

Hans Knot International Radio Report March 2015

Welcome to the new edition of the international radio report and thanks a lot for all the e mails, memories, news and more.

First great news for American radio lovers, which was released mid-January by the Caroline organisation: 'The legendary music station Radio Caroline that defied the British government to bring rock and roll to the UK and sparked the Swinging Sixties launches in the U.S.A. today.

Still leading the way in innovation, in an industry first, Radio Caroline is rolling out new apps on Tuesday Jan. 20 that removes the time difference and enables American fans to listen to the station's output from breakfast throughout the day and into the evening in either Eastern Standard Time or Pacific Standard Time.

It's the first time that a British radio station has synched its output for the East Coast and the West Coast of America with its flagship breakfast show originating in Los Angeles. Now listeners on both coasts can start their day with the breakfast show with Tony Paul from 7 to 9 A.M. and hear the rest of the station's output from the U.K. around the clock. After 50 years on the air, Radio Caroline remains true to its heritage with real personalities playing the music of the rock and roll generations up to the present day and helping break the best new artists.

Apps for iOS and Android are now available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play and the apps are free! "The British station with the American name soon became recognized as a symbol of rebellion the world over." New York Times, April 3, 2011.

Radio Caroline began broadcasting in 1964 from two ships anchored off the coast of Britain in international waters. At a time when Britain's official broadcaster the BBC refused to play the music young people were clamoring to hear, pirate DJs lived on board the

boats and rocked and rolled in defiance of The Establishment, playing songs by The Who, the Rolling Stones, The Beatles and other now iconic bands. Endorsing the book "The Ship That Rocked the World," Pete Townshend of The Who is quoted as saying: "Without Caroline, we would not have sold a single record." The story inspired the Hollywood movie 'Pirate Radio', starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson, which was written and directed by Richard Curtis, a longtime Radio Caroline fan.

The station still has one of the 'boats that rocked,' the Ross Revenge, now restored and anchored just off the coast of southeastern England. A feature documentary about the history of Radio Caroline is currently in production in the U.S. and U.K. and features interviews with Roger Daltrey, Mick Fleetwood, Donovan, Olivia Harrison, Richard Branson and original DJs including Johnnie Walker and Tom Lodge.'



Hans Fjellestadt 2014. Photo: Hans Knot

Indeed good news for those in the USA that they can hear Caroline now loud and clear versus an app., but nothing goes above listening to the station on AM. I wonder if Hans Fjellestadt, who was also filming on the Radioday in March 2014, is progressing with the above mentioned documentary.

In the last issue I already promised that a person, who was involved with the Nannell project, has written his memories for sharing with my readers. As we had a lack of space last month I decided to out the story in this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. But first let us see what Martin van der Ven wrote about the

radio project on his special pages called: 'The offshore radio fleet'



M.V. Nannell. Ship details: The MV Monte Cuatro was built in 1956 at the S.A. Juliana Const. Gijonesa shipyard. The ship's length was 244 feet 4 inches (74.71 metres) and a width of 35 feet (10.75 metres) built in such a way that it could be converted at any time from a 550 BR Tonnes freighter with an open deck into one with closed top deck of 1165 BR tonnes. Motor: 1230 PK. The s call sign was H2NN, and listed by Lloyds of London under number 6416718. The MV Monte Cuatro was renamed MV Monte Balerdi in 1982. Later the ship was renamed the Dionissios K, and sailed under the Cypriot flag. Then the ship

was purchased by Harvey Metals.

In 1984 the vessel was towed from Scotland to Southampton via Portsmouth. While in Southampton the ship was overhauled, the first since the ship was built. The ship was renamed the MV Nannell and registered in Puerto Cortez, Honduras. The name Nannell was chosen in honour of a senior lady in the owners family - Nellie, who was known to her many grandchildren as Nan Nell. Harvey Metals sold the MV Nannell to Worldwide Broadcasting Corporation during a voyage from Southampton to Spain. Amongst those people who were temporarily involved in the Nannell project were Paul Rusling, Nico Volker and Ex-Veronica technicians José van Groningen and Hans van Velzen. In February 1986 the MV Nannell sailed from Southampton to her home port of Santander via Gijon. The vessel was taken to the Atlantico shipyard to be converted into a radio ship. The British Government put pressure on Spain to prevent further conversion work taking place. Spain demanded that the work should stop and insisted that, since the MV Nannell was a Honduran ship it should also have a Honduran license for radio broadcasts. In March the MV Nannell left the Atlantico shipyard stating her destination as Oran, Algeria, however the ship had stayed without completing advice from professionals that the 240 feet mast be fully stayed.

Within a few miles of the coast it hit huge 'Bay of Biscay' rollers, the ship pitched, rolled one way - and the mast went another and was forever lost beneath the waves. Lesson number 2 of offshore radio - get the mast properly stayed! Instead of Algeria, the ship sailed for France. At the end of April new backers had been found and the MV Nannell sailed back to Santander under a different flag with all the correct paperwork. More financial problems slowed the project down. By June 1989 the MV Nannell was anchored off the Belgian coast, but some months later, it headed for Portsmouth harbour. In 1990 the owners of the ship decided to scrap the ship, which had now been renamed Mia Migo in the meantime. In September the Mia Migo was scrapped In Zeebrugge (Belgium).

Planned offshore radio station: Stereo 531 (or Stereo 576) and WSOL 801. According to Walter Zwart (Simons) there were also talks with Delta Radio from Nijmegen/Netherlands and with the American based Music Of Your Life. Herbert Visser reported that in the summer of 1989, a single FM-test was transmitted from the MV Nannell off the Belgian coast. Planned location: International waters of the North Sea.'

And now to the e mail which came in from England some 6 weeks ago: 'Good day, I was directed to your webpage that mentioned the M.V.Nannell. My name is Nicholas Harvey and I was with her throughout the installation in Santander. The photo, you have, shows the mast being installed. This was actually carried out in the middle of Santander next to the Maritime Museum. We had moved there as where we were at Poligono de Raos meant it was impossible to get cranes to.

We were right next to El Promontorio a popular beach and on sunny days we had 'spectacular views'! We also had lots of visitors some from the British Security Services. On a visit to England to collect radio parts from GEC I believe I had the dubious distinction of having my car 'stripped and searched' by Customs before leaving the country! They found nothing - to their dismay as I had already sent them via the Santander Ferry from Portsmouth with my son.

Some of the so called experts we hired to install the Radio Equipment were very unscrupulous in their behavior and I was glad to see the back of them. We had a good rapport with the Spanish Government and Officials often helped us. The Olympic Club was right by the ship and became our 'watering hole'. Manuel - no joke - used to bring drinks over to us on a regular basis whilst we were working.

We never intended to go to Algeria we were always bound for the Belgium/Dutch Coast. In rough weather we lost the antenna - much debate at the time of installation overruled my plan to have the

antenna secured below deck as well as stayed - so called 'radio ship engineers' later admitted that is what we should have done. Bad fuel and a spinner not working meant we were travelling at less than 3 knots. In the end the support Tug of Nick Murray towed us on an 11 day sailing to our destination. We were shadowed by American, British and French warships and at one stage (Nick Murray had unhitched and gone to refuel his Tug) our 'illustrious' Captain managed to drift into French territorial waters and we were boarded, searched and photographed by French Commandos who had with them a couple of Englishmen who never spoke but who I recognized from Santander.



Nannell off the Dutch-Belgium coast Photo: Nicolas Harvey

As we had no antenna we were as such just a normal vessel so they had to leave. The Captain was sacked and I was prevented from throwing him overboard for his treachery to go with the French. Instead he was 'confined' for the duration. We were going to put in at Nantes but decided against it. When we reached the coast we anchored up and left a 'skeleton crew' on board and I and others, including the Captain, went on Nick Murrays' Tug and landed at Sheerness the next day.

It was intended to 'jury rig' an antenna fore and aft but this never happened. The rest is history. I have some photos somewhere if you would like them. Regards, Nicholas Harvey (El Pirate - as described on Spanish TV!)

For the excellent unique photos sent by Nicholas go to our Offshore Radio Archive at:

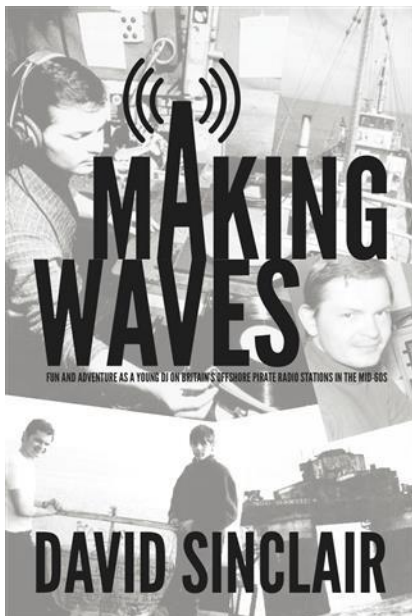
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157647825597234/>

Well thanks a lot Nicholas for sharing your side of the story and also thanks for sending the photographs. Anyone who wants to reflect can write to me at: HKnot@home.nl

Paul de Haan reviews in this next story not only an excellent new book in the history on offshore radio but also has some personal reflections and memories to the days when radio was real radio.

Making Waves by David Sinclair.

David Sinclair was in the 1960's a presenter on three offshore radiostations off the UK coast, Radio Essex-BBMS, Radio 270 and Radio 390.



A book review written by Paul de Haan.

You can of course read this review and on the other hand you don't, the result is that I strongly advise you to order this book as soon as possible because it tells this great inside story of a station that

always intrigued me, Radio EssexBBMS, the smallest UK offshore radio station on the air from autumn 1965 till Xmas 1966. On top of that author David also explains the goings on on Radio 270 and if that's not enough a great inside look in what is one of my favorite stations the legendary sweet music station Radio 390.

But before we get to David his account of events on the Knock John Tower, the Ocean7 and the Red Sands Fort a note on the foreword written by Jon Myer from the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. Jon writes he got hooked onto offshore radio in May 1964 and as a result he mentions the fact that his schoolteacher wished he wouldn't listen so much to the 'pirate stations', it might ruin his education and career in adult life. Well, it didn't ruin Jon's life in fact it got him a 40 year long career in broadcasting.

I also got 'hooked' but almost in a different way. In June 1964 I stayed with my Uncle and Aunt in Hilversum and one day this uncle asked me if I had ever done some fishing, well in fact up until June 64 no fishing, we went to the famous Loosdrechtse Plassen near Hilversum and I got some lessons in fishing, but after about 15 minutes I noticed that the car radio, parked near us, played good music: Stones-Beatles-Ray Charles-Georgie Fame and a voice of a man telling us we were tuned to Radio Caroline ding ding. From that day in June 1964 at the age of 12 I was hooked on offshore and onshore radio. It didn't only introduce to me the UK offshore stations but also the BeebBeebZee Light on 1500 longwave, Luxembourg on 208 and AFN on several mediumwave frequencies. At age 12 I got my very first transistorradio, long and medium wave and I am proud of the fact that I heard every UK offshore station between 64 and March 68, also Essex on 2double2 mediumwave but to tune in and get hooked onto the Knock John Radio I had to set my alarm clock at 2 am, the French station had closed down. That was the only time for me to listen on 222. At the age of 12 I was expected to only listen to the ones playing the top 40 tunes but there was something rather strange, I also started to enjoy the sounds of Britain Radio but most of the entire great format on 390.

Somehow I managed to find photos from the ships and army towers in UK newspapers and Disc and Music Echo, but it took me a long while to find out the Knock John was something very special compared to Red Sands and through the decades and the blessing of tape swapping and later internet I found out that the smallest of them all, Radio Essex, was in fact a very, very mature radio station with a great format and presenters who somehow at very young age<16-18> had very specific knowledge of music. There aren't those many hours of recording from Essex/BBMS, perhaps 5 'good quality' mediumwave recordings from a time of day at around 18.00-20.00 hours, easy listening and Big Band music. So, that's my introduction to this phenomenon called offshore radio, by the way, I never ever fished again.

I started reading the book and was amazed that at an early stage in his working life Sinclair was horrified by the chance that his working life was going to be down and dull and somehow he decided that joining one of the offshore radio stations would be a guarantee for an exciting career till his pension would come along.

It takes me back to December 1970, both Hans Knot and yours truly could be heard on an fm pirate in Groningen called RNI Groningen, remember the real thing was off air. We were also looking for less down and dull and more thrills and much more music. After 3 weeks we were raided by the Dutch GPO. Here's a funny story: one of those GPO guys insisted we handed over an Elvis record that we played on air, we couldn't because we didn't have any Elvis record, the guy did not believe us. After the raid we laughed our head off, we had played one of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band songs, imitating Elvis. Great fun and we had our cheap thrills for three whole RNI Groningen weeks.

So, somehow I can understand why David Sinclair was keen on getting onboard of one of those floating radio stations off the English southeast coast.

Getting onboard one of those floating dreams wasn't easy not having the necessary contacts in the radio business and just about 18,

London and Caroline employed professional presenters/deejays and somehow Sinclair needed to be on an easy listening station, not playing the pops of the day. Getting onboard proved to be possible on the one hand because one of the Essex people lived in the same village as David, on the other hand getting onboard the Knock John was a different story. London and Caroline had spent a lot of money on buying a ship to broadcast from, the good news is that getting Radio Essex on air was a matter of climbing onboard the fort; there you are its yours. No money involved good news! That's what they had in mind, the reality was different, a rival group was already out there so it took some gentle persuasion to make them leave the Knock John to Bates and his Radio Essex happy bunch.

Becoming a deejay on a fort based radio station off the Essex coast was what could be considered as a training school for the rest of your life, it proofed that spinning the Mantovani and Big Band sounds was just about 10 % percent of the job, the other 90%? Buy the book, read the book, its revealing! It took David 4 pages to write down the horror of getting 'onboard' the Knock John. 99.9% of all radiopresenters just walk into a radiostudio blindfolded only using their nose for the smell of vinyl records.....4 whole pages for the 0.1 % lucky ones starting their careers on the Knock John. Thanks to the Major Roy Bates.

Many pages in this superb book are devoted to explaining the format and music policy of Radio Essex/BBMS, the food and diesel situation onboard and the 222 Powerhouse, a 50 watt mediumwave transmitter that was expected to produce 50kw of Rf. Well of course it didn't. In those days it was all valves and old army TX stuff, no handbooks etc etc and the TX engineers on the Knock John were specialists on electric toasters, mediumwave toasters?

For many years we were educated to believe that mediumwave broadcasting is something from out of space, well I can assure you it's not. In 2012 I wanted to know what it was all about and bought a 100 watt mediumwave transistor transmitter and together with my son we started building a proper long wire aerial in the back garden,

which was the easy bit of the project. Backbreaking was digging in the garden many, many yards of copper wire as an effective earth to the TX aerial, in the end we got it on air on 1539 kHz mediumwave using a laptop as playout system connected to a 70s Tandy equalizer and a homebuilt lim/compressor. It sounded great and the signal that originated from Groningen was heard loud and clear in towns like Dokkum county of Fryslan. It's a matter of arithmetic and some educated thinking on how to get very good modulation. All this without the help of an Optimod, it can be done without it you know.

The TX and aerial have now been sold to another one of those mediumwave fans < It wasn't the cheapest but certainly it's the best>, there is still a lot of copper in the ground by the way.

Now over to page 56..... Is there a ghost or not on the Knock John? We now know that not only the Mi Amigo had a friendly ghost, also one has been 'seen' on the Ross Revenge?

As of page 58 a fascinating story about the other navy fort off the Kent coast, I remember the Tongue from passing it whilst being on the Olau ferry from Vlissingen to Sheerness and it could also be seen when on the beach of Margate. What was the reason for those Essex men to visit this crippled fort?

During the fall of 1966 however things started to fall apart for Radio Essex/BBMS resulting in the closedown during X Mas 1966, Sinclair in his book gives the sad details and the reason why he moved on to bigger and better things. Bigger and better, indeed Radio 270 was the next stations, moving on continued whilst being onboard the former Dutch fishing vessel Oceaan 7, going forward-backwards-forward-backwards and even from side to side-side to side-forward-backwards and of course the ever present smell of fish caught during her fish hunting days. "Would you like a salty raw herring with a nice touch of whipped cream on top, come on give it a try, you'll love it"backward-forewords-backward-forwards and ahhhh, there's that nice smell of diesel oil too. And on top of that the format was Top 40, not everyone's cuppa tea.

Radio 270 had a very clear signal with its 10 kW on 1115 kHz across the North Sea into the northern parts of Holland, in fact a better signal than Big L on 1132 kHz, Big L was off channel and pushing into AFN Bremerhaven's 1142 from northern Germany, and so in Groningen there was always this 'whistle' on the London signal.

About 20 years ago via satellite I listened to ASDA Radio, one of those in store radiostations advertising just about every product they had in store, that is what 270 did in 1966, the deejays were salesmen too. Sinclair also explains about the background of the Yorkshire investors in the station and the unique very cramped living conditions on the radioship that should have been used as the tender.

The next station Sinclair worked on from February 1967 was without doubt his favorite and in fact if it still would be on air from Red Sands towers he might still be going out there every other week and I would still be listening. Radio 390 the classiest of them all!

The remainder of his excellent book is all about Radio 390 right till the sad end in July 1967, this superb station was forced off air even before the introduction of the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act August 1967 leaving the very loyal listeners out in the cold and wasting very good on air people who were never heard on UK radio again.

A thank you goes out to David Sinclair for the many hours of listening to 390 and for writing this great book about three significant offshore radiostations.

Making Waves can be ordered here:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00T3G2HNA/the-pira-radio-21>

Paul de Haan.

www.marinebroadcasters.com

Peter Watson is next and wants to have a question answered: 'Hi Hans, when you've got a minute. Can you remember around 1973, for several weeks? There was a test transmission playing a continuous loop of Bert Kaempfert? Or James Last or something? A song called 'People will say we're in love'? Over and over again it was played with no ID mentioned. I'm trying to remember if it was Radio Atlantis, Radio Mi Amigo, or Radio Caroline, to determine when that was? Kind regards Peter.'

The answer is that it was September 1972, a station with no name. Later she called herself Radio 199 and in January 1973 it was called Caroline again. There was a gap of two months as the original mast from the Mi Amigo came down in September 1972. The only looptape, which was played, was 'People we're say in love' sung and played by the Ray Conniff Singers and Orchestra.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHag8DwIopU>



There's another 2,5 minutes of Super 8 film on You Tube. This time the Radio Noordzee studio's at De Frans Halslaan and the later ones at Hofstede Oud Bussem in Naarden. With Peter Holland and Tony Berk and also Robert-Jan Mijnders in the RNI studio at the Frans Halslaan. Also you can watch the Hofstede Oud Bussem where RNI has also land based studios. Recording the programme: 'Prijsbewust' it's Tony Berk with Harry de Winter, Lola Koene and Pieter Damave. In this short movie again unique shooting from the late Rob Olthof.

Editing is done by Alex Hoek.

<http://youtu.be/gisg00xmd2k>

Next one is about Sealand, a rather unique Far Flung Place. It is possibly the smallest nation in the world, although, this is disputed, not least by the UK who still claim ownership. It does not accept tourists, and I have not been there, yet. However there are plans afoot to issue tourist visas later in 2015 and Sealand could become one of the more sought after remote and exotic places to travel to this year. Interview with Prince Michael with a mention of Radio Essex www.farflungplaces.net with thanks to Mike Barraclough, who also sent the next one:

Institute of Contemporary Arts updated recently: 'Shout Out! UK Pirate Radio in the 1980s, a new exhibition, will premiere at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent in February 2015 before travelling to the ICA in May 2015 and onwards to the Phoenix in Leicester in August 2015.' The exhibition will be at Stoke on Trent February 4th to May 9th, then at the ICA London May 19th to July 19th and at Leicester July 23rd to August 24th.

Creative Works announced that funding has been granted for a series of talks and workshops at the Institute of Contemporary Arts exploring the legacy of radio as a forum for radical thought and experimentation, presumably in connection with the exhibition. More at the link www.ica.org.uk

Martin van der Ven also did send an interesting topic for the report. First he wrote to Andy Archer: 'Hi Andy, I hope all is well. Yesterday, I found this surprising picture in a 20-year-old German radio magazine 'Radio Journal'. I always thought that Ed Moreno could only be heard with a prerecorded show during RNI's first official night (28th February/1st March 1970) plus with the (again

prerecorded) Dorothy Squires interview a few days later. So I wrongly supposed he had never been on board the MEBO II.

Do you remember when that picture was taken? See also:

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djsmo.htm#moreno>

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djs7m.htm#moreno7> Best wishes

Martin



Foto: Jürgen Steinhoff

Im Sendestudio: „RNI“-D.J.'s Ed Moreno, Andy Archer und Allan West (hintere Reihe), vorn Edwin Gold, Besuch aus Hamburg.

Andy responded with: 'I'm pretty certain Ed Mereno never broadcast live from the MEBO II. I certainly remember him coming out to the radio ship, but only once. I don't think he enjoyed going out to sea. Ps the picture would have been taken in the very early days, perhaps February 1970. All good wishes Andy.'

Now an e mail from the Far East and Christopher Young: 'Hi Hans, I read your reports every month and although I love them I am saddened by the fact that they are all about the past. No new news appears to be there. I remember that the Radio Veronica Ship was once again being refitted but why? And will it ever broadcast again. Sadly the MEBO II is no longer with us. I was privileged to be onboard it for a time!'

Well Chris the Norderney, former Radio Veronica's vessel, is not fitted out again. It's just a ship with entertaining facilities in the harbour of Amsterdam and has nothing to do with a radio station

anymore. But the big question arises when you were on the MEBO II and what you did there? Could you give an explanation?

Chris went on in his e mail with: 'Also I heard that The Voice of Peace was going Offshore again, What happened? As one of the broadcasters on the original I would have loved to be involved. Regards, Christopher Young or Lord Heaton of Sealand!'

Well Chris there are only internet radio stations carrying the name 'Voice of Peace', some even have original deejays from the one and only Voice of Peace in their programming. So there will no offshore radio station off the coast of Israel. By the way, you write that you were on the original from the MV Cito. What was your name and do you have pictures from those days. I never heard from you related to the VOP, although I was the editor of the book on the Voice of Peace and also organizer - together with Martin van der Ven - of the big reunion of VOP people, way back in 2006. I hope to hear from you.

Next one of the regular people responding; from the USA here's something from Rosko: 'Chuck a block as always with the stories and pictures that are and make up the building blocks of real radio, radio of the and for the people! There was the BBC, and then there was....us, the offshore radio stations! Emperor Rosko.



Photo: Collection Rosko

In last issue I brought you the news that Ron O'Quinn has stopped to podcasts his show for free. This time I can bring other news regarding the show: 'Hi Hans. Ron O Quinn's Rock n' Roll ReWind now airs on www.theradioship.net Saturdays at 09-00 UK and at www.thevop.net Sundays at 16-00 UK. Doug Wood.'

From Doug in England we go to Spain and a question from Kord from Radio Mi Amigo:

'Hello Hans, first of all a happy new year to you and your family, I know, it's a little bit late, but works here are so heavy at the moment, I forget the rest. I have a question and perhaps you can help me. As you know, we do the shortwave things at weekends. now my Dutch DJ (Viktor Alders) and one German man have no more time to present programs, so I decided to do instead of the English program myself the German one. I'm looking for a English and a Dutch deejay, if possible of course out of the offshore area, who likes to do a one hour show every week for Radio Mi Amigo. Of course with the musical type we do (Oldies from the 60s to the 80s) As we are a small station here and I have to pay the shortwave transmissions, I cannot pay for the deejays, but perhaps you know somebody, who is interested to do a show for one hour a week for the Dutch listeners and another one for the English listeners regularly every weekend. If so, just let me know, one of course you can give my mail address to them: info@radiomiamigo.es Thanks a lot in advance. Best regards from the today stormy Costa Blanca Kord.'

Well anyone interested in presenting a weekly show can write to the above e-mail address and thanks Kord, hope to here from you when someone is responding.

Let's see what Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame has to tell us:

'Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- There's more pages from the scrapbook kept by former Radio Caroline chief engineer, Manfred Sommer;
- we have the Radio 270 Top 40s from this month 48 years ago;
- from the archives, we reprint three 1966 articles by DJ Mike Raven about offshore radio, originally published in The News of the World;
- and we hear of a new e-book by David Sinclair telling of his life as a DJ on Radio Essex, Radio 270 and Radio 390.

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

Next another one from Great Britain, PJ who wrote: 'Hi Hans, thanks for the latest news report, always a welcome read. I was watching the Caroline dvd - 'Once, Twice, Three Times A Lady' recently. During the 1978 home movie section on the dvd on a trip out to the mv Mi Amigo, one of these films was introduced by a guy with a beard, I thought this was a young John Burch of the Caroline Movement fame, but when John took a look at the dvd he was amazed by the likeness but says it's not him as he never introduced a home movie on a boat trip to the Mi Amigo and he didn't have a beard as far back as 1978. we are both baffled to who this John Burch look alike could be.....any idea?'



Well PJ, I really don't know as I don't have the DVD. But anyone who remembers the name of the guy please mention it to me at HKnot@home.nl

I am about to send you another picture - also not brilliant quality in which I hope someone can help me identify.

Recently I found back an old newspaper cut from the very early days of British Offshore radio. It tells that new transistor radios are on the market. One transistor radio was especially for Caroline and one especially for Radio Atlanta. The news was brought on July the 4th 1964, which was the date the merger between the two stations was announced. So I doubt if ever one of our readers ever bought the Atlanta or Caroline one.

WIRELESS AND ELECTRICAL TRADER
4 July 1964

Caroline and Atlanta Radios Released By Lee Products

Lee Products (Great Britain) Ltd., 10-18 Clifton Street, London, E.C.2 (Bishopgate 6711).

Typically named radios—Caroline and Atlanta—are being released by Lee Products. Caroline operates on the medium and long wavebands and is a six transistor pocket type. Supplied complete with carrying case, battery and earpiece, the price is expected to be £5 19s, tax paid. Deliveries will commence from the early part of this month. The second model, Atlanta, will follow very shortly.

More from the early days of British Offshore radio brings me to the question if you ever asked for a request played on a certain station and then got back a letter in which someone from the same station wrote you when the song would be programmed? Well in 1964 it was the staff of Radio Atlanta which was so friendly to do so:



Dear Listener,

Thank you for your request which will be broadcast
on 27th June, during Musical Mail Bag, between 8.45 - 10.00 a.m.

Yours sincerely,

W. O. Smedley

Public Relations Dept.

Now we go back to the earlier mentioned PJ who wrote another e mail with a request. 'A mystery lady' this time: 'This poster was on the wall of the Radio Caroline studio during the late 1970's, it was of a lady on a beach with an amazing orange sunset behind her, I have always liked this poster and have been trying to find a copy on line without any luck, I wonder if you or anyone would know where the poster came from?. I am working on a new home studio project, I am having a new studio built which will be based on the Radio Caroline studio of the late 1970's era, I would like to find a copy of the orange sunset lady poster to the studio wall.

My new studio will echo many features from the 70's Caroline studio but with a few more up to date features, I hope to buy a Gates Studioette in the near future for the studio, but the music and

jingles will be from CD and Minidisc decks rather than Turntables and Cart machines.



Thanks Hans. Regards PJ.

So to all Caroline deejays who were on the Mi Amigo during 1979 and early 1980, and I know that a lot of you are in the readership of the report, who knows from which company this poster in the Mi Amigo studio was or where the lady was 'advertising' for. Any answer can go to HKnot@home.nl In the meantime I've seen already some photos from PJ regarding his studio and I can tell you he's doing very fine work!

Next one is a link to an interesting documentary: 'When Albums Ruled the World'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em4kpy1YuNQ>

The next e mail comes from the Pole with the Soul, not in Manchester at the moment but in Asia: 'Hi Hans I'm reading your February 2015 report in an exotic location for a change, from our apartment here in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. The sun is shining, the sky is blue and the temperature is in the low 30s! A change from Manchester where there is currently snow and ice on the ground and the temperatures are around zero! But whatever the location, it's always a joy to read your report.

A particularly interesting month this time, including the report about the Irish Pirate situation of the 80s. I have to say that, much to my chagrin, I missed out on this scene. In fact, until I started attending

the Radio Days I was totally unaware of the radio scene post the Dutch MOA of 31st August 1974. Although RNI and Veronica had disappeared and I mourned their passing, at least here in Manchester we had Piccadilly Radio - due to the restrictions on the new broadcasters, it wasn't as good as their offshore counterparts but it was a very reasonable alternative.



Photo: Freewave Archive

And in any case, my career was starting to take off so I didn't have the time to devote to my old hobby as before. It was quite shocking reading from Robbie Robertson about the corruption in the Ireland to protect vested interests. It must have been a very difficult decision for him to sacrifice his radio career in Ireland by sticking to his principles but I applaud him for doing so. Unfortunately, principles don't come cheaply. I really hope that those responsible for the crooked dealings get their comeuppance but I fear it might not be in this life.

Corruption is an interesting topic because the western world regards it as a 'Third World Problem' (how I loathe that term) but of course, in reality, it is part of human greed and is universal. Which makes me angry when the West pontificates on the matter to the Asian, South

American and African countries. In recent years we have had our share of UK politicians abusing their power on the subject of expenses, which has not helped their standing in the community, but we don't seem to have heard of corruption on the Irish scale in UK radio. Maybe it did exist but the politicians were more subtle! Who knows!

Another interesting topic was the history of the demise of the 'WMCA Good Guys'. This sort of topic has always exercised my mind. As listeners we like the familiar but there comes a stage when maybe a fresh approach is needed and, I guess, this is where new Programme Directors have their role. They come with fresh ideas, whether it is to revive listening figures when things have got stale or merely to make their stamp on the station!

While it is important to have a format, so that a radio station has a certain 'sound', I have to say I've never been keen on a very tight format. While Radio London had their fans, I really preferred the programming on 60's Radio Caroline. It was much less rigid and more freedom was given to the DJs to show off their personalities in the choice of their records. On the few occasions I listened all day to Big L, I found it very repetitive, too much for my liking. Of course in the years and decades since, radio has gone more and more down the narrow-casting route, so much so that there is nothing in commercial radio to attract me these days, bland, boring and predictable.

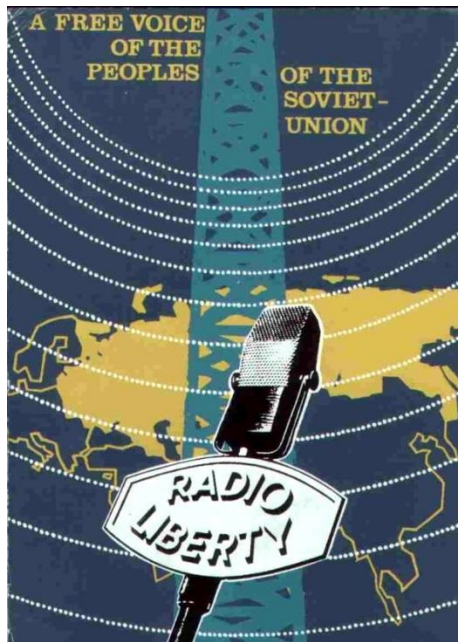
Interesting feature also about the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum, lovely seeing the old photo of you gazing at the old radio sets. It reminds me of an era long gone - in the 50's and 60's we had lots of junk shops selling old radios, going back to the 1940s when radios were housed in wooden or bakelite cabinets. Also there were the Army Surplus stores selling wartime radios, AR88s, HROs and the like.

Those places were a treasure trove for enthusiasts such as myself. A pity I wasn't 5 or 10 years older, but I simply didn't have the pocket money to buy the things I wanted. On a related topic, I don't know if it's still open but there was a fabulous museum run by ex-employees of Philips in Eindhoven which I visited in 2009 - that was a great trip down memory lane for me.'

Well Alan I can tell you that the museum is still there and have very interesting exhibitions: <http://www.philips-museum.com/>

Alan went on with: 'Like Ian Godfrey, I too enjoy listening to 192Radio, especially on Saturday afternoons with the Top 40 shows and often record them for future enjoyment. Always enjoyable to hear the Top 40 hits followed by the ones tipped to chart. A lot of enjoyable records are in the group tipped but which never charted but of course, today's narrow-casting isn't capable of doing justice to the lower reaches of the Top 40 let alone the turntable hits!

The comments about Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty also resonated. Many Poles and other Slavs fled mainland Europe after WW2 including my parents and for them, RFE/RL was a superb link to what was really going behind the Iron Curtain, along with the BBC and Voice of America. And of course for those trapped inside the Eastern Bloc territories, they were able to get an alternative view of the world to that presented by the Communist broadcasters, plus, of course the banned commodity, Western pop music. RFE/RL was based in Munich with powerful transmitters that were frequently jammed in an attempt to prevent western news reaching the ears of those in the East. I thought jamming was only a Communist activity until RNI was jammed by the British Government in 1970! ;-)



And finally, how lovely to see the 2002 get-together footage of the 'Wet Club', especially the heartfelt speech given by the wonderful DLT, so true! I thank God, I was part of the movement, if only as a listener. They were very special years during my formative youth and they're emblazoned on my heart. Thanks to all who made the 1964-1974 period such a special one for me!

So, finally, thanks, Hans for a really enjoyable report. Tot de volgende keer! (Till next time). Alan Milewczyk.

Well Alan thanks a lot for your long reply on last issue of the report. I see that you enjoy it every moment and have a lot of memories to the medium we all love so much. May I wish you for the coming weeks also a lot of joy in the Far East and have a safe travel back to Great Britain.

Talking about the Irish Radio Scene there's an interesting article on the internet in which John O'Hara looks back about 25 years in radio.

'John O'Hara made his mark on Irish radio in the 80s, but remembers his time fondly before leaving for a long career in radio in the UK. He did breakfast at Radio Nova, worked for Energy 103 and helped launch Capital (FM104) before joining Liverpool's Radio City. He then

came back as MD of Atlantic 252 before it closed. He also writes his memories exclusively for RadioToday.' You can find the full story here: <http://radiotoday.ie/2014/07/25-years-john-ohara-takes-a-look-back/>

Next one is also from Ireland as my son Pim, who lives and works in Dublin, sent me an invitation: 'I think we might need to visit this place next time you're in Dublin!' Thanks Pim looks interesting, another radio museum to visit and also on a marvellous location.

<https://hurdygurdyradiomuseum.wordpress.com/>

They're also on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hurdy-Gurdy-Museum-of-Vintage-Radio/142282112449873?fref=ts>

Irish people love radio but one man took that to a whole new level. Pat Herbert has collected vintage radios and gramophones over the past 60 years and it all started when he couldn't bear to see the waste created when people threw out 78 RPM records in London in the 50s. "Vinyl was just coming in in the 50s and people were disposing of their 78 records. Thousands of them would be stacked along the side of the road for the binman.

Where I had come from in the west of Ireland, records were very precious because during the war people didn't have proper needles to play the records and to see them being thrown away, I thought it was sacrilege. So I started collecting records and then gramophones and radios and it spiraled from there really. Some years later I took it up seriously and it took my life in a sense."

For more read on:

<http://www.thejournal.ie/pat-herbert-documentary-1326667-Feb2014/>

Who does remember Radio Hof, one of the offshore projects off the Israel coast? Information can be found on the Offshore Fleet

pages from Martin van der Ven: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/hof.htm>



Radio Hof Poster. Collection: Martin van der Ven

Now many years later a rebirth of the station has been announced from a location in Eilat and you can listen to the station on line.

<http://www.nisha17.co.il/radio-hof-eilat/>

Nickname time again and this time we go to the Flemish Service from Radio Atlantis, which was on the air in 1973 for some months and in 1974 form 8 months. Fred van den Bosch was a presenter where the words 'is weer los' were added in jingles and announcements. You could translate it as: Fred van den Bosch, he does it again.

Recently I put an interesting article on facebook which was published in October 1964 in an English newspaper. The article had also some excellent photos from life aboard the MV Fredericia. One of them featured Tom Lodge in the studio accompanied by a dog. I stated that next to Raffles on the Ross Revenge that it's now also sure there was a dog on the Fredericia. It seemed that some people awoke when seeing the dog and remembered what happened 50 years back:



Paul Rusling: 'That must be the one that the Captain threw over the side in Ramsey Bay after it bit him - Ramsey lifeboat was called to bring a doctor, but not sure what happened to the dog.'

Andy Cadier 'This incident was reported to the RSPCA, but nothing could be done as the vessel was foreign registered and in international waters, outside British jurisdiction.'

Paul Rusling came back with: 'I heard that the original captain David Mackie had left it on board and it was a Dutch captain who didn't like it, especially after it bit him.'

Andy Cadier again: 'Well according to Daffy, the person involved had been drinking and was teasing the dog, which led to him getting bitten. But one should also consider the mental state of the hound if she had been confined to the ship for so long and not able to do the things that other doggies do.'

Three in a row for Paul Rusling: 'It's in the book 'History of Ramsey lifeboat', and on the big boards in the boathouse. Just says it was the captain.

Ronny B. Goode: 'No matter who did it - it certainly was not acceptable! 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth....' I asked my friend Ove Sjöström about this incident, as he was on board the ship

in 1964. But he didn't have any memories whatsoever about a dog being on the ship. Of course this was 50 years ago.'

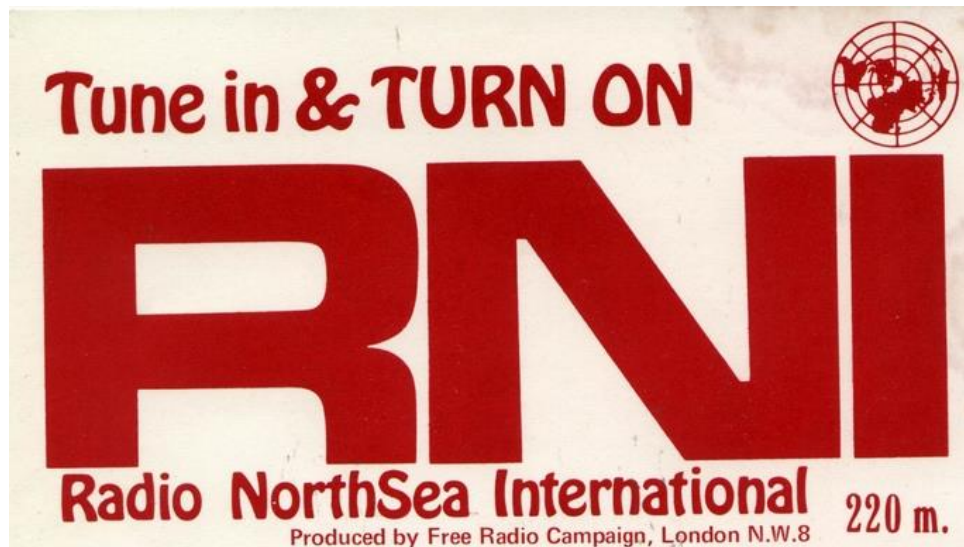
Clive Warner: 'I really don't think a radio ship is any kind of place for a dog. Every damn thing on board is dangerous. I can just imagine a dog going down the steps into the forward hold and walking around the back and straight into the HV rectifier cabinet.'

Well interesting conversation but still we don't know what the dog's name was and how he came onboard the MV Fredericia. The only thing we know is that the dog was there as the photograph tells it all. Brings me also to a story which was told to me many years ago and which was never proved to me by a photograph. A story went that one of the captains from the Fredericia kept some chickens on the ship. Who knows more about the dog or/and the chickens feel free to write to me: HKnot@home.nl

Another e mail this time from England and Andrew Matthews: 'Hello Just a few words really about the wonderful days and evenings of listening to the sounds of Radio Nordsea, from my home in Herne Bay Kent, UK in the seventies. Born in 1957 I missed out on the first pirate wave with the likes of Radio's London, Caroline, 390, City etc. and although Veronica, I, think was already broadcasting somehow I came across RNI as I used to search the medium wave of my transistor radio for something musical to listen to.

Both my parents were keen on music and we had a Dansette record player and I would often sift through the records, a few 45 RPM but mostly LP 's ; Cliff and Shadows, Beatles, Ackerman Bilk, Glen Miller, Johnny Cash and Marty Robbins. Around 1972 I think I started to music magazines such as Disc & Music Echo, New Musical Express and later Melody Maker. So titbits of offshore radio news would be reported there. Later I would subscribe to DJ & Radio Monthly, a glossy mag which featured much on RNI so I was able to see pictures of the DJ's , read interviews etc etc.

I did listen to Radio Veronica but due to not speaking Dutch tended to stick with RNI. The signal was very good in East Kent certainly better than Radio Luxembourg which I also liked and tried to follow but it's evening / night reception was dreadful with the audio fading in and out so if a good record was playing I would have to move the set around, maybe place on my window ledge in the hope of hearing it all!



So RNI very much was MY station, no one else in the house listened to it, my parents had BBC radio on, and it was something I had discovered for myself and used to feel that they, each DJ, was broadcasting to me and as they were relatively close by I felt a part of what they were doing. After all they were there for us, because they had the same passion and interest. I occasionally wrote in for dedications and was very surprised and delighted when Steve and Debbie England (both DJ's) sent me a Christmas Card.' Well Andrew very nice memories but stating that you got an Christmas Card from Steve and Debbie must be you've also listened to Radio Atlantis. But Andrew had more:

'Listening to RNI, Veronica and Caroline introduced me to many Dutch bands such as Alquin, Earth and Fire, Golden Earring, Focus, Bolland and Bolland, and other European acts such as Aphrodite's child from Greece. I cannot recall if I was tuned in as the MEBO 2

was bombed but was when the attempted hijacking took place in August 1970. What drama and jeopardy just from listening to pop music but I always felt we / they would win in the end and it was a very sad day when they decided to call it a day.

I had hoped they would continue to broadcast, there was so much to like, RNI was heard everywhere you went in East Kent and there was a transistor radio playing. I suppose I really wanted to be a pirate deejay though I loathed boats and ships! But music was so important then and as it is now and I wanted to be involved somehow. Over the years I had collected some pirate radio / offshore magazines, stickers, articles etc but sold on ebay a few years ago, for very little money. There did not seem much point in keeping but the memories are still here. Best wishes Andrew A Matthews.'

Well Andrew thanks a lot for making us part in your memories to the good old days. Anyone who wants to share more just writes to me.

Next press report was found in one of the newsgroups: 'A research paper written by LJMU lecturer in Journalism, Richard Rudin, based on his experience of swapping the lecture theatre for a 'pirate' radio ship has won an international research award. Richard was invited to be part of the team that broadcasted a 28 day 'tribute' station, Radio Caroline North, from Liverpool's waterfront during Easter 2014. The Restricted Service Licence (RSL) station was licensed to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of offshore radio stations transmitted to UK audiences.

The resulting research has since won a prize in an open, 'blind' peer-reviewed competition run by the US-based Broadcast Education Association. Richard has been invited to present his paper at the BEA's annual Convention in Las Vegas in April and the reviewers have encouraged him to develop his work into a book. Richard used a mixture of 'participant observation' and studies of reaction by listeners - including those who had listened to the original stations - on social media, as well as interviews with current and

former radio staff and those who are involved with the continuing Radio Caroline service, mostly now only available online.

The RSL station, locally available on FM as well as worldwide on the Internet, tried to straddle different audience demands and expectations, as well as a fiercely loyal base of fans of Radio Caroline in its various periods, broadcast ships and formats.

Speaking about the experience, Richard commented: "Much of the work I did for the paper was investigating how people remembered the original stations, how they affected their lives, and how attempts to reincarnate such services triggered certain memories and feelings, as well as how they 're-calibrated' their recall and perceptions."

Alex Hoek wrote: 'Pirate Memories of RNI. Original super 8 footage by Rob Olthof. The first trip was at the end of summer 1971. The repair of the MEBO II is still in full progress. Hans Hogendoorn recognizes, among others, Brian McKenzie, Mike Ross, Dave Rogers and the two Swiss technicians Kurt and Bruno. Also some other footage of 2 other trips to Radio Northsea. Again a big thank you to Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot for the tape.

<http://youtu.be/i4DQrPROYdk>

Thanks Alex for your excellent work and putting it on YouTube. Some additional information: I also spotted Hans Verbaan, Piet Treffers, Graham Gill, Rudi Kagon, amongst others. The second trip to RNI was in 1973 when the West Deutsche Rundfunk made a special and Juliana Werding, a German Singer, was guest in the Graham Gill show and sung life Unter Fremde Sternen, a German version of the song Night in White Satin.



Juliana Werding on air in Graham Gill Show. Photo: Martin van der Ven

Here a link to a very interesting site about the MV Courier including a recording in Spanish.

http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/USCGC_Courier/Courier.html

Alan Bailey sent us another interesting link where many historical photographs regarding the BBC Broadcasting House can be found:

<http://flashbak.com/twenty-five-stunning-pictures-of-bbc-broadcasting-house-in-1932-30877/>

Kaunas is in Lithuania and also there is a magnificent collection of old radios.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFoXpvlCOPg&list=PLFB20FEE6F40315F8>

Earlier on we had Kord from Radio Mi Amigo International asking for some new presenters. He has more to mention: 'Fresh wind in the spring-time on the short wave service. Dear Shortwave Listeners, a lot of news are coming up for you the next weeks on Radio Mi Amigo from Spain! Perhaps you have already noticed, we got two new Dj's for the English and Dutch service. Paul Newman, who also works for the famous Radio Seagull, is there for you every Sunday, as also Peter de Wit (Radio 10 Gold) for the Dutch service. Please

give both of them a very warm welcome to Radio Mi Amigo. For song requests for Peter please write to: schoonschip@radiomiamigo.es

Paul will do in his program the "Listener-All-Time-Top 5", so please write for that to:

paulnewman@radiomiamigo.es

During the Easter-weekend we have a lot more programs for you, also on Saturday-afternoon and on Easter Monday, together with big prizes you can win, so stay tuned for that.'

Radio 19 in Belgium is an internet radio station with a fine staff of broadcasters. But sometimes a broadcaster is ill or on leave. Lucky for those who have always been a fan of RNI and Graham Gill.

Saturday evening February 28th.at 11 o'clock CET he can be heard for an hour of fine music. The program is produced by another former live deejay from RNI's days, Dick de Graaf.

<http://www.radio19.fm/>

At the end of the report a request from a reader in Belgium: Dear International Radio Report Readers, I am an admirer of the 1970's pirate stations and looking for former ship models, especially those made by Mr. Paul Ciesielski. If you would want to sell a ship model or can let me know where I can buy one or several, please send me an email: danny.gevaers@skynet.be

Well another thick Hans Knot International Radio Report. I hope you all have enjoyed it and the next one will be out before Eastern. With all best wishes from Groningen, Hans Knot