

Hans Knot International Radio Report June-July 2018

Welcome to this first summer edition for this year. A lot of thanks to all reflecting on last issue with e-mails filled with questions as well as memories. And a few of them will be here in the report as well as some news and another part of the wonderful story about Radio Luxembourg.

Let's start with a reflection which came in from Germany and the guy who was final editor for many years of the German Radio News, Frank Leonard.

He reflected on the bad news: 'Graham Gill, a great radio man has passed away! A beautiful tribute from you: 345 unique photos! I'm on some of them too. The last times I could not be at the Erkrath meeting and meet Graham. This year it doesn't work again, I had kept the dates around the usual time free, now the meeting takes place much earlier...

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

I just had a memory of Graham: On August 16, 1974 I transported 10 passengers in my VW van (registered for 3 persons!) during a FRCG North Sea trip, among them Graham Gill, Tony Allan, Norman Barrington, Brian Anderson and Johnny Jason. The freight (including some of my luggage) had to be transported from Scheveningen to The Hague. The gentlemen smoked in the cargo hold, the sliding door remained half open at the sides for ventilation, so that the thick clouds of smoke could escape. In Scheveningen, the police stopped the 'burning' vehicle. The guardians of the law were almost struck when the door was opened, as crowds of people swept out of the cargo hold. Tony Allan's negotiating skills made it possible for us to get off scot-free again.

From this incident are in the FREE RADIO NEWS 5+6/1974 photos (but small). FFFR (Fight For Free Radio), Your Frank Leonard.'



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Photos: Frank Leonard

Radio Link April 25th and AJ sent in the next one: 'Jersey Pirate Fined \$25K. This proposed penalty is against Winston Tulloch for his pirate radio station at 90.9-FM in Paterson, New Jersey. And it shows you just how hard it is to shut a pirate down when he doesn't care what the government is saying. Tulloch had agents at his home in Paterson on several occasions between February of 2015 and June of 2017. Each time agents found the radio station in operation. Tullach finally shut it down in September of 2017. Read the entire 6-page FCC

https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2018/db0425/DA-18-405A1.pdf

Some information on the 1970 song 'Peace' by Peter Steven recently posted by Sjaoul on YouTube: "When we announced the initial R.N.I. revival, we received quite a few e-mails from people detailing on their memories of R.N.I. and listing certain records (in some cases long listings!) of records they hoped we would be playing. In all cases 'Peace' by Peter, very much an RNI anthem, was included.



But who was Peter? Was it Peter Gosling, who wrote it? The record was originally recorded on a KPM Library disc, from which the backing music for TV/Radio ads are drawn. Also, at one time, Peter

Gosling worked as a BBC announcer. However, that's about all I can offer, so it's over to you. Do you know anything more?"

Update: At last - I received an email confirming: Peter Gosling wrote and produced the song, but the artist who sang the song was "Peter Hallett". I was also given his email address, so I sent him an email, asking several questions relating to the song and his career, and this was the reply that Peter Hallett so kindly forwarded:

"Well, it's taken me a while to get back to you so here goes. I was 18 years old when I recorded 'Peace'. Peter Gosling was the writer and the arrangement was by Keith Mansfield, who at the time had had hits with Love Affair 'Everlasting Love' and Marmalade 'Ob La Di Ob La Da'.

The recording featured some top session players - Herbie Flowers, Alan Hawkshaw, Maynard Ferguson and the backing vocals of Sue and Sunny. 'Peace' was a Top Ten hit in Holland and charted in several European countries.

It was voted record of the week by Radio One's Noel Edmonds and Anne Nightingale, but sadly did not chart in the UK. In 1991, 'Peace' was re-released in Holland to commemorate the ending of the Gulf War. It was top of the radio playlist, being played every hour. It charted, but only in the top fifty. I can only say that it was a privilege to be part of such a great song - it deserved more!"

Source on internet: Mike Barraclough.

I think most of my readership will remember '1,2,3,4,Tineke' from the old Veronica days but remember this wonderful lady is as Tineke de Nooij still active in radio. May 19th it was announced that she has won the Honorary Silver Travel Microphone. (Zilveren Reiss Microfoon) According to the jury, the radio presenter deserves the prize because of the natural way in which she treats the medium of radio.



Tineke in the Sixties Archive: Freewave Nostalgia

According to the jury, De Nooij would also "present with power". The 77-year-old presenter receives the prestigious radio prize, which was awarded only six times earlier, for her entire oeuvre.

In the NPO Radio 1 broadcast of the press tribune it was announced that De Nooij was awarded the very prestigious radio prize. The honorary prize has been awarded sporadically since the first presentation of the Silver Reiss Microphone.

De Nooij was one of the first female radio presenters with Radio Veronica. 56 years ago, in 1962, her program 'Coffee Time with Tineke' could be heard for the first time. She also presented the National Hitparade at the NOS and the television show Tineke at Veronica. Already many years she can be heard on weekdays on Radio 5 with MAX.

On 21st of June, the oeuvre prize will be officially awarded to the radio presenter. This will be done together with the radio and television prizes of the Silver Reiss Microphone, Silver Nipkow Disk and the Honorary Silver Nipkow Disk. Earlier it was announced that André van Duin is allowed to receive the Honorary Silver Nipkow disc.

In the report also, it's mentioned: 'It is a special honour for the radio jury to be able to award the oeuvre prize to Tineke de Nooij. We don't think anyone can be heard on Dutch radio any longer than she can. Tineke therefore deals with the medium in an entirely natural way. She presents with power, we sit, as it were, with her in the living room. She laughs a lot, something you don't hear often on the radio. She hardly needs any feedback from her team; Tineke does make up the questions herself. She is one of the last of her generation, but on the radio Tineke de Nooij is eternally young.'

And as promised we go on with the very interesting story on:

RADIO LUXEMBOURG 208 2.7.1951-31.12.2015 Part 2

Philip Champion

The sterlingtimes website says that at the end of 1933 each evening there was a broadcast to one of Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium or The Netherlands. A team of announcers catered for their own languages. Less frequently there were broadcasts in Italian, Swiss (German?), Czechoslovakia and Poland in the evenings. The formula was simple: little talking and lots of good music.

English programmes were created and scripted in Luxembourg with the records Williams had brought along from Radio Paris. Sales messages were sent out, typed up, from London. Among all the jobs Williams had to arrange was one for cue sheets in French for the studio engineers to ensure there were no mistakes; for example, using the gong between each programme.

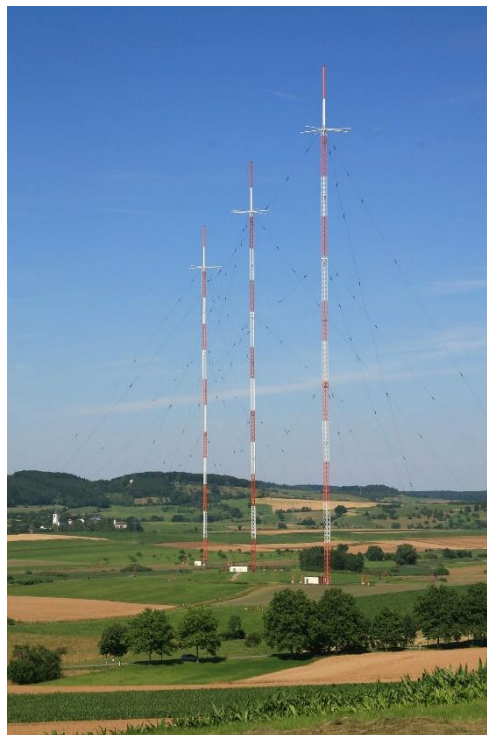


Photo: Grace Fields Organisation

While for the BBC Sunday was a big day Radio Luxembourg had to compete. As well as playing lots of music, particularly the fashionable dance band music, they played two very popular singers of the time: George Formby and Gracie Fields.

On January 15th 1934 the whole station moved to 1304 metres 230 kHz. The European Broadcasting Conference in Luzern had allocated this the previous July to the Polish radio in Warsaw but they never used it. The EBU had refused RL's requests for a LW frequency for its international programmes and dismissed its comments as those of a 'private organisation.' Power was 200 kW. This was unprecedented for the 1930s.

The IdR regarded this as illegal but they had no legal jurisdiction. In 1936 tests were made on 1236 metres. Later the station changed to 1282 metres 234 kHz. Only in 1980 were the masts lowered to 215 meters for what was now the French Service. Now these are spare as LW transmissions have come from the Beidweiler transmitter a little way to the north east with its three 290 m high masts since 1972.



Beidweiler Wikipedia Archive

The Sterlingtimes website shows that broadcasting hours grew. In 1933 the station was on 40 hours a week, in 1935 it rose to 87 and in 1936 it was 104. An April 1936 schedule showed it was on weekdays 0745-2400. Obviously, it targeted certain languages at different times though anyone could listen to the music. At 0800 and 2030 for example there were news bulletins in French and German.

The English Service seemed to be the real money-maker. In one year in the 1930s its profit was about £1 million. A sensation was caused in September 1934 when Williams recruited 52-year-old Christopher Stone to join him in the Grand Duchy. The London editor of "The Gramophone" Stone had become Britain's first disc-jockey at the age of 44 on July 7th 1927. (Another reference state that Stone's uncle, Compton McKenzie, did a record programme in 1924.) He approached the BBC with the idea for a record programme. This was turned down but he managed to convince them.



Christopher Stone Archive Radio Luxembourg

Though he wore a dinner jacket and tie when presenting his relaxed, conversational style was in sharp contrast to the very formal BBC presentation. RL allowed him more freedom than the BBC did and this was one of the reasons for his success here. His programmes became very popular; after his first programme 6,000 letters came in. Though RL was an initial success Williams had seen the need to attract a real radio person to maintain and increase the momentum.

Also, it seems RL would pay Stone more - £5,000 - than the BBC! Stone's defection to Radio Luxembourg led to the BBC blacklisting him though he was back in 1941 when more serious matters concerned everyone.

There were plenty of national advertisers like Shredded Wheat, Palmolive and Rowntree's Fruit Gums. One of the first advertising jingles was heard; it was the Betox March for Betox cubes. Programmes were often of 15 minutes. During the week the English Service was on at various times including mornings before 1015 when the BBC opened up.

August 17th 1934 was the first Friday of regular weekday English broadcasting. By late 1934 it was on every day with Mondays to Saturdays being more the afternoons and evenings. It was especially popular on Sundays from 1200 - 2400 at one time and also 0815-2400 with its light music especially the popular big bands of the day and entertainment. The alternative was the very serious 'Reith' type Sunday of the BBC. The BBC Board even considered jamming RL though they realised their rival's engineers could soon change frequency.

An advertising survey in 1935 found that 1 out of 2 listeners questioned listening regularly to Radio Luxembourg on Sunday and 1 in 9 tuned in on weekdays. Another survey in 1938 found that a million households tuned in on Sundays 1300-1400. By the mid/late 1930s with five million radio sets in Britain (probably one per household) RL had four million listeners. The BBC could manage just two million - and that was at peak time and after they had introduced some more popular programmes as a result of the competition.

A 1991 BBC TV News feature on the English Service closing commented that "Luxembourg brought light and warmth to drab pre-war Britain." From May 1938 to September 1939 RL flew programme tapes, records and people twice a week in an Olley Air Service De Havilland Dragon aeroplane from Croydon to Esch-sur Alzette. This

was the Grand Duchy's second city in the south west of the country and about 10 miles from the capital. The plane had the name 'The Luxembourg listener' painted on the cockpit side.



Photo Croydon Airport Archive

At most other times the station would be in French or German. News for the French and German Services was provided by the French news agency HAVAS. The 49.26 metre shortwave outlet was added from June 7th 1938; its 8 kW was a lot then and meant it could be received regularly in all parts of the world. For a short while on Friday evenings just before the war a Dutch programme started. In early September 1939 Radio Luxembourg stopped all transmissions at the request of the Luxembourg Government so as not to jeopardise the country's neutrality -though the Germans still invaded- and took over the radio station.

After the war long wave resumed on November 12th 1945 in French with the words: "Bonjour le Monde, ici Radio Luxembourg." (Hello, World etc). The Villa Louvigny was in a poor state with furnishings and equipment smashed or looted. It was vital to the Luxembourg economy to get the radio station back on the air. The market for radio advertising in this immediate post-war period was very thin, especially in war-weary Britain. It would take some time for the English Service to regain its popularity and importance.

English programmes returned on July 1st 1946 with Stephen Williams

back as Director of English Programmes. Wavelength was 1293 metres. He was able to get programmes going properly as he retrieved some 50 crates of records and other equipment which he had left stored in the city in another person's keeping, away from the Nazi invaders. Due to the dearth of advertising available in England the English early morning shows were quickly dropped in favour of French programming.



Stephen Williams Archive Radio Luxembourg

Later there were more cuts in morning, afternoon and evening programmes in favour of the French. On May 1st 1948 a Dutch Service was resumed. Between 1948 and 1950 Geoffrey Everitt and Teddy Johnson ran the English Service between them as there was so little advertising to support it. By July 1950 Sunday broadcasts in English went out 1430-1900 when 'continental language' then resumed 2130-0030. A number of programmes were recorded and lasted 15 or 30 minutes such as Edmundo Ros, Gracie Fields, or 'Off the Record' (Roy Plomley). These could be linked by the announcer in Luxembourg though they had some of their own programmes like 'Time for Teddy' (Teddy Johnson) 1615-1630.

One innovation of the English Service came in autumn 1948 with start of the 'Top 20' show -to be a Luxembourg institution for decades to come. The chart was an American idea. It was Geoffrey

Everitt -a dj from 1945 then General Manager over the next 25 years- who decided to air it. The first presenter was Teddy Johnson who, incidentally, was also the first deejay to get a regular daily show. Some doubted if the Top 20 would be a success. Why would people want to listen to the same records they had heard all week? The chart was for some time based on sheet music not record sales. This meant that each week different versions of a current record by different singers could be played. It was the song which counted, not the singer. Until 1951 English programmes also went out weekday afternoons.

Having been regarded for years as a 'pirate' by other European governments who tried to get it closed down - of course their State broadcasters gave their listeners what they thought was good for them, not what they actually wanted- Radio Luxembourg was finally given the right to a high powered LW and a high-powered MW service. This was because its government had been allocated these under the 1948 Copenhagen European Broadcasting Conference. Now they could concentrate one language onto LW and use MW for the others. LW power was increased to 250 kW in 1951. A new MW transmission site was built at Junglinster for a wavelength of 208 metres frequency 1439 kHz.

Such a high frequency would suit CLR as the ground wave could travel either side of the border to Belgium and the western parts of Germany - though not as far as a low frequency groundwave. However, the skywave for a higher frequency would allow distant reception such as for Britain from sunset to sunrise whereas a low frequency's skywave would not last so long. It was to be used for Dutch, Luxembourgish and English programmes - no mention yet of German though that country was rebuilding itself. Power on the omni-directional antenna was 150 Kw. The inauguration of the new transmitter was attended by Grand Duchesse Charlotte and Prince Félix. The use of a MW transmitter was said to contributed to a spectacular development of CLR's radio business.

By the 1950s sponsorship of the English Service began to grow again. While some programmes were carried on LW others went out on the new 208 service which was opened by Pete Murray on July 2nd 1951. For a while those on LW were called 'Luxembourg I' while the others on MW were on 'Luxembourg II.' Pete said that during the 1950s Luxy let him use his own personality with more freedom than the BBC allowed. After all, while all English programming went to 208. A number of shows were recorded in the 38 Hertford Street, London offices and studios. The peak listening for 208 was probably in 1955. A familiar sound in many homes was (Gong) "This is your Station of the Stars, Radio Luxembourg."



Pete Murray in discotheque Archive Radio Luxembourg co uk

To be continued

Some more e mails now: 'Thanks, Hans, for the beautiful tribute to Graham Gill. There were quite a few things I did not know about him before reading your extensive review, including his origins in Australia and the numerous pirate stations he became a part of following our mutual experiences at Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio in 1966. He was a great gentleman and friend and is remembered fondly here in the US. Also appreciate the photo you took of him and me together in Amsterdam in 2006.

Quick note on my current radio project, a combination on-line and on-air FM station in my hometown of St Petersburg, Florida. I now have

an operational live studio from which I do a daily show, Mon-Friday, 4-6pm Eastern Standard Time. I guess that would be 9 or 10 o'clock at night in your neighborhood. The internet link is at www.MusicTampaBay.com, which is also streamed live on Facebook/MusicTampaBay, and a couple of other on-line platforms.

It was great seeing you again last summer in London at Chris and Mary Payne's pirate reunion on the Tattershall Castle. Hope we can do it again someday. Rick Crandall.'

Yes, Rick it was great meeting you again in London but all too short as there were so many people to talk with so feel always welcome to meet again here in the Netherlands - even Groningen is a beautiful place top spent some days. Another photo is enclosed with you and Graham and me in the mirror. It was a very special meeting.



Photo Rob Olthof collection

After the Graham Gill book was published in 2006 far more came free from suitcases in his cellar and from that I published a lot on our site

Most of these are in Dutch but here one on RNI in English

<http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/RNI/rni12.shtml>

Well enjoy and I hear from you. I will give your interesting project a mention and will try to listen next week at 10 sharps in the evening Best greetings Rick. And from the USA we go to England:

Next one please! Bob Bate: 'Yes, another fantastic newsletter Hans. All very interesting and some lovely memories brought back whilst reading.'

Dee Sharisse: 'Just read it. Great work. Thanks, Hans'

Ian Johnston: 'Thanks for another great and interesting newsletter'

From Caroline Martin's Garage where she found a lot of pictures which are now in our flickr archive, so let's go back some 30 years in time:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157668517417438>

I also dived in my photo albums and scanned a lot of material which had to do with the King David and 'The Capital Radio Adventure':

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157693226069292>

Martin also mentioned an interesting site:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Ross+Revenge/@51.7380047,0.8375175,4556m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x47d9196cf4f2ced3:0xf1bd23b90214dd44!8m2!3d51.7347091!4d0.8576901>

Some very good pictures of the Orfordness 648 antenna on MB21 are here:

<http://tx.mb21.co.uk/gallery/gallerypage.php?txid=1654&pageid=3360>

Another e mail, this time from Australia: 'Heyyyyyyyyy! Mr. K! Good day to ya! Excellent! More reading material for after dinner tonight, I see. Thanks again! I never get enough of these! Have a good day! Phil from Australia.'

Next an interesting one from Northern Germany and Gerhard Foilka about the site where Caroline's AM signal comes from: 'I found the

antenna system with the 5 transmission towers on Google-Maps:
<https://www.google.de/maps/@52.1061202,1.5766243,1631a,35y,346.5h/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en>

Awesome! The entire area was arranged for optimal transmission technology. The satellite view reminds of the aerial photos of the cult sites of the Mayas or Aztecs! Kind regards Gerhard.' Thanks a lot Gerhard very interesting view indeed!

AJ from the USA again: 'A Happy Friday! Interesting article from the New York Times about pirate radio stations on YouTube. Hmmmmm, not the same as listening to them on a radio but maybe I'm just getting too old. 73. AJ'.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/arts/music/youtube-streaming-radio.html>

U.S. Representative Leonard Lance of New Jersey introduced a bill to Congress on Tuesday to fight illegal pirate radio operators. The PIRATE Act, "Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act" calls for an increased penalty of up to \$2,000,000 for anyone convicted of operating a pirate station across the nation. The legislation also mandates the FCC to perform "Pirate Sweeps" no less than twice a year in the country's top five radio markets to uncover pirate radio operations.

https://radioink.com/2018/05/08/broadcasters-cheer-pirate-radio-bill/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Traffic+Network+Snarls+Entercom+s+Q1+Revenue&utm_campaign=Wednesday+-+05%2F09%2F18

Joan Perich from Playa de Aro in Spain was next with an email: 'Good morning Hans. I want to tell you about a project that we have started preparing a few weeks ago. This summer will be 40 years ago that the people of RMA left Playa de Aro. Taking advantage of the fact that I am doing the book and directing Radio Platja d' Aro, it occurred to me to propose some ex-DJs from Radio Mi Amigo with whom I talk frequently, if we could do a little radio together, with

their voices and the music of the 70. It all seemed like a great idea to everyone.

So we are preparing a daily hour of music, jingles and RMA voices. It will be only during July and August. The idea is to put only music and jingles, without an announcer live. Ancient and current jingles, which are taxing Ton Schipper, Bert Bennet and Marc Jacobs. We also hope to have the help of Bart van Leeuwen and Ferry Eden.

Bert Bennet is going to edit old jingles of Peter van Dam, with the permission of his wife to use in this project. I want to say that all this project is for fun and there will be no commercial announcement or any economic interest. We all want to have fun and remember old music and old friends.

The idea is to publish podcast every hour so that it is accessible to everyone. I'll keep informing you.' Excellent idea and yes keep me informed so I can share it with readers versus several FB pages.

On May 10th more info came when Joan wrote: 'All old boys are very excited to collaborate with this project. Yesterday I met with Robert (Marc Jacobs) in my station. He is a very nice guy! Here is a picture: The old man is Jose Luis, director of Discothek Marius in the 70's and 80's, in the middle Marc Jacobs and myself Joan on the right. Joan Perich'



Sometimes surprise packages are brought by the postman and this also happened a few weeks ago. Several stickers, photos, leaflets and more were in an envelope which was sent to me by Anthony Platten, a radio friend in England whom I know since the early seventies of last century.

One leaflet was published by ERA, which stood for European Radio Association. In the leaflet promotion for AFN Frankfurt, Radio on TV in Italy during the night and sweet music station Romainville.

I couldn't find anything about ERA in my archive or on internet, so who can tell us more, was my question on social media.

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news on the hour, and much, much more.
keep in touch with the world
tune to 344 metres medium wave.

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the music of the night for all Europe
continuous non stop listening 12 pm - 6am
news in English every hour on the hour
set your dial to 355 Rome or 334 Milan.

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with tourist news in English

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King Curtis
Johnny Halliday
Elvis Presley
Beatles
Barbara Streisand
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CONTINUOUS UNANNOUNCED VARIETY MUSIC ALL DAY LONG

Issued by 

Distributed by: S.I.R.A., 91 Park Street, Hursley

After putting this on my fb pages I asked where ERA stood for and it was Anthony himself with the answer: 'There was a free radio magazine in the 1960's/1970's called SIRA (Southern Independent Radio Association), which I'm sure you have heard of. On all their publications they had this ERA logo. I do have a copy of their Winter 1973/4 and inside the front cover on the editorial page is this statement which says: 'You are probably wondering what's become of the new ERA - well it still exists, in fact its thanks to ERA that the meetings and talks to organise the new SIRA took place. Nothing appears to have come from ERA, so the actual idea is creating new alliances within the framework of the radio organisation.'

So ERA was a organisation based in Sussex, England. This and SIRA was run by husband and wife Mick and Jo Mayhew. Contributions to this magazine came from Hans Verbaan and Jozef Segers, names we both know from the past. Mick's ex-wife Jo now runs a second-hand shop in Great Yarmouth, and Mick lives (or did) further up the coast in Norfolk. Well Hans, I do hope you find this of great interest. Best wishes for now, Anthony.'

Well wonderful information Anthony and more of the material will be on the internet soon. Thanks a lot for everything. We stay in England and go to Thankerton, which is near to Whitstable.

An update sent by Bob LeRoi 'Whilst they don't come along so often, when they do they're big, welcome to the May 2018 Update

"ScrapBook" has Bernard Kelly recalling his time in care and maintenance on the Red Sands Fort. Then during a trip out to the Knock John Fort, Brian Waters chats about the early days on Radio Essex.

Cruising the Thames Estuary, Jerry Pitcher talks about his artists studio at the Radio City Office in Whitstable, and his time as a Fort Custodian guarding Knock John for the potential Radio City 2 project



There are two features on Red Sands; a Service Visit and a look at War Time and the Radio Station Generation Plant aboard the Fort.

We've added an interview to the Brian Tyrrell page where he about fishing and his time as crew on the 'Mallard' tender to the Red Sands Fort radio stations of the 60's.

More photographs and information have been added to Fort Fax, and there's more detail on the time bomb of the North Kent coast the 'Richard Montgomery'. The "Personal Pages" have a massive feature of photographs of Whitstable Harbour through the years from the 1880's. Plus some extra texture has been added to one of the Malta pages. Finally, a contributor in 'One Subject One Link' asks is the cost of running small radio stations fair?

Enjoy Your Visits www.bobleroi.co.uk

Walter Galle memories

I think a lot of readers know the technical skills from Walter Galle and recently he sent me memories from the days his was 'under weapons': 'In 1972 I was a soldier in the German place called Soest. In our vehicles we had a sending receiver who could receive the 31 and 49-meter Europe band and so RNI via the 49-meter 6.205 Khz was received with much and sometimes deep fading. But if you tuned

in the sideband the sound seemed FM. Many times, it became warm under my feet because messages intended for me I did not hear.

In the barracks Quarter Adam, I converted a tube radio into a FM transmitter and relocated the 220 meter at 100 Mhz. The transmitting antenna was a round beam antenna in the attic of the barracks and which served a large part of Soest. RNI on 220 meters and we had a receiver connected to a long wire antenna also stretched out in the attic. I was caught and the price was 'sixty days of potato peeling'. I received this as community service and a week in prison in Neheim



Three punished soldiers who had to peel of potatoes. I'm on the left.

Also, you see a portable Grundig transceiver with the shortwave antenna and surely it was on RNI and 6205 KHz.

On board the MEBO II often was worked on the modulation of the Amplihase 220 transmitter. The RCA transmitter, which was used, was of the same kind as the one on the Ross Revenge.

These transmitters consist of two identical transmitters that work together at an angle of 135 degrees via a joint network of 80 ohms.

When all amplifier stages from after the crystal to the end tubes are adjusted to that, a phase shift due to influence of the audio modulation depth of more than 100 percent.

It seems simple but it is not, because that was the reason for the many tinkering. I kept a diary in Soest that year.



Walter in his room number 36 and look at the special clippings about RNI on the door.

My army service in the German Soest was rather Radio North Sea colored, Veronica was weak at 192. I also kept a diary of it, at night RNI were sometimes out of the air and the main station was siphoned off.'

Wonderful memories Walther thanks for sharing it with my readers.

On May 11th other sad news came in from Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame who published a message about Ben Toney: 'Sad news from Raquel Toney: "It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that my dad Ben Toney passed away this afternoon< May 10th, at the VA Medical Centre in Dallas. Cheryl, his niece, and I were there by

his side and he went peacefully, pain free, and surrounded with love which we are so thankful for. The hospital staff gave him a very moving military send off and they took care of him so well all throughout his stay there. I am utterly devastated but I am so glad I got to spend these two precious weeks with him. We also really appreciate all the thoughts and prayers that you sent previously. Cheryl and I read them out to him and he really loved that. R.I.P dad. I just know you are already on that pirate ship in the sky playing top 40 and singing along.

A tribute page has been opened by the Pirate Hall of Fame: Born in Texas, Ben's family moved to California when he was young. Times were tough - it was the great depression - and his family didn't have much money but, at the age of eleven, he was given a present that would change his life: a radio. He fell in love with broadcasting.

Following his schooldays, Ben joined the navy. Still fascinated by radio he sometimes entertained his ship-mates by playing records to them over the ship's public-address system. After four years in the navy, he attended the University of North Texas where he was president of the Radio Club and worked part-time on the local station KZEE in Weatherford, Texas. When he graduated he joined KZEE full-time but soon transferred to country station KCUL. In 1959 he moved to KRBC in Abilene, Texas, a Top 40 station, where he worked as an airtime salesman while waiting for a DJ position to become available. When it didn't, he was off to KJIM in Fort Worth, a station owned by actor James Stewart, but returned to KRBC when he was offered the post of Programme Director. The next stop was WTAW where he combined sales and presenting.

For more go to this link: <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/btoney.htm>



Cleo Laine and Ben Toney shared by Ben himself on Facebook

A wonderful tribute from Mary and Chris Payne is here:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/bentribute/memories.html>

From Spain Mark Roman wrote a tribute to Ben Toney too:

'Hi Hans, I expect you have already heard the sad news that Ben Toney died last week on the tenth. I previously sent a tribute to his life which he was able to read perhaps you would like to read it also.

Ben Toney has left us and we mourn his passing, each of us has reason to be grateful for his contribution to our lives.

Ben Toney a Tall Texan with a booming voice, (when he wanted it to be so)

Ben Toney a Tall Texan who knew how to do it and could prove it (when required)

Ben Toney, why am I repeating his name so often?

Above all others this man changed the face and tone of British Radio. Forever!

Before Radio London arrived, there was nothing of great importance, The BBC was locked in a bureaucratic time warp. Radio Luxembourg was trying but battling with a poor signal, Caroline did her best but in

the early days largely followed the BBC but with better music, and more of it.

Then came Radio London created by two visionary and energetic Texans Don Pierson and Tom Danaher, that part of history is well known but one vital part is missing.

With great respect to those two entrepreneurs anyone can start a radio station, the proliferation of offshore imitators proves that, but the vital ingredient is the programming and style. Radio London had that in the person of Ben Toney. It was he who initiated and chose the Top Forty format and introduced it to the music hungry population. It was he who introduced unscripted personality deejays to the airwaves. BBC required approved scripts of their rehearsed adlibs. Yes, it sometimes went wrong, but that was what the ever-growing audience loved, they never knew what might happen or how it would turn out.

They were listening to real people in real time and they loved it and the guys hired and encouraged by Ben who would later become stars, Kenny Everett, Dave Cash, Ed Stewart, and others like Keith Skues still going strong, and of course Tony Blackburn who started with Caroline and blossomed with LIL.

BIG LIL, named by Kenny and how the audience loved her for a brief period and silenced by an unthinking cretinous and controlling government (aren't they all?) And to be replaced after a suitable interval by Radios One and Two etc. and populated by many of those personalities from the offshore stations. Not surprisingly it sounded very similar to Radio London, why was that so? Because as daft as the BBC was, and is still, they recognized quality, success, creativity, and talent, if it isn't broken why fix it! A true but unrecognised tribute to Ben.

Sadly, much has deteriorated in the past fifty plus years. And it is so sad the legacy that Ben Toney had created has been betrayed.

As you grow older I beseech you do not let the name of Ben Toney be forgotten.

It was he and he alone who led the way, because unlike so many others he could prove he knew how to do it.

On the occasions he visited the ship and stayed overnight those of us on board would challenge him to be a deejay! In those days we talked over the instrumental part of the 'Vinyl' disc until the vocal. Despite often hearing the most obscure disc we could find Ben would hit it on the button every time. Respect! How many PD's of today could do that, of course they will argue modern radio does not require that, maybe so, but what happened to real people? with personalities who entertained, conversed and were welcome in your Home, Kitchen, Bathroom, Bedroom Car or wherever? Do you remember those days? So Long Ben Toney I am happy to have known you and I am so grateful for your contribution to my life and the lives of so many others, so very many others.'

A big thanks to Mark Roman and I hope you will be reader of the International Radio Report for many more years. Next some more sad news received at May 28th from Paul Rusling:

'At a meeting in Yorkshire two weeks ago, Peter Clayton, Carl Kingston, Graham Hall and myself were discussing well-known offshore radio author Paul Harris and his books and I mentioned that I hadn't seen him for a while; we pass close to his home in the Scottish borders quite often and he is always glad of a natter about the golden ages of offshore radio.

I called him a few days later to be told he was in hospital for a short stay - no great concern, as he was nearing 70, but I was horrified just two days later when I got this chilling message from his wife: "my darling Paul passed away at 11pm last night".



Paul Harris photo: collection Paul Rusling

Paul was from Elgin, a small town in the far north of Scotland and he attended Aberdeen University where he read police and international affairs. While there, Paul was chief instigator of the university's rag week station Kings Radio, which they planned to take offshore. The authorities leaned on the University dons and had the funding and other support services pulled.

Paul had written the definitive offshore radio book called "When Pirates Ruled the Waves" but the impending MoA meant that most mainstream publishers wouldn't distribute the book, and eventually Paul set up his own imprint, Impulse Publications.

Ever the rebel Paul made several trips to Holland and got embroiled with the International Broadcasters Society, run by Tim Thomason and his wife Bertha, who were planning an offshore station. Paul was key to finding a suitably high-powered transmitter and arranged to pick up lots of equipment previously used by Radio 270. Launched in 1970, Capital Radio had lofty ideals politically and played mainly easy listening music. It was also unique in that most of its crew were female and formally enlisted in the Liechtenstein Navy!

The ship seems to have been sabotaged by rivals and ended up grounded on the beach at Noordwijk that November. It proved so expensive to reflect it that the company went bust. One of Paul's books tells the inside story of the station and its trials; called *To Be A Pirate King*, it is rarely found available these days.

Paul wrote further books about radio, including a translation of Jack Kotschak's story about Radio Nord. He also undertook a series of tours as a journalist, first to the Middle East, then to India and some hairy trips to Ceylon where the Tamil Tigers took exception to his journalism and had him arrested and later deported. Paul had a keen interest in oriental art and regularly visited Vietnam and other countries in south east Asia. He continued his writing on international affairs and was a renowned expert on African politics. He is the co-author of the standard reference work on Scottish painting, *The Dictionary of Scottish Painters*.

Paul had visited over 100 countries; and has been a professional lecturer (usually on Chinese art, but also on modern history) for the last twenty years, often on cruise ships with Cunard. His lectures covered shipping, art history, counter-insurgency, terrorism and politics. Only last month he was in France but could usually be found tending his ever-growing collection of art and antiquarian books at his gallery.

Paul was a staunch freedom fighter for radio, had an endless fascination for independent and novel types of radio project of all shades. He always found time to be keen to help novice writers such as myself and offered limitless advice and encouragement. An intriguing and beguiling man, the world of radio is much poorer for his loss and I for one shall miss him and his help and chats.'

Thanks Paul Rusling, really well appreciated you've written a very warm, touching obituary thanks a lot and greetings. Next, we go to Australia and Ian McRae:

'I've just released ep.11 of my podcast 'A Radio Station Like No Other'. How does this radio station get away with it? 'Cause I say they can! The podcast features samples of some of the best of recent programs broadcast by Wilton Bay's own renegade radio station The Seventh Wave FM... uncensored.

There's a preview of the entertainment at 'Bonks Brasserie Bar' and this time it's a truly weird novelty act from Japan. His name is Saiko Fukuyo.

The naughty boys at 'The vinyl lounge' report on how the mafia are being frustrated by the amount of government paperwork they have to fill in these days before they assassinate anybody.

Brian Coleman has a take on the cover-up of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church in his song 'A well-respected man'.

If you aren't too happy with the way your life is right now...our pet psychic Kerrie Erwin has some advice. Then Woz, our traffic reporter, checks out Wilton Bay traffic, radio's weirdest traffic report.

My friend George the one-legged Greek, has written an inspirational poem about being an amputee. And finally, another great parody from Brian Coleman saluting Vladimir Putin's new ballistic missile system. A song that's right on target. And it's a wrap with Leonard Cohen's dedication to the town of Wilton Bay. You can listen online or subscribe for free on iTunes (which has now been rebranded as Apple Podcasts) or Android at

<http://www.wiltonbaymedia.com/listen-or-subscribe-for-free>

Be aware some segments can be adult humour and are tagged 'Explicit'. Yikes!

Thanks a lot Ian for the information and next two very interesting sites found by Martin van der Ven

<https://www.transdiffusion.org/tv/in-depth/simon-dee/>

<https://www.transdiffusion.org/radio/offshore/>

On many occasions the Triptender, one of the ships of the Shipping company Trip in Scheveningen, sailed back and forth between the Second Inland Harbour (Tweede Binnenhaven), where it had a permanent berth at the Dr. de Lelykade, and RNI's then radio ship.

After RNI and thus Radio North Sea disappeared from the air in August 1974, I myself regularly went to Scheveningen for a nostalgic trip. It was always checked whether the ships of the Trip shipping company were still there. Until three years ago it became known that the ships were for sale, it was suspected that one day there would come that the ships, which always had the same colours, would change ownership and would no longer colour the statue of the Second Inland Harbour in Scheveningen.

Today, May 19th, it became known that at least the Trip Tender will no longer be on display in Scheveningen, because the internet newspaper 'De Scheveninger' reports the following: 'The former 'Trip Tender' appears to have been caught on the high seas to the south of Alicante by Spanish Customs transporting some 15,000 kilos of hash. The 25-metre-long ship sailed without a flag and arrived early on Friday morning on the radar of a customs patrol.

The Trip Tender had been part of the fleet of Rederij Trip since the 1970s. The ship was recently sold by the shipping company and is currently no longer part of the Scheveningen company. According to the website crimesite.nl, the ship, still sailing under the name Trip Tender, was intercepted at the Cabo de Palos. At that time, it had a northern course. At 02.30, the Spaniards went on board and arrested four people on board: three Dutch and one Bulgarian. The ship had Maltese papers on board but does not appear to be registered in Malta.

The Spanish received a tip from the Dutch police about the cutter. The ship has been brought to the port of Alicante. The further investigation is in the hands of the Spanish National Police and the Guardia Civil.'

This will no longer be a trip to the Triptender in Scheveningen and all those other 'trips' have fortunately been intercepted.



Trip Tender alongside MEBO II Freewave Archive

Next it's Jon at The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

I've updated and new this month:

- Radio Caroline DJ from the 80s Caroline Martin has recently shared dozens of her personal photos from the station on Facebook. She has kindly allowed us to publish some;
- we hear from Radio Caroline South DJ Paul Noble who has sent a recent photo;
- correspondent Per Arne Berggren has provided more RNI charts from 1970;
- there is news of two more offshore radio-related deaths;
- a video shot on Red Sands Fort;

- and, since the last full update, I have added a tribute to Radio London's first Programme Director, Ben Toney, who sadly died on 10th May.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed. Best wishes, Jon
www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Well that ends the first summer edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Another one somewhere in August. Feel free to send your personal memories, photo's, questions and more to HKnot@home.nl and have a nice summer, or winter for all those down-south.