

Hans Knot International Radio Report

Spring 2022

Welcome to yet another edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and it is not far away that it was 20 years ago the first edition was published. I can tell you already that this edition will be a long read as so much was coming in from the readers with memories, sad news, questions and more, as well as I wrote another own story. There will be news about my new book and some surprising photographs.

Let's start with an interesting piece of information from Jan Sundermann in Germany who wrote: 'Hallo Hans, recently I was looking for historical listings of mediumwave frequencies and I found the homepage of Walter Brummer:

<http://www.wabweb.net/radio/frames/qrgf.htm>

In his list covering the year 1934 for example, you can find the original Radio Antwerpen on 1492 kHz. Walter is an Austrian radio historian and I asked him, if he has any knowledge about OEY21, the Schulungssender, The Austrian Army Training Transmitter. Many readers will remember, that in the 1970s and 1980s there had been that station audible on 6255 kHz, Monday to Friday with music and teaching programmes, directed to Austrian army members in normal amplitude modulation.

According the files of Chet Reuther, the Schulungssender was also on 6221 in a certain period. The station was not far away from RNI on the frequency scale, just outside the 49m band. A frequency range that is originally reserved for maritime radio communications. But not only the landbased pirates are using that band on the weekends, also some bigger broadcasters like TWR Monaco did, and this army station during the week.

The band watch of countries being friends with each other seems to be more tolerant in case of military stations, than of others.

Wir danken für den Empfangsbericht unserer Kurzwellensendung

Rufzeichen OEY 21 OEY 52

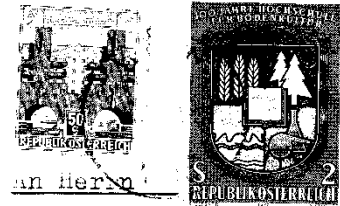
Frequenz 6255 kHz

von 21.09. bis MEZ
am 19.04.1975

Wir freuen uns, Ihren Empfangsbericht bestätigen zu können.

Wien, am 11.07.1975

R 4524A



Jean Sundermann

Here is the reply of Walter on the history of Schulungssender OEY21 and OEY52, free for your publication: 'The Austrian Army Training Transmitter "Schulungssender des Österreichischen Bundesheeres" was an institution of the troop`s school on telecommunication "Fernmeldetruppschule" at Starhemberg-Kaserne barracks in the south of Vienna. The address is Gussriegelstraße 45 for the barrack`s entrance gate. Vienna people just call the place "Trostkaserne", as is located at street Troststraße. Formerly this barracks was also home of a telecommunication batallion. Those units in their classical sense do not exist anymore today due to changed challenges, so in 2011 was a general change of the name to Führungsunterstützungsschule, what means a school for support in leading:

<https://www.bundesheer.at/sk/cyber/fueus.shtml>

The troop`s school on telecommunication was at the eastern part of the barracks on Malborghetgasse street. The studio of Schulungssenders was on 2nd floor and quite small. The transmitter was on top floor inside a small chamber. It was a valve transmitter of elderly design with a power of 1 kW, a cabinet 2 metres high and about 700 kg in weight. This was removed in 1982. The remaining of the transmitter is unknown. Antenna was a dipole strained in

northern - southern direction above the building's roof. On the Wikimedia photograph of 2010 the dipole is still hanging there:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/Troststra%C3%9Fe_21.JPG

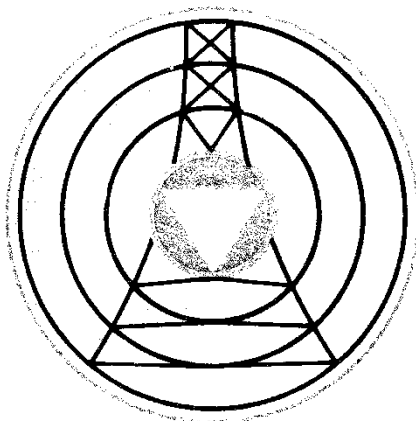


Today on the roof is a rotation able shortwave yagi. This barracks was always home of AMRS (Austrian Military Radio Society), an association of amateur radio operators within the army. There is their club station OE1XBH. This antenna one can see on:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/id_ejs/10367400493

With this equipment described above, the Schulungssender OEY21 was broadcasting from 1972 to 1979 out of Starhemberg-Kaserne. In 1979 they moved into a government building at Franz-Josefs-Kai 7-9 in the so called Industriepalast:
<https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Industriepalast>

As in 1978 the ministry of defense partially moved out of that Vienna building, they found much more space for the station and transmitter now. Beside lack of space very probably also problems with the neighborhood of Malborghetgasse had led to that move. Opposite to the former place, in 1976 was built an apartment house higher than the barracks. So the upper floors had been in full radiation from the antenna. As also the site at Franz-Josefs-Kai is surrounded at three sides from high buildings, it is the question, if there the transmitter ever had been operated.

The Austrian army owned at time numerous shortwave transmitters, some of remained equipment from the US Army, when they left Austria in 1955, some still from the German Wehrmacht. The Schulungssender programme was therefor - some say from beginning on - also alternatively transmitted by OEY52 from the barracks at Wals-Siezenheim nearby Salzburg. There was also a larger shortwave station for radio communication with the UNO troops on Cyprus and at Golan Heights.



AUSTRIAN ARMY-TRAINING TRANSMITTER

SCHULUNGSSENDER

des

Österreichischen Bundesheeres

A1102 WIEN Gußriegelstraße 45

OEY 21 OEY 52

In 1978 the Austrian Army took over transmitting equipment of Austrian Post for international telephone communication located at Fleckendorf nearby Ansfelden in the province Oberösterreich. There they had two transmitters of 20 kW (sometimes also as 30 kW mentioned). The existing rhombus antennas had been substituted by dipoles. The site was on the open country and much better in terms of transmitting properties and safety on interferences.

From 1983 onwards only from that site had been transmitted on 5030 resp. 5035 kHz and from 1986 also on 3378 kHz. Always have been claimed 10 kW of transmitting power. In 1989 the Schulungssender ended its activities. The site at Fleckendorf was closed in 1996 and all shortwave equipment was removed. Today there is only one lattice tower left of the formerly directional

transmitter station and the transmitter building, both used commercially now.

At Vienna Starhemberg-Kaserne is a small technical radio museum:
<https://www.hgm.at/ausstellungen/standorte-und-aussenstellen/fernmeldesammlung>

A bigger shortwave transmitter seems not to be at the exhibition. The museum is actually closed, future visitors shall inform themselves in time. Jan Sundermann'

A very interesting article Jan and surely a very fine opener for this edition of the International Radio Report. Next it's e mail time and as normal The Emperor is part of the fast reflectors. 'Greetings from L.A. Hans thanks for the updates! I can only echo last reports Glories and Must. See this for those interested in UK radio history! I have heard the Netflix documentary on the life of Jimmy Savile has been chopped and edited and 'left on the cutting room floor', as the songs goes. It appears it is mainly now for the USA and not for the UK, so my pearls of wisdom won't apply. There is talk of a re-edit for the UK so we shall see what happens.'

Thanks for this info Emperor but in common I think no one in UK and Western Europe is waiting for this special about JS with all he has done wrong in his life. A sad thing that recently another former BBC Radio One deejay, who also worked for Radio Luxembourg, has been put in jail for 11 years for 'grotesque sexual abuse' of children.

And the Emperor went on with: 'These days everything must be seen or added to via the screen podcast to make noise, we are a long way from tubes and transmitters. However just the like sound quality from vinyl, the old ways had more soul! Speaking of visuals, an indie company in Australia is putting together a report on the EMP and soul music. Featuring the fun times we had with groups touring the UK.


The history of Stax records has been filmed and will be out next Spring. My contributions will be allowed this time! I guess we have to move with the turbulent times. Of the three I know about, I will be telling it like it is for the fans.

ODDEON HAMMERSMITH
Manager: D. TAPSELL Phone: RIV 4221
6.45 - SATURDAY, 8th APRIL - 9.0

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(INSTEAD OF THE USUAL FILM PROGRAMME)

ARTHUR HOWES in association with
PHIL WALDEN & STAX RECORDS
present

OTIS REDDING



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ARTHUR CONLEY **EDDIE FLOYD**

THE MAR-KEYS **COMPERE AL BELL**

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Well thanks for the info Mike and hope both documentaries will find their way to the readers in time. But the Emperor is still searching for people he know from the past:

'Now my plea for lost contact. First it's Rick Dane! Please come back all is forgiven! He and Bob Herd, ex pals who have disappeared may get the word to contact me.'

Well Mike there is a very interesting internet page from Jon Myer at the Pirate Hall of Fame on which every English language deejays from offshore radio are mentioned, divided over three decades. Here is what is mentioned about Rick:

Rick Dane There seems to be some confusion as to where and when Rick was born. *Who's Who In Pop Radio* says it was Cape Town, South Africa. John Venmore-Rowland's *Radio Caroline* claims Port Louis, Mauritius, on 22nd February 1941. A 1967 profile in the *New Musical Express* says Mauritius but prefers the birth year of 1945. The article also gives his real name as Randal Gautier. All agree that, while still a teenager, he worked on Springbok Radio in South Africa as well as compèring touring pop package shows.

Rick came to England and studied acting at the Webber Douglas Academy, performing in a stage version of *The Knack* and acting alongside Vanessa Redgrave in *The World's Baby* at London's Royal Court Theatre. After a spell as resident DJ at the Wimbledon Palais, Rick joined Radio Caroline in early 1966. He worked on both ships and had a couple of different theme tunes: *All For You* by Earl Van Dyke and *In The Midnight Hour* by Little Mack and the Boss Sound.

He was involved in a drama at sea when, in May 1966, he helped rescue two female sailors when their catamaran got into trouble near Caroline South. After he left the ship at the end of 1966, Rick continued to be heard on the station via the pre-recorded *Lucky Birthday Bonanza* competition. He was involved in the promotion of concerts at London's Saville Theatre, then owned by Beatles manager Brian Epstein, and was one of the many ex-pirates to join Radio One at its launch in September 1967. He co-hosted an edition of *Top Gear* with Pete Drummond on 22nd October 1967 and presented a series called *Radio One O'Clock* the following year but

did not stay with the station for long. He also appeared in a 1967 movie *The Mini Affair* (also known as 'The Mini-Mob') alongside singer Georgie Fame and a cast that included Clement Freud, Clive Dunn, Roy Kinnear and Willie Rushton. Rick worked in club promotion, both in the UK and on the continent, later running a company that installed audio-visual equipment to the hospitality industry, based in Miami, Florida.'



Rick Dane Photo David Kendrid

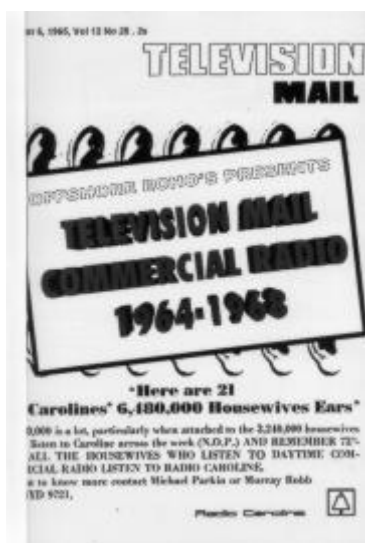
And also the Emperor is on search for Bob Herd: 'The key word is that he was with space Agency on Kings Road in London and was an agent, if anyone knows him ask him to say I'm still on search.

It is wonderful now to refer back to a study conducted in a Dutch newspaper on April 7th 1964, in which the different ways of making radio were compared. 'It was decided to carry out this experiment between 11 and 12 in the morning by first tuning in to Radio Caroline and occasionally allowing Veronica to join in. With hoempa march

music and advertisements for a grocery combination, the radio ship broadcasting in Dutch, the nationality of which is hard to determine, gave exactly what one can expect from a commercial radio station. Radio Caroline we caught, clearer than the sound of Veronica and right in the middle of a very nice American record. The improvisation of the radio actor, who seemed to be playing doctor with changing partners. Commercials are not expected in the programmes of the Panamanian broadcasting ship this week either.

What strikes one immediately when listening to these programmes is the pithy, professional tone of the presentation that is certainly not inferior to that of the BBC Light Programme. The big surprise of our game with the tuning clock was the broadcast of Hilversum II. Ageeth Scherphuis presented the programme for the woman 'Even bij praten'. The main purpose of this catch-up programme was to bring a commercial slant.

The ladies listening were made aware of all kinds of new gadgets and were talked into all kinds of objects. One cannot speak of advertising in the strictest sense of the word. Advertising implies mentioning the manufacturer's names. As long as this form of advertising is not permitted on Dutch radio, one will have to make do with informative information.'



Almost the same day the trade Magazine Television Mail brought the news that on May 1st 1964 the first commercial could be heard on

Radio Caroline: 'Mr. H. Walter, the general manager of the Performing Right Society, said their first offer of a license to Caroline had been withdrawn to give them time to consider. He explained that what seemed a simple operation had become a minor crisis.

In the light of the PMG's disapproval and the opposition of the Phonographic Performance Ltd they would wait. The deputy General of PP confirmed the legal proceedings are taken against Planet Productions for a violation of the Copyright Act 1956.' Strange it was that only in the header of this item the first commercial was mentioned.

Later on in the report an answer to the question, from the same month in 1964, if listening to offshore radio people became guilty of offending the law.

Next Paul Rowley who said goodbye to the BBC in October last year. First a link to an article:

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2021/10/broadcaster-paul-rowley-leaves-the-bbc-after-47-years-in-radio/>

And more from an e mail exchange with me in February: 'Your excellent reports on offshore radio have been a "must read" part of my life for many years. It's a bit strange not being on the wireless every day after being in the business so long.

I've taken voluntary redundancy, along with around several hundred others at the BBC in the last year. I was the longest serving (and the oldest) political correspondent in the organisation, and I spent 20 years in commercial broadcasting before I joined the corporation in 1994, having been involved in the early years of Independent Local Radio.

So it feels like the right time to move on. If you've got a spare half-hour and you haven't heard it, Radio Today did an interview with me about my departure. There are lots of mentions of pirate radio.

https://radiotoday.co.uk/podcast/?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=24+hours+in+radio+with+No+Sheet+Music+-+the+latest+radio+news+for+%28firstname%2Cfallback%3Dyou%29&utm_campaign=20211110_m165447732_24+hours+UK&utm_term=radio+industry+podcast

I've had an extraordinarily fulfilling life, Hans. I've been incredibly lucky. Listening to the pirates as a 9-year old in 1964 inspired me to become a broadcaster. The radio documentaries I've done have been among the proudest things I've done. It was also a joy to host the Radio Caroline North seminar at Radio Day in Amsterdam in 2012 which I notice has recently been put on You Tube. Thank you for all your hard work in keeping the flame burning for offshore radio, Hans. Paul Rowley.'



Paul in 2012 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Thanks Paul for sharing the information as well as the links and surely there will be readers listening to the radio podcast interview. Excellent what an enormous career in radio. Congratulations. So many memories came along in this 25 minutes. And of course you've a wonderful memories of things.

Next we go to Australia 'Hi, Sir Hans: Thank you for continuing to update nostalgia! I have been viewing the mentioned videos. I was also reading a radio reception report. Whose technicalities reminded me of a ham radio club in Manchester (UK). I found the [http://www.radiofax.org/radiooddities.html] Surrey technical

article fascinating. Wow, the description of lightning strike was crazy!

Unfortunately my French is no longer good enough for listening to a Radio Luxembourg interview with Rosko. I remember in my Manchester high school that station was popular among the boys. I ended by listening to an MP3 recording of the first RNI transmission. Bryan Kilgallin.'

Thanks Bryan and you must have had a wonderful day by exploring the winter edition of the International radio report.

Nobert Dengler send a link to an item on NDR Television February. It 's about the Galaxy from Radio London in Hamburg and Kiel with very interesting shots:

https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/sendungen/schleswig-holstein_magazin/zeitreise/Zeitreise-Die-Reise-des-Pop-Schiffes-Galaxy-endete-in-Kiel,zeitreise3618.html

Just a few days after it became known that Tom Hardy aka Steve Zodiac passed away, Enda W. Caldwell came back with: 'Miles T. Johnston has produced this 33 min video with more new rare footage on Steve Zodiac on air on The Mi Amigo and also speaking from his office at Radio Nova at 19 Herbert Street in Dublin on the subject of illegal Garda and P&T raids on the Superpirates in May 18th of 1983.

RTE later illegally jammed Radio Nova and Sunshine unjustly and unfairly using government and public resources to fund illegal transmitters to block Nova and Sunshine's signals over a period of years. <https://rumble.com/vx7ikz-brian-johnson-aka-tom-hardy-1954-2022-irish-era-in-brief-kiss-fm-closedown-.html>

We come back to Tom Hardy further on in the report. In our last issue of the report was a question from a reader about a new station

Sunlite Radio on which I responded with the answer that maybe Herbert Visser has an answer and here he is: 'As of 1971 the MEBO II was rented by a Dutch music- and publishing firm called Strengholt. Its subsidiary Basart ran Radio Northsea International and paid the rent and all operational costs of the MEBO II under the condition that there also would be nighttime programming in English under the supervision of MEBO LTD in Zurich.

Strengholt's landbased offices were at the Flevolaan in Naarden from where Dutch programmes were recorded, commercials were sold and the total radio station was being managed. The building, de Hofstede, to this day is owned by Strengholt but a part of the building is rented out to RadioCorp; another company with no involvement from Strengholt, and RadioCorp owns and operates the radiostations 100% NL, SLAM! and now also Sunlite from this building.

Sunlite is a softpop music station available on DAB+ in the Netherlands as well as online and on cable and it was launched early November. As of December 4th Sunlite can also be heard on 5955 khz; the former shortwave frequency of Radio Netherlands (de Wereldomroep) with now a power of half a kilowatt. But the only connection between Sunlite and RNI of course is that it's coming from the same place in Naarden, the Netherlands. And that RadioCorp was founded by a big RNI-fan in the early 1970's.



Beautiful picture Hofstede Oud Bussem photo made on behalf of
Strengtholt Company 2013

Other offshore connections in Dutch commercial radio: Strengtholt founded a new Radio Noordzee in 1992 which eventually was sold and sold again and changed its name into Qmusic and currently belongs to the top-rated radio stations in the Netherlands. John de Mol is a Dutch media-mogul who actually worked at RNI and whose late father was the managing director of RNI. He owns the commercial radio stations Radio 538, Radio 10, Radio Veronica and Sky Radio. Each of these stations were founded by people with strong offshore radio roots and of course Radio Veronica and Radio 538 were named after the offshore Veronica 538. The traces of offshore radio are still strong in the Dutch commercial radio world'.

Thanks a lot Herbert for this information and above that Herbert has also an own wonderful memory to share going back in time more than 40 years:

'What I remember about Radio Paradise is that on that Sunday 26th July 1981 in the morning I was spinning on medium wave and heard 'Draw of the Cards' by Kim Carnes. This with a powerful signal at a place on the analogue tuning scale that I knew was not a station. It turned out to be a tape of Tony Allen being broadcast on Irish Radio Nova (Chris Cary's station which I could also receive in the early morning on AM).

I was in the east of the Netherlands, where medium wave pirates were quite common but with polkas and Dutch Hoempapa music. So I thought: "which local AM pirate here is now broadcasting tapes of Radio Nova from Ireland? So maybe this is an offshore radio station? I then phoned Dirk Vanoirbeek in Sint Truiden in Belgium to ask him if he could receive it too, and he could, so I knew then that this could not be a local AM pirate.

Around 10 o'clock in the morning the tape of Radio Nova abruptly stopped and was replaced by only Dutch music without a station

announcement but presented by another recognizable voice; that of Carl de Jong of Radio Caroline aka Peter Teekamp.

After that one day of broadcasting, the tests stopped and the story was that the transmitters would be converted to another frequency. And on the 1st of August the boat was towed into harbour by the authorities. But I am sure that there was only one day of broadcasting by Radio Paradise and not that Paradise remained on the air until the raid by the Royal Navy on August 1st in 1981. A station name was not mentioned that day but much later I heard from Fred Bolland that the Dutch language music on the 26th of July was not Radio Paradijs but actually Radio Monique who would also broadcast from that boat.



MV Hoheweg, which became later the Radio Paradijs ship. Photo: collection Ben Bode in the SMC Archive

Thanks a lot Herbert for this memory from the summer of 1981. Let's now go back to the edge of the summer of 1966: Recently I was listening to an old programme of Radio Caroline North with Mick Luvzit, from Canada. He passed away in 2012 but years earlier he sent me a beautiful photo reportage of his wedding, which at the time was with his Janet Teret on board the MV Fredericia, the broadcasting ship on which he was active. The captain on duty in September 1966 was Martin Gisp from the Netherlands, who had full rights to conduct a marriage in international waters. Gisp himself was 32 years young and single at the time.

It was a unique event on September 20th 1966, as it was the first and only time in the history of the offshore radio stations that a marriage was arranged and could be heard live on Radio Caroline North, presented by Graham Webb. But before that could take place the couple, including family and guests, had to be brought to the Fredericia, the radio ship from which Radio Caroline North transmitted in international waters off the coast of the Island of Man.

On forehand it became known that this special marriage would take place and a lot of people had planned to go out with their boats into international waters to attend on or nearby the radio ship the special event. The various newspapers that reported in the days that followed were full of stories. Hundreds of people had gathered around the local pub in the harbour of Ramsey Bay. People were weighing up the chances of being able to sail to the Fredericia and some of the islanders on Man looked at the invasion of teenagers and twentysomethings, dressed mostly in pop clothes and miniskirts, with a look of surprise. Clearly expressions of the time.



Mick and Janet

But the chance to actually witness something of the ceremony was few and far between as the weather conditions were lousy. The fog was getting in the way of many of them. On board *Caroline North*, of course, they also knew about the problem, and the ceremony was eventually delayed by three hours. The majority of the planned visitors had to make do with a chilly pitch on the quayside by the harbour pub, while listening to the live coverage via *Caroline North* and the many transistor radios brought along.

The blessing of marriage, by the way, was a figuratively colourful happening, with the station's listeners glued to the radio. The attendees on the radio ship were noisy at first, which is why Captain Gisp decided to ring the ship's bell long and loud to restore calm. It was also a great celebration for Fredericia's crew, as under normal circumstances no women, who were not employed by the organization, were allowed, which was not the case on this special day. The ration on alcohol, 2 beers a day, was also abandoned. Everyone drank as much as he/she wanted and there was either no shortage of female beauty.



And the fact that hardly any women came on board at other days was evident during a tour of the broadcast ship. On many walls there were pictures of only little dressed ladies. Beforehand, when it was

announced that the captain would be performing the wedding, he realised that he had no official uniform and the Coast Guard was contacted to borrow one. Surprisingly, an extra tender came to the broadcast ship with, among other things, a new uniform that had been rushed from the Netherlands.

Among those invited were members of the pop group Rocking Vickers, Wayne Fontana, Lulu and the Hollies. But also important people such as Luciano Sanchez, Panama's consul-general in the UK, who was invited because the wedding was held on the ship, which had the Panamanian registration and therefore their country's flag.

Afterwards, he told a journalist that he was very happy to have been invited and would not have missed that beautiful day for anything. "I thought this wedding was the most romantic I have ever attended, partly because it was celebrated at sea." Sanchez also greatly admired Janet Teret's bridal outfit, which was white trousers with a matching vest and beautiful embellishments. Janet had designed the dress herself in her brother's business, where she had been appointed manager at the time.



Captain Martin Gisp and the married couple

After the ceremony and a toast with all those present, Mr. and Mrs. Luvzitt returned to the Isle of Man, where the festivities continued in a public country house in the company of family and friends. There was also one person who actually did not agree with the event. It

turned out that the Reverend Bishop of the Isle of Man Anglican Church thought it was all a big publicity stunt for Radio Caroline and completely mocked what marriage normally stands for.

And, of course, there is the question of how the parents of the bride had experienced the blessing of the marriage. Not too well, as they did not reach the broadcast ship. Even the Dutch newspaper 'De Telegraaf' reported on it because among the many victims of the bad weather in Great Britain was the Teret couple and one of their children. They were stuck at Manchester airport in the thick fog and had no way of getting on a plane to the Isle of Man. They were stuck for up to seven hours and thanks to a stewardess, who lent them a transistor radio, they were able to listen to the wedding which had been postponed for hours.

Mrs. Teret: "It was supposed to be the best day of our lives and today of all days we are here and cannot be at our daughter's special wedding. When the wedding ceremony had taken place we decided to leave the airport."

The only thing that could be said afterwards was that Mr. and Mrs. Teret were probably the only couple worldwide who had witnessed their daughter's wedding via radio, and that too via Radio Caroline North. More than 55 years after the celebration, recordings of the programme, during which the celebration took place, are still circulating. And from now on the whole series of photographs sent to me some 20 years ago by Mike Luvzitt is in excellent condition made visible by Martin van der Ven in our offshore radio photo archive on Flickr

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720296612044>

It is really incredible that almost 55 years after the Marine Offences Act was introduced in England, there is still a large group of listeners from that time who feel connected and share memories through various Facebook groups. You are surprised how much new 'old' material, such as photos, stickers and letters still turn up.



And every now and then, a publication follows in which attention is paid to one or more radio stations that have been active from international waters. And now there is a beautiful new photo book, compiled by Ray Anderson with the title: 'The Swinging Radio England + Britain Radio Photobook'. No less than 95 pages this publication brings us a beautiful overview of everything around the above mentioned radio stations, but also those of Radio 355 and the Dutch stations Radio Dolfijn and Radio 227.

Most of the photo material is in colour, whether or not through the use of modern editing programmes. It starts with the tasks of the ship before it was equipped as a broadcasting ship in Miami, with beautiful photos, some of which have never been seen before. Then attention turns to the passage to international waters off the British east coast at Essex, a journey with a stop in the Azores. Then the timeline in which the five stations that were active from the Olga Patricia/Laissez Faire ship are described.

Naturally, there is room for the necessary newspaper reports, to give the whole even more of a nostalgic tint. Divided over various pages in the book, the many photo pages are interrupted by the story of Britain Radio and Radio England, as well as the subsequent previously mentioned radio stations.

Noteworthy is the publication of an extensive press release in which Bill Vick, the managing director, applied to the British government for a license for Britain Radio and Swinging Radio England to broadcast from land. Also noteworthy is the re-publication of an illustrated article from Mirabello Magazine. When listening back to old programme clips, the spots of Swinging 66 often come to mind. In photos and text, that tour is brought to the fore again in the photo book.

Also really nice and surprising are the pictures of the various advertising products that could be heard on Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio. Of course, attention is paid to the mast breakage and repair work in Zaandam and the technicians and crew members, who of course also had an important role in the whole thing. At the back of the book is the conclusion, the transcription of an interview conducted by Norman Barrington with Ron O'Quinn.

The Radio England & Britain Radio Photo Book is part of 'The golden age of Radio Series of Books'.

ISBN 978 1 8384746 3 8 Price 25 Pounds

www.radiofab.com

http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=BOOKS&recordid=188

News from Jan Sundermann from Germany:

The 20th Erkrath Radioday Saturday, June 11th, 2022

After a break of 2 years it's going again: The 20th Radiotag will be on June 11th 2022 at the usual location Technisches Museum QQTec in D-40721 Hilden. Details on the days programme will follow later. Primarily this date will bring together the people of our scene as long awaited! The event is as usual from 13.00 to 19.00 o'clock.

The entrance fee is 12€. The then actual protective German rules against Corona has be followed.

radiotag.erkrath@yahoo.com

In addition to collecting radio programmes, that we loved in our youth, there is a large group of listeners, who are now around 70, who collect jingles in addition to the fragments. I myself have collected hundreds and hundreds of hours since the 1960s and like someone else lighting up another cigarette, I do it the healthy way: play another set of jingles.

It is therefore a wonderful feeling that very recently a parcel arrived in the mailbox containing not only the earlier described beautiful photo book about Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio, and also the other three sister stations that used the broadcasting facilities on the Olga Patricia. What a surprise it was when in May 1966 Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio spoilt us in Europe with two fantastic new stations. Swinging jingles and music on SRE and wonderful easy listening with matching quiet jingles on Britain Radio.



More than 55 years later we are surprised with a double CD, on which we focus on the various jingle packages that came our way. Partly produced in Dallas by PAMS but also by Futursonic, CRC, Pepper Tanner and others. The recently released double CD is a collaboration between Norman Barrington and Ray Anderson which resulted in a great product for East Anglian Productions. Many things are, when listening, immediately recognisable for contemporaries, but also surprising items unexpectedly pop up. Let's see what Norman Barrington had to say in a recent contact with me:

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Having been a jingle collector for over 50 years, I have obtained superior copies of much of the SRE/BR material. So I have used only the finest copies on the two 80 minutes CDs.

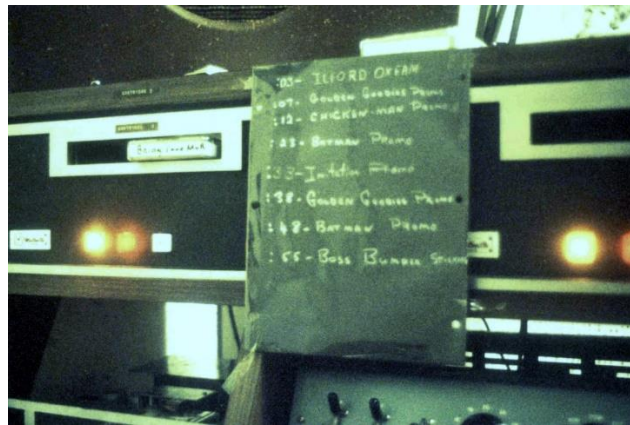
I was determined to outdo Steve England's releases in terms of quality and completeness, (in the nicest possible way), and I am sure he will understand the spirit of this, but obviously if I could not make a better collection, what would be the point?

Radio England was like a spectacular firework. A brilliant station, but gone in about six months, which is hard to believe looking back, with so many fans remembering that time with much affection.

Britain Radio gave us the first taste of the MOR format, and this lasted longer since when it changed to Radio 355 it remained much the same. Meanwhile SRE spawned Dolfijn and Radio 227, new exciting Dutch language Radio, which incidentally launched the careers of Lex Harding and Look Boden amongst others. The jingles themselves were of particular interest, because in addition to the three official purchased packages, Ron O'Quinn along with Jerry Smithwick brought with them, the entire jingle collection from WFUN Miami, these comprised PAMS as early as series #14 right up to #24. In addition WFUN bought from CRC, Futursonic, Ullman and others. In fact when we were hit by that *All American* brash sound, we could have been listening to WFUN itself! Plus we had Larry Dean who brought the WPTR Albany jingle collection with him, comprising PAMS, Pepper Tanner, and Spot Productions.

The latter being 'Thatman', which was officially resung for SRE, whilst most of the DJs were named after original WPTR jocks. So the collection is massive, whilst much of the material was old even back then (1958-1962) yet 60 years later, I have been able to source better copies than even they had at the time. Of particular note was the dramatic news formats which they changed no less than four times in just six months. I have put those different sequences together, separated by a beep for clarity.

The Radio England collection found its way on to Caroline via Johnnie Walker and Roger Day. It then found its way onto Veronica via Robbie Dale and more directly via Lex Harding (227). So long after the Laissez Faire left our waters, the sound remained in the air for many years afterwards. That is what makes this collection so exciting, and speaking as a collector, and having these wonderful gems, this is the way I can share it with other like-minded listeners from the golden age of Radio.



Cart machines as used on the Laissez Faire

As I say, I hope everyone who hears this collection will say "Wow I had forgotten those!" or perhaps "Ah! So that is where they came from!" All CD tracks are clearly labelled, and will display on modern CD players. Whilst Ray's book illustrates the stations and jocks so well, the CDs contain the living spirit of the station, with additional short airchecks to show the jingles and news sequences in action.

Enjoy! Norman Barrington.

February 2022

Well I can say that the Boss Radio feeling is totally back with listening to the double cd.

When you want to order this double cd just go to this link:

http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=AUDIO&recordid=187



It's also possible to order the photobook as well as the double cd in one:

http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=8&recordid=191

I can advise you not listen to the cd just once but do come back to it, on several occasions as you will, by relistening, discover more and more. Never forget, like you did many times before, you heard the facts first here with Hans Knot.

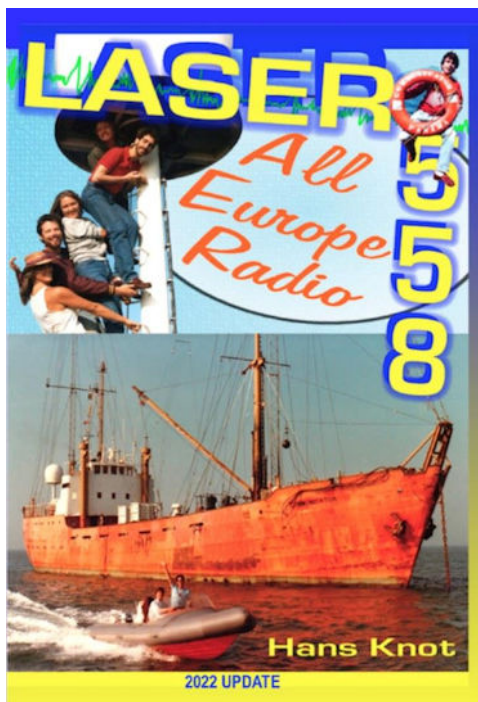
Next a photo from a set I got years ago from the late David Sinclair. In the sixties of last century he worked for three offshore radio stations, Radio Essex, Radio 270 and Radio 390. After that he left for Canada where he worked for a long career in radio two. Here a photo he took when nearby the fort which was used by Radio Essex.

More photos from this set are on Bob LeRoi's excellent internet pages <http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/Home/Home.html>



Being a little bit proud as British Publishing Company World of Radio brought me this news:

Hans Knot's diary of All Europe Radio-LASER558 is in an updated version reprinted for 2022. Telling the story of Europe's most listened to offshore radio station since 1974 it has stories about all the Laser DJs, a listing of all the commercials and a rundown of those Laser Power Plays too!



The story of Laser is full of excitement, with the star DJs like Jessie Brandon, David Lee Stone, Tommy Rivers, those gorgeous Laserettes and the Seawolf, Charlie Wolf, himself! Relive the days of LASER558 with this comprehensive story of Laser558, written by leading radio historian, Hans Knot.

More details here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7p2bwct>

Martin van der Ven recently put another video on You Tube. 'Visiting Big L 1395 in Frinton on Sea on 29th November 2005.'

See Ray Anderson, Paul Graham and Hans Knot. From the Rob Olthof † archive. https://youtu.be/1ybFD_5efoc

And read Hans Knot's article about the visit to Frinton on Sea at <https://hansknot.com/bigl.htm>



E Mail time from Florida and Rick Crandell:

'I'm including an ad appearing in a local publication promoting my current show on FM and online. It's about my daily radio show here in Florida. Note the large body of water in the background. My home/studio is along the west shore of Tampa Bay on Florida's west

coast. The shore line on the opposite side of the bay at its closest point is about 4 miles away. This view often reminds me of the shoreline closest to where our ship, the Olga Patricia / Laissez Faire, was anchored back in the 1960s.

It is just by sheer luck that I find myself in a similar environment that offers such a nostalgic look back at my pirate radio memory from so long ago. Of course, my tenure in the North Sea in the early days of my radio career also came about by sheer luck, a single phone call from Don Pierson when I was working in radio in Montana, asking me if I might like to go to England. That was, for me, an offer I could not refuse. Cheers, Rick Randell.'

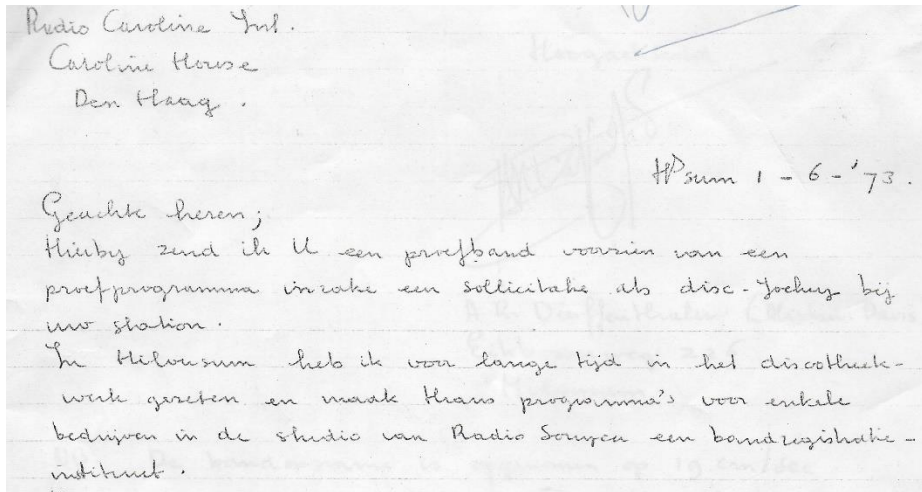
Thanks a Rick for sharing with me and the readers and it's great to see that you're still active in radio. Enjoy it!

Alistair Davis one of many who did not make it written by myself.

During the period 1958 to 1993, a great many people worked as deejay with various radio stations. But of course, there were also many who tried to get on the air and have a wonderful career. Numerous test recordings were sent to the various programme managers of the stations, often with a thank-you note in return. Or there was no response at all, and only for another group was an invitation for an interview sent. Still others received a telephone call, three days after they had received a trial tape from the radio station concerned, with the request to arrive two days later in a certain port with the aim of reading the news or presenting a programme on board one of the offshore radio stations.

Ever heard of Alistair Davis? Until recently, I did not have that name in my memory. Decades ago, in 1973, a radio friend of the time, came to Groningen with a large number of duplicates of documents that he had printed during a visit to the Van Hoogendorpstraat in The Hague - and thus the then Caroline office. And not a reasonable one, because, as it happened, there were important documents among them that still had to be dealt with.

One of those documents I immediately reported to the then head of Radio Caroline's programme, Andy Archer. Namely letters in which, from the BUMA offices, Caroline was summoned to pay the BUMA rights for played music. More on that another time.



Radio Caroline Int.
Caroline House
Den Haag.

Hilversum 1-6-'73.

Geachte heren;
Hierby zend ik u een proefband waarin van een
proefprogramma inzake een sollicitatie als disc-jockey bij
uw station.

In Hilversum heb ik voor lange tijd in het discotheek-
werk gezeten en maak thans programma's voor enkele
bedrijven in de studio van Radio Sorumpcy een bandregistratie-
instituut.

But now, decades later, when I pull the pile of duplicates out of my archive again, on top of the pile is a letter addressed to Radio Caroline from the aforementioned Alistair Davis. Almost 49 years after the fact, I am not only publishing that letter but also going in search of who Alistair was. The letter was written on 1 June 1973.

Dear Sirs, I am sending you a test tape with a test programme concerning an application for a job as disc-jockey at your radio station. In Hilversum I have been a disc-jockey for a long time and now I make programmes for some companies in the studio of Radio Sorumpcy, a tape-recording institute.

I gained radio experience at Radio Kelkboom and Voice of Aruba on the Netherlands Antilles, where I presented many programmes in the popular field. Also together with Hans Oosterhoff (Suhandi) on Radio Hoyer II I presented the Veronica Top-40, which was broadcast on a transcription basis at that time.

Mr Oosterhoff is a former programme leader of Radio Veronica. This is some personal information. For further information you can contact Radio Netherlands Worldwide, if necessary.



Hoping to be of service to you in the near future, and looking forward to your answer, I remain with friendly regards'.

Was signed including address by A.R. Dieffenthaler in Hilversum'.

And then it was a matter of looking for this person to see if he had actually received a response to his test tape from the Caroline organisation. Only one real reference could be found in Radio Forum .nl in which Ruud Dam responded that this person's name was Albert and that he had worked for the Wereldomroep. It is clear that Dieffenthaler also referred to this in his application letter. Ruud Dam is mainly known under his own name Ruud Poeze and all his radio activities. He told me that Albert, an Aruban by birth, had probably studied electrical engineering in the Netherlands.

Ruud himself lived in the Antilles in the 1960s, where he followed the radio scene. So he too knew that Albert had worked at Radio Kelkboom with a daily programme of pop music (the rest of the programming was Latin American). In the 1980s he was the first to start an FM station in Aruba, Radio Carina.



According to Ruud Poeze, Albert was in his twenties in 1973 and it must have been him who sent the letter to the Caroline office in The Hague. He had been in the same class as Ruud on Aruba. In the 1990s, when Albert came to Holland regularly again, he worked closely with Ruud Poeze with the aim of getting a U-turn radio station on the air via Aruba. He was regularly in the Netherlands.

At a certain moment Dieffenthaler had 3 FM licenses, one in Papiamento with hits for the locals, but also with critical information, which often brought him into conflict with the authorities in Aruba. The second radio station was in English with special programmes for the tourists. The third frequency would be used for the project together with Ruud, because for the U-bend construction, terrestrial broadcasting in the country of origin is a prerequisite (think Radio 10 in Milan).

And there the search for Albert Dieffenthaler stopped. Nowhere is more found. Who can tell more? HKnot@home.nl for all reflections.

Let's see what John Burch has to tell us: 'Hello Radio London fans. I have been gradually building a KMZ file of offshore radio artefacts that can be downloaded for Google Earth users. Yesterday while doing a little research I stumbled across something fascinating. I discovered that there is a sister ship to the Radio London ship Galaxy still in existence in all its glory - and what is more it is on land and can easily be visited!

You will know that the Galaxy was once the American minesweeper USS Density. It was one of 123 Admirable class of minesweepers. One of the sister ships, USS Hazard was restored to original naval condition and is now a grounded display in the Freedom Park in Omaha in Nebraska USA along with a small submarine and several aircraft.

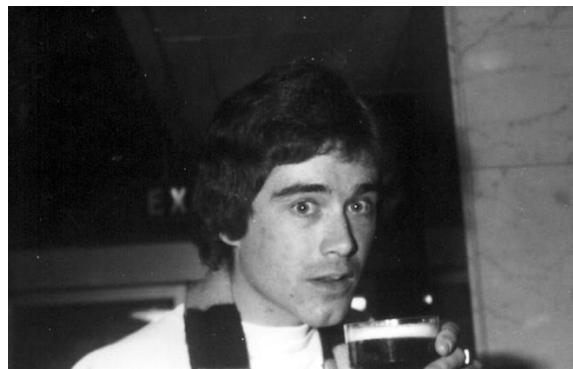


There was also one other Galaxy sister ship, the USS Inaugural which had been on display in St Louis, but this was swept away in the great storm of 1993 and lay grounded and stricken in the Mississippi for many years. It was supposed to have been cut up by now, but this may not yet have happened. I attach several snaps of these vessels. A number of the Admirable class were also exchanged with other navies over the years. It is perhaps not beyond possibility that some exist elsewhere. Some were even exchanged with the Soviet navy believe it or not!



Thanks a lot for this information John Burch and now the finishing part of the Hans Knot International Radio Report with very sad news:

'Another person from Caroline and VOP days has gone as early on March 3rd this message came in: Saddened to hear of the death of Brian Johnson, better known in our circles as Tom Hardy. A consummate professional on Radio Caroline and the Irish pirates of the 80's. He died on March 2nd.



Tom Hardy 1979 Photo: Collection Jan van Heeren

During his time with the station he worked with, amongst many others, Crispian St. John, Stevie Gordon and James Ross. Tom signed up for Radio Caroline in June 1978 and became one of the station stalwarts during its last couple of years of broadcasting from the mv *Mi Amigo*. He was rescued from the ship by life-boat in January 1979. However he returned to the station when it resumed broadcasts in April of that year. His last show on Caroline was on 15th March 1980, a few days before the *Mi Amigo* sank.

After almost a year of conjecture and rumour about Caroline's return, Tom, at the invitation of former VOP and Caroline colleague Stevie Gordon, joined Robbie Dale's fledgling Sunshine Radio in Dublin, Ireland. After almost two years with Sunshine he crossed town to Chris Cary's Kiss FM/Radio Nova operation - initially presenting on Kiss and then replacing Andy Archer on Radio Nova.

Tom was caught in the thick of the government raids on Nova in May 1983 and after a concerted jamming campaign by the Irish state broadcaster, he and a number of his colleagues were eventually 'let go' by the station in early 1984. In spring of that year Tom resurfaced at the Chiltern network as presenter, music director and assistant PD - staying with them until the end of 1987, when he returned to Ireland to establish, manage and present on the border-busting Kiss FM in Monaghan.

After a brief return visit to Chiltern to do late nights and around three weeks as 'breakfast jock in waiting' at Oxford's Fox FM, he went back to Dublin to help launch the city's Classic Hits 98FM, working as assistant PD to Australian programmer Jeff O'Brien. Although it was not the intention, Tom found himself back on air when clauses in one of the presenter's contracts meant that there was a two-hour 'gap' on the weekday schedule! During his time with 98FM, Tom was seconded to Prague, to help set up the company's first overseas property, Kiss 98FM. After a further year at 98FM in Dublin, Tom joined GWR to re-launch Leicester Sound and in 1994 took up the group programming position at SBS in Stockholm with

responsibility for their, at the time, 12 stations across Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

Tom then spent around 18 months as programme director at 2CRFM, Bournemouth, before becoming programme manager at Ireland's national commercial station, Today FM in August 1998. After 14 years there, Tom left to run his own consultancy company. In 2021 he was diagnosed as suffering from cancer and underwent radiotherapy treatment. Tom suffered a heart attack while in hospital at the end of February 2022 and sadly passed away a few days later, on the 2nd of March 2022.'



Kas Collins Martin Fisher Crispian St John Tom Hardy Alan Roberts en Monte Levinson on Peaceship collection Don Stevens

Of course with a lot of thanks to Jon Myer from the Pirate Hall of Fame. A rich career Tom Hardy had through the decades. It was Robb Eden who has a short reflection: 'Just heard the news about Tom Hardy. What a shock. Tom was part of the wonderful Caroline team in the late '70's. Despite all the setbacks Tom and the others always kept a brave face and went over and above the call of duty. They will always have a special place in my heart and Tom will be fondly remembered by us all. Radio has lost a dedicated broadcaster and we have lost a great mate. Robb Eden.'

It was Enda W. Caldwell who learnt a lot from Tom Hardy, when in Ireland: 'I first met Tom around 1990 at 98FM in Dublin as the 15 year old rather spotty, annoying, nerdy anorak being given the studio

tour of 98's 8 Upper Mount St. Dublin 2 facility gawping in awe open mouthed at Tom's professional on air skills and smooth speaking operations. He was midmorning man and Assistant PD - much of early 98FM's stellar ratings success can be attributed to Tom's hard work, attention to detail and his already wide breadth of knowledge in the Dublin area having already held Programme Director position at 103.7KissFM Monaghan in 88, at NOVA from 83 to 85 during its most successful period and even earlier as a main on air host and Programme Director at the late Robbie Dale's Sunshine Radio in Portmarnock on 539MW in the 81/82 days...



Tom Hardy Photo Collection Enda Caldwell

The 90's and '00's

Much later whilst I was on air and involved in Programming and Production at Paul Milne & John Gartlan's border blaster Kiss106 in Summer '99 we were doing well, sounding well and I had caught wind of word that my old friend Tom was now installed as "Associate Programme Manager" for Ireland's National Independent Commercial

Network 100-102 Today FM. I hadn't cared much for Radio Ireland and never applied as it wasn't for me in 97-98 but with hearing the relaunch as Hot AC Today FM, you could hear improvements in the music and programming tightening up that had all the hallmarks of Tom Hardy's work so I sent him a demo and resume and about a week later I called him up at his Abbey Street office and he answered I welcomed him back to Ireland and he told me that he had "nothing at the moment" but that "its always good to have something in the drawer".

I had put that on the back burner and still hoped of a callback from Tom in time while at RLO TV and Radio Limerick... then I was hired instantly for the relaunch of Atlantic 252 in January 2000. I loved my time working on County Meath home soil fulltime on air on Atlantic and had put any intentions or desires of doing anything in Dublin to the back of the farthest recesses of my dark mind.... and well over a year and a half later I got a call out of the blue (such as these type of life-changing calls usually happen, I find) it was Tom! "Listen, I've got something that might suit you...." and a week later on 26th April 2001 Enda W. Caldwell became the brand new on air host of brand new Top 40 Saturday evening flagship show "Planet Hits" on Today FM.

I enjoyed my four wonderful years working with and learning from Tom about not just radio but the science of the medium, life in general and marketing, positioning and dealing with people and situations in a managerial situation even if you hold opposing views and beliefs to them and still come up as the victor!!

My sincerest sympathies to his wonderful, loving and devoted wife Brigid, his son Laurie (who was born while I was on air at Today FM!) Tom's daughters Meg and Elsa Jane. They have suffered a huge loss.

Tom was a very humble, quiet unassuming, very proper stiff upper lip British gentleman with an impeccable upbringing, education and manners. He was a truly sincere friend to his friends and trusted colleagues. He had courage, conviction, strength, decency kindness, generosity of spirit and enjoyed a great sense of humour and razor

sharp wit. And was that all? No! He was also one of Europe's all time best radio programmers and an excellent on air host and voice that will be remembered since his iconic days on board The Voice of Peace and the real Mi Amigo Caroline together with most of the important commercial radio stations that have happened ever since across Ireland, England and Central Europe over the last forty years...

Rest in Peace, Tom, fella, God Bless. Enda.'

And that brings us to the end of this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Next one will be at the end of May. All reflections, memories, questions and more: HKnot@home.nl