

Hans Knot International Radio Report May 2019



Welcome dear radio lovers to another edition of the international radio report with a lot of interesting information and also, we get used to it, very sad news from people who passed away since our last issue.

In the evening from March 28th Mike Knight announced: 'It is with a very heavy heart that I have to announce that we lost one of the nicest men I have ever had the privilege to call a friend - Bob Stewart left us just after 9am Plano time (Texas) - RIP Bob' Bob Stewart became 79 years and had a long career in radio including Radio Caroline and Luxembourg.

At the Pirate Hall of Fame his bio is as follows: Born on 3rd July 1939 in Liverpool Bob did his national service in the army and then worked in various local clubs after becoming a DJ at the suggestion of Pete Best, the original Beatles drummer. He joined Radio Caroline in 1965, spending one month on the South ship before transferring to the North.



Bob Stewart in the sixties from *Beatwave Magazine*. [Archive Pirate Hall of Fame](#).

He was advised that his Liverpool accent might alienate listeners so he developed the very authentic sounding mid-Atlantic accent we now know and love. "Baby Bob," as he was known, presented the noon-3pm show. His catch-phrase was: "This is your Bobby baby who loves you so crazy" and his theme tune was *Image* by Alan Haven. Bob stayed with Caroline North until about six weeks before the introduction of the Marine Offences Act in August 1967. He joined Radio Luxembourg and was there for eighteen years. In 1987 he moved to Dallas, Texas, for a time but returned to Europe and was heard again on Radio Luxembourg as well as Jazz-FM, Red Rose Preston, Capital Gold and others. He went back in Dallas where he has undergone surgery for cancer of the larynx.'

Here you'll find the tribute by Jon Myer and many reflections from former colleagues from Bob Stewart:

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

A lot of tributes can be found here:

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2019/03/tributes-paid-to-radio-presenter-and-voice-over-bob-stewart/>

The big voice in radio has gone, our memories to him stay.

rte2 interview with bob stewart on 24/3/1980 after the sinking of the mi amigo.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ixa2guBX7wU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2JluK85Ct xvzsTSW7bm-2SeYK9tswMMekQ3_Y2OACzZRT4C8gyRHD7w-k

A rare photo was archived many years ago with the letters bb behind it. That means that the photo has been sent to me years ago by Bruno Brandenberger, who was for a very long time active for MEBO Ltd. on board the radio ship MEBO II. The guy on the photo is a Dutch presenter who was a kind of stand by presenter when someone was falling out. He's not presented a lot of programs but was in the sixties presenter at Radio Dolfijn. Peter van Dijk(en) later worked for Dutch NTS/NOS TV as program announcer and voice over for nature movies at EO Television.



Rob Ashard tells more about he became involved in offshore radio:

'I'd got out there as my friend, Dave Finn was connected to the Caroline organisation. He ran an electronics repair shop and sourced equipment and parts for them. I was working for London Weekend Television and had three weeks leave. I'd hoped to get on board about two weeks earlier and stay on. Studio 2 was being, or had yet to be built. I'm a bit of a technical jack of all trades (and master of none, as we say!), so quite good at woodwork, metalwork, and having been trained the the Post Office Research Centre, had been taught Jack field wiring too.

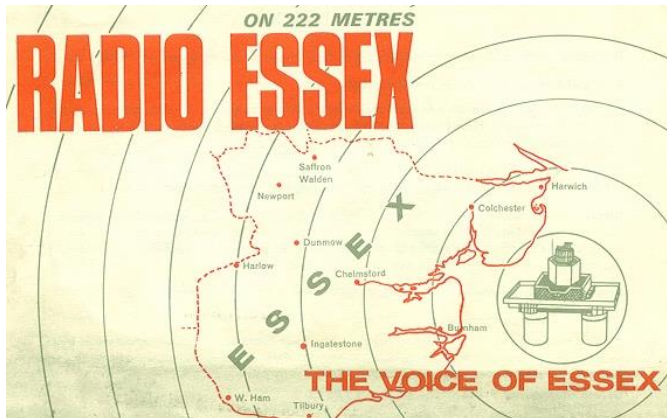
Needless to say, I'd have done everything in my power to get myself on-air. But we missed news of a tender on the first day of my leave, and then the weather turned. By the time of my trip, I daren't stay on board as my leave was running out and I didn't want to lose my job. As it happened, I worked at LWT for 24 years and it set me up for a successful freelance TV Sound career, but who knows how different things would have turned out if I'd caught that first tender. I may never have gone back!



Rob Ashard in Caroline studio from his own collection

Next is a conversation between Greg Bance (Roger Scott) and me on fb Mid-February and a question too, which probably can't be answered by anyone: Greg: '12th February, Hans, is spookily close to the date when Roger Scott (aged 17) entered the world of "watery wireless" (copyright K Everett) in 1966, but I cannot remember the exact date and my diary keeping wasn't so good then. Here's a real challenge. Do you know when Radio Essex took delivery of this

English grammar school drop-out? One of the more esoteric offshore radio questions for sure!



Hans: 'We're at the same age. I was still in the school up till June that year before doing follow up studies in The Hague. So I was not listing such details yet and also Ronald C 'Buster' Pearson was not active that way yet. Maybe put the question into the report?'

Greg again: 'Good idea. I first went out to Knock John on a Friday in February and I might have been 'on the radio' that evening. If any of your Reporters heard me then, they will have battled with the after-dark heterodyne from a powerful tx in France. (I never found out why "222m" was chosen and then slightly off 1349 kHz.) The French outlet closed at either 2300 or at midnight GMT but "R&B and All that Jazz" - which was the launch pad for new recruits - would have been practically inaudible apart from on the Mid Barrow Lightship.'

So who's next, any ideas, answers questions and more just send them to HKnot@home.nl

Another rare photo brings us to the Laissez Faire in 1967. It shows Tony Monson and Alan Black in the studio from Radio 355. A station which was only a couple of months on the air off the British Coast. Sad as they had a really good format of easy listening music. The Photo once was given to us for the archive by Ton Droog.



Tony Monson reflected when I had this earlier on my FB page with: 'Yes, me looking scruffy as always, but Alan looking dapper - I was the new boy on the block with true professionals such as Alan himself (on Radio One briefly), Dave Mackay aka Gillbee (my mobile disco partner later) and Mark Sloane - who should have been signed up by the BBC - well, they all should. Oh, and our boss Tony 'Hellllloooo' TW Windsor, who I always thought knocked spots off Jimmy Young and Wogan. 355's format later an inspiration for the late Melody Radio.'

If you have one or ore rare photo's to share don't hesitate to send them to HKnot@home.nl

Mi Amigo USB stick connects old and new

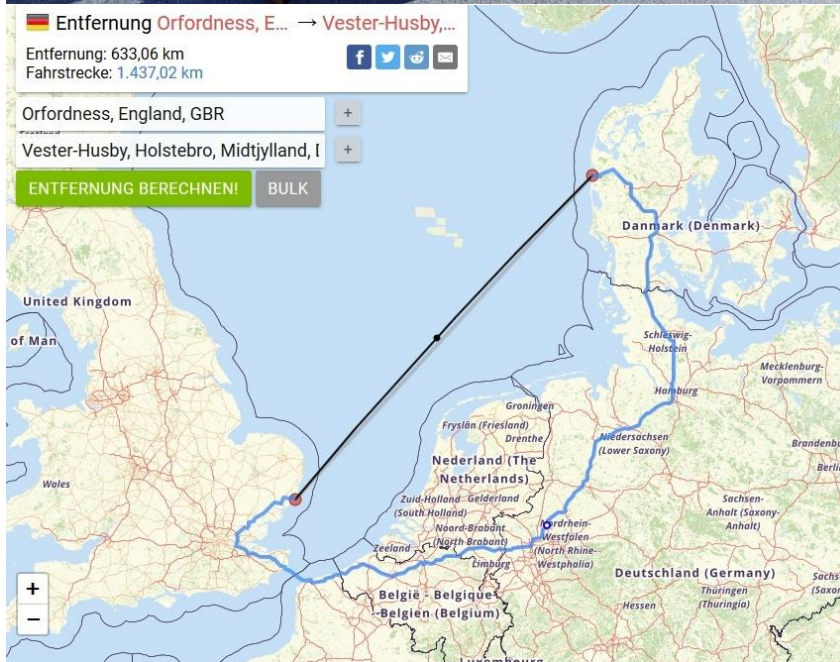
Now you can obtain the new orange Mi Amigo usb stick with the old, original logo of this Flemish offshore radiostation! It contains 25 retro Mi Amigo Top 50 episodes presented by Ferry Eden. That is 75 hours of music with original commercials and jingles from the past. The usb stick also contains the history of Radio Mi Amigo. This is a one and a half hour long documentary from 1978 based on radio airchecks and production material, which was produced then by Ferry Eden. The price is 35 euro including packing and postage. The proceeds from the USB stick are intended to co-finance Ferry Eden's Radio Mi Amigo book, which is expected to be published at

the latest in the summer of 2019. Fill in the order form at www.miamigoboek.eu and you will receive a confirmation with the bank details for the transfer. Note, this is generated automatically and can end up in your 'spam' mailbox 'unwanted'! Get it at home, the orange Mi Amigo usb stick from 8Gb with content!



I think a lot of people are interested in the inside story from Ferry Eden when the book will be published. Hopefully an English version will also be released one day.

And now an interesting reception report from Martin van der Ven's holiday place in spring: 'I couldn't resist. I took my old Sangean receiver with me on holiday in Denmark, along with a frame antenna of my late brother-in-law. Without the antenna, Caroline 648 can be heard here (633 km distance to Orfordness) with a very weak signal, When using the antenna you're receiving quite a reasonable signal. Astonishing are the many disturbing noises on medium wave, presumably by Internet cables and countless electrical devices even here in the dune houses.



Thanks a lot Martin and talking about Denmark here's a story which have been waiting for a long time to be published in the report:

DCR A GRONINGEN COASTER PUT INTO SERVICE FOR A DANISH RADIO STATION

by Hans Knot

Little known about it

Searching through books about offshore radio's history and looking for DCR (Danmarks Commercielle Radio) one will notice that hardly anything is known about their radio ship - the MV Lucky Star. She was pictured for the first time off the Danish coast in August 1961. One can read that there was some controversy between management and staff members of Radio Mercur in 1960 and 1961, especially the

standards of program policy, which was lowered. Some staff members even made an attempt to buy out their hostile colleagues, which failed.



Photo: [Soundscape.info](https://www.soundscape.info)

After this, a number of them decided to have a ship equipped and to broadcast from her. Next to read that they owned the Lebanon registered coaster, the MV Nijmah Al Hazz, chartered through a number of companies under cover and called the MV Lucky Star. Further on history mentions that on 15 September 1961, broadcasting started from the MV Lucky Star with a power of 20 Kw.

Furthermore nothing to be found

Nothing however was told about the ship...until today. During 1913 she was built in the province of Groningen as freight lugger at the ship yard of H. van der Werff in Stadskanaal. This Frisian entrepreneur had also a yard in Westerbroek, province of Groningen. In the 1940's the company merged into 'Visser en van der Werff Scheepsbouwerij'.

From Friesland as well

Around 1900, a certain Einte Holwarda moved from Friesland to Gasselternijveen to become active in the shipping trade. His son, Hendrik, married Roelfina Sloots. She too was born in a bargee's family. The first ship Hendrik built was named after his wife, 'Roelfina I'. This two-masted cutter was built in Stadskanaal shortly

after the First World War and had a deadweight capacity of 220 tons. Trips were made to, amongst others, Scotland and Norway. In 1923 Hendrik purchased the 'Roelfina II'. By then he was a ship owner, having shares in the 'Vier Gebroeders', the 'Roelfina I' and the 'Roelfina II'.

Under sail

In the beginning, this two-masted cutter didn't have an engine, and went under sail on the high seas, so that trips were undertaken depending on the circumstances of the weather. Only in 1927, was the sailing craft equipped with an engine, a 3 cylinder 4 tact from Brons Motoren factory. In 1965 this engine was replaced by a 220 hp 'Dan Normo'. Originally the ship was 131 gross registered tons, but was later (not known when), rebuilt to 167 gross registered tons. A few years after the 'Roelfina II' was purchased, the 'Roelfina I' left the family shipping company and was sold in 1926 to H.Holwerda in Gasselternijveen.



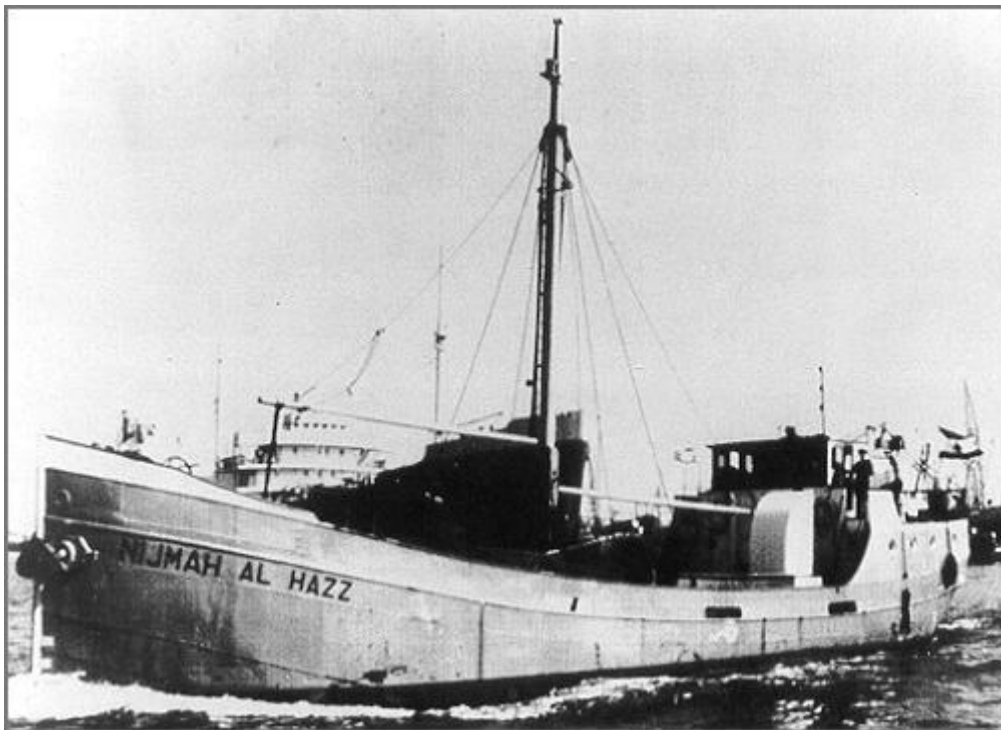
For six years

The new owner would keep the 'Roelfina' for six years and get rid of her to fellow townsman H.Sloots Rzn. The ship remained in service under the same name. The new owner sold her sometime between 1932 and 1946 to J.Sloots. In 1946 she changed hands again through a sale to C.Holscher's Kustvaartbedrijf NV in Rotterdam. By then the lugger was renamed MV Taurus. Ten years later, in 1956, she was sold to A.Oudman of Rotterdam, who kept the then name of the ship in esteem.

Four years later

The earlier remark that in 1960 and 1961 things didn't pass off smoothly within the Radio Mercur's organisation, doesn't run synchronously with the recently discovered fact. It seems that Mr. Oudman in 1960, four years after his purchase, had already parted with the MV Taurus to a certain A.Brask Thomsen from Copenhagen, who had the ship equipped to a radio ship in Stege harbour. In the shipping archives the registration was changed there into that one under Panamanian flag and name change in MV Lucky Star. Nowhere in the previously mentioned archives is there any reference to the registration under Lebanese flag or name "Nijmah All Hazz",

although a photo is available on which this name is painted on the ship.

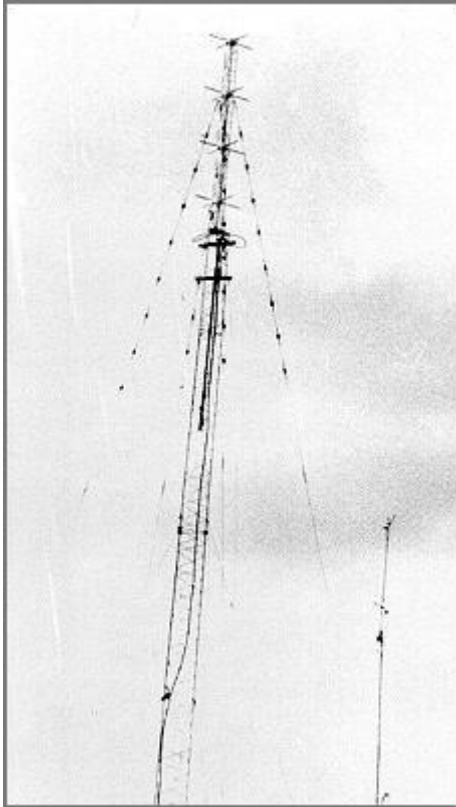


Photo's archive

Soundscapes.info

Only on offshore stations' sites

The name however does appear on anoraks' sites. In Radio Visie's archives it was quoted that the ship was owned by the Etablissement Technique International in Liechtenstein. It was the former people of the Mercur Organisation, Anders Dahlerup, Nete Schreiner and Hans Vangkilde who had founded the new station DCR. On Radio Visie's site the Stege harbour was not mentioned, but a harbour somewhere in Belgium; she was equipped with an American made aerial.



The sea was too strong

They catered for a large mix of programmes, including classical ones, and politics weren't forgotten. However, the programmes didn't meet with the listeners approval. During bad storms the ship was smashed ashore on the Swedish coast. They came however back on the air. In January they merged again fraternally with Radio Mercur. The ship was also the first one to decide, due to a parliamentary decree, to leave the airwaves. It was 1962 and very quickly the ship came into hands of the CV Bron

company from Copenhagen, who rebuilt her as a coaster, whilst retaining her name, giving Hundested as home port. A year later she was sold to Knud E. Witthoft in Rasmussen and to new co-owner and captain Edvard Madsen from Hundested. A new name was given to the ship, MV Kamila Witthoft.

Six years later

The two gentlemen keep the ship in service under the new name, and later passed her on to Carl E. Larsen from Norresundby, who again gave the ship a new name, MV Vendelbo with Aarhus as home port. Further on in September 1974, immediately after the Dutch MOA became law, she was sold to the metal dealer Poul Christensen, who brought her to his own ship breakers yard Dansk Skipsophug in Nakskov. It has to be mentioned too that before she was sold to Poul, she had been impounded for some time in the Fredericia harbour due to Larsen's financial problems.

Out of the shipping archives

But there is more. At the end of the seventies, before the newspaper would be rolled up many years later, permission was given to roam around in the archives of "Het Vrije Volk". Thus amongst others a paper cutting from that newspaper, dated 23 August 1961, was found, headed "Fierce struggle in Denmark because of ancient Lucky Star".

Description

The journalist, whose name wasn't revealed, wrote about a mysterious ship, moored since July 1961 in the Maashaven of Rotterdam. It was said to be the cause of a fierce struggle in Denmark. In fact, only a very ancient small coaster of just 170 tons, with which people wanted to make a Danish form of Radio Veronica. According to the story the ship, named Lucky Star, laid quietly in Rotterdam harbour awaiting the signal giving her permission to sail into international waters off the Danish coast to start broadcasting there. The reason for her long stay, as given by the harbour authorities, was that the owner didn't succeed in finding a new flag state.

Errors again

The length of the ship was estimated at 21 meters whilst the newspaper also reported that the MV Roelfina had been built in Stadskanaal under order of the Holscher company from Rotterdam, although this enterprise obtained the ship only in 1946, 33 years after the ship's completion. The previously named owner Oudman, who had bought the ship in 1956, signed on 15 July 1961 a contract with the DCR's Danish owners. Since then there would have been a mysterious screen around the ship. "Meanwhile she would have been sold to the Compagnie Internationale Technique in Zürich, but a ship broker who achieved that transaction for the ship owner, claimed not to know where this company can be reached."

The Danes again

The journalist however reported that the ship broker only dealt with a Dane named Knudsen who had presented himself as production manager of the new station DCR. The latter had told the ship broker that a company, earlier established in Liechtenstein, would subsequently rent the ship and the technical equipment to the management of DCR. When the Lucky Star was repaired at the Waalhaven ship yard, Knudsen was the man who cared for the money and he also tried for weeks to have the little ship registered outside the Netherlands and Denmark. To complete the mystery the same Knudsen announced, through an agent at Copenhagen, that the Lucky Star would arrive that same week off the Danish coast.

To Beirut

This journalist also reported that Knudsen didn't go back to Denmark, but changed her journey into southern direction in order to find a flag state via Lebanon. Meanwhile the coaster was still moored in Rotterdam harbour, without radio aerials at the end. The journalist didn't see any crew on board. He went to investigate at the Directie voor Scheepvaart (Shipping Board), responsible for the Waalhaven's management, but there he got the door slammed at his face after hearing that they weren't entitled to give information. He was also clearly warned that going on board of the future radio ship would make him liable to prosecution.

Then to other authorities

This "Het Vrije Volk" journalist was however a pusher because for his story he went to other authorities, the PTT (GPO). There he learnt that the ship's activities were known and that there was still an enquiry going on. "They recently had the future radio ship searched from top to bottom, without a clandestine transmitter being discovered." Obviously in those days -and today as well- as soon as a transmitter would have been found, it would have been confiscated at once.



Lucky Star Photo: Archive Soundscapes

By telephone

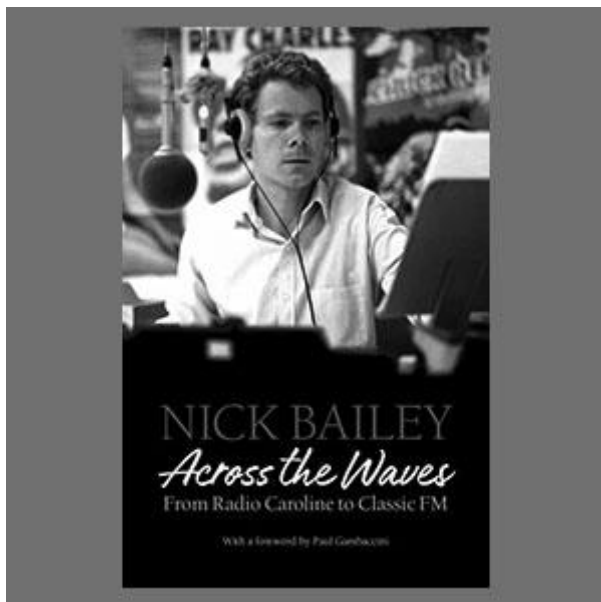
Knudsen was ready to comment and stated that the PTT won't get a chance to confiscate transmitters or equipment. He stated that the organisation owned transmitters, but they would only come on board as soon as the Lucky Star would be on the high seas. Obviously Knudsen refused to say where the transmitters were at any stage and where in international waters the transfer would take place. But meantime in Denmark, according to "Het Vrije Volk", they were at their wits' end what to do with the new ship, because she would become the second illegal offshore project. Furthermore, according to the journalist, the registration's land flag would in the future never appear on the ship (one picture proves the contrary), and the name of the home port wouldn't be affixed.

And so a little bit of the history has been revealed again.

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Translation by B.Dom

Reader James Robert recently visited Denmark for a holiday and decided to take a photograph of the former Radio Mercur City

building in Copenhagen with the aim to share it with our readers.
Therefore a big thank you!



Many of you do remember Nick Bailey from Caroline days in the sixties or even from Classic FM where he worked for decades. His life story was released some weeks ago. Here you can read all about how to order your own copy. <http://www.ypdbooks.com/film-radio->

and-tv/1939-across-the-waves-from-radio-caroline-to-classic-fm-YPD02118.html

The political tolerance of Spain with the Offshore stations in the 60s and 70s. Part 3

As told in part 1 and 2 this article had been written in Spain and translated with a translator from the internet.

Further evidence is shown in a meeting held in Munich of the Working Group of the CEPT Radiocomunicaciones where Spain was censured for not having ratified the Agreement. Furthermore it highlights the bad position that Spain will be in at the next conference Telecommunications from Málaga-Torremolinos, where the rest of the countries will see in Spain immobility on home soil.

On February 26, 1975, the Dutch newspaper Het Parool published an interview with the radio broadcaster Mi Amigo Stan Haag, where he stated, among other questions, that they are ready to collaborate with several stations including Girona and Barcelona. This caused a reaction from some section of the Spanish administration. So the DGRTV (Jesús Sancho) writes to the assistant director (Ezcurra) with an information request, which he replies confirming that the owner and director of "Radio Mi Amigo" has been established to be in Platja d'Aro.



Until April 7, he believed Eugenio Fontán, director general of the proprietary SER of Radio España de Barcelona, who controlled "Radio Gerona", who affirmed that there was no relationship between the two. However on the 7th of April he called him, "Ezcurra says," Luckily Fontán told me that SER was not, but that "Radio Gerona not only had a contract, but last Saturday he broadcast a program in Dutch language and another in English from Radio Mi Amigo. I have ordered the Provincial Delegation of Information and Tourism to Girona to instruction of a dossier for the transmission of programs that have not previously been authorized but may not be permitted. On the other hand, there is a circular telegram in all the Delegations of about two years ago, which reminds the prohibition of authorizing foreign language programs that have not been expressly approved by the Directorate General. » Ezcurra concludes: "Although, in my opinion, we must not, in principle, take measures against the recording in Spain of programs aimed at pirate transmitters, we have to prevent the Spanish broadcasting from breaking from national laws in countries that have diplomatic relations with us".

Some letters between ministers give us a clear clue that the opponents of signing the Strasbourg Agreement would finally win. And Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pedro Cortina sent a letter to Information and Tourism Minister, Leon Herrera Esteban, in which he confirms this adding: "Therefore, as you indicated in your letter, you believe that having changed the circumstances, there are now reasons to postpone this signing, the more practical it would be that you request in a way that both of the Cortes and of the Ministry of Justice, carry out the process with the maximum slowness, thus meaning, the postponement without any type of publicity".

Minister Herrera wrote to the President of the Cortes a reserved letter in which he writes: "For the reasons that I indicated to you, and mainly because this agreement only relates to the transmitters on ships, it would not help us to try remove "Radio España Independiente", I would very much like you to delay the process of

the aforementioned Agreement in the corresponding Commission of the Cortes. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, to which I expressed my concern, tells me that for his party, there is no inconvenience that the procedure is carried out with the utmost slowness, to arrive, definitively, to a postponement without any type of publicity".

The president of the Cortes wrote to the Minister of Information textually: "In this connection (Agreement) I can assure you that you'll be pleased if circumstances change it will not expose you when communicating your views»

Ezcurra wrote in February 1976 to the MIT delegate in Girona informing that although the Official Bulletin of the Cortes published the text of the Strasbourg Agreement, it was stopped by DRTV ("this is confidential", says Ezcurra), it may be included at any time on the Cortes agenda.

Later he stated: 'Last summer, during the period of the greatest offensive of the Central European radio and television stations against Spain[9], it would have been unproductive that, above all, we had helped them by joining the Strasbourg Convention'.

The subject of the Strasbourg Agreement is forgotten until September 1978, when it is the CEPT radiocommunication group which sends a note to the engineers of the DGRTV about the situation of the radiostation on the ship *Mi Amigo*. Ezcurra stated that whenever they were asked explanations DGRTV has said that the Agreement is in process and that is complicated, since a criminal code reform is needed. Though in view of the scarce international assistance to end the Pirate stations policies (*Radio España independiente*, *La Voz de Canarias Libre* and *Radio Euzkadi*) by the DGRTV, there is no problem to adhere to the Agreement. However, the English published a press release in October informing you that the Ministry of Commerce and Spanish Tourism had financed the repair costs of the *Mi Amigo* boat. This was categorically denied by Spanish representatives, who claimed that even if that was the case

only the groups of hoteliers, restaurants and agencies engaged in tourism could have done such an action.

This was how the group would be informed, but that an immediate correction, in addition to the inclusion of the text, in French, was required in the conclusions of the working group. It was also revealed that neither the DGRTV, nor the Post Office and Telecommunications were able to intervene in the repair or provision of the "Mi Amigo", which according to the Belgian delegation sails with a Panamanian flag.



Pablo Sela, through the delegate of Tourism in Girona, has informed that, indeed, there are recording studios in Platja d'Aro, where there is also an office of the company ADOC SA located in the building of the Bank of Madrid, where correspondence is received, among which there is also tourist establishments. The Platja d'Aro Tourism Board, operated exclusively by private establishments, has contracted publicity of a generic nature on several occasions, with no type of collaboration from the state or the municipality.

In October 1978 a senior officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote to Ezcurra in which he stated that, although there is no formal obligation to comply with the agreements of the

Council of Europe that have not been ratified by Spain, there was a moral obligation to adhere to the agreements of the bodies to which it is party, as long as there are no background reasons that prevent it. The opinion of this body is that it must resume the issue and request the CEPT or the ITU through normal diplomatic channels for the accession of Spain. The AAEE will request the Ministry of Justice to submit the corresponding bill for the signature and subsequent ratification of the Agreement. With regard to the assistance to ships, when signing the Agreement the problem will solve this problem.

This also orders the provincial delegate of Culture, for the reasons explained above, to stop the broadcasts of Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline and any direct or indirect help that could be provided to Sylvain Tack. Tack replied on January 4th 1979 that he would observe the order. However, months later, in April 1979, Mr. Tack writes to Deputy Director General Ezcurra, telling him that his partner Ronan O'Rahilly, of English nationality and who lives in London, will not. He had accepted the decision of the Spanish government but the broadcasts have resumed quoting an address in Spain and that Tack denies all responsibility.

Ezcurra further accuses in another letter on May 22, 1979. As proof of his goodwill, Tack puts the matter in the hands of lawyer J. Puig Bertran, from Platja d'Aro, who wrote to Ezcurra attributing responsibility for Radio Caroline to Patrick Van Acoleyen, and Germain Boi. The latter had been denounced before the Hont Magistrate, the People's Examining Judge, and had filed a legal action in the Patent Office on July 11, 1979 for unconditional use of the name 'Mi Amigo'. Thus the story of Radio Mi Amigo in Spain ended.

Conclusions

The access that the work of Francisco José Montes Fernández has had to internal conversations of Spanish diplomacy at the highest

level, allows us to draw clearly the role of Spain in the history of Offshore piracy. The reasons why the accession of Spain to the Strasbourg Agreement was delayed (finally approved in March 1988) remain clear enough. The fight between various political estates of Spanish supporters and detractors has also been well defined. This lack of clarity clearly helped Radio Mi Amigo, both in the ease of supply of the ship and of the existence of the production and management equipment of the station in Spanish territory from the beginning of 1975 and until the end of 1978.

Definitely, without this indirect collaboration of various organisms and senior executives of the Franco regime, more concerned about the communists of the REI than the Offshore pirates, possibly Radio Mi Amigo would have had a very different life.

copyright Juan Perich

[1] The General Director of Broadcasting and Television Arias Salgado in the newspaper Los Sitios 09/30/78

[2] Escripturalense Legal and Economic Yearbook, XLI (2008) 715-777 / ISSN: 1133-3677

[3] United Nations memory. Economic and Social Council. I / Conf. 6/30, (March 1948)

[4] Literal (Refers to Radio Norse International)

[5] Well known as 'La Pirinaica' station, created in 1941 by the Communist Party of Spain in exile.

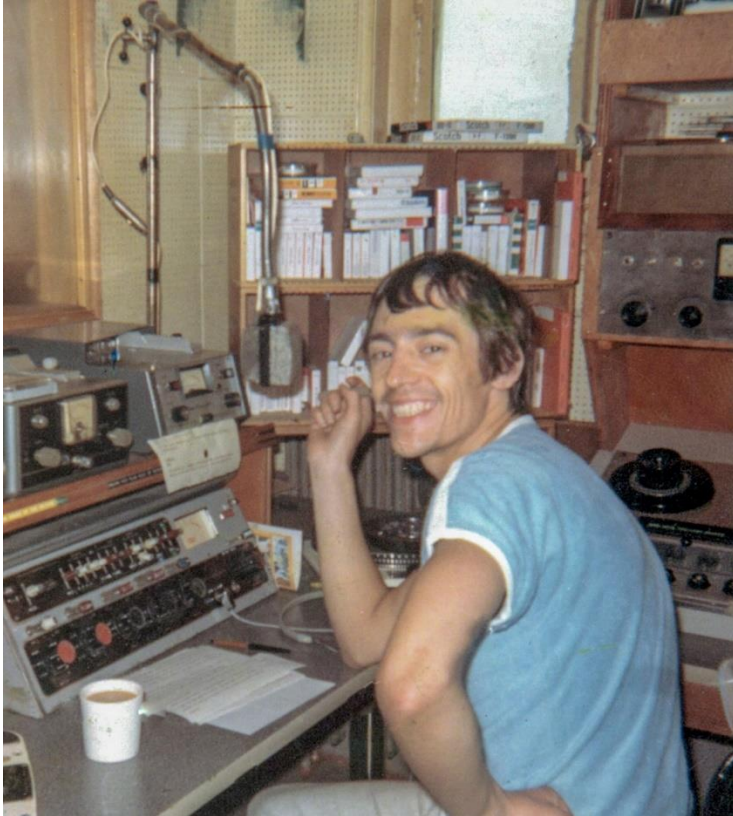
[6] Radio España Dependiente emitted from Bucharest since 1960, but the Francoist government did not know its origin .

[7] REI started its broadcasts in Moscow (USSR)

[8] The Delta was a support vessel that was used to supply the MV Mi Amigo occasionally from Bilbao.

[9] Executions of the Franco regime in 1975

Time for another cleaned photo from the Sheridan Street collection. Working on Radio Caroline he has made some wonderful pictures in the sixties, which gives us a perfect insight. For instance how the studios were in those days. Here is TV on Radio, as a nickname was called. Tommy Vance.



This is fun and just came in from Los Angeles and thus the Emperor Rosko with the words: 'I saw you had pictures of studios in this month's edition so for your own amusement not sure if you want to use them here is where the LA connection and coast to coast country get produced every week. I think the studio is almost older than I am, have another great report best regards Rosko.' And look at the screen!



Rosko asked to held a contest. What can you identify on this photo?
Just to I.d. The console would be great, it was made in France way back in time! One of the first to have faders with built in power etc. Answers to: HKnot@home.nl

There was a celebration in Australia, here's Graham Webb to tell:
'28th of February was a momentous day for me as it was the day I started in radio in 1954 (65 years ago).



I am not boasting but I am very proud of the fact that I am still on top of the grass and not under it at almost 83 years of age. I am still on air today more recently on a new radio station known as Sydney's own Harmony FM, along with my little brother Mike Webb.

Mike started New FM in Newcastle, 2WS in Sydney and was one of the architects in the seventies with Rod Muir at 2SM also managing MMM in Sydney. Joining Harmony our dear friend the "Mighty Quinn" (Allan Quinn) of Saturday Night Gold fame, which is heard all over Australia and around the world. I am totally in tune with Harmony FM to gain the full-time license soon.

The 28th February was also momentous for me as it was the day, we launched Australia's first pop clip television program later to become Sound Unlimited and then Sounds with our friend the great Donnie Sutherland Oam, in 1974 (45 years ago). Our shows morphed into MTV worldwide, a very proud achievement for all concerned especially me. Graham Webb.'

Thank you Graham and of course a big congratulation. It is always nice to hear from you or suddenly meeting each other unexpected in the London streets.

Next Jon in London: 'Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New this month:

- We were sorry to hear of the death of former Radio Caroline North DJ Bob Stewart. We pay tribute to: 'Baby Bob';
- Forty years ago, on Easter Sunday 1979, Radio Caroline returned to the air after nearly six months of silence. We remember the station's momentous return and its final year of broadcasting from the mv Mi Amigo;
- Is the Radio Veronica ship returning to sea?
- Jerry 'Soopa' Leighton is heard on the BBC;

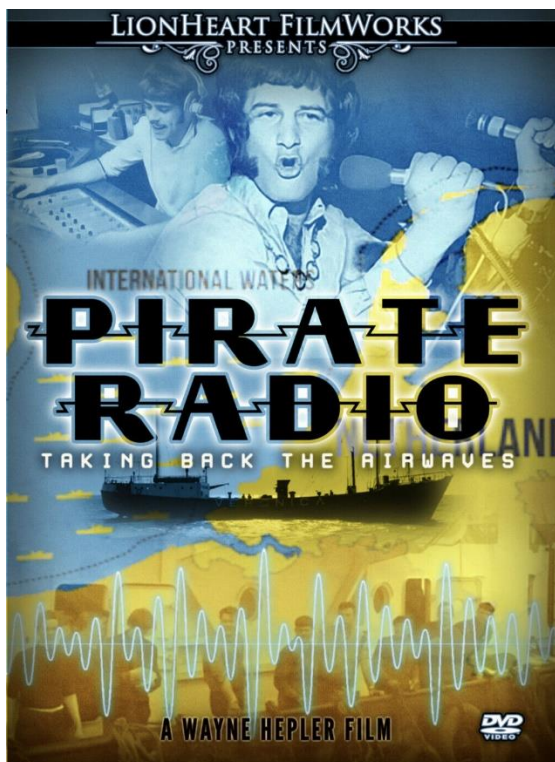
- And still with Caroline North, Nick Bailey's autobiography is out this month. We have details of where you can get your copy.

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

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

The film 'Pirate Radio Taking Back the Airwaves' which Wayne Hepler produced and presented in part in 2014 at the annual RadioDay in Amsterdam is finally available online. A documentary officially for the **American** people to show what offshore radio has done.

Interesting interviews with several people like Ad Bouman, Tineke, Hans Hoogendoorn, A media professor, Rosko and many more, not forgetting Hans Knot.



E Bay has it but the exact title is critical or you'll get that regrettable pirate radio film out of Hollywood. Type: Pirate Radio Taking Back the Airwaves and you'll see it.

<https://ebay.to/2VspXt0>

They are charging about \$15 plus \$4 or \$5 shipping as of March 1, 2019. Wayne Hepler.'

Henk de Boer from the Netherlands has a question about Radio Luxembourg: 'I'm looking for a poster from the seventies on which Peepee, Peter Koelewijn and Felix Meurders are printed. Who can help me? Any other publicity photo is welcome too. E mail at Henkanneke22@hotmail.com



De Nederlandse disc-jockeys: Peter Koelewijn, Felix Meurders en Peepee.

(Archive RTL)

March 4th François Lhote wrote: 'BOUDEWIJN DOM R.I.P.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death, during the night of Saturday, March 2nd to Sunday, March 3rd, of our friend Boudewijn Dom, known to many people as "B.Dom". A few months ago he was diagnosed with vascular dementia disease, an incurable disease, and by strange coincidence, the same disease that affects the founder of Radio Caroline Ronan O'Rahilly. But a week ago, Boudewijn suffered a brain haemorrhage and fell into a coma.

We are obviously in shock. In addition to having been a great friend appreciated by all, and a great lover of offshore free radio at sea, Boudewijn was also one of the pillars of France Radio Club since the very beginning 45 years ago. He was a very great photographer and a great number of his photos have been published over the years in our magazine and elsewhere. We will pay a more complete tribute to him in the coming weeks. Our condolences go to his widow Anne, and son Ronan.'



Spring 2016 Photo: OEM Archive

Next Joel O'Brien who found back in his personal collection a sticker from Radio Caroline. It's from the Caroline Racing Team, which led a very short life in 1973.



Next Australia and a message which also was send by Ingo Paternoster

'Dear Sir Hans, I thought you and your readers might be interested in this website - A 'garden of world radio stations'.

Interestingly, it includes Radio Caroline, although many well known stations are not there.

RADIO STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD -

The GREEN DOTS on this Google Earth represent a radio station anywhere in the world! Click on any one of the dots and you will immediately listen to that station with very good sound. I cannot imagine the effort that went in to this!

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence>

Cheers Dr Phil Crosby.' Thanks a lot from both of you and once starting on this internet page you will find a variety of radio stations.

March 12th another message from Australia and it's Ian MacRae who wrote: 'What I've done today! I went to the ABC and recorded some grabs for an Australian Story episode about The Seekers and how they were launched in the UK by Pirate Radio, which is where I was working at the time. It'll be on air sometime early April.

Good to see Ian and we saw the special which was an excellent view.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AZOsNX6z90&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3hF5J2le3bNahGksmwL-czIkS_T9LFmobOzyPAU_1ZIWQLhjXFthLQBU



More sad news versus Ben Bode: 'Johan Van Hee, in offshore radio circles better known as Johan Rood, left us around eight o'clock this morning (18/03/2019). After a brief illness in a Czech hospital Johan got into a coma and couldn't get out of it anymore. Johan, who let Radio Delmare live on his own at the end of the seventies of the last century, has not been able to continue this for himself. Rood attended the technical school in Antwerp (TNA), where he learned to build transmitters and activate other technical circuits.

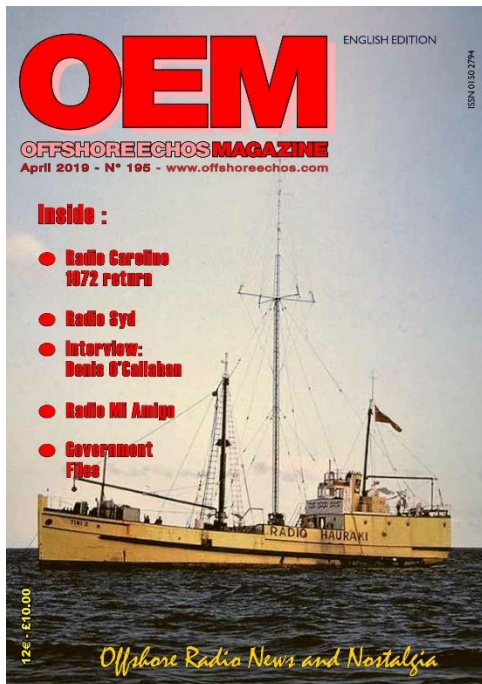
After his studies he came into contact with Danny Vuylsteke via Jean-Luc Bostyn of RadioVisie and then with Gerard van Dam of Radio Delmare, with all the consequences henceforth. Johan Rood has always been a strange duck in the bite and that fact has made a lot of people happy, even though at times he wasn't himself. A sweet person and an insane technician have indicated the bride; now he can join in with his partner who died last year and he missed terribly.

RIP Johan Van Hee 18/03/2019 Ben Bode.' Thanks Ben and here memories to Johan Rood produced by Theo van Halsema.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIRCjsCYSeE&fbclid=IwAR1Dk7VG7Wom1Ky_CJoZ7_cO7zWetHD_8lhL4d-iWqxnla39oBB1GiUxilc

OFFSHORE ECHO'S MAGAZINE PRESS RELEASE

The new issue of Offshore Echo's Magazine is now available.



This issue (195 - April 2019) includes:

20 October 1978 - the end of Radio Mi Amigo

Radio Mi Amigo 1979

Denis O'Callahan's Personal history of Radio Hauraki pt. 1

Radio Caroline 1972 return part 4

Radio Syd story part 9

The Government files

The Political tolerance of Spain & the Offshore stations in the 60's & 70's.

Offshore Echo's Magazine is the only magazine in the world entirely dedicated to the history of offshore radio. You can

receive this magazine by subscribing

here: <http://www.offshoreechos.com/TextMagazineEng.htm>

or by writing to: OEM, PO Box 1514, LONDON W7 2AA UK

The annual subscription fee (4 issues) is: £35 (UK) or 40€ (Continent) Support us!

OFFSHORE ECHOS MAGAZINE (OEM): De Laatste, De Beste !

Here news from Mary and Chris Payne: 'Hi Everyone, the Radio London website was 20 years old on March 29th! Our bumper birthday update includes the following stories:

Jon Wolfert's Sonowaltz dedication

Keith Skues's Double Celebration

Webby's amazing 65 years on air

Montreal commemorates John and Yoko Bed-in

D-E-C-C-A's 90th Birthday

Radio Jackie's 50th

Escape from Sealand

Big L vehicle update

Zombies' Hall of Fame Induction

The Settlers' tale of bad luck

With thanks to all our contributors, supporters and loyal visitors,

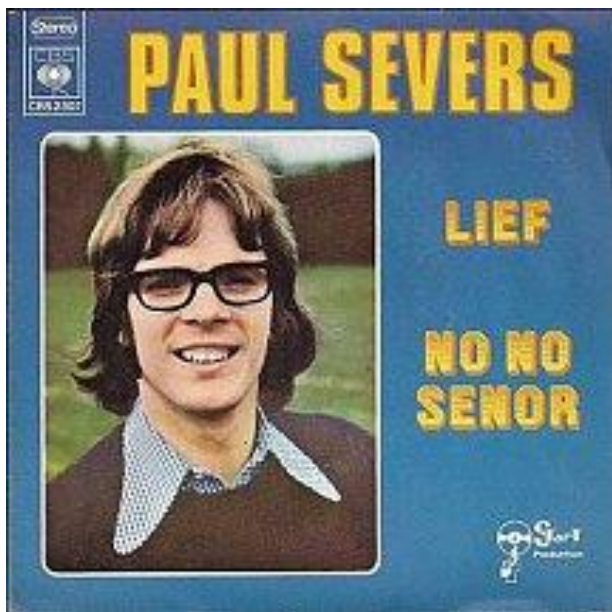
Mary, Chris and Moosie

www.radiolondon.co.uk

And of course congratulations for all the hard work during all those years!!

And another sad message in this edition of the International Radio Report: Tuesday 9th of April Paul Severs died at the age of seventy after heart failure. In the regular and specialized music press from Belgium you can read all the details. Less well known is the fact that the Belgian singer (26/06/1948), who was born in Huizingen, was also presenter on Radio Mi Amigo for some time.

This was of course not entirely surprising. After all, Paul had his singing career largely thanks to Sylvain Tack. Besides being the owner of the Suzy waffle factory, he was also the manager of a lot of Flemish talent. Severs was one of the first artists he took under his wing and accompanied to the top of the Flemish showbiz. The bond between the two became and remained very strong. For a while Paul Severs presented on the Sunday morning (09:00-11:00 hrs) a request record program on Mi Amigo. Every week about three thousand (!) requests came in at the Hilversum post box number (847) of Mi Amigo. However, the recordings took place 'somewhere' in Belgium.



When, due to the adoption of the anti-offshore radio broadcasting law in the Netherlands, it became too dangerous to continue recording in the Low Countries, his presentation work came to an end. Paul's last programme was broadcast in September 1974.

When Mi Amigo remained on the air as the only Dutch-language offshore radio station from 1 September 1974, Sylvain Tack, as supposed owner of the station, was more and more targeted and chased by the press. He was repeatedly portrayed in an incorrect way, after which Paul recorded it for him in his sung ode 'Sylvain'. With thanks to Jean Luc Bostyn and Herman Content).

Another hero passed away as Les Reed left us to. Not only the Man of Action but many other compositions remind us to this great composer and orchestra leader.

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/apr/16/les-reed-songwriter-dies-age-83-tom-jones-delilah-its-not-unusual>

Just before closing this issue I also learned that Alan Keen, known from Radio London and Radio Luxembourg passed away. Surely soon memories will be published on www.radiolondon.co.uk

RADIO LUXEMBOURG 208 2.7.1951-31.12.2015

Another part of the Phil Champion article

The last years of the Benelux Service and new shows on the English 208

Declining fortunes for the English 208 reversed then decline sets in again

An idea of the English Services' fortunes can be gained from a digitalspy post Rodney Collins wrote. It had been in profit from the 1930s though 1979/80 were poor years. The RTL bosses in the 1970s and 1980s still had great respect for it. Also, research showed it had lots of listeners in The Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia. The Managing Director from 1979-83, Patrick Cox, was well known to the RTL Board as he had previously worked for RTL in Paris. He managed

to obtain more investment for the English Service which led to an increase in both audience and advertising revenue.



From 1981-83 it was in profit again. UK audiences were strong in the winter months but suffered in the summer with a poor early evening signal. The BBC and ILR stations like Capital Radio were happy to co-exist with Luxembourg. Their listeners could go to 208 in the evening when they had more specialist shows but would retune to them in the morning if they heard a foreign language show. The BBC and ILR could concentrate on building up big daytime audiences. A record retailer posting recently as 'beacon' from the early 1980s said that 208 was important in influencing what people bought. The station was aware of its wide audience, in the 1980s opening each evening with: "Broadcasting to Great Britain and Europe..."

Cox's replacement, Maurice Vass, came from ILR -having been MD at Devon Air Radio and Centre Sound. Collins said they couldn't get him to accept that 208 was different from ILR. The audience figures dropped from 1983 as he cut costs and hired djs more in the ILR mould rather than those with distinctive voices and styles. Perhaps that was the "dissatisfaction with station management" that as the station's website says caused Benny Brown to leave in 1985.



Jessie Brandon Archive Radio Luxembourg

However, one internet post says that there were some good djs in the mid/late 1980s like Jessie Brandon, Gary King, Tim Smith and David Lee Stone. Record retailer 'beacon' reckoned that it had been the mix of deejay styles which made the station work. He added "the themed shows gave the station identity and structure." Collins wrote that in the mid-1980s 208 was attracting 300.000 UK listeners in half an hour. Of course there would be other factors in the decline. More ILR stations were opening up. ILR rules were relaxed, requiring less emphasis on speech. Stations could split frequencies through the 1980s and early 1990s so that minority-interest evening programming was put on the medium wave outlet with more pop on the FM till late on. The younger audiences of the time preferred FM stereo quality to the fading which previous generations had been content to put up with. Radio 1 not only extended its programmes - though these were more rock than pop- and had FM transmitters nationwide. Collins wrote that as audiences fell, less money came in so Vass cut costs more.



RODNEY COLLINS

Archive Offshore Music Radio

Over the years the English Service had various records played at closedown time. In Stephen Williams' time it was "At the End of the Day" then "It's Time to Say Goodnight." Years later Marion Montgomery's "Maybe the Morning" was played with Bob Stewart wishing a very good night.

Luxy had done very well in income during the 1950s and 1960s, the early to mid-1970s then the early 1980s. The slide through the 1970s resumed after 1983 and continued into the 1990s. There were still sponsored shows aimed at a young audience. In summer 1990 Tony Morrell hosted "Clock House Avanti" Tuesdays 2130-2200 as part of his show up to midnight. With phone-in competitions it promoted the clothes range of the sponsor. Jingles now said "Luxembourg leads the way." At least the station had a land line - denied by the Home Office for many years. One voiceover from Bob Stewart said "RTL International" while a jingle still said "Radio Luxembourg." It was still his voiceover for the 'Powerplay'. For over two decades Bob had been 'the voice' of Luxy. In line with changing trends it brought in a new Saturday night format with 'dance music' for the whole evening's transmission.



Bob Stewart Archive RTL

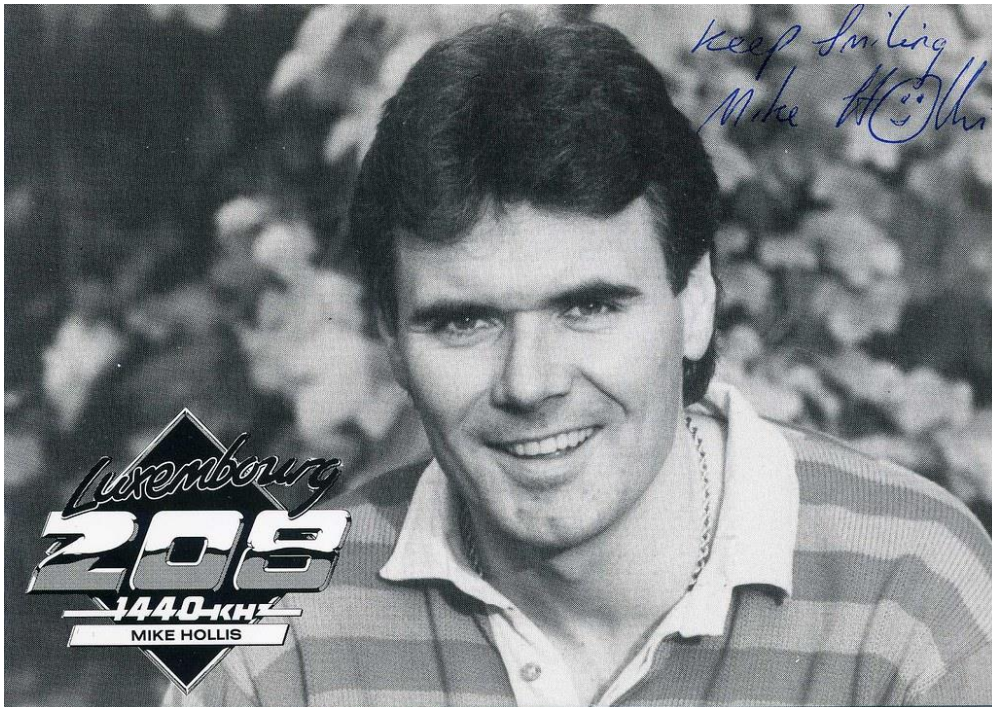
Radio Luxembourg decided to open a satellite service with the then odd idea that people would listen to radio via TV. This ran for a year or so. By summer 1991 it had been decided to close the English Service on 208 on December 31st. Mike Hollis produced a two hour show to mark this end of an era. Tony Prince said, "Something very special is over." Some say that the early 1960s beat boom would not have happened without 208. Pop musicians like Keith Richard said they were influenced by what they heard of 208. The beat boom began c1962/63 -the British pirate ships didn't come until 1964. Stephen Williams, the very first English announcer, was heard again. He said that it was the station of the stars, now it would be the station in the stars -on satellite. He also said that all those years ago he envisaged building up a station that would sound something like the current BBC Radio 4. He could never have foreseen that playing records with inconsequential chat could have been such a great success. But he was wrong -that's what people wanted.

The English deejays were not idle. For some time they had appeared in afternoons on the local Luxembourg Service "RTL Community." (In fact, the idea of being on other Services was not new. I remember reading about the English deejays hosting an English language show

on the French Service on Long Wave in April 1973 from 0000-0300 then listening to Bob Stewart on it.) They were to build up a new audience in Scandinavia with an all-day English Service 'RTL International' on the Astra 1A satellite with the evening shows going out also on 208. It was aimed at homes served by cable companies plus homes with their own satellite dishes. As the jingles said "The best music 24 hours a day" and "Music at the speed of light -the Greatest Hits by satellite! Radio Luxembourg." Cable carriage costs were said to be very high though. "Satellite Times" magazine's survey placed it as the most popular station with 53% of the votes.



This lasted just a year. The final closure of the English Service on December 31st 1992 was carried on 208 too instead of the normal German show. The station's General Manager John Catlett gave a fitting closing tribute," This station was the first in Europe to have success by programming what people wanted to hear instead of programming what the government thought people wanted to hear. That is why we could show such success against the BBC in England."



The last words came from Senior DJ Mike Hollis," 10½ years ago I didn't dream I could be here to carry out the final words on the closedown of the world's biggest and most famous commercial radio station. I'm both honoured and sad to say a fond farewell and goodbye after over 59 years of broadcasting. So on behalf of the present Luxy team and all the past presenters and staff -this is Mike Hollis saying 'Thank you' and may Radio Luxembourg live on forever in your fondest memories." Then he played the usual closedown record: Marion Montgomery "Maybe the Morning." Seconds later the news came on read by a German female. In a recent interview on WCR FM Mike Hollis said that if RL had targetted multi-national advertisers like Kodak, British Airways or KFC it could have been a success as there were listeners all over Europe. (to be continued)

Well you had to wait some weeks for this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report but again it was a bumper edition. One more to come before the summer holidays here in Europe. All memories, photos and many more interesting things can be send to

Hknot@home.nl

All the best for you and till next time!