

Before starting with the report, I have to tell that I had serious problems with my main computer which was blocked totally. An ITC expert explained after a few days that nothing could be rescued and so I bought a new one. All the e mail addresses used on the old computer were gone too. Lucky, I stored through the past 20 years a lot of e mail addresses on my work office computer. As the system was not compatible, with the outlook-system I use at home, they had to be transferred by hand. This is not ready yet but work is progressing. If you get this e mail by mistake please mention it to me so I will get your name off the e mail list for the report.

## Hans Knot International Radio Report February 2018

Welcome to a new International Radio Report, the first on in 2018. Thanks for all the Christmas and New Years wishes which came from all over the world and of course our wishes go to all the readers. Well a lot of e mails, memories and more is following in the report. First sad news. Peter Brian, aka Peter van Dam who worked for Radio 199, Radio Caroline, Radio Atlantis, Radio Mi Amigo and numerous other stations between 1972 and 2017 died on Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> at the age of 65. He was the number one deejay from Belgium for many decades. Jean Luc Bostyn has written an obituary, which you can find with the next link.

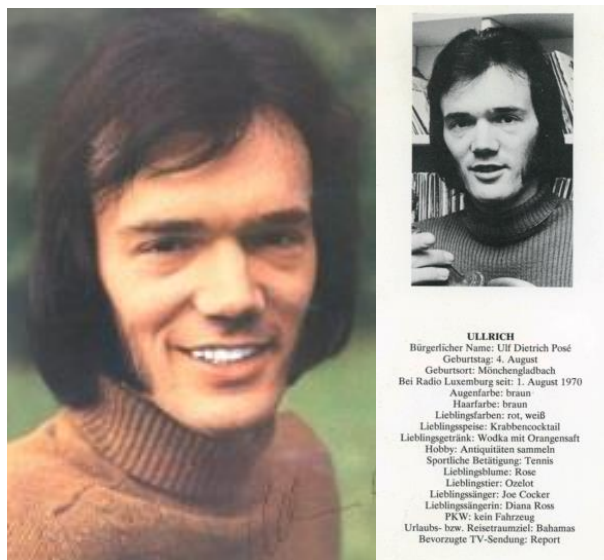


Peter van Dam 1973 photo: Menno Dekker

[https://translate.google.nl/translate?sl=nl&tl=en&js=y&prev=\\_t&hl=nl&ie=UTF-8&u=https%3A%2F%2Fradiovisie.eu%2Fhet-manneke-popt-niet-meer%2F&edit-text=&act=url](https://translate.google.nl/translate?sl=nl&tl=en&js=y&prev=_t&hl=nl&ie=UTF-8&u=https%3A%2F%2Fradiovisie.eu%2Fhet-manneke-popt-niet-meer%2F&edit-text=&act=url)

Martin van der Ven has added a special page to our photo archive, which you can find here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157662456566717>



Look who we have here? Ulf Posé who worked as Hannibal on the German Service on RNI in 1970. And talking about this station: in the November issue we had the story about the RNI jamming and some mysterious questions from Derek Lamb.

Jonathan Marks came with this answer: 'The Orfordness mystery. I interviewed Harold Robin, who worked for the UK foreign office, about the clandestine station he set up in Botswana. I didn't know it was the Caroline TV he used. <http://jonathanmarks.libsyn.com/mn->

[28-12-1985-rhodesia](#) When the transmitter came back it did indeed go to Orfordness. Jonathan Marks'.

Thanks Jonathan for bringing the link and the interview. Paul Bailey also dived into the subject too and comes with the following answers:

'Hello Hans, yes, a transmitter which had been intended for Radio Caroline South was used to jam RNI. No, it was not situated at Orfordness. The popular image is that when war on Germany was declared in 1939, the UK was woefully unprepared for it. In fact, we had been preparing for war with Germany since 1934.

In 1934 EMI and Marconi were contracted to develop a new over the horizon radar system. We knew the Germans were developing one and there was a race to get a working system first. It was felt that radar could be critical to the outcome of the war. By 1939 EMI and Marconi had built enough working experimental equipment to man three radar stations and wooden aerials were hastily erected just before the outbreak of the war. These were known as Chain Home Stations and one of the first three was at Canewdon in Essex.

To deceive the Germans that we had a whole network of these, dummy stations complete with wooden aerials were built all over the country but only three had working equipment by the end of 1939.

In conjunction with each of the chain home stations, concrete bunkers to act as forward observation posts were built some distance away from the radar masts. These were well hidden. One remains on Vange Hill near Basildon, a concrete bunker hidden in the hill.

To hide the secret development of radar, it was decided to set up a television service from Alexandra Palace. The tubes being manufactured for radar use could also be used in television sets. That was the "cover".

In 1946 the Ministry of Defence decided it no longer needed the Chain Home stations - technology had improved and they were obsolete - and sold them to Marconi for a knock down sum. Marconi was working with American companies on the next iteration of radar technology.

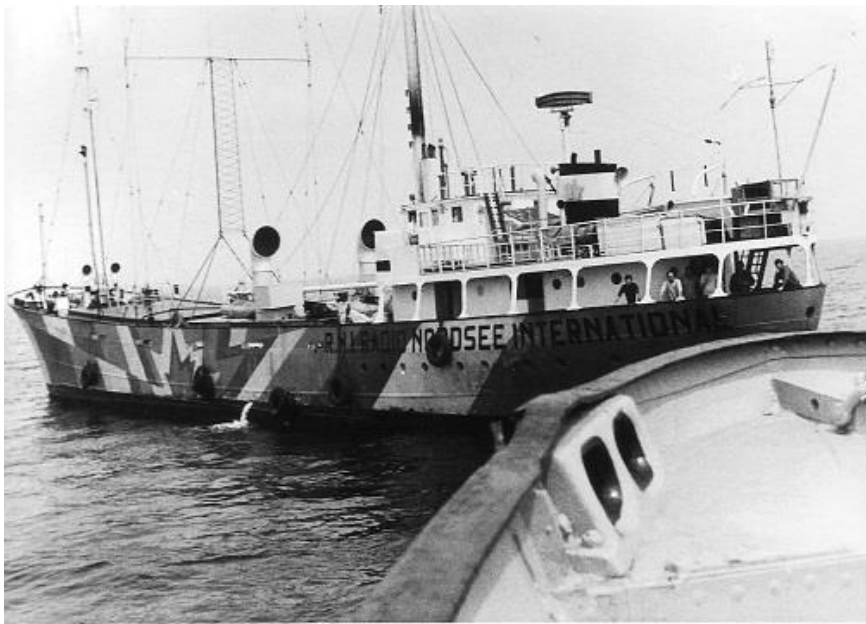


On 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1965 Ian Smith declared UDI from Britain in Rhodesia. The BBC was asked if they had a spare transmitter to use to broadcast propaganda to Rhodesia. They could not help. The Diplomatic Wireless service was given the job of sourcing a 50-kw transmitter. They contacted the transmitter companies. Continental were finishing assembly of one for Radio Caroline. DWS approached Caroline to see if they could leap frog them in the order queue and it was agreed that DWS would have the transmitter intended for Caroline South, and Caroline would get the next one to be made. The DWS also compensated Caroline for the delay, Caroline saved quite a bit on the cost of their transmitter. The Caroline transmitter was transferred to the DWS and sent to somewhere in Africa where it was commissioned.

When it was no longer required for that purpose, the ex-Caroline Continental transmitter was shipped to England and installed at the

DWS facility at Crowborough, Sussex. So it became a standby transmitter for the World Service.

RNI came on the air in 1970 and three transmitters were used to jam it. First North Foreland, Kent, the maritime beacon, was permitted to increase its output power to deal with the interference from RNI. Then a transmitter was brought into service at an army depot in Rochester.



**MEBO II 1970 Photo: Gerd Klawitter**

That wasn't sufficient and the BBC was again asked to assist and again they did not have any spare equipment. So the DWS moved the ex-Caroline set from Crowborough to the old Chain Home site at Canewdon.

That was powerful enough to wipe out all television and radio reception for miles around. Which it did. There were many complaints, and after some weeks, the decision was taken that the complaints were worse than the interference from RNI - so they switched it off and back it went to Crowborough again.

In 1970 Orfordness was the site for the operational latest iteration of over the horizon radar - known as The Woodpecker because of the noise it made all over the short waves. It was in a big building in Orfordness and the radar was called Cobra Mist. It was a US/UK joint initiative. The papers about it are declassified and I have seen them on the web. Cobra Mist was decommissioned in 1975 and Orfordness was handed over to the DWS in 1976 as a replacement for Crowborough. The transmitters at Crowborough were all scrapped in 1976, including the ex-caroline one, and new transmitters were installed at Orfordness. Paul Bailey,'

Thanks a lot Paul, most interesting this is of great value and I've send it to Derek who came back with: 'Congratulations; you have resolved the mystery of this incident. All good wishes Derek.'

As I've the policy not to give an email addresses to other readers I've forwarded Derek's one to Paul who came back with: 'I came to the conclusion that RNI was jammed because they were unwittingly jamming Cobra Mist, which of course was top secret at the time, and which was an important part of our early warning system. It was only a year after the invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the cold war was almost at its peak in 1970. No wonder so many papers of the time remain classified.'

I've mentioned the next one almost a year ago but it needs a replay for it gives also the necessary answers for Derek: 'Hi Hans, for the definitive recall of what happened in the jamming period etc. on RNI check out the following.

[http://www.bbceng.info/Technical%20Reviews/tott/25-29\\_G4OYX\\_Signal\\_Issue\\_37%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.bbceng.info/Technical%20Reviews/tott/25-29_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_37%20(2).pdf)

Later on, in the report will be some other comments on this subject.

With thanks to Dave Porter. After this interesting subject we go to the Netherlands as Ger Kruger sent me the following information to share: 'Britain: The Principality of Sealand a pirate "micro-state" & band of Dutch & German mercenaries armed with assault rifles and charged the platform with a speedboat, jet skis, & helicopters

If somebody told you that just off the coast of Britain, in the North Sea, exists a micro-nation unrecognized by any sovereign state in the world but has survived for half a century, would you believe it?



Although this sounds like a joke, the Principality of Sealand is anything but. The territory, established in 1967, occupies a World War II platform located some 7.5 miles off the coast of Suffolk. It contains a territory of 480 square yards, hosted on concrete pillars that hold the platform 60 feet above the sea level.

It has its own flag, a national anthem, currency, post stamps, government-and a power struggle that has threatened the current ruling dynasty since 1978.

The founder of that dynasty, Pete Roy Bates, emerged in the era of pirate radio stations that used the protection of international waters to uninterruptedly broadcast popular music and radio shows without legal permission in the 1960s.' For more see:

<http://www.thevintagenews.com/2017/10/27/britain-the-principality-of-sealand-a-pirate-micro-state-band-of-dutch-german->

[mercenaries-armed-with-assault-rifles-and-charged-the-platform-with-a-speedboat-jet-skis-helicopters/](#)

Mid December it was Christine Hatt who mentioned to us that her husband John Hatt was taken into hospital on December 1<sup>st</sup> with Pneumonia. It was in Wexham Park Hospital where he stayed the following weeks and was treated three times. Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> the sad news came in that John Hatt has lost his fight and died. John Hatt was known under deejay/presenter names as John Aston, John Stewart and Chris Stewart.

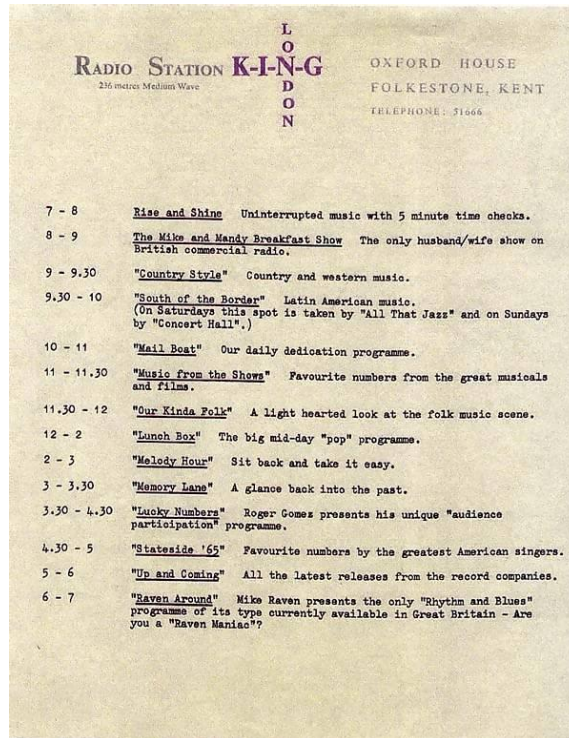


Here was is to find on the Pirate Hall of Fame: John Aston was born in March 1943 in Maidenhead, Berkshire, and worked on a number of pirates under a variety of guises. He was first heard in 1965 on the low-powered sweet music station K I N G Radio where he called himself John Stewart. He stayed on as this station was replaced by the much more powerful and successful Radio 390 but he had to change his name when he applied to join Equity, the actors' union.

They already had a John Stewart on their books so he became known as Chris Stewart. In November 1965 he replaced Vince Allen as Program Controller on Radio Essex, moving to Caroline North as a



newsreader in May the following year. This prompted a further name change because Caroline already had a broadcaster called Bob Stewart and the two names were considered too similar. John took the identity he was to stick with for the rest of his career: John Aston.



### K I N G Radio program schedule. Freewave Archive

After a time selling advertising for Radio England and a stint on Caroline South he joined Radio 270, where he was known as "Action" John Aston. In April 1967 he transferred to the short-lived but much loved middle-of-the-road station Radio 355.

Since his offshore days John has worked in the film industry, producing special effects, but has also been heard regularly on Blast 1386, Thames Valley University Reading Campus Radio.'

Our sincere condolences go out to Christine and the family. In 2014 he was presented with an award for his outstanding contribution to offshore radio at the Amsterdam Radio Day. His friend Greg Bance did the laudation and you can hear it on 9.40 in the following recording.

<http://www.radioday.nl/2014/audios/RadioDay2014-13-Awards%20+%20Farewell.mp3>

Photo copyright Alan Milewczyk

John Ross-Barnard wrote:

I was so very sorry to read of the passing to that 'Golden Studio Above' of John Aston. I worked with him on K I N G Radio then Radio 390. His splendidly soothing voice was the epitome of what the station bosses wanted. As a true professional he did exactly what was required of him but as a colleague he was a delight to listen to when, off air, he did not entirely agree with station policy. More recently we enjoyed brief conversations when meeting him in Amsterdam and just four months ago at the celebration of the passing of the Marine Offences Act on the MV Tattershall Castle amidst the Thames. John, when told of the onset of his dementia some five plus years ago, did not withdraw into himself but he confronted the condition as a 'career choice' - his words - and had his life not been cut short by the cruel scourge of ageing, pneumonia, I have no doubt he would have continued to challenge and confront just as he had always done. Requiescat in Pace John. Happy Daze JRB'

Bob Glenn: 'Hello Hans I am very sad to hear of the passing of John and would be happy for you to put my feelings in your next IRR. I remember John or Action Aston from the days of Radio 270 where he was mainly a newsreader. I had the pleasure of meeting John and his lovely wife at Radio Day 2014 in Amsterdam. The following day along with Dick Dickson and his wife we all went to visit the Veronica ship for a nostalgic visit and a few beers, after which we returned to Amsterdam Centrum for coffee and lunch. Great memories and always I will remember Action Aston. RIP John!'

Philip Troll: 'My condolences, to his family and friends. I interviewed him in 2014 in Harwich, outside the New Bell Pub. This was for the

National Talking Express Audio Magazine for the Visually Impaired. He was a great guy, and will be missed.'

Graham Hall: 'Very sad news, he was one of the few presenters who wrote back to me. Can anybody remember a picture in the Daily Sketch (?) in early 1967 of all the DJs and newsreaders on Caroline South, John was wearing a tee shirt with the names of I think, the Caroline North deejays. I wrote to him and asked where he got it from, he kindly replied. My thoughts are with his family, RIP John, many thanks for the great times.'

And next is Jon Myer: 'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.'

New this month:

- I am afraid we have four deaths to report: one offshore DJ from the eighties, one from the seventies and two from the sixties. We pay particular tribute to our good friend John Hatt. He was heard on a number of stations between 1965 and 1967 under different names but is probably best remembered as John Aston.
- and we have two pages of recordings of Radio Northsea International in glorious FM quality.

More than 198,000 people visited **The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame** during 2017. That number is slightly up on last year. It is very gratifying that, half a century after the Marine Offences Act made offshore radio illegal, so many people are still interested in the subject of 'watery wireless' and this website.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed or supported it. I wish you all a very happy new year. With all best wishes, Jon

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

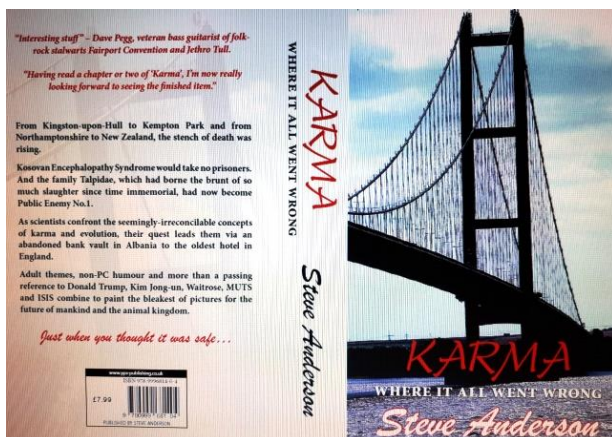
I advise those who have a Facebook account to find Robbie Owen his fb page JBDEI: <https://www.facebook.com/JBDEI.JukeboxDriveIn/>

Next e mail time again and this one comes from the South east of the Netherlands from Rob Kievit.

Hello Hans, a thank you from Maastricht for another new letter full of radio messages from the past and present. I have read it again with great pleasure, like every month. You only have a lot of work to do!

As an early boarding ado, I am completely out of the radio world. In June of last year, I spoke to my former RNW colleagues in Amsterdam about International Broadcasting at a UvA symposium about International Broadcasting (no future). Furthermore, I'll have a nice chat at the internet radio café, point i. e. and of course I listen faithfully to Hans Hogendoorn, now on [www.Iceradio.nl](http://www.Iceradio.nl), soon the 500th episode. But that's where my radio life is concerned. Anyway Hans, keep up the good work (including being Sinterklaas), with warm regards from the extreme south to the highest north, Rob Kievit.'

Well thanks a lot Rob and good to see your still following the report. Keep enjoying life in the most wonderful part of the Netherlands.



A 120,000-word paperback by British journalist and author Steve Anderson pays homage to the "glory days" of offshore radio.

And, although the thriller - called "Karma - Where it all went wrong" - is mainly concerned with the so-called law of cause and effect, Steve was determined when writing his novel to name a few of the stations that have played such an important role in his life. From Caroline to 270 and Laser to RNI and Veronica, they feature on several of the 450-odd pages in his book, which has already been praised by folk-rock legend Dave Pegg.

"Interesting stuff. Having read the first few chapters, I can't wait to read the remaining 50," said "Peggy", bass guitarist for 15 years with Jethro Tull until he left the band in 1995 to concentrate on his other musical commitments with Fairport Convention.

"Karma", which is published this month (December), is available both as a printed and e-book on Amazon, through York Publishing Services and other retailers worldwide; it explores the consequences of the animal kingdom exacting revenge on mankind for the torture and killing it has inflicted since time immemorial. From Albania to New York and from Kosovo to England, its storyline merges Trump and Kim Jong-un with the Syrian civil war and Thalidomide, all of it intertwined with "adult pastimes" and non-PC humour.

Besides referring to such stations as Britain Radio, 390, Atlantis and Swinging Radio England, Steve also gives a few mentions to his other principal interest, amateur radio. He has been licensed since 1983, initially as G6VBU and, later, as GOEAT, where his callsign is frequently heard just above the medium wave band on the "ham" 160-metre, or Top Band, allocation from 1.8 to 2MHz.

"Writing was my livelihood for four decades - I was with the Hull Daily Mail for 25 years until retiring through anxiety and depression in 1999 - but radio of a "watery" nature (!) was always my main focus when thinking about the media and communications in general," he said.

"Not having worked in offshore radio will be my biggest regret until the day I die."

Steve's latest paperback follows the success of his first, "Growing up with Ginger - the Cat-lover's Book for Cat-haters", which was published 12 years ago. Also highlighted in the Hans Knot International Radio Report, it, too, featured many-a-reference to Caroline, RNI, London, 270 and various other unlicensed broadcasters.

"Karma", which took Steve almost seven months to write, includes such memorable paragraphs as the following:

1. Also in the container were copies of birth, marriage and death certificates; her dad's graduation and technical papers; a faded picture of the first Radio Caroline vessel, the mv Fredericia, which was a former Danish passenger ferry; and 20 or 30 newspaper cuttings about wild flowers, early-American racing cars, the so-called "Space Race" between the USA and USSR, cross-Channel swimming exploits and the decline and extinction of the dodo in Mauritius. In short, nothing about a revolutionary development in combating Parkinson's, CJD and other debilitating and, sometimes fatal, neurological diseases.

2. There was an ancient, round, mains-powered, Bakelite-cased radio with a small "Ekco" badge named after the British company set up in the 1920s by Essex-born electronics pioneer Eric Kirkham Cole.

*Don't suppose it'll have DAB, then. Or have ever received Luxembourg, Radio Mi Amigo, RNI, Atlantis and Caroline. And I bet it still uses the original valves.*

3. Inside the bag were the ferrite-rod aerial and cabinet of a mid-sixties transistor radio whose dial bore such names as Radio Caroline, Veronica, Big L, 270, the American Forces' Network in Germany, Luxembourg (the famous 208), Radio 390, Britain Radio, the BBC's Light Programme and Home Service and Swinging Radio England.

Steve Anderson, East Riding of Yorkshire. Retired daily newspaper photo-journalist and Citizens' Advice Bureau social policy coordinator & adviser. Writer on mental health and other issues. Licensed amateur radio operator (callsign: G0 EAT, ex-G6 VBU).

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From a couple of readers, we got the question if we know who is (are) behind the next internet site: <http://freeradiocaroline.com/>

Some interesting ideas of what Caroline should be nowadays are mentioned including: A 'licensed' Radio Caroline? Throughout the years, while fighting for Radio Caroline's freedom, its founder Ronan O'Rahilly has always had the same position regarding a possible 'licensed' Radio Caroline. No no, no and definitely no: The very idea of broadcasting with a license turned my stomach. His position has always been the same during his lifetime battle for a free station at sea. Freedom is key. Caroline has come to symbolise a battle for individual freedom. We are probably the last institution on the planet that is absolutely free.

What is done at sea can't be copied or reproduced on land. The spirit of freedom is in the blood of Radio Caroline and Radio Caroline can't be under the control of governments. You can't create or institutionalise Radio Caroline. You can't lay down some Government's legislation to make a nice sanitized Caroline on land. You can't do it.

Even though some people don't care about Ronan O'Rahilly's request and use the famous name Radio Caroline without any agreement from its founder, others are still loyal:

"I was so very sad to see him marginalized from his own radio station when it got 'taken over'. His requests for Caroline's future were

ignored. It went on without him, after all the decades of blood sweat and tears he put into Caroline. It's a very sad ending for such a great inspirational man." Neil Gates, last dj heard on Radio Caroline.  
November 5, 1990.

It's time to respect Ronan O'Rahilly's request. It's time for a new and free Radio Caroline. The legend lives on...

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AFN Sad news on November 20<sup>th</sup> Jan Wood, age 78, passed away on Monday, November 20, 2017, at MS Care Center.

Jan, a seven-year member of the United States Air Force and Army, was part of the U.S. Voice of America Broadcasting Unit spending 37 years working for the government from the home base of Germany. During this period he had the privilege of interviewing JFK, Richard Nixon, Chubby Checkers and Shirley Temple Black to name a few.

Jan was called the "Voice of America" in Europe and soldiers loved to listen to his voice every morning when he spoke the news.

Frankfurt/Main was his second home. He was an artist, loved good food, had a remarkable voice, was a passionate journalist, a good listener and had a memory like an elephant. Jan was a loving father and grandpa.

He came back to Corinth, his hometown, in 2003, to retire. He was preceded in death by his Father and Mother, Guy and Wilma Wood and one brother, Terry Wood, a photographer.

Jan leaves behind a daughter, Wilma Mehl (husband-Willy), and an 8-year-old grandson, Collin, all of Canada Here's a very old film clip of Army soldier, Jan Wood, as part of an AFN promo.



[http://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675043020\\_Armed-Forces-Network\\_religious-program\\_Record-spinning\\_control-panel](http://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675043020_Armed-Forces-Network_religious-program_Record-spinning_control-panel)

I think it came from this film, The Story of AFN, which is now available on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/4EUx1UJyaeY>

with thanks to AJ and Ingo

A promised more on the subject Derek Lamb brought into the report:

'Regarding Derek Lamb's post about of the exhibition at the Black Beacon lighthouse and the transmitter connected to Radio Caroline and RNI jamming this is mentioned in Update On Orfordness by Alan Pennington and Dave Kenny in the September 2016 issue of the British DX Club magazine Communication who also visited the lighthouse.

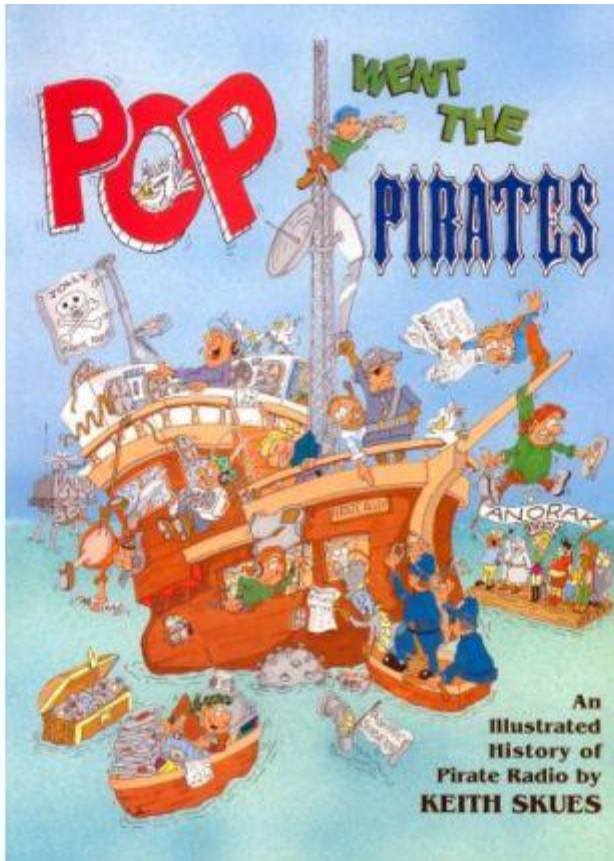
The displays there on the Orfordness Transmitter site were written when the site owner was VT Communications and the transmitters were still on the air. A photo of the Continental 50kw transmitter is accompanied by an account of its history as Derek says, featured in full in the magazine. This is an edited version of an article which is on this site, scroll to it's late 1965.

<http://www.rossrevenge.co.uk/tx/othertx.htm>

The same article later appeared in Tricks of the Trade 37 by Dave Porter and Alan Beech together with more information on offshore radio transmitters used by Radio City and on the Laissez Faire.

<http://www.bbceng.info/Technical%20Reviews/tott/tott.htm>

Some of the other articles in this series on transmitters refer to their use on offshore radio. In Issue 13 Carl Thompson writes about combining the two 10kw transmitters on the Fredericia.



As the article says the 50kw transmitter was installed at Canewdon. It was a reserve transmitter at the Diplomatic Wireless Service (DWS), a branch of the Foreign Office, site at Crowborough which relayed BBC World Service and available at short notice. It was put on the air on election night and continued for a short time afterwards. Pop Went The Pirates mention of a 200kw RCA transmitter is incorrect. Several PRO documents about the installation and operation of this transmitter, and the earlier 10kw BBC Brookmans Park jamming transmitter installed at Beacon Hill, have been published in Offshore Echo's.

Going back to the installation of the Continental 50kw transmitter at Francistown, Bechuanaland Harold Wilson's first mention of wanting to improve audibility of BBC broadcasts was, as reported in the press, November 12 with the mention of Radio Caroline.

[http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1965/nov/12/rhodesia-1#S5CV0720PO\\_19651112\\_HOC\\_173](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1965/nov/12/rhodesia-1#S5CV0720PO_19651112_HOC_173)

On November 18 he said urgent steps were in hand to obtain a strong mediumwave transmitter, see Q11

[http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1965/nov/18/rhodesia#S5CV0720P0\\_19651118\\_HOC\\_218](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1965/nov/18/rhodesia#S5CV0720P0_19651118_HOC_218)

On 30 November he said agreement had been reached with Bechuanaland for a transmitter to be installed there and it would open very shortly.

[http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/written\\_answers/1965/nov/30/rhodesia#S5CV0721P0\\_19651130\\_CWA\\_112](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/written_answers/1965/nov/30/rhodesia#S5CV0721P0_19651130_CWA_112)

The transmitter was delivered to Bechuanaland and installed shortly afterwards.

George Saunders was a radio engineer on Radio Atlanta and Radio Caroline in the 1960's, he fitted out the Mi Amigo in Greenore and left Radio Caroline after working on the Cheetah 2 in early 1966 to take up a post with the Diplomatic Wireless Service working at the recently established DWS site at Francistown. A detailed interview with George was published in Offshore Echo's 175 and 176.

On what happened after the beaching of the Mi Amigo, he was one of those taken off by breechers buoy, he says.

"We had on order from Continental a 50kw transmitter to replace our two tens and the combining unit. Now I was not able to talk about this to anybody but I'd been with Thomas and Gilman in London. We'd met people from the Foreign Office and had long discussions with them about things. They had wanted to put a radio transmitter on a ship so they told us what they had in mind and we said "it won't work". And we told them why. They said "Oh". They went away. They then found a host country that was willing to take the station. So that's where I went. We had 2 x 50kw Continental 317C's. The transmitter that should have gone to the Mi Amigo I had, that was diverted, and the following one."

Thomas and Gilman were A.N. Thomas and John Gilman, retired ex senior BBC engineers who were involved in the GBOK project and then employed by Radio Atlanta/Caroline in overall charge of their transmitting and studio engineering. Mike Barraclough'

Thanks Mike your contribution is always highly appreciated.

Have a look if you're interested in the Top 30 lists from the international service from Radio Luxembourg:

[https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio\\_Luxemburg\\_Top\\_30\\_\(UK\)](https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio_Luxemburg_Top_30_(UK))



I advise you to watch and listen to the contents of this video. It's going to rock again soon with a new station with well-known voices D-Lux radio. If you like the old 208 Luxembourg this will be a success for you too: <https://vimeo.com/246295573?ref=fb-share&1>

A pity however is that after this promotional video was published some of the people involved stepped already out the project due to differences about the music format to be used. But they will be planning another station too and so more about that later on.

Jim Salmon is one of the people behind another very interesting site:

This project is to acknowledge & celebrate the UK's first regular radio broadcast service, wireless station '2MT'. In 1922 from 'a long low hut full of long low people' - a small group of young Marconi employees entertained radio amateurs & listeners across the UK and beyond with regular experimental broadcasts every Tuesday evening.

The broadcasts originated from Writtle on the outskirts of Chelmsford, Essex, and the enthusiastic team led by Captain Peter Eckersley assembled their transmitter together with a gramophone player, microphone, & on occasions a piano from the local public house, to entertain listeners.

Whilst transmissions lasted for just a year, their impact was immense. Many of those involved moved on to make major contributions to the works of Marconi and the BBC. Our aim is to celebrate this short time in history, when a small wooden hut in a field in Writtle, occupied by a small group of fascinating individuals, became the home of the UK's first regular radio broadcasts.

We will not try to recreate station 2MT - how could we? We live in a very different age. What we would like to recreate is - the spirit and adventure of 2MT, to be 'born in laughter and nurtured in laughter'. For much more visit the site at: [www.emmatoc.com](http://www.emmatoc.com)

Next, I've a review of a most interesting book which was published recently:

Life and death of a pirate

Author: Susan K. Moore

474 pages; richly illustrated

Hard cover

ISBN 978-0-9515116-6-4

Fillongley Publications CV7 8PB

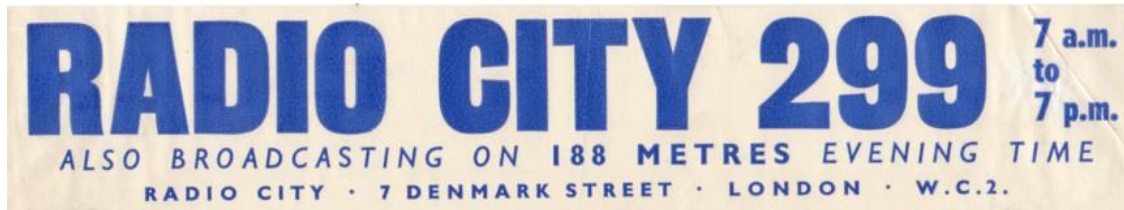
<http://www.susan-moore.co.uk/books-by-s-k-moore.php>

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/LIFE-DEATH-PIRATE-S-](https://www.amazon.co.uk/LIFE-DEATH-PIRATE-S-Moore/dp/0951511661/ref=sr_1_12?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1513023116&sr=1-12&refinements=p_27%3AK.+Moore)

[Moore/dp/0951511661/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1513023116&sr=1-12&refinements=p\\_27%3AK.+Moore](https://www.amazon.co.uk/LIFE-DEATH-PIRATE-S-Moore/dp/0951511661/ref=sr_1_12?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1513023116&sr=1-12&refinements=p_27%3AK.+Moore)

It was in 2014 that part 1 of the trilogy 'Life and death of a pirate' was published and over three years later all three parts, bound together in a beautiful book are on my desk to be reviewed. A book

about the personal life of Reginald Calvert and his family, the life in the music industry and also to mention his involvement in the offshore broadcasting world in the first half of the sixties of the last century.



Susan Moore is the daughter of the late Reginald and Dorothy Calvert and has written the book as a novel with the true as well as sad stories in it. Reginald was a person who had numerous professions, from candy shopkeeper, radio and television mechanic, running ballroom dances, managing many pop groups and running a radio station this until the moment he became the victim of competition.

Often, Reginald was bored quickly in his way of working and he picked up something new ideas to work out again, after which his wife was allowed to clear the chunks. Susan does not shy away from anything in the book. She talks about the rather dominant attitude of a man who actually didn't give his wife space. As an example, let me mention the fact that Dorothy was in the best position for the family and wanted a better home. There was no talk about it. In his married years Reginald appears to have had various relationships that he was able to protect very well until after a relationship of more than 3 years with the singer Carol, he had to expose himself with the buttocks as he could no longer conceal it against his wife Dorothy. It meant a separated life for a number of weeks, but he was taken in grace again.



Calvert bought an enormous large house ' Cliffton Hall' partly for the family and partly for the boys of his band to be able to accommodate and not much later they heard that the old house was completely burnt down including the space where Dorothy was running her own business. She became more intensively involved with the management and more around the pop groups.

Part 1 of the book is mainly about the time that Reginald and Dorothy were involved in managing the various beat groups and organizing ballroom dances at various locations in parts of southern and central England. Of course, with lots of fun memories, problems with members of the groups, fireworks running out of control and attempts to make hits. Not forgetting that Reginald managed to partly accommodate his groups with contracts in Germany and he contracted new groups that would later make a big name and reputation, such as Screaming Lord Sutch and the Savages, the Fortunes and Pinkerton's Assorted Colours.

All this was described in a wonderful and supple wise manner over the period up to and including 1963. Of course, the creation of King's Agency - based in 7 Denmark Street - along with Terry King is discussed.



Photo collection Luc Dunn

Let's take a look at what can be experienced in Part 2 of the book. For example, on 21 March 1964, the day before Eastern, a private club was opened in Loughborough in a former cinema, and it seemed that the financial situation of the Calvert's could go in the right direction. In addition, a song by The Fortunes was suddenly played intensively by a new radio station, Radio Caroline. Reginald, who had always dreamed of being able to start his own radio station, was warned several times by Dorothy that they had no money for it, but Reginald went, as so often, his own way to have his wife and business partner clean up the mess later.

He had found a buddy friend in one of his artists, David Sutch, with whom he spent many hours talking about the topic of Pirate Radio and, despite the warnings of Dorothy, continued his own will and devised a stunt together with David Sutch that led to a lot of publicity and, above all, a radio station with lots of music by David Sutch and The Savages.



# Fourth 'pirate' broadcast

LONDON, Sat. A.A.P. - Reuter).— Britain's fourth "pirate" radio ship is to go into business off the coast on June 9, it was announced today.

It is claimed to be three times as powerful as any now operating.

The new station will join Radio Caroline, Radio Atlanta and Radio Sutch, all operating outside British territorial waters to break the monopoly of the B.B.C.

News of the latest venture came as the British Army did a smart about-turn yesterday in the case of the owner of Radio Sutch—pop-singer screaming "Lord" Sutch.

He has occupied an abandoned war-time Army fort about five miles from the east coast.

A move to dislodge the 22-year-old singer from his "captured" fort was abandoned when it was realised that a bill to ex-

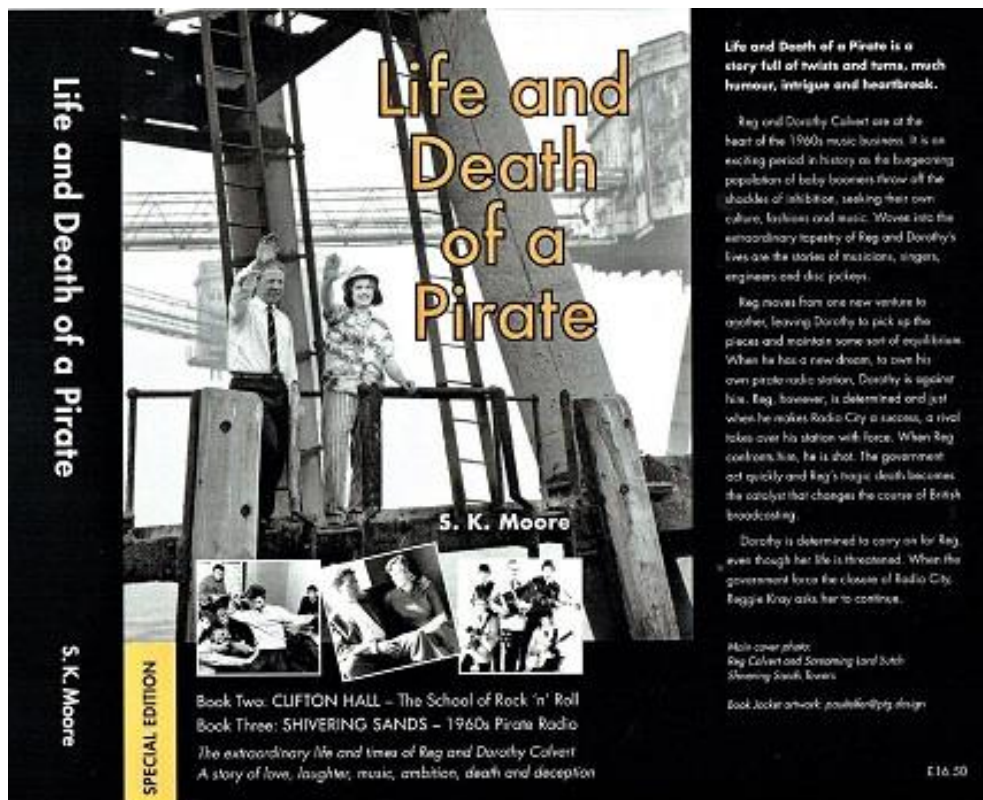
tend British territorial limits from three to six miles has not yet been presented to Parliament.

The fourth "pirate" station, backed by four Kent businessmen, will broadcast news and "adult-type music" to Britain for 12 hours a day with another 12-hour transmission in French to Europe during the evening hours.

Operating on 310 metres in the medium-wave band, the new station—"G.B.L.N. Radio"—will broadcast commercials which are banned over B.B.C. radio transmissions.

What followed were two boat trips from South end on Sea, with Reginald taking both daughters who returned home quite seasick a few hours later, on the first trip, and this all against Dorothy's will. Not much later, Reginald would once again go to sea for the inspection of Knock John Towers and Shivering Sands, the Maunsel Towers that were built and placed on behalf of the government in the Second World War. It should be an ideal accommodation for a radio station. A third boat trip from the centre of London via the Thames to international waters was with the MV Cornucopia to promote the future radio station Radio Sutch.

From that moment on page 182 of Susan K. Moore's highly interesting and very readable book 'Life and death of a pirate', the radio adventure of Reginald Calvert begins, which would ultimately mean his death. In the following chapters you will be drawn through the history of Radio Sutch and Radio City and 300 pages and read the story as if it all happened yesterday. Without more, this book is worth purchasing and in my mind, is the best book that has been published for years on the subject offshore radio and more.



Hans Knot December 2017.

Next a long message from Alan Bailey:

Radio presenter David Kid Jensen has been living with Parkinson's for the last five years, he has announced. The Kid has worked at many big stations during his career, including BBC Radio 1, Capital, Heart, Planet Rock and Smooth Radio. He currently broadcasts on BBC Local Radio and presents a weekend show - Kid Jensen's Flashback 40 for the Wireless Group's local stations. He continues his role as Chairman of the Crystal Palace FC Vice Presidents.

He's well known in commercial radio for his time hosting the Network Chart show across the independent radio network in the 80s and 90s. Discussing his condition, David Jensen commented: "I have decided to go public to raise awareness about Parkinson's and to demonstrate that it is possible to continue with so many aspects of one's life. When Billy Connolly and my old colleague, Sky Sports' Dave Clark announced they had Parkinson's and started to raise funds for Parkinson's charities, I felt it was time for me, with the support of

my friends and family to reveal my situation. I hope to be available to try and raise further awareness of Parkinson's and to be on hand to aid fundraising activities. Parkinson's is a neurological condition that causes problems in the brain and over time gets worse with no cure yet discovered.

"I am so appreciative of the support I have received from my wife Gudrun, who I have been married to for 43 wonderful years, my 3 children and 7 grandchildren, who are all aware that I have Parkinson's and continue to provide so much love, support and understanding."

David 'Kid' Jensen, 67, who was born Canada, has been a household name in the UK since making his European broadcasting debut when he joined Radio Luxembourg in 1968, acquired the nickname 'Kid' as he was the youngest radio presenter in Europe at the time. By the mid-seventies he was a regular on TV hosting several pop music programs on ITV as well as broadcasting on Nottingham's Radio Trent. Since that time, he has hosted shows on major radio stations including BBC Radio 1, Capital Radio, Heart, Planet Rock, Smooth along with many TV appearances including Top of the Pops where he struck up a great partnership with John Peel.

During a lengthy career which has seen him receive broadcasting awards in the UK, Canada and the USA, he has championed acts like The Smiths, The Police, Pretenders, The Clash, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Thin Lizzy, The Cure, Simple Minds and many more. He also presented the very first Network Chart Show - the UK's first syndicated radio show broadcast on commercial radio throughout the UK. For many years David wrote weekly entertainment columns for national newspapers including The Daily Mirror, Sunday People and Today, contributed columns to The Telegraph, The Guardian and the NME, was a news anchor for Turner Broadcasting and Superstation WTBS Atlanta - a forerunner to CNN and fronted motor racing coverage for broadcasters including Sky Sports.



Alan Bailey and David Jensen after the funeral of Alan Freeman  
Photo: collection Alan Bailey

Talking about Alan Bailey listen and let him talk:

<https://audioboom.com/posts/5646718-conversations-episode-42-alan-bailey>

Well all remember Dave Rodgers aka Keith Rogers well he left his radio station Phoenix FM early this month and a special tribute about him was written: <https://www.phoenixfm.com/2018/01/17/stations-fond-farewell-essex-airwaves-legend/>

E mail time from Ken Kurson who wrote: 'I read with interest this blog report about pirate radio:

<http://www.mediapages.nl/international-report/566-juli-2008-2>

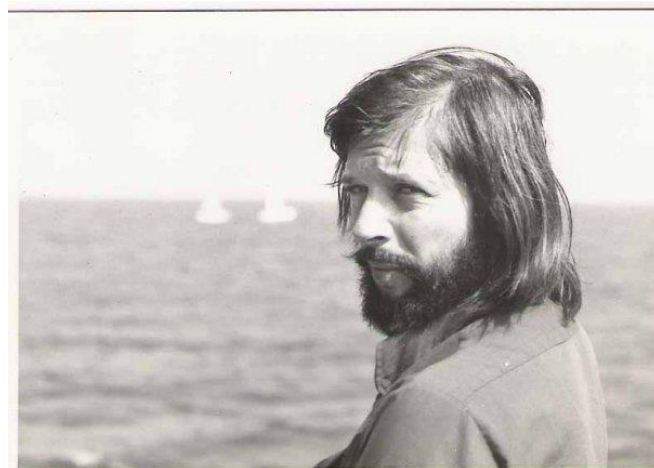
I wonder if you can tell me anything more about Ian Wiener. You talk of meeting him in 1977 to set up discos in Israel. Did that project ever get off the ground? Do you remember what Ian Wiener was like? Are there any photos? I'm so interested in this!

Well he could read this only in the series about the history of the Voice of Peace in the online Journal for music and media culture,

Soundscapes. So, I wrote him back: 'Dear Ken if you read this blog correctly you will see that a part is a chapter of a book on the Voice of Peace and Abe Nathan's work. This book has been released in 2006 with me as editor. The named chapter was written by Don Stevens so he can give you answers if he wants. I will forward your message to him.'

As the VOP book is now out of stock we have put all chapters on line in our online Journal for Media and Music Culture from my university here in Groningen

[http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/VOP/vop\\_all.shtml](http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/VOP/vop_all.shtml)



**Don Stevens from his own photo collection**

And of course Don Stevens came with an answer some time later: 'Hello Ken. Yes, I worked with Ian on the disco project, he was at CBS Records Israel at the time and CBS needed to engage in profitable projects as the piano bar and jazz club scene was not helping their turnover. Ian and CBS approached me to design and operate disco's or, at the very least, try to get disco music into the Israeli market. They gave me my first project, to design and install a sound system for a new club in Jaffa, opened as 'El Macho', a select club for the monied classes of Tel Aviv.

It launched with me as resident DJ and became a huge success, giving CBS an outlet for their music. The 'El Macho' project led to many other projects including 'Le Club' for Mandy Rice Davies, the Sheraton Showplace and a host of other projects.

Ian was very business orientated, and, when I returned to London in 1980 I met Ian again as he had re-started the K-TEL label for the UK market. We last touch as I took over the Music Director role for Taz Leisure in the North of England, though my links to CBS continued for many years thereafter. I hope this is of use to you Ken (y) Good Luck, Don Stevens.'

Again, the International report is there to bring people together. Now to Los Angeles and our main contributor since many years: Mike Pasternak.



### Photo collection Emperor Rosko

'Happy new year Hans. 2018 will be fun with many stations dropping out and a few new ones kicking in. Let the good times roll! I had a look through some pictures and found some connected to choppers. What a way to start the year!' Thanks Rosko and hope to have many memories this year which we never heard before.

Well I've followed the radio industry since the early sixties of last century and a lot has happened. Never saw a new station introduced like D-Lux in autumn last year where the main presenters decided to walk the plank far before the official start in March 2018. What really happened we only can guess but I think the problems started with heavy discussions about the forthcoming music format of the station.

All who stepped out of the project, and that are not only one or two, have decided to come with their own station with their beloved musical format.



And so here is the official press report, which was published on January 20<sup>th</sup>: 'There have been all kinds of revolutions across the years but now stand by for a DJ revolution. DJ? Somewhere along the line the radio industry decided to junk that title and along came 'The Presenter'. And if the first radio revolution could be deemed the one in the UK headlined by Radio Caroline, then UNITED DJs will register as the second radio revolution, this time entertaining an enormous global audience.

We can now list the DJs who will soon be playing and saying what they like as streaming comes of age.

MIKE READ - TONY PRINCE - SHAUN TILLEY - ROGER 'TWIGGY'  
DAY - BOB LAWRENCE - PETER ANTONY - PAUL NEWMAN -  
ALTON ANDREWS - STUART BUSBY - MIKE KNIGHT - ENDA W.

CALDWELL - LES 'LA MIX' ADAMS, THE EMPEROR ROSKO -  
PEARLY GATES - GRAHAM DENE - IAN SHIRLEY - MIKE HOLLIS  
- CHANTILLY - EDDY GRANT - KENNY TOSH - DAVE LEE TRAVIS  
- ROB JONES - PETER 'DMC' ROBERTS - CUTMASTER SWIFT -  
LAURIE HOLLOWAY - TONY BLEWIT + GUEST DJs.

Many of our team were Radio Luxembourg stalwarts and only they have any moral right to work under the byline **STATION OF THE STARS** taking the legend that was 208 ever forward. We use this branding with full and exclusive permission from RTL and we are the only radio channel with that right.

The launch of UNITED DJs is now weeks away and, if you are FB friends with any of the above, watch their page for news. And watch out for the national media as they report on the rebirth of truly free radio.

**HERE COMES - UNITED DJ's - THE GREATEST RADIO STATION OF ALL TIME!**

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There is a re-release for the book which was published years ago by the Foundation for Media Communication

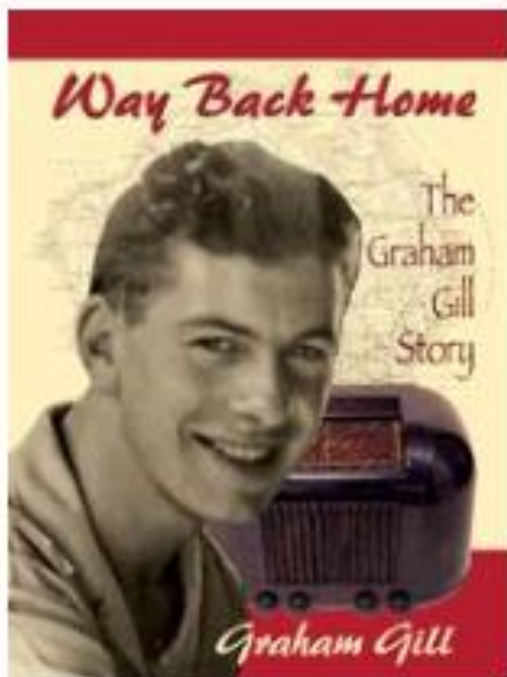
ISBN:978-94-92563-25-5

Way back home The Graham Gill Story

Cover: Holtermann, Ingrid  
Publisher: The American Book Center - AnyBook Press

Pages: 160  
Language: English  
Paperback / softback





## Way Back Home

Graeme George Gilsonan

| 12/2017 | paperback |

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<https://abc.nl/search#/book-details/way-back-home/g9789492563255>

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On 21st of December 2017 Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame wrote:  
'I am afraid I have belated news of the death of another ex-pirate.  
Clement Shaw (Radios 390 and 355) died in May.

Clement Murphy-Shaw (7/2/43 - 14/5/17).

There is an obituary, which does not mention his offshore career, here: <http://www.cpgb-ml.org/index.php?secName=proletarian&subName=display&art=1304>.

And not much later he came back with: 'I'm afraid 2017 isn't over yet. We've lost another:'  
<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2017/12/yorkshire-radio-presenter-jerry-scott-dies/>

He was Jerry Jones on Caroline in 1989  
<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djs8i2j.htm#jejones>

Some of his colleagues have posted on Facebook about him. It seems he was active behind the scenes as well as on the air: <https://www.facebook.com/dave.richards.52090/posts/1551811241523188>

Dave Richards: 'Jerry Scott was an old mate from Whitstable who died yesterday. Same age as me. He contributed time and accommodation and hospitality to the many presenters and crew who enjoyed his generosity and use of his car, food and anything else he could share at his flat in Harbour street Whitstable. Those were hugely difficult times for Radio Caroline, but I recall him and Nigel Harris were just two of the unsung heroes who remained with the seemingly hopeless situations that prevailed in late 1989 to 1990 whilst most fled to the warmth of ILR (in those days). How we laughed in the face of adversity. RIP Jerry. When I met him, he worked for Invicta then Breeze in Essex, that didn't stop him from taking time off and doing a stint on the Ross in 1990.'

Chris Cooper: 'Oh my goodness. So sad. He picked me up from the train station, and took me to his flat, when I joined Radio Caroline in December 1989. Next day he drove me to meet Dave the Fish, for my trip out to the Ross. Now those two great guys are no longer with us. RIP Jerry.'

Mark Stafford: 'I got to know Jerry when he was at Coast AM (which became Invicta Supergold). He was a massive Caroline fan and when he was at Invicta on the day of the 1989 raid Jerry was so angry he headed out to the Ross posing as a journalist and recorded on-board interviews and audio for IRN News. I was in the Invicta Studio (helping Time Stewart) in Whitstable when Jerry returned to Invicta. He contacted IRN and was promised a big chunk of the 1am news bulletin. But, then the Marchoness sank on the Thames and dominated the next 24 hours. So, Jerry agreed to let me use all his audio for a documentary and that is what you hear on the RBL documentary "No Man Will Ever Forget ...August 19th 1989". In fact, it is true to say that if Jerry and Mike Dundee (who also posed under the Press Banner!) had not arrived and challenged the DTI when they came alongside and been given permission to board by the Caroline crew, there would have been even more damage done to the Ross and it may never have got back on air, Following the raid, Jerry got so friendly with the Caroline team that he gave up his paid radio job, renamed himself Jerry Jones and worked for Caroline. He was a very nice guy. At Jackie he was probably best remembered for his charity stunt of sitting in a bath full of baked beans for a very long time.'

Look who we have next Ian Godfrey from London again:

'Many thanks for the last couple of Reports. As a radio anorak - probably about 90% offshore-related - I think the most significant event recently must be Caroline's return to AM. when a friend in north London rang me late morning on 11th November, to say that he'd just tuned into a test transmission on 648. I reacted with about the same excitement as with similar news or personal discoveries for nearly 50 years. Although he's on higher ground than I am in Fulham, when he played it down the phone I was surprised by its strength and consistency for 1 kW.

The downside was that reception here was almost non-existent indoors. I really had to get some batteries for a Walkman radio I hadn't listened to for about 4 years! The following afternoon I found

I could, on full volume, clearly make out Rockin' All Over the World by Status Quo, but on a narrow strip between a corner of a wall and a flowerbed. I was in another time warp! I listened to a fair amount of the 1st official day on 648 and, apart from the general excitement, 2 emotive points for me were Ray Clarke's playing of Caroline's reopening at Easter 79, with Tony Allen, such a key figure of 70s Caroline, and Bob Lawrence referring to the pioneering spirit of Tracey Crouch and that Tracey Pierce was the 1st of the 70 MPs to respond to the campaign; mentioning that she campaigning for Caroline 50 years ago inspired her to become an MP!



Tony Allen photo: Cornelia van den Berg

When I first heard about the AM campaign I was beginning to regard AM as outdated technology; more so now, with so many more listening options; plus, the growing number of stations dispensing with AM. Of the 2/3 frequencies I've seen quoted over the years,

648 is by far the best and I was relieved when this was announced; electrical and other interference and a good consistent signal in the target area. During the test period there seemed to be hints that 648 may be a separate service, which seemed unlikely but, discovering it's a spin-off of the main rock stream, I don't think I'll be getting much use out of the new batteries! I doubt that with DAB and the internet etc. many people will want to listen to rock on AM. I hope I'm wrong. Maybe Caroline Flashback on 648 is worth considering; rebranding it as Caroline 648, with more presented programs. I wish them all the best. Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

I thank you very much Ian for reflecting on Caroline's comeback on AM. Hope to hear more in the future from you.

Martin van der Ven as made photos to show us how he receives Caroline on 648 kHz in his garden in Meppen Germany

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157690824658734>



In 2003 the MV Communicator was towed into international waters from IJmuiden harbor, a trip which ended in Orkney. Piet Treffers made a series of photos that day which we have now in our Flickr Archive too:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157667867981169>

In her hometown of The Hague, radio presenter Sonja van Proosdij died on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of December. She was 84 years old. The funeral entrepreneur has reported this to press at the request of Van Proosdij himself.

Van Proosdij was one of the first female radio presenters. She started her broadcasting career in the 1960s at Radio North Sea, (Radio Noordzee) which was broadcast from the REM island, a platform in the North Sea off the coast of Noordwijk. With her presentation she opened the channel and, five months later, also spoke the last words when the government pulled the plug out of the REM island.



Sonja van Proosdij in 2012 Photo: Martin van der Ven

After that Van Proosdij left for Hilversum, where she gave more than 25 years of reporting and presentation at the current affairs

section AVRO's Radio Journal. She also made children's programs and reports for the NCRV. She also wrote for newspapers and magazines. Van Proosdij was known for her direct and personal way of interviewing. Shortly before her death she interviewed ambassadors in the Netherlands, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A pity we had so much sad news this time. Well for all your news, memories and more don't hesitate to send it to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

and don't forget the Hans Knot International Radio Report is an open window for all interested in radio. It's there because we have the freedom of speech and freedom of press! See you next time!