

## Hans Knot International Radio Report summer 2016

Welcome to this edition of the international radio report. It covers a lot of interesting and also sad information, with thanks to all contributors. Let's start with a small story I recently wrote about adoration to offshore radio by an American guy in the seventies of last century.

During the period 1969-1976 a monthly news bulletin called Pirate Radio News (PRN) was published from the Netherlands in the English language and the editorial staff not only brought news about offshore and other radio projects but gave the readers the possibility to send in their letters. You could see it as a pre-publication of the International Radio Report, although we were far away from the internet and so it took many days before the newsletter had arrived by some of the readers outside the Netherlands.

I became final editor for the Pirate Radio News in 1972, a position I had up till late 1976. Due to the fact some of the offshore radio stations also promoted the PRN we got readers in several West European Countries but also due to the fact RNI Shortwave transmissions had a wider reception it brought us readers in Canada, USA and even in Japan.



A.J. Beirens Photo: Theo Dencker

It must have been around late 1972 that I received the very first letter from Herbert Stephen Desind in which he wrote about the power of the RNI DX program from Albert J Beirens. We started an exchange in recordings and many letters and packages went to both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. However radio was very interesting, Herbert Desind had also other interests like space sciences and engineering. He was a Washington, DC area native born on January 15, 1945 and raised in Silver Spring, Maryland and educated at the University of Maryland. He obtained his BA degree in Communications at Maryland in 1967, and began working in the local public schools as a science teacher.

Information found on the internet learned me recently more about Desind: 'At the time of his death, in October 1992, he was a high school teacher and a freelance writer/lecturer on spaceflight. Desind also was an avid model rocketeer, specializing in using the Estes Cineroc, a model rocket with an 8mm movie camera mounted in the nose. To many members of the National Association of he was known as 'Mr. Cineroc'. His extensive requests worldwide for information and photographs of rocketry programs even led to a visit from FBI agents who asked him about the nature of his activities. Mr. Desind used the collection to support his writings in NAR publications, and his building scale model rockets for NAR competitions. Desind also used the material in the classroom, and in promoting model rocket clubs to foster an interest in spaceflight among his students.

Desind entered the NASA Teacher in Space program in 1985, but it is not clear how far along his submission rose in the selection process. He was not a semi-finalist, although he had a strong application. In 1991, Desind was named Science Teacher of the Year by Prince George's County and the Potomac Electric Power Company.

Herbert Desind died October 16, 1992, having succumbed to colon cancer. On November 17, 1994, the Herbert Desind Memorial Space

Awareness Center, a state-of-the-art facility, was created and dedicated at Laurel High School. Today that Center houses the Cooperative Satellite Learning Project (CSLP) class as well as other science classes.'

Already in the seventies he was building these rockets, although it was without the video cameras as these were not a common product yet. Very enthusiastic he wrote me one day that due to the influence from RNI Goes DX he was planning to build another rocket and name it MEBO III. At first my opinion was that he was joking but a few months later he was sending me photographs of the rocket and so here's another memory to RNI.



**MEBO III Photo: Collection Hans Knot**

It is with great sadness to report the death of Cornelia Vandenberg. She passed away peacefully in the evening from June 28th at the age of 65 after going into an elective palliative coma at the weekend, surrounded by her friends and family. Elija was one of the strengths behind Radio Caroline for so many years, and was such a good friend to so many involved in offshore radio. She selflessly looked after Tony Allan in the last months of his life, bringing him to

the LV18 for a rare show on one of our RNI broadcasts, and was always bursting with ideas and enthusiasm. As she was part of the Caroline 1973 family I asked some of the members for memories:

First was Robb Eden with a reflection: 'It's sad news but expected as Elija has been through the wars recently. I have fond memories of Elija who had a part to play in the legend that was Radio Caroline in the early '70's. Elija was one of those people who always seemed to be around, having the ability to connect to people with different ideas and visions yet in a way becoming the glue that held some relationships together on and off the ship.

Elija was very vociferous and sometimes could get up peoples noses with her opinions but ultimately she had a good heart and she was fiercely protective of the Caroline family. I always likened her to a hippie with a smile and that's the way I will remember her. God bless you, Elija, Robb Eden'.

Next Andy Archer with his memories and more: Dear, dear Elija has finally left us. I spent most of June 17th with her at the Antoniushove Hospital in Leidschendam. I thought it might be a very tearful meeting, but not a bit of it. She was so upbeat. She knew she was dying and didn't have much time left, and although extremely frail, she hadn't lost any of her sense of humour despite her desperate condition.

We spent the day laughing and recalling the madcap days on the Mi Amigo in the early 1970s and talking about Johnny Jason who had visited her a few weeks earlier. I remember (well sort of!!) our very first meeting. Elija used to write letters to me on the Mi Amigo always illustrated with little drawings suggesting if I should ever find myself at a loose end, I should call around and join her and her boyfriend for something to eat. One day I took her up on her offer and went to her flat in the Zwarteweg, Den Haag. I do recall we smoked an awful lot of marijuana that night and as a result, I have no

recollection of any of the conversation or indeed what we had to eat! But it was the start of a close friendship that lasted over forty years.



Behind the lamp one of the famous drawings Photo: Norman Barrington

A fortnight ago, she told me an amusing story which I had never heard before. She was selling American Indian jewelry at a fare in Surrey in the 1990s and a woman came up to her stall and bought several items she had for sale to the value of £300. She asked if she could pay by cheque and Elija politely pointed out that the maximum amount she could accept by cheque was £100. The woman said "OK, I'll write out three cheques of £100 each." Then Elija noticed the woman's name printed on the cheque and said, "I think I can make an exception in your case, one cheque will be fine." The woman was Olivia Harrison, wife of George!

When I left her on June 17th., I went to stay with Graham Gill in Amsterdam for the night. While Graham was cooking a curry, I was texting Elija giving her a running commentary of Graham's culinary skills much to her amusement. My last communication was on the day she moved into the Hospice in Leiden. I messaged her and hoped she was comfortable and being well cared for. She assured me she was.

Elija was the bravest of the brave. She was so dignified to the end; a shining example to us all.



Photo taken June 17<sup>th</sup> Elija and Andy  
Collection Andy Archer

On my answering machine I found a short message from a very sad Graham Gill: 'If you write your report could you tell from me that Elija was a very special lady and that I will miss her a lot, like all the others within the Caroline 1973 family.'

It was very difficult to make a choice in asking people as so many had a good relationship with Elija. One who certainly has memories is Norman Barrington: 'My first meeting with Elija was a dramatic one. I first met Elija when she arrived on board the Mi Amigo, from a visiting tender. She had been a listener to my Caroline programs. She asked me if she could remain onboard with me, as she was escaping her abusive boyfriend, a crazy Belgian artist who went by the name of John Palmer. I could see she was desperate, and it was decided she could only remain on the ship if I agreed, which I did, and she remained with me, sharing my cabin. From that time we became an item.'

I also lived with her in her flat when onshore in Den Haag, but I got word that John Palmer was out to kill me. He was the kind of person that I had to take this threat seriously. I could not bear the idea of living in Den Haag, continually looking over my shoulder, so I went to his apartment and confronted him saying "I hear you want to kill me". He was taken aback, but became hospitable and invited me in. We resolved our differences, and Elija and I remained together for about a year or so, though it seemed so much longer than that back then.



'Elija at her happiest - amongst friends' Left to right Elija, Mike the engineer, Barry, Andy, Norman wearing the headband Elija made for him, Robin and Mike the Poet. Photo: collection Norman Barrington.

Elija's life was full of drama, as was her sister Lies, who was suicidal at the time; I actually helped her to get over her deep depression, and later met Elija and Lies's parents who were very grateful for my assistance. Elija became more and more involved with Caroline, getting to know many of the other Caroline people, she and Andy Archer also became friends. Later also became friendly with Tony Allen, indeed one day I recall we all went for an evening meal at the Charcoal, and Tony went wearing one of Elija's dresses, some of us were rather bemused by this, but Elija thought it cool.



A mini reunion of the 1973 family some years ago.  
Robb Eden, Johnny Jason, Elija van den Berg, Andy Archer and Robin Banks. Photo collection: Elija van den Berg

She was doing odd jobs both onshore and onboard. An example was organising the music library in the 'discotheque' the large downstairs room on the ship which, also acted as a common room/listening room. She attached labels on each album with the first four letters of each band, to make searching easier.

Our flat became an informal meeting place for many of the Caroline people to meet. Brian Anderson, Samantha Dubois {Real name Ellen Kraal) and Bob Noakes stayed with us often.

Also we were often visited by Andy, Tony Allen, Dick Palmer, Mike Hagler, Robin Adcroft, Graham Kaye and others, hence Elijah was now very much in the centre of all things Caroline

Later Bob Noakes began staying with us when onshore, but one day to my surprise, Elija left me for him, it was early 1974 I think. However earlier she had introduced me to a girlfriend who later moved upstairs at the same property. Although I didn't know it at the time, this lady was later to become my wife. Elija and I were still on good terms in spite of me being unceremoniously 'dumped'. I later moved to Scotland and so we went our separate ways.

I last saw her at a reunion in Amsterdam in 2014, partly joking, partly serious; she said that when she left me all those years before



she was actually doing me a favour. Around the time of Tony Allen's death, a man to which she had become devoted, I helped her out with recordings and photographs that I had of him for her project. That was the last we communicated.

As you can see Elija had quite an effect on my life in spite of it being such a brief encounter in retrospect. So here I have tried to tell this story as simply and honestly as I can.

I am very sad to hear of her passing, though I think she has finally found peace, after a turbulent and passionate life which I think in part resulted from of a lack of peace in her own mind. And so the threads of our own connections with the past become fewer and fewer. With many fond, some incredible, memories, Norman Barrington.'

Of course there's Johnny Jason too, from France: 'Hans, the news of Elija's death came as no surprise, as I had already come to terms with what was going to occur, but nevertheless, I was shocked, probably because of the finality it brought. I'd been lucky enough to be able to visit Elija In Den Haag some weeks earlier, myself and Andy Archer having been most concerned about reports about her condition and while Andy and I were planning to go there together, that turned out to be not possible.

Having conjured up all sorts of images, as to how she might look, maybe lying in bed, attached to tubes etc., I was totally amazed to find Elija in a very positive frame of mind, mobile and completely aware of her situation and the likely outcome...so much so, that she was perfectly happy, not only to reminisce about the good old days on the Mi Amigo, with Andy et all, where she did some delicious cooking, but also of my previous visit to the Radio Day in Amsterdam, which also involved some very pleasant visits to some exclusive cafes!

Elija was also absolutely certain as to the way ahead...very bravely, she'd arranged to move into a new flat, which would cost her less; in fact, I was able to help her with moving her possessions. Sadly as it turned out, she never moved in. Elija had also arranged a place for herself at a hospice and was adamant she would remain in control of her destiny as far as she could. I came away from my visit to Elija, utterly in awe of her strength of mind and purpose and I wrote to her briefly, on my return to France, letting her know that how much I admired her. I hope she realised just how much I respected her forthrightness to me. Elija will always remain a dear friend and a total inspiration in how to confront what life throws at you.

I want to thank you guys for sharing your memories with our readers and let's never forget what Elija meant for the Caroline 1973 family.

It was Jan van Heeren who recently bought on EBay a photograph from which I told him that it was surely taken in the Swinging Radio England studio on the Laissez Faire. Next I forwarded the photo to Ron O'Quinn who suggested that it may be Singer Sandie Shaw. We enlarged the face which is now here in the report.



**Cathy Mc Gowan Photo: Collection Jan van Heeren**

By coincidence I was scanning a lot of newspaper articles recently which were from the sixties and seventies about the music industry. One of the articles was about the television pop program 'Ready Steady Go', which became very popular in Britain. In those articles I saw the same lady and so we can now tell that the presenter of 'Ready Steady Go' Cathy Mc Gowan visited the Laissez Faire in 1966.

And the work on the Offshore Radio Photo Archive still goes on as Martin van der Ven did a lot of scans of negatives and more from Hans Joachim Backhus. First a link to the series about Radio Caroline in the Seventies.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157666974387573>

From the 5th to the 8th of August 2016, the Martello Tower Group will be activating the MV Ross Revenge, home of Radio Caroline, to commemorate five decades of offshore radio broadcasting. The group will set up two stations actually on the world famous Ross Revenge, which is located on a fixed mooring in the River Blackwater in Essex, England. More information is here:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/GB5RC>

The late Leon Tippler has made a private 8 mm movie which was recently digitalized by Steve England and which is bringing some unique footage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOpB2iZdYh8>

Next it's Mike Knight with a request: 'Hello world - I would like to start a collection of cartoons which have anything whatsoever to do with Radio, Sound, Studios, DJs etc. Please send in a cartoon (or many) that makes you smirk from the audio point of view. Here is on to get you started and of course the address to send the cartoons is [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) Mike Knight'.



There's another scan project to mention, as I've been busy scanning 97 photos concerning the MV Communicator in IJmuiden and Enkhuizen in the nineties. Martin has added the series to our massive on line photoalbum, which now has more than 15.000 photos concerning offshore radio and radio. The new series have been given to us by Luuk Meuwese

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157668197977701>



**Graham Gill Photo: Andy Archer**

Now we go to Andrew Dawson aka Andy Archer who wrote on June 18th: When I was in the Netherlands to see Elija van den Berg for the last time I went to see Graham Gill at his flat in Amsterdam, who was on good form. On the Radio Caroline ship Graham often used to cook a curry for the disc jockeys in the evening and he decided to

resurrect his "Mi Amigo Vindaloo" to serve me at dinner. It was delicious!

Recently a special Radio day was organised in Belgium and Alex van den Hoek has made an excellent report from that day which you can watch on you tube: [https://youtu.be/BvWOMJb\\_df8](https://youtu.be/BvWOMJb_df8)

Like with all material from others, if you share the link always mention the source!

Some wonderful memories to Radio 390 were scanned from the archive of Luuk Meuwese. The documents, including rate cards and personal letters from the station as well as program schedules are in mint condition. Stickers looked like they've never been out of the envelope since 1966. With thanks to Luuk for sharing Martin and I put the material in our hugh Flickr Archive. Have a look here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157668364283621>

Next it's e mail time with Bob Noakes 'Hi, Hans! Regarding a piece in the May Report: I thought the London area comprised three cities, a city being a place with a cathedral or abbey and consequently a bishop; although the Americans seem to call any place with more than two houses and a gun shop a city too. But has our friend never heard of the city of Southwark, which is just across the Thames and scarcely three kilometres from Westminster?'

Thanks Bob and so we can learn each day from each other. Bob has also himself an interesting question: 'And regarding Radio Luxembourg: years ago I heard a story that they once planned to put a ship in the North Sea to relay their programmes, hence providing an improved signal into South East England and the surrounding countries. This would have been around 1966 when they were beginning to feel the hot breath of Radio Caroline and Radio London, amongst others. Does anyone know for sure whether there is any

truth in this, or was it simply Timewasting Radio Rumour no. 3,006,542? Greetings, Bob Noakes.'

I thought that someone related to Luxembourg could answer my question and so Alan Bailey reflected with: 'In my time there Hans, I did hear talks about putting a ship out to sea but I wasn't a party to these talks and therefore don't know what stages they were at. Obviously that didn't happen.' Thanks Alan and any of the Luxembourg deejays from those days who remember it can reflect at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Now we have an interesting contribution from Goran in Sweden:

'Hi Hans, Nils-Eric Svensson (NES) founder of Skanes Radio Mercur in 1958 celebrated his 80 year birthday on May 18th this year. Nils-Eric and his wife Cheryl are living in California during wintertime and spending their summertime in Landskrona Sweden.



Photo: Goran Carlsson

A bottle of wine with a card from Skanes Radio Mercur was his present from me. We had a nice chat together with some of his family friends, some now close to 90 years but still remember how Nils-Eric involved all his friends to work for him for free in the late 50-ties. Nils-Eric is the last 'standing Pirate King or Queen' from the Scandinavian offshore stations. Goran Carlsson.'

In the last issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report I came with the news that a new museum is in the planning in the centre of the Netherlands. Some comments made after publishing are important enough to mention. Deke Roberts wrote: 'I must admit I

find the idea of a bricks and mortar museum of what was basically sound to be a little strange, but also strangely appealing. I assume that the 'musak' at this exhibition will consist of recordings of offshore stations, since it would seem to me to be lunacy to have the sights without the sounds.

Since they appear to be going for it, would it not be an idea to include a brief history of the whole of the offshore broadcasting phenomenon starting with the pirate broadcast of a choir from (I believe) a US military vessel one Christmas, through a national newspaper sailing around Britain advertising itself, the start of offshore broadcasting as we know it in Scandinavia, and finishing with what I believe was the last of the pirates, the US backed ultra-right wing Israeli station Arutz 7?

I'm not trying to hijack the whole concept with this suggestion, the museum is what it set out to be and should remain so, but a little historical context, the when, how, and why, can only be a good thing.'

Just let's wait Deke what will be really displayed after the opening of the museum. I can follow your comments but the start of the offshore radio in common has been written in publications from me as well as Keith Skues a long time ago. From Whitstable the next comment came in from Bob LeRoi:

'Good Morning Hans. Thanks for the information, it's amazing that to this day there's more enthusiasm for a museum project in the Netherlands than the UK. One of the notions was for Red Sands Radio to be part of a Maritime Project in Whitstable. The town being a supply base for two 60's stations and again from the 70's - 90's. We have a massive archive and original equipment so the core of the idea in place. This though received a luke warm greeting and coupled with the local authority making life difficult, I didn't pursue matters further. I wish everyone involved in the Netherland project great success. All the best, Bob [www.redsandsradio.co.uk](http://www.redsandsradio.co.uk)

Niek Wortel wrote: Hurry up Hans we are getting old. Who would like to have in about 25 years my offshore radio stuff?'

Paul Mears reflected with:

'Yep there's one in Clacton on Sea and always visit when I'm up there.' But probably Paul has not been in Clacton recently as the truth is that the museum is closed: Mike Barraclough: 'The Clacton on Sea museum has been closed for a while, the Yellow Submarine is being advertised on EBay.'

Mike Grant made an early holiday in May and visited the Isle Mallorca. Well there you could speak also from a little offshore past as one of the main discotheques is called 'Veronica' and is using the same logo as Radio Veronica used in her high days of the sixties and seventies. Mike made some photographs to share and it was Adrianna who reflected with: 'This discotheque was already there in the 70's! It was very cosy and Will Luikinga and Adje Bouman sometimes organised a drive-in-show, but as far as I know it was not owned by Radio Veronica.'



Earlier on I mentioned the series photos from Caroline by Hans Joachim Backus but also Martin van der Ven did a very good job by scanning the Delmare photos, which are now in our Flickr Archive

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157670169868976>



Hans-Joachim Backhus presenteert:



Here a newspaper memory to the Truth:



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

- We hear from Radio 270's "pirates from Wagga Wagga";
- Bryan Vaughan returns to the radio;

- there are pages of press cuttings from Luuk Meuwese's collection;
- more photos from Laser-558's Michael Dean (both of these courtesy of Hans Knot);
- Radio Mi Amigo welcomes some former offshore DJs to the LV18 in Harwich;
- there is Leon Tipler's home movie, shot on Radio City;
- we say goodbye to Elija Vandenberg and Robert Randall;
- and enjoy some Radio 270 Top 40s from July and August 1967.

Many thanks to all the contributors. Best wishes, Jon.

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

I presume you also don't forget to have a look at the wonderful site from Mary and Chris Payne. Surely there will be some nice updates too: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/>

Of course we have Rosko again in this issue of the report: 'Hi Hans, Many bits and bob's in the last report. Up till early 2006 you say that we appear in the report each month. Wow, we do go back! It was nice to see the old transit van too, that brought back the band crew and the gigs we did, and they would play along with the records in some clubs which really added to the audio! I had the biggest rig at that time and then add a band to percuss the audio and it blew people away, through in a few go go dancers and a light show. Well I did it first and never looked back. Those were the days. I will try and find a few snaps you do not have! Stay well and see you here in California.'



Early Rosko Studio in Caddington beds. Vintage 1975  
Photo: Collection Emperor Rosko

Next we go to Ian Biggar: 'Hi Hans, thanks for the recent report. In last issue you wrote about Tommy Toal and Radio Scotland. He was associated with The Irish Club in Glasgow and presented a weekly show on 242 aimed at that community. I knew Tommy many years later when I worked on Radio Carousel in Castleblaney, County Monaghan. Tommy had been involved in the pirate scene for several years and operated a station called a Big M in the late 70's. By 1982 Big M had closed and Tommy joined the new Radio Carousel station.

When Tommy realised I was Scottish, he started chatting about Radio Scotland and that he had been on the station. To my shame Hans, I did not believe him as I had never come across his name. I was still quite young and naive in those days. Of course he was very much telling the truth as I discovered in later years.

Tommy later re started Big M and then ran a station called Hometown Radio that broadcast until the pirates were silenced on December 31st 1988. Tommy died suddenly in the very early 1990's. I remember him as a very nice man. Regards, Ian Biggar.'

Let's see what Albert Hood has to tell my readers: 'Hi Hans as you know I have been involved with Radio Caroline for a good many years now and also organised tenders out not only to the Ross Revenge throughout most of the time at sea in the 1980s and for the last 3 years of the Mi Amigo. Now I have always believed that a country cannot withdraw registration from a ship in the time that the ship is on the high seas and only when it enters a port can this be done

I know I may be wrong but I don't think I am and I believe that is why the Dutch government handed back all the equipment they seized in their raid on the Ross Revenge when Ronan decided not go ahead with his threatened prosecution.

I also don't believe there was ever any intention of towing the Ross Revenge to Holland there only intention was to get it off the air otherwise why were there so many people on the tug boat?

I boarded the Ross Revenge just after that event and was shocked by the destruction they had done. Not only to the transmitters but they had actually damaged an injector pump on one of the large Man generators as they had tried to remove it without success so they smashed it. If they had been engineers of any sort they would have known there was another stud behind the pump that is only assessable by using a long extension bar and socket I had it off within 2 minutes and got it repaired at a cost of over £400.



Albert Hood in 2004 Photo: [Collection Caroline.de](http://CollectionCaroline.de)

As far as I was concerned their aim was to wreck the transmitting equipment as much as possible in order not only to close all the stations down but to make sure the items were not easy to repair but they also ripped the studios apart and removed all but a very few records

However they did not know how much support Radio Caroline really had and when I left that ship that evening, which was the Wednesday following the raid on the Saturday, the Ross Revenge could have commenced broadcasting because Peter Chicago had lots of stuff hidden on board and with bits that went out with me on that boat that morning that had been donated including record decks tape recorders and many 100s of records and I am not going to say where most of them came from as I don't think you would believe me plus you would be shocked.

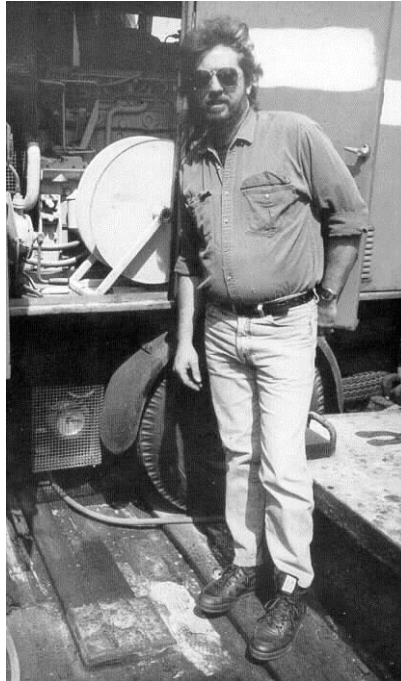
I also note you mention Radio Caroline International Short Wave. Yes that was operated by Freddie Archer from woods on the Norfolk Suffolk border in the UK I also got dragged into that and also did a few shows under the name Stuart Atkinson but I am no DJ as I am sure those that heard me realised that.

It did not have any connection with the ship bourn Radio Caroline with the exception of me so hence it closed down a few weeks before the Ross Revenge arrived at the request of Robb Eden, who was a manager of Radio Caroline at the time

It was fun and was set up by Andy Archer to help to keep the dream alive as he was sure we had not heard the last of Radio Caroline from the high seas despite the loss of the Mi Amigo. I do believe I have some photos of the studio and maybe the transmitting site I will try and find them and pass copies on. Keep up the good work Hans. Albert Hood.'

Thanks a lot Albert for sharing these memories with us and if there's more just let them come. Photos are also welcome. Of course I've not written everything about the raid in last issue of the report. What I can tell you that on the evening on the raid I was on Radio 1 already in a program which brought also in one person of the OCD to discuss if they did make a legal or an illegal action. Of course you understand which answer I did give. And yes a whole lot of the equipment donated from shore came from ILR and even some local BBC stations. After finally the decision was taken by the OCD in cooperation with other Dutch governmental bodies that Caroline would get back a lot of the equipment as well as records when Ronan (Caroline) would promise not to take any legal action anymore, the equipment and more was given back from the storehouse in Bleiswijk to the Caroline organisation. Chris was there as well the Australian guy Mike Dundee. The van which they used was paid for by the Foundation for Media Communication. Rob Olthof and I could pay it due to the fact massive sales of the 'Caroline Lives On' CD, which I produced. So you see we didn't talk too much about what we did on the other side of the pond. Now some 27 years later it's no problem

to write about it. We had all the same aim to help Caroline where it was possible. Give my regards to Georgina too. Best greetings Hans



Mike Dundee Collection Hans Knot

Next one comes from Germany and Hans-Joachim Backhus: 'Thank you for the latest report. Where do you get all those stories from? It still is an interesting subject. Earlier this week I was watching photographs from the building of the mast on the Ross Revenge. What surprises me is that from that period almost nothing has been told by those involved. Is it so that the mast was especially built for Radio Caroline? Are there any construction plans available?

I had Theo Dencker on the phone and he thought that the mast was built for using on land. So for him it was not a special construction for the Ross Revenge. Do you know anything about it? During the Easter transmissions of Caroline North, earlier this year, there was an interview with Peter Chicago. He told a lot about leaving the harbour in Spain on the trip to the English coast in 1983. Beaches filled with a lot of people and the Ross Revenge colorful with all kind of little flags. I've never seen any photo of this travel to England.

With all best greetings, Hans-Joachim Backhus.'

In the Dutch language publication '25 jaar Caroline' a special chapter has been written about the Spain period of the Ross Revenge. The 'Spain' photos in the Flick Archive from Martin and me have been provided in the past partly by Peter Chicago, John Wendale and some others. The best thing for me was to write an e mail to Peter Chicago himself and asking him to answer the questions from Hans-Joachim.

'Hello Hans, I hope you are well, and that all is good with your family. I can't really be of much help regarding the questions you posed. The mast was designed and built especially for the Ross Revenge. Ronan told me that the design had been worked out by a Technical College or Institute in Spain, to make sure it would survive out at sea on a ship.

I really don't know how true that was, because Ronan always liked to "embroider" a story to make it sound more impressive. He told me, on more than one occasion, that the Mi Amigo had been fitted with "Special" air tanks, which would make the ship unsinkable, as he said, "like a lifeboat". Of course, no such tanks existed, and ship was all too sinkable.



Photo: Offshore Radio Archive

I don't know which company actually built the mast, but it was very well constructed, and it was delivered to the shipyard all ready for the sections to be bolted together, and fitted to the ship. Prior to the installation of the mast there was much preparation by the shipyard.

The shipyard reinforced the deck of the ship with heavy gauge steel plates which would support the flanges at the bottom of the first mast section. They then fitted steel tubes below the deck, and the reinforcement was continued all the way down, through the double-bottom tanks to the bottom of the hull, continuing the support for the mast all the way to the bottom of the ship.

Once the deck had been prepared, the shipyard installed the first mast section on the ship. The work that went into creating the fixing plates for the Guy Ropes, and securing the first mast section on the deck, all took several weeks. It took several days to bolt the mast sections together alongside dry-dock, and to fit all of the prefabricated Guy Ropes to the mast sections.

Actually lifting the mast sections into place all went very quickly, but only because of the careful preparation beforehand. The ship had to be in the dry-dock when the mast was fitted, because the height of the lift was right at the limit of the mobile crane's capability, and it was necessary to gain the additional height difference with the ship resting on blocks at the bottom of the dock.





### Photo: Offshore Radio Archive

At that time, the ship was painted Pink, a colour chosen by Ronan, which was supposed to be fashionable in the advertising world at that time. The pink was probably never a good idea for a ship, and Ronan was one of the few people to like it, but the colours of the mast, alternating Red and White sections, clashed badly with the colour of the hull.

Thankfully, just before the ship was able to leave the shipyard, the ship went back into dry-dock to have the hull shot-blasted, and repainted. Ronan still insisted that the ship be painted Pink, but this time the shipyard refused. They were unhappy with the original spray of the hull, where two different shades of pink were visible where the paint batches had been changed, and they were not willing to try again.

In all honesty, I didn't try that hard to persuade them. The ship was painted Red, and it looked great as we left Spain. Ronan always insisted that a Pink Ross Revenge would have made for a more successful launch, and he never quite forgave me, or the shipyard. Those are my memories of that time in Spain.

The day we left was glorious, and as we headed up the river from the shipyard, towards the open sea, we could see beaches either side, packed with beach goers, all enjoying the hot sunny weather.

As you can imagine, it was a wonderful experience, especially after the long and uncertain period that the ship remained in the shipyard. I haven't quite answered the questions, but I hope the reminiscences are helpful.

Best Regards, Peter Chicago.'

Well thanks a lot Peter for taking the time to write these interesting memories. Most appreciated. And for the complete photo series of the mast building go to our archive at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157644837552583>

Of course Hans-Joachim reflected on all the info sent by Peter Chicago: 'Thanks for sending, very interesting what he wrote. So he also doesn't know everything but tells us what we already thought: Ronan sometime told fables. When the first news came in that the then new Radio Caroline ship was in Santander harbour Theo Tromp and I were planning to drive to Spain to go on search. A pity we finally decided not to go to Santander. It is those little things in the history which are floating above water. The offshore radio period is the nicest period ever. A pity it will never return. '

Well we're going back again to the subject 'Caroline jingles in the sixties' as we did the last two issues. Some readers have reflected and so here's first Paul Bailey his memories: 'Hello Hans, I hope you did not get wet recently like they have in parts of Germany and, it has to be said - here! The organist on the Caroline jingles is often said to be Jimmy McGriff, but that is definitely not correct. It was a long time ago now but my memory is: The voices on the 'Sounds Fine it's Caroline' jingles are Madeline Bell, Doris Troy and Billy Preston. The organist on these jingles is known to have been Billy Preston.

The drummer and guitarist on some of the jingles were from a pop group called Spooky Tooth. Dusty Springfield had also agreed to sing on the jingles but got there too late. However some of the jingles were recorded by Madeline Bell's group Blue Mink, who also recorded a number of commercials and the jingle set for the initial opening of Capital Radio in London. They were kept very busy doing commercials and often did commercials which were played on offshore stations. Jimmy McGriff was not involved in the jingles and was not in the UK at the time they were made. Unless of course one of your millions of readers knows better! But does it matter! The jingles made a difference.' Warm regards, Paul Bailey.'

Thanks a lot Paul for all the info regarding the set-up of the first Caroline jingle package. I never heard Jimmy Mc Griff mentioned in the lineup as it was Jimmy Smith who was mentioned a few times to being the organist. Billy Preston I neither heard of in connection to the production. The info that Madeline Bell's group Blue Mink was involved can't be true as the production of the Caroline jingles were years before she went to Blue Mink in late 1969. I met her once when doing the New London Chorale Tour in the Netherlands, also already 20 years ago. Well, let your thoughts shine about Smith and Preston Good to hear again. Next one comes from another Paul, Paul Graham this time.

Hi Hans

Good report which I have just read. Regarding the Caroline 'sound of the nation' jingles I am certain they were never used until the station was revamp following the Mi Amigo running aground and then returning to the air in April 1966.

Tom Lodge, who I interviewed in 1997 for the Jumbo record label 6 CD box set The Radio Caroline Story, told me the station needed a new sound and better format to take on Big L, Tom had been sent down to the Mi Amigo from the North ship in early 1966 with the job of revamping the sound of the South ship this was delayed because of the ship running aground. The jingles featuring Madeline Bell and I'm sure it was Roy Phillips of the group The Peddlers was the organist at the session many assume it was Jimmy Smith or Jimmy McGriff but not so.



Paul Graham 2005. Photo: Hans Knot

I have a recording of Tony Blackburn from April 1966 and he mentions that the station as new jingles and plays a couple this was just be for Tony left to go to Big L. Any way hope this helps to shed some light on when these sound of the nation jingles first appeared. It was not 1964 as many believe.

Caroline jingles be for this time where all produced by Bill Hearne in early 1965 who had got his hands on a vinyl LP which was well known in USA/Canadian radio circles in the early sixties, this LP also found its way onto Radio Essex by their sales manager Harry Putnam. Bill added his voice overs to customize these early 60's jingles for Caroline in 1965, be for that the station had no jingles of any note except for those voiced by two female voices over a Georgie Fame instrumental and those made by Bryan Vaughan and Simon Dee on the south ship. Paul Graham.'

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

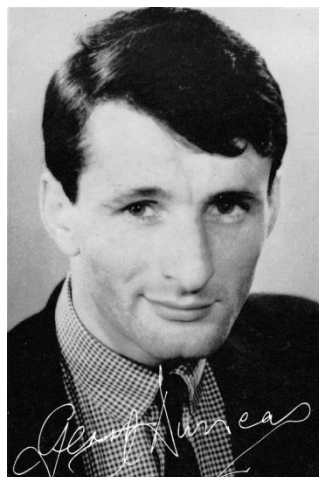
Thanks a lot Paul Graham and the subject it getting more interesting with your information. I sent the reflections to Paul Rusling and Paul Bailey. The latter one reflected with: 'Hello Hans, How fascinating. Yet another candidate for the organist! I've just listened to Caroline Sureshot and Caroline the Sound of the Nation from Aazanorak. There are two ladies voices. There are no male voices on those Azanorak cuts, which are reasonable quality. The organ sounds like a Hammond B3 of the time - but there isn't very much of it on Sureshot. On Sureshot there are also horn players. We shall keep digging!

I have my new diary for next year, and on 12 August 2017, the diary tells me that on 12 August 1880 a Quagga died in Amsterdam zoo and the species became extinct. At first I wondered if this was the Dutch equivalent of the Loch Ness Monster but apparently a Quagga was similar to a Zebra. Did you know! It could be useful in a general knowledge quiz. Regards, Paul Rusling.'

And Paul Rusling came back with: 'I agree totally with Paul Graham Hans, Madeleine Bell says it was definitely in spring 1966. Tony Blackburn never got as full a set as that until last Thursday when I sent them to him! I am certain he would have used them if he had - he's just been on Facebook live a few minutes ago for a few minutes before going on the air on the Big City 2 network, and was even half singing one then. He does that especially while driving, singing jingles. My daughter used to think it was so embarrassing.

So be pretty certain it was 1966. Tony left the Mi Amigo in mid May 1966 by the way. He had been offered the Big L gig a week before and just went out to bring his personal effects off. He joined Big L in the first week of June 1966. Paul Rusling, the Yorkshire version!

But the subject is not ready yet as Paul Graham came back to me with: 'Hi Paul and Hans. I just remembered, Tom Lodge told me he thought the producer of the jingles was Caroline house producer Gerry Duncan and they were probably recorded in the famous basement studios at Caroline house in spring 1966. There was a larger studio down there for recording groups etc. and Ric Gunnel along with Terence Stamp and Kit Lambert are thought to have used it for making demos of the groups managed by the Ric Gunnel agency. Ric's agency was located on the top floor of Caroline House, so it did make sense to have the new Caroline jingles made at the Caroline House.



**Gerry Duncan. Caroline Promotional Photoset**

The Sound Of The Nation package lasted until the MOA came in and where replaced by the Caroline International set although a few where still used until the end in March 1968. They again saw light of day in 1972/3 when the station first returned and once again where re used by the daytime Dutch service in 1979. I hope all this helps.

Just to complete the Caroline 60's jingle debate. There where some earlier jingles made by a group perhaps the Pathfinders these where known as the "if you listen it sounds like Caroline" set and it included the well-known jingle 'Every things fine on Caroline'

These jingles where also thought to have been produced at Caroline house in 1965 about summer or late spring and would have to be considered the first real set of jingles made for the station. The late Don Allen, whom I worked with in 1982/83 on radio in Ireland, recalled the session being edited in the basement studio at Caroline House at the time when he was working full time in the building prior to him joining the North ship which he did in the autumn of 1965. He left the south ship in July of that year so this must date the Pathfinders set around the summer of that year.'

Well I think the circle is made completely round by the both of you. Only one thing Young Paul: Rosko doesn't remember a thing as the reason the question came into the report a few months ago is that he didn't know anything and liked an answer on his questions, which we of course will get by reading the next report.

Next an e mail from one of the female readers, Sherri: 'Thanks so much, Hans for your latest IRR. Very interesting! I was very interested to read about Sam Phillips having started the first radio station with women in it, WHER! He sure was a wonderful facilitator of great talent! So much else was there of great interest including the bit about Orange amps and Rosko's association with Orange, which I knew well when I was living in London.

I hope you don't mind but I would like to copy the article by Martin H. Samuels and pictures and paste them into the FANS AND

FRIENDS OF EMPEROR ROSKO and Fans and Friends of PJ PROBY and/or EMPEROR ROSKO pages. OK with you? Of course it will be with credit to you which will give you and your Report some extra publicity.

I used to visit Orange Studio quite often when living in London and was even lucky enough to be invited to go to Cannes with them. It was a highly memorable trip. On the way back we stayed overnight in Paris and saw Ike and Tina Turner's Revue up close and very exciting! Cliff Cooper, owner of Orange and a good friend of The Emperor Rosko is a friend of one of these groups. I sure hope that you and your family are all well. Bestest to you, Hans. Sherri.'

Thanks Sherri and it's always no problem to reprint parts of the reports, which may be of interest to fb groups as long as the source is mentioned. Hope all is well with you!

From the Isle of Guernsey, where we have several readers too another e mail with the subject jingles: 'Hi Hans Knot, I have just been reading your latest international radio report and saw the article about the Mike Hagler Radio Caroline jingle and if anyone had a really good copy of it, I am somewhat surprised that you have not thought of Norman Barrington-Smyth, who has most if not all of early 70's jingles that was made on board the M.V. Mi Amigo. He also has the masters of the music used as the backing music for said jingles.

As you can see Hans I am still around but due to continuing health problems I have had to put all Monitor and Guernsey Channel Islands Branch of Monitor Magazine online website on a permanent hold, I am still hoping that sometime in the future I can update the Monitor Guernsey offshore magazines websites but I think that will never happen. I will continue to e-mail you if I see anything in the International Radio Report that warrants some input. With kindest regards, Robert Stanley Clancy.'

[www.Monitormag.org.uk/guernseybranch](http://www.Monitormag.org.uk/guernseybranch)

Thanks for responding Robert. The idea of the report is that readers help the other readers with questions like these. If it is about the history I can answer a lot as well as I contact others to respond for it. If there are questions about tunes and jingles they're going into the report for others to answer. We've logged thousands of musical things on [www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info) under 'zeezenderdiscografie' and so people can find the answers if they take time for it. Next to the report I'm doing historical research on other topics like radio so time has a limit too for me. It's good you're a little active again. I'm following your health problems on Facebook. Be careful and hopefully you will step up the ladder to a better health a bit soon! Best greetings.

The last subject in this report is a light ship which was planned to become a radio ship way back in 1962, but was never realised. GBOK, as the station was named, never used this 30 meter long vessel. Paul de Haan writes that the ship is still there.

<http://cormorantlightship.blogspot.nl/>



Lady Dixon Photo: Archive Paul Graham



Well that's all for this time the summer is going ahead here and I wish all who will be in the region where the summer has started fine months. For readers in Australia and other countries in that part of the world I hope the winter will not be too heavy. Memories, questions, photos and more please to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next report will be early September. All the best, Hans Knot