

## MF in the the South-East

In the late forties and early fifties, a number of small MF stations were built; some to provide the new Third Programme and some to provide a better Home Service. Also, at this time, more and more powerful transmitters were coming into service in Europe some of which made domestic MF listening a much more difficult operation. All of the small Third programme Transmitters worked as a Synchronous Group on 1474kc/s.

In some cases, Group H sites were used. Brighton MF started at the Group H site in Sept '46 then moved to the present site (with a 1kW Western Electric Doherty transmitter rather than the 100W Group H unit) and entered service on 21st Nov '48. The W.E. transmitter was replaced in Oct '49 by a prototype multi-unit transmitter manufactured by Wayne Kerr Laboratories. This consisted of ten 150W units, each having a PSU, modulator and modulated amplifier. This system was found to be unpracticable but the experience gained was put to use in the design of the MWT BD210 660W transmitters, used in groups of three, which became fairly standard in later years. When other services were required, some of the three-unit sets were split to provide more than one service from a site. Folkestone, for example, when Radio One started in 1967, had one of the three Radio Two units retuned for the new service.

During the late '40s - early '50s, the transmitters were all manned (but only for one hour a day) by a "Technical Assistant in Attendance". At other times, the TAiA was expected to monitor the station, using a modified receiver with a carrier fail alarm. Each station was also provided with a Telephone Indicator Panel (TIP) the first form of the present TM1M. When a major fault developed, the area Transmitter Maintenance Team, based at Bartley near Southampton, would attend. The Bartley Team was only the third to be formed (C1953) and would visit each station for routine maintenance every four to six weeks. (Bartley's patch covered the South of England and South Wales!)

Bexhill, Brighton, Folkestone, and Ramsgate all used the BD210s until, in the period '79 - '84, they were either closed down (Ramsgate) or re-engineered with Eddystone or Redifon Solid State transmitters.