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## Seventy Years Before The Masts

About 15/20 years ago, Prospero kindly published a letter from me, seeking contributions from any of your readers who had an interest in the Research Department section originally known as Field Strength, subsequently Service Planning.

Its previous Head, RA Rowden, had left me with a lot of material describing the work of the early engineers, from 1922 to 1961, and suggested I should add a narrative of subsequent activities to produce an 'up-to-date' history.

On taking early retirement, I did start on what has proved to be a spasmodic process. However, following a modest award from the Royal Television Society, this 'history' has now been published under the not very witty title of *Seventy Years Before the Masts*. It deals with our work until the end of the century, makes some remarks about subsequent broadcasting developments, and finally suggests a future for terrestrial broadcasting. It is very parochial, of little interest to anyone who has never heard of Kingswood Warren, or of the work of the Research Department that existed in the last century. It will not appear in *The Times* literary supplement, and is certainly of no attraction to conventional book publishers. However, Amazon Kindle have published it, and the money involved to get the book through that channel is less than it would cost to send out individual copies, but I will gladly send a free, personally-bound volume to anyone who was on Field Strength Section in 1953.

**Ron Sandell**