

Hans Knot International Radio Report November 2014

Welcome everybody to the November edition of the radio report. Many interesting e-mails as well questions, photos and sad news. First we go to someone who was not known to me till 4 weeks ago:

'Hi Hans I was working for a period on the MV Mi Amigo during 1979. I went out with some friends while the station was off the air between the Mi Amigo and Dutch Caroline. We cleaned up the records and painted the ship and it looked quite well when it returned to the air during Easter 1979. I left the ship on the day it returned to air and came back on the Mi Amigo in September 1979. 'Captain' Harris was on board then, he was the only person with past 'sea' experience but for some reason he didn't want to leave the vessel and return to land!



Gary Tanner and Robb Eden. Photo collection G. Tanner

While on board, there was a suitable supply of beer and soft drinks for the crew members but due to excessive consumption by the captain, this had to be rationed! I'll sort out some photos I took while I was on the Mi Amigo. Interestingly I have photos of the barge, which delivered the fuel and crew on the night before it

returned to the air in April 1979, and would be willing to write up the experience of the night.

Briefly, the events unfolded as follows: A few weeks before I joined the Mi Amigo in 1979 to carry out maintenance and painting works in preparation to the stations return to air, a storm hit the south east coast of the UK and washed a barge containing a crane onto the beach at Margate, Kent. The barge had been used for demolition work on the Margate jetty due to previous storm damage.

The barge was salvaged from the beach by two garage owners who had previous contact with the Caroline organisation. When it was salvaged it was taken to a small jetty on the river Stour at Sandwich in Kent.

The barge arrived at the Mi Amigo late at night, I don't know how they managed to find us because fuel on the Mi Amigo was very low and at night when meals were finished we turned off the small petrol generator and lit oil hurricane lamps and hung them around the vessel.



The barge had Dutch and English DJ's along with Peter Chicago and more importantly fuel. The fuel and supplies were transferred and myself and a friend, who accompanied me, left for home on the barge as I lived in Ramsgate not too far from Sandwich.

The barge had no radar system and relied on only a compass, it arrived at Pegwall Bay as the tide was going out and became stuck on the mud flats. We were told that we would have to wait until the tide turned. We really didn't want to wait so we climbed off the barge with our luggage and walked across the mud flats and then on to my house where we had a hot bath (no running water on the Mi Amigo). Gary Tanner.'

Well Gary thanks a lot for sharing these memories from decades ago and if you've more, feel free to send them to HKnot@home.nl



Barge the Saker Photo: Gary Tanner

On August 31th 2014 it was forty years ago that the offshore broadcasting station Radio Northsea International closed down. Now there's a new book available containing unknown pictures and facts about the interesting and exiting story of RNI. Against all odds and despite of many bizarre situations, for more than four years, RNI managed 'to survive' broadcasting from sea. The book is published by former RNI deejay Marc van Amstel, who wanted it to be a tribute to RNI and his first professional radio job and also his Dutch

colleagues. It was produced and written by former Radio Mi Amigo and Monique deejay Ferry Eden, who used to be an RNI-listener at the time.



On August 30th 2014 the book was presented to Edwin Bollier and Victor Pelli at MEBO Office in Zurich. It was also presented during the RNI reunion in Hilversum on August 31th 2014 and both former RNI Program Directors Joost den Draaijer (Willem van Kooten) and Tony Berk received the 'first samples' of the book there. It is written in Dutch language and called 'De gouden glans van radio' (The golden shimmer of radio) after a famous RNI jingle by Hans ten Hooge. It contains 160 pages with 175 pictures and about 75 illustrations. It is for sale on www.degoudenglansvanradio.nl and available for € 24,95 plus € 11 European Postal charges, total costs € 35,95 but within the Netherlands Postal charges are € 3,84, total costs € 28,79. For more information you can contact northseaferry@outlook.com

Radio Hauraki was New Zealand's one and only pirate radio station, which broadcast from international waters in the Hauraki Gulf, near the city of Auckland, between 1966 and 1970. Back in the 1960s all radio stations were controlled and operated by a Government agency. For more go to:

www.thepirateyears.co.nz

Above with thanks to Ray Clark and now Mike Barraclough who found a compilation of cartoons about offshore radio from the British Cartoon Archive, which were recently posted on Digital Spy. There is a zoom facility, the captions are also underneath.

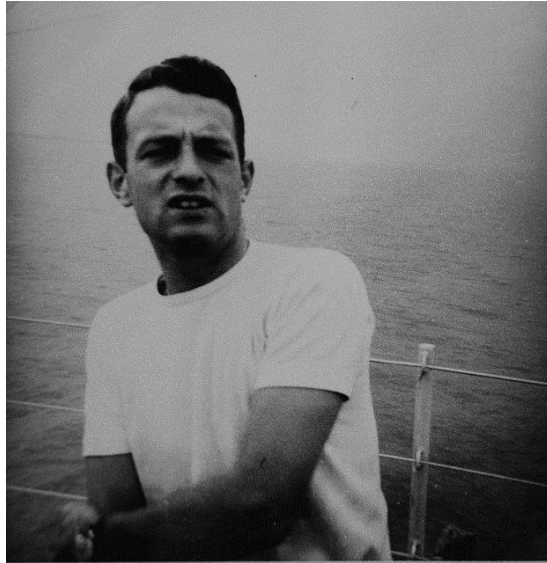
[Offshore pirates in newspaper cartoons - Radio - Digital Spy Forums forums.digitalspy.co.uk](https://forums.digitalspy.co.uk)

In last report I mentioned the photo collection from Joseph Verbeke. One of his former colleagues on the Laissez Faire responded: 'Hi Hans, thanks very much for the link to these fab pictures, I really enjoyed, what was to be a fairly short career aboard the Laissez Faire, the photos bring it all back. Not really a job, but an adventure. Thanks to Joseph for sharing! We are off on a trip to sail past the Thames forts on Sunday 28th, aboard the paddle steamer Waverley. I understand other pirate personalities will be there so a may get a photo or two, if I get them out of the ships bar. Catch you soon. Very best wishes, Andy Cadier.

Also Ron O'Quinn responded with: 'A great collection of photos, Hans. Please extend my thanks and best wishes to Joseph for preserving some 'history'. All the best, Ron.' Sven Martinssen was the next one yo respond: 'Great to see so many previously unknown pictures from the good old lady Olga Patricia!' And finally one of the many people was reflecting is Bob Le-Roi: 'Thanks Joseph superb photographs.'

And if you didn't see them yet go to:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157647770837131/>



Joseph Verbeke himself. Collection Joseph Verbeke

Before we go to the next photo a bit about last report in which I announced a sad message which was on the 'Ronan O'Rahilly Facebook Page'. The Hans Knot International Radio Report is there for the readers to exchange messages, memories, thoughts and meanings. The International Report, which started in the nineties of last century, is also there for the readers to ask questions to be answered by other readers or by the editor. So the same form as modern message boards are working. In no way it can be compared with writing an in depth article or doing research for a book. The report is a beacon in anorak world to share memories and more with each other.

It would be a good thing if a reader who is not happy with something he reads to complain or write to the editor instead of putting it on another message board. Far too often those boards have a negative influence on some of the people who write there, I try to avoid negative reactions by answering those in a personal mail to the sender. In the meantime I was in contact with Andrew Dawson, who we all know as Andy Archer. As he has some links to the family of Ronan I asked him for more information and just after closing last edition of the Hans Knot Radio Report Andy wrote: 'Hans, I have just spoken to Ronan's niece Vanessa in Greenore. We had a very long

chat. She last saw him a fortnight ago and he was in good form, very genial and good humored despite his dementia. She even gave me his telephone number! But she believes that he would be much better off living in London surrounded by things and people he is familiar with. Andy.'

And again a four weeks later Andy came with an e mail: 'A friend of mine visited Ronan last Friday. I'm afraid to say, his condition is worsening, but he is very happy and being well looked after by his partner Ines. Below is the photograph, taken last Friday. Andy'.



Photo: Collection Andy Archer

Now we go on with a photo taken by Look Boden almost half a century ago. The photo is showing some people who go out for a little rowing trip on the Northsea. They just settled down after leaving their radio ship in international waters. And of course you ask yourself who the persons are on this photo. We've found the names of Mark Sloane, Tom Collins and John Aston. But who's the guy we see on the right with the cap on? All info to HKnot@home.nl

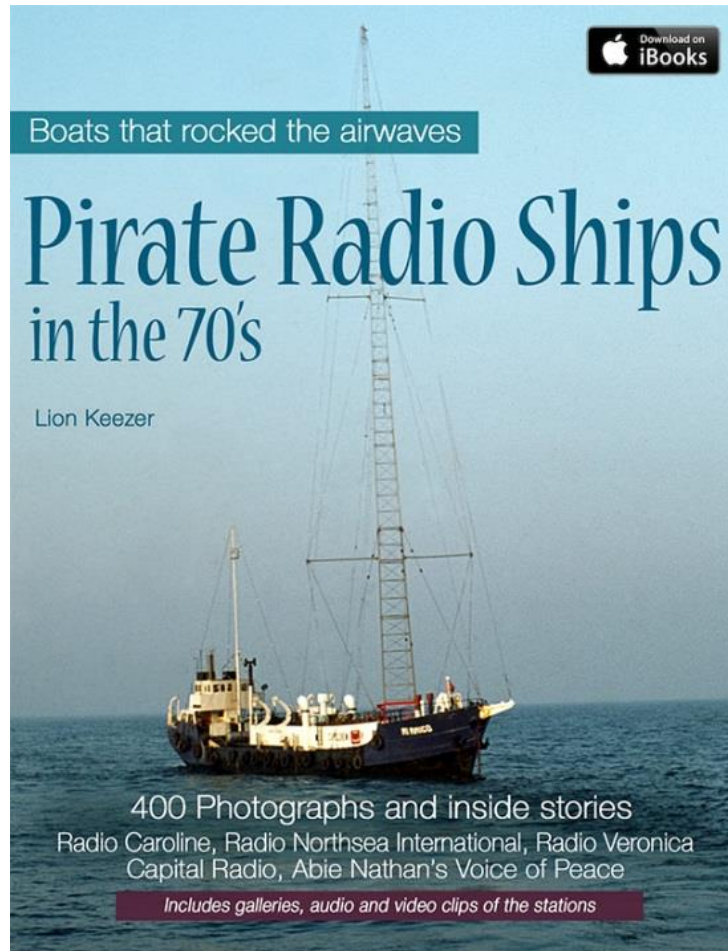


Next a message from Paul Bailey: 'Please allow me to remind you that 16 December 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of the 'Radio Invicta Tragedy', in which three pioneers of offshore radio, Tom Pepper, Simon Ashley and Martin Richard David Shaw, lost their lives in a tragic boating accident. I have set up a page to note this sad event, which Dennis has kindly linked to, and invite you all to "Like" the page. Thank you, Paul Bailey.

<https://www.facebook.com/radioinvictatragedy1964/timeline>

Now something very special to look out for as Lion Keezer will tell you: 'As I told you already on the very nice afternoon late August, organized by Herbert Visser, I was working on a new IBook 'Pirate Radio Ships in the 70's.' In the meantime I can tell you that the

book is ready and for sale in the Apple IBooks Store. In at least 50 different countries around the world people now can buy their own copy. All the best, and greetings Lion Keezer. lion@keezer.nl



Lion's iBook is now online for downloading for the price of 7,99 Euros. It's an excellent book with exclusive photos taken by Lion from and on several radio stations in the seventies. But next to photographs a lot of memories and stories as well as airchecks. <https://itunes.apple.com/nl/artist/lion-keezer/id919360217?mt=11>

Martin and I are still working in our offshore radio archive with photos and more. Recently we opened a new feature in which stickers, rate-cards, qsl-cards and more can be found:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157647372164749/>

Talking about memories on internet what about a breakfast show with Roger Day on Radio West?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acQ9OktimUA&feature=kp>

Here another update from Mike Leonard: 'Hi Hans. Many thanks for the latest books to add to the Offshore Radio Museum Library - these (and the ones you sent a couple of weeks ago) will be uploaded within the next few days. We have been busy updating and enlarging the History pages of various British offshore stations from the 60's adding audio clips, illustrations and news clippings - the next ones to be uploaded include Radio Sutch, Radio City, Radio 390 and Radio Essex. The work is on-going all the time and I will keep you informed of progress. News of the latest updates will also be posted on our Facebook page. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Kind regards Mike Leonard

<http://www.offshoreradiomuseum.co.uk/>



Above is another memory from more than 40 years ago. Jacob Kokje asked me to join in and visit some discotheques in the North of the

Netherlands doing promotions for the Dutch Service of RNI. So on a Saturday evening we visited several local venues in the Province of Groningen. But as we got so much promotional material left I decided the next week to get the wall of my sleeping room a new 'picture'.

As I already mentioned at the beginning of the report there's also sad news to mention. Tom Harding Danaher, cofounder of Wonderful Radio London, died at the age of 90. Born in May 2, 1924 he died September 12, 2014. Mary Payne has made an excellent tribute to him at <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/tomtribute/tomd.html>

Next an e mail from Nicholas Stapleton, who is desperately finding information about Jimmy Houlihan: 'I've have been pointed in the direction of Hans Knot. If you can provide me with any info would be very gratefull. I never met my Grandad Pat Stapleton, but am finding out so much about him he had an amazing life and I'm trying to get as many stories as I can.



Jimmy onboard the MV Mi Amigo 1973. Photo: Hans Knot

My dad and my nan Barbra told me Jimmy Houlihan was one of his closest friends. Sadly Big Pat passed away in 2011 but I find his life

story amazing and don't want him to be forgotten.' I've answered that we did an earlier search in the report and all we had some 7 years ago can be found on searching the internet on 'Jimmy Houlihan and Hans Knot'. Anyone has more recent information, please feel free to write to me at HKnot@home.nl

On 1 October the Isle of Man Post Office have issued a set of eight Manx Radio-themed stamps to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the island's public service broadcaster. Details here:

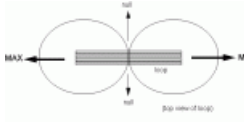
<http://tinyurl.com/pddglt> and at <http://tinyurl.com/qe8boov>

And here's an e mail from Tim Payne coming back at my comments regarding respect for copyright: I've just read this month's Radio Report. It's brilliant as usual. Here is a quick message to our fellow 'Anoraks'. If you repost a picture from the Flickr Offshore Radio Arcive can you please, as a courtesy, credit the source. It takes a lot of time and effort to scan and upload the pictures and and I enjoy looking at them. And a credit costs nothing. Thanks Tim Payne!

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

From Tim in Great Britain we take a flight to Australia: 'Hans: I laughed at the tale of a DJ turned helmsman! I'd love to hear more funny episodes quoted. I am enjoying your latest newsletter. Which reminds me of an antenna, I constructed and had in the roof cavity of my parents' two-store house in Manchester. It looked just like this one.





<http://www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/?how-to-build-a-tuned-loop-antenna,118> Cheers, Bryan in Canberra, Australia.'

Next it's Guy Starkey: 'Hi Hans, thank you very much for your continued work on the International Report. I was very sad to read of the passing of Bob Hogarth, not least because I had tried to find him a few times via social networking and Google searches but without success. I had assumed he was no longer with us, but now I find he was alive and now it's too late to contact him. How very frustrating. I met Bob at Radio Nova International in Camporosso, Italy, in 1981, when an internal dispute among the owners of the station led to a rather messy situation and then Bob taking over the running of the station. I must say I was delighted that he asked me to join the line-up in January of that year, as I was living as a student on the French Riviera and itching to do some more radio work after being on the Voice of Peace with CSJ, Kenny Page and a few others. Bob hired me to do half a week of shifts each week, and then I'd return to France for the rest of the week to carry on with my studies. He paid me handsomely out of his own pocket, for which I don't think he was ever reimbursed by the business.

He was instantly likeable, with a real zest for life and a girlfriend in an expensive house in Monaco. He spent most of his time there, but he was the kind of encouraging boss most people would love to have. His on-air style was strongly reminiscent of the sixties pirates, although he didn't talk to us much about Radio Scotland 242. I think he loved his Monaco lifestyle too much to dwell too long on the past. When he turned up at the station around lunchtime, it was with a friendly smile and a bottle of gin in one hand. One of his favourite phrases was "You bring the tonic water and I'll bring the gin, boy!" Mind you he was very scathing of what he would call "dubious tonic water" and only Schweppes would do!

Bob became a great friend and it is with great sadness that when his joint management of Radio Nova International with Martin Groenendijk came to an acrimonious end (no ads = no more money!) we had to part quickly, I never had the chance to share memories and chew the cud a little with Bob. I will continue to regard him always as a great friend and radio colleague, and may he rest in peace.

There is some history and some audio from Radio Nova International on my site at <http://www.guystarkey.com/Nova/Nova2.htm> but I haven't been able to devote as much time to improving it as I would wish. Best wishes, Guy Starkey.'

Thanks a lot Guy for the warm memories to Bob. Now and other former VOP deejay, Martin Peters: 'Hello Hans - Hope all's well with you. Just in case you're interested, I finally got around to scanning my old VOP photos and have now put them up on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/71155570@N00/sets/72157647486650798/>



Martin Peters on board the Voice of Peace

Feel free to have a browse (and to pass on the link) and to download any for the Newsletter, if you spot anything particularly interesting. By the way I also uploaded a set of commercials from 1980/81, on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ21fU8ewoY>
Thanks for the regular Newsletters: always a good read! Kind regards - Martin Peters.'

Old school radio was made from Hook off Holland on the 28 and 29 of August this year. On the 31st it was forty years ago that the Dutch Offshore radio stations had to stop broadcasting. An excellent video by Alex van der Hoek
<http://youtu.be/LSBAZMe-RMM>

Voor mobile and other devices and for Germany:
<http://www.youtubereplay.net/watch?v=LSBAZMe-RMM&feature=youtu.be>

Now two short, but thankful, e mails, which came in from the USA. 'Greetings! Another great big thank you from Minnesota USA! I always feel like part of the action reading these even that I've never been out of the U.S. Thanks for another great issue! Phil.'

'Well done as always! History is relived! The best is it is told by one who lived it!! Keep up the good work. EMP.'

Well Phil that was really a very nice comment to read. Of course the US had also some - although very short lived - offshore radio stations off the coast of New York and New Jersey. It was in the seventies that Radio Free America was there as well there was the Alan Weiner project called Radio New York International. Maybe I will write more about that another time in the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Thanks also to California based EMP or Emperor Rosko. And as a silent agreement between Rosko and me I always try to publish a photograph of him from the past or present.

This time I'm going back to the seventies of last century. It's a photo, which was first published in the Magazine *deejay*, which only lasted a year or so. A pity as it was a good magazine.



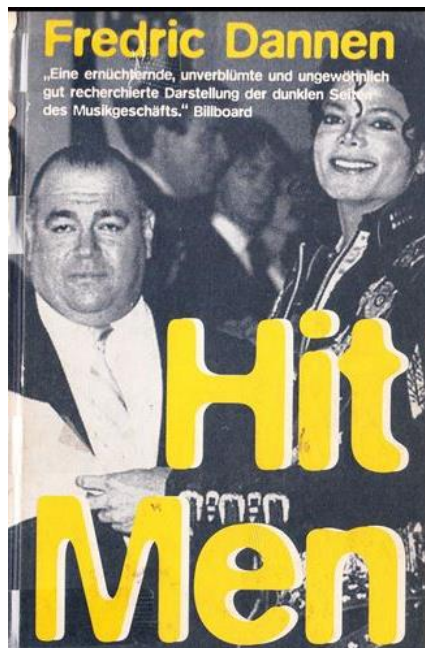
Photo: Freewave Archive

Here's one of our regular contributors from Germany, Jan Sundermann: 'Hello Hans, I did spend the summer vacation reading a highly recommendable book: "Hitmen" by Fredric Dannen, the German issue of 1998 published by 'zweitausendeins'. Originally published 1990 in the USA under the title "Hit Men: power brokers and fast money inside the music business" by Vintage Books.

Well, that has nothing to do with offshore radio at all. It is a close view inside the record industry and their relation to the American top 40 radio. It's especially covering the ups and downs of CBS Records from the 60s to the 80s. A history of (indie-) promotion and boycott, of band careers and playlists, of creative hit parade design and all types of special characters.

Remarkable might be to learn, that when CBS in the US was making big losses in the 70's, the UK branch did well at the same time. For example the Neil Diamond album 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' with the soundtrack of the same titled cinema movie, did very well and was sold over 2 million copies.

Times and technologies have changed, but if anyone finds this now historical book on a flea-market, just pick it! Jan Sundermann.'



Thanks a lot Jan and of course this book has a lot of links to the radio industry as well. I hope the Erkrath Radio Day was successful again. I couldn't come this year but I promised already to be there next year. A photo link to this year's Erkrath happening is here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157646411961024/>

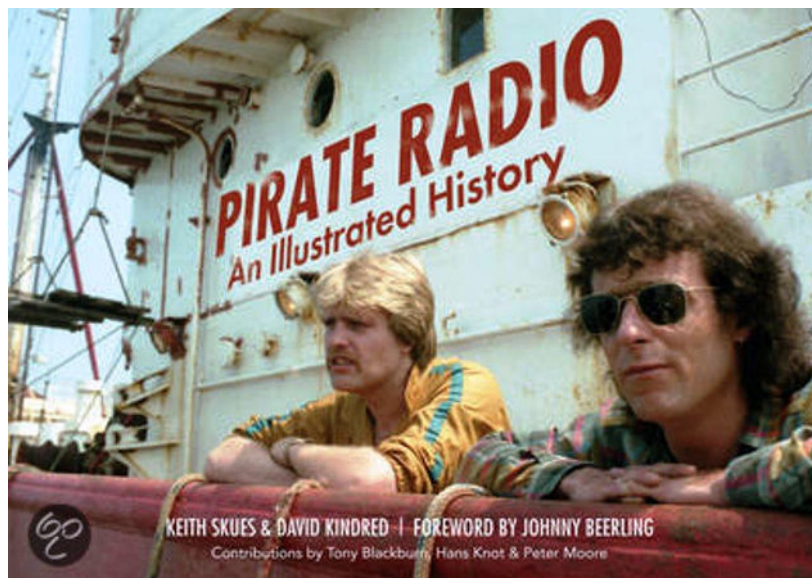
<http://www.offshore-radio.de/caroline/erkrath2014/> The link where the full report, photos and audio of the day can be found.

The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame has been updated.

New for October:

- Manfred Sommer was chief engineer on Radio Caroline North. We begin publishing his memorabilia scrapbook;
- during the mid-sixties Ian Kellock was a fan of Radio 270 and, fortunately for us, he wrote down their Top 40 charts. This month we publish three Top 40's from October 1966;
- Radio City launched in September 1964. Fifty years later, a reunion was held to mark the anniversary. We have pictures;
- we take a boat trip out to two of the Thames forts which were used for offshore radio in the sixties;
- there is news of a couple of new offshore radio-related publications;
- a correspondent has identified the location of a photo taken at a Radio London stock car event;
- and, since the last monthly update, I have added a tribute to Radio Scotland's Bob Spencer who sadly died during September.

My thanks - as always - to everyone who has contributed. All the best, Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk



New book about radio's history

In an age when the airwaves were tightly controlled by the authorities, pirate radio was the illicit and illustrious haven for music-lovers across the nation. From the first broadcast in 1964, the cowboys of the radio world fed their listener's desire for pop and rock music and, by doing so, changed British radio forever. Through more than 100 crisp, black-and-white photographs, *Pirate Radio: An Illustrated History* brings to life the 'golden years' of pirate radio. Featuring pictures of the crew - including famous DJ Tony Blackburn and founder Ronan O'Rahilly - the boats and the fans, this book takes the reader on a journey from the formative years of Radio Caroline, through its political persecution and beyond. Written by former Radio Caroline DJ and current BBC Radio host Keith Skues and with photographs by David Kindred, *Pirate Radio: An Illustrated History* is a unique and beautifully appointed account of the age when the pirates ruled the airwaves.

About the author

Keith Skues is a British radio personality who has been on the airwaves for more than 50 years. He was a pirate radio DJ for Radio Caroline, Radio Luxembourg and Radio London. Keith was one of the original presenters for BBC Radio One and can still be heard on BBC Three Counties Radio today. David Kindred has worked in professional photography for over fifty years. He was a staff photographer with the East Anglian Daily Times and Evening Star when he took these unique and beautiful photos of the pirate radio stations and their crew.

Contribution by Hans Knot

As you can see on the cover there are contributions from a few people including Hans Knot. I was invited to write the chapter 'Legacy of Offshore Radio' as well co-reading the book for history's sake.

Out now!

ISBN10 1445637634

ISBN13 9781445637631

<http://www.bol.com/nl/p/pirate-radio/9200000028150578/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Pirate-Radio-The-Illustrated-History/dp/1445637634>

Another shorty which does it quite well to me: 'Hello Hans, Many thanks for yet another brilliant International Report. I have nothing but the greatest respect for all the hard work you obviously put into each edition. May it and you continue for many years to come. David Brown.'

Now we go to Mexico where Clive Warner, once working for Radio Caroline is living. Thank you for the latest report, Hans! A note for you: The state, in which I live, Nuevo Leon, is very beautiful. The link is to a video of a day trip to Matacanes, which is just an hour or so from here. Commentary in Spanish but doesn't need explanation really.

<http://www.aztecanoticias.com.mx/capitulos/mexico/168975/video-el-otro-mexico-el-de-matacanes>

Clive Warner.'

Well Clive wonderful to promote in this way your part of the country. Ever missing English Breakfast and miserable weather?

Like several times before in the year 'Caroline' celebrates her 50 years, I will go back to one chapter in the history of the station. This time it will be a story I wrote for the book 'The wet and wild history of Radio Caroline' in 2004.

**THE RADIO CAROLINE FORMAT HAS CHANGED
DRAMATICALLY**

Another complete book could be written about all the things which happened within the Caroline organisation and against the organisation when Ronan O'Rahilly and other persons tried to bring back the radio station on the air in the early eighties. March 1980 the MV Mi Amigo sunk and from that point on it was specialist John Wendale (Tom de Munck) who did follow all the tracks from Ronan, his financial partners, his former financial partners, the FBI in the case 'fraud on Caroline', the MV Imagine - which wasn't there at all - and the MV Ross Revenge. This last one came to be the new Radio Caroline ship in August 1983. A former Iceland trawler which was rebuilt into a radio ship in the harbour of Santander. When Tom showed me the first photographs from the ship in Spain I told him I couldn't believe this would ever come on the air from international waters. On deck of the MV Ross Revenge porta cabins had been placed and the technicians - so the photo's showed us - were building studio's. But before the ship left Santander harbour in July 1983 the porta cabins had gone and the studios were then planned inside the ship. On July 28th 1983 I did - so my diary tells me - got a phone call that the new radio ship was on its way to international waters off the coast of Frinton - on - Sea in the Thames Estuary. During the period before the ship went out several amounts of money were mentioned - when insiders were talking about the cost for the rebirth of Radio Caroline. The highest I heard was 3,25 million dollars.



Ross Revenge in Santander Photo: Freewave Archive

Let's follow some facts from 1983 in this chapter as I did hear very soon after July 28th, from another contact person, that the MV Ross Revenge was still in Santander, near Bilbao in Northern Spain. It left the harbour at two o'clock in the afternoon of August 4th. Two days earlier several of the regional television news programs in Great Britain had already brought the news of the return from Radio Caroline, using the 978 ton MV Imagine. Still the name of the ship was used, which had been dropped months and months ago. In Holland already a long time it was known that the name should be the MV Ross Revenge. Originally the departure from Santander was set 24 hours earlier but the harbour authorities wouldn't sign the papers as they felt that one of the lifeboats on board the Ross Revenge wasn't suitable as it was too big. Also the inflatable life rafts were not good enough and the authorities ordered the people on the radio ship to buy some new ones.

Of course it took days before the radio ship would be near the British coast and August the 8th 1983 has gone into the history books as the date the red painted ship had arrived near Beachy Head on the South Coast of Britain in the early morning hours. It was guarded by a Spanish tug - the Aznar José Luis - although the Ross Revenge her engines were, at that stage, in very good condition. It would take some hours before the ship reached her anchorage. It was 18.30 CET that the small anchor was lowered at a position of 51 degrees 40.7' North and 01 degree 34' East. In the days to come a heavy anchor was brought onboard. Lady Caroline had become home, as it was almost the same anchorage were the MV Mi Amigo had been during the last years of her life. Well almost? Just twelve miles away from the mast of the MV Mi Amigo, which was still visible on the spot where the former Caroline ship sunk in March 1980.

The media machine began to work and I did find back in my agenda that on the same day I was already phoned by 7 several journalist

from newspapers in Holland, including the three big ones - Telegraaf, Volkskrant and Algemeen Dagblad. Not so strange as I had very good contacts with Bert Voorthuyzen, Henk Langerak and Peter van den Berg. Those three wrote a lot about offshore radio in those years. Another call came from a young lad at the VOO (Veronica Broadcasting Society).



Studio in Portacabin Photo: Freewave Archive

If I could bring them in contact with Ronan O'Rahilly as they wanted to interview him in the media program 'Grote Verwarring' (Big Confusion). Just a few phone calls to radio friends in England was enough to trace down where Ronan would drink his 'water' the same afternoon in Chelsea. If the VOO paid for the drinks is not known but we know for sure the grey fox didn't. Anyway he was interviewed and told the listeners some news: 'The Radio Caroline format has changed dramatically and it's going to be album track format which will have much appeal for the Dutch and Belgian audiences'. Further Ronan told us that the Ross Revenge had a mast of 300 feet! It would be the largest in the history on offshore radio. He wanted to tell also something about the income for the organisation in the then future: "We're canvassing advertising, mainly in North America. We've got an office in Los Angeles run by the Don Kelly organisation. Next to that there will be an office in New York with links to companies in Spain, New Zealand and Australia."

In those days I wrote already some time for the Monitor Magazine from Benfleet in Essex and stayed in contact with the editorial team with Buster (Ronald C) Pearson and Penopele Page by spoken letters on cassettes and incidentally by phone. Expensive in those days but on August 10th I was in contact again and I wrote down on that day, way back in 1983, that Buster had for the first time tuned in to the transmissions of the new Radio Caroline at 0.30 CET that morning. Buster told me that there was only a test-tone to be heard and that no music had been played, but that we could expect a very good signal in the future. I didn't make a long phone call as I was with the family in a very small village called 'Groote Keeten' in the North of Northern Holland, a holiday resort where only one telephone cell could be found. But in the phone call, early that morning, Buster was excited as he would go out together with a friend, Don, to the radio ship - using a small airplane.



Kas van Iersel interviewing Andy Archer. Photo: Freewave Archive

Late in the evening August 10th the transmitter was on and off again with test tones. I did put the little tranny on, with a small headphone and even after four in the night it was a clear test tone coming into

my ears. An unbelievable strong signal, I never had heard before from an offshore radio station during the then past two decades. This could be the start of something new! There was an official press conference onboard the MV Ross Revenge, where the deejay team was presented to the journalist on deck the new radio ship, which formerly had her home base in Grimsby harbour. Even from Radio Netherlands a journalist was sent out in the person of Casper van Iersel. He did, under the name of Kas Collins, a lot of programs on the Voice of Peace off the coast of Israel and was free lancing in those days at Radio Netherlands as well as TROS public radio in the Netherlands.

The big surprise was to hear that Andy Archer was onboard the new Radio Caroline, as he worked for the Independent Local Radio station Centre Radio in Leicester at that time. It seemed that he had announced, hours before leaving to the MV Ross Revenge, to his bosses that he wouldn't come back to the station as he wanted to go back to Radio Caroline, which he had left way back in 1974. Next to Andy there were some known and some unknown names in the team onboard the radio ship. Tom Anderson was there and the avid listener knew him from the late seventies. But the four other names mentioned on the radio interviews and in several newspaper articles in Great Britain and Holland those days, were not familiar at all.



Robin Ross, Dixie Peace and Tom Anderson. Photo: Tom de Munck

Robin Ross, for instant, I hadn't heard of. Tony Gareth came from Ireland and had some experiences in land bases pirate radio in his native country. Then there was Dixie Peace. He originated from the West Indies and was a former musician from London. Oh, how I loved his later programs. Wild and exciting, a brand new experience how he did present his programs. And the last one to mention was also a new guy called Dave Simmons. He was still there on August 13th but with the next tender he went back ashore and never presented a program on the strong '963 kHz' or the 319 metres. The reason was that he was very active in discriminating his team - mate Dixie Peace. Unheard off and so a single ticket was there for him, way back home again!

August 13th and yet some other days to go for Radio Caroline to come back on the air, but also for me to take some well-earned holiday. But I couldn't resist to have the transistor on '963' and have an occasional phone call to my radio friends. Did I hear it correctly that there were only test-tones as the studio's were not ready yet? Indeed I heard afterwards that the earlier mentioned porta cabins had only be removed from the deck of the MV Ross Revenge days before leaving Santander port. The crew just had time to paint the deck in green colour and painting also the logo Caroline 963 - 319 metres. So, during the trip to the British coast and the days afterwards the technicians had been working very hard to get all the equipment in good order in the studio's and to make all connections to the transmitter room, to make it to a professional radio station. Just one minute to eleven, late in the evening, suddenly a signal was heard again and just ten minutes later it had gone again. As I was staying with the family at the west coast of Holland I thought that the signal was only so strong due to the fact we were only 150 metres away from the western shore line of the Dutch coast.

Only days later, after being back in Groningen, I did found a copy of a newspaper in my postal box in which an interview could be read with Ronan O'Rahilly. Reading it back I have now the same nasty feeling

which I had in those days. Why? We have to go back in time. In 1978 when the MV Mi Amigo was still in international waters and the income came partly from religious organisations and partly from the sister station Radio Mi Amigo, Ronan thought it would become time to make a new partner. Sylvain Tack - who had been hiring transmission time since October 1973 although his station Radio Mi Amigo was not on the air earlier than December of that year - was put aside to get a new partner as well as a partner in profit. October 1978 should have brought the brand new sound of Radio Hollandia, a Dutch language station on 319 metres with deejays like Will Luikinga, Jan van Veen, Joost den Draayer and Tony Berk - all four of them from famous RNI and Veronica days. The deal with a certain Gert Jan Smit - as one of the four told once - was so that he would bring them a contract with O'Rahilly and that they had to pay a big amount of money on forehand, whereby he could sell airtime in the evening hours to religious organisations in the USA.

Weeks went by and the promised programs, which were recorded in a studio in Hilversum, didn't arrive and so weren't aired on the MV Mi Amigo at all. At one stage Gert Jan Smit was invited by some of the people of the Radio Hollandia team as the promised programs were not aired. Gert Jan went to Hilversum and arriving at the office he was asked to close the doors. The people of Hollandia, who were at the office, caught him and pulled all the money (proximally 6000 guilders) out of his pocket. And as this was only a part of the money they gave him on forehand they didn't allow him to leave the room and ordered him to phone Ronan O'Rahilly. As the story goes he - Gert Jan Smit - had to ask for the rest of the paid money. Ronan got very angry and asked for Willem van Kooten, aka Joost den Draayer - on the phone. He then warned the Radio Hollandia people that he was originally from Ireland and had very good friends within the IRA.



Working in the mast in Santander Photo Freewave Archive

But I would go back to the interview with Ronan from August 1983, which I found by the post from a friend in England. Ronan told the journalist: "The beauty of Caroline is it's totally a relationship between the station and the audience; the audience is the absolute decision maker. When the audience don't want to listen to us, if they don't want to tune in, then there's no ball game. But we never had that problem. I think we're going to have an enormous audience. There's an enormous amount of international advertisers who are very enthusiastic about using us. We will supply from Spain and we have international advertising. The station is run in strict compliance with all of the legal local legalisations in the various European countries.

Again many people would believe Ronan as he had brought them and us many nice spiritual interviews before. But I had already my thoughts. A year later I was, together with Rob Olthof - the head of the publishing company in Holland for my book '20 Years Radio Caroline', for a promotional tour to Great Britain. On the trip to London we did discuss the various things which had happened in the - then - passed 12 months and gambled for some beers if we would or wouldn't meet up with the Irish guru. Yes, we did try to make contact with him through various sources and 'yes' we finally went to Sloane Square in Chelsea. Not only to meet Keith Skues at a wonderful exhibition on the subject BFBS, but also to bring a 'first' copy of the book to Ronan. At his address (no we won't mention it) we pushed the bell and believe it

or not, there was a most gorgeous woman saying 'hello' to me and when I did ask that I would like to talk to Ronan, including the wish to give him the 'first' copy of the book, she simply answered me with 'I've never heard of this guy'. Some discussion went on and finally, although I still didn't believe her, she closed the door. Rob and I went into the park, near his home with a wonderful sight at his high class house. I did put the book in an envelope and made some personal notes and decided to walk to his house again. Next thing was putting the envelope halfway to his box and waiting for a reaction.

Within a minute the envelope was taken out and..... at the first floor someone was watching us behind the curtains - which could have had a wash I think. It was the grey old fox who was looking if we were still there. But that are all memories, which were coming into my head when writing about all those promises he made at the after deck on the MV Ross Revenge on August 13th 1983, more than 20 years ago.

More was happening in those days and many expected that on August 14th the big signal would come on the air as this was the same day that the British Offshore radio stations, excluding Radio Caroline, left the air in 1967 as a result of the MOB becoming MOA a day later. But I switched on the transistor several times and in my agenda 'nothing heard today on 963' can be found. Later I heard that late in the evening some modulation tests were done for some minutes. I was asleep already, tired of waiting for Caroline.

August 15th 1983 brought again some short tests and on the 16th I didn't notice anything. A short interview with Ronan O'Rahilly and Andy Archer was brought on television in which Archer told the public: 'We will be keeping a low profile. The music is a most important thing, combined with educated chat from the disc jockeys when necessary. There will be none of the incessant gabble of Radio 1'.

It was early in the morning, half past six Dutch time August 19th, that the transistor radio almost jumped from the table next to the bed. A very hard signal suddenly awoke the whole family when for the first time music could be heard on 963 kHz. A better tune couldn't have been chosen. Bob Dylan came into our holiday house with 'Knocking on heaven's door'. From that point on I decided to go out of bed and take a walk along the beach, accompanied by my transistor. The family happy felt asleep again. It was almost two hours later that the first announcement was made on the MV Ross Revenge: 'You're listening to a test transmission from Radio Caroline on 319 metres, that's 963 kHz; our programmes continues tomorrow at 12 noon.' This was repeated from then on several times during the tests.

Holiday was almost over and so the family had to pack the bags on this Friday. Endless album tracks accompanied the packing and the holiday house had to be cleaned too. Always this is the most terrible day from a two week holiday period but that time, way back in August 1983, Radio Caroline brought a glance to that day. What would happen the next day, when the official opening would be there for Radio Caroline and all their ever enthusiastic listeners? A comeback after a silence of almost 3,5 years? In my mind I thought that probably I would be not the only anorak who couldn't tape the official opening that afternoon, due to the fact I was still on my way back home from the holiday.



Peter Chicago. Photo: Leen Vingerling

One of the others who couldn't make a tape recording himself was my very good friend, since 1970, Paul Jan de Haan. Originating from Groningen too he had listened to the same radio stations as I did in the sixties: Radio Caroline, Radio London, the stations from the MV Laissez Faire and the fine sound of Radio 390. When all were off air, March 1968, Paul did visit a few times the MV Mi Amigo as well as the MV Fredericia in Amsterdam harbour. It was there that he 'rescued' some unique things from the past. A pile of 't-shirt' posters from Caroline North and the big poster which had been in the studio from Caroline North for many years. He took it to his house in Groningen and donated it in the late seventies for my Offshore Archive. Just late November last year we showed it to other big friends within Offshore Radio World.



Ross Revenge Photo: Marcel Poelman

As I told you it was Paul Jan who also couldn't make it to record the official opening on Saturday August 20th 1983 as he promised to get me and my family from the holiday resort in Groote Keeten - some 2,5 hours from home. As a non-driver I'm still thankful to him bringing us sometimes to our holiday place and getting us back in Groningen. I really remember very well that Paul Jan was parking his car that very morning around 10.45 near the resort and his car radio was sounding very loud so everyone could hear he was listening: 'to a test program on 963 kHz'.

The final pot filled with coffee was ready and we decided to leave Groote Keeten just before 11.30 so we must have been some 35 kilometres east when it was 12 o'clock. Who would be on and what would the opening be like? Excitement all the way? The official Caroline tune by the Fortunes was heard and after that 'Imagine' from John Lennon and much more music. It took more than a quarter of an hour that someone - it was deejay Tom Anderson - opened the microphone, to make the official announcement of the reopening of the world famous Radio Caroline: 'Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to Radio Caroline on 319 metres, 963 kHz. I'm Tom and for the next hour or so I'd like to take you on a couple of musical journeys through the past decades. We're going to start with the Zombies and 'She's not there' and follow that with the Yardbirds with 'Heart full of soul'. Caroline on three one nine'.

The official opening was one of a cool statement from one of the former Caroline deejays who had worked on the MV Mi Amigo in the late seventies. He was in those days fun to listen too but in 1983 we were totally dissatisfied the way he opened the station and next to that how the new Caroline format was brought to us. Now, 21 years later, I still believe that during the first few weeks Radio Caroline did lose thousands of listeners who did think that their beloved station would come on air again. It was a total disaster and even Tom Anderson, so I heard last year, has asked friends not to be reminded again to that 'memorable day' way back in August 1983. '

And don't forget that above article has been written way back in 2004. Much more has happened since August 1983. Another time more memories from the same book.

I've found an update in a long forgotten list of female deejays. One, not mentioned before, is Katja Karlholm and she also has a nickname on Radio Nord: Nattkajan. The whole list can be found on www.hansknot.com

Next e mail comes from one of the many contacts I have with people who have worked on the Voice of Peace: 'Hi Hans. The topic of pirate stations not paying royalties on the records they played arose in the pictures and copyright discussion. I would agree that, strictly speaking, the stations did transgress, but the reality becomes clear if you 'follow the money'. The pirates of the sixties served millions of young listeners whose musical tastes were largely ignored by the BBC networks. Therefore, the development of the pop music industry was greatly helped by the pirates. As were the sales of singles and LPs.

It was truly a win-win situation. The pirates received free copies of the latest releases and the record companies were able to reach millions of teenagers with cash to spend. The cost of promotional vinyl and unpaid royalties is tiny compared to the boost in sales. From my own experience, the same applied with the Voice of Peace. There was a steady flow of new releases sent to us, plus the occasional free custom station IDs by artists visiting the offices in Tel Aviv!
All the best, Paul Fraser.

Thanks a lot Paul for sharing your opinion about this topic!
Next it's Frank van Heerde from the Netherlands who reflects on last month letter from Luc Deleu from Belgium. Luc asked other readers how reception of the offshore stations was in the sixties.

Frank: 'In those days I lived in Hilversum. In our living room was an old Philips valve radio from 1952 with a loop aerial. I never received Radio Sutch. The reception of its successor, Radio City, was almost impossible due to the fact it was far too narrow to the transmissions of Hilversum II on 298 metres. Note: Radio City actually never transmitted on 299 but it sounded so nice '2-9-9, it sounds fine'. That rhyming was learned by listening to Caroline. It was in 1966, when the transmitter from Radio City was on a higher power, that reception became better in Hilversum. Radio Invicta, when it went to the 306 metres, was fairly receivable. The successor, KING Radio, came in at the same low level. When that station stopped transmissions there was a loop tape running with the text: "If you enjoy our programmes on KING, please tune to 390 meters Mediumwave band").

Radio 390, transmitting on 388, came in reasonable well and I have, although I was a pop music lover, listened to the station quite a lot in autumn of 1965. Tower Radio I never heard and I doubt if they were ever on air. Radio Essex (BBMS) on 222 (two-double two) could just be heard in Hilversum, but had a very bad modulation. For me these stations were lesser important. As pop music lover I was switching constantly between Radio London, Radio Caroline South and Radio England. (You're in heaven on 227).

These came in very well in Hilversum, except during evening hours. Radio Veronica is lesser important for me. Even Radio 227 was for me far much better than Radio Veronica. I hope to see also Luc Deleu his view on reception in his area. Frank van Heerde.'

Well thanks a lot Frank and hope Luc will respond. Now we go to Lanzerot with news from Robbie Robinson (Dale)



'Dear Hans and Martin, I recall writing to you before about the original 1980s Sunshine Radio site we were going to use. However we have made some small changes. The site is now www.sunshine101dublin.com

We have made a lot of progress with the Sunshine Radio site. We originally registered the site with Hosting Dude in the USA, however they became a bit of a complicated pain in the butt when it came to forgetting to answer my emails. I got fed-up with waiting for them, so I registered a second, simpler name in the UK. www.sunshine101dublin.com

The site will be up and running with lots of interesting Sunshine Radio history plus lots of photos taken in those bygone days.

I will be happy if you would give the www.sunshine101dublin.com internet project a mention in your next radio report.

I also wish to express my gratitude to former Sunshine Radio listeners, DJ Enda Caldwell, who is also a well known voice over specialist, he became the driving force behind this Sunshine Radio

internet project. Enda, whom you met at Radio Day 2014, has put a very comprehensive internet site together. Greetings Robbie.'



Well thanks Robbie and I hope the plug will bring a lot of new visitors to www.sunshine101dublin.com

On October 6th Andy Archer wrote: 'through the birthdays in today's paper while waiting to have my hair cut, I see the boxing promoter Jarvis Astaire is 91 today. He was one of the original investors in Radio Caroline and Radio Atlanta. Best wishes Andy.'

October 7th brought us sad news versus ex Laser deejay DL Bogart: Just learned that Laser Hot Hots 576 evening jock Jeff Leonardi (aka "Johnny Rock 'n' Roll Anthony" has passed away in Palm Harbor, FL. Jeff had suffered some recent health issues, but I had thought they were behind him. More details on his FB page. R.I.P. Jeff.



John 'Rock and Roll Anthony' Photo: Chris Edwards

Chris Edwards: 'Very sad to hear this young man has gone. I interviewed him in an office of International Business centre, Mortimer Street, just north of London's Oxford Street. Laser has an unofficial office there at the time. RIP John Anthony.'

Paul Jackson: 'Johnny was the type of person that could be left in a room by him and he could entertain himself for hours as a one man party. And when you are in radio, being in the control room is like a one man party! In person, as more people would come into the room, he had an ability to raise the party bar even higher. He would run at 80 mph constantly! Even when we were facing a Force 12 storm, you would see a serious look of concern for a moment, then he bust one and try to break the tension Golgo Brone aka Paul Jackson.'

Thanks to both of you for the memory. Another important person from the early days of Radio Caroline died too this month. It was Alan Turner who informed me: 'Hello, you may have already read about the death of Jocelyn Stevens, who died earlier this month at the age of 82. Stevens was born into wealth and on his 25th birthday he brought the Queen magazine. He became one of the principal backers of Radio Caroline and provided the office space in the Queen Magazine offices where Radio Caroline set up shop and it was where I first met Ronan O'Rahilly, the man who started it all, in the early months of 1964, before the ship started broadcasting. Jocelyn

was the man who made an idea into a legend. Sir Jocelyn Stevens born February 14, 1932. died October 12, 2014. Alan Turner. 'Neddy on 199 metres' Radio Caroline.'

Thanks Alan bringing this sad news. Our offshore radio world is losing a lot of people these days. Here a long obituary

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/obituaries/169750/Daily-Express-legend-Sir-Jocelyn-Stevens-dies-at-82>

In last month issue I wrote about the RNI reunion, which took place in the afternoon of August 31st in Hilversum. Jörg Krisp had a camera with him and made some beautiful shots and Alex Hoek edited into a special. Try to recognise people like: Joost de Draaijer (Willem van Kooten), Tony Berk, Hans ten Hooge (Hogendoorn), Marc van Amstel, Ferry Maat, Nico Steenbergen, Leo van derGroot, Peter (Age) Jager, Dick de Graaf, Erik Post, Ben Vreeburg, Ren Groot, Gerry Minnee, Marian Westland (van Dulken), Eduard Huis in 't Veld, Ellis Sleutel (Reusel) en Harry de Winter. Marc van Amstel, Ferry Eden,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIX4t6PQjP4&feature=youtu.be>

Some more interesting links on the internet:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/special/radiolux>

There was recently a very long special about Tom Edwards and his involvement in offshore radio in the Daily Mail:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-1158007/My-stormy-life-aboard-boat-rocked-Britain---A-DJ-looks-pirate-radio-era.html>

On October 20th the sad news came in from the children of Paul Ciesielki in France that their father suddenly died. Just last month I showed you the wonderful miniature he built from the MV King David. Hundreds of Anoraks have a model of their favorite radio ship at home, made by Paul. I met him for the first time in 1978 and not

much later he built the MEBO II for me, which is still in our reading room. I hope the children have the strength to carry this sudden loss.

During the Radioday, which Martin van der Ven and I organised in March, there were a few camera teams to make a documentary or a short special. Here's what an team from Italy did so far, with more to come in the future: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bia-ZIRwDvo> produced by Umberto Fiume and Corrado Trisoglio

Well I may not finish with a photo just came in before finishing the report. This time I got a photograph from Sherri Lynn in Wales: 'I came across this photo of a certain Emperor we both know, and two others. I guess you can identify them? I hope you like this picture from the golden days of long time ago!'



Photo: Collection Sherri Lynn

Well that's all for this time, 39 pages of information and memories. More next month and you can always write me at HKnot@home.nl