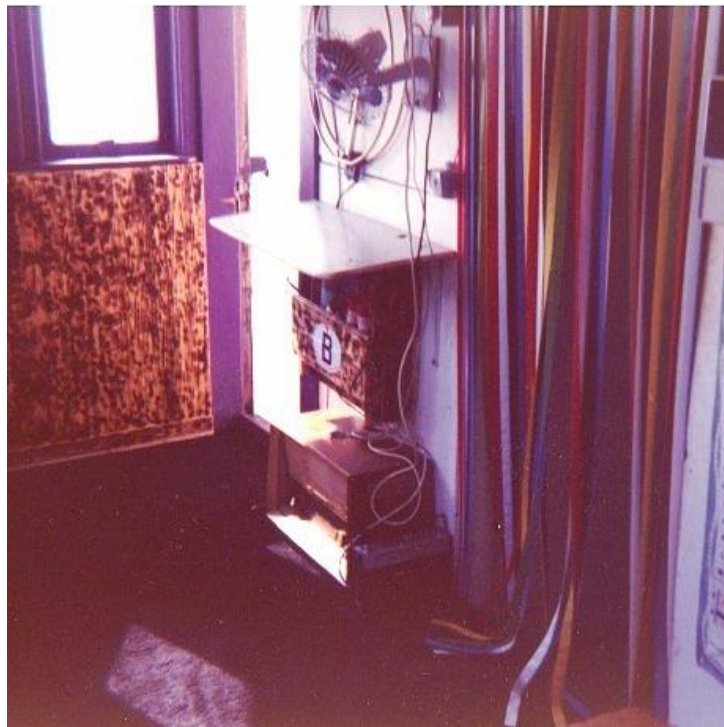


Hans Knot International Radio Report December 2015

Welcome to this edition of the radio report and thanks for all the e mails with memories and more, which is most appreciated. Also this time there is a variety of subjects and so let's start with the first one:

Recently I was linked through to a message board where several people are exchanging memories and more. One of them was Terry Davis, which we know from offshore stations like Radio Atlantis and RNI. I added a memory by saying that Terry should also be remembered for his excellent 'Beatles songs' which were aired a lot on Radio Atlantis. Later he also worked together with Steve England in the jingle companies Tapetrix and Alfa Sounds. Well Terry sent some nice pictures from his Atlantis days in 1974.

The first one is a photo from the bridge of the radioship, which was anchored in international waters off the Belgium coast in those days.



The second one shows Steve England, Debbie and John Harding and a fourth person at the background which cannot be remembered by me.



And finally here is a photo of the deck-hands Dean and Raffle, who were mentioned in the programs from the international service on Radio Atlantis.



A regular in the report and friend since we met for the very first time in 1970 is Paul de Haan. On Saturdays I'm galley man - as I don't want to name myself cook - on board the minesweeper 'de Naarden' in Delfzijl. Working there is also a machinist who was working with Dutch Marine in the seventies of last century. Some time ago he told me why the Dutch Navy went to the Mi Amigo off the Scheveningen coast at the end of 1972. It had nothing to do with the unrest and fighting which took place between crewmembers and the deejays and technicians on the other side. He told me that the Marine got a special request to go to the Mi Amigo to have a look around as

rumours were going that onboard the radio ship were severe heavy automatic weapons from the IRA.



With two small boats and heavily armed navy people aboard they went to the Mi Amigo and only saw Captain van der Kamp who had a weapon on the bridge of the Mi Amigo and tried to entrance him. In the meantime there were brawls on deck between the 'Caroliners' and the crew from Scheveningen with low tech weaponry like hammers, axes and more. Those were confiscated and taken onboard the navy vessel, H.M. Limburg. It was also the end of the Marine intervention with Radio Caroline at that stage. The former Marine man also told me that often a visit was taken in the surroundings of the radio ships off the coast near Scheveningen and that they only were welcome aboard the Veronica vessel Norderney for a cup of coffee and a 'drink'. On board the Mi Amigo and the MEBO II it wasn't possible to socialize as they didn't get a permission to step aboard those two radio ships. Next there is a photo from Paul de Haan doing his regular work aboard the 'Naarden'. The former minesweeper is nowadays a museum ship.



Now we have seen a galley on a minesweeper it's also time for a question from a reader in Belgium who is wondering in which way the meals were cooked on the several offshore stations we had. 'Was the equipment the same we have at home, were there big or smaller galleys and what was used to get the heating: Gas, electricity, oil? Of course I know it was not always the same as hunger was sometimes an often mentioned topic on some of the radiostations.' So maybe one of the cooks or deejays who read the report can respond to this question.

Next a short e mail with a short but fine memory from a guy called Henk in the Provence of Friesland, which is in the north of the Netherlands. 'In the seventies I went with my bike to school. As I lived in a small village there was no school and so I had to go around 13 kilometers to Dokkum. Always had my transistor radio with me and it was tuned to '220'. I listened to Peter Holland on the way to school and listened to Ferry Maat on my way back home. Now and then I had to turn the radio to get a better reception.'

It has been a long time ago since we did update the list with female deejays in offshore radio but I did find one. While listening to a farewell program in May 1987 on Radio Monique, which featured Maarten de Jong who left for a long stay in the USA, it was Janien who co-presented the program. The list with all the female offshore deejays we found up till now is on www.hansknot.com

Let's go back to Paul de Haan again who did send me this marvelous picture from 1950 which has, in the background, the MV Tiny. This coaster was later in 1970 renamed into King David and used for Radio Capital.

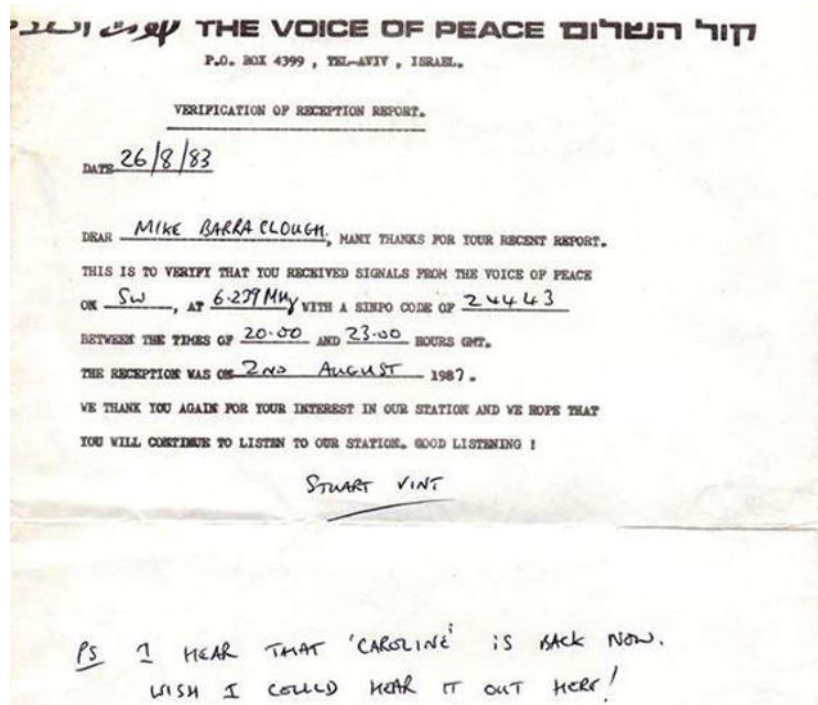


In the background MV Tiny which later became King David
1950 Harlingen Harbour

Mike Barraclough has the next to share: 'A Voice of Peace QSL. The problem in North Herts in hearing them on 1540 was that a radiostation with transmitter in Mainflingen, Germany and with a power of 700kW was just 2 kHz away, 1 kHz after the 1978 plan, and soon Capital Radio was 8 kHz away. I do remember hearing their heterodyne. Buster Pearson in Benfleet also heard this and sometimes actual programming. Voice of Peace did have a shortwave service for two short periods of time. Mike Leonard's From International Waters says that they started test broadcasts on 12 August 1977 on 6245 kHz, further tests on 6240 kHz in September and October 1977. Shortwave began again on 27 July 1983 on 6240

kHz with a power of only 400 watts using a centre fold dipole (think he may mean centre fed dipole or centre fed folded dipole) rigged between the foremast and mid-ships mast. These could be heard in the UK. The shortwave transmitter was closed in March 1984 on instructions from the Ministry of Communications in Israel due to a complaint from the ITU that they had been causing interference to Swedish Embassy transmissions. 6240 was outside the shortwave broadcast 49 metres band.

Here's a letter confirming my reception of the Voice of Peace on 2nd August 1983 on 6239 kHz between 2000 and 2300 hrs, poor strength but little interference, fading or noise. This was on a communications receiver. Letter was signed by engineer Stuart Vint who has also written: 'I hear that Caroline is back now. Wish I could hear it out here!' He later went on to work on the Ross Revenge as an engineer and DJ in the following year as Stuart Vincent, also on Laser he was working as an engineer.



How is your French After all these years? was the question which came in from the Grand Duchy in Luxembourg:

<http://www.jeudi.lu/une-voix-dans-la-nuit/>

Recently Bill Rollins made a short visit to the Ross Revenge:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzs8rdM6Uvs>

Next a documentary from KLIF Dallas produced in March 2003.

'There is a little known story about how some Texas new car dealers and KLIF once had the British government in a quandary! Ed Wallace, the host of "Wheels" on KLIF, told this historical "Backside" story on KLIF on March 23. Missed it? Here's the fascinating story!! (36 minutes)" Can be played and/or downloaded at the link given. [KLIF's](#)

[Pirate Radio](#)

Among the readership there are people who are interested in radio t shirts, including myself. Recently a link was sent about classic bands and singers. And have a look as on this site the late Jim Croce is wearing a Veronica t shirt.

<http://bestclassicbands.com/detroits-cklw-rocked-this-week-in-73-8-29-15/>

FREE RADIO'S FINAL DAYS

No one knew at the time, that when deejay Neil Gates, closed down Radio Caroline for the night in the early hours of 5th November 1990, that it would be the last time that Caroline would be heard as a free radio station broadcasting from the international waters of the North Sea.

From Dawn Valley, the confrontation with Spectrum radio and draconian legislation within the Broadcasting Bill, to free radio's final days.

Radio Caroline's founder Ronan O'Rahilly said at the time that

"Caroline has come to symbolise a battle for individual freedom. We are probably the last institution on the planet that is absolutely free",

saying it is not possible to change Caroline's nautical setting, adding:

"You can't create or institutionalise Radio Caroline.

You can't lay down some Government's legislation to make a nice sanitised Caroline on land. You can't do it".

This penultimate part of the Radio Caroline story, with photos, press cuttings, documents and audio, is now online at:

<http://www.offshoreechos.com>

Roy Sheeran's Memoirs a very special story!

Roy Sheeran worked aboard the mv Galaxy as an electrical engineer soon after the ship's arrival off the Essex coast, late in 1964. Now his very special story can be read at:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/roysheeran/roymemoirs.html>

Of course much more can be read on the site from Mary and Chris Payne so go also to the main page: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk>

In this edition on page 8 space for our regular since many years, the Emperor Rosko: 'Hi Hans, a report with the EMP is like a hot dog without mustard! That snap you published is a good one, back in the days of gogo dancers and all! The report as always on the money and sweet as honey! Stay well, and report with gusto! M. Pasternak.

Well it very good from you to stay loyal for so many years. I think I've to go back at least to 2007 when you started to reflect on the international radio report. Keep on going!

Well Rosko here it's getting worse with the weather don't know how it is at the moment in the Los Angeles area but it reminded me of a photograph I've already in the archive for many years and it was taken during the winter of 1968 I suppose and it originates from your own collection. Let the winter come!



Bruno Zappaterra from Italy is the next one to respond:

'Ciao Hans, a very good report, as always! But I wonder why nobody (you too!) has not yet replied to my SOS concerning the two end tunes of Radio Monte Carlo in the 60's. All the best from Ferrara, Italia.'

Of course I responded to Bruno with the following answer: 'Yes Bruno, as I only once listened to the station with Dave Cash and Tommy Vance I can't give an answer and maybe that's the same with the random of people who read the report. You added two jpg's can you tell me more about it? greetings Hans'

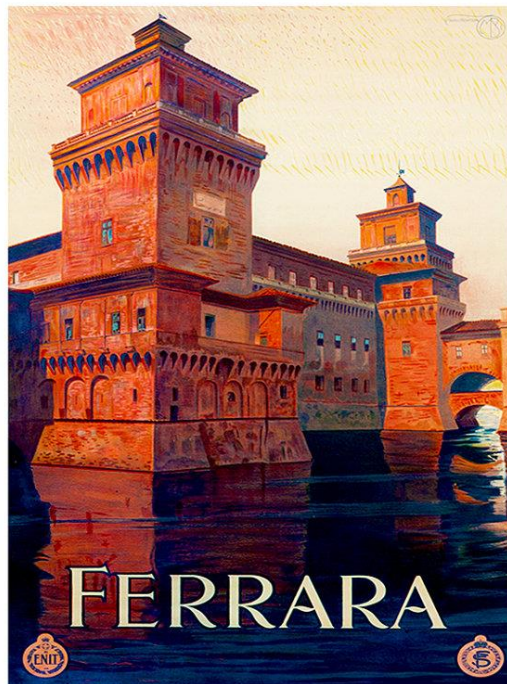
And yes he can back with the next: 'ciao Hans, many thanks for your quick and kind answer! It's a pity not to know more about Radio Monte Carlo, maybe everybody has already died!

I remember, as a famous name, Noel Coutisson, he worked there. Perhaps I must stimulate the pride of the French people by asking them too, maybe there is still somebody who used to listen to that station. I did get in touch with the Franck Pourcel official site and his daughter replied that yes, that version of 'Close Your Eyes' was made by her father and maybe, his version is the most similar I have

found. It may also be that both jingle, end tunes ("Tutte le mamme del mondo" and "Close Your Eyes" (Dors Cherie in French) were library music but I don't think so.'

Well maybe Dave Cash, who's reader of the report, does remember!

Bruno went on with: 'It must also be added the strange fact that the same music is in "The Abominable Dr. Phibes" movie but no soundtrack has it! Maybe copyright reasons.' One of the jpg's I sent is the castle of Ferrara in my own town.



Next it's Doug from England: 'Hello Hans. I have done an interview with Ron O' Quinn Ex SRE, which will be broadcast as part of The RADIO SHIP series "A Life On the Medium Wave" on Sunday November 8th at 09-00 and 21-00 GMT and again on Saturday November 14th at 12-00 GMT at www.theradioship.net It's the inside story of SRE and Britain Radio. The RADIO SHIP has an offshore radio documentary every week at these times. (A Life On The Medium Wave). Many Thanks. Doug Wood. '

Well Doug good to know, maybe you can upload it somewhere so all my readers can have a listen as of course it's two weeks later when this edition of the report is published.

Next it's Hugh from England who reflects on a new cd I mentioned in last edition:

'Hi Hans. The return of the Cutty Sark's resident shanty band Swinging the Lead with their second album for Talking Elephant. Hailing from Kent, 'Swinging the Lead' Colin of Swinging the Lead was once transmitter engineer for Caroline during the 1992 RSL at Dover. He also did some engineering work for Radio Seagull a few years ago; he's one of the UK's top Radio Amateurs and has the callsign G3VTT. I know him well - he's a lovely guy. Regards, Hugh Neal (Tony Palmer on Caroline '89 - '90) callsign M1CXN.

Here is a photo from 3-4 years ago from Colin on Radio Seagull in the engineering shop on board.



Photo collection: Radio Seagull

Let's change the subject and go to the history from Radio Luxembourg as I mentioned a wrong name next to a photo I published. Here's Alan from England: 'Hi Hans, just to let you know that in your latest report, the photo of Sam Costa you attributed to Dick Offringa is in fact mine, as in my book '208 It was Great- Radio Luxembourg'. Dick and myself have an arrangement where I supply material of 208 to him. I am very happy that you used it. Greetings,

Alan Bailey.

www.208itwasgreatradioluxembourg.co.uk

We stay in England as I also got an email from Mark Stafford: 'I've just read the November Report, Thank you very much again for your hard work, it is always an interesting read. I wonder if you can help me and a few fellow radio presenters. We are all keen to know if anyone knows where Keith Lewis is nowadays. He appears to have dropped completely out of all the radio circles and no one we know has heard about him for a very long time.

Keith was on the Voice Of Peace and later Radio Caroline in the mid'80s. For a time he was a key member of Chis Cary's Radio Nova satellite team. A lot of people will remember him as the voice from Nova's Camberley studios during the short period that Radio Caroline loaned the Radio Nova transponder in 1991.



I last met Keith when I gave him a job on EKR on satellite in 1997. He left in 1998 and we lost contact. Here's a picture of Keith in the EKR studio in Maidstone in 1998. Thanks in advance for your help.

All the best, Mark Stafford www.markstafford.co.uk

www.oldiesparadise.com and www.easyrockpadise.com

Thanks Mark for the compliments and I hope someone of more will reflect on the question where Keith Lewis is nowadays. Anyone who wants to respond just writes to HKnot@home.nl



Saturday November 14th was the Radioday this year, held in Museum Rockart in Hook of Holland. The organisers Jan-Fré Vos, Jan van Heeren and Vincent Schriel had chosen for a program which was to highlight Dutch stations which were active in international waters in the late seventies and eighties in last century. Radio Monique, Radio 558, Radio 819 as well as Radio Delmare. Also some attention was paid to the just published book about Hilversum 3, the national pop-station, which came on the air for the first time 50 years ago.

For Martin van der Ven and me the day was totally different than in the many years we organized the RadioDays ourselves. Great to talk to a lot of persons as in the past there was no time for long talks. Photos of the day are on line:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157661250325902>

Also on you tube you can see a special produced by Alex Hoek and his team <https://youtu.be/MteSM3ZHSLE>

And so we have landed in England again and see what Jon has to tell us about the Pirate Hall of Fame:

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

New for November:

- It is thirty years since Laser-558 closed down. We mark this sad anniversary with two more pages of photos taken on Laser by the ship's steward Michael Dean;

- and forty years ago the British police mounted a raid on the Caroline ship, mv Mi Amigo, after she had drifted inside territorial waters. We remember this dramatic incident in part six of 'Caroline in the Seventies'.
- It is a month for sad anniversaries. Almost 25 years ago Neil Gates closed Radio Caroline down for the night - the final broadcast from the station while anchored at sea.

My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors. All the best, Jon
www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Here some interesting programs to watch on You Tube: BBC Spotlight program from September 1988 with highlights of the many pirate radio stations broadcasting at that time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJLBA54ci6s>

Part 2; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2gIbjtOhXI>

And what about the next one: The SuperStations: 'We visit Declan Meehan in Sunshine, and meet the other staff and personalities, with some Airchecks. In central Dublin, we give you ultra-rare video of Radio NOVA at work, with Tony Allan, Chris Cary and Andy Archer, famous from their time on Caroline, and RNI. Detailed interviews, with John Clarke, now controller of RTE Radio 2. This was the real ascending NOVA, as it reached supreme. Further sections include Sunshine and NOVA in Part 5 The raids.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdM-XNJPuVA>

And more on the Irish radio scene at the time: 'Chris Cary (Nova) and Robbie Robinson (Sunshine Radio) talk on Ireland's national broadcaster RTE TV1 to defend their stations. "Are you telling me you would not have got a job on Radio Nova had you not worked for RTE?" asks a rather cheeky Chris Cary to the presenter of Today Tonight. In a remarkably boring twist, the deputy Director General of RTE Vincent Finn starts bullshitting on about nothing! Don't worry, we didn't include that part of the programme.

www.irishpirates.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an4tBxl8IPU>

And finally two more USA related sites:

Aircheck Library VS Eldorado http://www.mcrfb.com/?page_id=45

<http://mp3gratis.co/mp3/casey-kasem-american-top-40-download/>

After reading the book about Sealand, in which was also a segment about Chris Carey in which he blew away almost all television signals in a little harbour town, I decided to contact the person who was involved too: Ben Bode from the Radio Paradijs project. Strange enough I took contact while he was in a big birthday bath for his sixties birthday. I asked him what he could tell us more about Chris Cary testing one of the former 'Paradijs' transmitters on a dummy load in a storehouse in Katwijk. As a result of the testing many inhabitants didn't have a proper television signal for almost two hours.



Ben Bode collection: Ben Bode

Bode came back to me with: Oh Mister Boring, what could that man making a lot of trouble. He just needed to test those two AM-

transmitters before they would be shipped to Sealand. I already thought he would do something like that during night-time in that barn and I warned him not to do so. Incidentally his sweet lovely woman called very often to hear where Chris was. I could tell of course, but it was difficult to tell he once again visited a brothel in Amsterdam. But indeed Chris was so bored one evening that he put the transmitter on a power-supply from nearby to test the TX. As a result first electricity in the surroundings was blocked and then almost everyone in Katwijk was without TV-signal supply. I have experienced a lot in those days with Chris Cary!

Thanks a lot Ben and of course many more years to come in a good health!

Next we cross the ocean to see what Wayne has to tell us:

'You may recall that documentary film-maker, Wayne Hepler, showed a preview at Radio Day NL 2014. It turns out that his local Town of Bel Air Film Festival led off its event with the complete film in October, and a distributor is considering it now. Says Wayne, "Since I am now entering 'Taking Back the Airwaves' in festivals around the world, it may be distributed in the next year. If not, I will take orders for DVDs in the summer/fall of 2016. Thank your readers for their patience, Hans, since I had quite a few requestors in Amsterdam. If anyone else would like to help book 1960s rockers for U.S. interviews or distribute the film, they can contact me at whepler@harford.edu or (US) 410-688-3900. Many, many thanks." Wayne Hepler

In last issue Jessie Brandon told us it could not be Randi Kirshbaum who was on one of the photos from Michael Dean's Photo collection. An edition earlier it was told by one of the readers, who now comes back with: 'Dear Hans, I read the October and November Radio Report. And yes first of all Sorry, Hans, Jessie, Randi...

From the beginning I knew this could go wrong seeing too details from the two photos and comparing them. I agree, I did made a

wrong conclusion, don't we do all sometimes. Again, sorry. Greetings Patrick L. Szajyessky.'

Well Patrick no problem and together we all can make it complete! Ofcom published the following on November 2nd:

'A new approach to tackling pirate radio has eradicated the problem in one London borough, and could save up to £1 million for Londoners by being rolled out across the capital.

Pirate radio harms local communities and the critical communications used by the emergency services. Ofcom, which manages radio frequencies, is hosting a summit on 3 November to explore the new approach to tackling the problem. For more click on the link

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/news/tackling-pirate-radio-could-save-londoners-one-million/>

Next we go to Jack McLaughlin: 'Hi Hans, it was good to read your latest newsletter and to see that there is still such interest in Pirate Radio. You kindly reviewed my book *Pirate Jock* when it was first published. The follow up *Pirate Jock in Southern Waters* will be published in the spring of next year. This covers my time on board Britain Radio (great ship, great boss Jack Curtiss). Radio 270 (lousy ship, lousy boss Wilf Proudfoot). Radio 390 (great fort, music not to my taste but terrific place to work.)

When Radio 390 closed down before the other Pirates because of a legal dispute over points of land, Tommy Shields invited me back for the final few weeks on 242. Tommy wanted me to do one side of the LP he was putting together: 'Requiem for Radio Scotland'. (I am still receiving royalties!)

There had been a lot of changes on board with new jocks: Tony Allen and Mark Wesley were beginning to make names for themselves. Tony is heavily featured towards the end of the book. The final chapter involves an outrageous attempt to hijack the Comet at

Methil Harbour before it was towed away to Holland for dismantling. Keep up the good work. Jack.'



M V Comet in Methill harbour. Collection Freewave Archive

Well Jack thanks for responding and I wish you all the best in writing the book and of course feel free to send me a review copy so we can give it the attention it deserves!

Next we go to Andy Sennit currently living in the Netherlands: 'Hi Hans, I thought you would like to see the cover of the debut album by new rock band Radio Exile. They have used a photo of one of the forts and Photo shopped it. I think it's Red Sands, but I'm not 100% sure and it could be Shivering Sands. I'm sure you will immediately know which it is'.

I think it's great that a new band is aware of the significance of the forts in radio history. One of the guys on Radio Seagull was telling me that a lot of the young people he'd spoken to knew very little about the offshore stations of the 1960s, so it's good to see this commemorated on the cover of an album by a new band.'

Thanks Andy for sharing this with our readers and yes it's part of Red Sands with an mast put on the tower just a few years ago.



Recently I found back an article from the American Magazine 'Broadcasting from April 20th 1964 and they did report about the offshore stations too: 'A commercial radio ship that has begun broadcasts from international waters off the populous southeastern coast of England has had its Panamanian registration cancelled. The action by Panama's finance minister, Julio Linares, however, is ineffectual as long as the ship remains in international waters.

The ship, the 763 -ton Caroline, which made its appearance several weeks ago, is equipped with a 168 -foot antenna mast and two 10 kW transmitters. The station calls itself Radio Caroline and uses a medium wave length band. It is said to have 100 to 150 -miles coverage, with a potential audience of 15 million persons. The station is owned by an Irish businessman, Ronan O'Rahilly who is presently outfitting a second ship, the motor vessel Mi Amigo, with broadcast

equipment. The Mi Amigo station will also operate off the southeastern coast of England, under the name of Radio Atlanta.

ITU Aid The International Telecommunications Union, Geneva, through its International Frequency Registration Board, covered the British complaint to Panama. An article of the ITU radio regulations prohibits television or radio stations from operating either from international waters or airspace. This is the third time Panama has lifted its flag from a pirate commercial radio ship. Of the other two, one ship was broadcasting off the coast of Denmark, the other offshore from the Netherlands.

United Kingdom Postmaster General Reginald Bevins, speaking before the House of Commons, threatened new legislation against pirate operations such as Radio Caroline. Mr. Bevins also suggested that the member countries of the Council of Europe might hold a radio frequency allocations conference which could make reallocations that would affect the Caroline operations. Mr. Bevins also told Commons that principal advertising associations in England have given him assurance that major advertisers plan to boycott Radio Caroline. James O'Connor, director of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, whose 270 members handle the bulk of British advertising, said that he informed members of the postmaster general's position against the station. However, he said that the association has not forbidden its members to use Radio Caroline.

The Phonographic Performance Ltd., which licenses the performance of records in England, plans to seek an injunction against Radio Caroline. But as the ship is located in international waters any legal action is uncertain. The Performing Rights Society, representing British composers, has offered the station full licenses to broadcast their works, asking for 34/4 % of the gross income from advertisers. The station, which broadcasts from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., employs four disk jockeys and three engineers in addition to the ship's crew.'

Good to see such a detailed report was in the American press already in an early stage of offshore radio in 1964.

Next we go to Eastern Europe and a response on the last issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report by Gerard van Dam: 'What a nice article about the forts in the Thames Estuary. We, at the time of World Music Radio and Delmare, had also plans to use one of the former lighthouses in international waters. We did not succeed in finishing the project due to the fact we had a lot to do with heavy seas and we tendering was at one point impossible so the people on the light tower were totally without food and fresh water. We couldn't get off during some time. Now many decades later I still think about this adventure when eating baked beans. Thanks Gerard.'



Gerard van Dam in 1979 collection: Leen Vingerling

Nickname time again and this time it brings us to an early presenter from Veronica's days. It was 1963 that Kees Jan Wichers presented

the early morning show 'Ook Goeiemorgen' and he mentioned himself KJ your DJ.

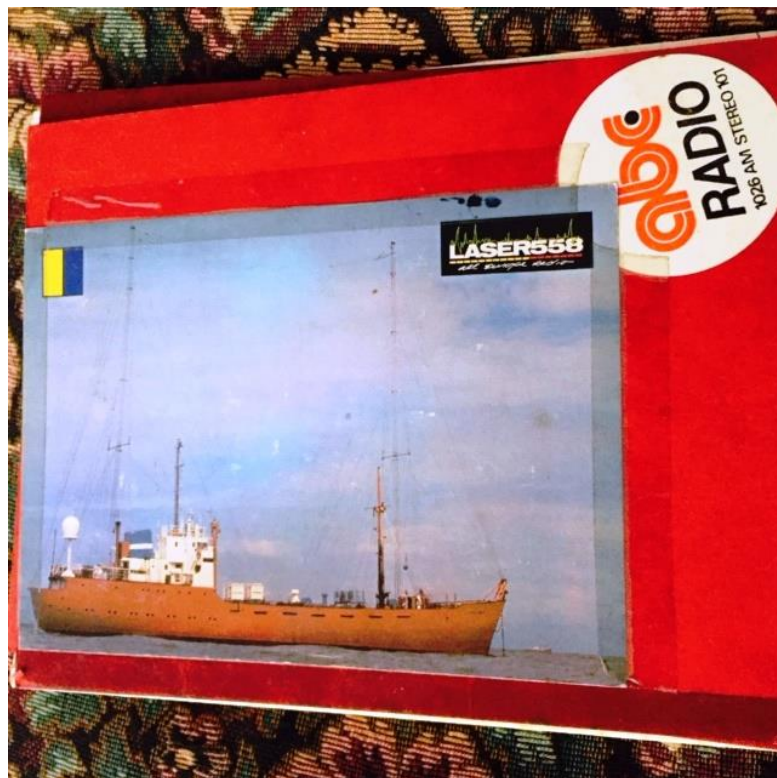
Former London deejay Ian Damond has his own internetsite:

<http://idthewombat.co.uk/wp/>

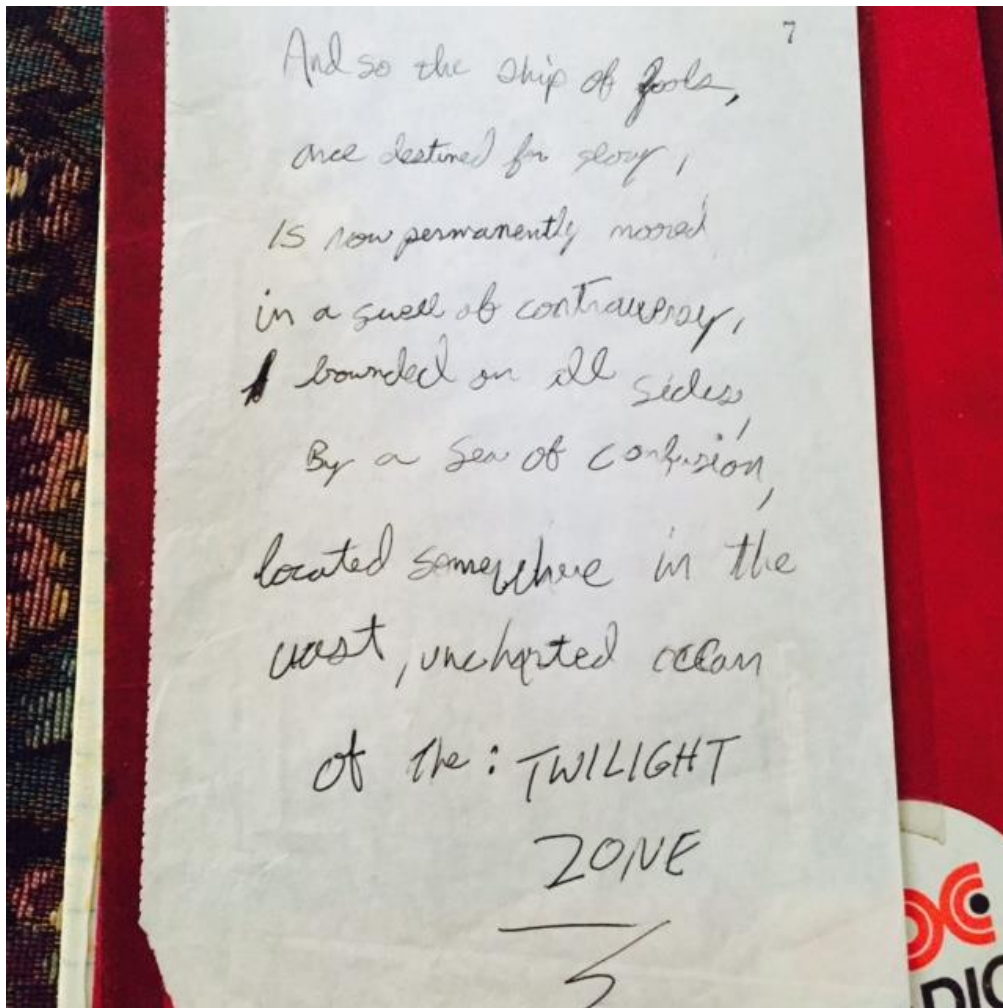
Of course for every reader it's possible to bring in their stories, memories, questions and more. It's very simple, just write to HKnot@home.nl and if you have a photograph or another attachment please feel free to send it.

Michael Dean who sent a lot of photographs from his Laser days also forwarded pages with notes from David Lee Stone: Michael: 'He kept a diary of time in Florida preparing for the trip, sailing from there to the Azores and then on to Ireland. I believe this second diary began as they were sailing from Ireland to the North Sea.'

I start with the front and the first page in this issue and will have more in next two issues:



Collection: Michael Dean



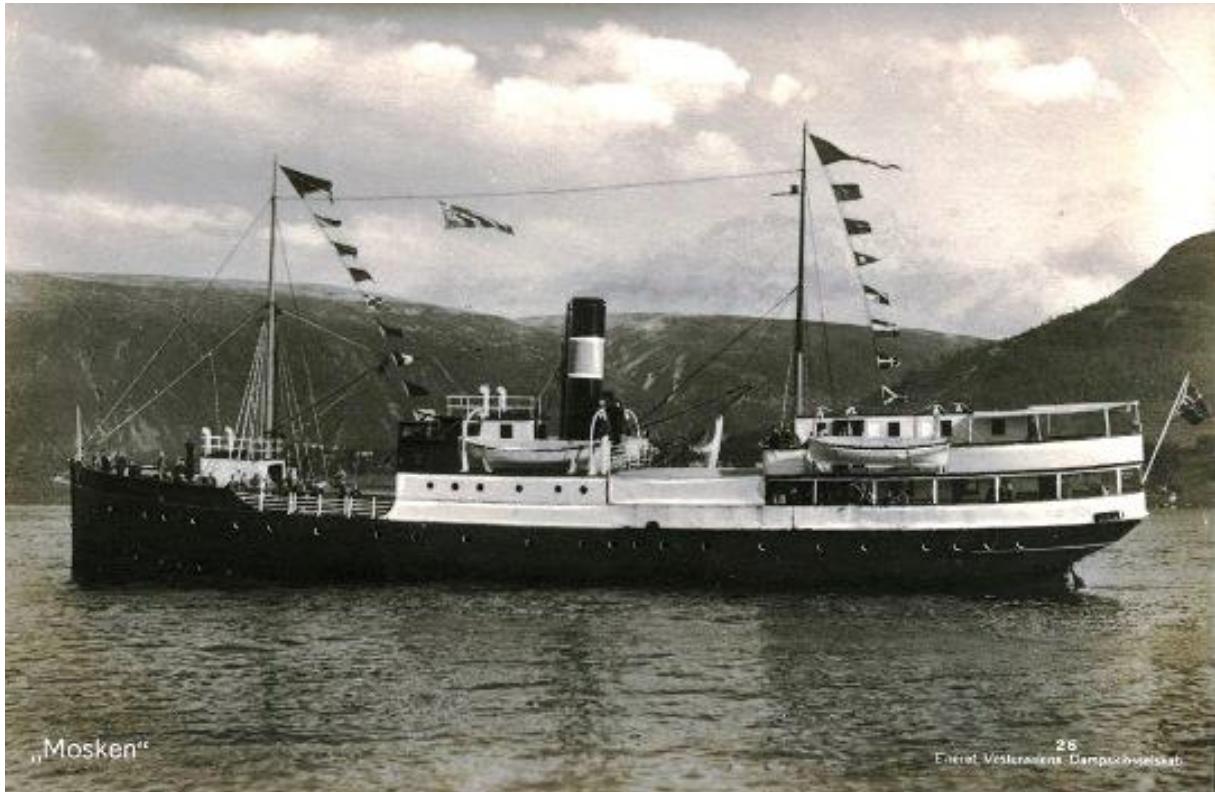
Collection: Michael Dean

It's a long time ago since I promised to publish all chapters of a series written by Phil Champion. Due to various reasons the next one wasn't published yet in the report. So let's start and please do enjoy!

THE SCANDINAVIAN PIRATES-4
Radio Syd Goes Abroad -England and West Africa
Philip Champion

Before it left its anchorage off Sweden the antenna masts were lowered. Paul Dane said that the ship was due to go off Holland, near Radio Veronica. It seems to have lain off the Dutch coast until Britt offered it as a substitute ship for Radio Caroline South after the 'Mi

'Amigo' ran aground. With agreement reached 'Cheeta II' was anchored off Harwich by January 31st. Things had moved quickly and work found for the displaced radio ship. It lasted in that role until April with a rental fee of £700 a week.



MV Moksen later was renamed Cheeta II.

Photo: Collection Sven Martinssen

Impressions of the people from Caroline South of the ship differ. When Colin Nichol visited it along with Britt and Ronan O'Rahilly he found it bigger than the MV Mi Amigo. He found there were endless stairways and passages "and scores of doors to penetrate, and explore beyond." Britt led the tour of the ship of which she seemed very proud. It clearly made an impression on Colin as he said, "Even now, long after, I can feel the friendliness and homely warmth that seemed to characterize the old vessel. I had the feeling that many people over many years, had enjoyed being aboard her, and I knew that I was to feel more relaxed and at home on the 'Cheeta II' than I had felt on board ship, ever before. Perhaps what appealed to me

most was the comparative spaciousness of her, compared with my older home on Caroline South, 'Mi Amigo'. "He spent about nine weeks there. At first, there was just the basic ship's crew, Caroline's engineers, Britt's son Kalle (K-G Alfe) and himself. There was not a lot he could do during his long stay aboard. He found the Swedes good company and the food was better than on Caroline.

Engineer George Saunders found it the ship's interior was "quite nice but very old-fashioned. A long mahogany passageway was below deck, with brass fittings and beveled-glass panels in doors leading into her public rooms." Later, Robbie Dale had a favorable impression of the "Cheeta II." It was more comfortable than the "Mi Amigo" which he later joined. It was rather tired looking on the outside but nothing that a coat of paint would not put right. Inside it was more spacious and nicely fitted out with wide stairways, mahogany and brass bannister rails, a big galley and dining room with a studio on the upper deck having a panoramic view.

Though the Swedish ship had two captains on board it seemed to be Britt's son Kalle in charge; he had sailed with it all the way from the Öresund. Gerry Bishop's "Offshore Radio" book said the ship had 20 cabins to accommodate 40 people and 7,000 records -mostly continental- in the library. Now the aerial masts were put back up and the ship broadcast on medium wave rather than VHF, using '199'. When the repaired ship returned in April and on a new wavelength for a couple of weeks "Mi Amigo" went out on '259' metres while "Cheeta II" relayed the same programmes on '199'.

A closer look at this period shows us not just how Caroline South changed things on board but also how it had operated under Radio Syd. Much of the following has been gleaned from The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame (<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/odds31.htm>) which has text, photos and recordings from this period. Colin Nichol was given the task by Ronan O'Rahilly of getting the studios set up for broadcasting in the way the Caroline djs were used to. George

Saunders and others had to put Spotmasters cartridge machines in the studios as they weren't fitted for one-man operation; they were the traditional studio for an announcer with a double-glazed window for the control room next door.



Caroline South to return from the Cheeta II
Collection: Colin Nichol

The transmitting set up needed to be changed. In the hold where TV Syd had been Caroline's engineers laid out equipment in crates and tea chests with connecting leads between them. With Radio Syd having broadcast on FM its antenna masts were not big enough for Caroline's AM signal. The temporary aerial set up could not have coped with Caroline's folded dipole system. They rigged copper cables to the ship's low fore and aft masts and tuned the 7kW transmitter into that "lash up" as George Saunders called it. Sparks flew if high power was attempted so Caroline South from "Cheeta II" was on very low power. It returned with tests on 1493 kc/s on Saturday February 12th around 2 pm then normal programmes began the following day. The Swedish ship had allowed Caroline to return

after just 24 days. With reception impossible at night even in Essex due to low power and foreign stations broadcasting hours were reduced to 10 am -4 pm. This was certainly better than being off for months and the audience drifting away to the powerful Radio London or others.



Cheeta II and Galaxy in one shot
Photo: David Kendrid

With Radio Caroline South coming from the Cheeta II deejays Tom Lodge, Graham Webb, Norman St. John, Tim Yale and Tony Blackburn came onboard. Later Tommy Vance, Tony Prince and Emperor Rosko came on. With the transmitter not being powerful a 10 kW one from the Mi Amigo was brought back from Holland on a tender and loaded onto the Cheeta II at sea, causing some anxious moments as it was transferred. Engineering staff installed it. The generators too were not powerful enough for Caroline's equipment so they transferred their General Electric 75 kW diesel alternator from the Mi Amigo. Power was increased and broadcasting hours extended, particularly from early March.

However, it seems the Cheeta II was not an ideal place to work. One February day in Graham Webb's show he mentioned that they had been off air the day before and that there was no news service

today. George Saunders regarded it as a technical nightmare "where everything that could go wrong did so." The power failed frequently and there were very frequent breakdowns in the Caroline gear which had "suffered seriously" in the transfer from the Mi Amigo (the 10 kW Tx had water damage), they were cold, the water supply was irregular and both it and the electric lighting failed for long periods. "It really was most unpleasant" though "Apparently everything had worked perfectly when she was off Sweden." One bitterly cold night he and the others huddled in the ornate lounge with just a 1 kW electric fire element suspended from the ceiling by its wires to provide heat and light. He didn't get on as well with the Swedish crew as Colin. Unlike the extrovert Dutch crew of the Mi Amigo with whom they would have conversations at mealtimes he found them almost silent and rarely talking among themselves. He wondered if they resented the English being onboard or being off England.



Britt and Conny Wadner and crewmembers on Cheeta II
Collection: Wadner Family

Tony Blackburn in his book too indicated it was not a pleasant place to work. They were off the air a lot plus water and heating failed. With this being in mid-winter he "was totally fed up." Norman St. John recalled many transmitter problems too. Both these two were caught inadvertently using choice language on air. Blackburn thought they had gone off in his show and opened his mic. to say, "This is Radio Bulls--t," which brought in letters from listeners saying they had enjoyed it! Norman St. John was on the air another time with Graham Webb and thought they had gone off the air for the sixth time in as many minutes so he said, "Oh f---!" He got a number of letters but most took it in good spirit as the station was having a difficult time. The radiolondon.co.uk website says Caroline South was off from after Friday February 25th until Sunday March 6th then again Friday March 26th until Saturday April 2nd.

The offshoreechos.com website says that there had been several breaks in the first period until transmitter repairs were done on March 6th with power increased. However, it seems that at the end of March the ship started to take in water and develop a list after three days of storms. The tender Offshore One was sent out and it stayed alongside to pump out water. It was towed north to a more sheltered position. Next the ship developed engine trouble so was towed to the Richard's (Shipbuilders) Ltd, quay at Lowestoft on February 25th where it was found that a flange had cracked, caused by water getting in the lubricating oil. With repairs complete it was back at sea and on air on April 2nd.

Let us see what the recordings show us. Graham Webb, as mentioned above, said that Dave Lee Travis would be on the air from 12 till 3 with a special Top 50 that day as they were off the previous day and so couldn't play the Caroline Countdown. Also Norman St. John would be due along with the news but there was none that day. Graham was sure that the news would resume as the week progressed. Tony Blackburn's breakfast show from late March or early April showed that Caroline from its temporary ship sounded good with a fast -

moving, lively show with jingles, pop records including the Radio Caroline 'Personality Pick to Click' (dj tip record.) He gave that day's schedule from the "Cheeta II": 6-9 Tony Blackburn, 9-12 Graham Webb, 12-3 Tim Yale, 3-6 Dave Lee Travis, 6 pm Norman St. John.

On April 5th the Mi Amigo arrived back from repairs, an overhaul and with a new 50 kW transmitter to compete better as "The Sound of the Nation" with Radio London. Tests started on April 17th or 18th but a short in the aerial put it off the air: "Offshore Radio" says tests resumed on the 25th. At first these were on 1169 kc/s 257 metres then moved on the 26th to 1187 kc/s 253 metres though later announced as '259.' From the 25th both ships broadcast Caroline South with listeners encouraged to use the new wavelength.

From the 27th at 6 am the "Mi Amigo" took over regular programming with the Cheeta II relaying them until 11 am on May 1st. Some Caroline deejays moved back to their own ship while others stayed on the Swedish vessel. Often they did link -ups between the two. One was Dave Lee Travis and Graham Webb on the Cheeta II linking up with Norman St. John and Tony Blackburn on the Mi Amigo around 10 am one day. Graham said on air, "Radio Caroline South has competition with...Radio Caroline South!" The Top 50 and American Hot 100 records had been sent over from the Cheeta II to the Mi Amigo. Norman played the new "Sound of the Nation" jingles on 259 which were also heard on 199. After the 10 o'clock news with DLT you could listen either to Graham on 199 or Tony on 259. Another was Dave Lee Travis on the latter linking up with Graham Webb on the Cheeta II.

Deejays on the Swedish ship would try to persuade listeners to retune like when Tony Prince said, "If you want really good music tune in to Tom Lodge on 259," and when he said, "We're on 199 but switch over to the tests on 259." He later invited listeners to retune to the new wavelength of 253 to hear Caroline a lot louder and clearer. Some shows went out over both '199' and '259' like Tony

Prince's 'Caroline Club Request Show.' Once DLT was doing tests on 253 he linked up with Graham Webb on 199, who could be heard distant and muffled on 253. They said the best thing was to listen to 253 where DLT was on until 8 pm then Emperor Rosko until midnight - well after 199 closed down for the night. Graham though told DLT that he wanted a word with the technicians (off air) after the link up. The best way to help listeners retune was when Tony Blackburn on the Mi Amigo played a minute's worth of (six) Caroline jingles as 253 was testing so that listeners hearing them relayed on 199 could find the new wavelength easily (and probably, not stray onto Radio London instead!)



Cheeta 2 in colour collection Wadner Family

In time most of the deejays, newsreaders and records were transferred to the Mi Amigo Graham Webb gave the newest deejay Robbie Dale the task of being the last deejay on the Cheeta II and to persuade listeners to retune. He was given a box of singles and had to repeatedly redirect listeners to '259.' Between records he made announcements like, "Radio Caroline on 199 is closing down soon. All the DJs have moved across to the new Mi Amigo and can now be heard on 259 with a much better signal. Rosko, Tom Lodge, Tony Blackburn, Norman St. John, Tony Prince and Graham Webb, together with the ships' crew are now about half a mile west of the mv Cheeta II and much closer to Frinton-on-Sea."

For a day and that evening Robbie did this then a tender took him and the others across to join the others. The Cheeta II switched off '199' on May 1st. He added that "the sad looking Cheeta II was then towed away." It seems that it remained at anchor there after the Mi Amigo returned but on July 21st lifted its anchor and drifted. A tug gave assistance then it was moored near Harksted Buoy in the River Stour.

There were disputes over ownership; one report claimed that Britt was just a front for a bigger American organisation but it is not known if there is any truth in this. It was reported to have gone to Vlissingen in the south of the Netherlands. Several attempts by a tired and disappointed Britt to sell it as a complete radio station failed. One report says that one potential buyer was a French student organisation which wanted to use it in their struggle to overthrow President de Gaulle. Another said that Radio 390 planned to buy it and anchor it off the Wirral as Radio 390 North.



Britt Wadner Photo: Gerd Klawitter

In his book 'Radio 270 Life on the Ocean Waves' Bob Preedy explained more about the latter. Scarborough promoter Don Robinson who had set up Radio 270 in 1965/66 but had been ousted a month after it started broadcasts was behind 390 North. After its use for Caroline South Robinson "I spotted an opportunity. Here was a well-equipped radio ship available, thus avoiding huge start-up costs." Having seen the success of Caroline North he thought an easy-listening station could be successful there too so he teamed up with Radio 390. He did a deal with them. Radio 390 was to buy the FM transmitter from the Cheeta II from £10,000 and use it on Redsands Fort. Robinson planned to buy a medium wave transmitter for the proposed station. He used another of the people behind setting up Radio 270, Peter Duncan, as the front man to buy the ship for £30,000 which was to include the new transmitter. The ship would be sailed to a Welsh port. However, a cargo-handling dispute at Kennedy Airport delayed the transmitter and a penalty cause meant the Cheeta II owners now owed Robinson £12,000. The transmitter arrived at Amsterdam airport but was found smashed to pieces. A meeting was held and it was agreed to void the whole deal to avoid the threat of mounting court costs. Anyway on July 21st a customs officer boarded the Cheeta II and nailed a writ to its mast after the towing company claimed salvage after helping it when it broke anchor. Preedy's book said that a dispute arose about the true owner of the ship so the vessel remained under arrest in Harwich until November. By then Robinson's dreams of 390 North had gone. At the Amsterdam Radio Day in 2012 Preedy said that the plan was for the station to be anchored off Anglesey. This would have made it the only offshore station off the (North) Wales coast.'

Well in next issue more from Phil Champion with the Cheeta II leaving for Gambia.

- The latest update on the Pirate Hall of Fame includes: Radio Scotland was launched on the last day of December fifty years

ago. We mark this special anniversary with 'The Radio Scotland Story';

- we have a fifth page of photos taken on Laser-558 by the ship's steward Michael Dean;
- there is news of a TV documentary about Kenny Everett;
- and hear of plans for an eight hour on-air tribute to Radio Scotland this New Years Day.

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Scotland69am www.scotland69am.com is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the former offshore station Radio Scotland 242 on New Year's Day 2016.

Scotland 69am station boss Alan Smith says: "For many of the team here at Scotland69am, Radio Scotland 242 was their first experience of what a radio station should sound like. While we do not try to emulate or copy 242, we recognise it as part of our own heritage. With this in mind, the management team agreed to invite many of the former DJs to present their own shows. Each of the shows include the personal memories of the DJs and the music choice is very much of that time. We have new shows from Mel Howard, John Kerr, Peter Bowman, Doug Carmichael and Tony Meehan. In addition we shall air an earlier interview with Stuart Henry. The first 242 tribute show will be broadcast immediately after our own New Year special which runs from midnight to 4am (UK time), with the remainder of the tribute shows taking us up to midday. Being an internet station we are always playing at 'primetime' somewhere in the world so the shows will be repeated from 4pm through to midnight (UK time) thereby completing our "Welcome to 2016" programme schedule." www.scotland69am.com

Just before closing this last edition for 2015 from the report a sad message came in from Tony Prince on the special Radio Luxembourg fan pages on facebook, were friends of the station, including myself, share memories and more. Tony wrote: 'Fans of Radio Luxembourg

will be pleased to know that Bob Stewart has survived an almost fatal car crash when, well here's his wife Cynthia who wrote me from Texas...

"Bob was in a bad car crash 3 weeks ago. He had gone out on a rainy evening to pick up some food and was waiting at a red traffic light on his way home when some 30 year female lunatic came barreling down the road in a Honda CR-V (speeding of course and without a seatbelt), hitting the corner of a Jeep that was changing lanes and knocking her out of the way, and then ran straight into the back of Bob's SUV dead on. He was taken to hospital where they ran tons of tests and released him 6 hours later. The paramedic was so concerned about Bob that he insisting on staying with him at the hospital until I arrived. He said he didn't want to leave him alone since he looked so bad... God bless him.

Of lesser importance, Bob's SUV was totaled completely. If he had been in anything smaller he wouldn't have stood a chance. He has been in a ton of pain since then due to the traumatic collision and hasn't been out of the house in 3 weeks. It has been awful for him". So our best wishes for a full recovery go to Bob who has not been enjoying the best of health in recent years.'

Thanks a lot to Tony for bringing the news and I hope that Bob Stewart, who's also a reader of the report, will have the strength to climb up the ladder again and anyone who wants to send best wishes feel free to write to me and I will forward it to Bob.

Sorry for those who thought to get the Hans Knot International Radio Report on one of the last days of November. But during the past weeks I was very busy and visited more than 50 families living under the poverty line here in Groningen. I did this together with a group of students bringing the kids presents as Sinterklaas, which is the Dutch version of Santa Claus. Sinterklaas arrived yearly in Holland around November 14th and went back to Spain on December 6th.



Well that ends up another long Radio Report, may I wish you all a wonderful December month and a very happy Christmas time. I will be back somewhere in January next year. All memories, photos and more as usual to HKnot@home.nl greetings Hans

