

## Hans Knot International Radio Report December 2013

Welcome to the report for the last month of this year 2013 and thanks all for reflecting, sending questions, interesting links as well as memories. This edition is appearing more than a week earlier than normal. This has to do with the fact in the Netherlands they celebrate 'Sinterklaas' during the time up till December 6<sup>th</sup>. I will be playing the old man again in around twenty five disadvantaged families and so no time for the report next week. As we nearing very fast the year 2014, in which the Big RadioDay will be held in Amsterdam on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be another happening a week later in March of which I want to bring more first in the report. So let's bring the info send by the organisation:

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"Hi people! My name is Captain Campbell and - as some of you MAY remember, I was skipper on the Ross Revenge between November 1985 (on and off) until the mid 90's when she went to Queenborough. In harmony with Hans Knot's superb international Radio Report, I am currently organising celebrations in the UK for the **50th Birthday of The Pop Pirates in the Thames Estuary.**

I'm planning for celebrations to held at the birthplace of Offshore Pirate Radio in the UK - i.e. Walton-On-The-Naze, Essex on Friday 28th March 2014, starting at around 10.30 hrs onwards. Although the finer details of this event have yet to be finalised (some are indeed under wraps for now!), the overall event will comprise:

- celebrations to commence at Walton-On-The-Naze RNLI Lifeboat House with personality compere, 60's music, media and DJs / celebrities from the last 50 years of Offshore Radio;
- lifeboat with DJs on board and press boat to sail out to actual Lat / Long anchorage point of Big L Radio London off Walton-

On-The-Naze, with ship-to-shore radio link to compere desk for benefit of audience on shore;

- at precisely midday, for the event to be celebrated in style with the ceremonial ringing of an Actual Caroline Bell, fireworks being launched from Walton Pier, cutting of an official birthday cake, press interviews, TV coverage and lots more!
- upon arrival back on shore, celebrations to continue into the afternoon and evening at The Royal Marine Public House and Function Rooms with refreshments and two local 60's bands performing. The venue will be adorned with a diverse range of Pirate Radio Memorabilia; all this will be sprinkled with some brief live stand-up interviews with DJs too.
- preceding all of this, an associate of mine is also currently in liaison with "the powers that be" to pull off a locomotive naming ceremony at London's Liverpool Street Station, the nameplate for which will read, 'Radio Caroline 1964 - 2014' - event to be confirmed.

All those interested please contact me **by post if you would** (**address below**) or - if not by email to me at: **[captaincampbell319@gmail.com](mailto:captaincampbell319@gmail.com)**

We are expecting a large turnout, so your early response will be most appreciated. My postal address: Captain Campbell, 57, Station Street, Walton-On-The-Naze, Essex, UK, CO14 8DW. My telephone number: +44(0) 7806 309460 (from the UK that's 07806 309460). **BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!** Best wishes to you all, **Captain Campbell"**.

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Sometimes people are sending me very shorty e-mail messages just to inform me they're thrilled by a memory from years ago. This next one came from Henk in Friesland just saying: 'On this mast I've stand'. It shows the mast which were put on the MV Communicator in the harbour of IJmuiden, after arriving in the Netherlands in 1994

with the aim to be used for Holland FM. Maybe Henk must have thought that the photo in last issue showing the remains of the same ship were to sad to show.



Well we go to Phil Champion, who brought us months ago in the Hans Knot Radio Report part 1 about the Scandinavian offshore radio stations. In last two issues he already started with the history of Radio Mercur. This time he takes us in part 2c to Radio Mercur

'Using the recording on the various websites I found 110 different advertisers. Several of these also had different versions of their ads, presumably renewed at different periods. The adverts on Radio Mercur were quite short. A lot were within 30 seconds, though the shortest was for Esso at just six seconds. Both Gajol Halspastiller (throat pastilles) and Det Gyldne Mel (The Golden Flour) were nine seconds each. Some 70% of ads fell into roughly equally into the 11 - 20, 21 -30 and 31 -40 seconds timings. A number were for about 15 or 20 seconds. While there were some for 40 to 50 seconds these were less frequent. A few lasted more than a minute, one of the longest being Dansk Ejendoms Service at 1 minute 20 seconds. One feature is that most had a male and a female, sometimes in a dialogue but often saying different parts of the ad. In fact 57% of ads had this combination with 26% voiced by one male, 8% each for a

female voicing it on her own or two men doing the ad; there was also an ad with two female voices. Sometimes there would be a song sung by male(s) and female(s) -18% were made this way. A musical background or introduction was found in 12% of ads, these usually being big band or other instrumental/orchestral though there were several guitar backings, a clarinet, a piano and bells. There were a handful of sound effects such as a car horn, a cat, applause, an echo and the sound of the wind.



Most advertisers seemed to be Danish. The only multinational companies I found were Coca Cola, Esso, Ford, Gulf, Max Factor and Shell. In 1959 Programme Director Niels Heilmann told 'TV' the costs of advertising. Spot adverts were 200 Krone for 15 seconds (I have seen 270 Krone mentioned - presumably this was in later years) and 500 Krone for 30 seconds. He said that these sounded expensive but were cheaper than newspaper advertising. A 15 minute sponsored show cost 1,000 Krone, double for 30 minutes but there was a 25% discount when TV programmes were on - presumably in the evening. The goods advertised covered a wide range. For the household there

were Edet kitchen rolls, Flink detergent, Bolighuset household goods possibly selling furniture, Bosch Køleskabe (refrigerators), Valo washing powder and Det Minut Kartoffelmos (The Minute Mashed Potatoes). Useful items were Contex Regnemaskiner (calculators),



Contex calculator

Gajol throat pastilles and Schaeffer fountain pens. Services advertised were Express Renseriet (dry cleaning), Finansbanken, Danehof Sølvsmiedie (silversmiths), Deres guldsmed (goldsmiths) and Ford dealers such as the one in Århus. Handy to have were service engineers at Bjørns Radio. For a snack there was Succes Chokolade from Galle & Jessen who were Denmark's oldest chocolate factory, Toms Chokolade -a Danish chocolate manufacturer or Oxford Kiks biscuits. Shops included Salling in Århus who had a department store but opened a new type of shop - a supermarket - in 1960 and Maibom Sko in the same town who sold shoes. Just to show that people were slowly getting more affluent were adverts for travel firms like Aerolloyd with their three adverts, a general one then one each for Majorca and Malaga. Arena Rejser also mentioned Majorca in their ad. Newly-formed Danish airline Nordair advertised on Mercur; their flights were mainly to the Mediterranean, especially Majorca

What about the station style? Throughout its time the station continued playing general easy-listening music with some other types featured. Often between programmes or between adverts there

could be eight notes on the xylophone. As well as playing records the station invited young Danish bands/pop groups to their studios to make recordings which would later be broadcast. The number of programmes featuring a particular artiste seems to have increased by 1961. Throughout Mercur's life the announcers seemed to keep the same quiet style. This was not the time of the chatty deejay; in fact, Radio Luxembourg's English deejays of the time probably seemed more lively and talkative! Keeping to the same style over four years is not too common with offshore stations; most change format like the easy-listening Caroline and Atlanta to become the Top 50 -orientated Caroline North and South. A feature I noticed is the non-stop music shows, one being on the opening day. In the 42 minutes taped from "Onsdagspiloppen" on January 17th 1962 the only announcements were several recorded adverts. Music was mainly instrumental -with seven of various styles and tempos plus four vocal records.

A couple of hours later the 16 minutes taped from 9.30 of "Vi spiller De ta'r fat" had a jazz piece starting a non-stop run of five instrumentals and two vocals, punctuated by a recorded advert. Whereas we think non-stop music is a recent phenomenon to save money on commercial stations it was not uncommon years ago. I remember continental 'official' stations playing 'non-stop' in the 1960s/70s and we had the same in 'Music While You Work' 50 years ago. In his regular show 'Mosaik' on April 9th 1961 John Steenberg played instrumental music for half an hour including orchestral and film music. As was common at the station an announcer of the opposite sex gave the opening and closing announcements about the programme and its presenter.



One Christmas Eve Hans Vangkilde played relaxed music but had quite a lot of talk with another male. On December 31st 1961 Radio Mercur broadcast an hour long talent show recorded before an audience at Radio Mercur City. The male and female announcer announced a range of performers: vocals often of several songs, a comic turn and a young person giving a monologue of over five minutes. Here the station was providing more of a variety show. Both announcers gave a good introduction to each performer but still in the station style; certainly not the excitable manner used in American, and now, British TV shows. At the end of the day a taped closedown 'Good night, good morning' (in Danish) announcement said by a male announcer was played.

Early photos show small fishing boats doing the tendering from Skokshoved. The 1959 'TV' article referred to a high-speed boat as the tender. Each day the tapes left the studios at 4 pm and would take two hours to reach the ship. However, on the day of their visit they didn't leave harbour until about 5 pm. The boat's skipper managed to get them to 'Cheeta' by 5.55; the first tape was due to be played five minutes later! Jørgen Hansen, who accompanied the tapes, handed them over to the crew on board. Once in stormy seas it took three hours for this boat to reach the ship.



Photo: Soundscapes Archive

The Hijmans article in April 1962 seems to show a change in the way tapes were sent out. Now Mercur's own light plane took off daily at 2.10 pm from the small Skovlunde airport. This was 12 miles from the capital on the Øresund side. First it flew to the Øresund where the pilot dropped the yellow drum containing programme tapes. The practice was for the ship's crew to throw out a large ring of rope into the water each afternoon. A cable attached to the drum would engage with the rope and the crew would haul the whole lot in. Only once in three and a half years had this method failed. We think that Radio Nord off Sweden pioneered this novel drop by air but it seems that Mercur was the first. The light plane continued to the other ship in the Storebælt where it dropped the red drum containing tapes to be collected by the same method.

The same article indicated the station planned to continue despite forthcoming legislation. Just as the English pirates said five years later they would operate from offices in other countries Olav Bennike told the reporter they would move across the border into Schleswig -Holstein in northern Germany. Adverts would be placed by Danish companies with foreign advertising agencies. Just as with Radios London and 270 these plans came to nought.





One of Mercur little tenders  
Photo: Soundscapes archive

The Minister of Transport, Kai Lindberg, in Denmark's Social Democratic government introduced an anti-offshore radio law into the Danish Parliament. It was passed in June 1962 to become effective on August 1st. Mercur stopped transmissions from 'Cheeta II' on July 10th leaving just 'Lucky Star' on 88 MHz to serve København and the rest of Sjælland. 'Cheeta II', according to Paul Dane, went to a German port where there were plans to send it out to broadcast off the coast of Greece but this project failed and the vessel was sold three years later to Britt Wadner of Sweden's Radio Syd. 'Lucky Star' continued until 11.55 pm on July 31st.

On the 29th of July there was a large auction of Mercur's record library. The most played and, therefore, the most scratched records, fetched the highest prices! The final day was full of memories from listeners and Radio Mercur staff. This was the line-up on that day: 9 am "Vi spiller, de ta'r fat", 12 noon "Frokost (Lunch) non-stop", 2 pm "Eftermiddagsrytmer" (Afternoon Rhythms), 4 pm "Jazz-land", 4.45 "Byens aften", 5.10 "Gaffelmusik", 6 pm "Lyt og slap af" (Listen and Relax), 7 "Sommerens stjerneshow" (This Summer's Star Show), 7.30 "Nu kan det være nok" (Now it May be Enough) - with two male announcers who ended the programme hoping for the introduction of commercial radio in Denmark, 8 pm "Pedro, Per og Anders sier farvel" (say goodbye), 9 "En håndful melodier" (A Handful of Tunes) -non-stop music and adverts, 10.13 "Journalist

Henni Knauers tak", 10.15 "Stjerne (Star of) Grand Prix", 10.45 "Verden rundt med (Around the world with) Aerolloyd" -the announcer talking of foreign flights/holidays with them, 11.15 "Kate og Preben, Aftenens fromhed." 11.45 "Stå Aldrig Til Søs"(Never go to Sea) -Vagn Jensen og Per Wiking." The final record played a song with the same title as the programme; it was an ironic choice and a song from the Danish opera "Pinafore." After the last piece of music the trumpet fanfare was played - but without the Radio Mercur voiceover. The broadcast finished at five minutes to midnight so no-one could accuse Radio Mercur of any offence. Technician Erik Lindhardt switched off the transmitter.

The 'Lucky Star' remained silent at her anchorage until August 13th when the Radio Mercur trumpet jingle/ID was heard again with old tapes played. Maybe there were inspired by Radio Syd a short distance away continuing. Those previously involved denied any responsibility. One report came that the ship was owned by a West German while another said it was a gentleman in Guatemala. As the ship flew a Lebanese flag it could not be boarded - until someone spotted that it was a fake. The raid on the 16th from Customs boats involved 21 people to take on the crew of four which seems excessive. However, the four - the captain, an engineer, radio engineer, cook - had been reported earlier as walking on deck carrying wooden replicas of rifles and machine guns painted black to look like real weapons. The raid took place at 4 am on a misty morning with customs officers, 21 uniformed officers and some in plain clothes. They had guns, batons and handcuffs.



## Entering Lucky Star Photo: Soundscapes

A small naval vessel stood off but took no part. On the radio-mercur.dk website is a link to the recollections of Leif Myrhøj, a policeman. All the police were armed with guns though a few had machine guns he thinks. Arresting a foreign vessel off Denmark had not been done in living memory and so all precautions had to be taken. His job was to supervise two men from Danmarks Radio who found the transmitter room, removed the crystal and silenced Mercur forever. The arrest of the ship's crew was peaceful with no resistance though the captain protested verbally. (A report in the "Glasgow Herald" said that the crew refused to give the names of the vessel's owners.) Soon the rest of the crew sat in the galley and made coffee for the raiders. The tug arrived soon after, the ships tied together, the anchor was lifted and the ship towed into Danish waters and into Tuborg Havn.

On the way several smaller boats put their flags at half mast in sympathy. The Lucky Star reached Tuborg at 9 am where it was chained up away from public access and where reporters who had followed events in a boat could not reach. At Tuborg Havn was a brewery whose workers blocked the police vehicles in for a while in sympathy with the offshore station. The captain and others were taken away for police questioning.



Siemens transmitter on Lucky Star  
Photo: Soundscapes

Transmitting equipment was cut up then the ship left chained up until January 1963 while the ownership structure was investigated. Legal proceedings lasted until 1963 and resulted in fines. Alex Brask Thomsen was also fined 20, 000 Danish Krone but this was overturned on appeal when it could not be proved that he had any responsibility for the "illegal broadcasts." In fact, Paul Dane said that it was never really discovered who was behind the resumption of broadcasts. However, over 40 years later it was found out that it had been some of the pioneering 'pirates' from Mercur like Benny Knudsen and Børge Agerskov as they revealed to Henrik Nørgaard in his book "Pirater i æteren" in 2003.

Radio Mercur had lasted four years, longer than stations like Radio London or Radio City - not bad for the first proper offshore venture. As with most stations which followed it until Radio London in December 1964 it was primarily MoR. The nearest UK equivalent was Radio 390 in terms of sound and relaxed, quiet style. It showed that it was technically and organisationally possible to run an offshore radio station. It was also the first to have more than one ship, beating Caroline North and South by several years. Not many others went through three ships in their time. It also led the State radio,

Danmarks Radio, to set up a new channel, P3 in 1963 just as Sweden had earlier set up Melodiradio while the Netherlands would create Hilversum 3 and Britain set up Radio 1 in the years to come -all because the offshore stations had provided what many listeners really wanted to hear -popular music throughout the day.

What happened to the staff after Mercur closed? A number went to Danmarks Radio, just as a number from the British offshore stations joined the BBC. P3 started on January 1st 1963 aimed at a younger audience with similar programmes to Mercur but without adverts. Paul Dane regarded this all as the 'biggest tribute' to Radio Mercur. Those going to DR P3 included Hans Vangkilde, Pedro Biker and Per Wiking. From 1967 Pedro moved to TV news. Per's work at DR was first a freelance radio play director and translator before moving to TV entertainment from where he retired in 2000. Anders Dahlerup returned to his former employer at first on the radio then TV where he often translated and dubbed foreign films into Danish. Nette Schreiner was a DR programme secretary and radio announcer until 1993. Four years later she moved to Norway. Kjeld Erik Larsen worked for P3 in 1963 -64 with a show called "Etiquette." After presenting 53 shows for Radio Mercur Hannah Rahlff became a programme director for DR radio and TV from 1963 to 1969. She also moved to Norway to teach ballet and drama and also gives lectures on satisfaction at work and in private life. Niels Heilemann became a video producer. Georg Kringelback had a few years with P3 then onto TV and back to newspaper journalism. Hannah Bjarnhof appeared on Danish radio and continued acting. Poul Reinou continued in advertising then started a record import company and ran his own record and film shop in København for 25 years. Preben Ploug moved into theatrical production. John Steenberg even ran a Radio Mercur community station in the Frederiksberg part of København from 1987. He also ran community stations like Classic Radio until 1994. He is now on community station Radio Kattegat in the late mornings. He is also a trained hypnotherapist and is still working in his 70s. The technician who switched off the transmitters before the new law

came into force, Erik Lindhardt, moved to Australia where he became an aircraft engineer.

As well as John Steenberg's Radio Mercur there were two more operations named after the station. The journalist Erik Haaest signed an agreement with Peer Jansen to use the Mercur name and theme tune on stations in Mallorca (1969 -70) and the Costa del Sol (1982 -84). More recently, in 1998 a Danish local station in Kolding called itself Radio Mercur Gold.

Several of the Mercur staff died young. Preben Uglebjerg was just 37 when he died in 1968, the same year founder Peer Jansen died aged 38, Pedro Biker was 48 when he died in 1973; Georg Kringelback died aged 51 in 1979 with Anders Dahlerup being 52 when he passed away in 1981. Several died in recent years: Hannah Bjarnhof in 2002 (73), Poul Reinau in 2003 (81), Kate Mundt (74), Børge Agerskov in 2005 and Per Wiking in 2007 (75). The backer Alex Brask Thomsen went on to make his bank one of the major ones over 22 years before selling it. He moved to Montreux and Monaco. He lived a Spartan lifestyle in his large house surrounded by twentieth century Danish art. When he died aged 85 in 2005 his fortune was said to be £1 billion.



Tage Roepke on Lucky Star

## Photo: Soundscapes

Thomsen disposed of the most of equipment after Mercur's second forced closure. Some of the unsold radio equipment he gave to his teenage son Anker who had fun setting up a radio transmitter at his boarding school and recording pop or rock music on the tape recorders from Radio Mercur. Some of the former Mercur sound equipment was exhibited at Brandt's museum in Odense in 2003 at an exhibition on the Danish offshore stations which opened on the same day as the 'Pirater i æteren' was published. These included reel-to-reel tape recorders.

What happened to the buildings used by Mercur? The original villa in Maltegårdsvej 24 is shown on an internet search as used by a sound processing company but clicking on their website shows they are (now) elsewhere. However, the address is also that of the Danish Society of Composers, Authors and Editors. The Nørrebro Teater continues in its role, concentrating on stand-up acts and musicals. Of the three buildings used at different times by the sales side, Rømersgade 9 houses an expensive clothes shop while Sortedams Døssering 55 is home to a wi-fi and phone company. In future articles I'll look at DCR then Skånes Radio Mercur/Radio Syd.

Phil Champion.'

Well Phil I like to thank you a lot for this extensive series on Scandanavian Offshore Stations. More about this subject in future editions of the Hans Knot International Report. Anyone who wants to write memories is free to send them in to: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

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## Documentary 'The Voice of Peace - The Dream of Abie Nathan'

Under directory of well-known German Eric Friedler, production from Silke Schütze and editor Patricia Schlesinger, the documentary

'The Voice of Peace - the dream of Abie Nathan' will be shown for the very first time for a selected group of persons in Hamburg in December. This will be the premiere for those who worked together with the team in the documentary.

A radical dreamer and a rebellious visionary; the Peace activist Abie Nathan was his time - with disarmed directness - far ahead. He was the man behind the Voice of Peace project, the radio station which was on the air between 1973 and 1993 aiming the programs to all the inhabitants from the several countries in the Middle East. But he also tried to get the struggling parties over and over again together, to talk about Peace, something he did far before the Peace talks between PLO and Israel took place in 1991 in Oslo.



In the documentary all this important work will be highlighted as well as Abie Nathan's humanitarian work he did all over the world for decades. Next to a lot of exclusive footage around 40 persons are interviewed for the project like: President Schimon Peres from Israel, Yoko Ono, Sir Michael Caine, Hans Knot, Don Stevens, Robbie Owen, John McDonald en Mark Hanna.



It was Hans Knot who followed Abie Nathan intensive since they met for the first time in 1968 and he published in 2006 the book: Voice of Peace Memories and Abie Nathan's work; which was a welcome help for the production team.

'The Voice of Peace - The dream of Abie Nathan' will be shown on German Television (Das Erste ARD) for the first time on Tuesday January 7 2014 at 22.45 CET.

Next news from Alex van der Hoek: 'This is the video report of a very successful afternoon Live radio from Museum RockArt at Hoek van Holland. The reunion of the Dutch deejays from the Radioship MEBO II from Radio Northsea International in the seventies. The reunion was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2013.

<http://youtu.be/9TBEEYGx5jw>

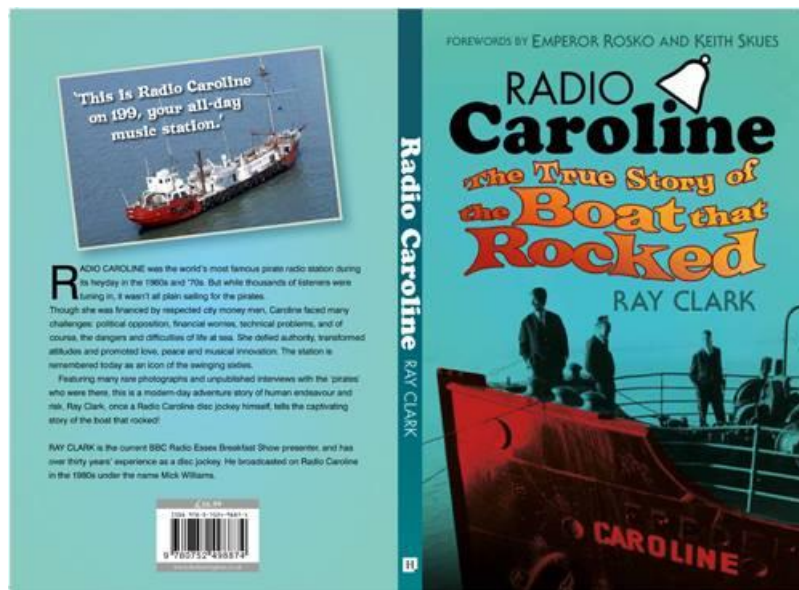
It was a very successful afternoon with a lot of memories as well as stories not heard before. Amongst others we saw and heard: Erik Post, Peter (Age) Jager, Dick de Graaf, Marc van Amstel, Nico Steenbergen, Elibert Maathuis (Edy Mathieu), The Hearts Of Soul en Ad Bouman. Of course, with a lot of thanks to everybody who were responsible for the good organising.



Dick de Graaf and Nico Steenbergen

Photo: Willem de Bruijn

Next year February another book on Offshore Radio will see the light: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Rocking-Boat-Fifty-Years-Caroline/dp/0752498878>



Well it's another big month to go to 2014 and we're counting down to March 22<sup>nd</sup> when a lot of the readers, including more than 70 former offshore deejays from sixties and seventies are coming to Amsterdam to be there at the annual Radio Day. Almost from all continents of the world there flying in, including people from Australia, USA, Canada, Mexico and many European countries.



At [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl) you can see the scheduled program starting with an American Documentry. Do you want to know more about that, just read the next few lines written in from the USA producer:

'Way back in 1989, an excellent professor told me about the radio pirates of the Netherlands--then and now. I thought, "Wow! Pirates have taken over! I have to meet them." A mere 23 years later, my sabbatical brought me to Amsterdam, Groningen, Hilversum, London, the Thames, and other communities to interview Hans Knot, Ad Bouman, Hans Hogendoorn, Tineke, Herbert Visser, Bob Noakes, Keith Skues, Johnny Walker, Tony Prince, and other very helpful giants on the subject. Two excellent students and my wife joined me in shooting a video documentary. Now, on RadioDay 2014, the subjects of my documentary get to play critic -how intimidating - and we get to go back to the Netherlands. I hope my documentary is as kind to my hosts as they were to me. Wayne Hepler Professor Baltimore, Maryland USA.'

Well Wayne it will good to see you there and hopefully the attenders will give you a warm welcome. Seeing the list of people you've interviewed I think most of them will attend the RadioDay too.

In last issue we had certain questions from Dave who had listened, by shortwave, to RNI off the Libyan coast in the seventies and so here are the wanted answers from Robin Banks:

'Greetings Dave! Hans Knot asked me to get in touch with you. Apparently you were able to hear the 6205 kHz signal from the MV El Fatah, formerly the Mebo II, anchored off the Libyan coast in August 1977. I'd love to be able to tell you the whereabouts of the ship at the time, however my log book will no doubt be buried under a pile of of folders in the attic and home to a family of creepy crawlies. The ship could have been just off either Tripoli, Benghazi, Derna or Zewara. If I was playing Beatles and Stones records back to back then we would have been just off Derna (East of Benghazi) jamming out Radio Cairo for Col Ghadaffi's pleasure. This was a great location to be at with wall to wall sunshine and spending most of the day swimming and exploring the multitude of shipwrecks along the rocky coast line.



Robin Banks 1974  
Photo: Peter Jager

My instructions were always "get the ship ready to receive a link from shore, keep the transmitters on air with test transmissions and we'll be ready with our programmes in a few days" Occasionally we would receive links for the Holy Koran radio service which didn't sit very well with the endless rock & roll test transmissions. On arrival at Tripoli port one time, I was asked to run the 100 kW AM transmitter at full power. Despite my telling the authorities that this was foolish since it would cause massive disruption to any radio services in the port as well as break-through into any audio systems locally, they still insisted on the full 100 kW which secretly I was hoping for! Meanwhile a grain ship on the other side of the harbour was busy unloading its cargo by crane. As the cargo was removed and the crane hook reached a few feet from the steel floor of the hold, a massive bolt of energy was discharged between them. This was accompanied by deafeningly loud passages from the Holy Koran which we were transmitting. The entire ship's crew immediately abandoned the vessel refusing to go back because the fury of Allah was upon them. In addition to this, a Navy vessel had its laundry set fire too, this was hanging from wire lines over the deck. Another incident was at a radio studio in Tripoli where our strong signal penetrated the audio desk which relayed the Holy Koran over the top of news & current affairs!. I offered to reduce the power to only 5 kW on a different transmitter which sort of helped. Fortunately, the authorities could see the funny side to it all... Just one of many strange stories to tell about this period in the life (and death) of the Mebo II.

I'm happy to send you a QSL card for your reception report, albeit 36 years in the making! Very best wishes, Robin Adcroft (aka Robin Banks)'.  
'

Thanks a lot Robin taking the time to respond and it's always nice to read your memories. Hope to meet up in a couple of months' time. Next is a long e mail I got from reader Vernon Cox:

'Dear Hans, I have been meaning to write to you for some time now. Thank you for a really good read every month. Keep up the good work. I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Rob, my condolences to all who were close to him. My memories of offshore radio are only as a listener, although we did run a mobile discotheque for several years in the early seventies. RNI was a big influence in my choice of music and proved to be quite popular with our audience, often with a continental influence. I managed to obtain Dutch singles such as artists Sandy Coast, Golden Earring, Teeset, Juan Bastos etc. There was fellow called Rosko who used to provide an American influence. I've still got some Rosko fan club stickers in storage somewhere. Anyone remember "grabbit the rabbit"?



In 1970 and just leaving school and going to college for radio and tv servicing, I met a radio enthusiast who was raving about RNI. Once I got home, I tried to get any radio in the house tuned in. What/who was this Driemaster? Anyhow, reception was not that good and my knowledge of Dutch was non-existent. Living in the land locked midlands made reception of any offshore station virtually impossible.

Night time was just acceptable. I remember in the mid-sixties trying to tune into Caroline, but with the volume turned right up the station was barely audible and a light switch being turned on or off causing an enormous crack from the speaker was enough to put a stop to any serious listening. We also live in a valley so most signals just passed overhead. My friend from college lived a lot further away on top of a hill so his reception was much better. AFN used to be a good listen for those American tunes.



Then, quite by accident I got a radio with shortwave on it. Wow! 49 metre band, yes I could hear RNI. Oh, Sunday mornings lying in bed listening to AJ Beirens. This made me like offshore stations even more. I'm quite excited to see the film '3 mile Limit'.

When the station was jammed, the jamming came through loud and clear any time of day or night. Undeterred by the government's action, it made me more determined to carry on listening. I nearly broke the drive cord on the radio having to keep retuning! I do remember hearing the fire-bombing when it was happening. I could not believe this was real. Mother reckoned it was a play like they have on the Home service!

Today I have an extensive collection of music that was played on RNI. Most of my I Tunes is full of recordings of the station, from very early test transmissions to the final close down. Even now 'Man of Action' still makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up! I play MP3 recordings on the car radio and in the works van. When I listen to the programmes of RNI, I realise how advanced the concept of commercial radio was with RNI. I now have a reasonable grasp of Dutch and find the Dutch programmes very enjoyable. For instance,

sports programmes and phone ins. They were there. I know it was not possible to do them from the Mebo2 but quite possible from the studio's in Bussum.

Am I right in thinking there was mention of 'stereo uitzending'? (Must have been a first of April joke HK) I find it impossible to say who was my favourite presenter on RNI but for absolute professionalism I would say Graham (Hi there good people) Gill, along with Ferry Maat, Mike Ross. All the deejays were good in their own right, Brian Mc Kenzie from early days right to the very end. Terry Davis, where are they now?

I wish to thank the people at the Rock Art Museum for a fantastic time we had when we visited earlier this year and wish them success with the RNI weekend 8th 9th and 10th November. If readers are ever in the area, do call in, it's well worth a visit.

In finishing off, I must take opportunity to thank Meister and Bollier for their efforts in making possible such a fantastic station. I only wish it could have continued today. But we all know the reasons why. Before I sign off, I wish you all well in our 'radio world' and I may get to Radio Day next year, sounds as though it will be a great occasion. Kind Regards From Vernon Cox'.

Thanks Vernon and yes going to the RadioDay will be the opportunity to see the stars from RNI as most of them will join in. The only one not to find is Mike Ross. After 1987, when I did interview him in London, I lost completely track with him. Also others don't know where he is now.

Mike Hayes, known from Radio 270 and other things is reader of the report too and wrote after reading the name of deejay Paul Kramer: 'Hi Hans, again an interesting report. About Paul Kramer, he worked on Radio 270 in 1967 and left us before the close down in August. At that stage he was busy preparing another movie but was hit by a car.



When he got out of his car he was collided by another car and died.  
On the photos, in the first he's the man in the middle, on the other  
on the right.

With best greetings

Mike Hayes

[www.mike-hayes.com](http://www.mike-hayes.com)

[www.mikesgallery.info](http://www.mikesgallery.info)



Always good to hear from Duncan Johnson: 'I am forever amazed at  
the number of pages your correspondents can fill when writing about  
pirate radio. When I first met Screamin' Lord Sutch, about March  
1964, he wanted me to read excerpts from Lady Chatterley's  
Lover on the new radio station he was setting up on a fort in the

Thames Estuary. (The publisher of 'Lady C' was prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act at the time.) When I asked what the studio was like, David Sutch replied, "well, we don't really have one yet, but we find that the apple boxes are quite comfortable to sit on".

In June 1966, as part of a Radio London assessment team on a visit to Radio City, I was greeted at the top of the entrance ladder by a vision in Skye Blue cap, jumper and tight denims, who said, "Hi I'm Tom Edwards, but most people on here call me, Mother". It was a fairly short visit. A few days later, we had reports of the City owners using real bullets during a dispute. I decided I needed a break. That, Hans, was my part in the Radio City story. Cheers, Duncan Johnson.' Thanks a lot Duncan, well some years later 'Mother Edwards' was wearing nice clothes. Thanks Duncan for sharing this memory.



Yes, here we go again with my man in England who always has own ideas and meanings about our common love for radio, Ian Godfrey: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the latest Report and the downloads, which I'm gradually working through. I've just listened to one of them, a Dave Rogers show on RNI from August 1971. He was sitting in for Mark Stewart, who I'm pretty sure only returned for a short stint in late August/early September 1971 and was apparently fired about the same time as Andy Archer.

The three months or so up to the merger of Radio Caroline and Radio Atlanta has always fascinated me, even though I don't remember being aware of offshore radio generally until the summer of 1965, mainly due to being at boarding school and not knowing anybody who was interested. I feel pretty sure that if I'd heard even a slight hint of a mention of an offshore station in mid-1964 I would have been as transfixed as I was a year or so later! I read somewhere recently, possibly in *OEM*, that a merger was seriously discussed almost from the word go, which seems quite likely. I have several recordings of Atlanta and I think I agree that the output had a slightly more exciting edge compared with Radio Caroline. Simon Dee said that they weren't 100% sure which format to go for, so they based their playlist pretty close to the Light Programme. How much of this was tongue-in-cheek we'll never know! It seems that Atlanta were prepared to stick their neck out a bit but, judging by the recordings I have, they were very MOR and country-influenced.

There was a show called 'Turntable 64', presented by Tony Withers and at least one other DJ, possibly Clive Burrell. I have a few short clips of this and would like to hear more of it as it was quite innovative and related much more to the youth of the time.

I'm involved in a couple of voluntary jobs but apart from that I'm fortunately in a position to listen to a fair amount of Internet radio; just a handful of stations occupying about 80% of my listening. Anniversaries are great times for indulgence! Last Monday I discovered the Paul Graham show on Oldies Paradise, every weekday from 16.00-17.00 GMT and unmissable at least for the rare/forgotten 45s.

JingleNet.NL sounded interesting but I've tried the website a couple of times, without success. There is obviously a problem somewhere. I had a look at the SAS Radio Group website a couple of weeks ago and found a few recently-discovered colour shots of the MEBO 2 from 1970, such a momentous year in offshore radio!

Also being a railway and vintage bus enthusiast I've done several trips this year, behind steam and to bus rallies. It was mentioned some time ago that several readers have similar interests. I'd be happy to get in touch with any like-minded readers.  
Best wishes, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks a lot Ian, will look if I've some more Atlanta for you soon. Anyway good to read you're a railway and vintage bus enthusiast too, as more of the readership has the same combined hobbies. By the way, talking about vintage, I'm also collector of photos of vintage cars related to radio. The next one is taken in 1979. Radio Netherlands was visiting several places around the Spanish coast to do special programs that summer.



Another regular person writing to me is Sherri Lynn and although she was not in various reports she's an instant reader: 'Hi Hans: Thanks

so much for your latest Report. I have been reading it with great interest! Looking forward to seeing 'RADIO CAROLINE A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM!' Too bad that we have to wait until 2014, but your RadioDay will be a really great event to launch this documentary about the True Story about Radio Caroline.'

Well Sherri thanks for the e mail and no we will not feature this documentary as we have chosen for the premiere of an American Documentary which is produced by professor Wayne Hepler and his team. Sherri went on with: 'Is the face in the smallest circle in the image for the movie that you posted that of Rosko?'

It was the poster I posted next to the information of the Radio Caroline Documentary and it was not Rosko but a photo from the late Tommy Vance, whose book is the red line in the forthcoming documentary.

Sherri ended her e-mail with: 'So, it sounds like 'RadioDay' has been going longer than Radio Caroline because it has been ongoing for 36 years so far, whereas Caroline has been intermittent and probably in all not active as long as Radioday. If that is the case, all the more reason to say a very big well done to you all who have been organizing and involved with Radioday for so many years! Hope you and your family are all well. God Bless. Sherri Lynn.'

Well thanks a lot Sherri for the warm words and feel welcome to come to Amsterdam too in March. And look who we have next? Yes Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame:

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

New for November:

- Former Radio Scotland engineer Gordon McCallum shares some wonderful photos from his time at sea;

- Steve England provides some pictures that belonged to his friend the late Leon Tipler - formerly of Radio 270 - and we have updated Leon's tribute page;
- we link to a re-creation of Radio City, as featured in a recent commercial;
- there is news of a documentary being made about Radio Caroline;
- and we add another page to the ever-growing 'Eighties Supplement', this time looking at offshore broadcasters from that era with names beginning with E and F.

My thanks, as ever, to everyone who has contributed. More next month. All the best, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

One of the presenters on Radio Caroline, from the eighties, was Kim Frazier, who also was part of the presentation team who did the very first restricted licence when the Ross Revenge was in Dover Harbour in the early nineties of last century. It's there I took this photograph.



Kim Frazier Photo: Hans Knot

Next is Jan from Germany: 'Dear Hans, coming closer to the 50th anniversary of the Radio Caroline 'start up', I simply say, that I like those legends around the 'why and how' as these are good legends. But there are also interesting other facts. One is to be found for example in the autobiography of John Peel. This later offshore and most famous BBC deejay was working in Dallas in 1963 and became eye-witness on the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby.

That is not only described in his book. Johns face can also be seen on pictures filmed when Oswald, accused of murdering president Kennedy, was brought through an underground corridor inside the Dallas jail house, where this scene took place.

Surely in these weeks, the book shops will again show new and old publications all around Kennedy and his assassination. A book here on my shelf having nothing to do with broadcasting at all has the title 'PT109 : John F.Kennedy in World War II'. It was published in 1961 and tells the history of 'Jack' Kennedys time in the US Navy in south east Asia during WWII. The style of admiration on this man by the navy veterans is sometimes on the border of standing for todays reader. Best regards, Jan Sundermann.'

Well thanks a lot Jan for this update, surely it will be interesting for those following Big L by Mary and Chris Payne their site:

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

And be sure Kennedy is also a topic between the Knot brothers during these weeks. Look here for the President Kennedy March:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FP1-eHwDuPY>



**John Peel 1968 Archive: Freewave Media Magazine**

Interesting discussion came on Facebook lately after I was publishing this photo, which is in my archive since early seventies but I never knew who it was. Well with thanks to Tony Prince and Jon Mayer we now know it's the American technician Bob Read, who works on Caroline North in the sixties. By the way, Bob is a reader now for the Hans Knot International Radio Report and so Bob feel free to share your memories and photos with us.



**Bob Read: Archive Hans Knot**



And now over to our friends from France Radio Club:

'Radio Caroline, the free station that broadcast from several ships anchored in the North Sea, is known worldwide. She arrived on the air in 1964, and from then on fought against wind and tide, the idea that radio should be free and innovating and be a source of entertainment and adventure. And it was an adventure indeed! As for innovation, all that exists today in the field of radio was invented by Radio Caroline and fellow offshore broadcasters, and by those who accompanied her on board their various ships. This with extraordinary enthusiasm, well shown in the film 'The Boat that rocked', inspired by the life of Radio Caroline.

The Life of Radio Caroline has seen twists, dramas, disappearances and returns. The legendary pirate fought for years to impose her unique style, making the dream for generations of listeners. Thanks to DJ's and listeners, the station fought incessantly for survival, facing the aggression of the authorities, as well as the elements. Her freedom has never been accepted by successive British governments. Having gained legitimacy after years of struggle for freedom, the radio has never been recognised by the various British authorities. They jammed, blocked, besieged, and boarded her, but in the end she always returned, true to her legend... Until the British authorities voted in a law that allowed them to board the ship by force, without any previous authorisation and with full immunity, even if in international waters, without respecting her flag ...

Radio Caroline was killed on November 5, 1990, 23 years ago. Her ship remained at sea to try and prepare for a return under new conditions, to get around the new British law. But the people in charge of the ship at the time found themselves unable to properly handle the new challenge and began to seek a unilateral solution for a landbased Radio Caroline - forfeiting a free future - without even keeping her founder Ronan O'Rahilly or her supporters informed. The ship ran aground in late 1991, and had to be brought into an

English port, under the control of the British authorities, a supreme humiliation for listeners to Radio Caroline, who had already lost their station.

None of the team in charge then, had any documentation showing that they represented the owners of the vessel. As these owners - Canadians - never officially claimed their ship, the British authorities eventually accepted, by default, these people as representatives of the owners, especially because, with the help of money from supporters, they proposed to pay the outstanding salvage charges.

Some saw then the opportunity to collaborate with the authorities, with backward-thinking the hope of obtaining a legal license to broadcast to England. Such a license of course, would never be granted. Many suitors then claimed the prestigious name of Radio Caroline. Some, because they held the ship, wrongly believed that the name was legitimately due to them. The name has even been filed in England. A real shame for a station that has always fought the establishment! Opportunistic stations of the same name - usually on the internet and with few listeners - were added to the current despairing radio world. But they have no moral or legal right to rely on the offshore radio that revolutionised the world of broadcasting in Europe in 1964.

Radio Caroline is more than just a name; it's a free spirit which simply cannot be recreated from some landbased English studios, controlled by authorities whose sole objective over the years has always been to crush the free radio station!



France Radio Club would like to point out that the true Radio Caroline is no longer on the air since 1990! Her last ship, the Ross Revenge, is in the hands of a group of former supporters who repaint and maintain her more or less regularly (as some enthusiasts clubs do with steam locomotives). This is laudable, but this is not free radio or even radio at all. This ship is not Radio Caroline. Before her there were many others ships which have sheltered offshore radio... The most notable one was probably the MV Mi Amigo.

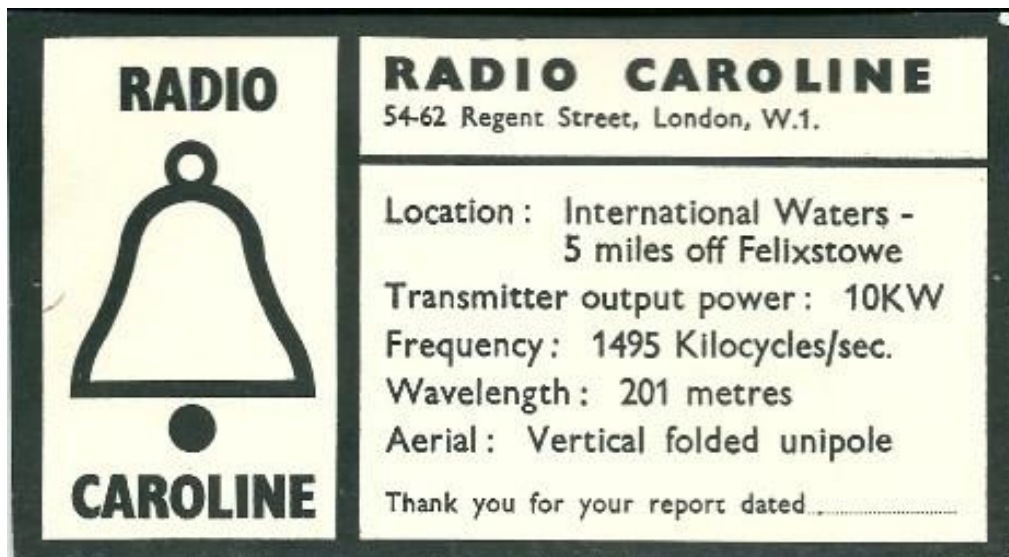
At a period when innovation and adventure have disappeared from the airwaves, a true free station must return, so that presenters and listeners come together again for the fun of radio. And the only way to do that is to restore her freedom. And the only place where this is possible is at sea! It is time Radio Caroline returns to sea. 2014 will not be Radio Caroline's 50 years anniversary since she is not on the air anymore - but the 50 years anniversary of the arrival of the first offshore Radio Caroline ship, the MV Fredericia. Why not make 2014 the year of the return of the legendary Radio Caroline at sea?

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**About Radio Caroline:**

<http://www.offshoreechos.com/Caroline%2060/Radio%20Caroline%20-%20Main%20Page.php>



Two interesting articles about pirate radio in common, although far from complete

<http://mnarc.org/news/2013/03/radio-in-the-water/>  
<http://voices.yahoo.com/history-pirate-radio-3907032.html>

In 1981 suddenly a new radioship, the MV Magda Maria, appeared of the Dutch coast. It was aimed to bring two radio stations, Radio Paradijs as well as Radio Monique. However Dutch authorities had other ideas and entered the radioship, which got a new anchorage in Amsterdam harbour with a lot of equipment removed. From the late Rob Olthof's Foundation of Media Communication's Archive we bring you exclusively 5 photographs taken by Tom Durney from Ireland. It shows a ship nearing the radio ship and bringing aboard a team from the Veronica Broadcasting Corporation, which was at that stage a fully public broadcaster. For radio as well as television it was Ruud Hendriks reporting on the 'new station'. The photos can be found at

our ever growing archive with photos from the collection of Rob Olthof, Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets>

Also 400 Dias from Dietmar Flacke, taken in the eighties featuring Laser and Caroline, can now be found at high resolution:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157637705661675/>

This ends the longest edition ever of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. I hope many of you will take some time to write something for the Christmas edition, which will be yours before Christmas. Just use [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) to send this. Have a great month, Hans Knot