

Hans Knot International Radio Report December 2018

Welcome and yes two other months have passed since the last edition. Good to see a lot of lost people due to the computer problems have made contact again and I think now 95% of all addresses are back as well as we have many new readers. Thanks for all the e mails and I could fill 3 newsletters with all the material. A part of the memories will be shared in this issue and before I forget, we wish you a very merry Christmas and all best wishes for 2019, in which I hope to publish 6 newsletters as well as almost daily updates in the Facebook group Marine Broadcasting:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263295407574312/>



There are several memories from people involved in offshore radio about the problems with the tendering from the offshore stations but also stories about how sometimes it could be funny enough to tell it years later to an interested audience. I'll take you back to 1981 and a story told by Fred Bolland during Euro Radio 2002 organised by OEM.

On the question how many stations he was involved with, Fred answered that he was involved with Radio Delmare, the Dutch service of Radio Caroline, Radio Monique, Radio Paradijs, Radio 558 and a little bit with Laser. And then a most hilarious memory was told by him.

Fred Bolland: "I can tell you a story about the first time we tendered the Paradijs radioship Magda Maria. It was the day the ship would come from Dublin to a position of the Dutch coast. I had arranged the tender with the Bischon from Scheveningen. We were expecting the radio ship to arrive early at the Saturday morning, but she didn't

arrive. We went out with the Bischon and stayed all day, but there was no sign of the Magda Maria. At 5.00 in the afternoon we had to come in because the ship had been chartered for a party that evening with an orchestra and everybody well dressed.



Fred Bolland in the eighties. Photo: Leen Vingerling.

That evening I got a phone call from Scheveningen Radio in which was told that de Magda Maria was off the coast of Scheveningen. I told the captain of the Bischon that we had to go out and he once again remembered me that there was a private party. But I told him that we had to be creative. And so we went out with the ship with an orchestra on deck and everybody dressed up for the party and a very large table with food.

We were going out further and further down the coast and everybody was getting seasick. We went alongside the Magda Maria from Radio Paradijs and we had to get people on and off the radio ship. Everybody was shouting and asking what we were doing and we said that we had an urgent call from them on the radio and that they had urgently had to get some crew and supplies on. And that's how we first tendered the Paradijs ship.' Wonderful memory and please feel free Fred to share more.



Magda Maria photo Freewave Archive

Edward Waterson wrote: 'Dear Hans. I should imagine a number of people have told you that Tony Hiller died on the 26th of August at the age of 91. His Pirate Radio credentials are based on his composition of "Caroline", recorded by The Fortunes and used as the them tune for Radio Caroline, though I believe it was released as a single in January 1964, some months before the station opened. It bombed but it's an anthem to many of us. He also composed, among

other songs, *United We stand* and *Save Your Kisses for Me*, recorded by Brotherhood of Man.'

Stephen Raindle also came in with the same topic: 'I realise this is somewhat old news but it was only in my newspaper last month then I have been busy and forgot to send it to you but I read an obit in The Times for Tony Hiller, songwriter who wrote 'Caroline', made famous by the Fortunes and of course Radio Caroline. Hiller also penned 'United We Stand' which remained popular as a rallying song for many campaign groups, even football supporters. 'Save Your Kisses For Me', which he composed and produced for Brotherhood of Man who won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with it and made it the biggest selling single in the history of the competition eclipsing Abba's 'Waterloo' from 1974.

Tony Hiller was born in Bethnal Green, London in 1927 into a Jewish family descended from Polish immigrants. His father had worked for some years in the office of songwriting legend Irving Berlin in America. Tony Hiller set up a song and dance duo with one of his brothers and they achieved modest success supporting big names such as Alma Cogan and Matt Monroe.



Hiller at the right with the Brotherhood of Man. Photo: Escxtra Archive.

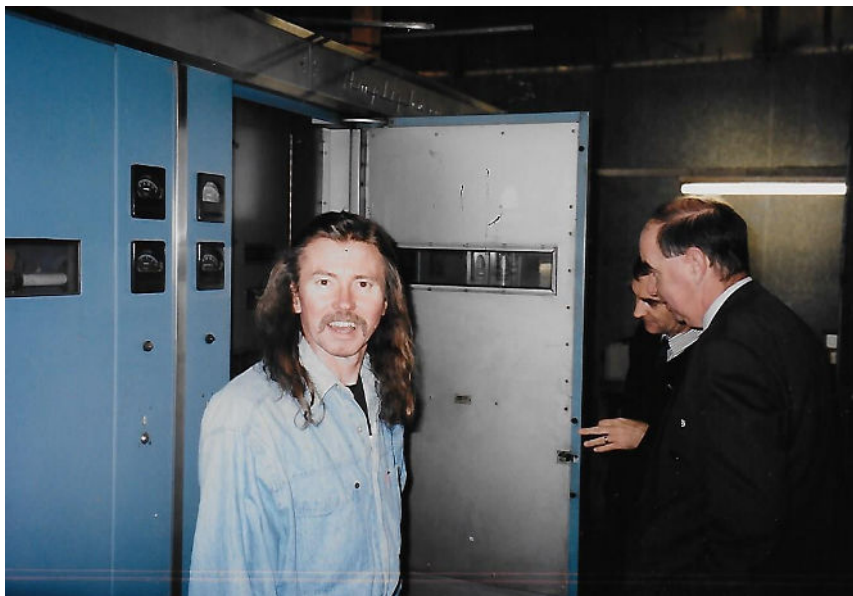
Tony convinced his brother that writing songs would be a longer lasting career and they touted their compositions to music publishers

in London's *Tin Pan Alley* in Denmark Street. Being unable to afford to make demo records they sung them to prospective clients earning £20 or £30 a sale. Working for Mills Music they employed an unknown Reg Dwight to make the tea and used his voice on the demo of 'United We Stand'. Hiller never forgave himself for not becoming Dwight's publisher as the singer found fame as Elton John. Tony Hiller died on August 26th 2018 aged 91.'

Next a tip to view a special on internet. The Knock John Tower Radio Essex 1966 revisited in 2018. Amazing! Have a look.

<https://www.28dayslater.co.uk/threads/knock-john-sea-fort-may-2018.113550/>

I recently put a photo in the fb group Marine Broadcasting with the following text: I know it will be difficult for some of you but please no angry comments. This is really a fact that the late James Murphy was guest on the Ross Revenge in March 1996 on the same day as I was. On the left Peter Moore, followed by Murphy in the middle and another person from the DTI. **Photo: Hans Knot**



One of the reflections came from Peter Woods I guess that once he was no longer working and had time to reflect on his life, he probably came to realise that actually, he took part in something that resulted in a lot of unhappiness for other people. What can it be like to be in the twilight years of one's life, and reflect on the past and whether

one did good or bad, helped make the world a better place or not, a.s.o. I imagine that these thoughts may have been in his mind after he visited the Ross Revenge. And how must it have felt, having wronged the station in the past, to then be made welcome in later years by Peter and the crew in visiting the ship as a guest, which I suspect is something he could never have imagined would ever happen.

One could describe it as an example of the Loving Awareness philosophy to extend the hand of friendship to a former "enemy". I expect he could not help but come to see things from the perspective of Caroline and how those involved with the station were just ordinary decent (and forgiving) people who believed in what they were doing for all the right reasons.



Ross Revenge in dark hours in Dover photo: Kees Pronk

I would guess that there was greater understanding between Caroline and the DTI following this visit to the ship. Yes we should acknowledge the "shift" in thoughts and feelings about Caroline that it would seem James Murphy came to have, albeit late in the day for him at the time, and also for us now, all these years later. There is some irony in that Caroline ended up having this effect upon him, and

he probably became a better person for it. We have to understand all perspectives and then forgive, or else we hang onto anger, bitterness and resentment, and are eaten up by it.....which is not the Caroline way.

I spent some time on it as I wanted it to come across in the right way as I know many people feel passionate about things concerning the raid as I once did - it used to make me feel angry and sad to view what was the rape of Caroline. But in all conflicts and disputes both sides need to come together eventually (eg Northern Ireland / IRA etc.). Yes please feel free to use my comment Hans. I expect from the perspective of all on board that day including yourself, that it could be realised that James Murphy was just an ordinary person too - but had been on the opposing side - If it had not been him it would have been another person. I am very gladdened to read that he searched his soul about what he did to Caroline.

When I worked on the ship 2006-2010 I became aware of the lack of anger and grudges held by the crew and staff towards the authorities. Sure we would always talk about them, and how wrong they were, but there was no malice or hate from anyone about things that had happened like the raid. There is something unique about this amongst Caroline staff in my experience in those years. Caroline has a lot of love and affection surrounding her - and passion - but the passion must be channeled positively and not yield to hatreds. I miss working on Caroline with the crew restoring the lovely Ross - it was like belonging to a family, and broadcasting from the ship was such fun and such magic. Miss it all!

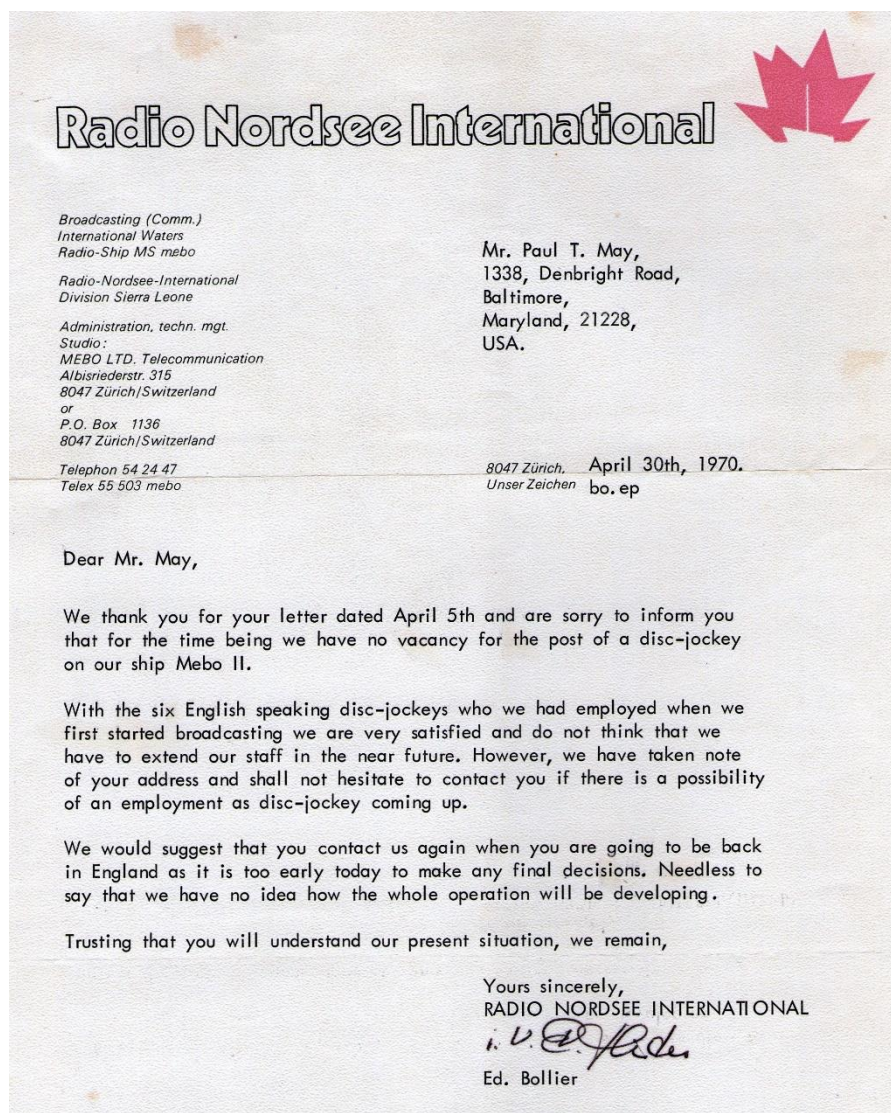
Thanks a lot to Peter Woods. Here are some other memories from Dave Windsor:

'Hi Hans, firstly very many thanks for all the help you, Martin and your friends have given me in my search for many rare songs.

You ask for some of my Zeezender Memories which begin back in 1970 with the unexpected and very welcome start of RNI. From the moment the MEBO 2 began broadcasting I knew I wanted to work in

radio. I became an avid listener from that time on and took more and more interest in Veronica and the wanderings of RNI.

It wasn't until 1971 that I first visited Holland and was at the RNI house in Hilversum where I was shown around by Mike Ross and Peter Holland and I remember spending some time with a very nervous Paul May who was waiting to see if he had got a job with RNI. I also remember one day a VIP was due to arrive in the form of Edwin Bollier, accompanied by Andy Archer, who was soon to make a brief return to the station.



Since the start of the Dutch service I had begun to pick up the Dutch language and this was to be invaluable in years to come.

In Sept 1972 of course, the Mi Amigo was due on the scene once again, and after the mutiny, when things seemed to settle down a bit I returned to Holland and in the Spring of 1973 visited Van Hogendorpstraat 16, the Caroline place to be. I met Robin Adcroft as well as Kate and Chris Cary. I went out with them to the good old lady.

As we were half way there great excitement began on the Morgenster as, for the first time, simultaneous transmissions began on 259 and 389. I remember helping Bert Bennet with an acetylene torch on the Mi Amigo, before going into the studio with Norman Barrington and Dick Palmer, who was amazed we met 6 miles off Holland while he and I lived in the same town, Orpington in Kent. I was also very sad to learn that Robin Adcroft had passed away. As I mentioned, I remember him being most kind to me when I visited Van Hoogendorpstraat 16 in 1973. A lovely guy who did so much for Caroline and RNI.

I also met Steve and Debbie England around the same time and visited them later quite a bit at their home in Deal in Kent. I remember vividly hearing Crispian St. John on Radio Atlantis at the start of 1974 asking if Steve was listening and with the message to him to get in touch. So I phoned Steve and within a few days he was out on the Janine.



Dave Windsor Photo: Leen Vingerling

In 1976 I visited Playa de Aro and was shown around by the very sadly missed Peter Van Dam, and after returning home I corresponded with Bart Van Leeuwen .

I have to say that the Dutch programmes from the stations on the North Sea were the best I have ever heard (the energy ,enthusiasm and effort) and it is so wonderful to have been around in the heyday of such a wonderful era.

Indeed, it was the production and presentation style of the Dutch programmes which I emulated in my own programmes in a career of 30 years. I should also like to mention Andy Archer, whose wonderful programmes over so many years, were not only immensely enjoyable to me as a listener but invaluable to me as a benchmark for my own shows and should be considered by any 'would be broadcaster' as the standard to aspire to. If you are reading this Andy, I trust you are well and thank you again for all the thousands of hours of pleasure you have given me and millions of others with your shows.

They say radio has progressed. The technology maybe (but you can't beat carts and turntables!) but with the use of computer generated playlists and one liners I pray for the days when people were in radio for the love of it; I really doubt a lot of people in radio today would even know what I mean.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on all the Dutch services over the years, who produced the most professional programmes, mostly under really difficult circumstances and who gave me and millions of others a type of broadcasting we shall very sadly never see again.

Thanks especially to you and Martin and all the other people who keep the flag flying. And to people like Ferry Eden, Bert Bennet, Marc Jacobs, Marc van Amstel and others too numerous to mention who still produce great programmes so that 'THE LEGEND LIVES ON!' We shall never forget the enjoyment you all gave us.

Veel Groetjes aan iedereen in Nederland en tot de volgende keer.
Dave Windsor.'

Thanks a lot Dave and feel welcome to write more of your radio memories. Now we go to other memories. Gavin McCoy has some about the generator on the Peace ship: 'Anyone who's worked on a floating radio ship knows that the constant music of the generators, is as important as the music on air. It's a long time ago, but I can remember the sound of our vital power plant humming in the Mediterranean.



The generator on the Peace ship. Archive Hans Knot

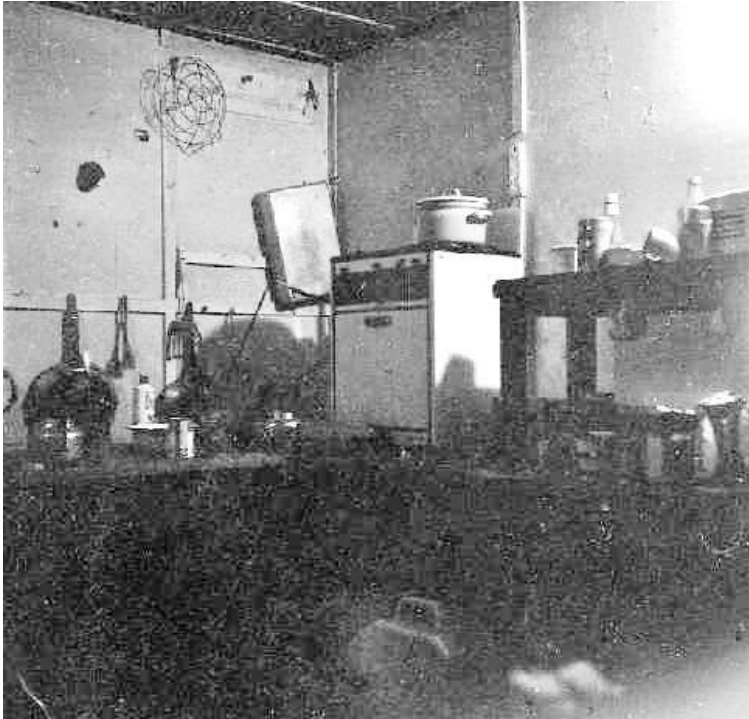
As I approached the Voice of Peace on a small Arab fishing boat, the first thing I heard far off was the sound of the gennies. There was first a distant buzz, then a powerful roar as we got closer. Living on board it was always with us, night and day. And they were evident far below deck in the studios and cabins. Eventually, even sunbathing on deck, we were able to mentally tune it out. But, we were able to immediately detect any change in note or tone if it varied. The Allis-Chalmers and Lister generators were mounted on deck and in the open on the VOP. This seemed to be a good place to keep them cool. During my time the chief engineer was Dutchman Bill Danse, assisted by American "Buck". Great memories I can also remember the day that he (Bill) replaced the mercury switches on the Gates turntables with zero voltage switches. Needless to say, the liquid metal moving around in glass tubes hidden in the rocker switches, used to switch

the decks on and off in rough seas! They were designed for static studios! Bill was an innovator and produced workarounds to make our life easier. I can also remember him winding coils for the transmitter by hand.....but that's another day!

Thanks a lot Gavin a nice memory to the station many in the Middle East loved. Already more than 25 years when it closed down. Underneath photo I found back in my archive and shows the studio-door on the MV Peace during a certain period.



A very important person on a radio station in international waters was a good cook. What I understand from the memories from those who worked on the forts, Radio 390 had a good cook. There are not too much photos of the galleys on the forts, Here's a very vague one taken in the galley from Knock John Towers.



Greg Bance aka Roger Scott remembers dinner time: 'Every night was gourmet night at Knock John. Engineer Keith Robinson's "stoup", a soup-stew hybrid was bettered only by his widgey pie (you better not ask...). Spam! Corned Beef! Something whiffy from the larder! The 'boys' were fed on the cheapest that money could buy and - we were told - 'the best'.

Andy Cadier remembers having a sack of half rotten brussels sprouts, nobody would eat them. Fort Captain Dick Palmer said I should chuck them over the side, but only after the tender had been, as we didn't want Roy Bates to find them and bring them back! The shelf to the right was in fact an old bench as used by WW2 troops below deck. With flaking paint and rust falling from the walls and ceiling it's a wonder there were not cases of food poisoning. The washing up was done in an old sink in the room on the opposite side of the main corridor. All water came in 5 gallon plastic containers and diesel in similar metal cans all hoisted aboard with a manual pulley and rope. The original WW2 oil fired cooking range was never reactivated nor the electric forced air central heating. No lifeboat or life jackets and no fire extinguishers were there. We felt totally indestructible and indeed quite barmy, but to be a local broadcasting pioneer it was worth it.'

John Ross Barnard came with the following answer: 'Yes Hans we had a splendid cook in Invicta days. She was so caring see my comment in Keith Skues book Pop Go The Pirates chapter 13. Later when radio 390 emerged we had a fine Asian chap who's curries were memorable. However when the big transmitter was first tested he lifted a saucepan off the shelf and suffered a 'ghostly' RF burn. He looked genuinely scared and left shortly afterwards. Try explaining RF to a newly arrived Asian. Go on then.'

Well gentlemen thanks for your eating memories on the forts. Lucky there are more memories than only from the kitchen. Next we go to Don Stevens: 'I think I shared this memory with Hans Knot over beers in Dortmund, so, he will be able to identify the Captain from my story. I came aboard the ship and JJ was keen to do his transfer to the tender, Simon Barrett had been aboard before, so, he went about his duties, so JJ gave me a quick guide of the Mi Amigo, then left. I met the Dutch crew, nice people, and I found the Captain somewhat negative.

That night we had a vicious storm, I volunteered to help, while Simon ran his show, the Captain, grudgingly gave me a job shutting doors and portholes and checking the vessel for leaks. I reported to him that all was secured, so, he asked me to sit on the Bridge, and keep the Mi Amigo facing the storm. Next morning, all quite, and I am spinning the first hour of Radio Mi Amigo, the Captain came into the studio and told me I curse good in Flemish, my 'G' is very good for an Englander, so, told him I was Irish.

Next morning, starting the last morning hour of Radio Caroline, the Captain came in, with scripts, and asked me to read them, all in Flemish, and he liked what he heard, so, told me to make the announcements on my Mi Amigo spinning hour at the times he has indicated, so, I did. I loved playing those Mi Amigo jingles, thanks to my Captain, I was a Nederlands DJ, well, not really, but felt so.



Peter van Dam joined us soon after and took over all Radio Mi Amigo output, but he became a firm friend aboard ship, miss the guy so much, a real pro, and gentle in his support and advice, not the big I am, I learnt much from Peter. We had many more storms in front, the Captain always gave me the wheel room, jenever and chocolate in storms, he told me I was the first English DJ to understand the importance of seamanship aboard ship.

I smiled, told him we Irish love our booze and, I am Irish...he loved that. So sad that Ronan insisted I go to Israel, Keith Ashton and Ronan got me out of the UK, so, I never did a further Tour on the Mi Amigo, but, I did get to work with a great man from Nederland, Bill Danse, whom I admired and respected. He has such an intellect, kept me sane on the Peace Ship. Bill Danse Big Hugs.

I am sure I told Hans Knot the full story, and what about that gentle giant Yose, our chef on the Peace Ship, he really made good food. Great memories.' Thanks for the long memory Don and I will bring it into the report so maybe Rob Ronder, aka Alfons Jagtman can remember names, Wasn't the captain Werner de Zwart? Maybe that rings a bell.

Don Stevens: 'I think his name was Werner, a good man, close cropped hair, athletic build, a fair man who liked to be obeyed, he treated me very well, and taught me how to read his Flemish scripts and get my G sounding better. You will recall my accidental slip at Radio Day when I mentioned God in Dutch, blame the Captain.'

Well done thanks again and some weeks ago I learnt that Werner de Zwart, who spent his last years in Spain, passed away earlier this year.

Next more pictures in the massive archive: 'Radio Mi Amigo in Playa de Aro (58 pictures)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157701830474495>

November 27th very sad news came in from the Independent: 'A British radio host has been found murdered at his home in Lebanon, where he had lived and worked for more than 20 years, according to local media.



Gavin on the Voice of Peace courtesy of David Nathan

Gavin Ford was the host of a popular morning show in the Mediterranean country, where he earned legions of fans over the years for his high-energy and humour. His body was found on Tuesday morning at his apartment in the town of Beit Mery, just outside the capital Beirut. Police told the local *Daily Star* newspaper that he was murdered. Read more

here: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/gavin-ford-dead-british-radio-host-lebanon-beit-mery-a8654121.html?fbclid=IwAR2kbeqVwH_mAyWBTu8lhRjPezELsoQG WVZ12vEmN3TuLjO_BniODXUHvNE

Three men have been arrested. Gavin was 53 years of age. Some comments on his death:

Stuart Clark: 'Shocked to hear the very sad news today about Gavin Ford, an old Voice of Peace shipmate of mine from the '80s. He was a lovely, larger than life character and a fine broadcaster. We had a couple of fabulous nights out in Tel Aviv, with Gavin leading the way and taking me to some incredible places. You were guaranteed a party when he was around! I hadn't seen him for, gosh, 25 years, but on a work trip to the Lebanon in 2016 I heard him presenting the breakfast show on Radio 1 there. Good as he was on the VOP, he'd matured into a world class broadcaster. My condolences to Gavin's colleagues, friends and family.'

Mike Darby: 'Really sad news I was aboard the Peace ship when a fresh faced Gavin came aboard so many memories he learnt his trade well as so many did RIP Gavin.' He also did some stunts on the Ross Revenge working for Radio Caroline. **Photo is made by Caroline Martin.**



Next there is this month's update from the Pirate Hall of Fame:

- There is the sad news of the death of Radio London racing driver Keith St. John and the brutal murder of Caroline DJ from the eighties, Gavin Ford;
- we start celebrating the festive season with part three of 'Christmas in International Waters';
- we link to a home movie of a visit to the Mi Amigo;
- there is news of a new Kenny Everett DVD box set;
- and we have updated the two pages of RNI photos which we posted last month with more information and comments from former Northsea DJ Ian Anderson.

My thanks, as always, to the contributors. Best wishes, Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Who we won't forget to mention is the Emperor who had some very troublesome days when a part of California went on fire and many people died. Luckily this house was saved from the fire. After the last report came in into his mailbox he wrote: 'It arrived despite your computer woes! I hate computers! They are a necessary evil. I hope you're well and may your new drives be 100 years of quality and trouble free! EMP! Thanks Rosko and hopefully Christmas will bring some joy into your life too. And as the festivity period starts here's the Rosko beer mat from 1971!



Next e mail was coming in from Clive in England: 'Hi Hans, thank you for the recent radio report. I was really saddened to read of the passing of Robin Banks. I remember listening to Robin on RNI in the

early 70's, I particularly remember him playing Earth & Fire records. I am thinking he had some connection to the band, do I have that right or maybe my memory is playing tricks on me? Talking of memories it was Robin playing the Earth & Fire track "Memories" that brought the band to my attention, the very next day I went to my local record shop to try and buy the record, or any record they had by the band. The record shop had no records by Earth & Fire and thought it unlikely that could order them either.

The guy in the shop did however say he had had a few other people in asking for Earth & Fire records recently, obviously other RNI listeners!. I eventually found a way to get hold of Earth & Fire albums direct from Holland although the whole process seemed to take about six weeks but it was well worth the wait. It was Robin Banks and some of the other RNI DJ's occasionally playing records from Europe that were not available in the UK that opened my eyes to a whole world of great music from Europe that gets no airplay in the UK. It's all a lot easier nowadays where everything can be instantly downloaded but I still listen to and buy music from Europe that most people in the UK have never even heard of, all thanks to Robin Banks and the other offshore DJ's.



Thanks for the great reports, I always look forward to receiving them. Best regards, Clive. (Northampton, UK).

Thanks a lot Clive bringing in these memories. Indeed the music from Earth & Fire was plugged a lot on RNI, next to the music from

Golden Earring and Focus. Main person responsible for that was Robb Eden. There were more readers reflecting on the death of Robin:

Peter Anderson: 'I was sorry to hear about Robin Banks who I met at a free radio gathering pub at Essex about 10 years ago. It may have been the river Blackwater or the next one down as there were boat trips to the ship. Mike Bass was also there and Bob Laurence, Tony Christian and others. Now both Mike and Robin are gone. Who is next? More and more radio programmes and reports are about who has died this week when before it was about the fight for a better future in the fight for Free radio and the latest record, not the latest death. I wonder what percentage of the Free Radio longer audience are no longer with us.

I found the report very interesting revealing many things about things I did not know about before and I found the report about the FRA at 239 Eastwood Road, of particular interest. I was a full member of the FRA. I left the Ross Revenge as caretaker for about 6 months, after the Tilbury RSL and some help with the broadcast in a wide range of activities (shop, tour guide, general dogs body, coordination, restoration Offshore display at nearby Arts Centre, stock taking and dealing with the money for the shop etc.).



After leaving I moved to Hullbridge and I often drove right past 239 Eastwood road in my motor home. I used to wonder what it used to be like when the house was the headquarters of the FRA. Obviously there was nobody there to ask, as it was many years afterwards. So the FRA article was very interesting as it answered what I had so

often used to wonder about when driving right past. I do wish I had lived in Rayleigh Essex at the time instead of where I did live, as things would have been so much better for me and no doubt met the writer of the article (2 years younger than me) and many interesting people directly involved in offshore radio, the most interesting subject on the planet but not the only interesting subject. Right now though it's back to work. Until next time. Cheers Peter Anderson

(Albert Hall a member of the Empire).'

Thanks a lot Peter for your contribution and memories too. Now a link to an item on internet to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQSPSMBL3UU>

Earlier in the report I mentioned the death of former captain on the Mi Amigo, Werner de Zwart, who passed away in July. The news was brought to me by Hendrik van Nellestijn, who kept in touch with Werner for many years. Hendrik, who was also active in offshore radio as Wim Robijn on Mi Amigo 272 and also became known from his company Simrek. He wrote some short lines about RNI and Veronica.



Simrek owner Van Nellestijn on tv recently.

'If I had been director of RNI during the 'bombing', then I would have taken direct action after it became known that Veronica was the perpetrator. I immediately ordered to put the 10 kW backup transmitter on the 192. And this for the period in days when I was in hours out of the air thanks to Veronica. For example, 12 hours out of the air? Veronica 12 days out of the air. Never forget that the reserve transmitter from RNI was stronger than the main

transmitter from Radio Veronica. Why was RNI so mild?' Yes a question about what went into history as the 'bomb attack', which wasn't. 1971 to 2018 47 years ago!

I wrote in 2007 to Mary and Chris Payne as we know them from their Wonderful Radio London internet site. I informed them on the Radio London graffiti that has graced a wall in his hometown of Groningen since 1966. The street where the '266 shed' is, has been 50% renovated and part of that long street (Gorechtkade) has been broken away. Luckily, the remaining section of the street is in the ownership of a cooperation that didn't want to participate in the rebuilding project. So the shed is still going strong at the Gorechtkade! After 40 years, the Big L graffiti has become a part of history and deserves to survive!

However we're 11 years further on and last week I was in that part of Groningen and saw that the other part of the Gorechtkade is being renovated and so after 52 years there's no more sign of Big L. The memories are still there as on the photo are Mary and Chris Payne.



Of course don't forget to have a look on www.radiolondon.co.uk for the latest updates.

We could expect it every day but it came to a shock on Thursday October 11th when just a short message came in from Mary Payne

telling us that Duncan Johnson, who we know from Radio London, BBC Radio One, Radio Luxembourg, RNI and more, passed away at the age of 80 years. Soon we learned more from Jon Myer at the Pirate Hall of Fame. 'I am very sad to report that the owner of one of the most distinctive voices on offshore radio, former Radio London and Radio Northsea International DJ Duncan Johnson, passed away this morning in West Middlesex Hospital at the age of 80. He was a good friend to me and a great help to The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.'

My own thoughts came and indeed it feels very sad with the loss of Duncan Johnson. 80 years and he had a very bad last years with the Parkinson disease. I met him a few times during the past 20 years. Really good guy. And were we happy after London days that we could hear him on other stations too like RNI. It goes too quick this year and they should have some trouble now to fill, without problems, the weekly rundown of Heaven radio.

Dr. Martin van der Ven reflected with: 'Duncan was such a nice guy, a superb dialogue partner and a splendid converser. As a 14-year-young boy, I first heard him on 10th April 1970 when RNI began testing on 190 meters medium wave. I will never forget that wonderful deep voice! I was lucky to meet Duncan four times between 2002 and 2009. As a neurologist I did know how much he had to suffer from Parkinson's Disease during the last two decades of his life. As a Christian I do believe that Duncan is redeemed and may now rest in peace. Best wishes Martin.'



Duncan Johnson at RadioDay 2005 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Of course I may not forget to mention the beautiful, warm and informative, three pages long, tribute written by Mary Payne which you can find here:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/duncantribute/memoriesduncan.htm>
!



With his former Radio London colleagues in 2002 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Martin has opened a special page in our Flickr Archive featuring Duncan Johnson:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157696487898820/with/45223139582/>

Here's what Chris Edwards has send me: 'Duncan Johnson 1938 - 2018 Learning the radio business in his native Canada, Duncan worked in Bermuda, before visiting England, and later a job with Radio

London. He came ashore to work for the BBC, before returning to the ocean waves with Radio Northsea International. More work with the BBC and commercial radio followed, before a career change to a finance controller. Duncan Johnson had suffered from Parkinson's Disease and passed away, at West Middlesex Hospital, on 11th October 2018, aged 80. A tribute and interview is now online at www.offshoreechos.com

A wonderful, well done, warm and informative Tribute to Duncan Johnson has been posted on Sunday 14th on the Pirate Hall of Fame. I advise everybody to have a read: posted a Tribute to Duncan on the PRHoF: <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/duncanj.htm>

Next one came in from Erwin Meister, Edwin Bollier and Victor Pelly.



**Radio Nordsee
International**

In memoriam....

DJ's and staff members of Radio Northsea International:

Don Allen, Tony Allan, Axel, Robin Banks, Graham Gill, Dave Gregory, Duncan Johnson, Carl Mitchell, Ed Moreno, Spangles Muldoon, Mike Ross, Crispian St. John, Larry Tremaine, Jason Wolfe, Willy Alberti, Jan Boezeroen, Peter van Dijk, Rudi Kagon, Wim Jaap van der Laan, Alfred Lagarde, Karel Prior, Piet Römer, Gerard Smit, Henny Spijker, Joost Verhoeven, John de Mol sr., Joop du Pau, John Denny, Roger Kirk, Frans De Feber Kurt Baer, Captain Jan Harteveld.



We have fond memories of the good old times. All of you contributed to turn Radio Northsea into a great Radio-Station. Thank you!

The spirit of RNI lives on.

Edwin Bollier, Erwin Meister, Victor Pelli

Above listing has one mistake, sorry for that. Jan Boezeroen is still alive.

Enda Caldwell reports from Ireland: ' We had the Sunshine 101 / 539 MW reunion (30th anniversary) with The Admiral Robbie Dale or 'Mr. Robinson coo coo ca chew', as he was known at Sunshine 101 THE RED HOT SOUND. it happened at Gibneys of Malahide close to Dublin airport on Friday 12th October. Present were Robbie Robinson, Mark Byrne... Dave Lyons.. (and many more)

Photos from Simon Byrne are now on the internet

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/165294388@N03/shares/c4bC1P>

We all had a great time and despite our age, managed to stay until we were chucked out about 1am.

On the Sunday we took Robbie to see the portacabin in Portmarnock. Last time we had a reunion, those of us that visited the portacabin will remember it being in disarray. Since then it has been renovated inside and houses a 'Men's Shed' on the left where News used to be and down where the on-air studio was, has been rebuilt as a studio and until recently housed an internet based station called Non Stop 90's.'

Thanks for sharing this news Enda which is most appreciated.

I found the next report in a Dutch newspaper from October 23rd 1970 concerning a pirate station in Groningen: 'Clandestine transmitter discovered in Groningen. In the Helperweststreet in Groningen yesterday afternoon investigators of the special department of the PTT, in cooperation with the district police, silenced a clandestine transmitter operated by the 24 year old film operator Anton R. The police forced into the house when R. was busy with music under the name Radio Nordsee International.'

Paul de Haan and I were involved. So maybe Paul can tell more about this station: 'Well, here's what I remember. RNI first edition from the MEBO II closed down in September 1970. It was decided that at least the city of Groningen should have RNI on the radio. So operator A.R started RNI Groningen from a 10 watt FM tx with a directional aerial on top of his mother's house in Groningen. The

height of the aerial on top of the house was some 25 meters. Mrs. R didn't know about all this. Involved were A.R, Hans Knot, Ate Harsta and yours truly. One or two other people too, not sure anymore who they were. The format was the hits from 1970 and oldies, I remember playing 'I saw her again' from the Mama's and Papa's from 1966 and tracks from Nancy Sinatra, 'Ladybird' and others. After a few weeks on air the station was raided by Dutch PTT <GPO> who, with a lot of noise, entered the house. I had hidden the Tx in a coal storage on the balcony and we were sitting in the living room reading comics as if nothing had happened.

They ordered the Tx, we didn't do it so the next step from the PTT'ers was that they announced a search through the house. We couldn't let this happen because of the poor Mrs. R, who wasn't at home and not aware of what was going on in her house were her son operated a FM pirate station. So, I got the Tx from the balcony and gave it to them. Another request from the PTT'ers was the Elvis record we had played on air. Well, there was no Elvis record in our studio, they insisted the song was played. Later we realized that we had played a Bonzo Dog Doo Dah song that sounded like Elvis. That was RNI in October 1970 and my first radio programs. Those were the days.'



Bart van Leeuwen during Mi Amigo days Photo: Theo Dencker

Bart van Leeuwen will present the programme 'Theater van het Sentiment' from 13 January 2019 on via NPO Radio 5. This makes him the definitive successor of Jeanne Kooijmans, who stopped presenting the programme earlier this year. "I find it a great honour to present this wonderful programme, which has existed for more than 20 years," says Bart van Leeuwen. "And then again on Radio 5, the radio station with a rich past and a golden future. The Theatre of the Sentiment can be heard every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 16.00 to 18.00 CET on NPO Radio 5.

NPO Radio 5 is the radio station of classics and evergreens in combination with news and information. Bart van Leeuwen made the news himself world-facing via his facebook page. Van Leeuwen's roots lie with Radio Veronica, where he started with the presentation of a guest DJ programme, which immediately gave him a job at the station. He stayed with Radio Veronica until August 31, 1974, when the law against sea stations came into force.



Bart van Leeuwen 2017 Photo Hans Knot

In 1976 he was suddenly, as Tim Ridder, heard on Radio Mi Amigo, while after a few months he would take up his pseudonym 'Bart van

Leeuwen' again. The 64-year-old, who was born as Ton Egas on 2nd of July 1954 in Dordrecht, joined the Veronica Omroep Organisatie in 1978. There he became popular with the programme 'De Bart en De Zwart', a co-presentation with Erik de Zwart. But also programmes like 'Ook Goeiemorgen', 'Goud van Oud' and 'De Tipparade'.

In his long career he also worked for RTL Radio, Radio 538, Radio Nationaal, Radio 10, Radio Veronica, Classic FM and Radio M Utrecht. So there is also now NPO Radio 5. The right man with the right program in the right place.

Interesting e mail from Chris Edwards

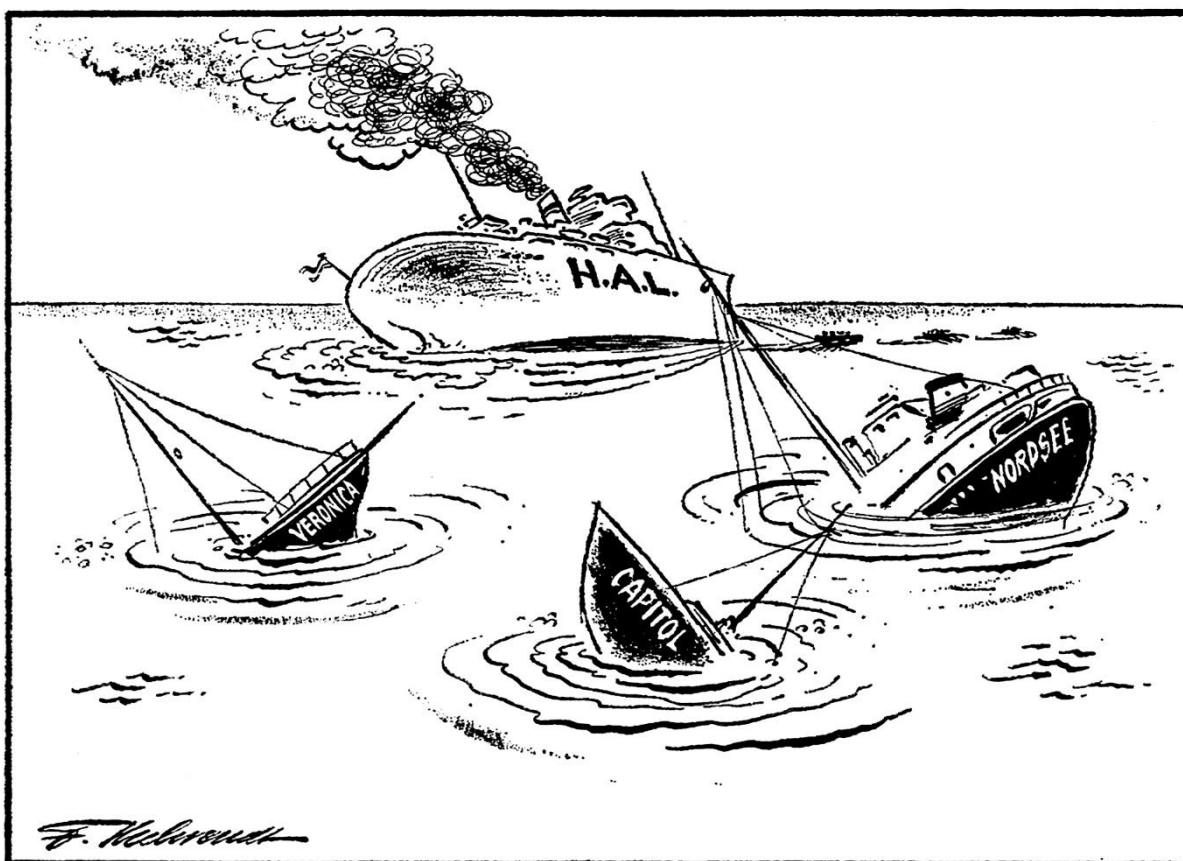
'As well as listening to the offshore radio stations, many radio enthusiasts explored the shortwave bands. One popular shortwave programme was Radio Netherlands Happy Station, aired every Sunday.

During the 1970's and early 80's, my late father kept up a correspondence with Happy Station, and it's then presenter Tom Meyer, visiting the station on a couple of occasions. A selection of postcards and QSL cards represent what was probably a golden period of shortwave listening.

The complete collection can be seen at www.offshoreechos.com

Thanks a lot Chris it's an exceptional page which I advise everyone to visit soon.

Cartoon time too and this one is from the Dutch Telegraph, the biggest daily morning newspaper in those days. They always paid attention to the offshore stations. When in one week there were talks about the possibility for the introduction of a law against offshore radio as well as in the news was that the HAL (Holland America Line) would bring their offices from the Netherlands to the USA, this cartoon appeared in the Telegraaf.



29-5-1971

Van ahoy tot S.O.S.

Early March 2006 I got a phone call from Mrs. Hoodle van Leeuwen in Amsterdam. She told me that she had been searching for me for a long time. Although she found my name sometimes in articles about the history of radio she never knew where I lived. Internet was a thing she never wanted access to.

When Dutch newspaper NRC had an interview with me late 2005 they mentioned that I worked for the University Groningen. To keep things short, she told me that for 36 years she kept the personal belongings from a former RNI deejay from whom she didn't know what became of him after 1971. I could tell here he worked in Groningen during late 1968 and early 1970. Also I could add more about his career as well as the fact that Dave Carmichael died in the early nineties of last century. We know him all as Carl Mitchell, deejay on Caroline International in 1967/1968 as well on RNI in 1970. Weeks later I met Hoodle and her husband Tom at their current house in Amsterdam and it seemed they hired a room to Carl

in 1968 up till late 1970 at their former house at the Prinsengracht in Amsterdam.

As there many radio related material I took everything with me and in a long period I could write the Carl Mitchell file which was published in several parts in the International Radio Report but now can be downloaded as a 38 pages document. Have pleasure in reading it and let the memories coming to you.

<http://www.hansknot.com/features/carlmitchell.pdf>



Andy Archer: Hans. I hadn't seen this image of Carl before. He was a lovely guy and I really enjoyed working with him. Back in 1967, all of our cabins on the Mi Amigo were named after London clubs. Carl's was 'The Bag of Nails' in the bow of the ship. The naughty boys. Johnnie Walker and me spent memorable evenings there in his company listening to wonderful music and smoking weed. Happy days!

Thanks Andy for this comment after I published this part of the report on Marine Broadcasting.

A remarkable e-mail came in from Denmark too after I published the article about Carl Mitchell on Marine Broadcasting on Facebook.

Jan Boogaloo Josephsen: 'This was fantastic to read. I knew Carl Mitchell when he was DJ'ing in Denmark.. He was deejay under the name Carlos in discotheque Scotch Club in Horsens (Denmark) where I was doorman (security guard) at that time. I think it was in 1972. He was a really nice person, but he was like a closed book about the past. He told me a little bit about his past but not much, but we became good friends at the period he was here and spend a lot of time together at the quiet evenings, as in those days there was only a lot of public during the weekends.

It was a sad day the day when his contract finished and at that time he told that he had decided to go home to the USA. I tried for many years to trace him and rebuild a contact, but without luck. Today is first time I learned more about him and found out why he was impossible to trace as I only knew him as Carlos or Carl Michell. The time I had with him in those days in 1972 returned to me as a flashback. It made me happy but also a bit sad. He deserved that life had treated him a bit better than it did. Carl was for me my first meeting with what it was to be a deejay. A meeting that formed my life as touring deejay and from 1984 as Radio deejay, all the way up to 2012. Carl I thank you for that. May you Rest In Peace.'

Some interesting links from Herman in Belgium

<http://flashesandflames.com/2014/03/18/how-a-radio-ship-and-7-men-shook-up-britain-50-years-ago/>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Historical-Dictionary-British-Dictionaries-Literature/dp/0810853043>

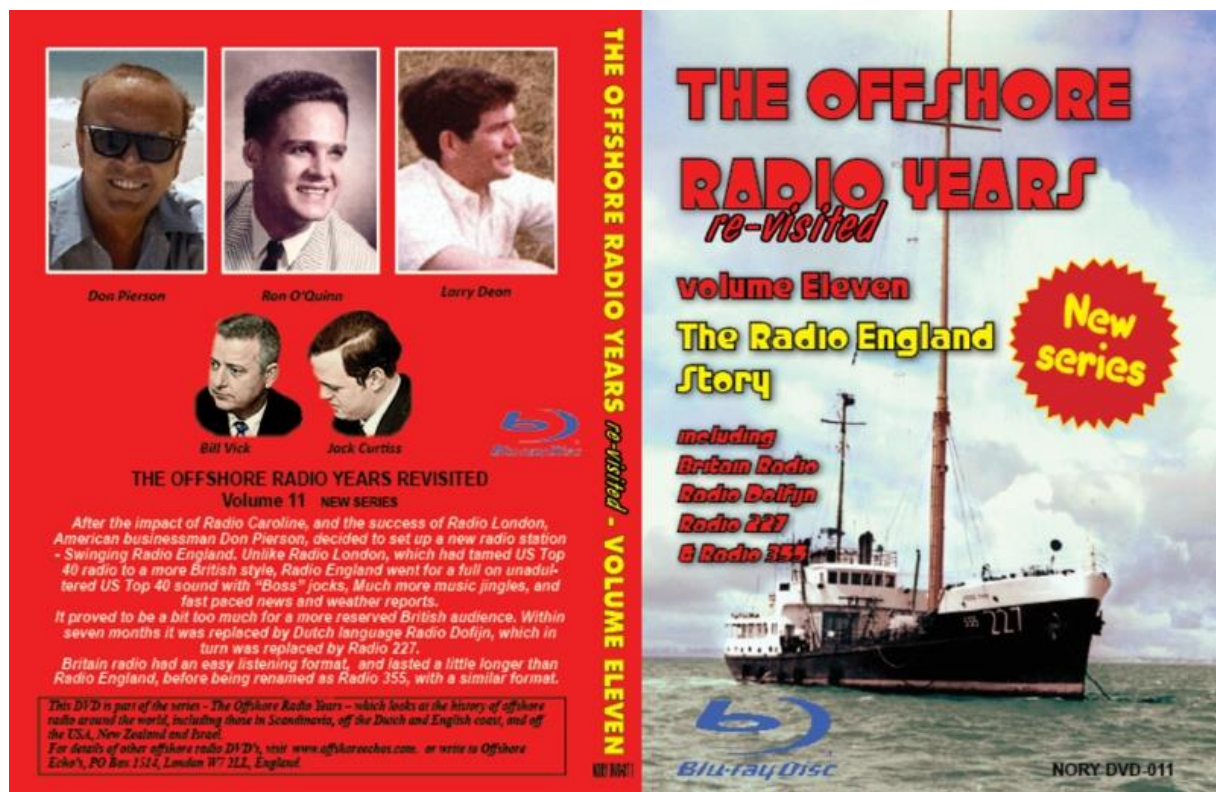
This special sticker came in from Anthony friends from Australia:

WonderfulRadioLondon on 266. mw

THE FREE RADIO ASSOCIATION 239 EASTWOOD ROAD RELIGH ESSEX

The Picture above is a copy I made up from my memory of the Radio London/Free Radio Association car sticker sent to me when I joined the group in 1966. In The 1960's I was a member of the Free Radio Association and I could buy off air recordings and get good quality photos from that group.'

Thanks Anthony for sharing this with my readers.



A review by Martin van der Ven

To be honest: When the recent DVD arrived I thought that our friends from OEM wouldn't be able to top their former products. First of all, I was astonished to realise that the duration of this new DVD was 114 minutes as I initially doubted that there was enough material. But believe me, I was definitely disabused. I thankfully watched another offshore radio documentary which was as thrilling as a crime movie. There were hundreds of pictures, several in-depth interviews, countless on-air recordings, tunes and jingles - all of them in superb quality. A lot of material proved totally new both for my eyes and ears. You immediately got the impression that there

were experts at work. It never ceases to amaze me how much exclusive video footage has again been collected which is without doubt putting the cherry on the cake. To summarize I take my hat off to Francois Lhote, Chris Edwards and Steve England. This DVD/Blu-ray is another must for every offshore radio fan, recommended by The Offshore Radio Guide as five star product!
Martin van der Ven

http://www.offshoreechos.com/Video/ORY_Revisited_Vol_11.mp4

More news from Martin brings us to a wonderful series of photographs which are now on our Flickr Archive and brings us to the REM-Island

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157703280035565>

German Radio Nordsee (1968-1970). 50 years later. From the archives of Hannibal (Ulf Posé) and Offshore Echo's Magazine

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157703316731025>

There's also a link to the German Governmental Archiv and look from 2.19 on. A special about the Galaxy and RNI in Hamburg.

https://www.filmothek.bundesarchiv.de/video/584839?q=piraten+radio&xm=AND&xf%5B0%5D=_fulltext&xo%5B0%5D=CONTAINS&xv%5B0%5D



RADIO LUXEMBOURG

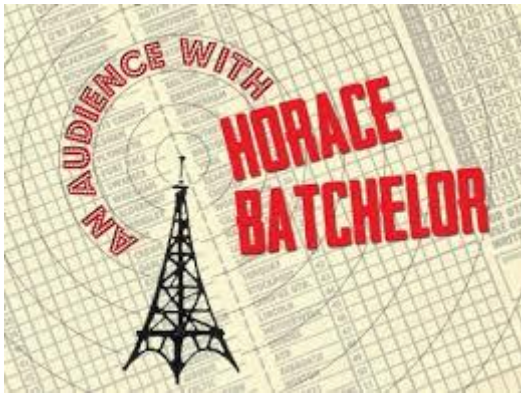
Part 4 of this series by Phil Champion

By about 1963 virtually all programmes were record-based which cost less to produce. Companies which had only their own records played in their 15 or 30 slot were EMI (Columbia, Parlophone and HMV), "D-E-C-C-A" (including RCA Victor), London-American (sometimes with Decca), Capitol, Philips (with Fontana, CBS and Mercury), Pye and for a short while new independent label Oriole. Some deejays presented shows just for these record companies: EMI (David Jacobs,) Decca (Pete Murray), London-American (Tony Hall), Capitol (Ray Orchard).



Tony Hall Archive: Dick Offringa

While some seem to criticise this, as well as general listening you could tune in for the shows sponsored by the record label of your favourite singer or group. If he/she/they had a new record out there was a good chance you would hear it. An exception would be the 'Radio Bingo Show' about 2045-2100 with just maybe one record. Of course everyone will remember the frequent commercial for Horace Bachelor's 'Infradraw' method of winning the pools from 'K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M , Keynsham, Bristol.' There were also religious shows paid for by American churches like 'The World Tomorrow' with Herbert W. Armstrong, the father of Garner Ted, 'Radio Bible Class' and 'Back to the Bible'. A schedule for 1966 shows these airing 1800-1830. 208 had lost its middle aged general audience with the transfer of shows to ITV and by c1961 was a pop music station geared to more younger people.



A Dutch listener wrote that the English Service allowed Dutch people to enjoy programmes and music not provided by the Dutch State broadcasters. The BBC seemed to have ended its blacklist of presenters and singers who dared to broadcast on Radio Luxembourg. By the early and mid-1960's you could hear a number of deejays on both the London-recorded shows of 208 and the BBC Light Programme; Pete Murray, Jack Jackson, Don Moss, Sam Costa, David Jacobs, Alan Freeman, Denny Piercey, Alan Dell, David Gell and Simon Dee. Until the British offshore stations Luxembourg had a monopoly of pop music radio in the evenings and at night.

A 208 rate card from 1965 shows that a 15 minute segment could be bought between £50-£115 depending on the time. The highest rate was between 2200-2230 then 2100-2200 and 2230-2300. The rate after 2300 of £70 up to 2330 then £50 thereafter went up to £80 for Sundays with the 'Top Twenty'. However, in the mid-1960's competition was coming from the offshore stations for several years though 208 still retained a good audience. The 'pirates' though were now seen as the rebels in radio, not Luxy. One listener recounted recently that Luxy seemed 'rather old hat, the deejays a bit staid and old-fashioned.'

Changes in the mid and late 60s

Changes were afoot. On Sunday January 25th 1965 the Benelux Service was drastically reduced to a daily hour at 1800 plus an extra 30 minutes on Sundays at 0730. Maybe listeners had been lost to Radios Caroline South, London and Veronica. The beneficiary was the German Service which had no competition from any other German

commercial radio service. From September 1965 it was on from 0615 while in 1967 208 was in German 0615-0900 and 1200-1930 CET. Power on 208 now doubled to 1200 kW.



Though most of the offshore competition for the English Service had gone in 1967 and the new BBC Radio 1 was effectively just a daytime service a welcome, long overdue change came in April 1968. 'Colourful Radio Luxembourg' generally dropped the sponsorship of short programmes by record companies. Mainly hour long shows were broadcast, some live from London, others live from the Grand Duchy. I still think some were sponsored, probably those from London. The old jingles sung by male and female singers had been fine for the late 1950s and early 1960s but by the mid-60's 'This is Radio Luxembourg the great 208 the ring a ding swinging station of the stars' was sounding dated- as was the gong. A new jingle package came in with some voiced by Duncan Johnson. They sounded different from offshore radio jingles but Luxy was not offshore and had had its own identity for decades. An hourly news service came in, usually excellently read by Paul Kay. Luxembourg was slower than the BBC to modernise but did a good job when it did.



Paul Kaye RTL Archive

A typical schedule from memory would be 1930 Paul Burnett 2030 Pete Brady/Jimmy Young/Tony Blackburn (each doing one week in three from London) 2130 Tony Murphy, 2230 Pete Murray, 2330 Alan Freeman, 0040 Late Night Final (Roger Day or Paul Kaye), 1455-1500 News round up with Paul Kay. Saturdays had David Jacobs at 2230. Sundays started at 1900 with Sam Costa though by August it was Roger Day live from Luxembourg, Jimmy Savile was on at 2200, Top Twenty (Paul Burnett) at 2300 then 0000 'Late Night Final'. In time the news was read by the deejays with a 'twinkly' music bed before and after each item from 'Action Central Newsroom 208.' With its jingles, news and more modern sound it was definitely worth listening to -and a decent substitute as the Caroline ships had gone.

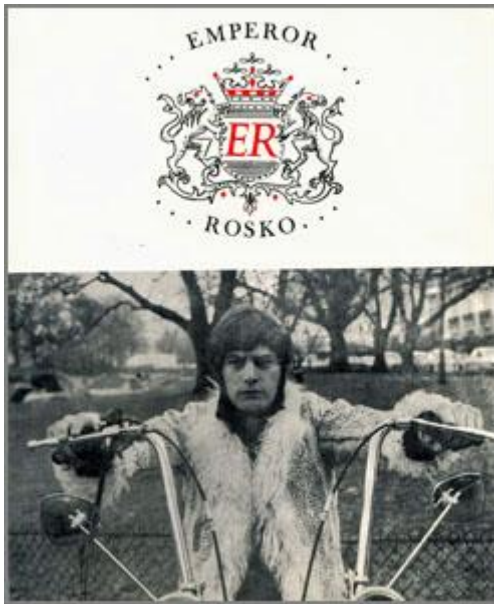
Change had been in the air at RTL for a few years. As well as the Dutch and English changes a new managing director for the French Service had rebranded the LW station in 1966. Going for a younger audience he ended the old programming with its drama serials and the like.

By 1969 all English shows were from Luxembourg with the team of deejays going from four to five. Alan Keen, ex Radio London, became General Manager of the English Service in 1969. Three days before he was due to start he picked up a copy of 'Melody Maker' to find that top of their 'Out of fashion' list was Radio Luxembourg! He resolved to get it into their 'In fashion' list in a short time. He realised the most important assets were the deejays in Luxembourg. He visited them which they really appreciated. One thing they had never been given was publicity so he arranged visits by them with the 208 Summer Roadshow for live appearances in venues in Britain and even Scandinavia.



Eighteen months later Editor Ray Coleman of 'Melody Maker' told him 208 was No. 1 of 'The most popular stations in fashion.' Keen realised the future lay in live shows from Luxembourg and spot advertising. He stopped the record company sponsored shows as they were 'rubbish' and so lacked appeal to listeners. The Powerplay was reintroduced, played each hour after the news, just as Radio Veronica in November starting airing its hourly Alarmschijf. The Powerplay was regarded in the music business as important as getting on the Radio 1 playlist. In time the deejays were no longer ones on the BBC but came from the pirates or were non-BBC. At one point 90 minute long shows came in though later went back to two hourly. There was a short spell around early 1972 when 208 wouldn't give a schedule as it would be a surprise to find out who was on and when. They soon reverted to a proper deejay schedule. At times they would have a show from outside the Duchy like Rosko, Kenny Everett, John Peel or Johnnie Walker but this was usually a weekend hour long show.

The chart was now a Top 30. Tony Prince said that the Luxembourg-based deejays felt it a sense of great service to teenagers; they were aware that playing music was important in teenagers' lives. The station now played oldies fairly regularly as well as current ones; opening the evening at 1915 on April 18th 1976 Chris Carey was straight into (jingle 'Golden Greats') the Four Tops and "Reach Out, I'll Be There." The station was now called 'Big L.' Rodney Collins said that from 1964 to 1982 BBC Audience Research through Gallup showed that 208 always beat other music stations in the evening.



Power on 208 continued to be increased. In 1965 transmitter power was raised to 600 kW. When in 1968 it was doubled to 1,200 kW with two Telefunken transmitters combined it became the world's most powerful privately-owned medium wave transmitter then. In the daytime a 600 kW day aerial was used on 208. At 1800 BST/1900 CET both day and night aerials were connected in parallel to give the 1,200 kW. At 0300 BST the night aerial was switched off so that 600 kW was available for the German Service to sign on at 0350 BST/0450 CET. At night 208 was heard in the whole of Europe. The following year a 60m tall ground-fed antenna (reflector) was built to give a stronger skywave and better coverage. During the 1970s the antenna system was changed with the building of two new masts to give a set of five 105m tall guyed masts. This did not improve reception as intended so the station reverted to the three mast system. In 1976 a 60m mast for night transmissions was given a 65 meter free-standing reflector mast to increase power to the British Isles. In 2009 it was heard in Tenerife, 2,000 miles away!

Radio Luxembourg story to be continued.

Well that ends this December edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and in February there will be another bumper edition as already 28 pages are filled of that issue. Let your memories, photos and more come and maybe you will be part of that issue too.

Hknot@home.nl

In the meantime Jana and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful and healthy 2019.

