

Hans Knot International Radio Report November 2017

Dear radio friends, there are two issues to go in this year for the radio report. Next to this November edition there will be one in December, I think in the week before Christmas. Thanks again for the many response on last issue and I can tell you that even for the Christmas issue already 19 pages are filled. But just go ahead with sending your ideas, questions, memories, photos and more to HKnot@home.nl

Let's go with the news, e mails and more:

Here's an article which was published around the visit of Rosko to England: http://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/radio-caroline-legends-return-to-felixstowe-seafront-for-commemorative-weekend-1-5188255?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social_Icon&utm_campaign=in_article_social_icons

Derek Lamb is next with his view on Radio Caroline.

A Radio Caroline mystery

References to 1960's pirate radio occur in the most unexpected places, including the Black Beacon on Orford Ness. This isolated and remote spit on the Suffolk coast was used for top secret military research for much of the last century. Access for the public was prohibited. The Black Beacon is a surviving building from that era and displays information about its purpose.

This includes a paragraph that contains the following:

- At some point in the mid-1960's, Radio Caroline ordered a 50 Kw 317 transmitter from Continental Electronics in the United States.
- This was 'commandeered' by Harold Wilson's government, through an organisation called the Diplomatic Wireless Service.

- It was sent to Africa to be used against the illegal state of Southern Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe).
- The same transmitter was then used in June 1970 to jam the broadcasts of Radio Northsea International. RNI was transmitting pro-pirate propaganda. The location of the jamming transmitter is not stated but the implication is that this was on Orford Ness, close the RNI's location.

Apart from the jamming, which I remember, this is all new information to me. Unfortunately, no author is credited and there are no references to the source material.

The Glasgow Herald 13-11-1965

LESSON OF RADIO CAROLINE

Informing the People

Mr Harold Wilson, winding up the debate, said there had been complete censorship in Rhodesia of the fact that Ministers had been dismissed by the Governor.

Whatever steps were possible would be taken to inform the people of Rhodesia, but the extent to which there was a police state could not be underestimated.

Mr Wilson said consideration had been given to the matter of improving the audibility of broadcast services from outside. "If we have to borrow from the experience of an organisation known as Radio Caroline we shall not hesitate to do so," he said amid laughter.

Mr Wilson said:—"The question we have to decide is whether we have now in our minds as a nation outside, as a House and Government, that there can be no truck with this illegal régime and no compromise with it, and if the answer is 'No truck, no recognition,' whether it is our policy to restore Rhodesia to the rule of law at the earliest possible moment or whether we want to drag out the agony.

Above is a newspaper article from the OEM/Freewave Archive

My limited research confirms that Caroline did take possession of a 50Kw transmitter in the spring of 1966. According to Keith Skues in

Pop went the Pirates (page 521) the 1970 jamming used a 200Kw RCA transmitter based near Southend in Essex.

Talking to pirate radio enthusiasts at Felixstowe, Chris Dannett was able to endorse one strand of the story. Apparently, Ronan O'Rahilly claimed that Harold Wilson had approached him to use Radio Caroline in some capacity against the Rhodesian government. However, Chris then added that Ronan was inclined to tell a lot of stories that were hard to believe.

I'm hopeful that other readers will be able to fill in the gaps on this intriguing episode. Derek Lamb.'

Thanks a lot Derek bringing in this information. Well here's another newspaper cutting from that period.

Daily Mail 19-11-1965

Pop ship No to Smith

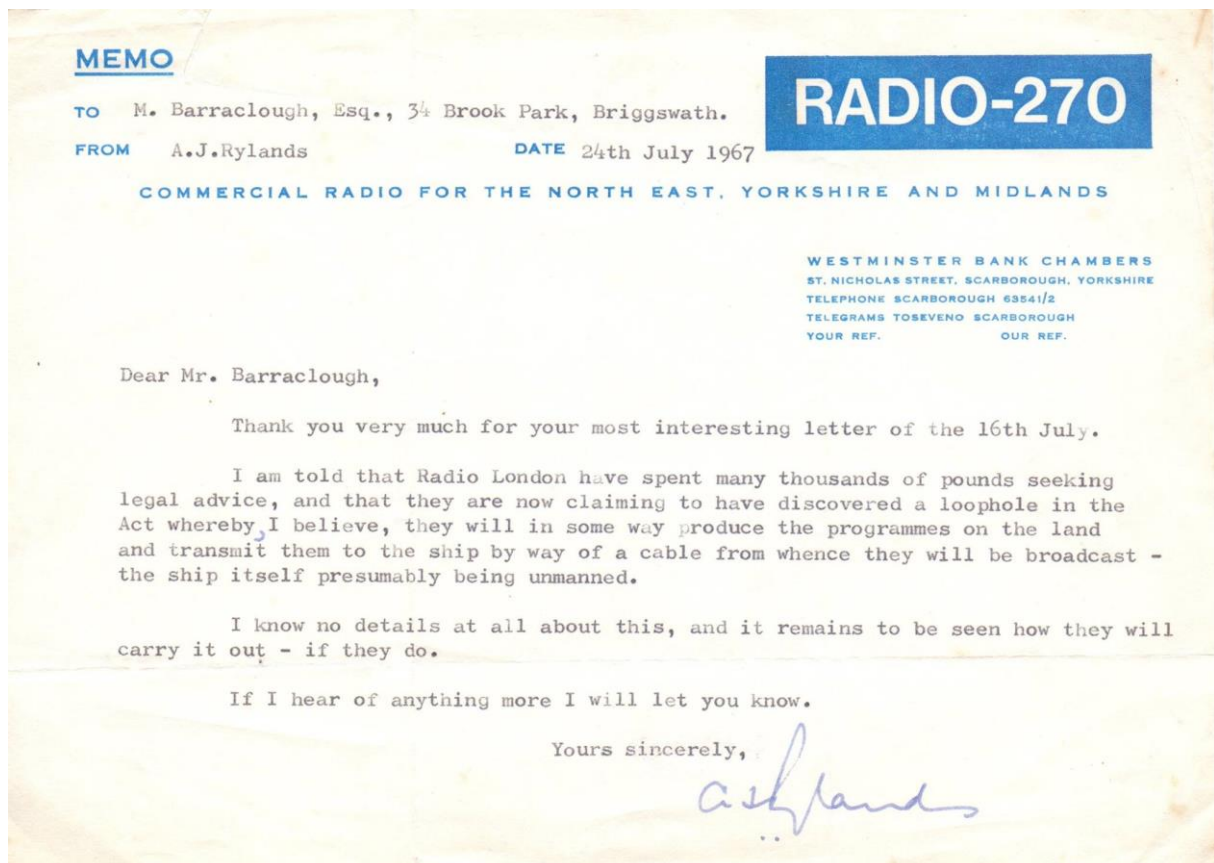
By Daily Mail Reporter

RADIO CAROLINE refused yesterday to accept about £50,000-worth of advertising from the Rhodesian Government.

A London advertising agency acting for Mr. Ian Smith's Government told officials of the pirate pop ship that the advertising might include "propaganda."

Mr. Ronan O'Rahilly, 25-year-old head of Radio Caroline, said last night: "We refused—we don't want to get involved in politics."

Mike Barraclough put an interesting post on Facebook recently and gave permission to spread it to a wider public. Anyone to comment? Please feel free to write in at HKnot@home.nl



Mike: 'Above letter was send to me at age 15 and in correspondence with Paul Harris, when he was writing When Pirates Ruled The Waves, from Radio 270 director Tony Rylands, friend of my fathers who lived in the same village as me and qualified solicitor.

The two options Radio London looked at mentioned in Chris Elliot's book were Establish a licenced station in Morocco and "beam the signal onto the Galaxy" (Philip Birch), the one Tony refers to. I'm not sure how the programmes would have got to the ship, which I think would have had a foreign crew but no broadcasters.

A commercial radio station in the Irish Republic, "we explored to

some great degree actually at fairly high levels in Ireland but that came to nothing" (Dennis Maitland, RadLon sales) which came to nothing. There had been discussions on an international commercial broadcasting station from the Republic which had taken place in 1957, two proposals, one from the American McLendon Investment Corporation, Gordon McLendon became heavily involved in offshore broadcasting and the one that they discussed a lot further from Paris based Charles Michelson, the Saar Government had just bought his shares in Europe Number One.



Philip Birch interviewing Ringo Star Photo Collection Beatles Fanclub

By the time the Moroccan plan was put to the investors Philip Birch and other RadLon(sales) staff seemed to have decided themselves that there were practical problems in supplying the ship and they couldn't attract enough international advertising. The closure decision was thus made late July. Given the investors first concern to me was regular tax free income I think it would have been a difficult plan for them to agree to anyway. Press reports said that Dennis Maitland had set up an office in Amsterdam for international advertising, there's also a report that three English Electric transmitting valves were delivered to the Galaxy in summer 1967, any confirmation of this from on board Galaxy personnel? They'd also of

course have needed broadcasting staff not offered jobs, or if they had not wanted to work on, Radio One and prepared to work in Morocco.'

Thanks Mike bringing in the subject. First a comment from Paul Rusling: 'It's a bit half baked, as though someone told them it wouldn't be a problem to get the signal out to the ship. Well, using Short Wave was then the only way, and certainly the VoA used this for its Courier service some years earlier, but that was voice only, and they quality was 'variable'. For a music station, you needed a very strong SW link and there would still be fading at times. I think Radlon found out that the advertising would simply dry up; few wanted to stick their necks out. Being simply businessmen and not radio enthusiasts they just cut and run and abandoned their listeners, abandoned the ship, everything!'



Mike came back with: 'Tangier Morocco had been a base for a number of international broadcasters on short and medium wave in the 50's when it was an international zone with three protecting powers. "We could see some technical problems but felt we could get around those. From May until July I spent possibly two thirds of my time in Morocco trying to get the government to give us a licence. To make us a licenced station from Morocco so we could beam the signal onto

the Galaxy and then rebroadcast, we hoped at the time this would comply with the law" (fuller quote from Philip Birch in Chris Elliot's book). All of this seems to have leaked out to other stations personnel and the "cable" Tony mentions must have been thought to have been a possibility. I remember some shortwave stations having SSB feeds in the 60's, not always for voice, AFRTS for example. Some programmes were flown out to relay sites on tape.'

Thank you both for the interesting input. It reminded me that during an interview Jelle Boonstra and I had in the early nineties of last century with Veronica director Bull Verwey he also mentioned about plans Veronica had around 1964 to use Morocco.

Verweij: "There were many more plans in that period. For example, we have also been working on setting up a long wave channel from Morocco to France in the event that Radio Veronica should be off air. The idea behind that was that when we had to leave the air, we could be in the ether again the next day from Morocco. Moreover, this would have been a good project, because we could then reach the Rhône area, precisely where Radio Luxembourg did not pass with its station signal. We visited Hassan II, the brother of the then king Hassan, one evening. He wanted a certain percentage of the turnover, and we made a contract in French on the spot and agreed with him.



We then took ground measurements and even bought a plot of land near Casablanca. Trial broadcasts were followed by a focus on the South of France, where it turned out that reception was good. The French State, which has a majority stake in Radio Luxembourg's

French service, did not like it at all. They did not see us sitting at all. We had already approached a number of deejays, including André Lampe, from Radio Luxembourg, who would be hired by us. We really wanted to get started in Morocco and they would work there. André Lampe even planned to live in Morocco, because he had a brother there who loved it very much".

The plans were serious. The enclosed print of the stationery may show that preparations were already well under way.

Next some interesting links on internet. Bryan from Australia sent this interesting one

<http://variety.com/2017/music/news/traditional-radio-faces-a-grim-future-new-study-says-1202542681/>

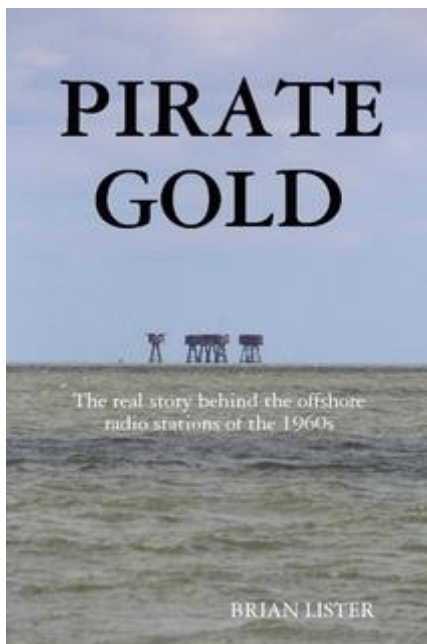
<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2017-09-02/golden-years-micro-nation-marks-50th-anniversary/>

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/sealand-sovereign-state-off-suffolk-coastline-to-mark-its-50th-anniversary-with-essex-dinner-1-5178175>

With the next e mail I got a big smile: 'My G.. Hans! You are the official voice of all of us - preserving the era and doing one Hell of a good job. A bigger thank you shipmate. (almost 70 but return to 1966 every month). Robert 'Bob' Read, Network Specialist.'

Bob worked for a period on The Fredericia for Radio Caroline North. Another e mail came from Spain and Mark Roman, former Radio London deejay: 'Wow! Hans! What a report, well worthy of the 50th anniversary. A great job as always, but this was exceptional. A millions thanks for that one.

Next a review about another book which recently was published:



Paul Bailey is reviewer for the book:

Pirate Gold by Brian Lister

Issued to mark the 50th anniversary of 1967, this book claims to tell the 'real story' of Britain's offshore radio stations. These are my impressions of the e-book version.

The book begins with 'background information' about the era. A few pages in, I was wondering what Christine Keeler, The Krays and the Cambridge Spies had to do with offshore radio. Then I recognised it as 'linking', a propaganda technique. Throw in some low life and crooks at the start, and the reader will think all the characters in the narrative are like that.

Then I noticed that the 'background' information was highly selective, another propaganda technique.

In the mid 50s, some members of the Cabinet wanted to introduce commercial radio at the same time as commercial television. Relevant, but it is not included. In his book 'Window and Mirror, the history of RTÉ television', John Bowman reveals that in the late 50s - early 60s,

some of the people who backed Radio London approached the Irish government, who were fretting about the cost of introducing a television service for Ireland. They offered to give them the television service if they would allow them to start a high power transmitter aiming pop music programmes at the UK. The Irish government did not agree to their proposal. Relevant, but it's not included.

There were a number of attempts to start offshore radio in the early 1960's. The attempts if described correctly would make an excellent script for a Benny Hill or Dick Emery comedy show.

Enter Radio Caroline in 1964 - and cue the conspiracy theories. The conspiracy theories are woven into the narrative of the whole book.

1. The offshore stations were set up by right-wing elements of the Establishment.
2. Caroline, London and England's offices were all in or near Curzon Street, just yards from the headquarters of MI5. All three offices were surprisingly affordable for the area.



Frontdoor 6 Chesterfield Garden where Caroline had an office in the sixties. Photo: Freewave Archive

3. Caroline ordered 40 telephone lines, and got them, and the trench led all the way to MI5's front door.

4. The stations' running costs were actually secretly financed by the CIA, who channelled the money through Garner Ted Armstrong, who was used as a 'front' to hide the real source of the money.

5. RNI was financed by Communist East Germany's Stasi security service and was involved in espionage.

It comes as no surprise to us that socialists tend to favour public service broadcasters while capitalists prefer commercial broadcasting to make a profit, so no. 1 is hardly surprising. No. 2: in 1964 I went to the Audio Fair in London and was amazed how many world war two bomb sites were still awaiting redevelopment; there were a number of empty properties and the boom in office rentals had not yet happened. No. 3: in 1964 GCHQ was based at Berkeley Street, London and at Bletchley Park, so the trench probably led to the nearest connection box, not the location of telephone monitors.

We know the offshore stations' output was monitored at Caversham Park and it is likely that phones were tapped. No. 4: I somehow doubt that the CIA did fund floating jukeboxes so the teenagers of Britain could listen to pop music, but if they did, what jolly good chaps they were. The archives of the Stasi - who kept everything, it appears - have not so far revealed any evidence to support no. 5.

Many readers of this newsletter will be well aware of the 'real story'. We were actually there. What do others think?

The narrative is overwhelmingly negative and sensational. Yes there were rough moments but there were also good episodes, such as the rescue of a downed airman, but I couldn't find them in this book.

Perhaps writing an unbalanced account and propaganda were the last things Mr Lister was thinking of when he wrote this book. Hopefully he will devote some time and research and have a second go at

producing a book which really does tell 'the real story' one day. I found the book disappointing.'

Thanks for the review Paul and information how to order the book are here: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/brian-lister/pirate-gold/paperback/product-23293710.html>

Now time for some links for some interesting articles and internet sites:

<http://www.rcistlucia.com/home/RCI.aspx>

<http://www.rcistlucia.com/home/Home/tabid/56/ctl/ArticleView/mid/475/articleId/1/RCI-Turns-50.aspx>

http://www.schoop.fr/histos/971_rci.php

http://www.manomerci.com/historique_la_vie_rci.ws

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/VERIES-KERMIT/Caribbean.pdf>

It was Herbert Visser who wrote to me: Maybe you know it already but in the next link I found some items which were new for me. For instant about the second owner from Radio Nord, next to Gordon McLendon. And about Dick Witkovski I never heard before.

<http://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views/0004/the-ocean-is-cruel-to-broadcasters/337183>

In Ringsted, Denmark, it was exhibition time from April 30th till 1st October 2017 and we heard that some more months the museum will keep this exhibition: 'Radio Mercur 60 years on' is organised in cooperation with Danmarks Radio. The exhibition was completely built as the stern and cabin of the little Cheeta - once the radio ship

of the station - with crew sleeps, assembly studio and play studio. All very nice done. It was also possible to put together a program with jingles and to broadcast it on a 50-year-old radio. The museum was set up by volunteers, mainly 70 plus old ones and has existed for 50 years.



For 5 years, the location has been a church building that was no longer used and previously has been a village library and youth center. After much repercussions of the organisation of the youth center, Ringsted Municipality has released the building 5 years ago to the Ringsted Radio Museum. After a crowdfunding action, the organisation scrapped DKK 1.000.000, - gathered and started the renovation, because the 'youngsters' had been home. Up. 200 m2, of which 100 m2 is now equipped for the Radio Mercur Expo.

The link to the current brochure is:

[Http://www.radiomuseum.dk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Ringsted-Radiomuseum-2017.pdf](http://www.radiomuseum.dk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Ringsted-Radiomuseum-2017.pdf)

Freewave Nostalgia brings a special photoshoot from the exhibition in Ringsted.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157687152809476>

Sometimes it can happen that meeting radio friends is getting a total other meaning than 'talking about radio'. September 27th I spent a lovely afternoon with Lorraine and Greg Bance (also known as Roger Scott and Arnold Layne), as well with Dick Dickson. We made a wonderful city walk through Groningen, the city where I lived my whole life.



Next information about the 'Zeezender Radio Veronica Dag', which was held on 31st of August in Museum RockArt in Hook of Holland. With images of the live broadcast of the Tineke Show on NPO Radio 5 from RockArt. Interviews with Ad Bouman, Karel van der Woerd, Hans Becker and Ferry Maat. And performances by Michel van Dijk and Ferdinand Bakker and the Wannebiezz. But also interviews by Wim van de Water with Atze Veenstra, Hans Becker, Peter Jager,

Ad Roland and Serge Haderman. A lovely video created by Ria and Alex van den Hoek, which is of most interest to spend an hour of watching too:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continuous=1&v=GohkJJJtbadg

Time for a plug another free informative radio newsletter comes from down yonder. IanMcRae is the publisher of 'The Radio Wave'

Keeping Media People in Touch

Issue #141 was released early October:

By subscription only! Welcome to the one hundred and fortieth issue of The Radio Wave. In last issue of The Radio Wave...

- India's first LGBTQ radio show
 - Old time radio returns
 - UK Muslim radio station broadcasts call for holy war
 - Radio station thought it had just discovered Annie Lennox
-

So get your own copy by e mail radiowave@allaboutradio.net

Next an e mail from Fred Bunzi: 'Hi there Hans, thanks very much for the link to your long article about 'the fight for free radio' which I read with great interest. I am already on your list a couple of years and always enjoy your very informative illustrated newsletters

On your 'fight for free radio' page I saw your 1973 picture of the Radio Veronica float in Scheveningen. I think it is the same float I saw and photographed 'parked' in Scheveningen later the same year:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/radio-veronica-souvenirs-1970-1973/>

The catalyst which spurred me to take some practical action for 'free radio' was the silencing of Radio Caroline in early March 1968 ... I contacted various organisations including FRA, FRC and NCRM and found that the only one with a thought-out plan of how this could be

achieved and lobbying/discussing the issues with MPs and government ministers was NCRM (National Commercial Radio Movement), which I joined shortly after receiving their letter of 14th January 1969:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive/ncrm-letter-690114.pdf>

About the end of 1969 it was decided to change the name of NCRM to Campaign For Independent Broadcasting (CIB) for reasons explained in a letter to members and confirmed at its Annual General Meeting in February 1970:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive/ncrm-agm-minutes-1970feb.pdf>

On your page you mention the RNI jamming protest in Rochester which took place on 31st of May 1970 which CIB organised at short notice:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive/cib-newsletter-1970june.pdf>

I remember I took my Beolit 1000 portable radio along to this protest.



The police were puzzled and bemused (and all the protesters delighted) when hearing RNI booming out very clearly on FM.

Also in your page, under the heading 'The anti-jamming rally' you wrongly suggest that the FRA joined the CIB. The Hyde Park rally on 14th June 1970 was organised jointly by CIB and FRC (Free Radio Campaign) and was, as you know, heavily publicized by RNI. FRA took no direct part in organising this event.

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive/cib-newsletter-1970june.pdf>



<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive/cib-newsletter-1970july.pdf>

In case of interest I made a recording of some of the speeches made at the Hyde Park rally. Speakers included David Prewett (CIB hon chairman), Martin Rosen (hon press + public relations, and Ronan O'Rahilly:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/alfred-bunzl/100fm244mw-rni-carolines-radio-election-14th-20th-june-1970/>

Btw all surviving documents of NCRM and CIB are available here:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/archive1/>

Best wishes,

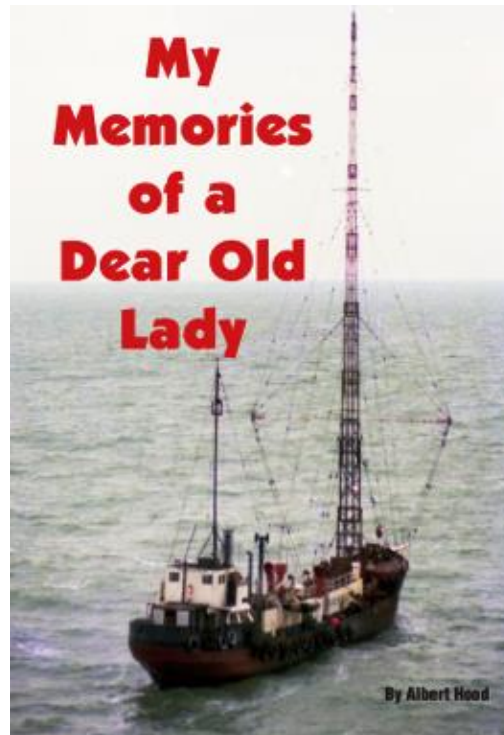
Fred

Former hon. gen. secretary CIB

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk>

Fred Bunzi

Thanks a lot for all this additional information and hopefully a lot of readers will visit your interesting archive site.



As promised in last issue I will publish, in cooperation with Albert Hood, two chapters of his book about the Mi Amigo in the late seventies and early eighties. This month we will have a chapter as well as in the Christmas edition.

Chapter 7

When we got back to shore no more was said about the sick man but that night one of the Radio Caroline DJs gave out some numbers over the air followed by the word urgent. I wondered if it was anything to do with the sick man on board. Then on the Monday night a newspaper friend of mine, Ken Adams from Walton-on-the-Naze, phoned to tell me that the Walton lifeboat had just left to fetch a sick man off the Mi Amigo.

He asked if I knew who it was and I told him what we knew from our recent trip and the reasons why we could not assist. I said I knew Steve Kent, one of the English DJs, was ill before we went out on

Saturday, I also said I had asked about him while we were out there but they said he was much better, but Steve Kent had not been doing his evening show.

Next morning Ken Adams called again to say that they had brought a guy called Mark Neeta off suffering from a stomach complaint. I said that he used the name Steve Kent on air, I also asked him if he knew where he had gone and he said that an ambulance had met the lifeboat to take the man to Clacton Hospital.

My wife Georgena later called the hospital, despite me telling her that they would not tell her anything, but when asked who she was she said she was the secretary of the Hertfordshire Free Radio Magazine. They then told her that he had been treated there and his father came and took him home, and they then gave her his home address and telephone number.



Steve Kent Photo: Monitor Archive

She called the phone number and his father answered and she asked if she could speak to Mark/Steve, explaining him that we were the people who were organising the boat trips. He said Mark was asleep as he had had a very tiring day and he did not want to wake him, but he went on to say that if she called back the following night about 8pm he would make sure that Mark was near the phone.

This she did and it was Mark that answered. She asked him how he was, while also apologising for not being able to bring him off on Saturday. He said it was OK and he understood. She then asked if he was going back when he was better, but he said he did not think he would.

She asked what conditions were like on board and he said they were not very good but that he did not want to say too much about it over the phone. He promised though that he would come and see us later and he would be able to tell more then. She said it was good to hear that he was not going to be prosecuted and he said he had not heard that, but if it was true he was very pleased, though he wondered how she knew. She told him how Ken Adams, our newspaper friend had phoned the Home Office asking them if they would be taking any action. They said it was not up to them, it was up to the Essex Police so he then phoned their HQ in Chelmsford and they conversely said that it was the Home Office that brings prosecutions under the MOA 1967. Ken then told them what the Home Office spokesman had said and their reply to that was as far as they were concerned there would not be any proceedings brought against him as they had better things to do. Mark then said that he was pleased to hear that and thanked her for telling him and again said that he would come over and see us in a week or two. She called him again after a couple of weeks and he again said he would come over but he never did.

A few days after he had fetched Mark off the Mi Amigo, Frank Bloom the coxswain of the Walton Lifeboat hit out at the Caroline organisation about the condition of the radio ship. He said in a press interview that the anchor chain was twisted and in his opinion unsafe and he thought that the next storm would break the chain. He also went on to say that the ship's engine had been stripped and not operational. This meant that the ship would be at the mercy of the sea if the chain did break and also the ship could become a danger to other shipping in the area. He also said that he had told the crew on board of the dangers if the chain did break.

After reading that article in the newspaper and also seeing it on Anglia TV I decided to phone him and question him about his allegations. He said as far as he was concerned it was a true fact and that the sooner the Caroline organisation realised it and did something about it, the better. I then arranged a meeting with him and his crew so that we could talk about it over a drink or two.

We met in their local pub in Walton and we had a very long chat. Frank Bloom said that he nor any of his crew had anything against Radio Caroline in fact they wished them all the best, but he went on to say he only went to the press because he felt that the DJs and crew were in danger and he also said that he did not think that there were any qualified seamen on board, so he felt that there was nobody there that had any idea what to do in an emergency. He said that he never saw any lifesaving equipment on board at all and if anything went wrong the crew would not stand a chance because it would take them three hours to get out there in the lifeboat in good weather, but it would be in rough weather when they would need help. I said 'But it only takes about 20 minutes for a helicopter to get to them from Manston'. He agreed but said we must remember the Mi Amigo has a very high mast and in windy weather it would be nearly impossible for a helicopter winch man to get on board to assist them, so they would have to rely on the lifeboat.



Mi Amigo Photo:OEM

He then asked if I had seen a life raft or any other kind of life saving equipment on board and I had to admit I hadn't, but it was possible that they had got one and I hadn't seen it. He assured me that he and his mechanic had looked right over the boat and there was definitely no life raft on board. He then suggested that as I was out there nearly every week I should take a life raft out with me for them. I said it sounded like a good idea, aside from what happens if we get caught and also who was going to pay for it? He suggested I contact the Caroline organisation and get them to supply one to us.

I thought 'Why not get everybody that goes out to see the ship on our trips to put in a pound or so towards it?' If we were caught and accused of supplying the ship I should immediately contact him and he would support us in any way he could as he said we would only be trying to save life. Frank Bloom said that he and his crew were there to save life and no matter who or what it was that needed assistance they would always go.

We continued with the trips all through the rest of the year although some times the trips were three weeks apart. The Mi Amigo continued to broadcast both in English and Dutch with very few breaks. Then we got the January gales of 1978 when the strong north-easterly gales and high seas smashed up both Clacton and Walton piers, yet the Mi Amigo continued to broadcast throughout and never moved. My wife Georgena just could not resist the temptation to phone Frank Bloom and tell him that the Mi Amigo never moved and continued broadcasting throughout the storm. He said he was pleased to hear that and that he was glad that he had got it wrong.

We had trips nearly every weekend right through the spring and summer with no problems either from the weather or the authorities. Demand was so great that we continued to run trips right through the winter, although we had to pick our days it could blow up very quickly.

So another chapter will be published in the Christmas issue, but you can read the book much earlier by ordering your own copy now:

<http://rcsocietysales.co.uk/read.html>

Evening News 8-11-1978

PIRATE PALS

THE Caroline Roadshow, run by three former Radio Caroline DJs, is rapidly becoming the South-East's leading touring disco, I've discovered.

The DJs, like the pirate station, play only album tracks and progressive rock.

The three — Robb Eden, Robbie Day and Harvey the Rabbit—dance about on stage amid a mass of special effects, including fireworks, smoke machines, strobes and lasers.

Radio Caroline continues also to broadcast from the Mi Amigo anchored off Frinton-on-Sea.

One of the Roadshow organisers told me: "For legal reasons we are unable to have any direct association with Radio Caroline. We are just good friends."

Sad news came from Paramaribo in Surinam after last issue of the report was sending out. The copy for Gerard Smit, who's living there for many years, bounced back and so I did some research.

I learned that Gerard died on August 4th this year in the Academic Hospital in Paramaribo at the age of 72.

Gerard was also known in offshore world as a radio maker for several years. In the period March 1971 through August 1974 we also had Dutch-language Radio North Sea programmes via the 220 metres

medium wave during the day. Most of the programmes were delivered on tapes brought from Scheveningen on board the MEBO II from via the Trip tender or the Roos company's Eurotrip.



Gerard some years ago. Photo: Freewave Archive

Another part of the programmes came live from the radio ship and was presented by a group of deejays. They also took care of the composition and presentation of the news broadcasts. 'Driemaster' and 'Buitengaats' were two class examples of good live programmes from Dutch-speaking deejays on the MEBO II.

One of the presenters, who mainly presented live on board, was Gerard Smit. Gerard, like a number of his RNI colleagues, had also ended up on Radio Noordzee via the Amsterdam Hospital Radio Lucas. As with some other of the former deejays, I have always stayed in contact with Gerard and occasionally we exchanged memories. Since 1998 Gerard lived and worked in Suriname, where he had a communication consultancy, was art director of the oldest

advertising agency in the country and presented radio programmes and occasionally TV programmes. Till up some years he also was Sinterklaas (Santa Claus) in Paramaribo. Gerard Smit left behind a widow and two children.

Dave Richards sent a short e mail after reading the long story from last issue about the MV Nanell. 'Interesting story from Nick, if I wasn't convinced someone would sue me I'd tell the truth about the mast on the Nanell and a lot of other stories.'

Well Dave it's so long ago it all happened so why don't you write it down. People will love the stories.

Next another e mail and it's from the person who is there every month, Emperor Rosko: 'Hans, I, as always, enjoyed the news and there's so much history out there! Exciting things are happening. D-Lux is cooking with Tony the Prince and the EMP is moving in to new markets. We keep the pirate flag flying. I thank the Mini-Mokes that made it to the coast with us! They got more attention than the pirates! However.....

We missed you! It would have made the trip complete. I am sure you have received these videos already but just in case here they are. Please post for those who could not and who missed the Pirate event in the Thames. More next month and greetings from Rosko

On the Thames, official promo videos for Last Pirate fm:

(0.55). <https://youtu.be/K4WmQCdLeYM>

(1.23). https://youtu.be/Nv_bNurJ9ck

(3.18). <https://youtu.be/ay0bKEY1LK0>

Official highlights of Last Pirate fm roadshows:

(1.17). <https://youtu.be/5hZc6qFDHJ8>

In Felixstowe:

There are quite a few different videos that different people filmed in Felixstowe with more of the Mokes arriving etc, but I think these 2 are probably the best bits:

(5.07 - clips from arriving in Mokes to unveiling stone, including your speech)

<https://youtu.be/61BNnHdNe-k>

(2.09 - This one is mostly Tony Prince, but includes funny bit with your hanky towards the end)

<https://youtu.be/y94cV-BvJN4>

Well thanks a lot Rosko and hope the memories will stay after this happening.



I wonder if some of these fans showed up this time too

Photo: Archive Emperor Rosko

Fons Winteraeken is always very interested in the period 1979/1980 when it goes about Radio Caroline. When he read that Albert Hood had dedicated a book to - amongst others - years, he ordered his copy and read the book. Here are his comments.

'It has become a story written from Albert Hood's experience. And with his words and memories from the period 1977 till the end of the MV Mi Amigo in March 1980. It's a story with a lot of details. Actually it is incredible that Hood still remembers so many small things.

Of course, my attention is focused on the period 1979 and 1980: the Dutch service. He writes relatively little about this - compared to the previous period. That is also logical. From Easter 1979 a Dutch organisation was added. It supplied oil from Belgium and France and ensured that the oil supply remained stable. From this period, Hood's memories are not entirely synchronous with reality.

Example: he writes that from Easter 1979 onwards a Belgian organisation did run the Dutch service. He calls the name Danny Vuylsteke. We all know him well. But Danny - he told me and wrote to me - only comes around the corner in the late spring of 1979.

Albert Hood of course mentions a number of names of DJs that he brings along from Brightlingsea to the MV Mi Amigo from the restart onwards. He calls the name of Ferry Eden. Writes the name Johan Fisher but meant of course Johan Visser, who was on board only in 1979 during his holiday for three weeks. Strangely enough, Albert Hood doesn't mentioned names of Rob Hudson and Paul de Wit.



Bob Noakes and Johan Visser

Photo: Jelle Knot

It can be concluded that this duo has never travelled with the 'Lovely Lady', the name of one of the supply boats (named here for the first time). Hood is open-heartedly over the period from mid-October 1978 to the restart with Easter 1979. Not much was known about this silent radio period. Hood spent almost two weeks on the MV to carry out repair work on the generators. A technical story that is now being disclosed to the public.

Another positive point of the book are the many photographs of DJs and the interior of the MV Mi Amigo from that period, which have never been published before. Albert Hood could have searched for someone who was skilled with Adobe Photoshop to edit them.

All in all, this is a very valuable book in which it has become clear that the English branch of Radio Caroline was responsible for the maintenance of the ship. But it also becomes clear that without the Dutch contribution (read: money) a restart in 1979 would never have got off the ground.

Fons Winteraeken, September 2017

www.bobleroi.co.uk is back with another mammoth website update

'Scrapbook' has a new Radio City feature with transparencies (slides) taken of Shivering Sands in the late 1960's.

Much lengthy research has produced a fairly comprehensive list of programme and DJ theme tunes from all of the stations that have broadcast from the Red Sands Fort.

Whilst on the Oxford Cannel, earlier this year, we took a stroll to the Old Clifton Hall at Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore, home of Reg Calvert's 1960's 'School of Rock & Roll'.



Catching up with John Edward aka Johnny Flux at the 50th anniversary of the 60's Offshore Stations, we've finally completed a feature on Johnny's long and interesting career.

Whilst across in the 'Personal Pages' by request pictures of the inauguration of Vattenfall's Kentish Flats Wind Farm. Plus a leisurely look around the Crich Tramways Museum, woodlands walk, memorial grounds and tower.

This time 'One Subject One Link' has a contribution that talks about the many new small community stations coming on-air and the quality of some presenters

Enjoy your visits to www.bobleroi.co.uk

www.redsandsradio.co.uk

Do you remember the question in last report from Robert Owen? 'I'm going to buy a new shortwave receiver so I can listen in to Radio Mi Amigo International, but I've long lost touch with the market. What do your readers think is the best choice of (a) a portable radio, and (b) a communications receiver?'

Well answers came in and so first Herbert Visser who wrote: 'For me it's absolutely the Sangean ATS 909X which I use for shortwave listening nowadays.'



Next answers was a very interesting one from England: 'Robbie, Hans, I can't personally recommend a shortwave receiver, the ones I have are no longer available and it also depends how much you are prepared to spend, though to listen to Radio Mi Amigo International you don't need one with higher than average sensitivity.'

An excellent site for details of shortwave receivers available, and accompanying reviews, is this one run by Thomas Witherspoon who you can also contact for advice. It is a US based site so you may find not all of the receivers are available in the UK or are marketed in the UK under a different name. You can often go on EBay and find shortwave receivers, particularly portable ones, available cheaper than in the UK, usually from dealers in China.

<https://swling.com/blog/shortwave-radio-reviews/>

The alternative is to use a web-based receiver. There is one in Bedford so reception is similar to that at Robbie's home location.

<http://remoteradio.changeip.org:8073/>

At 1145 on Sunday 1st October reception is better on the receiver at the The University of Twente in the Netherlands, a well-known and widely used web based receiver as unlike many it covers 0-30 MHz. Sometimes it will be the other way round as shortwave reception on 49 metres does vary depending on propagation conditions.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

I'm currently listening to an excellent Bob Lawrence programme, 'Buzby's Big Box', records including 'Cherish' by David Cassidy. I seem to remember, when Robbie recently interviewed Bob, he said as well as his long running album collection programme he'd like to do one featuring pop music. Mike Barraclough.'

Well there you are Robert and hope you can make a decision and keep us informed.

Next is an e-mail from a German reader, Stefan: 'Hello, Mr. Knot, thank you again for your monthly informative e-mail letter, which I always find very interesting.

In the attachment you will find a screenshot of my PC desktop. For many years now, the Ross Revenge has been on display. When my PC boots up, it logs on with a jingle (radio, radio, radio Caroline) from Radio Caroline, shuts down, it logs off with: 'Love and good music, Radio Caroline'. And the wastebasket is emptied with the jingle 'Caroline international gogo'. And many other PC messages are also filled with jingles from Caroline or Veronica. For years now it's there. I just wanted to share this passion with you. Have a nice Sunday, Stefan Herringslack.'

Very interesting Stefan. This should be in your memory every day and every minute. Is there with any other reader such a form of very classy dedication, please let me know at Hknot@home.nl.



More interesting sites to visit are:

<https://www.theguardian.com/gnmeducationcentre/gallery/2017/sep/05/david-newell-smith-photographs-first-radio-1-djs>

50 years radio One

the forgotten radio DeeJay

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/family/grandad-radio-1s-first-ever-goldenboy-dj-wont-turning-50th/?WT.mc_id=tmg_share_fb

The German Radio day is normally held in Erkrath, but this year it was in a very beautiful radio museum in Hilden. Photos of this happening are now in our archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157685971163152>

During the past months I've published the memories from Harald Hummel to the offshore stations in the sixties and seventies of last century. In this issue the very last chapter. As you may recall Harald and his friend were allowed to visit the MEBO II after he had visited the hotel in Scheveningen, where Meister and Bollier stayed regularly in those days.

I would love to have published photos of the two on board the MEBO II, but Harald remembers that they were not made:

'Unfortunately, Walter's photos were soon missed. When they were finally allowed to crawl up the wobbly rope ladder from the tender Dolfijn to MEBO II after a long wait, the films were full. The adventure only really started at that moment. When we arrived at the deck, we were greeted by David Gregory, a DJ who unfortunately was only briefly employed by RNI. A very friendly guy, who seemed to enjoy showing the guests around on the ship.

Who knows what Meister and Bollier discussed with their people at the same time? Not much later we learned that Bull Verweij, the director of Radio Veronica, where Walter and Bumble Bee were invited to be guests less than a week ago, had promised the owners of Radio Nordsee 1 million guilders if they stopped broadcasting.



Tender Dolfijn near the MEBO II. Photo Collection Harald Hummel

And that's exactly what they were planning to do, and they had to communicate it to their people. But maybe September 7th was still too early for that and the final decision came 2 days before September 24th, when they stopped broadcasting at 11 AM.'

But Walter and Harald had no idea about it and let themselves be shown the ship - and were totally excited. Harald again: 'On the huge record wall in Studio 1, Walter was allowed to choose a record - he chose Beach Boys, of course - and I was actually given permission to say a few words about the station.'

He greeted Bronwyn in England, who really heard his words and then Margriet and Maria in Wassenaar and Noordwijk, to tell them that it would take them a little longer in the evening and that they would not be able to come back to the two. Harald: 'The absolute highlight for me was that I was heard live on an offshore radio station. The rest of the evening is quickly told. It was already dark when we were back in Scheveningen. But in the harbour, there were already other fans waiting, who actually managed to get the Dolfijn to leave the harbour again immediately: three girls from Colchester were there. A week later I received a newspaper clipping from Bronwyn in Ipswich, in which the three ladies were pictured and had reported about their trip in detail.'



Very near to the MEBO II Photo collection Harald Hummel

For Harald it was the first vacation without parents and it became the most exciting one of his life. Hardly back in Rüsselsheim there was so much to tell and above all Manfred had the feeling that he had really missed something. Not much later there were sad times for the two from Germany as from September 24th 1970, Radio Nordsee was not on the air anymore. Harald's conclusion: 'That's how it is sometimes in life: The absolute highlight was followed by some of the darkest months in my existence: the basic training with the German Armed Forces.'

Nowadays he can be heard on RNI internet radio, German Service.



Jon Myer has updated his Pirate Hall of Fame:

New this month:

- we have a unique glimpse of life aboard Radio Caroline North, courtesy of some home movies shot on the ship and tender by news reader Nick Bailey;
- correspondent Peter Cousins shares the photos he took on a trip out to the Caroline and Laser ships in 1984;
- there is news of Tony Prince's new internet radio station;
- and details of David Sinclair's book about his time on offshore radio, now available in audio format read by the author, as well as on Kindle.

My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors. Best wishes, Jon.'

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

And after you've finished to look at the above update don't forget to check in at www.radiolondon.co.uk as there is another interesting update to find too with thanks to Mary Payne. Have also a look in their Christmas offers with mugs and t-shirts.



Well that was another edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. As each year I will visit in November and early December as Sinterklaas, the Dutch variant of Santa Claus, 50 families who are living under the poverty line and bring them, together with a group of students presents for their children. This will take a lot of spare time so the next report will be out in the week before Christmas.

Try to send your messages, news, memories and more in time for that issue. HKnot@home.nl With all best wishes, till then