

Hans Knot International Radio Report October 2016

I wish you all a very warm welcome to this month edition of the International Radio Report. Here the last weeks it has been very warm weather and for the Netherlands it must have been the warmest summer in the history. Anyway thanks all for the response, questions, memories and more. As always there's more than I can handle in this edition so when your question is not answered you have to wait to further editions.

Very sad news first from Leen Vingerling: 'Offshore radio icon Gerard van Dam (69) died at the consequences of a heart attack on Friday September 16, 2016. He was in the hospital at his residence in Hungary for help with inflammation of his elbow. There he had twice a cardiac arrest and was saved. A third one became fatal.



Gerard van Dam. Photo: Leen Vingerling

Gerard will be cremated and the ashes will be scattered in the North Sea in accordance with his wish, in the place where the radio transmitter ships from Radio Delmare were earlier anchored. He leaves a wife and two children. During the last decade Gerard van Dam lived in Hungary. Gerard did not like to live in his native country,

the Netherlands. In the countryside near Lake Balaton he enjoyed the simplicity and tranquility that the region offered him.

His health was affected by diabetes and therefore his physical condition deteriorated. Walking became increasingly painful and more than a hundred meters failed. Nevertheless, he remained optimistic and he hoped still to become at least 85 years.

Gerard made his appearance in 1971 in the offshore radio world as a courier for Radio North Sea. After a disagreement with the director John de Mol sr. he promised that within six months he would put his own radioship for anchor next to the MEBO II from RNI.

And indeed Gerard van Dam did so by buying the MV Mi Amigo from scrap and after some rebuilding the ship in Zaandam harbour he brought the lady out to sea and Radio Caroline was reborn for the first time. Due to disagreement with some of the British deejays Gerard left the organization. Not much later, he was asked by the Belgian Adriaan van Landschoot to rebuild a radio ship. That was Radio Atlantis.

There was a break for a few years, after the law came in on September 1, 1974 whereby participation in broadcasts from ships outside territorial waters was claimed punishable. Gerard put a network of FM pirates on land and to gain national coverage radio ships offered a solution. Radio Delmare was born in 1978 and the station transmitted from the MV Aegir.



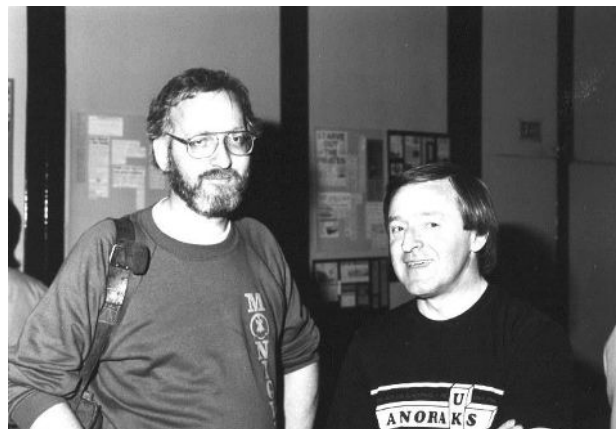
MV Morgenster Maassluis. Photo: Leen Vingerling.

Delmare wore out four ships and took regular news by escapes, anchor fracture, police raids or seizures. During that period, Gerard served as the figurehead for Radio Delmare and the press was regularly mentioning his stories. In 1981 intervention with Offshore Radio was finally ended by Gerard. The last ship he used, the Morning Star, was seized in the harbour of Maassluis.

He moved from The Hague to Zeeland, lived for a while on the isle Malta, then again in the Netherlands and in recent years in Hungary.

Gerard van Dam was a man full of ideas. He was also good in selling these and had charisma. We will miss you, Gerard. Leen Vingerling.' Thanks a lot Leen, who worked during the Delmare period together with Gerard and became a close friend.

A few days later, September 21st, came the sad news of the passing away from Barry Johnston who did a lot for radiostations and published in the eighties for many years, together with his then wife Ruth, the Anorak UK Weekly. A magazine filled with many interesting news on the radio scene. May he rest in peace too! The photo below was taken by Chris Edwards in 1987 in London at the Driftback 20 convention.



Hans Knot and Barry Johnston 1987

Next a message from John Altman, which came in on Facebook July 13th. He wrote that he played a show last night with Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings with this young lad on Hammond organ and vocals. We

had a long chat about Ronan O'Rahilly and Georgie Fame said he visited him recently in the care home in Ireland, which looks out onto the bay where his father's boat was moored. He said he's in and out of awareness and not really taking much in, but was in pretty good physical shape, and he will visit again pretty soon. We discussed Ronan's legacy at length and agreed that his importance to the world of radio and popular music has been grossly under appreciated. So spare a thought for one of the greatest enablers of the music scene, Ronan O'Rahilly!

Good to know that people from the music industry also care about Ronan's condition. Thanks for sharing the information. Than an e mail came from John Kerr: 'Hi Hans. We haven't met although I have attended 2 'pirate' reunions but I'm pleased to receive your reports. I was on board 'Radio Scotland' for a period from late 1966 until the last day in August 1967.

I started in radio at the end of November 1957 and although I retired from Sydney's 2UE in January 2013, I continue to do a 3 hour weekly country music show on The Gold Coasts 94.1fm in Australia every Friday night at 7.00 hrs.

I'm just wondering if you've heard any whispers about a reunion in London (or elsewhere) to come in August of next year? I can't imagine we'll let the 50th anniversary of the closing of the 'pirates' slip by without something being staged!

RADIO PIRATES BURIED AT SEA



The pick of the pops . . . going overboard from Radio Scotland yesterday

BOARD the pirate ship Radio Scotland they were busy yesterday doing what pop-matters think they should have done a long time ago—marking most of the Top 40 with the sea. And as far as the pop-ghosts are concerned, this marks the beginning of the end. At midday, though the Martin's Broadcasting (official) list, which outlawed pirate stations, became law Radio 2UE and Radio 2ST have already closed down. As if in a final gesture of defiance to their listeners at 2 o'clock this afternoon, with a farewell message from the Beatles, Radio 2UE, instead of "goodbye," will also switch off.

Only Radio Queenie are determined to carry on, if nothing else, offshore abroad and relying on foreign advertising. Last night the crew of Radio Scotland's pirate ship off the coast of Fiji were reduced to ten who will carry on until the show down.

The last report from Radio Scotland will be "Allis Lane Drive" — a song made up of available non-eras — if it hasn't made the charts lately.

There are four significant events occurring for my wife and me next year and we're trying to plan around a possible date in the UK to start a memorable trip through many places in Europe. I would appreciate any info you may have. John Kerr.'



John Kerr Collection: Pirate Hall of Fame

Thanks a lot John and surely I was on one of the reunions (2007 London) too but as always there are so many former offshore people to talk too that we must have missed each other. Good to hear you're planning to come over to Europe next summer. I can't give an honest answer on your specific question as I don't know what our British friends are planning. No signals have been given yet but maybe they can reflect after reading this edition of the International Radio Report. I stopped organising events after 38 years in 2014. Anyone who knows more can write to me at HKnot@home.nl

Recently I had some questions from reader Hendrik van Nellestijn which I forwarded to Brian Mc Kenzie as well as Hans ten Hooge, both former RNI people. I did so as the questions from Hendrik were RNI related. First the question was raised why in September 1972, when RNI 2 was on the air for a day, no mention was given on RNI/Radio Noordzee 220 frequency. Also there was the question if Werner de Zwart, who later in the seventies was working on the Mi Amigo as a captain, was working on the MEBO II at an earlier stage.

First answers came from Brian: 'Yes the name Werner de Zwart is familiar. He was captain for a short time and was a great lover of cocktails in early evenings. He was a very nice guy and I have no idea

why he left. I think he was followed by Captain Pecco. I think Edwin Bollier knew him from somewhere. He loved garlic and in the summer we knew where he had been on the ship because of the smell of the garlic was like a cloud following him. The reason that RNI 2 was not mentioned was that the Dutch office did not want it promoted on 220. So Bollier agreed with it. Things were quite strained at that time between Holland office and the one in Zurich.'

Thanks Brian I remember that it was told me during Pirate Radio News days that both Meister and Bollier came onboard on Friday evening with some very expensive refreshments and they both were happy to turn on the spare transmitter the next day for the tests on 192. I've made some questions to Vic Pelli Werner de Zwart and this 'Pecco' captain. Then there was an answer the same evening too from Hans Hoogendoorn (Hans ten Hooge on RNI). 'Simply the broadcast on 192 was an unofficial stunt on the initiative of transmitter technicians, a good-natured with the support of one or a few Englishmen on board. Something you don't accompany with an official Dutch news item. That would have brought serious problems with the Office from RNI in Bussum. That's also the reason we finished the tests as quickly as they had started. I don't remember Werner de Zwart. Maybe he has been there for a very short period as interim captain.'

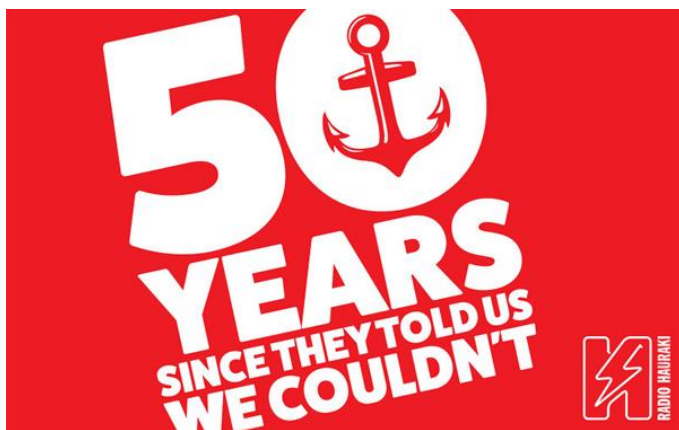


MEBO II. Photo: Gerd Klawitter

After some days I got some additional information regarding Werner de Zwart from Hendrik: Werner was sailing the high seas and from time to time he sought for a resting period on at least three different offshore radio ships. He has worked on the Mi Amigo as well as the Fredericia from Radio Caroline as well on the MEBO II from RNI.

Again some exclusive video recordings from the vaults of Hans Joachim Backhus: 'RNI did return as an RSL station in August 1999. From August 3rd till August 30th 1999, the station broadcast from the LV-18 (the former Trinity House lightship No. 18) which was nicknamed the "MEBO III". The ship had been towed to a position off Holland-on-Sea. The broadcasts were taking place on mediumwave 190 metres (1575 kHz). Some former offshore jocks and technicians participated in the venture (Paul Graham, Paul McLaren, Alan West, Norman Barrington, Dick Palmer, Dennis Jason, Bob Noakes, Kevin Turner, Bob LeRoi, Ray Anderson, Dave Rodgers, Dave West and Phil Mitchell). Together with Graham Vine, Chris Baird, Clive Boutell, Mike Read and Colin Lamb they were reliving the year 1970. It's an edit of the material filmed by Hans-Joachim Backhus.

<https://youtu.be/TJRfK81oeLM>



The world famous pirate radio station across the ditch, Radio Hauraki, celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

On December 4th, it will be 50 years since the legendary Hauraki Pirates broadcast from a boat, named the Tiri in the Hauraki Gulf,

even though authorities told them they "couldn't". That day in 1966 marked a turning point for radio in New Zealand, against the then government run monopoly.

Hauraki is now on the build up to December 4th, with a series of promos bang on with their target audience. Amongst them *Show Us Your Doodle* (no what you think it is), a marketing splash with some new TVC's and exclusive Hauraki gear and a heap of parties planned.

NZME Group Entertainment Director Dean Buchanan, says: "The Hauraki brand is unique and reflects the humour of everyday Kiwis. The team has some fantastic plans to mark this special piece of New Zealand broadcasting history."

Follow the celebrations by visiting www.Hauraki.co.nz/auraki50, Facebook or Instagram. Listen live on iHeartRadio NZ.

- See more at: <http://www.radiotoday.com.au/news/whats-new/9300-radio-hauraki-50-years-since-they-told-us-we-couldn-t.html#sthash.Js0k6GPU.dpuf>

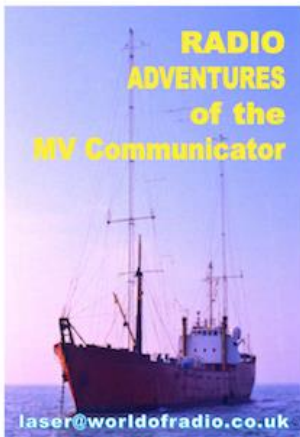
Here very interesting information from Paul Rusling: 'Dear fellow radio enthusiast, I have just completed my latest book, about the eleven radio stations that have broadcast from the MV Communicator.



Communicator Photo: Leen Vingerling

She really was a remarkable ship that few thought would last the course, but it managed to put out so many stations over a 21 year career. I can't think of another radio ship that managed so many years afloat and broadcast for so long and was home to so many radio stations. How many can you remember?

This book is about 71,000 words, over 200 pages, with many pictures you won't have seen before (there are some that I hadn't seen either!) I'm lucky to have had contributions from many of the DJs who broadcast from the ship, as well as from the owners of various stations, and in particular the engineers too. Until I began assembling the story I didn't realise how complex and intriguing a tale it was.



Among those who added their stories to the mix are many of my old Laser colleagues, most of the engineers including Blake Williams, Mike Barrington, Dennis Jason, my colleagues at Nozema, Fred Bolland, Herbert Visser, Ruud Poeze, Dave Miller and many more too numerous to list here. I've included many of the stories never previously told. They not only bring the ship's log to life but help so many parts of the story fall into place. For the first time you can read what was really happening with the three radio ships at sea in 1989 and why the BVD (Dutch secret police at that time) were so interested in the shenanigans. How they could mount that audacious armed raid on the Radio Caroline ship, the Ross Revenge, in August 1989, and how they didn't need to use their Marine Offences

Act of 1974 to do so. All is now revelled in this book for the very first time.

The **Radio Adventures of the MV Communicator** is a story that needed telling as it's a major part of offshore radio history. LASER one that had massive repercussions for British music radio, and the ship also hosted Radio Veronica's liberation from the Dutch NOS system back to its place as a private radio station.

The book is available via Amazon, or you could order a copy direct via us, at **World of Radio** - the details are at

the World of Radio. By doing so you can have them personally signed - Amazon won't mess about with signed copies.

I hope you get as much enjoyment reading it as I got in putting the book together. Good reading! Paul Rusling.

Comments from your editor for the International Radio Report: 'I had the privilege to read the book for eventual errors and had some great evenings reading back some interesting historical things but also numerous new things I even knew before, so go for it and get your personal copy soon! <http://worldofradio.co.uk/>



Blake Williams 2016

Review by Blake Williams: A factual story about the life of a radio broadcasting ship, the MV Communicator which was home to eleven radio stations during her 21 year career. This riveting tale covers the drama and success of the stations, whose staff included many well-known radio names in the UK and in the Netherlands. During that time she attracted up to ten million listeners with her powerful AM (Medium Wave) transmissions. Her owners made over \$15 million during the period, but had to endure a government blockade, threats, takeovers by fraudsters and swindlers, boarding parties and arrests of the ship by the Admiralty Marshall acting for unpaid creditors.

After being towed away she caught the attention of convicted mercenaries and the Dutch secret service which resulted in her being raided by the Portuguese Government; just a few of the stages in her fun-filled, action packed voyages. This is a thrilling story that will please the thousands of radio aficionados who still relish those buccaneering days. Many of her listeners were oblivious to the drama behind the scenes, hearing only the rock'n'roll music that the Communicator's radio stations churned out around the clock, audible over half of Western Europe. Written by an experienced engineer and broadcaster who advised on equipping the ship, the book brings together the experiences and tales of many of the Communicator's former crewmembers and disc jockey teams. All this for those two most powerful elixirs: money and music.

Leith Stevens - Plasma, Schotch, And? This song is composed by Leith Stevens and is part of the soundtrack of the film 'The Interns' from 1962. In the summer of 1966, the Beatles made a tour across America and representatives of the main offshore radiostations went along to report daily about the trip on their radio station. For Radio Caroline Jerry Super Leighton went with the Fab Four and his report was to hear each time on the station using the number 'Plasma, Schotch, And?' in the background.

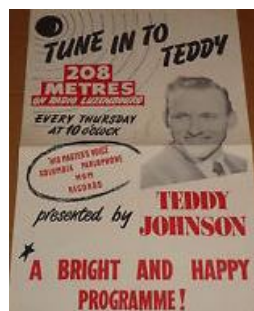
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xbv4tpzD9A>

John Jones is an admirer of Chart Shows on the radio for many years and recently he wrote about diving in the history of Radio Luxembourg Charts: 'Further to my request about Luxy charts, I've been sent some details, apparently compiled from various sources. I thought others might be interested, and might provide corrections if need be.

Conflicting information to begin with! The BBC Light Programme actually beat Luxy, as they started a show called 'Hit Parade' on Tuesday 4th January 1949 at 8pm. It was a half hour show and featured Geraldo and His Orchestra and various singers like Anne Shelton, the George Mitchell choir, Bruce Trent, Denny Dennis and Cyril Stapleton doing the current sheet music hits.

The very first number one on Radio Luxembourg was 'Galway Bay' on 1st October 1948. So was Radio Luxembourg the very first Radio Station to carry a UK chart or not?

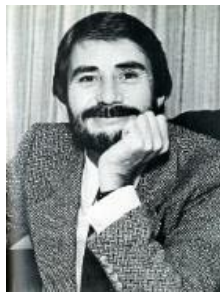
Luxy's show started as a Sheet Music Chart with Teddy Johnson in the autumn of 1948. The Sheet Music charts continued to be broadcasted to late December 1959. Meantime, the BBC show 'Hit Parade' at some point switched to Sundays at 6pm and was increased to a hour (copying Luxy's show!). It ceased in 1957, and current hits / record charts were played on 'Pick Of The Pops' from September 1957.



When Luxy programme administrator Derek Johnson heard about NME's chart in the 1950s, he passed them on to disc jockeys at

Radio Luxembourg, who aired a chart rundown each night. The NME chart was used by Radio Luxembourg from January 1960 to 1967 and is said to have given 'the chart acceptance and credence'.

Initially they used the NME Top 20 from the paper until July 1965, and then they switched to the special compiled Friday NME chart (that was published in Billboard from 1963 to 1965). This differed to the one appearing in the NME, itself (as the one in the paper, was more up to date).



Don Wardell Publicity Photo Luxembourg

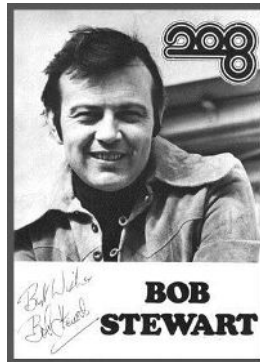
Along the way, people like Roger Moffat, Pete Murray, Keith Fordyce, Don Wardell, David Gell, Barry Alldis presented it. Originally it was on at 11pm on a Sunday night.

From spring of 1967, Paul Burnett took over the RTL Top 20 and (from then on) it was basically based on airplay. Originally it was on at 11pm on a Sunday night, moving to Saturdays (for a short period in 1969).

From 1970, it was compiled by Tony Prince to guess the positions and be ahead of the BBC by a whole week, assisted by airplay information. Paul Burnett continued to host in a Tuesday night show. The chart tended not to include football songs, banned records, or TV material in the chart. It moved to late on Tuesday nights from 1971. The show then became a Top 30 in August 1971.

Later, Bob Stewart, Peter Anthony and Shaun Tilley presented it. The last Number one (on 208 metres) was 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in

1991. I believe the show continued on Satellite and Whitney Houston, achieved the very last #1 in December 1992.'



Thanks John Jones for this interesting information and anyone with questions or more information please e mail at: HKnot@home.nl

In the last two issues we talked about the land-based studio from Caroline North and Robbie Dale reflected on it with: 'Hi Hans, my memories of Gerry Duncan, sure he was a talented commercial producer. He did many spots whilst working in the basement studio at 6 Chesterfield Gardens. One evening Gerry Duncan came into the De-Vere Disco club in Kensington High Street, said to me, you have a good radio voice Robbie. Gerry recorded my one and only Caroline audition tape. Later Gerry introduced me to Ronan O'Rahilly, who instructed me to be at Liverpool Street Station the following Monday, take the train to Harwich and to tender out to the Cheetah II. Greetings from a sunny Lanzarote, Robbie.'

Thanks Robbie and just those short memories always get me thinking how long ago it is and that still we talk about those happy days.

Rare recordings of eccentric pioneering radio DJ Kenny Everett broadcast on local radio in Portsmouth in the 1970s have been unearthed. The programmes, presumed lost, were recorded by Everett for early commercial station, Radio Victory. They feature his trademark homemade sound effects and jingles. Former presenter Andy Ferris who discovered the reels said they showed Everett was 'relentless in his pursuit of entertainment'. More about these programs you can find on the next internet site.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-36725200>

Another update to our enormous photo archive on Flickr: RNI Pictures Hans-Joachim Backhus' RNI collection:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157671486284105>



From England it is Alan Bailey who sent me: 'I thought you may like to hear this that I helped to co-ordinate. Quite a bit on Radio Luxembourg. To me it's a very good listen.(but then, I'm biased).

<https://audioboom.com/boos/4852692-conversations-episode-22-teddy-johnson>

Of course for everyone interested in the history of Radio Luxembourg it's an interesting recording to listen to. A professional singer and drummer, Teddy Johnson joined Radio Luxembourg on 28 May 1948 where he presented the 'Top Twenty' show on Sundays. Having to fill in most of the airtime alone, Johnson adopted various personalities for different broadcasts, such as E. Victor Johnson or Edward V Johnson. Johnson and Geoffrey Everitt ran the English service by themselves until 1950. Johnson left Radio Luxembourg in May 1950 to resume his singing career.

July 24th Paul Bailey wrote to me: 'My essay on the Ross Revenge was published this week. The Blackwater Estuary is in the English county of Essex. Despite its closeness to Colchester, England's oldest town, it is a remote and lonely stretch of water, just down the coast from the busy seaside resort of Clacton on Sea. The small village of Bradwell is an ideal location for a nuclear power station, forlorn and unloved. On some weekends, teams of volunteers head for Bradwell with their tool boxes; in July 2014, the nuclear power station welcomed the return of a famous and iconic neighbour, the Ross

Revenge, which is now moored in the estuary adjacent to the power station.

The Ross Revenge, commissioned in 1960 for the Ross fishing company, was an Icelandic trawler supplying the UK market with fish. The vessel was involved in the '[Cod Wars](#)' of 1975-6 when she regularly featured on the UK's TV news. Then the Ross Company put her up for sale. She was eventually acquired by... For more go to: <http://www.radiosurvivor.com/2016/07/20/lady-still-radio-carolines-floating-legacy/>

Well Paul congratulations and hopefully a lot of readers will click the link to read the complete essay too.

Reader Patrick van Amsberg was an avid visitor to the Annual Radiodays and during the last years, up till 2014, he became one of the assistants to the team. He really loves American style radio and recently was in contact with Jessie Brandon, ex Lazerette from the days of Laser 558. Jessie, who's reader of the report too, wrote him: 'Here's a link to the station I work for, although I doubt it's your sort of music. It's AAA, Adult Album Alternative. Heavy on the Americana. I'm on Saturdays and Sundays from 3-7pm Eastern US time. Just hit the Listen Live area in the top right (if it works in Europe) <http://989wclz.com/> '



Jessie Brandon in those good old Laser 558 days. Archive: Hans Knot

Patrick van Amsbergen: 'Sometimes I listen to her programs and in opposite to the Laser Slogan from the mid-eighties of last century: The music is sometimes more than a minute away. They're playing known as well as unknown music but not a lot of those which appear on the radiostations in Europe. And that tells all about the station's slogan which is: 'different is good'. The signal is beamed to the Portland area and they transmit on FM with a maximum of 40 kW. Also it has to be mentioned that the signal on internet is also the same as on FM, so including the commercials.'

Well to the both of you thanks a lot to bring the updated information and hopefully stay a long time in our readership.

But Patrick had more information for us as he listens a lot to an American radio station which uses a old PAMS jingle packed, which is a resung. Patrick: 'Surely is the same package as was used by British offshore radio stations. It's Ron Sedaille, a deejay with more than 30 years of experience who present old-time-style programs. If you type his name in You Tube you can see and hear what I mean. Nowadays he has its own internet radio station:

www.funtowerradio.com



Ron broadcasts live weeknights and features a different theme each night from 8 to 10 PM ET and of course his 'All Request Saturday Night' show airs live Saturday Nights from 7 PM until Midnight ET

And for more Rockin Ron Fun make sure to tune in every weeknight from 8 to 10 PM for a special show with Rockin Ron Every night! His Saturday night shows are very popular. You can give him a call and your request will be played. It's a 24/7 station which really sounds nice with a lot of jingles and wonderful music.'

Thanks a lot Patrick and of course also information regarding non offshore radio is always welcome at HKnot@home.nl

Next a link to an interesting article which was send in by three different readers:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3731706/The-crumbling-giants-seas-Eerie-images-abandoned-coastal-forts-built-70-years-ago-protect-London-Second-World-War.html>

Another one comes from England: 'Trust you and yours are keeping well, it's a long time now since we last met up here in England. I'm still enjoying your newsletter and I do admire how you manage to keep up with it all and find the time to fit everything in, so well done there. Many thanks. Cheers, Pauline Miller.'

Thanks a lot Pauline, I almost did my brain pain thinking about when was the last time we did met. Maybe on a special birthday party on a special ship in the Thames or was it with a Big RSL in the London St. Katherins Dock?

Paul Bailey wrote an e mail with another interesting link:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/radio-days-the-man-who-brings-broken-radios-back-to-life-1.2748158>

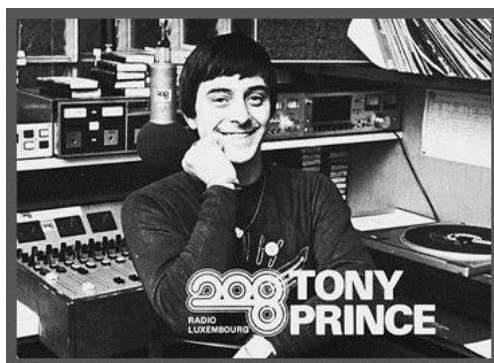
The History of DJ, episode 14 serves as a 51 minute over-view of radio history as we join the series producer and narrator, Tony Prince on stage at the 2016 International Radio Festival delivering a lecture in Milan, Italy.

The inventor of the radio device, Guglielmo Marconi, was born not far from Milan in Bologna and to give you an idea of how high in esteem the inventor is in his homeland, Bologna's airport is named after him. Radio's popularity came out of the trenches of World War 1 where the invention was first used for communication. After the war the social impact of the 'wireless' as it was first called, spread like wild-fire across the world.

Whilst America, Australia and Canada developed an enormous network of local licensed radio stations, European growth became a victim of politics. It may seem hard to believe today that there was a day when the UK had just one radio station, (the BBC), where records were played for a maximum of 30 minutes each day. This in itself caused a teenage revolution, such was the power of music (something governments could never comprehend).

Pirate radio (Caroline North and South, Radio London, Radio Scotland, Radio 270, Radio City, Radio England, Radio Veronica etc. each sailed into pop music history. Until then and into the 80's Radio Luxembourg served the UK, greater Europe and Scandinavia with a nightly feast of pop music on AM until the trans-European radio battle was won.

The American DJs of the 50's set the standard for pop radio with their fast talking, personality led patter broadcast from high powered FM transmitters. The station jingles sang out between the hits of Elvis and eventually the Beatles. Commercial radio ruled. It was a time for Alan Freed, Wolfman Jack and by the 60's their style was inherited by the pirate DJs around the UK coastlines who brought pop radio's full potential to the people forcing governments to implement changes in radio as they lost their political control.



Publicity Photo 208

Like the soldiers in those wars, radio itself has fought off many enemies trying to protect their own interests. Those enemies are revealed here by the man once known on Radio Caroline as The Royal Ruler, DMC's founder Tony Prince, himself a victim of one of radio's enemies, the Musician's Union.

In the next episode the History of DJ will explore radio's position today and what may lie in the future in our digital, personality starved, radio world?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL12_YZ5jNZMR3JXcVNjbXQxpoabkwUYJE&v=hjSfPqWykFY

In last issue I showed a picture from Aussie Phil Crosby visiting the Norderney in Amsterdam. He has some additional information for you the reader: 'Dear Sir Hans, I trust you are well and enjoyed your holiday. We had a nice few weeks in Europe and the UK (very interesting to be in the UK during the Brexit vote!).

You recall I sent you some pictures of the Veronica ship and REM island. I forgot to mention I also made the 'pilgrimage' to Luxembourg and to the old Villa Louvigny. Unfortunately as you know, Radio Luxembourg programs are no longer produced there and the studios are long gone. But it was nice to see the building and be reminded of better days in radio history.'

Well Phil surely you missed something at the inside of the villa as there's still a studio for concert recordings. It's not sure if it's still in use but here's the evidence:



Photo: Hans Knot

Phil went on with: 'In the UK I was tuning around the bands. Medium Wave is almost dead now and there is plenty of space for free radio. The Government cannot argue this any longer and Radio Caroline should surely be given a channel. I know at least one Member of Parliament who is pushing this, so far without success. In London I could not even receive BiGL on 1395 Khz, so their transmission must be low power. There are still many pirate stations on the VHF band around London, so I guess that's one way of keeping the dream alive, but the music programming does not appeal to me (it's mostly black soul and hip hop). A few old voices are around on the BBC (Johnnie Walker, Roger Day, Keith Skues, etc).

Anyway - the real reason that I write this email is; do you happen to know of any websites where I can get full (or part) programmes from Swinging Radio England? I can see clips in a few places, but no long programmes. I am putting together an article about how the British and Dutch offshore stations were really ahead of their time, and SRE was truly an advanced concept in Europe at the time. The Brits had heard nothing like it - it was so exciting! Kind regards to you and your family, Phil Crosby.

Well in this case it's always interesting to see that someone will dive into the history of SRE and so I decided to send Phil a lot of recordings. So hopefully Phil will be sending his story for publication into the International Radio Report in the future.

Then news from the USA: Professor Wayne Hepler, who debuted a segment of his pirate radio film at Radio Day NL 2014, says that LionHeart FilmWorks is negotiating to distribute his completed film online by early 2017. Hepler is presently working on the DVD cover art and final contract with LionHeart FilmWorks, which has a licensing agreement with Sony via Mill Creek Entertainment. So stay tuned to ring in the New Year with 'Taking Back the Airwaves'. The Story of the Radio Pirates, complete with outtakes and the woes of an American driver in Amsterdam.

More than halfway into this edition of the report and some space for The Emperor Rosko: 'On target as always! Since you have gone 'jingle mad' lately, I think I have the only master copy of the PAMS jingles for RTL we produced at PAMS in Dallas 1965. All their hot stuff in French! Perhaps your French followers may be of interest. Rock on big guy! EMP.'

Thanks Rosko, well I'm jingle mad since ages and yes a copy of the French masters are here in the studio. But anyway, thanks for thinking to offer them. Have a good last week of summer. Greetings Hans.

But there's more on the Emperor in a minute. Next a nice story from the USA: 'Hello Hans, once more, many thanks for your International Report which is very much appreciated. Possibly the first pirate radio station? When 9-year old kids in Nairobi [1958], my next-door neighbour and I both had crystal sets and, thinking it would improve reception, connected our individual single-strand wire antennas together from our upstairs bedroom windows.

There were only three stations to receive and I don't recall if reception was improved, however we discovered, using one earphone as a microphone, we could speak to each other quite clearly - and did so long after we were supposed to be in bed asleep.

Late one night, while switching stations downstairs on the Grundig

radio, my father found a new station and, after listening for less than a minute, recognized the voices as our 2-crystal set 'telephone' was also broadcasting the signal. My mother informed her sceptical boss and, the following night, he tuned in to our frequency and heard us loud and clear from 5 km away.

We may not have been the first pirate radio station but we were certainly the least expensive as, kids will be kids and we had 'borrowed' the length of our copper wire antenna from the Post Office who was stringing new phone lines in the neighbourhood.



Amazing what is on eBay when I entered: **Emperor Rosko** Original advert published in 1973 for Radiomobile Car Stereos in Motor Sport magazine features Emperor Rosko and the Radiomobile 106S. All the best, Martin H. Samuel Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A.'

Thanks a lot Martin for both historical interesting topics. It's nice to read after such a long period that you enjoyed your first experiences in radio.

Okay, here's the next one from David Vincent, who came back to a subject in which another reader asked if there were more readers using a frequency or station name in their passwords or e mail address: 'I was just reading the latest newsletter Hans - are we so predictable? I used Essex, 270, 390 and even knockjohn in my various e-mail addresses.'

Thanks David and I know a lot of other readers do too so anyone using it and would like to mention it please mail at: HKnot@home.nl

Next one came in from Australia: Bryan Killgallin: 'Thanks, Hans: While in high school, I was Secretary of the North Hulme Amateur Radio Club. And I recall one of the qualified radio hams complaining about the pirate stations. Because he had to put up with bureaucracy, he thought they should as well!'

Yes more people had that thought too Bryan but be lucky you weren't part of that complaining group.

Of course there is also an update from the Pirate Hall of Fame.

'New this month:

- programmes from Radio Northsea International's FM outlet, courtesy of correspondent Nico Verbeek. Enjoy Crispian St. John, Mark Stuart, Brian McKenzie, Mike Ross and Graham Gill as you may never have heard them before;
- there are more press cuttings from the collection of offshore radio fan Luuk Meuwese, including a couple of Mike Raven's columns from Music Echo and newspaper coverage of the raid on Radio City;
- and since last month's update I have added a 'Tribute to Errol Bruce' who sadly died on 11th August.

My thanks, as always, to the contributors. Best wishes,

Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk



Photo Collection Bob LeRoi.

Next this interesting photo from Bob LeRoi: 'Hello Hans and Jana 'On my way back to London, you'll have gathered running a trial broadcast for Maritime Radio. It's pre-license test based at Charlton Athletic, quite hard work. I caught up with Susan and Luc Moore-Calvert a little while ago, thought you'd like to see an exclusive unpublished picture. On the background it's an old projection equipment but it looks a bit like the Radio City 299 black transmitter (Big Bertha).'

Thanks a lot and indeed Bob the first thought was the Radio City transmitter we knew so well from the photos on Shivering Sands. Talking about photos here's another one in the series: Lost and Found.

'Here is a photo which was lost for 24 years, but has just been found by me. It was taken in June 1992 on the Ross Revenge in Dover Harbour. On the left you have Bongo (as usual, messing about for the camera), in the centre a Dutch anorak who came on board for a couple of weeks to help out (unfortunately I cannot remember his name - he was a very nice chap though). I am on the right of the photo. It has not been published anywhere else - I thought you might like it. Regards, Hugh (Tony Palmer).'



Photo: collection Hugh Neal.

Thanks a lot Hugh and surely the anorak will recognise himself as he's a reader of the report too. As far as we know it's Leo Paalvast who was living in those days in Hoek van Holland. And Hugh later came back with: 'He helped my climb both towers when we removed the gin poles. Twenty four years ago?'

A very interesting story from the Observer in 2009 is a must to read <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2009/mar/08/pirate-radio-johnnie-walker>

Next an interesting e mail from Keith Manton in England: 'Hello Hans, I'm not sure whether you've heard but from the 5th to the 8th of August, a group of radio amateurs (including Tower Radio DJ Bill Rollins) set up a station on board the Ross Revenge to celebrate five decades of offshore broadcasting. Over the weekend we made over 2,500 contacts to other radio amateurs around the world. I've been receiving QSL cards through the post on a daily basis since returning home on the 8th of August! We know that there's been amateur radio activity from the Ross Revenge a few times over the years but nothing on the scale of what we did last month. Two stations, 400w on each with multiple aerials mounted around the ship. There are some details of the activation:

<http://www.martellotowergroup.com/gb5rc.html>



Bill on 20 metres Pete on 40 metres

And a full report from our weekend away

here: <http://www.martellotowergroup.com/gb5rc-report.html>

It was great to speak to so many people and hear their memories of Radio Caroline. I hope this may be of some interest to you and perhaps the readers of your International Radio Report. Keith (G6NHU).'

Wonderful Keith and thanks a lot for sharing this as I know a lot of the readers find this subject within the radio world very interesting too. Next we go to Germany where Jan Sundermann wrote: 'Hello Hans, first my very best regards to Ian Godfrey! He was the nice guy in the wheelchair sitting next to me on the table during the late dinner at the 2014 Radioday in Amsterdam. I want to reply on his questions in last issue of the report. In a way, some problems around ships registration are already mentioned on page 16 in the book 'Offshore Radio Engineering'. A basic need for a cargo or passenger ship is insurance on all risks. To be accepted by an insurance company, the ship must have been designed and built following several technical standards and codes on design. These are in different classes or groups depending on the use of the ship. The fulfillment of these standards and codes will be approved by an independent authority.

Such organisations like Lloyds Register Of Shipping, Norske Veritas , Stoomwezen or TUEV for example. If the vessel is then declared seaworthy and listed in Lloyds Register Of Shipping, it can get a flag registration and its traditional radio communication callsign of the flag country. The decision where to do that is by the shipping company, it could be in the country of the shipping company, it could be in a 'cheap and easy' registration place like Panama, Liberia and others.

Nowadays the IMO number is the 'birth document' of a vessel , and the IMMS number is a call sign for satellite based communication,

like a phone number. The IMO number remains forever until scraping the vessel, a change of ships name or flag does not change that number, like we have seen earlier in the history of the Hospitaal Kerkship.

Independent from the country of flag, the insurance company is asking a frequent check of the seaworthy state of the vessel. These checks might be in a frequency of several years, but the rules say, it only can be done by an inspector of the insurance company when the ship is in an harbour.

In the case of the Ross Revenge, I can only assume, that after some years out at sea, with no follow-up inspection, the ship had automatically lost its insurance, and in consequence also its flag registration in Panama. So for the authorities, it was officially no more 'seaworthy', and therefore could be declared as 'endangering general shipping traffic'. If it was this way or another could only be known from the real court case later on.

By the way, the question of ships registration in places like Panama came up in German politics not so long ago. Some years ago, real piracy against cargo ships and yachts was a problem off the coast of Somalia and the area around. Navy ships of several countries went there with an UN mission to protect free sea traffic. In Germany, some shipping companies even asked the government for getting a kind of armed Marshalls on board for protection. But that idea was a 'full shot onto the own goal' of the shipping companies: "German authorities are not here to protect your ships running under Liberian flag!" That made the shipping companies thinking, and together with other updated regulation, some ships returned to have German flag again. Best regards, Jan Sundermann.'

Well Jan, most interesting answers and so Ian I hope the questions have been answered. Anyone who has questions, memories and more please sent these to HKnot@home.nl

American radio history on facebook For close to 50 years and through 36 editions, the National Radio Club AM Log has been the standard for accurate listings of station facilities, formats, network affiliations and operating schedules for the AM stations in the US and Canada, We have just added another 10 of these excellent frequency-order logs, and they are listed between 1970 and 2014 at http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Radio_Log_Master_Page.h...

And also A considerable number of early radio publications from the UK have been added, including starts on collections ranging from Modern Wireless to Amateur Wireless to Wireless Weekly. They are all listed in a grouping of UK magazines near the bottom of the page in the Purple section at www.americanradiohistory.com We are adding more every week, and also working to complete the better known titles like Wireless World.

I love the next memory from Vic Pelli. 'During my time with Radio Northsea International I published a Souvenir Book. It contained some black and white cartoons by John Bakker ("JB" 1947-2006). The book turned out to be a bestseller in the UK and Holland. Jacky Nordsee became the mascotte of RNI. At the moment I am scanning old documents from my private archive. To my surprise I found this original colourful Jacky Nordsee painting by cartoonist JB.



You can take it into the report. Johnn Bakker was a great cartoonist but not very good in delivering the paintings in time. Once I just stayed two days and nights in his atelier. He worked like crazy and finally I walked out of the atelier with the cartoons. It was made to produce another card like the one you know with the Dolphin. That one became so popular that we forgot about it. Only publication was in the Free Radio News Germany 3/73 but only in black and white. I can't remember other publications. (editor: it was also published in black and brown on the backside of the publication 'Mit Anker und Antenne' with the text 'Schön war's die Piratenzeit'.)

I've just finished a meeting with Edwin Bollier. He is fine and still on the Lockerbie mission. We are still convinced that sooner or later the truth will come to the surface. Enclosed is also a recent photo at MEBO office. Edwin shows the fragment of the MST-13 timer... as allegedly found in the Lockerbie area.



Thanks a lot Victor and it's well appreciated that you've send this fond memories from the days of RNI and of course to the both of you best wishes. Talking about Libya here's a link to another interesting story:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2016/09/12/French-army-use-FM-broadcasts-against-ISIS-in-Libya-.html>

And of course you may not forget to check with the updates at the Radio London site from Mary and Chris Payne. Always interesting new information to find at:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Next a flashback to the mid-eighties and have some fun: 30/12/1986 Tom Edwards Thames Television in vision announcer takes continuity to a new level by filling in 'live' on air for a whole 5 minutes following a technical glitch when the next programme was not available.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRgh_3hJ4aY

Next a memory to Radio London from april 1966:

memories from 50 years ago



Some weeks ago the German annual radio day was held in Erkrath. A photo impression is made by Martin van der Ven:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/7215767296666432>

And there's news from Rob Jones: 'We are currently working on an audiobook version of Emperor Rosko's DJ Book part one and two, which is narrated by Rosko himself and will be on sale around

December 2016.

www.emperorrosko.net

www.thesoulguy.com

Again another bumper edition and if you haven't seen your question it will be answered in one of the forthcoming editions. I wish you all the very best and till next time, Hans Knot.