

## Hans Knot International Radio Report May 2018

Welcome to the May edition of the International Radio Report and as always thanks for all the e mails, comments, questions and memories to the last edition. In this issue we don't have part 2 of the excellent article on Radio Luxembourg's history by Phil Champion as there was too much sad news to bring, but first over to some news which came in from several readers.

We're starting with a link to a jingle compilation, which was sent by Sherri and of course thanks for that. Do you remember those Radio One jingles?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv3R8wgN2wY&feature=youtu.be>

Next news from an interesting documentary movie about the sixties, called my generation sent by Ger Tillekens for which a big thank you:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2018/mar/10/michael-caine-what-ruined-60s-drugs-my-generation-interview>

And also read what Michael told about Radio Caroline:

Was there a working-class takeover of culture?

Michael: "Yeah, slowly but surely. Small things happened: Radio Caroline launched, before the BBC finally gave in and started playing pop music. Coffee bars started putting on live groups, like the Beatles. Discotheques arrived from Paris. The first night I went to the Ad Lib club - run by my friend Johnny Gold, who later opened Tramp and called me "Disco Mike" - every single Beatle and every single Rolling Stone was in there dancing. Pop culture went bang, exploded, and just kept going. Working-class kids everywhere."

Ger: 'In short: Caroline, according to him, is apparently at the beginning of the cultural changes in England. A film to keep an eye

on... I think... I think. Apparently, there are also many familiar faces.'



## CURRENT RADIO MI AMIGO INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

- WEBSITE - [www.radiomiamigo.international](http://www.radiomiamigo.international)
- FACEBOOK PAGE - <https://www.facebook.com/Radio-Mi-Amigo-International-7609.../>
- STUDIO - [studio@radiomiamigo.international](mailto:studio@radiomiamigo.international)
- ONLINE - 87.118.112.44:8010/;mp3
- SHORTWAVE - 6085 kHz / 7310 kHz / 3985 kHz

Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Another sad message for all my radio friends as it just became known that Graham Gill passed away in his house in Amsterdam at the age of 81. He went peaceful in his sleep. Just 6 days away from his 82nd birthday. After a career in radio in his native country Australia he went for a holiday to Europe in 1966, but instead of that he stayed and made a fine career in radio including working for Radio 390, Radio London, Britain Radio, Radio Caroline, RNI and Radio Netherlands. Even up till high age he visited the annual RadioDays. We lost a great friend in radio. Let's say: 'Way back home Graham.'

You all know that I always want to share the many memories I've since I'm started to research and writing about radio, way back in 1969. Just hours after our mutual friend Bob Noakes informed me about the sad news of Graham Gill passing away, few memories directly came to my mind. I listened to Graham for the first time in 1966 on Britain Radio and met him for the first time in 1973.



Photos from Graham's own collection as well as taken by Martin van der Ven.

Together with Jacob Kokje I produced for RNI boss John de Mol sr. the RNI double LP and it was Graham who did the promo spot which was aired several times on the international service of the station.

He invited me to come one day to his house in the Blassiusstreet in Amsterdam, where Paul Jan de Haan and I had a lovely day with some good memories and some studio tapes he gave us. Also, I've to tell that from that day on we stayed in contact till 2 months ago. Graham was a special person. Not only he wanted to be in the middle of attention but gave a lot of warmth with fine words to other persons. It's after all those decades a pleasure to listen to his shows from almost half a century ago.

Through many years we stayed in contact, talked about radio, did visit each other many times and often Martin van der Ven went with us to Amsterdam to be with another mutual friend, Rob Olthof. And also we went to happenings in England related to radio, together with

Martin and our both wives. It was, I think, in 2007 we went to a reunion in London for some days. My wife Jana and I went to our regular Bed and Breakfast in Hanwell and we found a place for Graham above an Indian Restaurant in the same surrounding and around 9.20 in the morning we were standing in front of the bed and breakfast being very surprised that Graham was standing there with a double suit which didn't fit him too well.

Can you image what happened there in the middle of the road Jana helping him to get everything right when I tell you that the suit he was wearing was the same one as he was wearing when he wanted to go for a job in 1966 at Radio London?



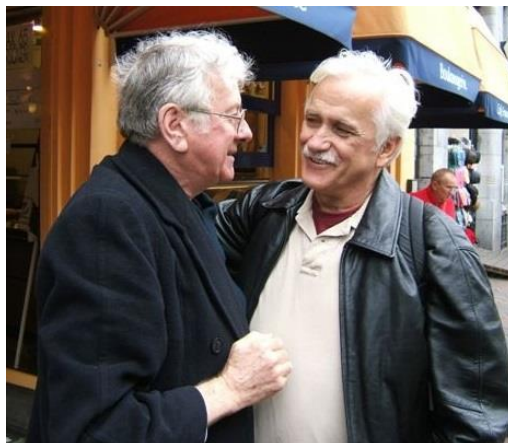
**Graham Gill in London Photo: Jana Knot-Dickscheit**

I know that Graham decided to go on an earlier stage to stop working in 1984. He was well appreciated at Radio Netherlands but the problem was either the Dutch Railway system brought him into problems or Graham didn't liked to be programmed at certain times by the organization or forgot to have a look at his watch on a regularly base. Graham was a 'late night person', who wanted, after he stopped working, to enjoy television from countries as far as

possible. Probably he was one of the very first persons having a satellite dish in the eighties of last century in Amsterdam. When on the phone he could talk very long about special programs he was watching and of course about his favorite radio station from Austria, which was easy listening programmed.

People who went with him to a restaurant for the very first time could be very surprised about Graham's behavior. One day we went with about 20 people to an Italian restaurant in Notting Hill in London. Graham often couldn't hold back when it came to the mass productions that were served in such a restaurant and made this loud and clear to the shame of his fellow guests and those present. When it came to giving his order, he had special requirements because he did not want to eat the container garbage.

Everyone was served according to their wishes and at a certain point, when Graham's food was not yet served, we decided to start in order not to leave our food cold. When everyone was eaten, Graham's food was served. It was as if the operating staff had been waiting for it. Many years later, after similar incidents, I understood that he was playing a game in the restaurants; it was never good. But of course, it was good for some more laughing with Grasilda, which was his nickname in the seventies when all male presenters got a female nickname.



## Graham Gill and Rick Crandell Photo: Hans Knot

And getting up early was not easy for Graham too. When I told him 14 years ago that one of his former colleagues from Swinging Radio England would make a stopover at Schiphol and would therefore have several morning hours to meet us in Amsterdam, I made an appointment at a breakfast restaurant in the Centre of our capital. There we met Rick Crandell and his wife and it was the first time since 1966 that both former colleagues saw and talked to each other. Until the night before Graham was grumbling that the meeting had to take place at such an early time. But he was there and happy to see his former SRE colleague again and they didn't get talked out.

We also remember the long period in which we collaborated on the book about Graham's life and work, which was published for the first time in 2006. To write the book, to make it historically correct and readable, Graham Gill, Cornelia van den Berg, Hans Knot and Jana Knot-Dickscheit collaborated in parts. Cornelia has spent a long time describing and typing out, little by little, the period during which Graham still lived in his native Australia, went to school and began working after graduating from school of broadcasting.

I myself jumped in to describe the radio-periods of Graham Gill in Europe as historical well as possible. And in the end, we have jointly selected many, partly never published, pictures and Jana has done the layout. A process that - between all kinds of other publications - lasted a year. But what a joy he had when we went to see the first proof at a print shop on the Amsterdam canals, also a moment we could never forget.

It was a great pity that Graham had his secrets and didn't release them in time when we were preparing the publication. Two years

later, when Martin van der Ven and I visited him in his apartment in Amsterdam, he suddenly proposed to go to his cellar.



**In Graham's cellar Photo: Martin van der Ven**

A stale smelling space that was really full of all sorts of collected things. These include three suitcases full of collected mail from listeners and memories in his own notes, but also many unique photos. The link below will take you to such a page with photos of his time on Radio 390, which Graham has often told me was the finest radio station for which he has worked. We will certainly not forget Graham!

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/album91.htm>

Well to speak in the words of the late Graham Gill to all his former colleagues and radio friends: 'Hello good people. Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot have promised me to make a wonderful photo album of our friendship, my long-standing radio career and my years in my native country Australia, where I left for Europe in 1966. Around 350 photos are taken by several persons and digitalized in good memory of the Great A Graham, Grasilda, Gill. The first pages are from last 3 centuries and next are the older photos. Hope you will

enjoy these in memory of the good times we all had together through the by us all loved medium radio'.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157667729830018>

Around 30 people were present on the churchyard in Amsterdam on April 17<sup>th</sup> for a last farewell to Graeme Gilsenan - which was his name of birth. Amongst others former RNI colleagues Bob Noakes and Peter Jager. Also, people from the Erkrath Radioday Organisation, where Graham was quest for many years, came from Germany so chapeau to Jan Sundermann, Chet Reuter and Kurt Gohla.

And just a day earlier we were informed at the Internet Radio Café of the passing away from Graham's former panel desk operator and radiobroadcaster Ad Roberts. René Verstraten writing in the Radiocafé: 'Sunday afternoon April 8<sup>th</sup> it was announced that Ad Roberts (Rob de Goede) has passed away. Ad worked for stations like Radio Caroline, Radio Monique 963, Focus 103, Radio 819, Radio Waddenzee, Radio Mi Amigo 192 and Radio Extra Gold. Ad had been ill for some time and died at the age of 62 in his home town of Beverwijk.'

Added by Extra Gold staff: 'Ad started his studies at the age of 17 as a panel operator, the technician, of Graham Gill for his programs from the Caroline Studio in Amsterdam. In addition, he sat on board several times to rotate the Mi Amigo spools there and he even had the privilege of invading for a missed tape a few times. After his schooling Ad started working as a DJ and ended up in Sneek.

Next after a few years he got the chance to explore the profession of DJ (and radio in particular) in Australia at the Announcers Academy (nowadays the Australian Film Television and Radio School). After 7 months he returned to the Netherlands to work for the Dutch Caroline aboard the Mi Amigo in 1979. But after the ship sank, he had to resort to working in discotheques again.



Then came the Ross Revenge and on that ship, he decorated the Dutch studios, but had to stay because of bad weather and lost another job. When Radio Monique started broadcasting in 1984, he was allowed to go home the next day after a severe lack of sleep. For a number of years, he has maintained this position on the North Sea and he thought back to it with a lot of good feelings.

The last few years we welcomed Ad at Radio Extra Gold where he presented the weekly program ZOUTWATER with many beautiful stories from his long-standing career.' On Radio Extra Gold on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> special programs were in memory of Ad Roberts. Two former colleagues from Caroline days, Ferry Eden and Marc Jacobs, presented a special program filled with memories to their friend Ad Roberts. On April 13<sup>th</sup> there was a farewell service for Ad, may both rest in peace.



Ad Roberts, Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot. Photo: Jörg Krisp

I must not forget to mention the comeback of several deejays from the past as well as from present with the new radiostation headed by Tony Prince. A nice article in the Times from April 7<sup>th</sup> tells you more:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/all-star-djs-from-radio-1-radio-luxembourg-radio-caroline-back-in-the-groove-with-bid-to-rule-airwaves-again-mike-read-dave-lee-travis-diddy-david-hamilton-tony-prince-peter-antony-emperor-rosko-laurie-holloway-hsxk5q6mm>

Hello Hans,

Some information from Sweden and Per Alarud about the Japanese documentary about Sealand, which I mentioned in last report:

'Thanks for the latest update, regarding Sealand and NHK: I was contacted in June last year by a TV-production company in Japan that wanted to use some material from "my 1967 offshore trip movie". I was surprised but gave them permission to use it. Thanks to Terje Isberg, now living in Japan, I got some pictures from this program about Sealand, which was broadcast on national channel NHK in Japan. All broadcasts from NHK are scrambled, so he will not be able to duplicate it.

They use a technology called "copy once", that's why he could record it but nothing else. So, he took a camera and did some screen shots. I enclose a couple of pictures. As can be seen also Chris Edwards from OEM contributed. Of course, he had not seen this picture before I sent it to him.

Best regards, *Per Alarud*



Thanks a lot Per for this update, well appreciated.



Photos taken by Terje Isberg

Next from the heart of the Netherlands in Amsterdam an e mail from Pinky Siedenburg. She found back an article in which several lines from a newspaper cutting was mentioned. We go back to August 1967.



'In the topic Caroline House at the Singel there are some inaccuracies, whether it makes sense to correct them, I will leave it

to you. There is talk of the possibility of an office on the Koninginneweg, but this has never been the case. If I read it correctly, the source organist Piet van Egmond, would have been my neighbour at the Koninginneweg, he never was my neighbour and I never lived at the Koninginneweg at all. Incidentally, I have been at the cradle of the location choice of Caroline in Amsterdam (hired by Terry Bate) and have been there from the beginning.'

What Pinky didn't read correctly was that the quotes in an earlier article came from the above news paper cutting, which I send here directly after she send in her comments. But there was more not true in the Telegraaf, the newspaper from 1967 as Pinky went on with: 'As for my nickname Pinky, it wasn't given to me by the Caroline boys, but by my parents at birth (big, pink and blond according to my understanding).

You've certainly found that newspaper cut quickly. Interesting article, at the time I was hired by Terry Bate to furnish the office as far as there was room for furnishing. Previously there had been the famous IOS (Investors Overseas Services from Bernie Cornfeld, where I have worked for a long time) and they had all the furniture, typewriters, etc. had been handed over to Caroline. For the hard work I got help from two boys, who walked away from England: Michael Spencer and Steven Hackett (later Stevi Gee). Michael Spencer also got the chance to present himself as a DJ, but that was certainly not a success and he was taken off the radio in no time. What has happened to him is unclear. I still have press photos of us of the two of Singel 160.

Funny to read in the article that the spokesman did not want to reveal his name, that was Terry Bate. Indeed, a few weeks later, Ronan came to take up a lot of ground. A few weeks later we got a kind of security guard/guard from Jimmie O'Houlahan, have good memories of him.'

Thank you for your quick reaction Hans and look forward to your newsletter every time.' Thanks a lot Pinky and hope someday in the not too distant future to see the mentioned photos and documents.



Jimmy onboard the MV Mi Amigo in 1973 Photo: Hans Knot

Andrew Hawkin sent me a photo taken during a Radio 1 Club program:  
Radio 1 club at Oakengates Town hall in Shropshire, October 1969  
with Emperor Rosco. From left to right Carol Simpkin, Wendy  
Tranter, Carole Wilson, Anne Mansell, Dawn MacDonald, Pat Gibbs,  
Josephine Bradley, Eileen Taylor, Jane Pettit, Averil Dyke, Kathleen  
Clarke and Margaret Towell.



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## THE 18th ERKRATH RADIODAY

Saturday June 30th, 2018

On that Saturday we are for the second-time guest at the Technical Museum QQTec in our neighborhood city Hilden. This location and its large exhibition met great enthusiasm of the visitors last year. The coordination with other events led us to this new and unusual date before the general holiday season.

The event is scheduled from 13:00 to 19:00 hours.

Details on the schedule of the day will be published when these have been fixed. The location: QQTec , Forststr. 73, D-40721 Hilden ,

[www.qqtec.de/museum/](http://www.qqtec.de/museum/)

GPS 051° 10,23` N , 006° 54,12` E

Arrival: from Düsseldorf Main Station with train S6 to Benrath BF, then Bus 784 to Horster Allee , then walk Forststrasse, nearby the IBIS Hotel Or: Bus 785 to stop Hülsen. The entrance fee is 12.-

EURO. Jan Sundermann

[radiotaq.erkrath@yahoo.com](mailto:radiotaq.erkrath@yahoo.com)

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Next another chapter of a new book which will be published soon. The book is written by Clive Warner who spent many decades of his career in radio all over the world. The book has ISBN 978-0-9790386-3-1, as order number and the Kindle version is already available and print versions will be available soon on Amazon.

## **ADVENTURES IN THE LUMINIFEROUS AETHER BY CLIVE WARNER**

### **LOVING AWARENESS**

### **MI AMIGO, INTERNATIONAL WATERS.**

### **RADIO CAROLINE, SEPTEMBER 1974.**

For the last year, I'd been working for Capital Radio, London's first commercial radio station. That had all changed with the introduction of a new 'national agreement' that had resulted in most of the engineers being downgraded in status, pay, and conditions. I felt that it was time to move on and accepted a one-year contract in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but the visa took forever to come through.

Russ Tollerfield, one of the engineers at Capital, knew I wanted 'out' and surprised me one day, saying "Why don't you go to work for Radio Caroline until the Saudis sort out your visa?" (Russ passed away in April 2017. RIP.)

What I didn't know was that Radio Caroline had just upped anchor and returned to the UK side, after the Dutch passed their own version of the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act. I thought Russ was joking. He wasn't. Russ knew Ronan O'Rahilly, legendary Irish Outlaw of the Aether, a good-looking rich bachelor who toured London in his Range Rover. One of the 'in crowd', Ronan was always seen with the prettiest debs and was a good friend of George Harrison and Ravi Shankar, the famous Indian sitar player.

A few days later Russ said, "If you're interested, be at the Casserole Restaurant on King's Road, (Chelsea), at 6 o'clock." At 6 PM the restaurant hadn't yet opened for business. I knocked on the door. A spyhole slid open. An eye peered out at me. Then the door swung open.



Ronan O'Rahilly - The Hague, 1973

Photo: courtesy of Offshore Echos

Ronan O'Rahilly was sitting at the back of the room with a bunch of debs and people who looked like record company reps. He proceeded to ask me three questions in his soft Irish accent: "Are you any good?" "I've never had any complaints." "What do you think of politicians?" "They're all crooks." "Can you leave tomorrow?" "I'll need a couple of days to sort my flat out." At the time, I was renting an upstairs flat in East Finchley. "Right. That sounds perfect."

## MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Soon after, one of Russ and Ronan's friends, Robb Eden, drove me from London to Dover, where we took the ferry to the Dutch port of Zeebrugge. Rob drove on, stopping briefly at the berth of another pirate radio ship, Radio Veronica, which had been impounded by the authorities. A large sign hung across the gate. It read: "Eingang Verboten" (Entry Forbidden). We were thinking of trying to get a sneak look inside, but two large tough-looking guys appeared. So much for Veronica, a casualty of the 70's Radio Wars.



(Note: Mike Baker, one of the MCR operators at Capital, was fired in the autumn of 1974, for taking Capital's audio off-air for a few minutes so as to let the London audience hear the closing-down announcement broadcast by Veronica. Home Office "Blue Meanies" had ensured that Capital's wimpy AM transmitter was sitting on top of Veronica's frequency, thus jamming it in the UK. I never did understand why the Veronica engineer didn't simply change frequency and retune the transmitter.

When Caroline was jammed, I immediately went to the transmitter room and reviewed my choice of crystals, though in the event I never had to retune; see later notes on jamming.

Jon Myer has a slightly different version — he says that Mike was fired as a result of assisting Radio Caroline, he was prosecuted under the Marine (Broadcasting) Offences Act. Mike Baker passed away in December, 2013. RIP old friend.

We arrived at the coastal town of Scheveningen. I was taken to a small Dutch fishing coaster, where I found two more Brits shipping out to the MV (motor vessel) *Mi Amigo*, otherwise known as Radio Caroline. We sat inside the cabin, introducing ourselves, while somewhere on the quay our skipper bribed the Customs officers with Geneva gin and a wad of guilders.



Robb Eden showing Ronan Photo: Theo Dencker

By the time everything was settled, it was the middle of the night, and a force 10 gale had blown up. We set off into the teeth of it. I spent most of the trip retching and wishing I were dead. The captain spent part of it cooking up eggs and bacon for his crew, waving plates of it under our noses while declaring that a good platter of it would settle our stomachs. After seven hours of hell, we arrived at the Mi Amigo and tied up alongside her.

The captain kept the engine running and we kept our distance since both ships were rising and falling some twenty feet or so in the mountainous waves. We all set to, transferring the stores that would keep us fed and watered in the coming months. Water, through a large-diameter hose; beer, in the form of countless boxes of canned Heineken; vegetables, in bags and barrels, and meat, not to mention the several dozen brand new albums the DJ's were bringing, suitcases, and so on. Then we transferred ourselves, leaping from one ship to another at the precise instant the decks happened to be at the same level.

I didn't judge it that well but Andy Archer grabbed me as I stumbled on the gunnel. (I've long wanted to be able to use that word.) "We'll have to stop meeting like this," he said with a grin. My gaydar went off. And I hadn't even met Tony yet.

## SUZI WAFFLES



Photo: Theo Dencker

During the first week or so I finished building a new tape studio for Radio Mi Amigo, the Dutch pirate radio service that ran during the

day. It was run by a couple of guys whose names sounded like 'Koos' and 'Leunis' though heaven only knows how they were properly spelt. Those guys were the eminences grises behind the enterprise since the Dutch service ran advertising and made money, while Caroline ran on something Ronan specialised in, called 'Loving Awareness', and never made a cent.

An entrepreneur by the name of Sylvain Tack ran a company that made waffles, under the brand name 'Suzi Waffles' and these were not only advertised very frequently, but the occasional visit from the Dutch coast would bring lots of these waffles. After the Brit DJs made some uncomplimentary remarks about the waffles, supplies abruptly came to an end.

When I wasn't constructing the new tape room or sleeping I battled with the Continental Electronics 50 KW medium-wave transmitter, which sat in the forward hold like some dragon monster machine. It had been cannibalised over the years, and the circuit diagram bore little resemblance to the manufacturer's intentions.



Continental 50 KW Doherty modulation transmitter. The other transmitter is a 10 KW. Photo courtesy of Offshore Echos

One night while I was asleep, the lone watchman also dozed off, and during his snooze the transmitter caught fire. I came down in the morning to find it still functioning despite a large scorch mark and several melted components. It was a tough old beast, that transmitter.

Then came the day that someone asked: "Hey. Do you think you could do a radio show?" And so I started doing the midnight-till-two spot. The ship's crew consisted of the Brits, who did nothing except run radio programmes and get stoned, and the Dutch, who did the ship-things and also got stoned. We had two captains over the period I was on board, and one cook, Jos, who was a five-star chef and had cooked in some of the best hotels in Europe.

Jos had a great sense of humour. I decided to learn some Dutch, and Jos told me the Dutch word for 'ashtray' was 'kutlap'. Later, while ashore on the Dutch side, I tried out my Dutch in a restaurant, while enjoying a meal with the owners and their wives. I asked for the ashtray and a dense silence descended. It turned out that the word 'kutlap' is Dutch for a special cloth used while performing sexual services on a female partner.



## John B Mair (left) and Johnny Jason

Photo courtesy of Offshore Echos

The Brits consisted of me; a Scots lad, John B Mair, who was quite naïve and innocent; Andy Archer; Johnny Jason; and Tony Allan. Tony and Andy were both gay while the rest of us were straight. Tony Allan died on the 10th of July 2003; rest in peace, Tony.

Johnny Jason started his show at six in the evening. It was three hours of heavy metal and hard rock. One day Johnny was preparing his show and asked me what the heaviest piece of rock was I had ever heard. I knew the answer immediately: Dachau Blues, by Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band. It's on the 'Trout Mask Replica' album.

"But you'll never play it," I added. "It's too heavy even for you."

"Nothing is too heavy for me!" Johnny declared and immediately set off for the record library, which resided in the midships hold.

To my amazement, he found a copy of *Trout Mask Replica* and brought it into the studio. The album was in unused condition. I knew why. After playing it, even Johnny had to admit that it wasn't something he wanted to put on air.

I had secretly wanted to be a DJ ever since building my first crystal set and so I took to my late-night shows with gusto. I still harboured resentment at the way Capital had treated me, especially towards a guy called Emir Walters, who'd taken over as assistant chief engineer. And so, I would dedicate records to this guy, at least once every program; records with messages in the music! One of my favourites was "He's Misstra Know-It-All" by Stevie Wonder. Sadly he is no longer with us, I owe him an apology for that.

Later, I heard that the police had paid him a visit to ask him what involvement he had with the illegal pirate radio station since he seemed to get a lot of musical dedications! The police and other

jobsworths in the Home Office had no sense of humour whatsoever and appeared to be under the impression that we were spying for Russia, judging by the secret service trawlers that often shadowed the MV Mi Amigo.

The situation wasn't helped by the fact that I'd once worked for the Diplomatic Wireless Service, a strange bunch of people dedicated mainly to debugging embassies and providing secret communications services, but who also ran several large broadcast transmitters on behalf of the BBC foreign service.

About half way through my tour of duty, they started jamming us. I got very annoyed when our London audience reported the jamming and decided to do something about it, and started restoring to service one of the two spare transmitters, both of them 10 KW in power. At the same time, I left word with an old friend back on the mainland. The word was, that if the jamming did not stop, then that 10 KW transmitter would soon be broadcasting Radio Caroline on top of Capital Radio's frequency.

It seemed perfectly natural to me to proceed along these lines without ever asking anyone else, like the ship's owners, what they thought about the idea (typical engineer.) The jamming stopped soon after, but I heard that I was now very unpopular indeed with the Foreign Office.



"Tune in, turn on, and freak out!" Andy Archer in the studio.

Photo courtesy of Offshore Echos

My show became quite popular and I soon became expert at operating the Gates audio mixer, which was a big old-fashioned thing full of glowing valves (US: tubes) and had giant rotary 'faders' for the microphone and turntables. Seized by the idea of 'upgrading' I tried out a newer mixer, one that used solid-state components, but it was useless; with the 50 KW transmitter in such close proximity, everything was 'live' with RF (Radio Frequency).

As I became more accustomed to finding my way around the record library I planned a program that would last two hours and would consist of an imaginary space trip, all achieved with various tracks from different albums, starting with 'Set The Controls For The Heart Of The Sun' from the Pink Floyd album 'Ummagumma' and ending with the Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth (or some such title) from Donovan. It took me some days to find all the tracks.

This was to be a psychedelic programme so about an hour before I went on-air, I swallowed a large dose of 'acid' (LSD) with the intention of being in an appropriate frame of mind. The programme began well, and about half way through I was so pleased that I decided to visit the transmitter just to check that it was actually broadcasting my wonderful selection of tracks. All seemed well; I stood in the hold, watching the modulation display on the oscilloscope, and thinking, hmm, if I set it a little over 100% the signal will have more 'punch'.

Then I realised that if anything went wrong, the only person on board who could fix the transmitter was the acid-head standing in front of it, and brains under the influence of LSD aren't very good at working with 16.000-volt machinery. While I was standing there the track came to an end. I stood there for a while, thinking "The DJ needs to put another track on" until I suddenly realised that the DJ was me, and made a run for the ladder to the studio.

The program proved so popular that we broadcast it again later, from a tape I'd made. (I carried the tape back to the UK, but sadly it was confiscated by the DTI 'police' who maliciously erased it before handing it back.)



About half way through my tour we ran out of food. Rumour had it that the Dutch guys had paid some contractor out of Harlingen to deliver the grub, and the guy reneged on the deal. On the Mi Amigo, we were reduced to eating sardines and rice pudding. The tomato-sauce sardines went first and then all we had were the oily ones. Then we started running out of water, and even fuel oil; I had to reduce the transmitter power in an effort to conserve diesel fuel. This is anathema to the engineer, whose whole rationale is based on getting the biggest signal out.

'Trips Tenders', based in Scheveningen, got a coaster out to us. We linked up the fuel and water umbilical and took on a load of desperately-needed food and two dozen more cases of Heineken. To this day I have never eaten rice pudding again. The same time as the food ran out, we started having antenna problems. The continuing foul weather caused a lot of salt spray, to the point where it was dangerous moving about the deck due to the risk of being carried overboard by a larger-than-usual wave. Winter in the English Channel is no easy ride. High voltages plus sea water equals radio-frequency arcs, and the insulators had reached the point where they weren't insulating anything very much. This meant the transmitter was constantly going off-air and it became an urgent priority to change the insulators.



This was a job that's difficult at any time, but most especially in bad weather. Before I began, I called up the Dutch side of the operation (Radio Mi Amigo) and told them I needed to take the transmitter off-air for a couple of hours during the day.

The conversation took place over a 150-watt single-sideband amateur radio transceiver I'd just installed on the captain's bridge. We used a frequency on the amateur 40-metre band. No doubt various governments picked us up on their monitoring services. "No way!" the Mi Amigo guys said. "Hell, I need to do this in the daytime," I replied. "It's dangerous! At night it will be a . . . well, a nightmare!"

"No. You must do it in *Caroline time*," came the answer. "Well, OK then, I have one question. Who is paying me? You, or Ronan?" "We are!" "OK, I'll do it in *Caroline time* then," I answered, money being more important than drowning.

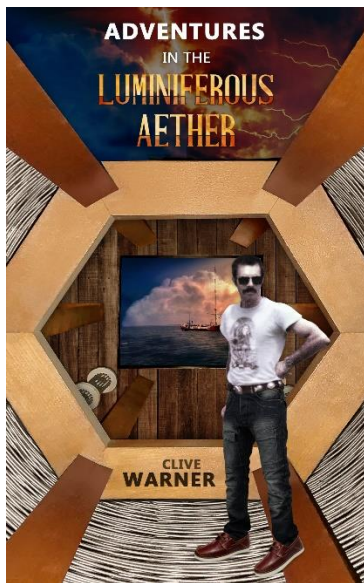
I had a word with the captain about the problem and we located some new ceramic insulators in the RF stores. This was not a job any of the crew cared to assist with, despite their supposed sailor's knowledge of ropes and halyards, so I ended up perched in space above the heaving sea, on a wildly swaying platform, with brute force removing the corroded old insulators and splicing in the new ones.

After an hour or so of hard graft, I climbed back aboard, frozen to the bone, soaked in brine, eyes weeping from the salt spray, only to be told that Ronan had been on the VHF ship-to-shore radio complaining bitterly about *Caroline* being off-air. I sent a message telling him the station would sound all the better for it. Notice how the insulators on the antenna guys are "outside" the ship ... one mistake and you're gone!



*The MV Mi Amigo*

*Photo courtesy of Theo Dencker*



The Kindle version is now ready for ordering:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/new-releases/digitaltext/5435491031>

Mark de Haan pointed me on the next video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTKFC8J4CyU&app=desktop>

The Voice of Peace was a floating unlicensed radio station formed by Abie Nathan during the 70's. During its 30 years Abie preached for peace in the middle east and raised money for this cause. The ship was wrecked in 1993 and was drowned in the depth of the Med sea. 23 years later we came to see how the years passed by...

I was a Disc Jockey (Barry Perrins) on the VOP in I think about 1983. Sad to see the old girl on the bottom. I was trying to work out the huge amount of missing deck. It must have been the old hold. At the time I was on her there was a kind of porta cabin over some of the ship. It was the crew lounge. During the second World war the Peace ship (under another name then) was the last ship to leave Holland before the Nazis invaded. Many years later I with her Dutch captain steered her though a huge storm off Israel. Ashore the public thought her lost. We came in to Ashdod two days later safe and sound.

Radio World from 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. Interesting article today by Dr. Lawrie Hallett who lectures at the University of Bedfordshire and reports on the industry for Radio World from Norwich.

<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/radio-caroline-returns-to-its-roots>

March 23<sup>rd</sup> it was the day that crewmember from the MV Mi Amigo, Jaap de Haan, passed away in The Hague at the age of 70. Jaap was one of the crewmembers working on the old lady in the mid-seventies and was also part of 'The team of '73'. Jaap left behind one daughter. (with thanks to Teun Visser).

Of course, I've send the information to Andy Archer, who was in charge in those days and he came back with some memories:

'Hans, thank you for letting me know. Jaap was a lovely guy with a great sense of humour and a first-class marine engineer. I'm really sorry to learn of his death, he will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him. He and his fellow ship-

mate Peter van Dijken and Captain Ad Meyer were a great team and saved the day on many occasions.'

Teun came back with: Today, Good Friday, we, myself, Captain Meyer, Jan Vink and Peter van Dijken, attended the ceremonial of Jaap cremation. I was informed about the photo presentation of Jaap's history and the time of Jaap's involvement on Radio Caroline, I have requested to play the Caroline tune of the Fortunes during the photo presentation and these moments were very impressive to all of us. The plan is to spread the ashes out over the North Sea within @ two weeks, in front off the coast of Scheveningen and close to the location of the Mi-Amigo in 1972/1974.



Photo left to right: Tony Allan, Jaap de Haan, me and Ronan O'Rahilly onboard Mi Amigo 1974. With thanks to: Andy Archer.

And of course our monthly little chat from Rosko is here too and he wrote: 'very cool reading regarding the history of Radio Luxembourg! Did you know Ronan was hired to shake it up in 1967? He sent Rosko over to change RTL and make it hip!'

Of course, I remember Ronan did and it was something like 'Send in the clown' and yes it was a huge success.



The Emperor on Radio Luxembourg.

Photo: collection Rosko.

And as told before there is now second part of the Luxembourg story in this issue due to too much to report. In the June/July edition more.

From London now, some words from Ian:

I haven't started reading the April Report yet but a couple of very recent offshore events I noted with a tinge of emotion; the 54th anniversaries; yesterday for Caroline dropping anchor off the Essex coast and today of the midday opening by Simon Dee. One or two stations may have commemorated the launch but yesterday's event being less likely, although there was no reference to Easter 1964, a caller to the James Whale show on talkRADIO this evening got my attention. He began reminiscing about a Radio 4 program but Whale's response provided a bit of spice by mentioning listening to Luxembourg and the offshore stations; excitedly mentioning Roger

Day. The caller took up the theme, remembering times when a teacher would tell him to remove his earpiece and put his tranny away; pity they had to break off for the ads! I'll be surprised if there isn't a good bit of commemoration over Easter.

Hope you have a good one! Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Well thanks a lot Ian and your comments are always welcome and appreciated. We got several e-mails about the 'new format'. We did it for years in Word and still do but before sending the report away make a Pdf from the Document. It seems that a lot of readers got the report not in the normal word document but with the photos in separate form. This is impossible with the Pdf form. Here's one of those emails with comments:

'May I just congratulate you on the new printing format. Most of the stories are far, far away from when Chris and I were involved in 1970's but just thought it was nice - rock on!

Love and Awareness, Kind Regards Kate Cary.'

Well thanks Kate, good to hear from you. Well although very sad news, we have some items in this issue from the 1972-1974 period.

And like last month AJ has some news from the USA:

'Good morning Hans. Latest pirate news from the USA. It seems that Boston is a hot-bed of pirate activity; when the FCC warns you, it's time to go dark or get a license unless you want to lose your gear.'

<https://radioink.com/2018/03/28/feds-drop-the-hammer-on-two-boston-pirates/>

<https://radioink.com/2018/03/29/fcc-put-four-more-pirates-on-notice/>

Hundreds of them under FCC investigation. Makes one wonder how many others are out there.

<https://radioink.com/2018/04/10/pai-306-pirates-are-being-investigated/>

Cheers. Aj. Janitschek'.

Thank you and the news about the American pirates is always welcome too.

Next, we go down south and to Australia. 'Dear Sir Hans, greetings again from Aussie Phil in Sydney, Australia. Thank you for another excellent newsletter. You do a fine job Hans! As you may recall, I do a weekly "Classic Tracks" radio show on a local Sydney station - 2RDJ FM (88.1 MHz). Each year at this time I do a spoof radio show because it is April Fool's Day (1st April). Last year I pretended to be up in an airship, but this year I was on a ship outside the 3-mile limit off Sydney, due to "our license expired"! The whole thing was of course a hilarious joke complete with sound effects, and boat captains calling in with messages, etc.

If interested, you can listen to the show (31-3-2018) by podcasting from Dropbox link on the station website. (Note that I use the on-air name of John Dale, my original pirate DJ name).

My webpage is: [http://www.radio2rdj.com/?page\\_id=5772](http://www.radio2rdj.com/?page_id=5772)



Classic Tracks show, with John Dale - Radio 2RDJ FM 88.1

[www.radio2rdj.com](http://www.radio2rdj.com)

Hi, and welcome to my Classic Tracks show every Saturday lunchtime 11:00 till 1:00 on Radio 2RDJ FM. You'll hear two hours of the best sounds from the 60's 'till now. I'll be

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playing rock, pop, Motown, soul, ballads, fast songs, slow songs, the odd 'progressive' track, and everything in-between. It's just the mix to [...]

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And here an interesting item from Rink Hof:

In the newsgroup uk.tech.broadcast I found a link to an edition of the Magazine Wireless World of February 1966.

<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Wireless-World/60s/Wireless-World-1966-02.pdf>

Look at page 88 as there's the EBU chart of that year.

And finally, for this edition of the report it's Mary Payne who did sent two messages: 'Dear All, after a hard day's night, our photo feature on the unveiling of the Aylesbury Bowie statue last Sunday is now on the RL site. Love, Mary.'

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/kneesclub/bowiegallery/bowieintro.html>

And a few weeks later a sadder message: 'I'm sorry to say that last night we received the following email: On Apr 20, 2018, at 21:03, Cheryl N Sewell wrote: Mary, This is Cheryl Toney Sewell, Ben's niece. I am with Ben Toney at the VA Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He wants me to let you know he is in hospice care at present. He is having severe breathing problems and will probably not make it back home. You may contact me if you want to get any messages to him directly. I also read him Facebook posts. Sincerely, Cheryl Sewell

Mary: 'We don't do Facebook, but I've passed the news of Ben's condition on to friends and have included an update on the Radio London home page, so that all our site visitors can hold him in their thoughts. I just hope my reply to Cheryl, which pretty much constitutes a goodbye, reaches her in time for her to read it to him.'



We owe Ben a lot. We appreciate him bringing the sound of Radio London to us 53-odd years ago - and what a huge difference he made to UK radio - and to us! We have been married 48 years and Radio London was responsible for bringing us together. I was so touched that Ben came over for my 60th birthday party in 2009 and by the kind words that he wrote for us to read out at Offshore 50. He was certainly with us in spirit on August 14th.'

Thanks a lot Mary and fingers crossed Ben will be in very good caring hands and he will not have too much pain during the days to come.



Ben Toney Archive Mary Payne.

Well that ends another edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. We're heading quite fast to the summer so I will have a June/July edition somewhere in June and a August/September edition in late summer. Please keep on sending your memories, photos and more to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Greetings Hans