

## Hans Knot International Radio Report May 2015

A very warm welcome to another bumper edition of the International Radio Report. There was so much coming in this month that I had to replace about 10 pages to the June report, out next month. Thanks to everyone for sending in memories, photos, questions, news and more. And so let's go on with the first e mail coming in from the USA. It's from a former AFN presenter who had also something to do with Radio Caroline in the seventies of last century. Any idea who? Well he was co-presenter of the Berlin Service which also brought us Johnny Jason and Dennis King. Well let's see what he wrote:

'Hello Hans! Many thanks for the wonderful monthly e-mail of radio updates! It's always lots of fun to read it. You mentioned AFN Bremerhaven in your last report and I thought you'd like to see this piece of required radio gear. (Well, it was required at the time.)



I also was wondering how Ronan O'Rahilly is doing? Perhaps you could provide an update when something is known? Cheers! Joel O'Brien.'

Thanks a lot for this memory to AFN. About Ronan I've no new information, only that some people are caring for him. I hope to have more info in months to come.

And yes, after 38 years the RadioDay have new organisers in Jan-Fré Vos, Jan van Heeren and Vincent Schriel. In November they've planned their first one and here's all the information till now. I hope next months some names can be mentioned:

## RADIO DAY 2015

This year's Radio Day will be held on **Saturday 14th November**. The 2015 location for this event is **Museum RockArt in Hoek van Holland**. On that day, the doors of the museum will open at 11:00 and close at 18:00. The structure of the annual event has changed. It has been decided to hold a National Radio Day followed by a large International Radio Day on a rotating basis (including the Awards Ceremony).



This year, a National Radio Day will be held, focused on the Netherlands and Belgium and thus slightly more limited in scope than in previous years. The interior of Museum RockArt will play an

important role. Central item is the restored Radio Veronica studio. Seven well-known radio DJs are asked to present their shows live from the studio forming a kind of window programming. On the half hour the programmes are interrupted for interviews on stage. That means that seven topics will be discussed during that day. The items to be included will be announced later, but in any case, attention will be given to the offshore station Radio Monique and the 50th anniversary of Hilversum 3 / Radio3 / 3FM.

Like the last years Radio Extra Gold will be present at the RadioDay and will broadcast live during the event.

The Radio Day 2015 is made possible by the Internet Radiocafé and Radiotrefpunt.nl There will be regular updates on [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)

Next it's time for reader Gé Huijbens, currently living in the Ardennes, who wrote that he got a special QSL card from an licensed radio HAM from Nijmegen in the Netherlands. It was the station PA4ORNI who had a special card reminiscing to the good old days of Radio Northsea International.



Thanks a lot and that was the third Radio Ham having a special QSL card concerning RNI last summer. I remember seeing the first land based pirate using the MEBO II on a QSL card many decades ago. He was situated in Eelde, the Netherlands and I'm wondering if he still has such a card. If yes, could you send a jpg to me for publication? I know he's a reader too.

We make a short trip to England to meet up with Vivien Barnard who was an avid listener to the offshore stations in the sixties.

'Hello Hans I am writing about the dog pictured with Tom Lodge in last issue. I have that same newspaper article and I wrote about the dog in my diary as I was able to listen to Caroline North occasionally on my little radio, when the wind was blowing in the right direction towards Essex. I remember one of the DJs, maybe Tom Lodge, talking about the dog who they named 'Caroline! I suppose the 'dog' was a bitch, otherwise they would not have called in Caroline. At present I cannot tell you any other information but there certainly was a pet dog on the Fredericia. Poor little thing! A ship is not the best place to keep a dog. No wonder it bit someone! All for now Regards from Vivien.'

Thanks a lot Vivien for sharing the information from your diary with us. We all learn more from each other by sharing information.

Graham Gill had his birthday on April 15<sup>th</sup> and became 79 years in age. Some days before this special day for him he wrote me about a special 'birthday': 'By the way, I forgot to tell you earlier but my television, a Philips KL 11, has its birthday in the second week of March 2015. I can't remember the exact day but it's now exactly forty years old. And it's still going strong with a crystal clear picture. I reckon it must be the only one in Holland which is still working. I think when either I or the television gives up it should go to a museum. It still has excellent colours too!'

Well Graham that's good to hear as lesser and lesser television sets are made so that they last for four decades. Funny enough I found a photograph in my archive of your television set. It was taken somewhere in the seventies and featuring Andy Archer too.



**Andy Archer at Graham's place archive: Hans Knot**

After I send the above photograph to Graham he came back with another story: 'Something remarkable happened concerning the television set. When I was working for the Dutch World Service (Radio Netherlands) I was coming home one night after work was done. The Italian food shop underneath my house at the Blasiusstreet had blown up. I knew the Italian owner and his wife quite well as I was a costumer. That night, after arriving back from Hilversum, there was police at my place as well as NOS TV and many people looking on. They thought it had been a gas explosion. But after the police had made investigations it turned out that a bomb had been placed by the shop owner. He got a tax bill he could not pay and he and his wife had attempted doing a 'runner back' to Italy. The police caught them anyway. The bomb blew a great hole in my living room floor and there was much damage. But would you believe my Philips



KL 11 Colour television survived. Luckily my neighbour lady on the second floor, Mrs. Neizen, was looking after my cat Moortje and he was alright. But she said that if I had been at home and not doing the night service at Radio Netherlands, I might have been killed. I was very lucky; I'm now 79 and my telly 40. It was two weeks before repairs were made and I could return to my house.



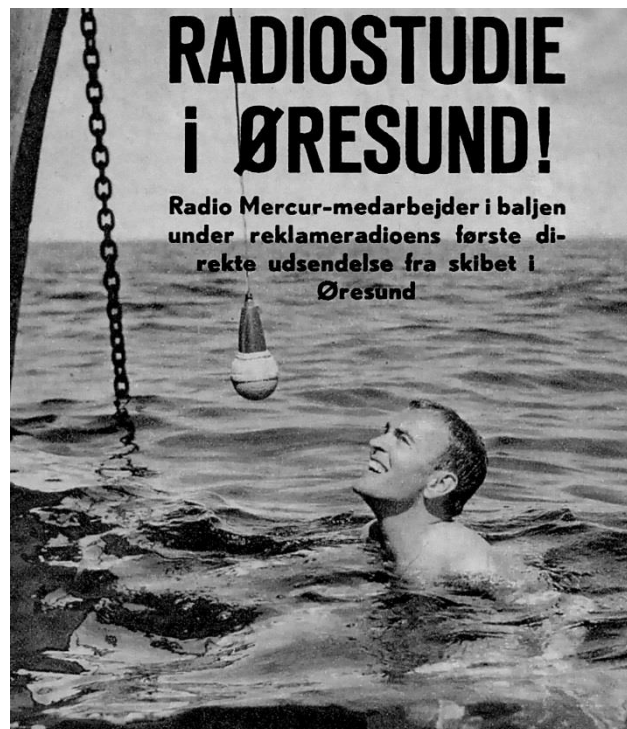
Italian shop after the explosion. Photo: Hans Knot archive

I was very lucky to be able to stay with Mrs. Liz de Goede, Ad Robert his mother, and she took great care of me. After two weeks I was able to move back into the Blassiusstreet 70. Well these days, if you want to buy a television, and there are many sorts available, they are only made to last about 4 years. I was told by a friend that the makers do this deliberately so you have to buy another one. When I bought my KL 11 from a firm called 'm Pole to Pole' in the Kinkerstraat in Amsterdam, they told me it would last for years and they were right'.

Request time from Belgium where Ben Bode is living. He suggested that deejays from the past come forward with their story relating to songs they think they made into the charts. As example he mentioned Ad Roberts during his Caroline time. Following Ben Bodes words Ad Roberts was responsible for the fact 'Spirit having flown'

from the Bee Gees was finally released as a single after heavy being played by Ad. Also he was probably responsible for making a success of 'Afternoon Delight' by the Starland Vocal Band. So if you've, as a deejay, the idea that by playing intensely a record making it a hit, please send all information to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Radio from International waters started in Europe way back in 1958. Several stations came on the air in the following decades. Best known were Caroline, London, Radio England, Veronica, RNI and more. Recently I received some newspaper material related to the Danish Radio Mercur, whereby 'radio from international waters' was brought into another context.





Above a photo of a bus recently spotted in Whitstable. Andy Cadier made the photograph as on the back of the bus in a promo for Whitstable is a small illustration of the army style Maunsell forts. Do you remember busses used to advertise offshore radio? Let me know it at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next it's Ian Godfrey with a very nice story.

'Hi Hans, Many thanks for the latest Report. Last Saturday I met up with a former school friend and his wife at the National Railway Museum in York, mainly to have a look at the exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's last journey. This was a day, unsurprisingly, with absolutely no reference to radio of any kind - until the return journey.

As I arrived in my allotted space in the carriage I fleetingly noticed that I was sitting opposite a lady with black hair and dark glasses but apart from that wasn't aware of any other points as I was much more preoccupied with chatting to my friends about the wide range of locomotives etc. we'd seen at the Museum.





My friends left the train at Doncaster and a few minutes later the lady opposite mentioned to the train manager that, being registered blind, she'd need assistance at Peterborough. I knew that, on this occasion, starting a conversation was likely to be easier than usual, just by mentioning that I was also on the same register. Conversation was almost immediate and we chatted for over an hour about our experiences, and other aspects, of travelling unassisted as a disabled person, plus a variety of other topics.

She seemed quite intrigued when I mentioned that I'd travelled on Eurostar to the Radio Day almost exactly a year ago and seemed quite excited when I described that last year's event marked the 50th anniversary of the launch of Radio Caroline. When I mentioned that radio, particularly anything relating to the offshore stations, was another major interest of mine, and something I can quite easily chat about for hours! Our train was being diverted through Lincolnshire so at least we could chat for at least another hour!

She immediately asked me if there were still any offshore stations. I started by mentioning the 1990 broadcasting act, and the

amendment, when she suddenly intervened and talked for a couple of minutes about the 1967 MOA, saying that she was living in Belfast in the 60s and that she loved listening to Caroline North and Radio Scotland, also mentioning the Scotland/Ireland phase and remembering such personalities as Jerry Leighton, Don Allen and Stuart Henry.

She said that when she was in London she listened to Big L, particularly Kenny Everett and Tony Blackburn. I mentioned that there are a great number of offshore related Internet stations, Offshore Radio Sounds was the first that came to mind and she seemed quite excited when I mentioned that, a few days ago, they played a good quality recording of an RNI Top 50 from May 1971. We talked for the last few minutes of the journey about the contemporary radio scene and she mentioned being disappointed at not being able to listen to the Magic stations in the northern counties and wondered if I could give her any information on recent changes. I said that I knew about the changes to the am outlets and that most of them had been rebranded but didn't know the full story but she seemed quite happy with my response. The train drew into Peterborough and husband was there to meet her. With different circumstances I would have suggested we keep in touch.

The Radio Ship are running a six-part history of Caroline, at least part of which is from one of the box sets from about 30 years ago. Part three was last Sunday, dealing with the period from summer 1972 to early 1974. I found the relating of the Christmas 1972 mutiny was compelling listening, particularly Chicago's explanation of one or two aspects I was unaware of. He mentioned that he could write a book. If it's available I'll gladly buy it!  
Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks a lot Ian for your long e mail with interesting topics. Once again we see that radio can be a very good reason to have a good chat about with someone who's a totally stranger to you. By the way

Peter didn't write a book, maybe someday? Well he reads the report and maybe this gives him a little sign to start writing his memoirs.

Next it's question time again, this time with Ian Biggar: 'Hi Hans, I hope you are well. I was wondering if through your report, I could ask if anyone has a particular recording that I am after. In late 1974 into 1975 there seemed to be some co-operation between Radio Caroline and the excellent London land based pirate Radio Kaleidoscope. Big K presenters like Dave Owen and Phil Mitchell joined Radio Caroline and Mike Baker (Denny Tewson on Big K) was fined for supplying records to the MV Mi Amigo.

Radio Caroline staffers like Robb Eden and Tony Allan recorded programmes for Radio Kaleidoscope. I have a copy of the Dutch music programme that Robb presented, but I would love a copy of Tony presenting the Tip Top 30. This must have been late 1974 or early 1975. I read a note on Norman Barrington's site from a guy, called Tim, who said that he had a copy of this, however the message is from 2004 and has no contact details. I wonder does 'Tim' read your report and if so would he be willing to copy the recording for me. Any help would be much appreciated Hans, Kind Regards Ian Biggar [ibradi0@btconnect.com](mailto:ibradi0@btconnect.com)

Well Ian of course there are a lot of people with this name reading the report and hopefully also the one who posted the message 11 years ago. I hope he will respond to your special request or maybe someone else who has a copy of this program. Take care

News from Jan Sundermann in Germany:

**THE 15th ERKRATH RADIODAY**  
**Saturday , 26th September 2015**

'On Saturday 26th September 2015, we organise the annual meeting for radio makers and listeners for the 15th time in the rooms of the observatory Sternwarte Neanderhöhe in D-40699 Erkrath. The event is scheduled from 14:00 to 20:00 hours EST, entrance is from

12.00 o'clock EST. The days schedule will be published as soon as fixed. The location: From Düsseldorf railway station you get there by train S 8, direction Wuppertal/Hagen. You leave at stop Hochdahl-Millrath and walk the road in direction of the train to small way on right hand named Hausmannsweg. After a few hundred meters you see the observatory.



The building were the event will take place

By car you leave Autobahn A 46 at exit Haan West to Erkrath, in the town the way is marked 'Observatorium'. GPS = 051° 12' 35" N / 006° 59' 01"

The entrance fee is 12.- Euro including a welcome drink. Preliminary registration or requests please to: Jan Sundermann, Millrather Weg 74, 40699 Erkrath, Germany. e-mail: [radiotag@fastmail.fm](mailto:radiotag@fastmail.fm) phone ++49 - (0) 171 - 492 5829 Jan Sundermann [jansundermann@fastmail.fm](mailto:jansundermann@fastmail.fm)



Early March I put a message on my Facebook page: 'Next week it's 46 years ago that from Andorra the special Caroline Revival Hour was transmitted. Do you remember? Some nice responding on just one little question came in, which I want to share here too:

Svenn Martinsen from Norway: 'I listened in as the show went out over Radio Andorra 701 kHz, 428 metres coming from their AM site Lac D'Engolasters in Encamp. Reception was only fair though. The 120 metres twin aerials are still a landmark of this Andorran town, although the last broadcast was in 1981.'

[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lac\\_d%27Engolasters...](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lac_d%27Engolasters...)

Graham Hall: 'I remember it, listened to the broadcast, but the reception in Derby wasn't the best.'

Paul Rusling: 'I tuned faithfully to it in Hull but reception was pretty dire - I can only remember Daffy Don playing a Beach Boys track, All Summer Long. Many of my friends didn't hear anything at all, very disappointing as we had all stopped up until about 2am to hear it!'

Well Paul hopefully you've listened to the recording I've send you so you get a far better impression than 46 years ago!

Mike Leonard: 'Yes I remember it very well - I got quite involved with Yves Kuhn and Don in preparations for the broadcast and advertised my fanzine publication (Breakthrough) during the programme. Unfortunately, in tapes available now, this advert is missing, although I do have an original recording somewhere on reel to reel with the full programme. Although reception was variable the advert produced a good response - we sold many more copies of the magazine that month. Also managed to get an article published in the Daily Mail the day after the broadcast to try and generate some publicity. Yves and I talked about possible future broadcasts but unfortunately these came to nothing. Later of course others did broadcast from Andorra for a while but as with the Caroline Revival



Hour quality of reception was always an issue that couldn't be overcome. Great days!

Well thanks a lot for this detailed information Mike Leonard and of course also to all the others who have responded and are partly not mentioned here.

## RADIO CAROLINE REVIVED

**SOUNDS** of Radio Caroline again . . . The first programme went out last Sunday for an hour from transmitters high in the mountains of Andorra (between France and Spain) and, all going well, there should be another on Thursday March 27. This is Caroline's birthday.

*The Caroline Revival Hour is the idea of a young Frenchman, Yves Kuhn, who was a great fan of the free radio that was put off the air by the British Government.*

He's a 23-year-old economics student who turned to acting and called his theatre group "259"—the wavelength on which Caroline broadcast.

Yves felt he should do something to keep the name Caroline and the idea of free radio alive. He went to the

Andorran authorities and they agreed to let him have an hour, if he could rustle up enough advertising to cover the cost.

The enthusiastic young Frenchman wrote to Caroline's founder, Dubliner Mr. Ronal O'Rahilly, and he was delighted at the idea.

Yves says that (in response to some notices in newspapers) he got a most enthusiastic reception for the idea of a Caroline Hour from thousands of the station's listeners.

But the response from advertisers was not so good. The first programme, with former Caroline deejay Don Allen (Daffy) in charge, was run at a loss.

"We are hoping for more advertisements for the second show on on the 27th," Yves Kuhn said. "If we get the necessary response, there will be further programmes on the pattern which made Caroline such a hit with millions of young people."

**THE Caroline Revival Hour, with Deejay Allen, includes parts of**

**the theme tunes of some of the men who made Caroline famous, messages from these deejays, discs, and those well-known jingles which came over from the pirate ships.**

The transmitters of Radio Andorra (from which it's hoped to keep putting out the Caroline Hour) are 6,500 feet above sea-level in the mountainous principality. The medium wave (with nearly 10 times the power of Caroline South) is on 428 metres, 701 kcs. The shortwave is 50.04 (5995 kcs.).

Transmissions may be heard all over Europe (including Britain and Ireland), and North Africa.

The first show was broadcast between 1 and 2 in the morning. It's hoped to have the next one earlier in the night.

Deejay Allen, who stayed with Caroline until it closed down, thinks the revival hour a great idea: "I jumped at the idea of doing the show. I shall be recording in Paris, from which it's sent down to the mountain transmitters. We hope you get us loud and clear."

Next question came in from Robert Briel and it was a very short one: 'Do you know this internetsite'. Well I mentioned it a few years ago but with love I want to give it another mention as, when entering the site, a wonderful world will open your eyes for many hours and many more visits in time to come.

<http://americanradiohistory.com/index.htm>

Like two months ago another e mail from Christopher Young: 'Hi Hans again. Just had a chance to look through your newsletter for the month of March and see that you posted a little bit from the e-mail I sent you. You asked a couple of questions about when I was on the MEBO II and Peace Ship. I thought you knew! We exchanged a couple of e-mails a long time ago about my time on the Peace Ship, in which I went into the fiasco when I had really bad toothache and

could not talk and to make matters worse the rest of the crew had food poisoning! (I did not eat that night because of the toothache)!

Another time we were hit by a huge storm, the ship was so badly damaged we had to limp into harbour. Thank God the captain was onboard at the time because I am told we would all have been dead if he had not been there.

Once Abe called the ship and said I was to be taken off-air for at least 48 hours and could only be a spinner. It turned out I played a record by Leonard Cohen and commented that my friends call it Music to commit suicide by. (Yes I know it was stupid thing to say, but it was true!) Anyway at the time I made the statement Abe was with Leonard trying to get him to make a donation to the station. He was not pleased when my statement came over the airwaves!



Peace Ship and tender in 1976 Photo: Freewave Archive

I don't think I have any pictures from VOP days but I do have from RNI. I think I still have a couple of me on the deck and in the studio. I remember when I first went to the MEBO II, Steve Merikke told

me on no account was I to go on air. But later that night Dave Rodgers decided to say he had a visitor on the ship and started to interview me before I could stop him! I got a big dressing down from Stevie the next day for going on air and he told me now the authorities would trace who I was and I would have problems back in England.

It was too late to do anything about it so I could broadcast if I wanted. He was not wrong. Some years later I applied for a croupier license and had to be interviewed by the police. They asked if I had ever done anything wrong and I said "No, never". The Policeman then pulled out this huge file and started to read out the dates I went backward and forward to the MEBO II and every time and date I went on air. He said if they wanted they could send me to prison for 2 years! But then he just smiled, said I could have the croupiers license and told me to be careful in the future or else!

Good days. I got sacked from BBC Radio Manchester for going out to the Mebo II. But it was worth it. (I think). Regards, Chris.'

Thanks a lot for sharing all those memories Chris. And from Chris we go to another reader in the UK, John Richardson: 'Dear Hans. Many thanks for the latest radio report. I cannot remember if you have mentioned this shortwave weekend station but I think people will be interested to know about it. It's The Mighty KBC on 6095 KCs. They have been on the air for quite a long time (as you will know) but they just seem to get better. Your friend Rosko is on each morning. He has Trucker Radio on Sundays. It would be nice to hear more about the station. There is also a new station on 6070Kcs they are on every day possibly from Germany. The signal is not very strong here, but it's got old offshore radio at its roots. Channel 292. All the best, John Richardson Selby, North Yorkshire.



Photo: KBC

Hi Jon, thanks for the e mail and information and of course I've mentioned it a long time ago and will do it again. And on the station not only Rosko can be heard but also Ron O'Quinn and old recordings from the late Wolfman Jack and many more. Please enjoy all the nice things available these days.

Talking about Rosko here's news coming in from Sherri Lynn

'Well, here it is, an interesting and exciting bit of news regarding the Emperor Rosko. Delighted to announce the legendary Emperor Rosko is broadcasting his weekly show 'LA Connection' also on Radio Mi Amigo International. Rosko was one of the original Radio Caroline jocks in the 60's, also heard on Radio Luxembourg and BBC Radio 1 before moving to California in the mid seventies. You'll be able to catch his zany and entertaining two hour show on Sundays from 8am, repeated 12 midday (CET) on the shortwave frequencies 6005, 7310 & 9560 KHz and online: [www.radiomiamigointernational.com](http://www.radiomiamigointernational.com) and this will start from Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.'



Thanks a lot Sherri and so many more people can tune in to Rosko's regular shows. He will be happy too to get so much publicity again. Well Photo time with Rosko:



Long time ago with long hair. Collection: Emp

But going back to KBC there's more news to tell: 'We are delighted to announce that from the 1st June 2015, KBC will be heard daily on medium wave. We will broadcast on 1602 kHz between 07.00 and 19.00 CET from transmitters aboard the LV Jenni Baynton.

Our Sunday shortwave transmissions will continue on 6095 and we will add an extra hour onto 7375 transmission. 'To facilitate these latest changes, our Saturday 6095 transmissions will end on Saturday but all regular shows will be maintained on a new KBC Internet stream which will be available online 24/7. Also, look out later this year for KBC on DAB+

'We hope you enjoy our new outlets and will join KBC on MW, SW, DAB+ and Online. Check out our website [www.kbcradio.eu](http://www.kbcradio.eu) and our FB page [facebook.com/TheMightyKBC](https://facebook.com/TheMightyKBC) for all the latest news.'

Andy Sennitt adds: 'Just to clarify: KBC will be replacing Radio Waddenzee on 1602 from 1 June. There will be no change to Radio



Seagull, which will continue to broadcast on 1602 at 1900-0700 Dutch time. Later this year, both stations will share a channel on the regional DAB+ multiplex. Radio Seagull will continue 24 hours a day on the internet.'

Next wonderful news from Lion Keezer in the Netherlands: '50 Years ago a British Pathé film crew left Felixstowe harbour on the tender 'Offshore 1' for a visit to Radio Caroline's MV Mi Amigo. The footage of their 2 day film shoot was heavily edited and ended up as a 3 minute item, used as part of a short Pathé cinema special about 'Water'. The Pathé archive recently published this 'Water-clip' on YouTube where many of you may have seen it. The picture quality and lighting of the professional cameraman were pristine, since it was shot on 35mm cinema film (without sound, just commentary and stock music added).

The young successful 'pirate' Radio Caroline got a bit of a tendentious outdated treatment by Pathe's commentator - representing the establishment in those days. But, what interested me most was the fact that British Pathé also made 7 minutes of outtakes available online, albeit without any sound or colour correction. Outtakes consisting of many short fragments spread out over two files and in random order, but showing many details, scenes and DJ's on the Mi Amigo.

After analyzing all material it became clear to me that - when put back together in the right order, combined with audio, music and the original 3 minute item - the result should be a unique, high quality detailed representation of what life looked like on the Mi Amigo in this early, exciting period (late summer 1965).

Lately I restored hundreds of old photographs and video material for my iBook 'Pirate Radio Ships in the 70's' and since I'm a multimedia producer with a Final Cut Pro X editing set, I just could not resist the challenge, had to give it a try, see what it would look like.

So I set out for a complete re-edit, this time using every single frame available, putting all fragments back in the right order. Had to find the tunes of the DJ's and other music from that period (Pathé never recorded audio with the film). I searched many archives to find audio of the original text spoken by DJ's Dough Kerr, Paul Noble and Gary Kemp and was lucky enough to find it! I was syncing it up as good as possible, adding background sound and effects (like seagulls, generator sound and typewriters) and a music soundtrack to the multitrack mix. Painstakingly colour grading all fragments to make them match and to revive the real colours.

The result is amazing and also a bit confusing. The pristine colours and sharpness make it hard to imagine all this happened half a century ago. We see a young and excited 22-year old Tony Blackburn enjoying the tender trip, looking up to his then boss: senior DJ Doug Kerr. The film crew used professional film lighting in all shots and it shows: detailed colour views of the studio, engine- and transmitter room, bridge and the guys playing chess on deck.

Tony Blackburn is featured extensively and other DJ's seen in action are: Gary Kemp, Paul Noble Simon Dee and Dough Kerr, assisted by technician Patrick Starling. Keith Skues and Bryan Vaughan can be seen briefly, leaving on the tender.

The featured tender Offshore 1 is a legendary ship as well, being the tender for both Caroline and Radio London. She had a second career in the 70's as Radio Northsea's 'Trip Tender' and is still being used for fishing trips out of Scheveningen in Holland.

To my knowledge this is the best available document on offshore radio and Radio Caroline in the 60's, the inspiration and 'source code' for all that was to happen later, Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/MI7ZL76XPts>

<https://vimeo.com/125143389>  
[www.facebook.com/pirateradioships](http://www.facebook.com/pirateradioships)

Lion Keezer, April 2015.'

Well Lion you've done wonderful work to make it complete and restore it. I honestly appreciated that you did give me a view on forehand of publication and I hope all readers will take a look to this most historic document.

Of course most of the memories in the Hans Knot International Radio Report are coming from the period we loved our transistor radio. Have a look at the next internet site for some exclusive ones from Michael Jack:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/transistor\\_radios/with/2151060126/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/transistor_radios/with/2151060126/)

Let's go back to a question from Henk de Boer from Dokkum in last issue. He told that he uploaded an early Radio Atlanta recording with the question if someone knew which group played a song in the program. A reflection on the question comes from Germany and Jan Sundermann: 'Hello Hans, I do not know who is interpreter of the song La Cucaracha in that recording. But it's an old mockery song from Mexico. Some sources say it was written against revolucionario Pancho Villa, some source say it was written against the wife of Emperor Maximilian in 19th century. Nevertheless, the melody is still used as station ID tune of the AM radio network 'La Rancherita'. The "Ranchero" music they play mostly is the Mexican style of country music, mainly coming from the northern parts of the United States of Mexico. Best regards, Jan.'

Thanks Jan and surely Henk has learned something from this information and will be on the search again.

Paul Rusling wrote that he heard a very rare mention for Radio London, i.e. Big L, on the BBC Main TV Channel, BBC One. In the Grand Final of the program Mastermind, the question was asked

"What was the name of John Peel's show on Radio London that showcased new music?" And the answer (Perfumed Garden) was not given.' Thanks Paul good to know someone at the BeeB didn't forget John Peel, or was it Big L?

LX Classics from Lex Harding can now be heard at <http://178.19.127.152/listen.pls>

There's also good news for former listeners of Radio Luxembourg, Capital Radio and more as for a series of summer programmes David 'Kid' Jensen returns to BBC Radio Sussex and Surrey. For more information just go to <http://media.info/radio/news/kid-jensen-returns-to-bbc-sussex-bbc-surrey>

Picture time: 'Hello Hans, Thanks for your regular news of Pirate Radio, it is very welcome. I thought you may like this picture:



Johnny Edward, Tony Blackburn, Willy Walker and Tony Windsor

Kindest regards, Johnny Edward'.

Thanks a lot Johnny, most appreciated. Well more news about Rosko as he wrote me the next: 'I will be in France and the United Kingdom at the end of May. I am speaking at a dinner on the life of Eddy Barclay. He ran 'Discques Barclay' way back in the sixties and seventies and built an empire. I will only be in the UK for a day or so and I don't even know where I will be!' Thanks Rosko and thanks to Eddy Barclay he brought us the marvelous sound of Raymond L vefre and his Orchestra and many more artists. Have a good trip to Europe.

Let's see what Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame has written to me: 'Hi, I have updated the Pirate Hall of Fame. New this month:

- Two pages of fantastic photos taken on Radio 390 in 1967 by Peter Berkeley, a station record librarian;
- his colleague David Sinclair has found some more photos from his offshore career which have been added to his existing Radio Essex and Radio 390 pages;
- and we have another month's worth of Radio 270 Top 40s courtesy of Ian Kellock

Best wishes, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

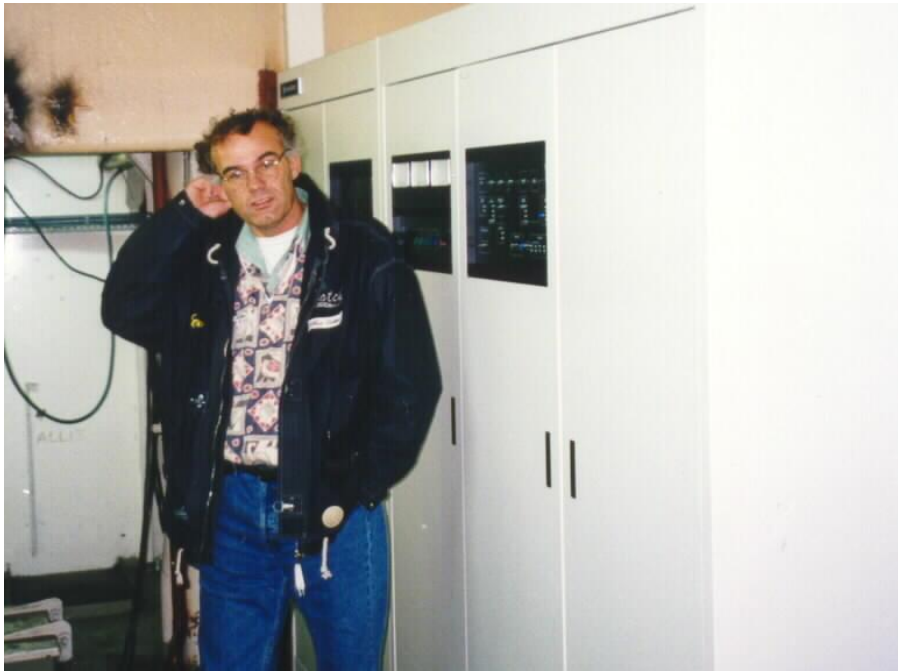
Martin van der Ven has also found some unique footage and more: 'A great site: <http://www.couriervoa.com/> And many unknown pictures: <http://www.couriervoa.com/#!shipphotos/c2006> and a lot of unique videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXnOZWMuCj8s7ejrTy9R3uw>

Thanks Martin and while surfing on the internet don't forget to visit the site from Mary and Chris Payne about Radio London and lot of related things. They added a lot of new material during the past weeks: [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk)

Next it's nickname time again. Who will remember Piet de Prater? He was presenting for some weeks a country style program on Radio Caroline in 1980. In fact it was Nico Volkert and he got the nickname



'Praatpaal' (emergency phone on a road). With thanks to Jan-Fré Vos from the Netherlands.



**Nico Volkert Photo: Rob Olthof**

Sad news came in from Enda Caldwell: 'Tributes have made following the passing of well-known Irish radio engineer Peter Gibney. Gibbo passed away on Saturday morning April 4th at his home in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. He was in his early fifties. Peter started as a radio transmission engineer for the pirate station KELO in Swords in the late 70s. Shortly after KELO in his long career he provided engineering support to stations like Big D the renowned Dublin Pirate of the late 70s.

Later he was the chief transmission engineer at The Red Hot Sound of Sunshine 101 / 539MW based in Portmarnock until its closure on December 30th 1988. Peter made some custom changes to Sunshine's air chain in its later years giving it a winning sound to match it's launched 'Hot Hits' format which was number one in Dublin during 1986 to 1988. During the 1983 P and T and Garda raids Peter was responsible for getting Sunshine Radio back on the air on both AM and FM for Robbie Robinson and the team at Sunshine. When the P

and T raided Sunshine's equipment in 1983 he managed to save one transmitter from being confiscated by telling the farmer at Sunshine's Howth Head site to turn off the FM transmitter to prevent its detection by P and T Detectives.

Peter later worked as part of a team of dedicated studio engineers at Long wave Radio Atlantic 252 in Trim. In tandem during this time Peter was Chief Engineer at Denis O'Brien's newly launched Classic Hits 98FM. He built Dublin's Country Mix 106.8 FM (Now Dublin's New Sunshine 106.8) while under contract to BTS with Joe King in this short period he also built Spin 103.8 and Cork's 104-106 Red FM for the late Henry Owens. He will be best known for his attention to detail in his work and his ability to fix most pieces of equipment rather than replacing them with new ones.

Robbie Robinson former boss of Sunshine 101 spoke from his family home in Lanzarote on the loss of Peter who was a dear friend to him and his wife Stella and son Elliot: "Sunshine Radio spread a lot of joy across Dublin, Peter Gibney was one of our brightest stars. Peter Gibney made everything work at Sunshine Radio a dedicated brilliant broadcast engineer, a star player in our team of bright young creative thinkers."

<http://radiotoday.ie/2015/04/tributes-paid-to-radio-engineer-peter-gibney/>

In a personal mail to me Robbie Dale wrote: 'Alas more sad news, Stella and I are saddened to tell you that Peter Gibney had a massive heart attack and died yesterday at home in Graystones Wicklow. I got the news from Cathy Cregan late last night, his wonderful wife Bridget will be devastated. They both enjoyed a deep loving relationship. Sunshine Radio spread a lot of joy across Dublin, Peter Gibney was one of our brightest stars. RIP Peter. Robbie and Stella.'

Thanks a lot to all who informed me and to Robbie and Stella I know how you both feel. Our thoughts are with you too here in Groningen.

In last issue I brought the message about Cambridge Community Radio using a small ship for Eastern transmissions. In the story the name of Julian Clover was mentioned. Burkhard Nowotny asked me who is Julian Clover and when and where has he been a pirate? So anyone who has an answer please send it to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next we go to Australia: 'Dear Hans, I came across this nice clip of Radio Caroline and Johnnie Walker in a BBC 'Summer of Love' program on YouTube. Maybe your readers would enjoy it: Go to the 17:00 point to see the Caroline part (but the whole 30 minute show is also interesting).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlxHJGD4ULg>

PS I've been watching and waiting for the movie '3-mile limit' to come to Australia, but nothing seen yet. Maybe it is only out on DVD? Hopefully someone will know. Kind regards Aussie Phil (Perth, WA)

Thanks Phil for the interesting clip. No, I can't answer the question about the New Zealand movie. Last year it was promised that it would be out on DVD in Europe too so maybe the producer, who reads the report, can give the answer. So Craig Newland, when the DVD will be released?

Now we have a long e mail from Coen Braken in the Netherlands. 'Thanks again for your fresh radio report; we still remain somewhat connected to the radio boats from the past. And the stories about the MV Mi Amigo are always welcomed by me with a warm heart. The pictures of the Mi Amigo have just been given a place again in our new home. Regularly I talk with people visiting about the ship on those pictures and then I start one of the Rob Olthof Dvd's. Amazingly though is that people, after all these years, can remember it. They also know the Veronica vessel and an image of the MEBO II.

When mentioning Radio Mi Amigo they always reflect as that one from Belgium and when I mention Radio Atlantis, they've never heard

about it. Shivering Sands Towers and Red Sands is totally unknown to them and they think it's grim and scary. When I had my electronic shop between 1985 and 2006 it was named Mi Amigo Electronics. My new company - a mail order company - which I've since 2007 is Mi Amigo Distribution. So you now understand my love for the Mi Amigo. So my cars always had a design from the old lady and the name of Mi Amigo on it.



Photo: Coen Braken

It's all a long time ago but memories are flooding back on and on. All those blue oil barrels on deck which were there as no-one had the push to take them in good shelter. The bright green living room and the total damaged back side of the Mi Amigo. You had to watch very clear where you were walking elsewhere you disappeared into the North Sea.

Not forgetting all those bags of rice which came from the Aldi shop in Bologne-sur-Mer. They had a mayor who intended that he didn't know what was happening with tendering the radio ship from this



harbour. Not forgetting that bird in that cage and that pathetic tiny Honda generator, this would ensure lighting and 220V! Looking back: it was romantic, but actually irresponsible.



Photo: Coen Braken

And then one day I sailed with some drunk guys, the crew from the MV Hosanna. One of them put a batten 3 meters over the steering wheel in order to determine the direction of Plymouth and then tied the steering wheel with a rope! This was to avoid the radar. Meanwhile, below deck they drank a lot until they fell almost into a coma. And it was heavy shit, like brandy and gin. During the day they were already on French fries and beer!

This was the Caroline tender which later disappeared, I is not really strange that with their drunken mug indeed they walked into a huge Panamanian oil tanker.





Kees Borrell Photo: Coen Braken

Well lovely memories Coen as well as beautiful pictures. Thanks for sharing those with my readership. For those who plan a holiday to Mallorca this year there is still a 'Disco Bar 538' on the island. With thanks to Martin van der Ven.

<https://nl-nl.facebook.com/Disco.Bar.538>



Next sad news from Paul Graham: 'Sad to report the passing of ex VOP DJ McLelland Hackney known to us all as Mac Hackney. He was a USA citizen born in 1938 in Texas and found his way on to the Peace ship in 1989. He was a DJ in Texas some years ago and returned to live there having been based in England since the 1970's having married an English girl.. Mac almost joined Radio Caroline in 1988 but at the same time commenced freelance work doing sports commentary on BBC Radio Leicester on the emerging American football game in the UK.

Mac's voice was heard on Radio Caroline in 1988 on one or two commercials recorded at my good friend's studio in Leicester, Mike Gilhooly a long time Caroline supporter. We both worked with Mac at the cable radio station DBCR in Leicester in the mid 80's where Mike was station manager. We will all miss Big Mac Hackney all 6 foot 5 of him. A great guy a wonderful voice heard on the Late Night affair show on the VOP listen to the air checks if you see them he was king of smooth.. RIP Mac. Mac died on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Galveston Texas following a long illness. Paul Graham.'

A short one from Arthur in England: 'Hans, I actually own a Bulova Accutron watch, the first electronic tuning fork watch as the RNI ad claimed! A very nice piece as it was robust enough to withstand a Roman Catholic Secondary Modern school! Alas not working but I would like to get going if I can afford it.



All best Andrew Arthur Matthews'

This came in from Mary Payne: 'Radio London is sorry to report the death of Big L DJ Lorne King. Unfortunately, we have no information regarding when Lorne died, but believe it may have been as long ago as 2013. The report of Lorne's death has come from Ben Healy, in Edmonton, whom we are attempting to contact for further news.

<http://radiolondon.co.uk/>

**MiAMiGO**  
Radio **A** Shortwave - Kurzwelle  
**NEWSLETTER**

'Hello radio friends, We hope you had a nice and beautiful Easter weekend and you could spend some time together with us on the shortwave. More great news is coming up to you! Now we have 22 hours on shortwave every weekend for you. For the complete program schedule, just go to our homepage:

[www.radiomiamigointernational.com](http://www.radiomiamigointernational.com)

Just before ending this report an e mail came in from Mark Wesley, who wrote: I've finally finished my novel, BanGk! It's a great British crime caper with a totally original con on the Bank of England. And some sardonic humour that I think you'll enjoy.

**BanGk!** (358 pages) is available on Amazon in print and Kindle editions:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1508562113/ref=pe\\_385721\\_51767431  
\\_TE\\_dp\\_1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1508562113/ref=pe_385721_51767431_TE_dp_1)

James Stack: Ex-captain Special Forces, a tough, intelligent, risk taker, figured out that if you want to rob the Bank of England you don't go through the front door guns blazing. You don't tunnel up through the floor either. You don't climb through windows; lower yourself on a harness; screw around with the computers; fix the security cameras or play Twister with invisible Laser beams. You don't do any of that stuff because it won't work. That's why gold has never been stolen from the vaults of the Bank of England. They've got every angle covered.....Except one.



Mark Wesley worked on Radio Scotland as Mark West in the sixties as well as Mark Wesley on RNI. Radio Luxembourg, Saxon Radio, Nova International and Capital Gold were some of the other radio stations he worked for. And now he's author too!

Well 31 pages and enough for this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. If you want to share memories, photos, have any question and more, please mail me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)  
All the best and till next time, Hans Knot.