



## Hans Knot International Radio Report

### Christmas 2021

It's almost unbelievable but we're ending the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the International Report has been published. Also in this issue a lot of interesting items as well e mails from readers all around the world. The first Christmas wishes came in from Spain late November from Juliana Meehan who wrote: 'Hello Hans, again thank you very much, for all the hard work that goes into the reports, I know Tony used to love reading them. From Spain I would like to wish you and Jana, a very happy and wonderful Christmas and a very healthy New Year. Take care and God bless you both. Juliana Meehan.'

Thanks a lot Juliana. We have both warm memories of the time we met you and the late Tony in Amsterdam. We wish you a warm period the coming weeks and best wishes for 2022. We will think of you.

Paul Rusling came, halfway October, with news about the updated version of the Caroline Bible and sent this photo which he got from Pinky Sidenburg. Photo taken in front of the Caroline Office at Singel in Amsterdam. He added: 'A rare picture of Caroline DJ Malcolm Spencer, with Pinky Siedenberg outside the Amsterdam office at Singel 160. Poor Mr. Spencer only lasted one programme on Caroline.'

In my memory Stevie Gee, who was at the same time in Amsterdam, remembered something else: 'Following the story from Steve Gee, who came together with Malcolm at the office, the later one never came on air. Stevie Gee. Born Stephen Hackett in Lewisham, south London, Stevie had a job in a production office in the city after finishing his education but also worked as a musician on the side. After five years in the same job, he decided to go travelling and, after following a roundabout route, arrived in Amsterdam in 1967.



He saw a story in a newspaper that mentioned Radio Caroline was opening an office in the city so he and a friend, Malcolm Spencer, went to pay them a visit. Malcolm got work helping out in the office while Stevie was offered a job as a disc-jockey, despite never having done any DJ work before in his life! He joined Caroline South at the end of August 1967 and presented the overnight show. Stevie can't remember exactly how long he was on board Caroline but Alan Hamblin, a correspondent to Hans Knot's radio report, gave the following information: "Stevie Gee was on board the mv Mi Amigo from Tuesday 29th August until Tuesday 12th September 1967. For most of the time he was on the air from midnight until 6.00am." Ray Robinson has a recording of Johnnie Walker from a couple of days

earlier, 27th August, in which he mentions Stevie being on the air that night, so it looks as if Stevie might have started a little earlier than thought. Following his time on *Caroline*, Stevie returned to Amsterdam where he shared a house with fellow broadcasters Carl Mitchell and Alan Clark, and worked as a disco DJ and musician.



*Stevie Gee 1970*

He spent five years in Amsterdam, DJ'ing in clubs and, while there, wrote a number of pop hits. He also appeared on some *Caroline* roadshows on the continent, which he says were much better paid than his time on the ship! In the early seventies he moved to Denmark and was DJ, compère and singer in a large club in Copenhagen, called *Revolution*. He was a member of a successful Danish band called *Life* but was forced to return to the UK when his father fell seriously ill and needed Stevie's assistance.'

Having posted this on our SMC FB group it was Pinky who also reflected: 'Michael had one shot on the air (after midnight) and was so bad, he was taken off the next day. Both Stevie and Michael helped getting the Singel office ready in 1967. A little later Stevie begone as DJ.'

Thanks to Pinky and Paul! And next we go to Southern America:

'Hello Hans, thank you for including me in your latest International Radio Report. I rarely respond, but I am always honored to be mentioned by you. I read everything you write and I am saddened these days by how many of those of us who broadcast from the North Sea are now gone. Thank you for keeping all of us who are "long in the tooth" and those still "wet behind the ears" informed with what has and is going on in broadcasting. Kindest regards from Ecuador, Ron O'Quinn.'

Thanks Ron and I hope to inform you and others for many more years. Have a wonderful Christmas and by the way wonderful pictures your sharing taken from your house and the beautiful surroundings. Enjoy Life!



Ben Meijering is still very active with all those videos he has made through the years. Now available too are those from RadioDay 2005. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwShv21V90-fXF9iJbACykZPk>

Next we go to California in the USA and the man who writes almost every month, Emperor Rosko. 'Hi Hans, as always a not to be missed monthly report. I did not know my former program director Robbie Dale had left us, so thanks for informing us. He was my boss on Radio Caroline in the sixties. I made his life a misery as I did not follow his music list! (Which was in reality Phil Solomon's payola list)! I wish I had more news for you but

things are a bit quiet. I'm happy that the stations are still cooking and my weekly show 'The L.A. Connection' seems to roll along. You can see my face in a couple of documentaries coming out soon on Netflix and HBO, one regarding UK DJ's and one about the History of Stax and the soul scene. As I saw nothing from your photo collection in last report I enclose on to show I'm still going strong. Stay safe EMP.'



Emperor Rosko from his private collection

Rob Wilson wrote: 'How sad to read that Robbie Dale has died, although of course his mental health has been very poor for a long time. The fact that he 'chose' 31<sup>st</sup> of August as his date of death is quite extraordinary. To be honest, I didn't know he ran an apartment complex on Lanzarote. I happened to be on holiday there for a week with Kas van Iersel in December 2009 and the weather was terrible, so we made a lot of trips. If I had known, we would have definitely visited him!

It goes fast by the way, with all those people who have passed away. Perhaps in August 2024 we should decide to put an end to all those commemorations after 50 years in the Netherlands. Although, of course, they didn't do that in England in 2017 either. Well, at least it keeps you off the streets!



Rob Wilson, by the way, is author of interesting books like: 'The Media Maker' in which also offshore radio plays a minor role.

<https://mediacommunicatie.nl/shop.html>

In 2001 the RadioDay Amsterdam was held in one of the big rooms from Artis. Ben Meijering filmed parts of the program and this can now be seen on:

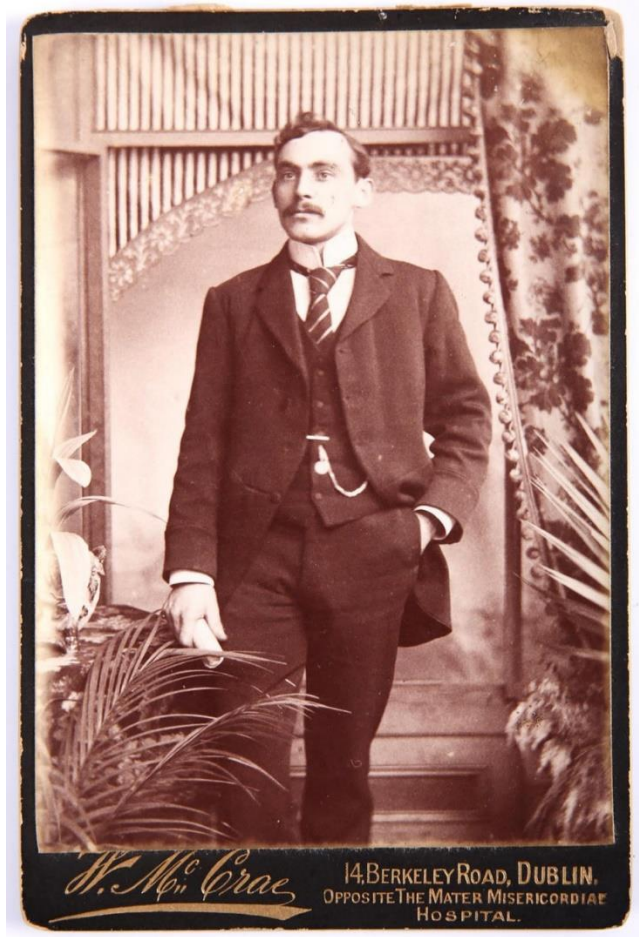
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwSiTJZmUxbobhmrQSUfioxtg>

Next is a very interesting photo taken by A J Beirens and is part of the AJB Heritage which I got and put into the SMC Archive. The photo has been made in 1970 on board a tender going to the MEBO II from RNI. From left to right Gerard van Dam (working for RNI in 1970 and 1971 as a kind of runner) Mark Stuart, Edwin Bollier (co-owner of the station) and guest for the day Jack Kotschack (former owner of Radio Nord). If you want to see the whole series of slides AJ made than it is possible as the slides are here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719977826517>



E mail time with Andrew Dawson aka Andy Archer: 'I was recently looking through an auction house sales catalogue and to my amazement, I found this photograph of Ronan's grandfather The O'Rahilly for sale which I thought you and the readers of the report might like to see.



I also spotted a Free Radio Association car badge for sale at another auction only yesterday. I don't know how much the photograph of The O'Rahilly made, but the car badge sold for £15 (about 17 euros). Best wishes as ever Andy.'



Thanks a lot Andy and as always your contributions are most interesting.

A step back to the Netherlands and John Piek: 'You always know everything. But do you know this one too? The podcast Criminal released part 1 of a very nice series about Sealand three weeks ago. The first part describes in detail the days when Radio Essex was still on the island. Michael Bates is interviewed and one of the DJs of the station.

I did not know the podcast either, I suspect it belongs to a radio programme. I came across the podcast in my inventory of true-crime podcasts (the most popular genre of podcasts)

<https://thisiscriminal.com/episode-171-sealand-8-27-21/>

Philip Crosby from Australia: 'Hi Hans, I thought you might enjoy this. Two old pirates meet at Radio 2RDJ FM -Sydney



[Bryan Vaughan and John Dale \(on air names\)](#)

Bryan in discussions about running a two-hour music show on Radio2RDJ.

This is a link to all the videos made on the very last RadioDay organized by Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot in 2014 copyright Ben Meijering:



<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwShSejwyS0jY61Q7NpyHv3Lf>

It was October 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 Tineke (former Veronica and 80 years of age) announced that she will stop presenting her regular radio program from next year on. Tineke made her last Tineke Show on the 30th of October 2021. She has decided to enjoy her free time more and go travelling. She will stay connected to MAX and will do substitution work for MAX when necessary. The coming months TinekeShow will continue as usual and will be presented by Erik de Zwart, who we know as Paul de Wit on Radio Caroline 1979.

Early next year a last festive Tineke Show will be broadcasted in which Tineke herself will be the central figure. Tineke: "Since 2010 I have made Tineke Show with a lot of love, I have been able to have so many beautiful conversations, receive special guests and have had great live performances in my show". For over 10 years I made a daily programme and for the last two years a weekly one. You can be sure that I will miss it all, especially the listeners with their support and enthusiasm and also the music and what about my nice colleagues, but I have the feeling that I have to go on a trip now while I still can. I am really looking forward to it. ' At the moment Tineke enjoys a lovely holiday in the country she loves so well next to the Netherlands. Surely she will read the report over there in South Africa with much interest as she always does.

Televizier 31-10-1961

## **VERONICA**

9.00 v.m. De kop er af. 10.00 Non stop platen. 10.30 Koffie-tijd met Tineke La Perre. 11.00 Gev. platen. 12.30 Sma-kelijk eten. 1.30 The spot-lights en de Kon. Militaire kapel. 2.00 Non stop muziek. 2.30 Muzikale zonnestralen. 3.30 Non stop muziek. 4.00 Joost mag het weten. 4.30 Gev. platen. 5.30 Platenpalet. 6.00 Veronica's Juke Box. 7.00-8.00 Gev. platen.

Above a flashback to the *Televizier Magazine* from October 1961. Yes 60 years ago and look who was in the programming. Yes the mother of radio from the Netherlands: Tineke de Nooij

In the early evening of October 30th Derek Jones, ex Radio Atlantis, died in Harlingen, the Netherlands. Just early in the morning I got an email from André Blom, who was searching on the internet and found out that I was on the search for Derek in one of the many radio reports:

'During my search on the Internet I came across your site and I read that you were looking for information about Derek Jones. I met Derek on the evening of September 1st 1974 when he, Steve and Debbie England and Andy Anderson entered the disco in Vlissingen where I worked as a DJ. That night we had a lot of drinks at my place.



### **Derek on Radio Atlantis collection Pirate Hall of Fame**

The next day everyone went back to England but Derek stayed in Vlissingen, first he lived for a while with family van Heumen (who supplied Atlantis) and then he moved in with me. He has seen my children and grandchildren grow up, so I have known Derek for that long.

Derek has worked in a few large factories and also in the hospitality industry for quite some time, especially in Middelburg he was a well-

known and well-loved person. The people who used to come to the American bar will never forget him.

My wife and I moved to Leeuwarden in the late 80s and Derek came to stay with us regularly. Unfortunately in 1995 Derek suffered a brain hemorrhage and we brought him to Leeuwarden. After about 4 months Derek could leave the nursing home and we found him a flat in Leeuwarden with which he was very happy.

In 1998 he was diagnosed with Kahler's disease and had to go to hospital regularly for treatments, this seemed to be going in the right direction until June this year. At the time of writing Derek is in a Hospice in Harlingen and is dying, this is a matter of days or hours.'

Derek was born in Liverpool on 14th of February 1945 and Derek Jones is his real name.' Later that day André confirmed me that Derek passed away.

John Edward aka Johnny Flux from Radio London passed away. Here's what Mary Payne wrote on December 5<sup>th</sup> on the Radio London site:

We are very sad to have learnt via [a newspaper article](#) spotted by Mike Terry, that John Edward (aka 'Purpleknees') had passed away back in August. John's funeral is likely to be held in January, when we shall be paying full tribute to him on the site.

More updates are here:

<https://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Bob LeRoi has an excellent story about the interesting career as he wrote: 'Johnny has a long and varied career, he's worked at the Chatham News, was editor and advertisement space salesman of his own magazine Beat '64. A competent guitarist 17 year old Johnny, along with Woolf Byrne on Sax were members of the Manish Boys from Maidstone, Kent. Read more:

[http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/ScrapBook/JohnnyFlux/JohnnyFlux.html?fbclid=IwAR3m2eLwjneIyuIVidEjpdCgPbem19D54q8zl2JVr\\_RwodJJVMQrsEdMeY](http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/ScrapBook/JohnnyFlux/JohnnyFlux.html?fbclid=IwAR3m2eLwjneIyuIVidEjpdCgPbem19D54q8zl2JVr_RwodJJVMQrsEdMeY)

Ben Meijering has put his video from Radioday 2012 on Youtube  
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwSh\\_vdrRyq1lVayb\\_hDvTSY](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwSh_vdrRyq1lVayb_hDvTSY)

Radioday 2008, organised by us SMC in Amsterdam brought us, among other items, an hour long interview by Luc de Groot with Atlantis boss Adriaan van Landschoot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvlscBBsMDI&list=PLRidtA6OwwSgriTsRzL9KLBX2W-IHYpyu&index=2>

Other subjects included Radio Caroline Dutch service in 1980 Moderator Fons Winteraeken talked with Peter de Vries, Wim Robijn and Wilfred de Jong about the Dutch Radio Caroline in 1979 & 1980.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIxjbZRRX8A&list=PLRidtA6OwwSgriTsRzL9KLBX2W-IHYpyu&index=4>

And another interesting item of Radio 2008 in Amsterdam: Moderator Fons Winteraeken talked with Marc Jacobs, Ad Roberts, Paul de Wit, Kees Borrell and Danny Vuylsteke about the Dutch Radio Caroline in 1979 & 1980. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig-sr5W07kI>



In 2008 the English Service from Caroline in late seventies was also a feature on our RadioDay. Moderator Richard Thompson talked with Peter Chicago, Stuart Russel, Martin Fisher, Roger Mathews and

Mike Barrington about Radio Caroline from 1977 to 1980.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fInBdp\\_KqGY&list=PLRidtA6OwwSgriTsRzL9KLBX2W-IHYpyu&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fInBdp_KqGY&list=PLRidtA6OwwSgriTsRzL9KLBX2W-IHYpyu&index=5)

Next is Peter Messingfeld from Germany: Dear offshore radio friend, the corona travel restrictions were only one reason for my reduced radio related travels. But now there is something new. Recently I visited the Ross Revenge. Please find my related report under the following link:

[http://travelseries.de/trav2021r/trav2021\\_01.php](http://travelseries.de/trav2021r/trav2021_01.php)

Ben Meijering has put also on his you tube channel the videos he made during Amsterdam RadioDay 2007 in Casa 400. This was the first time the bi annual Radio Awards were presented. Special items were; Interview with Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak) special about Caroline, one about SRE, Big L and more. Have some nice hours watching this:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwSiWLSHSPnkgEkVwoB4-1ryY>



Hans Knot and Robbie Dale during the very first RadioDay Award session in 2007. Photo: Martin van der Ven.



Raymond Kersten came with an excellent memory to RNI: An acquaintance of mine Peter Annegarn PAOPET is a radio amateur and made connections with the Swiss technicians Joe, Kurt and Bruno on board of the RNI in the early 70s. Peter recently told me the whole story in full colour. One of the gentlemen found Peter's sister attractive and came to visit him. Peter was listening on Saturday 15 May 1971 and suddenly heard their "Mayday mayday" call. He immediately contacted Rijkswaterstaat who put out the fire. Peter also called one of the technicians, who was at a birthday party, and told him what had happened. There was someone there who was in charge of supplies. He then immediately went out and was the first to disembark the crew. Peter saw him leaving the harbour. Kurt later gave him a tour on board as a thank you. This went via the Eurotrip of Mr Roos of the tugboat company TRIP. Via them he was also brought back to Scheveningen. Here are some QSL cards Peter received at the time.

**220m**  
 HP 9 APU/MM  
 HP 9 AVQ/MM  
 HP 9 AXP/MM

**RNI**

CONFIRMING OUR SSB, AM, RTTY QSO WITH PAOPET  
 ON 3.5 MC, AT 00<sup>50</sup> GMT, DATE 23.10.70  
 YOUR SIGNALREPORT S18 RST \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATION: TRANSMITTER: FTDX 150  
 RECEIVER: -  
 ANTENNA: W3 DZZ  
 REMARKS: our first QSO  
 OPR.: HP 9 APU/MM, ~~JOE~~ PS-QSL  
 HP 9 AVQ/MM, KURT TNX QSL  
 HP 9 AXP/MM, ~~BRUNO~~ VY 73  
 QSL VIA PO BOX 1136, 8047 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

Radio Nordzee International

CONFIRMING OUR SSB, AM, RTTY QSO WITH PAØPET  
ON 3.772 MC, AT 20<sup>00</sup> GMT, DATE 15.10.70  
YOUR SIGNALREPORT 5/9+20 RST  
STATION: TRANSMITTER: COLLINS KWT-2  
RECEIVER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ANTENNA: W3DZZ  
REMARKS: Bedankt voor de fb QSO's  
en best wensen van deze kant,  
ok van Elly  
OPR.: HP 9 APU/MM, JOE PS QSL  
HP 9 AVQ/MM, KURT TNX QSL  
HP 9 AXP/MM, BRUNO VY 73  
QSL VIA POBOX 1136, 8047 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND



Let's go to Australia and John Kerr with a fantastic story about a long history in radio: 'Two big anniversaries were celebrated for two major radio stations, both of which share an envied broadcasting heritage.

2CA Canberra turned 90 on the 14th November. Apart from the local ABC station, 2CA had the Canberra audience mainly all to itself until the introduction of Canberra's second commercial station 2CC in 1975. My memories of hosting breakfast in the early 60's are indelible in my mind (minus 11 one morning) - doing Saturday night "Party Time" with Steve Liebmann was great fun except we always seem to be hauled in front of the boss every Monday morning for something 'dopey' we'd said.

Being amongst the first in regional radio to fly to Sydney for every Lee Gordon Big Show to interview the stars - Dusty Springfield - Nat 'King' Cole - Mick Jagger - Roy Orbison, Chubby Checker, Beach Boys, Louis Armstrong etc. First on air song for 2GO, Gosford was "Everything is Beautiful" by Ray Stevens which went to air on the 19th November, 1971 making 'the old girl' 50. They could write a book about 2GO and the people who staffed it (I hope they don't while I'm alive). Undeniably one of the 'great' Australian regional stations and for many years could have (and did) give some Sydney stations a run for their money. Management like the legendary Bob Scott, Peter Little, Craig Denyer - on air talent like Doug Mulray Bob

Byrne, Peter Graham, Darrell Eastlake - how could you go wrong. Happy birthday and many more successful years of broadcasting to 2CA and 2GO.'



We could know John Kerr from his days at Radio Scotland. All information can be read here:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djsk.htm#jkerr>

Many of us have memories of our schooldays in connection to offshore radio. Here's one from Paul Bailey: 'I had a Radio Caroline sticker on my saddle bag. One day I was walking towards the bicycle shed to go home when I spotted the Headmaster interfering with my bike. He carefully removed the Radio Caroline sticker and posted it into my saddle bag. He didn't see me watching him from the side of the school canteen building. When I got home I glued the whole sticker to the bag and also covered it with those plastic sticky covers we used to cover hard back books with. Just to rub it in, I made sure I wore my Radio Caroline skull and cross bones T shirt to all of my O Levels! Mr. Brewster the Headmaster was a Labour Councillor, which may have something to do with it...'

Excellent memory and thanks for sharing Paul. Now we go to Belgium.



Alex Bervoets from Belgium is next: 'I was visiting a friend who has an incredible knowledge of music. He is particularly fond of world music. He is also a great cook and always makes something special when I visit. These weeks, he's been blasting English music out of the speakers. But what a surprise.... from his new COMO Audio (musica) internet radio I heard the voice of the Emperor Rosko resounding.

And in superior sound quality, all the hits of the past like you never heard them before. I can't believe we had to wait 50 years for that. The station is called 45 Radio UK or via [www.242radio.com](http://www.242radio.com) as well. Nice site too. I have become jealous of his device. Here we are now in Belgium starting with DAB+ but I think an internet radio like this is much more interesting. I'm 70 now and music still keeps me squeaky clean.

When I need some rest, I often put on Radio Minerva. This free radio from Antwerp is still doing very well. Sometimes there are 85-year-olds at the controls, but you won't hear music like this anywhere else. Hans I always enjoy the reports with all those memories of yesteryear. Keep in good health! Greetings, Alex Bervoets.' From Merksem Antwerp

Nice that you mention both stations Alex. It's great that people of the same age and even older still know what real radio is like and how to operate the panels. And Rosko can be heard on many stations, just go to his site or fb group.

Our friends at Offshore Echos have a special offer:

<https://www.offshoreechos.com/Lady%20in%20distress.htm>

Martin van der Ven advises to listen to this podcast:

<https://player.fm/series/how-to-dj/tony-blackburn>

Next one is from David Esp, who wrote: 'Good Evening Hans,



I hope you are well. I enjoyed watching the RadioDay panel discussion of the Dutch side of RNI. It is quaintly amusing that the English DJ's (apart from Tony Allen) refused to adapt to Dutch meal types - preferring their bland but familiar cornflakes! Please could you educate me though, as to why RNI's drive-time show 'Driemaster' was called that? Three bosses? Why would that be? I'm suspecting it's some kind of tradition and/or in-joke, like work-boss, spouse-boss and some other one, but that's just guessing. All the best, David.'



Hi David the problems with the Dutch meal types seems to be bigger than it was. Some disliked the too spicy dinners made. Dutch kitchen is partly connected to the Indonesian kitchen. This was also a problem with some of the guys on Caroline and London in the sixties as crew was coming versus Dutch company Wijsmuller including the galley chefs.

Well Driemaster is very simple. Look at a photo of the MEBO II and you will see three masts. Enjoy all the memories and greetings Hans  
And David came back with: 'Hahaha the MEBO II was indeed a Driemaster! Apart from once after a storm I gather. And thank you for educating me on those other matters.'

Well never a mast came down from the best radio ship in the world.





## Happy Christmas radio

Sad news again on December 7<sup>th</sup> when the next message appeared on the SMC FB pages with thanks to Mike B: Simon Prentice: 'Not sure if this has been posted but my Dad (Steve England), who isn't on Facebook, asked me to post: 'Philip Birch died yesterday December 7th 4.15pm in California, 12.15 am UK time. He ran the radio ship Radio London and Piccadilly Radio.'

The same days RadioToday brought more information: Philip Birch, founder of the Manchester Independent Radio consortium, that won the licence for Piccadilly Radio, has died at his home in California at the age of 94.

He was well known for running the pirate station Radio London before going on to establish Manchester Independent Radio, operating as Piccadilly Radio in Manchester.

Philip also ran Air Services, which sold national advertising for stations throughout the UK. He was CEO of both Piccadilly and Air until he retired in 1984. For more go to:

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2021/12/tributes-paid-to-piccadilly-radio-founder-philip-birch/>



Chris Edwards informed me on December 8<sup>th</sup> with: An obituary and pictures of Philip Birch, who sadly passed away yesterday, is now online at [www.offshoreechos.com](http://www.offshoreechos.com)

Next Tony Meehan: 'Good day Hans, A question for you - together with other 'Pirates' and others we operate the music internet station - [www.Scotland69am.com](http://www.Scotland69am.com) - we have two 2 hour spots looking for shows and we need an IT person. On our stations, among others, are next to me, Bryan Vaughan and Pete Bowman from the original Radio Scotland. Full list of deejays: <https://www.scotland69am.com/the-jocks>



We broadcast Friday - Monday and stream, music Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday. Syndicated shows will be considered if they are clean of station IDs. People can reflect versus: [@scotland69am](https://twitter.com/scotland69am) Tony Meehan.'

Alex Hoek: Saturday, 4 December 2021 was the opening of the Zendschepen Museum in Alkmaar.

As part of the Beatles Museum in that city, Hans Hettelder has finally found a permanent location for his wonderful model collection of broadcast ships and miniatures. Hans is of course known from all the events where he has exhibited his models for years. He is also a

welcome guest abroad, but of course also closer to home in Hoek van Holland at the RockArt museum.

Finally, the entire collection can now be admired in the Beatles Museum, Pettemerstraat 12A 1823 CW Alkmaar. Opening hours are Sunday from 12.00 to 16.30, Monday closed and from Tuesday to Saturday from 11.00 to 16.30. Admission price 15 euro (3 museums).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrZ4Y0e9iGg>



RNZ looked back on 100 years of radio broadcasting in New Zealand. And on First Up - where a decent chunk of the team have done their time in commercial radio, we thought we'd pay tribute to the pirates who took it upon themselves to launch private radio in this country. In 1966, the MV Tiri set sail for the outer Hauraki Gulf to broadcast for the youth of New Zealand's biggest city. Radio Hauraki was the brainchild of two different pairs of friends who discovered they shared a vision. One of those four founders of the station was Derek Lowe, then a young man in his mid-20s, with horn-rimmed glasses and a head-full of hair and big ideas. Nathan Rarere asked Derek how he got in to the radio business..

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/first-up/audio/2018820836/100-years-of-radio-memories-of-radio-hauraki-derek-low>

Bob Lawrence - We were there. Over 5 minutes in length, this song by Bob Lawrence looks back on many events of the past fifty-plus years. Two times listening and it is immediately fixed in your memory. We also know Bob as Richard Thompson, who joined Radio Caroline in 1978. Numerous other radio stations have since made use of his talents. Bob is also the author of 'The last great adventure for boys', a novel that revolves around the lives of people working for a radio station.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PtCHR9f\\_QE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PtCHR9f_QE)

It was in the summer of 2021 that the following message came to us: 'A power increase has been agreed for Radio Caroline to extend its coverage area from Suffolk and Essex to include Kent as East Sussex. During the last week of November it indeed happened and there are probably a lot of people who have re-activated their old transistor radio to see if reception was possible. Peter Moore came with an official statement and thanked those who were involved putting the 'new' Harris transmitter on air, which was in storage in Holland for some time.



Seeing the photograph of the transmitter I wondered if this could be one of the transmitters which were installed on the Communicator in 1994 when the ship would be used for Holland FM, later Veronica

and in the end Q Radio. Here the recent photo and the one made in 1994. The answer came very quick:

Paul Rusling 'No, this DX25 was never a DX50 on the Communicator. It was installed at Heinen Oord on 828AM in summer 1995 - read all about this in his copy of the updated Caroline Bible (Nov 21 edition) which has the details and tells about his two good friends who engineered the 828 site in those days.



Next it's Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame:

'Hi, I have just updated [The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame](#).

New this month:

- I have added some more audio clips to the pages on Christmas in International Waters;
- there is another RNI Super Hit 50 chart and a Spotify playlist of an old Caroline Top 50 from December 1965;
- a link to a podcast in which Tony Blackburn talks about his big break on offshore radio, and to a new single recorded by ex-Caroline DJ Bob Lawrence;
- and there is another of Ray Clark's fascinating interviews with former Caroline personnel. This time it is Johnny Lewis with his memories of Eurosiege.

My thanks as ever to all the contributors. Best wishes, Jon'

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)





Christmas on the MV Mi Amigo Steve Kent (?) Mark Lawrence and Tom Anderson. Photo SMC Archive.

Doing research a lot as well as writing brings also in, on a yearly base, much new material for the archive. Mostly early December I take time during some days to make a classification of these new additions for the archive to give them a place in the several files. But doing that I discover also material in the files from which I think that it's interesting under my readers.

For instance I found a letter in the Capital Radio File, dated November 27<sup>th</sup> 1970 and received from Berthe A. Beydels, Secretary General from the I.B.S, which stood for the International Broadcasting Society. She wrote: 'Dear friends of Capital Radio. As you know, Capital Radio is facing serious bad luck. On 11 November last, the radio ship King David was knocked off her anchors and ran aground on the beach of Noordwijk. The ship is now in dock and will have to go to a shipyard for repairs for another 10 days, but fortunately we can say that the damage to the ship was not too bad. The broadcasts of Capital Radio will be resumed as soon as possible, although all in all, we have of course fallen behind a lot.

The purpose of this letter is therefore twofold. Firstly, we would like to let you know that Capital Radio is coming back and secondly, we would like to ask you to help us do so. You can do that, if you are not already, by becoming a friend of Free Radio by transferring 5 guilders or more for 1971 on the enclosed Giro slip. If you already belong to the 5000 or more people who support us and you have

already transferred your 5 guilders to us, then we would like to ask you to bring in a new friend for Free Radio.

To avoid any misunderstandings, we would like to make it clear that we are not making a permanent appeal for your financial support. You are not tied down for long years. As soon as Capital Radio can stand on its own two feet, or rather run on its own steam, we will let you know. However, we hope to deserve your moral support for a very long time.'

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As is clear from the picture above, I did not make any financial contributions at the time. It soon became clear, partly from various articles in the newspapers, that a chance for Capital Radio to return to the airwaves would not be possible. Besides reports of possible sabotage, it also became clear that the finances of the IBS had reached an all-time low. Looking back, more than 51 years ago, it was a very sad end to this ideological radio station that brought a totally different sound than the other offshore radio stations in those days.



Another flashback: 'It's December 3rd 1964 and illegal talks with a VHF Radio on the mv Bolocan in the harbour of Scheveningen have been made with the people on the REM platform off the Noordwijk coast, so was told in several newspapers. When you follow the link below you'll find a magazine called Radio Bulletin, in which a report about a visit to the REM Island.

<http://nvhrbiblio.nl/.../Radio%20Bulletin%201964-10-OCR.pdf>

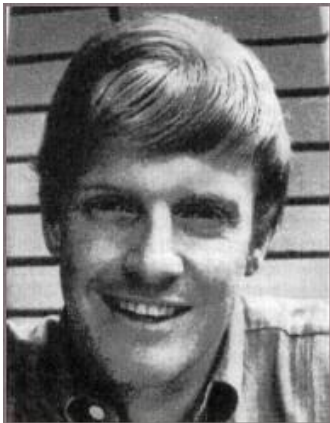
Just to remember: December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 it was 55 years ago Radio Hauraki came on the air for the very first time in international waters off the New Zealand coast.



Let's go on with the marvelous stories from the Brian Long publications about Radio London: 'In last issue we heard the first part of memories from Chris Denning after joining the Radio London crew in spring of 1966.

'Then we carried on and we went to Prague and Warsaw. In those countries my lie became slightly less of a lie because I now said, 'I'm a well known child broadcaster on American radio, Radio Moscow and in England.' Only the England bit was a lie. I got a job doing a similar thing - I talked them into it, I'm bit of a salesman - I talked them into letting me do broadcasts on Prague radio. Then we went onto Warsaw and I did the same thing, again. When I got back to England I went along to the BBC and I talked them into letting me do a series of talks on the then Home Service, every Monday morning at ten past nine. It was in competition with 'Housewives' Choice' on the Light

Programme so I don't suppose anybody listened. I told all my experiences, all over the world and that went on for some weeks. I then went off and had some more travels. This time I went to India. This took place over a period of a couple of years. That's how I got into broadcasting. I liked the idea. Broadcasting made me feel important and everybody I knew said, 'Oh, I heard you on the wireless', and they were all impressed. I rather liked that so I decided I would like to go into broadcasting as a career. By now I was about eighteen and I'd come back from India.



Chris Denning Photo Soundscapes Archive

"In India I'd met an American who happened to be a boss of the Firestone tyre company. As a result of that he offered me a job at Firestone tyres in Brentford, in England. My parents rather liked the idea. They thought it was much more stable than this silly broadcasting business so they said, 'Why don't you go for that?' I went along there and got a very good job. Within a year or two I became their London Sales Representative, at the age of nineteen or twenty. I was their youngest ever sales representative, apart from the Chairman of the company. I was doing terribly well, I had a car and everything, but I kept on wanting to be a deejay.

On Radio Luxembourg at the time, they had one disc jockey whose name was Brook Denning. There was another deejay called, Peter Carver. Carver is my mother's maiden name and Denning is my name. I thought, 'This has got to be an omen so I'll have to try and get on Radio Luxembourg.' I wrote to Radio Luxembourg at 38 Hartford Street, and I got a letter back from Geoffrey Everitt saying, 'Your



talents, I think, would be better employed in the BBC.' I didn't take 'no', for an answer so I wrote back again and he kept on replying. I think I wrote to him seventeen times. In the end I ended up working there. It had nothing to do with the letters. I thought, 'I've got to find some other way of getting in here', so one Easter weekend I went to visit my parents in Devon. I arrived at the house, I walked in the door, and I thought, 'I've got it. I know what I'm going to do.' It was the Good Friday and I arrived about lunch time. I walked in the door and I said, 'I'm terribly sorry but I've just decided I'm not staying.'

My parents looked at me in amazement. I said, 'Could you drive me back to the station?' I rang up and found the times of the trains and I went over on the ferry to Luxembourg. I couldn't get anywhere at Luxembourg in London and I thought, 'Wait a minute there are four or five people out in Luxembourg who have actually achieved what I want. They must know how to do it.' So I got on the train and I went to Luxembourg, just like that.



### London office Radio Luxembourg

"When I arrived in Luxembourg I knocked on the door and they said, 'There's no one here at the moment.' I waited until one of the English deejays went in or out. I said, 'Hello are you one of the English deejays?' He said, 'Yes, I'm Paul Hollingdale.' I said, 'I've just come over.' He said, 'Are you on holiday?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'What, passing through?' I said, 'No,' and he said, 'Are you working here or something?' I said, 'No, I've just come here to see you lot.' He said,



'What do you mean?' I said, 'Well I just want to find out how the hell did you get onto Radio Luxembourg because I know I can do it and I can't find anyone who can tell me what to do to get in.' He said, 'We'd better go and have a cup of coffee then.'

He took me out and ended up buying me lunch. He was very, very kind and the next day he took me out and drove me around the country a bit. He told me the things that were vital. He said, 'Nobody's going to take you on because you haven't got any experience as a deejay.' Therefore how are you ever going to get any experience? The answer is you've got to work for somebody who doesn't require experience and he suggested the Forces Broadcasting Service.

I wrote to them and they were absolutely amazed because they'd just decided that they needed to employ someone and they hadn't yet put the advertisement in. My timing was impeccable. They said how on earth did I know there was going to be a job vacant? And I said, 'I didn't know.' They offered me a job with the British Forces Network in Germany. Then they did a security check on me and found that I'd broadcast on Radio Moscow and they immediately cancelled the offer. They were terribly embarrassed and then they changed their mind and gave me a job in Nairobi. I went off to Nairobi, in Kenya, and I found myself working with a guy called Keith Skues.

After I'd been there a year or two I got a bit restless and I got a bit bored. I thought, 'Oh dear, I'm contracted to be here three years and I want to get back and get into the broadcasting world in England now.' Then I saw in one of the English papers that BBC2 television was about to start. I thought, 'I'd like to get onto that, but how am I going to get out of this? I'm stuck out here and I've got to get back and I've got no money and so on.' I thought, 'The first thing I'll do is send a telegram to the head of BBC2.' I'd read in the Daily Sketch, 'BBC2 will be young and exciting, says Michael Peacock', so I sent him a telegram saying, 'I'm young and exciting too so I think we should get together.' - I've always thought modesty was a very important point. He invited me to come and have an interview. I thought, 'Bloody

hell I'm 5,000 miles away what the hell am I going to do? And I've got another year's contract.'

I had to be a bit devious. I went to the manager of the station. Being a British army station it wasn't a Station Manager it was the Station Commander. I said, 'I've got a great idea. Do you know one thing we've never done here? A lot of families come out to visit their soldier husbands, sons, and so on. We never have done a documentary on how the airlines organise themselves. Wouldn't that be an interesting documentary?' He said, 'Yes I think it would. Shall I leave it in your hands?' I said, 'Yes. I'll try and do something.'



**BUA Promotional Photo 1960**

I rushed down to British United Airways. The head of it at that time was a man called Freddie Laker. I went down to see their local manager in Nairobi and I said, 'I work for the British Forces Broadcasting Service and we've decided that we'd like to do a documentary on how airlines organise themselves.' I said, 'I thought an independent company would be better than BOAC, the opposition.' He said, 'Yes.' I said, 'I'd wonder if you'd co-operate. We could interview your various people and we could do a documentary. We can't actually name you or say its sponsored by you but the people

would get the idea. You'd hear recordings on the plane, things like 'British United Airways welcome you aboard flight so and so to London', and we could also say at the end we'd like to acknowledge the help given by British United Airways.'

He said, 'That will be fine. What will you need from us?' I said, 'We'd need a bit of co-operation from you. I'd have to come and interview yourself, go to the hangers and interview the engineers and I'd need a ticket to London to interview Freddie Laker.' I dropped it in and he said, 'Fine.' I thought, 'Bloody hell, that's something like a £1,000 ticket and I'd got it just like that in about ten minutes. I must do this more often.' I then went back to the Station Commander and said, 'I'm going to fly to London.' He said, 'How the hell are you going to do that?' I said, 'I've already arranged for a free ticket.' He was terribly impressed. I said, 'As I've got to go to London, my holiday's coming up, do you mind if I take it in London?' He said, 'Not at all.' I had a three week free trip to London.

As luck would have it there was a rebellion in Zanzibar the day I was going to fly, so the plane was full of British army officers who had been beaten up by the local insurgents. The British army were trying desperately to keep this hush hush because the independence group for Tanzania, which was going to be Tanganyika and Zanzibar combined, was about to come up. It was considered politically delicate and they wanted to keep it so it seemed the British were on good terms with the locals. They were trying to hush up this little rebellion against the British army. Chris Denning comes along and gets on the plane which is absolutely full of all these injured British army officers who were being whisked out as politically damaging. I'm sitting there with a tape recorder. There was a military policeman guarding their section of the plane saying, 'I can't let you in', to all the ordinary passengers. I was working for the British army and I had security clearance. I had honorary rank as Captain so I just went up to him - he was only a sergeant - and I said, 'British Forces Broadcasting Services, sergeant', and he let me straight through. I then interviewed everybody on board and sold it to the BBC. Within hours of arriving in London I had a scoop on the early morning radio show.

The BBC were terribly impressed by that and I went along to BBC2 and got the job.

Next time more from the memories of Chris Denning and his radio career, of course with thanks to Brian Long.

We're now ending this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and as always feel free to send me interesting memories, photos and questions to my e mail address: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Have all a very warm Christmas period and a happy New Year.

