

Hans Knot International Radio Report Winter 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the report for 2022 and thanks for all the wishes we got for Christmas and the New Year after publishing the last report. Also some very interesting contributions came in. On the other hand it was very difficult for me editing this edition as too much people are leaving the world of radio lately. Within this report several sad messages will appear. Well early December it was Bill Pryor who sent me some nice cards featuring Radio Normandy, which Martin van der Ven put on our Flickr archive. Radio from a very long time ago.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157720226254931/>

Chris Panini is the next one, who wrote: 'Hi Hans, greets to you at this festive time! Thank you for the latest report, it is amazing how much we have to talk about from so long ago! I was sad to read in last report of the passing of Derek Jones the engineer and sometime DJ on Atlantis '74. I very much enjoyed the output of Atlantis and had they had a better signal would make a much bigger mark on offshore history. Steve England did promos for Derek, they are probably available somewhere. Now there's a challenge.



Interestingly on today's Radio Atlantis in the UK we have many offshore DJ's, some from the original! These include; Steve England, Dave Owen and Rob Day all from the original Atlantis. Kevin Turner, Bob Noakes, Roger Mathews, Peter Quinn and Dave Asher all from offshore Caroline. Ron Brown, from the current Caroline. I hear they are to be joined by Jerry Wright from the current Caroline too! A great station reincarnating the good times of the 60's offshore sound. Well worth a listen. <https://www.atlantisradio.uk/>

Greetings, Chips in Norfolk.'

Thanks a lot Chips and now over to Tony Kersbergen who wrote: 'Hello Hans, thank you for the International Radio Report Christmas 2021! The Christmas Report raised a question for me. In there is a picture from the AJB heritage. The photo has been made in 1970 on board a tender going to the MEBO II from RNI. I suppose it was made on board the MEBO I. On more than one occasion I have read that the MEBO I was unsuitable as a tender. But then why was it kept as a sistership of the MEBO II for all those years? Together with 'big sister' MEBO II it sailed to Libya. Why hold on to a tender which is not suited as a tender?'

Dear Tony thanks. The MEBO I was partly fitted out to become a radio ship but then was decided to buy another bigger ship as the MEBO I was not suited as a radio ship. In 1970 they used the MEBO I, which was their own ship, as a tender. No problem as it was suitable for that. At one stage Heerema put a claim on the MEBO I and they had to search for an alternative. This was found in the company Roos with the Eurotrip and Triptender. The difference was no own cost for running the MEBO I and having an own crew on that one. Why they kept this in Scheveningen up till 1977 is unknown to

me. But surely the deal with Libya brought money into MEBO Ltd in Zürich.

Martin van der Ven brought us many videos to watch during the past months

Visiting Radio Caroline in Maidstone and Queenborough - 2nd July 2000. See Mark Stafford, Andrew Austin, Rachel Hunter, David Foster, Peter Messingfeld, Gerhard Fiolka, André Hardy

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

And that's just a part of a massive collection of videos and clips Martin van der Ven put on you tube. Time for an evening watching, listening and enjoying? Go to the Offshore Radio Cinema and relax:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/offshoreradioguide/videos>

But also it's interesting to watch two other collections from Ben Meijering as well Alex van den Hoek:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9QOjFxiuO9qmbhFZREVVDg/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/hoekkeoh/videos>



[Jonell Pernula in 1985 Photo: Leen Vingerling](#)

Sad news too as Jonell Pernulla died after organ failure in the USA at the age of 61. Listeners from Laser 558 remember her as one of the female presenters in 1985 when she was summer relief dee jay on the North Sea. On the OEM site is a well written obituary:

<https://www.offshoreechos.com/Tribute%20to%20Jonell.html>

Gerry Zierler wrote: 'Someone who should be added to the very long list of Offshore radio presenters is Pete Murray. A reminder? Pete presented a half hour show - heard on Radio Caroline South as well as Radio London. It was sponsored by Currys. It was produced by a production company that became part of the pressure group that (UK) landed commercial radio. The edited production tapes ended-up in a cupboard in a Reading exFire Station. There is more - including Pete Murray was then 'rested' by the BBC! What happened to Anne Shelton? Remember, or were you, at that time, far, far too young, mmm? Pete Murray had a show on Boom Radio on Boxing Day 2021. It's his first broadcast for years, at the age of 96!

<https://www.boomradiouk.com/pete-murray-is-back/>

And we shall not forget to mention that Cardboard Shoes's (Keith Skues) show was on Radio Six on Christmas Day 1400 - 1500!

Talking about Keith Skues, he sent a message to me just before Christmas: 'A short, but nevertheless sincere note to wish you both a Very Merry Christmas. with all good wishes for 2022. This last year has been a bad one for me. In July I was admitted to hospital in Norwich after I collapsed crossing a main road in our local town. A fractured right knee and a damaged face. I am now back home, but far from happy. I lost my radio show with the BBC because of my age (82). Local radio doesn't want any presenter over the age of 70.'

I hope Keith that some 6 weeks later you feel much better and I hope you've have become more mobile through physiotherapy. Best wishes from us.

Tim Scrimshaw was with Sagi Levek, Noam Tal and Gil Katzir and visited the Abie Nathan collection at the Givat Haviva archive. Some of the photo's I want to share with you. Of course with thanks to Tim.

An ashtray (!) commemorating Abie's peace flight to Egypt



And Sagi and Gill in front of the museum building



Next news from Mike Terry: 'Sunlite Radio on 5955 kHz is a new Dutch registered shortwave station. I note it has a connection with RNI. Sunlite is part of RadioCorp; a Dutch media company based in Naarden in the Netherlands. Older DX-ers may like to know that the premises of Sunlite is the same as the headquarters as offshore radiostation Radio Northsea International in the early 1970's, these called 'Hofstede' in Naarden-Bussum'. Mike Terry.'

Well Mike thanks for the information and guess what? Herbert Visser is still working in de Hofstede. Maybe he can tell us more in next report.

Another Mike is a regular and living in LA. 'Dear Hans, Let me start with a happy New Year to you both. I have finished reading the end of the year report and was mulling over the spiffy photo you used! Seriously I asked myself what makes your report impossible to ignore. Have I got your attention? Well it comes down to the fact it is not gossip but first hand from the guys in the know, the ones who did it, you as the 'hunter gatherer' of the period make it work. So well done and thank you.



Champagne dinner featuring Johnny Halliday, Sylvie Vartan and Emperor Rosko with thanks to EMP for using the photo

I think the reports should be mandatory study for any students studying and writing thesis on Offshore radio! It also allows we, survivors, to know who is doing what and where as we read about them monthly. Having said all that I will bail till my next mandatory reads. Stay warm, stay safe. EMP aka Rosko.'

Now I have to say sorry for a mistake in last International Radio Report as from Sweden came the next e-mail: 'Dear Hans, just a short note to tell you that the person identified as my father in the picture on page 6 in your latest news letter is not Jack S. Kotschack. There is a certain resemblance for sure, but not more than that. Happy greetings to you and your loved ones. Jan Kotschack'

Next it is Trevor Brook who wrote: 'Hello Hans, I've been writing up a few unusual radio tales which really should be recorded:

<http://www.radiofax.org/radiooddities.html>

Of possible interest offshore wise there's Russ Tollerfield and Kenny Everett's R L Morse news sounder, RNI on FM and several mentions of Caroline. Best wishes, Trevor.'

We stay in England: 'Hello Hans, again, many thanks for your monthly report. I was sorry to read about Johnny Edward passing away who, as John Edward, wrote and produced the 1970 single for my pop group Heatwave. In 2016, John, as we knew him, asked some of the band to invest in his latest project... we declined.



John Edward ca. 1970 ...

All the best,
Martin H Samuel'

We have to go back to The Emperor Rosko



Here an excellent video in which Emperor Rosko is interviewed in 1966 in the studio of Radio Luxembourg French Service, with thanks to François Lhote:

<https://5minutes.rtl.lu/photos-et-videos/la-boite-a-archives/a/1815295.html>

The Offshore Radio Cinema

<https://www.youtube.com/user/offshoreradioguide/videos>

Now it's time for my own part of the report for which I go back to 1969. In the autumn of 1969 it was announced that Radio Veronica, with 33%, had the highest listening figures of the three entertainment radio stations that could be received in the Netherlands at that time. Hilversum III reached 25% and Radio Luxemburg only 6% during the period measured. These figures emerged from a survey carried out by the Dutch Foundation for Statistics on behalf of the management of Radio Veronica. A number of facts from the extensive report show that the group, that listened to Radio Veronica for more than half an hour a day, had

grown by 150,000 compared to a survey in 1967. But it also became known that Luxembourg's Dutch-language service was going to change in 1970.

„wie goed doet goed ontmoet“

**STEM AF
OP RADIO
LUXEMBURG
ELKE
ZONDAGMORGEN
10 VOOR 10
EN VERDIEN
f. 100.-**

Deelname aan ZWANENBERG's Interessante, boeiende reportageprogramma „Wie goed doet goed ontmoet“ staat voor iedereen open. In U zit Uw omgeving een geheel bekend van een of meer mensen, die tegenover een ander (of voor een dier) een goede daad hebben verricht, eluurt U daarvoor dan een brief aan Radio Luxemburg, Postbus 208, Amsterdam. U behoeft geen bonnet, merken of details bij te sluiten! Wordt van Uw inzending een radio-reportage gemaakt, dan zijn de weduifjes 100 centen voor U!

u kunt van elke maaltijd een goede daad maken

door het beste, het lekkerste het gezondste op tafel te zetten. Voor zo'n dampende, glanzende, esthetisch opvallend rookwiel op een vreedzame stampoet, voor lekkere schotels met pingel, sappige worstjes, voor maaltijd, vitaminerijke groente, voor alles wat zult, smaakt en goed is. ZWANENBERG.

ZWANENBERG
maakt wat smaakt
en hoe

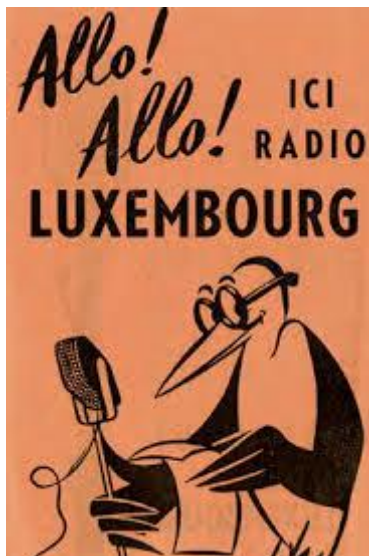
The survey was held in the period April/May 1969 by means of random sampling in 3000 households, where 2304 questionnaires were filled in and the answers were also explained orally where necessary. It appeared that Radio Veronica was most popular with teenagers and tweens (with emphasis on the age group between 15 and 24 years). A range of 400,000 listeners (17%) was achieved on weekdays around dinner time in the early evening. Radio Veronica also had more listeners in the so-called popular classes than in the higher social classes 9 to 10% compared to 6 to 7%.

During the measuring period, it was also established that, compared to the survey of 1967, the reception possibilities in the north and south of the country had improved. A cause was not given. However, it was indicated that 56% of the respondents could receive Radio Veronica well, while this percentage was 78% for Hilversum III.

Radio Luxembourg could only be clearly received by 38% of those interviewed.

Almost at the same time that the management published the results of the survey, the management of the Dutch-language division of Radio Luxembourg announced that as of 1 January 1970, the broadcasts aimed at the Netherlands and Flanders would be drastically curtailed. The morning broadcasts of this branch, between 9 and 12 o'clock, were stopped and instead 50% of the broadcast time was returned to a less favorable reception time, namely between 6 and half past 7 in the evening.

The change in transmission time for the Dutch-language service may have been announced by the Dutch-language department, but the decision to change was made by the management in Luxembourg, in which the French shareholders in particular had an important voice.



The reason for the decision was the craving for German Marks. It turned out that the commercials via the German-language broadcasts brought in six times as much money as those booked via the Dutch branch. Radio Luxembourg was, of course, always a commercial enterprise and so money took precedence over everything. An average commercial for the German-language service brought in around 1,200 guilders in 1969.

When the reports on the changes appeared in the autumn in, among other publications, *Televizier*, it was reported that the news had not yet been officially published by the management, because the advertisers had not yet been informed of the future changes. The German-language broadcasts of Radio Luxembourg were mainly aimed at the Ruhr area, with excellent listening figures each time.



In 1969, it was stated that around 50 million radio sets were tuned in daily to the various broadcasts of Radio Luxembourg, half of which were in France. There, one could tune in the whole day via the Long Wave. In addition, there was a large number of German listeners who could tune in every day between six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening to a variety of entertainment music. In the Netherlands, where the 208 meters could be listened to between 9 and 12 o'clock in the morning, the interest was considerably less in 1969.

Of course, it should not be forgotten that a huge number, especially transistor radios of young people, between seven o'clock in the evening and three o'clock in the night, in England via medium wave was tuned to the 208 meters. In Luxembourg itself, people could listen via FM, while programmes were broadcast in four languages via two short-wave transmitters at the time.

According to the reports the Dutch and Flemish listeners to the Dutch-language hours would not suffer as a result because not only would a higher listening density be expected, but also a better reception during the early evening hours. This included the fact that the early evening hours were best suited for the transmission of entertainment music, and also referred to the results of the aforementioned listening research commissioned by the editorial staff of Radio Veronica.

This survey also mentioned that the willingness to listen for a long time was mainly in the evening period. Finally, it was added that the prices for advertising in the Dutch-language service would remain at the same level for the time being while a new listening survey would be conducted at the end of 1970, commissioned by the management of Radio Luxembourg. After that, prices would be adjusted if necessary. Luxembourg retained some of its listeners, but because of the poor reception in our country, more and more listeners, especially in the west, tuned in to Radio Veronica during the hours in question, while not much later a new radio station was to enter the market: Radio Nordsee International.

BINNENKORT
Ook in Groningen, Friesland en Drenthe
Radio Luxemburg
Rekord Beatshow
m.m.v. REKORD BEATGIRLS en TOP-D.J.'s
Felix Meurders, Peter Koelewijn,
John O' Toole
Boekingen, incl. eto alleen via R.B.S. Agency
Hoofdweg 32, Klein Dijk, Telefoon 05910 - 11914.

And since we are talking about Radio Luxembourg, an incident took place in Paris on 9 February 1974. Newspapers reported a raid on the studios of Radio Luxembourg. It turned out that an armed man had taken two persons hostage during four hours. He had a statement broadcast and surrendered when he was also allocated half an hour of television time for the evening. He also gave a short press conference in which he said his name was Jacques and that he was 40 at the time.

He had entered the studio, located on the Rue Bayard (near the Champs-Élysées), after telling that he was a truck driver who wished to speak to deejay Max Meunier. Meunier was well known to truck drivers because he always presented special programmes for them at night. Once inside the building, the man appeared to have a pistol and also showed a hand grenade, which later turned out to be made of plastic. He then walked through and fired a warning shot, demanding that the announcer on duty read a statement. In it, sharp criticism could be heard against the French government of the time, especially the tax system.

Naturally, a large police force was quickly mobilised, after which lengthy negotiations ensued, inter alia with the president of the French state broadcaster ORTF, Marceau Long, who granted the demanded broadcasting time on the three television networks and had the robber Jacques taken away by the police. Of course, he never got any airtime.

And another time more about Radio Luxembourg, the station of the stars and loved by many people as they could listen to radio 'in the fading'.

Well more from our readers and on the 28th of December 2021 came a surprise in an e mail from Jaap van Duijn: 'Attached are a few pictures of Veronica (I think the Borkum Riff). A friend of mine had a catamaran and made a trip with his crew to the first broadcasting

ship of Radio Veronica. In the photos taken on board the ship was Maarten Gips (the man with the pipe), the later captain of Caroline.



In the meantime Martin van der Ven has cleaned the photos a bit and put them in our Offshore Radio Flickr Archive where you can download these:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720295602205>

It was on December 30th 2021 exactly 30 years ago my recorder was running hour after hour to tape last day of recordings from Radio Luxembourg. Lucky I was when VPRO Radio invited me early this century to work together with Gerard Leenders for a documentary about the station, specially what became of the buildings, transmitter site and the Dutch programs. We visited the Grand Duchy and asked for instance for the archive, The old building, as well as the transmitter site were visited and in the end of the day we had some time to relax together with Dave Christian in

a pub which was frequently visited by the deejays when the station was still on the air.



Dave Christian Photo: Hans Knot

On January first I learned versus a posting of Linda Klein that John MacDonald, ex Voice of Peace deejay, passed away on September 6th 2021. In May John was taken into hospital after he was infected 10 weeks earlier with Gangrene. Linda worked close with John in the late eighties on the Peace ship.

When Don Stevens and I were invited to join in with Erich Friedlr, when he made a documentary on Abe Nathan's live and the Voice of Peace, we also met John MacDonald in Düsseldorf. That was in early 2013. Very sad to find out that another Voice of Peace hero has gone.

During the Gulf War in early nineties of last century he kept a diary of the happenings on the Voice of Peace as well as those during that war. It was published in OEM and in 2005 John also gave permission to take the story into the book about Abe Nathan and the Voice of Peace, which was published in Amsterdam 2006, as well on the on line Journal for Media and Music Culture Soundscapes.

'The Gulf War of 1991 did not leave the MV Peace untouched. In January the ship moves nearer to the Tel Aviv coast to guarantee ship-to-shore connections. Some days later presenter John MacDonald sees the first Scuds falling on the city and even closer by

in sea. Years later, he opened his diary to recall his memories of those disturbing days.

January 15th, 1991. The United Nations Deadline is due to expire at 07:00 hours local time tomorrow. There are now five crew members and two disc jockeys left on board the Voice of Peace. This afternoon we took on a load of supplies in case of problems later on. Some personal items I asked for were also delivered. My mother called the office; she was not exactly frantic but a little concerned. I managed a link up later on to her and demanded she reassure other family members. Writing to a friend later on, I made the point that I was more nervous now than I would be if anything happened.



Voice of Peace off the coast of Israel. Photo: Paul van Onzen

January 16th, 1991. I presented normal programmes today and worked very hard at not sounding nervous. I decided to make it easy by playing three or four songs in a row. This morning at 07:00 the ship was moved to a position ten miles off the coast off Tel Aviv. This outraged Abie Nathan as he was unable to hear us clearly on the Motorola ship-to-shore link. After a little negotiation we moved four miles closer to shore. Civil Defence in Israel suggests we keep our gas masks close to us. This would be fine if we had any. Equally it is not possible to seal a room in the event of a gas attack thanks to the air condition system. So we all kept watching TV to see if there was

anything we could do. Fortunately the Israeli Navy has promised to watch over us.

January 17th, 1991. At 02:02 the BBC World Service announced that bombs were falling on Baghdad. I was the only person awake on the ship at the time, so I informed the captain and then called Abie to request instructions. They were very simple, go to sleep. I mean really. Israel TV came on the air and they were relaying CNN at regular intervals. So with that and the BBC we remained informed. Much to my outrage there would be no local English news on TV until 08:00 despite a recent inauguration of English TV news. I guess there was no one awake in the early hours. Today we are playing peace songs. Daryl Richel, who is a Canadian, and I split the day up from 06:00 until 21:00 and get through it feeling exhausted. I watched the late relay of CNN and went to bed after preparing the following days commercials. The ship's crew is keeping watch and will inform us if there are any problems.

January 18th, 1991. It's 02:45 and I wake to hear that missiles have fallen on Tel Aviv. Why am I getting this information from the BBC? I rush to the bridge and discover that the radio is turned off. So I call the captain and inform him of the situation, then I go to the studio to call Abie and find out what he knows. Not very much. Well, the BBC will tell me what's happening, so I set up my radio next to the TV and await news. The TV comes back on at 03:10 from a secure location judging by the quality of the picture and a Richard Baker type announcer is doing gas mask demonstrations at regular intervals. There are civil defense films and music from Israeli artists. Turning to the radio I find Israel Radios' English service and am disgusted by the announcer who sounds as if he should be sitting on the toilet instead of broadcasting reassuring news and information. He manages to tell us that the population can now remove their gas masks and then the service switches to Russian. At 04:00 Miriam Herschlag begins the next English news broadcast. Her cool calm tones do much to undo the damage the previous announcer must have

caused. Arutz Sheva, the other ship that broadcasts from this area has left the coast and joined us six miles out. There is also a small dinghy from Tel Aviv Marina out here as well. The all-clear is given at 04:50 with requests for continued vigilance.



John Mac Donald waiting for another attack Photo OEM Archive

Who can sleep after that? I continue watching TV for details of damage and casualties. I have many friends in the Tel Aviv area and I want to know they are alright. Now something interesting happens. Israel radio and TV confirm that the country has been hit by missiles but refuse to say where for security reasons. However, on a short relay from CNN the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations announces that two missiles have fallen in the Tel Aviv area and one or two in Haifa. Although this relay is broadcast on state Television local announcers continue to refer to the impact sites being in Central and Northern Israel. The Mayor of Tel Aviv talks about having visited the scenes and casualty lists are given of seven lightly injured. So who should I believe? It is time to go to work and I take my first shift of the day for 4 hours from 09:00 till 13:00. By this time the only thing keeping me awake is willpower so after listening to the latest news at 13:00 from the BBC I go to sleep. I am back on duty at 17:00 for another four hour shift. I am informed that air raid sirens are sounding at 20:45. It is the Jewish Sabbath so an attack was expected.

It occurs to me that I am probably the first offshore broadcaster working during an air raid warning. It is a false alarm and the all-clear is sounded at 21:00. I switch off the transmitters and start preparing for the next day. Listening to the BBC later I hear that in the early hours of the morning two missiles had fallen in the Mediterranean. A phone call ashore reveals that at least one fell into the sea off Herzliya which is a few miles north of us. This is getting serious. Shortly after 23:00 I am called to the radio link and informed of a change of policy for the Voice of Peace. With immediate effect our transmitters will be open to Civil and Military authorities should they be required. I am told an attack is expected at any time so I re-open the station immediately and present music until 01:00 am. No attacks, no calls, so I close down and wonder if I will get a full night's sleep.

To read the complete version of John Mc. Donald's Diary go to:
<https://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/VOP/vop31.shtml>



E mail time and an interesting one from Robb Eden: I thought you might be interested in this. Robin Adcroft went out to the Radio City forts in 1972 and he took away a transmitter valve (attached). We've already had an offer of £350 but if anyone wishes to acquire it they need to e-mail zac.rensburg@outlook.com



And last of all, I dug this up from the Discogs site. It's an add we took in the booklet that accompanied the Saturnalia album in the early '70's. Thought you might be interested.

Maple Leaf Logo

The DJ's and staff of Radio Northsea wish Matrix Records and Saturnalia every success with their Magical Love Concert

ARNOLD LAYNE • DON ALLEN
BRIAN MCKENZIE • MIKE ROSS

on board the radio ship
MEBO 2

and **ROB EDEN** and all the staff in Zurich

thank you for your votes in this year's poll and for your continued support.

RADIO NORTHSEA INTERNATIONAL
— 220 metres MEDIUM WAVE

RNI
The "Voice" of Europe — The Sound of the World —

GET A "SATURNALIA" POSTER WITH SAME DESIGN AS PROGRAMME COVER (DIFFERENT COLOURING) SIZE 25" x 30"

FROM: MATRIX RECORDS, 6 HORSESHOE YARD, BROOK STREET, MAY FAIR, LONDON, W.1.

PRICE 75p OR "MAGICAL LOVE" 3D PICTURE RECORD AT SPECIAL PRICE OF £2.15 INCLUDING 28 PAGE BOOKLET.

PLEASE SEND ME A "SATURNALIA" POSTER
I ENCLOSE 75p AS FULL PAYMENT

PLEASE SEND ME FAN CLUB DETAILS

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PLEASE SEND ME A "MAGICAL LOVE" ALBUM
I ENCLOSE £2.15 AS FULL PAYMENT

Happy New Year & best wishes from all the family. Robb



Robin Banks on the fort 1972 Photo: Martin Stevens

On the 3rd of January, Wouter Verbaan informed us that Maarten van der Harst died suddenly in his beloved Scheveningen, mid-December 2021. Maarten was one of the very first on-board technicians for Radio Veronica on the Borkum Riff in 1960. One of the 'silent' but very important people who kept the station going. When Borkum Riff was exchanged in November 1964 for the then new broadcasting ship Norderney, Maarten moved with it.

He eventually stayed with Radio Veronica until well into 1970. On his tenth anniversary it was Tineke de Nooij who presented Maarten with a golden Veronica pin in the studio at Laapershoek in Hilversum, a pin which has unfortunately been lost.



Maarten van der Harst (right) in the studio on the Borkum Riff

After his time with Radio Veronica, Maarten van der Harst, who has reached the age of 80, worked in the security sector. He has always lived in his Scheveningen neighbourhood and after his retirement made almost daily cycle trips around Greater The Hague, to which Scheveningen also belongs. In turn, Maarten belonged to the club of friends of Hans Verbaan, who died in 1988 and is known from FRC Holland, in which his brother was also involved. Wouter has always kept in touch with Maarten.



Maarten in 2021. Photo Wouter Verbaan

Next a reaction on all the videos Martin has in his special cinema, as mentioned earlier in the report. It's from Per Alarud in Sweden

I've just been watching several of the videos that you released/presented from the radio meetings in Germany. I've never been to any of those meetings, but now I got a chance to watch and listen to all the interesting reviews that was presented. The interview with Robin Banks about his days with RNI in Libya was interesting. Today I finished the Hans Knot interview that you

made, also very good and interesting.

The Driemaster interview was also well worth a listen. As I'm living in Sweden I was very happy with RNI, since they were broadcasting on SW. The MW transmissions was always more difficult. As both Caroline South and North were broadcasting on frequencies close to the R Sweden 100 kW on 1178 kHz, where I was living very near the Tx, it was very tricky to pick up Caroline. As for RNI on 1368 there were 3 stations in Poland, on the same frequency, which made it difficult to make a "null" of them.

I also remember when Veronica switched to 557 kHz (538 m) I thought that they had gone off the air. Just across the Baltic from where I was living, there was a station in the DDR with 100 kW which made reception of Radio Veronica impossible. As for MW frequencies in the offshore days, I always had problems with Caroline in the 80's, since Finland was on the same frequency. Their signal was in the opposite direction, so a loop antenna did not help much. Today 648 kHz is clear at my location, so I receive Radio Caroline, at dark, quite good. But sound quality on MW is not the best any longer... My wife for instance listens to NDR Schlager on her smart speaker. Just press a button and it plays.

Well, happy memories. So thanks again for giving us a chance to watch these movies from the radio days. Best regards, Per Alarud'.

Recently Paul Rusling mentioned the death of a very close friend of Ronan O'Rahilly and wrote to me: Ronan had many friends, many of whom didn't know the others as he had a theory about compartmentalizing his life. One of his closest pals in recent years was Sean Kelly, who lived near Dundalk and who died in December. Sean was another 'free thinker', devoted to the Irish nationalist cause and to his family and friends. He was a strong advocate of many radical causes and enjoyed talking for hours on everything Irish.

When Ronan moved back to Ireland the two of them would often spend a day at the races, and sometimes not follow the card, just sitting talking and "putting the world to rights". Sean will be missed by his many friends, but especially by his family to whom he was utterly devoted. Rest in Peace Sean, our dear fellow traveler.'



January 8th was the start of the new Radio Mi Amigo. Wim van de Water from Mediapages followed the first weekend and wrote afterwards: 'Last weekend was the official start of Mi Amigo Radio. With the sound and the DJs of the former offshore radio station. The team of Mi Amigo Radio is overwhelmed by the success of their opening weekend. The start of Mi Amigo Radio attracted a lot of listeners and the flow of positive reactions was endless. Eric Hofman reports that Mi Amigo Radio is already the best listened to station on several platforms.

Marc Jacobs is still overwhelmed: "So many listeners and so many positive reactions, we never expected this. Frans van der Drift is also very happy with the success: "Thanks to all our listeners for their trust, this really gives us wings and stimulates us to keep on making beautiful radio with Mi Amigo". Due to the great success and the number of listeners, Mi Amigo Radio has started a second stream that can be accessed through the website and the app. Mi Amigo Radio was founded by Sylvain Tack's former employees and deejays

and a number of former Maeva deejays. The station operates from Playa de Aro and aims at the Dutch-speaking inhabitants of Spain. The 70s predominate at Mi Amigo, but the other decades, the new fresh hits and the Dutch language work are not forgotten. From Monday to Friday, the Amigo's will present their Mi Amigo Music Stream according to a new concept! On Saturday and Sunday, the Mi Amigo deejays will present their legendary shows as if they had never left! DJ's of Mi Amigo Radio are Marc Jacobs, Ferry Eden, Frans van der Drift, Maurice Bokkebroek, Bart van Gogh, Ton Schipper, Theo van de Velde, Eric Hofman, Marc Hermans and Steve Foster.

<https://miamigoradio.es/?fbclid=IwAR2jjMb4GEmJ8DvkOgu5vyxnR3WmRLandae9jMUoNbS6rBu2GoVFfhf3Ws8>

On Saturday January 29th there was a four hour program on Radio 5, MAX as a farewell to our Dutch Queen of the radio with more than 60 years of experience: Tineke de Nooij. She started her career with Radio Veronica and stayed there up till the last minutes in August 1974, when there came an end to the offshore radio period of the station. But she stayed active in radio first with the NOS and when the VOO (Veronica Broadcasting Organisation) became an official license she was responsible for the classical programs on the new Radio 4.. But also she got her own television talkshow during daytime slot, which was unique in the Netherlands in the seventies of last century.

When commercial television was planned in the Netherlands she worked for RTL and made several television programs, travelling with her team all over the world. With an interval of some years, without being heard and seen on the radio and television, she came back in 2010 with her own radio program on Radio 5, where she could be heard all weekdays. Next, after 60 years, she decided to present a show only on Saturdays. She had a constant viewing and listening audience and had many well-known and lesser-known artists in her programmes, whom she gave a warm platform. Besides her

broadcasting work, Tineke devoted herself to numerous charitable causes. The last broadcast on Radio 5 offered Tineke her own personal Top 40, and all records in the list were tuned to her life. A wonderful idea, conceived by Erik de Zwart, whereby it must be said that Erik presented the programme in a very pleasant and agreeable way.

Halfway through the fourth hour of the farewell programme, the mayor of Baarn, where Tineke lives, entered the studio not only to address her but also to honour and award her with a knighthood in the Order of Orange Nassau on behalf of King Willem Alexander! An honour that, in my opinion, should have been given many years earlier.



Tineke after becoming 'Ridder in de Orde van Oranje Nassau'

Photo: René van den Abeelen.

And René van den Abeelen not only made this photo but also wrote a wonderful memory from his youth which I want to publish:

'In the days leading up to the Saturday on which the very last Tineke Show was to be broadcast, and also on the day itself, many people reminisced.

About listening to Tineke with her legendary Coffee Time, at work, with a transistor radio in the windowsill next to the desk. At home, during the usual household activities. In the car, on the way to a business appointment or to the beach on a day off.

About listening to Tineke with her evening program, when the reception was often a bit less, but you stayed tuned to listen to completely different music. Progressive, experimental, album tracks. All too often with your radio next to you, in bed.

I too have memories like that, of course, but I also have a few others. One is from my first meeting with her in June 1974 in a parking lot in Scheveningen. At the time, Veronica was touring with the big mobile studio, Truus, to record programs on location and to recruit members for the public broadcasting organization with which Veronica hoped to survive.

At that time I made programs with a number of friends that we passed on to each other on cassettes and being a big Veronica fan I wanted to interview Tineke for that. And so, on my 17th birthday, I cycled to Scheveningen, with my portable mono cassette recorder in a plastic bag, complete with the simple microphone.

When Tineke had recorded her program, she continued to chat for a while, but then she left. While walking away she was of course always addressed by fans, but in the end she left the crowds behind. I followed at a distance. A few hundred yards away was a small parking lot and then it was important to talk to her because once she was in her car I could of course forget it. Trembling with nerves, I caught

up with her and called her name. She stopped and looked at me questioningly.

I introduced myself and explained that I wanted to ask her a few questions. How did the recruitment process go? Whether 'we' now had enough for broadcasting status. When the broadcasts from sea should be stopped. She answered it as naturally as she always sounded on the radio and a few moments later waved a friendly wave as she drove off to go to Hilversum.

I had the interview I wanted! (And I still have it!) The first Famous Person I interviewed. And one of my radio heroes!

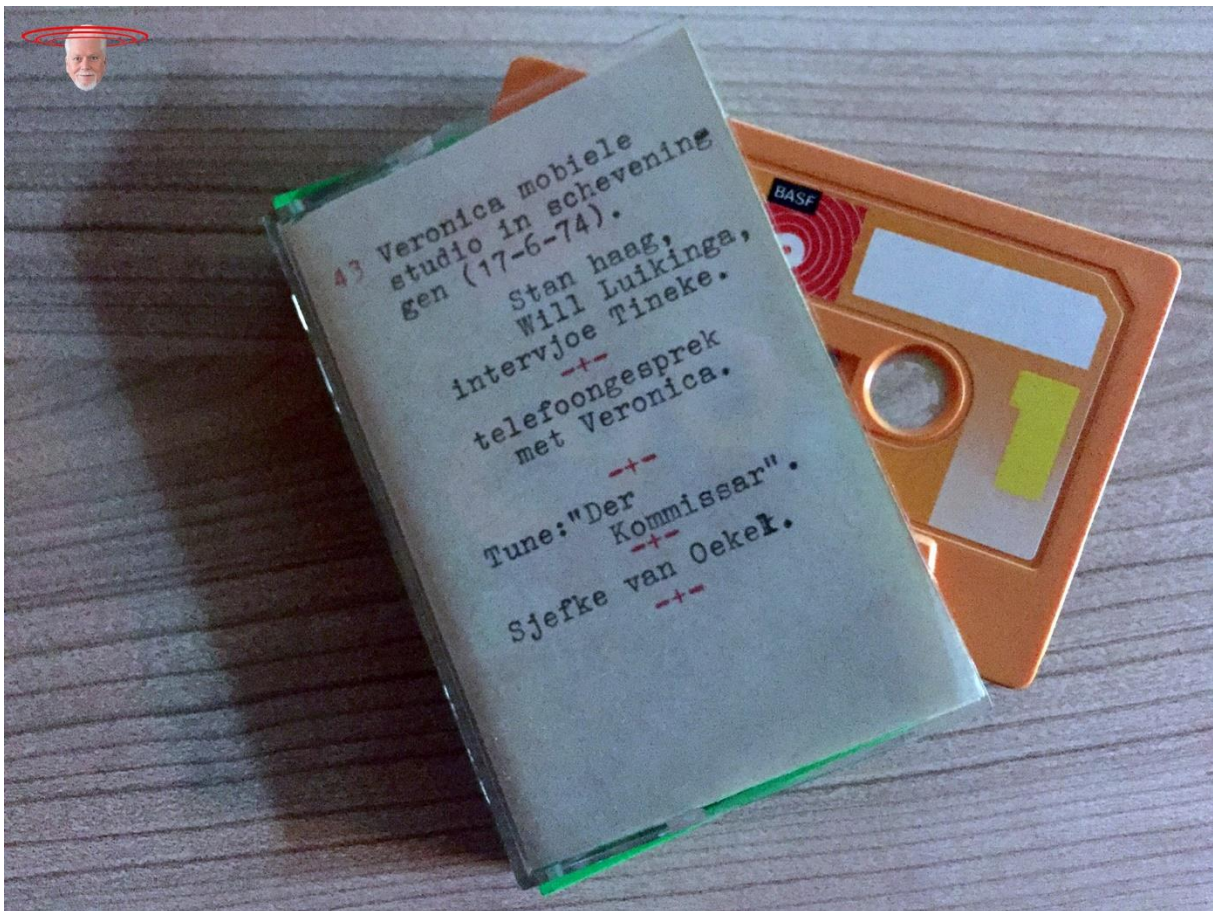


Photo: René van den Abeelen

Message from Mary Payne from the Wonderful Radio London pages.

'I'm very pleased to say that we have finally finished the tribute pages to Philip Birch. Most people's tributes have been about Philip's career in general, but we have focused on his time at the helm of Radio London. We hope we have managed to do him justice. With very best wishes, Mary and Chris

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/birch/pbtribute.html>

And for more about Radio London visit this part of the site

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html>

Another sad news came in on Sunday January 23rd when from two sources the death of Ben Bode was announced. He died on the 21st in an hospital in Antwerp, Belgium. See what Paul Rusling wrote: 'Some very sad news to share; I just had a call to say that Ben Bode has passed away. Terrible news for me, and my family, we all loved Ben, a good friend for many years now. For those who don't know, it was Ben who organised the return of Radio Caroline in early 1979, as a Dutch station and who ran the office in The Hague. He then ran Radio Paradijs, arrested by the Dutch authorities off Scheveningen. Another of the Radio Caroline generals - I shall miss his weekly phone calls and crazy stories. Ben - Thank you for the music and so many other things. Rest in Peace my friend.'

Tom Bremer from RadioVisie on line wrote a obituary about Ben Bode: 'He wrote his first column for RadioVisie in January 2018, exactly four years ago. Seventy instalments of 'Plaatje maar weer' were to be published. His writing style was unique, always fluent, always funny, always with (sometimes sharp) humour. Ben was well versed in the world of radio, especially that of the offshore stations.

He was involved in one of the four chapters of the chaotic adventure of Radio Delmare (1978). In the beginning of 1979, he organised the return of Radio Caroline, as a Dutch language offshore radio station,

from the MV Mi Amigo from an office in The Hague. Then he threw himself into Radio Paradijs, another offshore radio station that was on the air for a short time from the Magda Maria. The station was commissioned by the Flemish and Dutch owners, who were more to be found in the right-wing. Just before the programmes could start, the broadcasting ship was boarded by the Dutch Navy and arrested. Ben was arrested. Paradijs could first be heard on Sunday 26 July 1981 on 270 metres with test broadcasts, which would last until the day of entry - Saturday 1 August 1981. After that he was the initiator behind Radio Monique, broadcasting from the MV Ross Revenge (1984-1987).



Ben Bode Personal collection Ben

Ben was also active in Belgium, from the beginning of free radio. He set up the production company Probe Scores (The Hague and Antwerp). One of the first orders came from the Antwerp - then still illegal - Radio Atlantis, with a studio in a rented room in the city's Tourist Hotel, where the transmitter and the transmission mast were also located. Many Flemish local radio stations would call

on him, as would the VRT and the Dutch broadcasting association KRO. He also produced advertising spots. Even the French-speaking market knew how to find him: Radio Contact, Kiss FM, NRJ. Ben often worked together with Peter van Dam. Eventually Ben left the radio business altogether, but continued to live in Antwerp, where he was a caretaker until his death. Ben Bode was 66 and died Friday in a hospital in Antwerp.'

Next just coming in is the update from Jon Myer at the Pirate Hall of Fame:

'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New this month:

- the belated news of the death of Radio 270's Robin Best;
- a 1964 visit to Radio Caroline South;
- two newspaper articles about Radio Caroline from 1978/1979 supplied by their author, Stewart Payne, along with his memories of staying on board the ship;
- and three Radio Northsea 'Super Hit 50' charts from 1971 courtesy of Ben Meijering.

My grateful thanks to all the contributors.
Back next month with more.

Best wishes,
Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

With this update I'll finish this edition of the Hans Knot International Report. Next one will be early spring 2022. As always keep reflecting on the report, share photos, memories and any question is also welcome at HKnot@home.nl

Best greetings from Groningen in the Netherlands, Hans Knot

