

Hans Knot International Radio Report September 2011

Welcome radio friends to the September edition of the report. Mostly I start editing the report in the 20th of the month and suddenly realised that it's already August 25th today, so here we go with thank you for all your response to the last edition. As usual I will make a selection of the many e mails. First a mail from Adrian Horsman, who reflected on an article I wrote in Dutch about the failed relaunch from Caroline in 1982 and which was published in www.soundscape.info

'Dear Hans, it was wonderfully evocative reading your account of the re-launch of Radio Caroline in 1982. Although I had to use Google Translate, which isn't always the best! Do you have your story written in English anywhere? As you say, I was selected by Johnny Walker to be the news-reader on Radio Caroline. We spent two weeks in an office in London, just around the corner from Harrods, waiting for the order to board the ship. I remember that we had to change the name of the business occupying the office every couple of days or so, because of fears that our cover would be blown. The 'Silver Locust Mobile Disco' was one of them. Journalists from different newspapers kept ringing us up, and we had fun passing the telephone around the table playing silly buggers with them. We also played on the swings in Hyde Park to pass the time.

There were certain words that could never be said on the telephone when we were calling each other, in case they triggered alert and recording equipment at the Home Office (!) - for example - the word 'Caroline' was never used. Instead it was 'the old lady'. My shift pattern on the Caroline was to be 5 weeks on and 2 weeks off. A couple of years later I heard a claim from an engineer working on the Ross Revenge that the stand-in news reader - to cover my time off - was to have been the famous and recently retired ITN presenter Reginald Bosanquet. I have not been able to substantiate the rumour since: Did you ever hear of it? My news gathering equipment on the Ross Revenge was to have been two radio-cassette recorders, a few blocks of A4 note-paper and a box of biros. That was it - the same as at Sunshine! With best wishes, Adrian Horsman. '



Ross Revenge arrives in Santander
Photo: Archive Freewave Media Magazine

Thanks Adrian well nice to see you've made the Dutch article reasonable readable and understand what I did write on that period. Of course a pity the project didn't go on at that point and we had to wait another year before Radio Caroline restarted. Believe it or not but 1982 is in a few month 30 years ago! Of course the name of Reginald Bosanquet rings a bell but I never knew of his Caroline's connection. I wrote an e mail to Johnny Walker about this but he didn't answer till now. So Johnny as you read this, please give some time to inform us about the question concerning Reginald. And Adrian, keep enjoying my work!

Next we go to a long mail from Mike Spenser: 'Hi Hans, as always, I find your monthly reports informative and entertaining, if slightly too long to read in one go! But I manage to get through them eventually! I read about your forthcoming book on Laser 558. I don't remember if I told you this or not but I believe my show, The Garage Goodies Radio Show, was the last to be broadcast from the MV Communicator, at least while Ray Anderson was running the show with Laser Hot Hits. I remember listening to my show, one of I think six weekly's, when we heard of the bad weather and then the transmission, as bad as it was already, suddenly stopped completely and never came back on again.

I would record several of the shows in the studio at Frinton-On-Sea or in Cherry Studios (Croydon) and the 1/4 tapes would be delivered, along with £500 cash each week to someone in the West End, for the tapes to be ferried out to the ship. When Ray or this geezer who I'd meet in the West

End told me the sad story about how the poor crew had no food and no fuel to at least run the generators until the masts were re-erected (which never happened) I was persuaded to pay upfront for 2 more shows, or £1000, for the eventual restart of the station, which as you know, never happened. Feeling terribly "aggrieved" and being taken for a sucker, I arrived one day at the studio in Frinton with a "friend" and "negotiated" some sort of partial settlement by taking the large plate reverb and several microphones.

The show, *The Garage Goodies Radio Show*, was a forerunner for my *Trash Can* show, with me as Mickey Baron and my co-host Bal from a famous psycho billy group called *The Sting Rays* as *The Count*, with his very distinctive lisp! We played mostly 60's garage punk and some stuff from the then present day bands emulating that trashy garagey sound. We had a session with a band called *The Bugs* and also had a show which included an interview with the famous svengali of 60's garage punk from L.A., *Greg Shaw*.

The show was quite popular to those who could hear it, of the younger crowd, and we had little or no problem selling 10 x 1/2 minute advertising spots for £50 each week from *Time Out*, the original *Dingwalls*, *The Crypt Club*, *Porky Prime Cuts* (mastering studio) and several other people/organizations that escape my memory now. Bal and I would spend most of a whole day in either of the studios putting together the adverts and taping the shows. I have 2 of the 1/4 inch tapes that were returned to me which I should one day transfer to digital so as to hear these shows again.

At one point I had a benefit gig with as many as 8 bands playing upstairs in the old *Clarendon Hotel Ballroom* and all the proceeds went to pay for some of the shows. This benefit gig, with the ticket above as an attachment, generated enough money for two complete shows. I believe we did away with the adverts for these two shows.

If my story is correct, then my last show would be the last UK pirate show broadcast from a ship. I wonder if anyone out there remembers my shows or if any of the engineers on the *Communicator* at that time remembers putting these tapes on for broadcasting. I'd also like to know what year that was and the approximate date the storm took the masts down. I've got Ray's contact number somewhere but you probably know better anyway! Ray came to see me at home actually in 2005 with the idea of using some of my radio

transmitting gear I bought from the Israeli pirate ship, the Arutz 7. We had a drink and a laugh about the Laser days. He never did get to use my Nautels I had ready for the St Paul in Aland (Finland) when I was getting Pirate Radio 603 AM off the ground. That's another story all together! Anyway, I hope this information fills even a tiny gap in the history of Laser Radio. Please let me know if you can use this info and/or need more if I can remember it! All the best, Mike Spenser.'



St. Paul in 2004. Photo Archive Freewave Media Magazine

Thanks a lot Mike for all these information. It was April 1987 that Laser Hot Hits was to be heard for the very last time and at the end of the month it went into Harwich harbour. Regarding my forthcoming book, it will cover the story of 'All Europe Radio, Laser 558', so the 1983 up till 1985 story. More news on the book and how to order your personal copy will be in the October edition of the report.

Now to Leeds as in last month when Colin Wilkins was on search for the Radio 270 news jingle. Till now no response, so if anyone has this jingle please contact me at HKnot@home.nl

Colin also wrote: 'It was interesting to read about former Caroline North DJ Ugli Ray Teret and him doing programmes on the VOP. I have also heard him doing voice overs on a Midnight Surf Party show which goes out on Tuesdays and Fridays at midnight on those days, bringing back memories of Caroline North on a station called Tempo FM which can also be heard on the internet. Also other off shore people seem to have done voice overs as well,

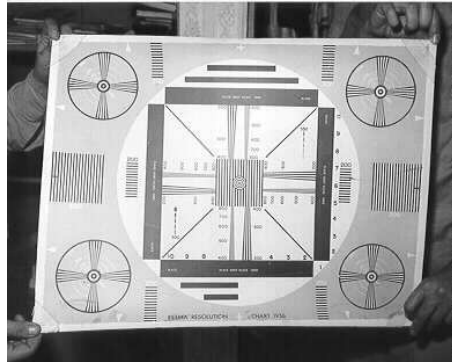
Carl Kingston from Radio Caroline and also Dave Cash, so its got an offshore radio feeling with PAMS jingles being played as well. A well worth listen. See you soon. Best wishes Colin.'

Thanks Colin and you mentioning a couple of former deejays from the sixties and seventies in connection with Ray Teret and I can add to it that they're all readers of the Hans Knot International Radio Report.

REFLECTIONS ON THE REM ISLAND PROJECT

In the first years of the sixties of last century the NTS, Nederlandse Televisie Stichting (Foundation Dutch Television), which was the umbrella organisation for the Public Broadcasting Societies in the Netherlands, had to inform the partners within the Eurovision about the developments happening on the High Seas with the offshore radio stations, often mentioned wrongly 'the pirates'. I want to highlight two of those to show how the members of the board thought about 'The REM island project'. Let's first go back to 1963.

Since 1960 the offshore radio station Radio Veronica had been operating from a ship moored off the Dutch coast. With its partly light music programmes and commercials, it had proved a great financial success. So far the Dutch government had not taken action whatsoever against this activity, which in the Netherlands was partly regarded as illicit. Many times in the Dutch newspapers articles were published and mentioned that soon action could be taken against Veronica. Several reasons were given amongst the most interfering of the station on several distress frequencies. In 1963 a group of six people formed the REM Company, Reclame Exploitatie Maatschappij, with the main backer Mr. Verolme from Rotterdam, who had made a big name in the shipping industry. Their aim was to set up an offshore radio and television station from a, for that purpose to built, artificial island. Construction took place at a shipyard in Cork, Ireland, but it would take up to May 16th 1964 before there was any assembly activity on the Northsea, off the coast of Noordwijk.



REM TV Testcard

When the people behind the REM Island project had announced their plan to put an artificial platform in the Northsea, off the Noordwijk coast, with the aim putting a radio and television station on the air, Dutch NTS had to inform Eurovision. 'With the success of Veronica it is most probably that gave encouragement to the forming, at the end of last year, of a limited liability company, for the purpose of putting on commercial television programmes, in this case also via a transmitter located outside Dutch territory. This time however, its location would not be on a ship, but on an artificial island. It will be a construction similar to that used in oil-drilling operations out at sea. This initiative has been given enormous publicity, also because of the fact that for a number of years past there has been much action in the Netherlands in favour of commercial radio and television.'

Of course, when you get the historical facts right, the Netherlands broadcasting organizations had been expressly forbidden to air commercial publicity, in whatsoever form. The above information was not complete as no word was given about the planned Radio Noordzee, which was to be broadcasting too from the island. With the plans for the Radio and TV Island nearing their completion, an interesting discussion was being carried on in the Dutch press with regards to the legal aspects of the case. Not any other offshore project had so endless publicity in a limited period than the REM island project. So the NTS had to report once again to their partners within Eurovision in a report called 'Coastal States and ex-territorial Sovereignty':

'The question of artificial islands outside the territorial waters raises some involved points of international law. The pens of leading jurists and experts

on international law have been kept very busy, and the main point at the issue seems to be: 'has the Dutch government the power to take action'. It was the Dutch Minister for Justice in those days. Mr. Scholten, who announced in the press that he hoped that soon to submit a draft Bill, which would make it possible to legally regard artificial islands, located in that part of the continental plateau, over which the Netherlands possesses sovereign power, as belonging to Dutch territory. And so the Press manager of the NTS informed the other organisations within Public Radio, working together within Eurovision with: 'A case point', the Minister told Dutch Parliament, 'is that the march of technical progress opens the possibility - if we take things to the extreme - of an artificial archipelago arising in the ex-territorial waters where no body of law of any kind would be applicable, and where, so to speak, murder and theft could be committed without anybody being able to do anything about it.'



Radio Noordzee studio 1964

The principle of a coastal state being empowered to exercise sovereign right outside the territorial waters was laid down in the Treaty of April 29, 1958, relating to the continental plateau. This Treaty also covered the division of the plateau. Two of its provisions concerned artificial islands. Article 5 of the Treaty gave the coastal state the right to establish artificial islands on the continental plateau. In other word, the sea-bed and sub - oil of the adjoining area, for the purpose of exploring and exploiting the natural wealth of the plateau and to institute a security zone around such islands. Article 2 of the Treaty ruled that only the coastal state concerned could lay claim to the sea-bed of the continental plateau, to the exclusion of all others.

In the Daily Newspaper 'De Tijd' in February 1964, comments could be found from Emeritus Professor F. Duynstee, who worked for the Catholic University of Nijmegen and was an expert on juridical philosophy: 'In common

law it is a standing rule that a vessel refusing to fly or carry a flag lays itself open to arrest. A ship that cannot produce such evidence of nationality by reason of its being unable to carry a flag, automatically falls under the authority of the state which sends the intercepting warship.' He concluded his comments on the REM Island with: 'To my mind it is a serious lack on the part of the Netherlands Government that, as far as is known, no such attempt to ascertain the facts has been undertaken.'

Other comments were made in het 'Nederlands Juristenblad' (Netherlands Jurists' Journal) of March 14th 1964 where Mr. M.A.W. Verstegen took up the cudgels in opposition to Professor Duynstee: 'There are only three instances mentioned in Article 22, 1, of the Geneva Convention relating to the High Seas, in which a warship may exercise the right of flag-verification. These being a) piracy, b) slave-trading and c) in the case of a vessel flying a strange flag, or refusing to show its flag, being suspected of having the same nationality as the intercepting warship.'



The three female announcers from REM TV: Marianne Bierenbroodspot, Hetty Blok and Marijke Philips

The press department of the NTS informed their colleagues, within the Eurovision, about a plea for action against the TV Island, as soon as it would become active. 'The plea has been done by Professor J.M. van Bemmelen who stated: "It is an intolerable thing for a state to have artificial islands rising out of the open sea a short distance from its coast. From a military point of

view alone this cannot be tolerated, but - and this holds good in peacetime and quite apart from military considerations - on such an island is a complete absence of legal jurisdiction. The one country applies its criminal law in the international sphere differently to another, but, for instance, Dutch criminal law would not apply in the case of punishable offences committed on such an island. If, for instance, a Dutch national were to murder another Dutch national on the island, the fact would not fall under the Dutch Penal Code, and in many cases crimes committed on artificial islands would not be the subject to the criminal legislation of any other country."

When you want to read more about this project go to www.hansknot.com for the complete, 17 pages, article.

How much does pirate radio help the American economy? Say what? Matthew Lasar of the website Radio Survivor has done some musing on the economic stimulus effect of illegal broadcasting, all the while giving NAB a dig in the ribs.

<http://radioworld.com/article/does-pirate-radio-create-jobs/24042>



November 12th is coming nearer and so get the latest information on the program as well as our guests for this years event at www.radioday.nl

Hi Hans, With regard to the comments from 'Paul Fraser' in the August 2011 report: I did not send them! My last e-mail to you was sent on 31st May 2009, about radio formats. It seems that another reader of the report is playing a game. I do agree, however, with the compliments to the report. But I have not yet been on holiday. The false Fraser must try harder to be accurate! Although this is a harmless game at present, I am identifying it now, in case the other person becomes less pleasant. All the best, Paul Fraser.'

Hi Paul, well I presume there are people with the same name and this is pure coincidental. There are also more persons with the name 'Hans Knot', although it is not a common name, such things are happening. And when you're going for a leave, have a good holiday.'

The German Democratic Republic is really a topic in this issue of the Hans Knot International Report as relation to offshore radio is mentioned twice in different stories. So let's go first to Jan Sundermann.

'Hallo Hans, with interest I noticed you and Jana were staying in the remarkable Hansestad Rostock. I hope that you've enjoyed the original Störtebecker Pilsener there.'

Well Jan we're going each year to Rostock as Jana was born there and her mother is still living in Rostock. But on the Pilsener I can tell you I really dislike any Pilsener but did take a visit to the Brewery in the harbour and we took a couple of bottles of the stronger beers with us to Groningen.

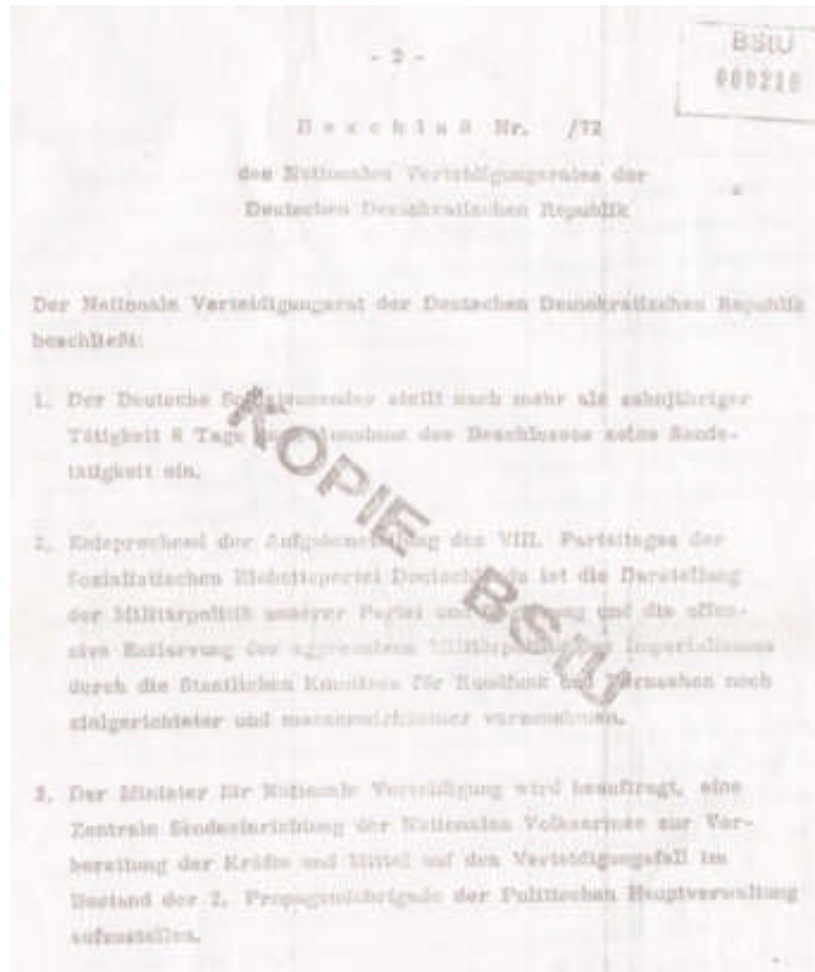
Sundermann went on with: 'Thinking about GDR, I found a copy of a letter I received long time ago from Jürgen Steinhoff. Jürgen came from Hamburg and in the 60s to 80s a journalist having done many interviews with contemporary pop musicians having gigs in northern Germany. He also published articles in newspapers and music magazines about offshore radio. He had visited Radio Syd several times and also had his close connections to Veronica. The last time most of us ever met him alive was the event at the Osnabrück scrapyards, where some German free radio friends on one day in August 1995 helped Herbert Visser and Steve Masters to dismantle some transmitters. These were loaded on a truck and ended up on Arutz 2000 off the Israeli coast at a later stage.'



Osnabruck August 1995 left to right:

Truck Driver, Jan Sundermann, Herbert Visser, Steve Masters, Helmut Slawik, girlfriend Herbert Visser and Jurgen Steinhoff. Photo: Copyright Peter Messingfeld

Well Jan I knew Jurgen in those days and we stayed in contact and were writing for the same German Radio Magazine in those days. And about the GDR here's what Jan Sundermann wrote: 'The letter here received Jürgen in 1995 upon his request from the so called Gauck-Behörde. That is still the running administration, researching and documenting all remaining of former DDR secret service called Stasi. He had asked about information concerning the former 'Soldatensender'. That was a propaganda station on medium wave, broadcasting from Burg on 935 kHz since 1960. This document here is nothing less than the secret decision of the leading army council to stop the broadcast of the Soldatensender in the year 1972.



It was still in the time of the cold war, and the planning was to widely intensify propaganda from now on through other ways. The Soldatensender was on air since 1960 and its nightly programme was directed to young soldiers in West Germany. With attractive music and programming, they wanted to receive feedback from the listeners and most probably take there conclusions and statistics about West German military out of this. I've never heard the station myself, but it is said that they tried to give themselves the image of being kind of pirate station and never mentioning the real origin of these broadcast. I was in the army in 1975 to 1976, and I remember well, that we got still told, that in the past it has happened as follows: young soldiers had claimed to somebody in the public, maybe on a weekend in a pub, or on a railways station, that they felt somehow mistreated within the army. A few days later, a report about such cases was in the news of Soldatensender. Jan Sundermann'

Thanks a lot Jan a very interesting subject. For soundbites, photos as well as more on Soldatensender go to the next internet site:

<http://www.deutscher-soldatensender.de/>

Another view on you tube was done by Jan Broekema and advised to mention it to the reader:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQ5OS6cb09g>

Well it took some time we heard something from the Emperor in LA but he's back as he wrote on August 10th: Hi Hans, I found a good photo shot for you, showing me in front of the MV Ross Revenge. Just a word to a few choice types! If you're bored on Bank Holiday Monday, August 29th., check out Jazz FM at 1 p.m. I'm gonna do some hours! Catch the show on national radio! At last! Emperor



Also Jazz FM came with an official press report: 'Jazz FM has signed Mike Pasternak - better known as Emperor Rosko - to present a special programme on the bank holiday at the end of this month. The former Radio Caroline and Radio1 jock says he will be playing tracks from the time when jazz and soul met rock 'n' roll. 68-year old Mike currently does shows on a number of stations around the world, recorded in his studios in California. He told us: "It's an exciting time, being asked to present a special show for Jazz FM. It really does give me a chance to delve into the corners of my library that hold my interest and I hope give everyone, who listens, much pleasure. I will be digging out my best goodies from the archive, back when jazz and soul met rock 'n' roll, including Etta James, The Four Tops, BB King,

Edwin Star and The Temptations." Emperor Rosko will be on, on Bank Holiday Monday (29 August) 1-3pm.

Well, I hope you've time to listen and for the Emperor, you owe me one after another plug in the report.

Well next we have very special exchange of e mails with Michael Gerwat in Leeds, whereby the first one was sent to Martin van der Ven and who thought the best was to bring this e mail into the Hans Knot International Radio Report. So relax and see how radio can bring joy in someone's life. 'Hi my friend, I was 21 when RNI started. I followed them through all their problems, heard their DX programs in the mid seventies and heard the fire on board, the 1971 bombing, all the jamming. I lost all my hearing 20 years ago, but have cochlear implants now. I had a story about RNI on tape. It was a brilliant production. I have a lot of jingles, as I am the worlds first DeafBlind DJ I think anyway.

I wonder if I can get that audio two part story again from anywhere? Pirate radio meant so much to me. I followed all the stations through from 1964 till long after the stations were closed down in 1967. RNI of course, stayed till 1974. Caroline went on till 1990. True, there are Rsl's, but they are not quite the same. It was always my ambition to board one of the ships and I very nearly made it.

I was born in London but have lived in Leeds for 43 years now. During my youth, I was right at the centre of the offshore stations. I used to holiday in Frinton in Essex, and that was where most of the larger stations were. At first of course, there was only Radio Luxemburg. I listened to this from the age of about six. I'm 62 now, so I can remember Luxembourg very well, and then came Radio Caroline. Of course, there were stations before her, like Veronica, radio Syd and so on. There wasn't an area like it. The young folks today can never understand how exciting it was for us. Pop music was available all day for the very first time!

Well a very interesting story and in the meantime I've sent Mike some interesting downloads, including the RNI double LP, which was produced by Jacob van Kokswijk, with me a co-producer, which we did for the station way back in 1973. And to my surprise in one of the other mails Mike mentioned

he was a couple of years ago on air on Radio Caroline: 'Just to say, I did a show on Radio Caroline in June 2007. Along with Jonny Lewis, I was 'the big MG'. I would love to go back with some memories on RNI though. They did so many firsts; they had two outlets on short wave, one on FM and their medium wave transmitter. I remember following all the changes of frequency. I'm house bound now and no one is interested in offshore, as I am. My email is: mike.gerwat@googlemail.com I can swop lots of memories of those days. Folks like Spangles Muldoon, I think his real name was Chris Carrey?

' I worked in Holland you know, before I lost my hearing, I worked for all the top rock bands in the world. I've shaken hands with: people from Genesis, Stones, Queen, Bob Dylan, Moody Blues, U2, Lindisfarne, Paul McCartney, and many more over a twenty year period. I used to tune their pianos you see, Rick Wakeman was another plus ELP and so many others. I met Elton John twice, Judy Tzuk as well. I sincerely thank you both for all your help and I look forward to finding fans of the old days. Mike Ross, I corresponded with him for a while a long time ago in the late nineties. Andrew Cheatom nearly arranged for me to visit the old Ross Revenge, because the poor MEBO 2 was broken up, as I remember. Take care and thanks so much once again. Michael Gerwat. You've made me very happy!

So anyone who wants, after reading this emotional email exchange, to share radio related things and memories with Michael, just send him an email at: mike.gerwat@googlemail.com

Good news this time from Tom Lodge, who mentioned me that his latest book on his time on Radio Caroline will be used for a documentary. Even a script for the documentary was already send to me. So Tom, I hope it will be realised and we will be seeing it to in Europe.

Next a nick name in the report as Derek 'the monster of the diesel tank' Johns appeared more than once in a jingle on Radio Atlantis. When you have heard a nickname from a former offshore deejay, which isn't on the list at www.hansknot.com please, be so kind to send it to me: HKnot@home.nl

Mid August a lot of radio stations paid attention to the fact the Marine Offences Act became law in August 1967. Big names like Keith Skues, Roger

Day and Ian Damon could be heard. The last one with his program 'The Golden Years' on community station Wayland Radio, which can be heard in Watton and Swaffham, county Norfolk. He went back with memories and music to 1967 and there were some surprises, like his climbers on Radio London, which were Whistling Jack Smith and 'Hey little Miss Mary' as well as 'Foolin around' from Chris Montez. And to all who did something in their program to remember the sad day August 14th 1967, thank you for keeping it alive after so many decades.

Next it's Roger Brown who send me a copy of some articles from July 14th 1974 and wrote: 'In the heydays of offshore radio in Britain I lived in Royston which brought most of the offshore radio station with a good signal in to our home and I tried to follow the news about the then forthcoming Dutch version of the MOA as good as possible. Through the past decades all those memories were kept in the loft but finding them back a couple of months ago, I couldn't stop reading. There was also the enclosed page from Record and Radio Mirror, which had a special page called 'Radio Waves'. A lot of news about offshore radio in those days, for instance the information, it would take up till eight to nine weeks before the Dutch Act to ban offshore radio will come in to force. Most interesting is that they stated that the Act would not be introduced before the future of Radio Veronica was settled. We all know better now. On the same page I also found a small note about the rumours that the Voice of Peace former radio ship, the MV Cito, was rumoured to be sinking in the Bay of Biscay after particularly rough weather on the journey from Marseilles.'

Thanks a lot Roger for the interesting copy you've send and about Radio Benelux and the former Peace ship we all know for decades that these were only rumours. Radio Benelux never came on the air and the Voice of Peace, which started way back in 1973, went on with broadcasts till October 1993. Interesting was also the report in that edition of Radio and Record Mirror about the Love and Awareness Festival, organised by Radio Caroline in Stonehenge. My I ask you to pay special attention to the last sentence of this article about the festival?

Stonehenged

POLICE estimates put the number of people attending Caroline's Love and Awareness Festival near Stonehenge at almost 3,000.

Caroline disc jockey and organiser of the festival Mike Hagler commented: "It turned out just the way I wanted it. Three thousand people came ready to give as well as take and to really participate. On Friday night we camped on army property. Authority was faced with a dilemma. There was nothing they could do. It was all so peaceful."

He went on: "I think it's gotten us a little bit nearer that day when the World will say "What the hell are we doing?" And when enough people say that, Caroline's job is done."

Boss Ronan O'Rahilly was reportedly "very pleased with the response to this mid-week event by Caroline listeners - many of whom could not attend because of exams."

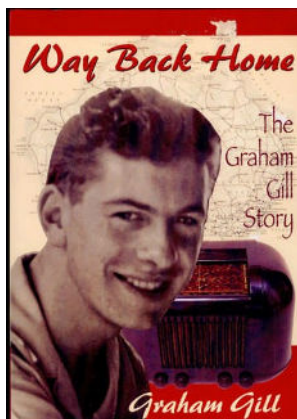
Way back home, The Graham Gill story

Graham Gill has certainly been an offshore radio icon for several decades, and every visitor of the annual Radio Days in Amsterdam is looking forward to hear him singing his evergreen "Way Back Home". Being a bit too young I unfortunately missed his programmes on Radio London, Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio and Radio 390 off the British coast during the 1960s. But as a 17-year-old teenager I first heard Graham on RNI on his regular late night programmes and his Sunday evening's RNI Request Show during the early summer of 1973. His distinctive voice fascinated and meant a sort of RNI landmark to me. I was a bit astonished when he left RNI in June 1974 to rejoin Radio Caroline which played quite different, more adult orientated rock music. But Graham certainly didn't disappoint his listeners as he had no problems to adept with the hippy culture onboard the MV Mi Amigo which he left only 11 weeks later, when the Dutch marine offences bill came into force. It took me another 22 years to get to know Graham personally. I first met him during the 1996 Radio Day in Haarlem. But in 2002, I came to know him even better. We met in Harlingen at the opening of Sietse Brouwer's Dutch Radio Caroline and we jointly attended the fabulous offshore radio reunion in London in August of the same year. Some weeks later, I was entitled to have an interview with Graham at the German Radio Day in Erkrath where he described his fascinating radio career in great detail. In the meantime, we had become friends and built confidence. In the years to come, Graham took an active part in the Erkrath Radio Day on a regular basis and he didn't miss an Amsterdam Radio Day anymore.

So what can I say about his long awaited book? You might think of me as a bit prejudiced. Nevertheless let me suggest that you will be pleasantly surprised when reading Graham's memoirs. It's the story of his life with most of all his intriguing radio career which began in his native country Australia where he received an full-scale training as a radio broadcaster. Graham had been lucky to gain important experience during his 14 years in Australian radio when he came to the UK in 1966. You may look forward to take part in many details of these years which formed the character of the young Australian who later had no problems to become acquainted with all these strange new radio stations

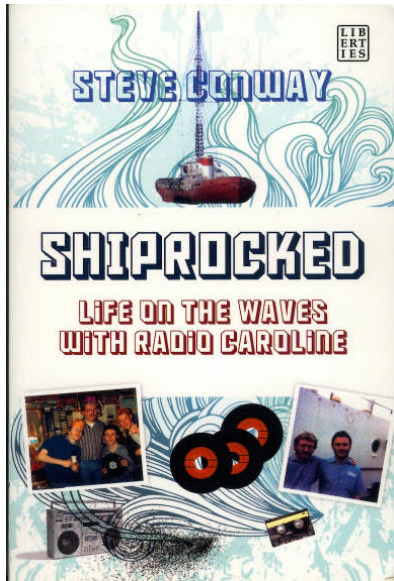
broadcasting from ships and military forts in the North Sea. *Graham* particularises many interesting anecdotes concerning countless personalities he dealt with during all those years in on- and offshore radio. At first appearance, it might be a bit unexpected that he paints a rosy picture of the conditions on Red Sands Fort (home of Radio 390). But this very happy period of his life had to do with the strong feeling of a happy family that the great team of announcers was producing. 7 years later, history repeated itself under totally different conditions on the MV *Mi Amigo* where the "Caroline family" received him with open arms. On every occasion you share *Graham's* desire for gaining new experiences and getting to know interesting and warm-hearted people. And he did succeed ever so often! I am sure you will be excellently entertained by this capturing biography.

Dr. Martin van der Ven



Way Back Home, the Graham Gill story, is now obtainable from the Foundation of *Mediacommunication* for the price in Europe including postage and packing € 19,95 and outside Europe € 23,95

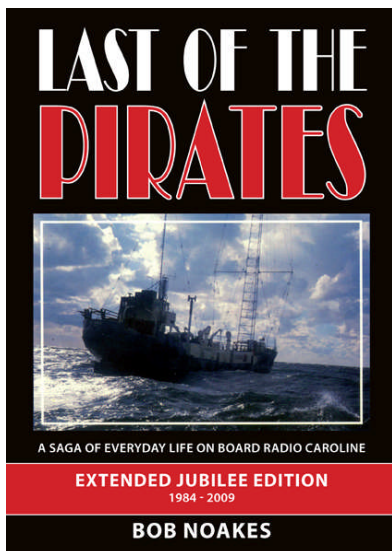
Shiprocked



This book tells the story of Steve Conway on board the Ross Revenge.

The book cost € 14,50

Last of the Pirates, by Bob Noakes. His hilarious events on board the Mi Amigo and Mebo II



Price € 19,95

Account number in the Netherlands 4065700 Mediacommunicatie Amsterdam

Orders from outside the Netherlands

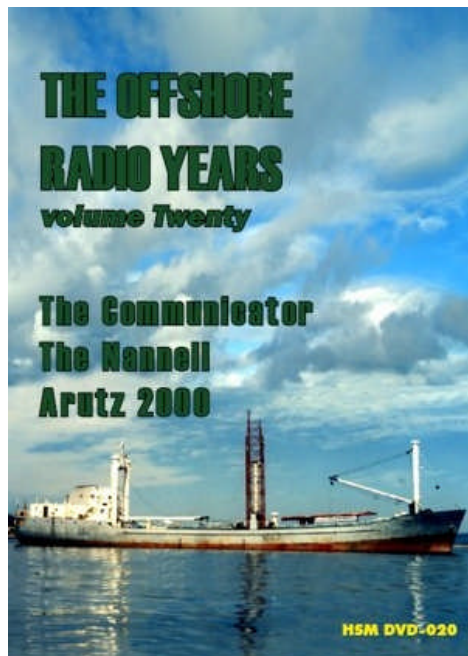
IBAN: NL85INGB0004065700

BIC INGBNL2A

or: paypal: rob@mediacommunicatie.nl

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS VOLUME 20 NEW

This latest DVD in the series of Offshore radio history looks at three different radio ships, with much exclusive and previously unseen video material. The MV Communicator was home to the hugely successful Laser 558, and then the short lived Laser Hot Hits. Following their demise, the ship moved to Portugal where it was re-fitted out and due to return as a European religious broadcaster, as well as airing Dutch and English programmes. Stereo AM broadcasting was to have been the revolutionary idea from the MV Nannell. Stereo Hits 576 would have also seen a major deal with a Japanese company marketing AM stereo radio sets. The Anglo- Dutch radio on the Ross Revenge in 1989, frightened off the Nannells backers, and that was the end of the project.



Arutz 2000 started with a derelict lightship in a Portsmouth scrapyard. After being partly fitted, the ship King David was forced to move just ahead of a planned raid

by the UK authorities. Towed to a position off the Israeli coast, Arutz 2000 began broadcasting religious programmes. Heavy storms saw the radioship break her anchor and end up on the beach, and ending her short offshore career.

The Offshore Radio Years Volume 20 costs £19,99 from Offshore Echo's www.offshoreechos.com or write: PO Box 1514, London W7 2LL, England

Then an e mail from Hanwell, which is west from London: 'Hi Hans, I've been to Liverpool a couple of times over the past few months for my work. The attached picture shows 61 Lord Street, which was used as Caroline North office in the 1960's. A question for report readers - nowadays a mobile phone shop on the ground floor, and a cafe on the upper floor. Does anyone know what occupied these floors in the 60's? Regards, Chris Edwards



Former Caroline North building Liverpool
Photo: Chris Edwards

So any of the former Caroline North deejays or crewmembers in our readership, please be so kind to give the answer on Chris his question to HKnot@home.nl

GRAHAM GILL ARCHIVE PART 16

When I started this series of 'diving into the Graham Gill Archive' I didn't know that I would bring so many parts. At first I thought it would bring around 7. But as I'm now starting with part 16 and having a look in the box, where I've put everything I want to use for future parts, I presume it will be at least 20 episodes or more. So let's go quickly way back to the year 1973 when on October 1st it was Jan Hage from the Hongarenburg in The Hague, who wrote a long as well as interesting letter to Graham, who was at that moment on board the radio ship MEBO 2.

'First of all I would like to thank you very, very much for the tape on which you recorded some requests for my wife and my daughters Karin and Diana and last but not least for HaPro Services.' When reading this I try to relive the moment Graham read the letter with requests, went down into the big production studio of the radio ship, took an already transmitted tape to rerecord it with the requested things as well as a commercial for the movie production company which Jan Hage and his business partner had at the time. But there was also some disappointment in the letter.

'Much to my regret I had not the opportunity to come to the ship or to the harbour, on that particular Friday when you came off the ship last time. Dick Roos handed me the tape at a later moment.' For those who didn't follow RNI in the seventies I can reveal that Dick Roos was the boss of the company who did the tendering for RNI with both the Trip Tender and the Eurotrip.

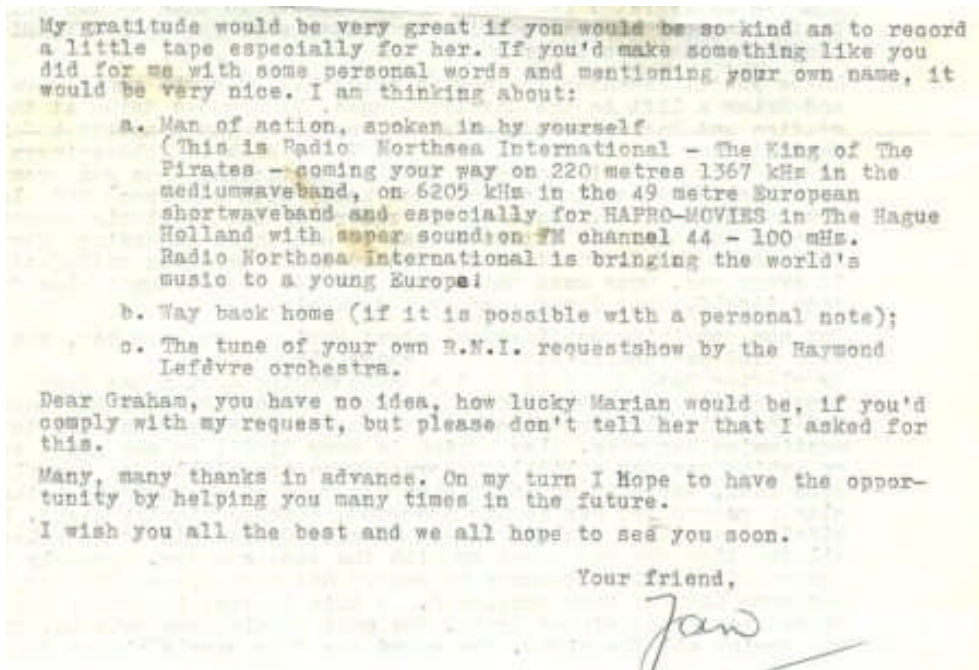
A familiar name was next in the letter as Marian Pronk from Scheveningen was not only an avid listener to RNI but also wrote a lot to certain deejays: 'Maybe you'll remember the day on which Marian Pronk and I gave you and Brian a lift to the Caroline House and we dropped Brian McKenzie at the railroad station. Marian made a photo of you and Brian standing in front of Marian's car at the Van Hoogendorpstreet. Later on we had a drink at Marian's house'.

It seemed that certain promises were made and not realised as Jan went on with: 'At that certain time you promised to record a special version with Kangaroo sounds added to 'Way Back Home', your signature tune. Right now

this number isn't available anymore in Holland. The intension was to use this tune for our film about RNI.'

But then frustration came around the corner: 'About Marian, you know her; she is a very kind and honest girl of 24. By playing back the tape Marian was very disappointed her name was not mentioned, because the tape was intended firstly for HaPro Movies. Marian is very sensitive to hear mentioning her name. Also she is very timid. Robb Eden, who came on board, when you came off, promised Marian to play a record for her in the program that particular night. From midnight till three she didn't went to sleep. Probably Robb forgot his promise, because no record has been played for her and her name had not been mentioned. The next morning she was telling me she was crying all night.'

The letter went on with mentioning what Marian had did in the past photographing several people within the RNI organisation and giving them for free these photographs and so Jan went on in his letter to Graham with:



My gratitude would be very great if you would be so kind as to record a little tape especially for her. If you'd make something like you did for me with some personal words and mentioning your own name, it would be very nice. I am thinking about:

- Man of action, spoken in by yourself
(This is Radio Northsea International - The King of The Pirates - coming your way on 220 metres 1367 kHz in the mediumwaveband, on 6205 kHz in the 49 metre European shortwaveband and especially for HAPRO-MOVIES in The Hague Holland with super sound on FM channel 44 - 100 MHz. Radio Northsea International is bringing the world's music to a young Europe!
- Way back home (if it is possible with a personal note);
- The tune of your own R.N.I. requestshow by the Raymond Lefèvre orchestra.

Dear Graham, you have no idea, how lucky Marian would be, if you'd comply with my request, but please don't tell her that I asked for this.

Many, many thanks in advance. On my turn I hope to have the opportunity by helping you many times in the future.

I wish you all the best and we all hope to see you soon.

Your friend,
Jan

I also found back a remarkable promotional card from Radio Nederland, signed by F. Bruce Parsons, deejay on the station, who wrote to Graham on June 15th 1973: 'Dear Graham Gill and all the deejays at sea. I've been catching your shows both in Dutch and English and feel you're doing a fine

job. When you can, give David Ireland's new single some spins. It's great: 'Shoot the family man' backed with 'Coming up strong'. The label is Delta. I'm sure you'll like it. He's available for exclusive interviews. Keep swinging and sailing. Let Holland hear Ireland.'



Radio Nederland What's New team 1973

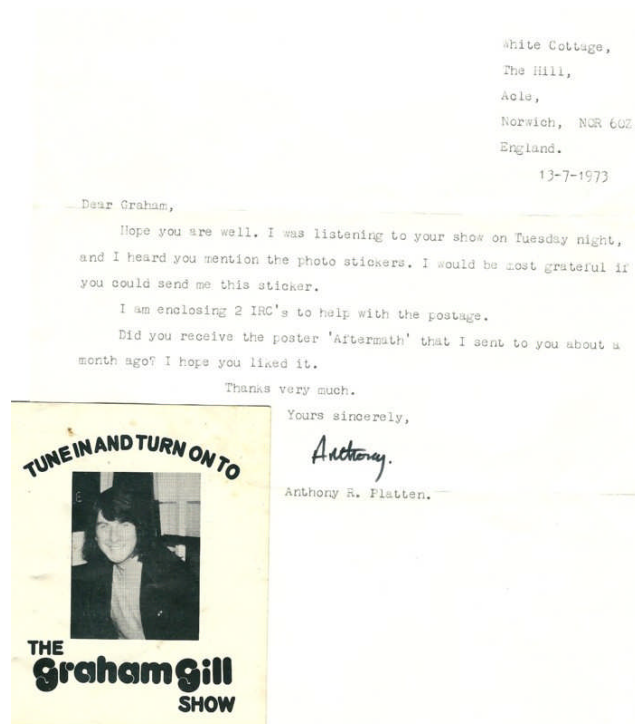
Bruce was famous earlier in New York as well in the reception area of WNYW, which was a very strong shortwave commercial radio station received in many parts of the world and would work, at a later stage, very close together with Graham Gill, as the latter one would join Radio Nederland too in the seventies of last century. Graham and Bruce had another thing together as both appeared in a song which became a hit. Graham was the newsreader in the song 'Melodrama' by Bolland and Bolland and the Canadian born Bruce Parsons appeared as deejay 'Lovable Larry' in the song 'Late night show' from the Dutch group Tiffany, which was released early 1979.

Next is a letter which was send from the White Cottage, the Hill, Norwich, by one of the persons who was a pen pal with me during the offshore days in the seventies. He wrote to Graham on July 13th 1973: 'Dear Graham, Hope you are well. I was listening to your show on Tuesday night and I heard mentioning the photo stickers. I would be grateful if you could send me this sticker. I am enclosing 2 IRC's to help with the postage. Did you receive the poster 'Aftermath' that I sent to you about a month ago? I hope you liked it. Thanks very much, yours sincerely, Anthony R. Platten.'

Well I presume Anthony Platten never got the photo sticker, showing Graham, as it was still in the envelope when I found it. The same counts for

the IRC's. I decided to inform Anthony about the letter and he came back to me with: 'Hi Hans, I cannot believe that you have found a letter from me to Graham Gill after all these years. I don not remember sending for a photo sticker, or even what the photo sticker was all about. Graham must have mentioned it on his show on RNI. I never did receive a sticker. I did corresponde with a few RNI deejays at the time, including Brian McKenzie and Dave Rodgers. I have no idea what the 'Aftermath poster' was. Best regards, Anthony Platten.

Well Anthony thanks a lot for responding and your memories of having contact with some of the deejays in those days on the colourful radioship. Enclosed a scan of the letter to prove you really wrote that one and finally the sticker is also enclosed on the scan.



I remember that in May 1973, when Jacob Kokje produced the RNI double LP, with me as co producer, all the handling and posting was done by me from Groningen. Graham Gill voiced over the commercial for the LP on RNI and in our then well known address of Pirate Radio News in Groningen the LP was ordered from all around Europe. Also some people in the USA, Japan and

Australia had heard the spot versus the shortwave outlet from the station or were informed of the new production by their DX Club.

I remember that one double LP was ordered from the former USSR. Going through the many letters from Graham I found also a remarkable one from July 8th 1973: 'I already heard your radio program for some months every day and find your music perfectly! Today I've a request. Can you broadcast my address during your program? I'm interested in having pen-friends in all over the world. Is it possible to help a 19 years old boy that has these interests: making trips, taking photos, hearing modern music, collecting stamps, dancing and writing letters? I have brown hair and blue eyes and am 1,82 meter. Please help me! Frank Böhme from Dresden in the German Democratic Republic.'



Of course I tried to get in contact with Frank but the first one I got contact with me told me that in Saxony, South Eastern Germany, this is a very common name. When looking specific for people with that name in Dresden there were more than 150.

As told before there were also a lot of photographs in Graham's boxes, the most of them totally unknown to me. When I saw the next one I thought back to the days in 1965 up till early 1967, when the shown guy, worked as a deejay on Radio City as Alan Clark.



When the station closed down in February 1967 he went on to work as Christopher Clark on Radio 390. This is one of a few photographs of Alan Clark found back and at the end of the sixties and early seventies a few of the former offshore deejays were befriended and often saw each other in a house at the Amsterdam Prinsengracht, were Carl Mitchell (Caroline and RNI), Stevie Gee (Caroline), Alan Clark (City and 390) as well as Graham Gill spend hours together. The photo must be seen as a promotional photo card from Radio City.

I'm ending this edition of the Graham Gill Archive with a card, including a request to be played in Graham's program. Well this card, from Lawrence Seng, was send to RNI's address in Hilversum, although the person had forgotten to put 'Hilversum' on the card, which was later added by someone else.



And with part 16 of the *Graham Gill Archive* I also end this September edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and will be back next month when I include a small look into my forthcoming book and inform you how it can be ordered.

Take care with best greetings Hans.