.

17

AFRS TEHERAN.

- 620 was the channel in 1958, power 250 watts. Later,(1974) the station is found on
 1555 1000 watts. Here it was regularly heard. Became NIRT, 20 kW, where it is listed
 in WRTH 1978. Heard in Norway by Bjarne Hansen 17/10/75. Closed after the
 Islamic revolution?

18

AFRS IN GREENLAND

- 850/900 WXLS Narsarsuak (1955) 1 kW. The name means "The big plain", and the base was founded during WW II, and was an US base for operations in the Davis strait. As it was located midway between the nearest Canadian and British airport all airplanes from the USA would stopover on their way to the battle in Europe. It was then termed Blue West One. At the end of 1945 up to 5000 people lived there, the base had 2 cinemas, a theatre and a restaurant with a 12 piece Swing orchestra! This made Narsarsuak Greenland's most populated place. Only ruins are left now, of the base that was closed in 1958. Using 900kHz at closedown in 1958. [Ref:21]
- 1210 AFRS Thule heard frequently in the 70s and early '80s. Different programs from 1425, and served Thule town.
- 1420 WXLC Sonadrestrom (1955) 250 watts. At Søndre Strømfjord airport, where Trans-polar flights with DC-4, DC-6 and DC-7s a.o. stopped for re-fuelling. Heard a couple of times in the early '80s by Norwegian DX-ers in Jan Mayen and Finnmark, as just AFRS Sondrestrom.
- 1425 KOLD Thule AB(1955) 1 kW. Originally KRIC, started 1941/42. Later changed to 1430, near the end on MF in October 1982.

19

AFRS IN ICELAND

- 1400 AFRS Höfn, 10 watts. Started to be heard in the '80s, a good indicator for NA conditions. Seemed to relay 1485 all the time.
- 1484 TFK, AFRS Keflavik, 250 watts(1955). ID: "This is TFK, Keflavik Airport, Iceland." Changed to 1485 after the implementation of the Geneva plan, and is a North Atlantic powerhouse of 1000 watts! Typical NA indicator in Scandinavia. Has recently changed to
- 1530 Now known as "The Navy Broadcasting Service, Keflavik."



To: _____
We are glad to confirm your SWL report
On:

FREQ: 01485 KHZ
 Keflavik
 LI 1400KHZ
 Höfn
With Best Regards.

f

20

AFRS/FAP IN THE AZORES

- 1500 CSB-83 AFRS Lajes Field, Terceira, Azores, 250 watts (1953) Here it was regularly heard each equinoxial period of September and March. Now on 1503, where the author heard them in the Mid-80s along with BBC Stoke, WKLR of Bandon, and Radio Sovereign! (Not all 4 at the same time, but the channel was fun!) The station last heard during 1989- season.
- 650 is the channel for FAP/PAF, Lajes. Heard by Rolf Mong w. Port.NA, "A Portuguesa", & ID as "Aqui Lajes, Forca Aerea Portuguesa," at 0100 in the autumn of 1973.