

Hans Knot International Radio Report Early Summer 2019.

Welcome to this edition of the International Radio Report and thanks for all response after the last edition was published. It's some time ago and so a lot was happening. Easter weekend saw Caroline North celebrating Radio Caroline 55 years of age with a special program. Pete Crisp made a wonderful video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wrMILmIpEE>

Also there was a happening in Belgium where Mi Amigo 45 was celebrated with a 4 days radio special featuring former Mi Amigo deejays still alive and kicking. Further on a report from Douwe Dijkstra who was on the MV Castor in the harbour of Blankenberge to see some Mi Amigo's.



But first have a look in a wonderful series of photographs on the Mi Amigo revival in our offshore radio archive on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157708943091772>

Also e mails came in to share in the report, for instant from Teun Visser who worked on the MV Mi Amigo in the seventies of last century: 'Hi Hans, I have read the reply from Peter Chicago concerning the Mi Amigo's problems down the ship during rough

weather and water condition. He mentioned also the bad expertise from the engineers, who have rebuild the Mi Amigo into a radio ship.

Yes indeed, those engineers have during re-building the Mi Amigo no expertise that a ship must have a Cofferdam and have removed the steel wall between the main engine room and the bulkhead space too!

The Cofferdam is a waterproof enclosure for construction under water; partition or empty space on a ship that serves as protective barrier between bulkhead or two levels. In this case the Main engine room. Also there should be a Cofferdam between the Bulkhead and the Forepeak. (the space in front of the transmitter room.) so the transmitter room is isolated as protection for a collision at the bow with another ship. All Cofferdams must be fitted with a Bilge pump. Best regards, Teun Visser. (Drilling Site manager).'



Photo: Teun Visser from his own collection

Thanks Teun for this technical insight. Thinks I didn't know till now.

On A yearly base the International Broadcasting Society honored a person well-known in radio history. It was Willem Vogt, one of the pioneers in Dutch radio history who got that year's award for his outstanding career and the award shield was presented to him in Hotel Gooiland by the Secretary General of the I.B.S. Berthe Beydals. By the way, the photo comes from the National Archive and has been taken by Eric Koch.



Photo: Nationaal Archief Eric Koch NL-HaNA_2.24.01.05_0_921-6368.tjp.

We now go back to the year 1970 and I give space to another story filled with memories from Pam. J. Bird Gaines:

Snapshot of three weeks in August 1970

I said I would write about the time we visited the stations, and a rainy weekend has offered me the opportunity to settle down and reminisce. This is taken from my 1970 diary, and I must excuse my excitable 17 year old self! All photos are all courtesy of Lyn Strang, as to date, we have been unable to trace Bob Craig and Graham Stephens.



FRA Van from Jonathan Shirley

Four of the FRA committee members decided to travel to Europe for their summer holidays in August 1970. There was Bob Craig, who was the FRA Branch Coordinator. He came from Waterloosville, near Portsmouth, UK. Aged 26, was the 'sensible' one among us. He would drive us in his red Ford Transit van, which he used for running his mobile discotheque, 'Outtalimits' around Portsmouth. The van was kitted out with a sofa in the back for the holiday. Eat your heart out, 'elf and safety! I can't remember it having any windows other than in the cab, and back doors, as it was a working panel van. This is the same Ford Transit which headed up the RNI anti-jamming march and rally at Trafalgar Square on the 14th June 1970, and can be seen in some of the old cine footage. The FRA girls sat in the back, when we got tired of walking and handing out leaflets.



Stephen, Lynn and Jerry Photo: Lyn Strong

Along for the trip, was Bob's friend, Graham Stephens. He was around nineteen years old. He helped with the mobile disco, and was studying Marine Engineering at Rees Hall in Southsea, Hampshire, UK and also came to the FRA. Then there was Lyn Strang, the 20 year old FRA Membership Secretary, and me, Pam Bird, on the FRA Clerical Team Sub-Committee. I was the baby of the group, and would celebrate my 17th birthday in Holland.

On the 8th August, we caught the midday ferry from Harwich and arrived at the Hoek van Holland around six o'clock in the evening. We drove to Amsterdam, and stayed on the Olympiaweg camp site.

For the next three days, we went sightseeing, taking in Abcoude, Hilversum, Zandvoort, Scheveningen and Eindhoven. At Eindhoven, we visited the Evoluon exhibition. We crossed into Belgium, to Antwerp and stayed at a camp site outside Brussels.



Evoluon Photo: [Wikimedia Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed](#) [Thea van den Heuvel](#)

On August 12th, after looking round Brussels, we made our way down to Luxembourg, which we reached by early evening, found a camp site and set up camp. I remember all the pine trees lining the road, they seemed to go on forever. We went to the Radio Luxembourg studios and were admitted. Kid Jensen bounded down the stairs, hand outstretched to greet us. We also met Tony Prince and Bob Stewart. They made us very welcome, and we stayed there until 10pm.



Kid Jensen Photo: [Lyn Strang](#)

The morning of August 13th saw us sightseeing and souvenir shopping around Luxembourg, and then we started the long haul back to Scheveningen to meet the tender bringing the boys off the ship (RNI). By midnight we had reached Rotterdam, and pulled into a lay-by to sleep.

On Friday 14th August, at 10am, we reached Scheveningen, found the MEBO 1 and waited. At half past four, Lindsay Reid, Carl Mitchell and Larry Tremaine arrived at the harbor. They left on the tender at 5pm. We went and had supper. At 7.15pm, the tender returned with Andy Archer, Spangles Maldoon and Mark Wesley. Somehow, we all piled in the Transit van and took the DJs to the Grand Hotel. Alan West's girlfriend, Patti, came with us. I remember that I sat next to Spangles. We left the hotel just before ten, and stayed in Amsterdam for the night.



Michael Lindsay Photo: Lyn Strang

Saturday 15th August was my 17th birthday, which I spent on the camp site, sightseeing in Amsterdam, and going on a waterbus. The next day at four in the afternoon, we visited the Caroline ships at the Webster Dock. It was so sad seeing them there. Then we travelled towards Arnhem.

On the 17th August, we visited the War Cemetery in Arnhem. It was a shock seeing all those white crosses. In the evening, we travelled to

Hilversum and visited the studios of Radio Veronica. We met Rob Out and Lex Harding. I remember being impressed by the quality of the studios, and we came away with stickers. At 9pm we headed for Vlissingen (Flushing), and slept by the roadside. Next day, we looked for the Comet ship and found out she has been scrapped. Had a look around town, then returned to Olympiaweg camp site in Amsterdam, where we stayed until 21st August.



Rob Out Photo: Lyn Strang

Friday 21st of August, we visited Den Haag, and were in Scheveningen by midday. We had lunch on the quay side, waiting for the tender to go out to RNI. We met the genial radio person, Hans Verbaan, of FRC Holland.

At quarter to four, MEBO 1 was towed into the smaller harbour. Andy Archer was driven up in a van and Lyn and I ran off to find Bob and Graham. We all met up on the quay side around 4.15pm. Andy had a word with Larry Tremaine, and we were allowed on board the MEBO 1. Our passports were logged by the Captain. Supplies were loaded up. We set off at 5.30pm.



Lyn and Pam on the MEBO I

It was a lovely sea, and we reached MEBO 2 just after 6pm. The tender was lashed to the side of the radio ship and we went on in two parties. We went on second, and it was quite a jump to the ship. Andy helped us on. The ship is really beautiful - we were shown round the ship - the studios and TV room, showers etc. Altogether, we were on board well over an hour. Carl and Lindsay were with us mainly. We met Robb Eden, who used to go to 239 (the FRA).

The supplies loaded on to the radio ship were of very high quality. After we had left the ship (what a jump!) Axel gave Lyn and I some Coca Cola and some cake. Alan West and Dave Gregory came off on our tender. We left the MEBO 2 at 8.10pm. Andy, Carl and the rest waved from the deck. The MEBO 2 looked very alone, and very beautiful as we left her behind us. She was lit up as we left her - the colours show up well. Larry Tremaine was a laugh from start to finish, he's got a wonderful sense of humour. We got back to the harbor at 9pm, then the little tug 'Trip' transferred us from the tender to the dock. A Customs Officer stood amazed on the harbor, as we all piled off the tug, it was quite funny. Detlef and friends were given a lift by us. We said goodbye to Hans Verbaan at the quay side. Then we drove back to

Scheveningen town. An unforgettable adventure, - we had finally made it out to the MEBO! Robb Eden said he would play us a record when they come back on medium wave round about Tuesday.'

Thanks a lot Pam for sharing your memories, which you kept on paper all those decades. Marvelous and also thanks to Lyn Strang for providing the photos with your story. Anyone who want to bring in memories and more, feel free to write to HKnot@home.nl



Together with some of the RNI jocks on the quay side in Scheveningen

Halfway the month of April a very interesting article appeared in de Grimsby Telegraph telling the history of the Ross Revenge in past and present:

<https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/nostalgia/ross-revenge-trawler-radio-caroline->

[2738721?fbclid=IwAR0IIBMhkd6YI5nG1V4IBuIDZ5c5PppAANwifFq2B25ztiLB+FEH0mCM3CE](https://www.facebook.com/IwAR0IIBMhkd6YI5nG1V4IBuIDZ5c5PppAANwifFq2B25ztiLB+FEH0mCM3CE)

When Caroline office signed a sponsor contract wit Marlboro all deejays got a special Marlboro Jack. Henk Kruize wrote that he thinks that Adriaan van Landschoot, owner of Radio Atlantis as well as Carnaby shops, gave the deejays of the international service also some clothes.



the late Andy Anderson and Steve England

In last issue Rosko showed us a photo of the studio and suggested if someone did recognize something special. Well Rob Jones brought in several answers including: 'The half LP in a frame above the window to the right of the clock. Also he asked what will happen when you pull the stick. Well Rosko time for an answer for the next report.



I think already in 2005 The Emperor Rosko reflected for the first time on a subject in the international radio report and since then he has done this countless times. Also this time as he wrote: 'Hi Hans, it took me two cups of coffee to finish this months report. You've outdone yourself again. And the bonus to all was the radio map link. That was really a mind buzz and spent hours playing with it.

Wayne Hepler's DVD was very good, out at last! Tony Prince and Johnny Walker on point and all that history! That picture on the cover always scares me! I got to see you and Mr. Visser as well so it was a great walk down radio lane. Sorry time is short I have to get back to the radio map and make discoveries! *ciao4now*

Well good to know you succeeded in reading it. Coffee can help sometimes. Yes I had the tape of the Hepler video already in 2014 but that was for the RadioDay presentation. He had severe problems to get it on the market but it's a good view in the history on offshore radio as well as pirates in the USA. Well enjoy the map and set the alarm clock so you can stop in time

<https://picarto.tv/RoskoRadio>

Endless Rosko Radio, hour after hour, day by day and what did Rosko comment himself about that? 'Just wanted to make sure you got it, 24 hours of Rosko can be dangerous top your health!'

Time for another reflection from Ian Godfrey in London. For those who don't know Ian is one of the visual handicapped persons reading the report. 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the latest Report. My first impulse was to attempt to download it. Based on the previous three, I didn't think I had much of a chance but I got a pleasant surprise! One difference, compared with previously, is that I can now view any photographs etc. without having to access the JPeg images.

I've just finished the Bob Stewart paragraph; who I always associate with Radio Luxembourg, which I very rarely listened to. I've heard one or two archives on ORS and am sure that If I'd been able to hear him on Caroline North I would have appreciated him much more.

You're probably fully aware but, for several weeks, ORS have been devoting half of each Wednesday to RNI. There aren't that many radio features I actually look forward to, but this is definitely one of them. Most of it is listenable quality.

Hopefully I'll get round to reading the rest of the Report pretty soon!
Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks Ian and yes RNI was also the best in my ears after the big boom in the sixties of last century. Keep enjoying the fun of radio!

Next a reflection about Peter van Dijk, once working on the Laissez Faire and after that a short period on Radio Veronica, before going into public radio and television. Read your radio report with great interest. It's one of Veronica technicians during the offshore period, Juul Geleick, who reflected with: 'I came across something about Peter van Dijk. Vaguely I can remember that I once recorded a (1) program with him. It must have been late 1967 or early 1968. On the Zeedijk studio's in Hilversum. I don't know much more about him but what I do remember is that I didn't like it very much, let's just say it wasn't so

good. His voice, beautiful, is still in my memory.' Thanks Juul your comments are always welcome.

Next a memory from Germany from Helmut Taylor who asked me if I can ask readers if there's someone who has a recording of Lee Taylor who was a presenter on Radio Invicta in the sixties. The station which started from Red Sands Towers. Other persons working in the same period on the fort were Ed Mereno, Eddie Jerold, Brice Holland and more. So if you have one you can upload it to HKnot@home.nl

RATE CARD No. 2
Local retail Rates.

Rates subject to alteration
without notice, except for
current contracts.

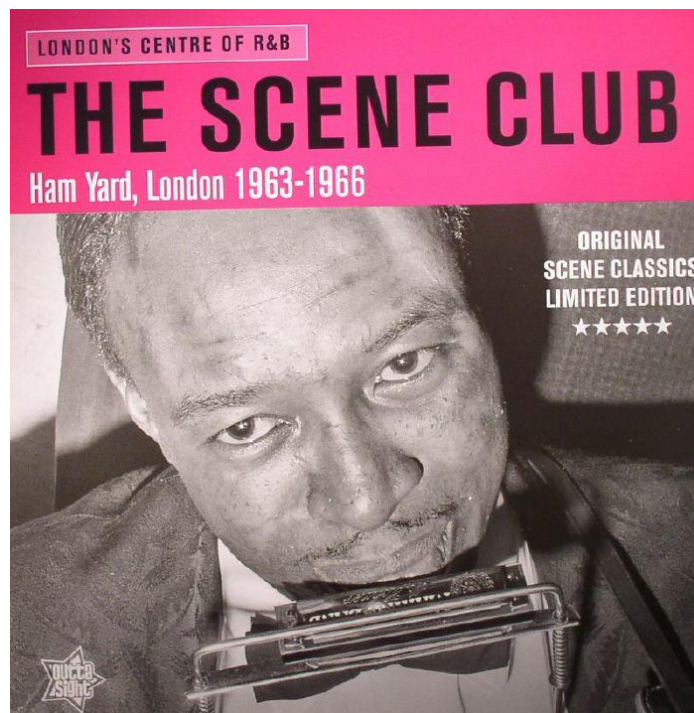
RADIO INVICTA
INVICTA ADVERTISING AGENCY LTD.
35 BOUVERIE SQUARE, FOLKESTONE, KENT
Telephone : FOLKESTONE 51666

	1 time	4 times	10 times	25 times
	£	£	£	£
25 words	5	15	30	60
60 words	10	30	60	120
100 words	15	45	90	180
5 min's. sponsored	25	75	150	300
10 min's. sponsored	40	120	240	480
15 min's. sponsored	50	150	300	600

Programmes defined as:
25 words = S.B. = Station Break.
60 words = Fl. = Flashes.
100 words = Sp.A. = Spot announcements.
5 min's. news or programme sponsorship.
10 min's. programme sponsorship.
15 min's. programme sponsorship.

But Helmut aka Lee has more to remember: 'Back in 1962 I had moved up to London as a starry eyed teenager, living with my girlfriend at 98 Queensway, chatted now and again with Mandy Rice Davis and Christine Keeler, who had a pad at 100 over coffee and pancakes in the Golden Egg next door. When I saw an add for a lucrative job in the window of a newsagent's (corner of Bayswater Road) - which I answered. It transpires that the lucrative job entailed giving out invitations to other young teeny boppers, in and around Piccadilly Circus, to come and listen

to live bands in "The Scene" club in Ham Yard (opposite the Windmill theatre).



And I recall that the Thursday slot was filled by a band called 'The Rolling Stones'. Ronan O'Rahilly, the proprietor of the venue, impressed me immensely with his quick fire manner and busy, busy, American/Irish accent.

He invited me to his flat in Belgravia, and, I would very probably have ended up as a deejay on his venture Radio Caroline, had fate not decided that the girlfriend and I should (accidentally) set fire to the flat in Queensway, which led to us moving back down to Whitstable, near Canterbury. And then, as things go, I was standing at the bar in the pub opposite the harbour one evening drinking a half of mild, when, after a few pleasantries, the chap next to me, called Eddie Hinkins, asked if I fancied becoming a deejay on Radio Invicta on the Red Sands forts, just 13 miles off the coast.

Next evening I was on the fishing boat with Eddie Jerrold, Bruce Holland and among others the radio engineer Phil Perkins.

On the last trip back to the harbour, a couple of months later, when the station closed down, I had taken the tapes with me broadcasting with me - but the boat did a wiggle just as I was about to jump off the boat onto the harbour wall and my evidence disappeared into the water and were lost forever! I did quite a few of Ed Moreno's 'Date with Romance' shows. They were a hit; somebody must have recorded those shows!



Then, later, in the 80's of last century, when I was fly pitching leather belts outside of the Great Gear Trading Company (Lol Coxhill used to serenade me and the whole of the passersby on the Kings Road) outside of the King's Road Theatre. Ronan and I had a coffee or two at the Pheasantry - and exchanged a few memories.

And talking about "The Scene", Ham Yard, Shaftesbury Avenue reminds me that that was where I first met Clive Kelly of the trimara "Survival". We had gone to the Isle of Wight Festival, and the Shepton Mallet (Bath) pop festivals in our ex-London taxis; also to see Hendrix's last performance in/on Fehmarn, in Germany. Clive was, by the way, the "white" hero in the original version of the film "Raoni", shot in the Amazon jungle in 1978.



PS: I remember Radio Luxemburg only playing half of the records, originally, to prevent the punters recording them off the radio! But I forgive them, because Kid Jensen used to play Van Morrison's albums in their entirety late at night!

Looking forward to hearing from you again, Helmut, aka Lee.'

Thanks a lot Lee Taylor and hopefully one shows up with a recording. Halfway May I published, like I do every day, a newsflash from yesterday

Daily Mail 16-5-1966

Disc jockey saves girls

Disc jockey Ricki Dane helped to rescue two girls when their catamaran capsized near the pirate radio ship Caroline off the Essex coast yesterday.

With members of the crew he lowered a boat for Pamela Nightingale and Margaret Soulsby, both 21. Walton-on-Naze lifeboat took them ashore.

It was an article published on May 16th in 1966. And it came from the Daily Mail and it cleaned by OEM.

I asked my readers if anyone knows what has happened to the girls. It was Paul Turvey who told me that Pam married the master of the tender Offshore 1. And also showed some photos. First Pam stepping, probably on another occasion on the MV Mi Amigo



Also another shot was given, both from the Pam Nightingale personal collection, showing a film crew working on the Mi Amigo and interviewing Ronan O'Rahilly and some of the deejays.



Thanks a lot Paul for sharing this memories as well as the photographs! Next Alan Wiener from the USA who wrote: 'First off-great job in all you do. As radio "fades" a bit worldwide. And people reminisce. Please know that we at WBCQ are putting the "juice" back in the bands.

We are about to put on the air the world's largest, most versatile, shortwave station in the world. All dedicated to free speech, the station transmits with an output power of 500,000 watts and an ERP out of the antenna of 20 megawatts. The antenna is fully rotatable so we can beam a shortwave signal to any country on earth. Testing has begun on 9330khz and on air 24/7 in May. Truly a shot in the arm for the radio effort. Lots of religious programs, but hey-they pay the huge bills.



Alan and Angela Wiener (collection A.W.)

So don't fret-radio is alive at the worlds free speech, only licensed pirate station-WBCQ.

<http://www.wbcq.com/> for more and a lot of photos

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WBCQ_\(SW\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WBCQ_(SW))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpm0QISOMZM>

What do we have here? Yes, a photograph, I know. But why in the report? Well, it was sent in by Benny Kok from Utrecht who took this picture in 1973. It's the local bakery who brings out that daily orders, like the local milkmen did in those days in the Netherlands. A good looking reader is also seeing that the guy makes some advert as he has two RNI 'Hou em in de lucht' stickers on the front of his car.



Utrecht 1973 Photo: Benny Kok

From Utrecht we go over to Kent, where Bob Le Roi does a lot of interesting things. He informs us about the new update from his internet pages: 'With commitments to our new station Maritime Radio (London) Radio Mi-Amigo International, and Red Sands Radio Productions the website had taken a back seat.

But in-between tasks we've been busy working on a huge update. Two Filming Trips to the Red Sands Radio Fort: 'Hidden Britain by Drone' and 'Legendary Locations'.



There's a 'Grand Forts Tour' - 'Defences of the Medway and Thames' - 'BBMS - Part 2' and revealed photographs with details of a 'Swale Wreck'. Plus we've long overdue tributes to good friends: David 'Sinkers' Sinclair - John Hatt (aka Chris 'Tea Set' Stewart, John Aston) and Robin Adcroft-Banks, all with audio clips.

Many other pages have additions; the main ones listed on the Home page. Finally, on-air you'll find 'Bob's 60's Splash'.

www.bobleroi.co.uk

Here's a rare photo from RNI's first year in 1970



left to right Claude, Roger Day, Duncan Johnson, Dirk, Andy Archer, crewmember, another crewmember and Kurt Bauer.

A.J. Janitschek next from the USA with the following words: 'Here's a link to a brief, but interesting article from Radio Ink magazine about how all 50 US state broadcast associations are encouraging passage of the PIRATE Act to give the FCC more power to take pirates off the air in the USA.

<https://radioink.com/2019/05/07/state-associations-want-pirate-act-passed/>

Here's another interesting link, this time from the USA and Joel O'Brien: https://www.broadcastlawblog.com/2019/06/articles/us-attorneys-and-fcc-combine-to-shut-down-pirate-radio-station/?utm_source=David+Oxenford%2C+Esq+-+Broadcast+Law+Blog&utm_campaign=7e9bd252f2-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_550fd6c4c6-7e9bd252f2-71085273

Another interesting newspaper article has to be mentioned too:

From an unassuming semi in Cippenham - an equally unpretentious suburb of Slough - a jolly duo is hard at work, broadcasting a slice of British life to listeners on the Arabian Peninsula.

At the helm is 78-year-old Phil Jay, one of the pioneers of early radio, who has been producing weekly shows for QBS - *Qatar Broadcasting Services* - since the 70s. A veteran of *LBC* and the *BBC*, he has been joined in later years by his loyal partner in entertainment, Pam Worth.

Each day, Pam drives down from her home in Burnham and the two of them fall to scouting out stories from across the South-East, before regaling their distant audience from the studio in Phil's spare bedroom.

Phil has that lovely, easy-going voice that one expects of a veteran broadcaster. On air he exudes modesty and reserve, and in person he is exactly the same.

"It's tiny!" I exclaim of his studio, scrambling to photograph the two broadcasters, who are 'heads' (earphones) on and ready for action.

read more here:

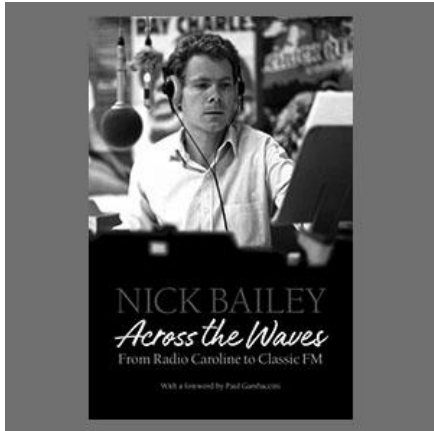
<https://www.essentialsurrey.co.uk/lifestyle/celebrity-interview/phil-jay/?fbclid=IwAR2tXTb7GGqig3xxNTOb20s3ga5IJsAl-fifZ97iRm21n4Cijnqm1wdrzns>

During a recent break I had the time to read some books. One of them was the book written by Nick Bailey **Across the Waves: From Radio Caroline to Classic FM**

I must admit that I've around 300 books on the shelf with the subject 'radio and more' but the one Nick Bailey wrote belongs in the category highly recommended for the top 5! It was wonderful to read all the stories from all the places in the world he has lived and work within the radio industry.

Most interesting is also to see next to the radio work interesting stories about his personal life. Talking about radio the Hong Kong period was a very interesting read, not forgetting his time in Germany. I've followed AFN and BFBS a lot during sixties up till the eighties. Living next to the border in the North of the Netherlands we could receive some of the stations as well with exchanging a lot of recordings with friends near Munich and Berlin. The book has a very interesting chapter and personal insight story on BFBS!

I advise every radio addicted person to see if it's possible in the budget to order your own copy of this excellent book.



https://www.amazon.co.uk/Across-Waves-Radio-Caroline-Classic/dp/1999922212/ref=sr_1_6?qid=1558205813&refinements=p_27%3ANick+Bailey&s=books&sr=1-6

Also the Radio London site has an interesting update, which was published on June 8th. So go and have a look at:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

As promised a short report of the Mi Amigo 45 events in Blankenberge by Douwe Dijkstra:

'A business trip to Northern France the day before Ascension Day was a great opportunity to experience the start of Mi Amigo 45 on the MV Castor during the Port Days in Blankenberge the next day. After a walk through all the activities that Port Days have to offer, we climbed the footbridge to the MV Castor halfway through the morning. Above deck we found the bar with many seats and after a first snack we left for the studio, many steps down, in the hold of the ship.

During the journey of the Castor from Rotterdam to Blankenberge Gino de Simpelaere and Bob Noakes built a studio to bring back Mi Amigo memories for four days. Serge van Gisteren was busy with his program and Marc van Amstel waited patiently until he could present the next program together with Ferry Eden. Many Mi Amigo memories scaled

through the ship, through a large number of connected transmitters and through the internet. After some time with Ferry and the memories of Marc van Amstel we had a drink above deck with Vincent (Schriel). During the afternoon we visited the program of Johan Vermeer of Mi Amigo 272 on the MV Magdalena. Despite the fact that it all seemed to have to get going this first day, it was more than worth the visit.'



De Castor in Blankenberge

Photo: Douwe Dijkstra

May 20th: Eurovision songcontest winner Duncan Laurence was a regular visitor for rehearsing on the Norderney.

A day and a half after Duncan Laurence won the Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv for the Netherlands, the video, in which he sang again at the end of the broadcast, has already been watched more than

4,400,000 times. Few Dutch people will not know that he has won. Duncan, who last year graduated from the Fontys Rockacademie in Tilburg, had another musical platform where he could go.



The (current) owner of the Veronica ship in Amsterdam is Nimet Akdemir. Although she is not very fond of the history of Offshore Radio, she and her friend Pythia Brouwer organised music sessions every last Sunday of the month from 2014 to 2017, during which she had unknown but very talented artists perform, jam and practice with a very professional group of musicians under the direction of Roger Happel.

In an interview in newspaper Trouw she said about it in May 2017: "Every last Sunday of the month I organize on the ship N.A.P., Nieuw Amsterdams Peil, an open stage evening for artists, where a lot of scouting is done for TV programs such as 'Idols' and 'The Voice'. Singer Maan also comes from us. When I hear a good Dutch artist, I make contact with radio station 100% NL." A Glennis Grace also came to sing there regularly because her former friend was the drummer of the band.

And contacting 100%NL happened then with director Herbert Visser who further talks about the special music evenings on the Norderney: "But unknown singers were given for many years the opportunity to perform every month and practice aboard the Norderney in

Amsterdam. And those artists were there every month, month after month, year after year. And they could so their singing skills and performances further sharpen and improve. And you saw and heard them get better every month.

Among those artists, who many years every month were on board the Norderney, is the now extremely popular singer Moon. But so also Duncan Laurence, who is now for the general public suddenly came out of the sky, but who also used the Norderney for his singing talents and performances again and again to improve. It will not surprise you that Nimet and Pythia were also there in Tel Aviv last Saturday when Duncan for the Netherlands the Eurovision song festival won", said Herbert Visser.



Nimet Akmedir and Herbert Visser. Photo: collection Herbert Visser.

Seems more and more memories are coming in, but nevertheless never too much, so let them come at HKnot@home.nl



Fons Beekman sent the above keyring holder, which was advertised for a short period on Radio Mi Amigo in the seventies. And from Fons I go to Jon and the monthly site update:

'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

This month we discover more about one of the smallest and least successful of all the UK's offshore stations - Tower Radio. We have an extensive interview with Chris Gosling, one of Tower's disc-jockeys, carried out by Charles Wright of the Felixstowe & Offshore Radio Facebook page. (With grateful thanks to Charles and Brian Nichols.) Back next month with more goodies. All the best, Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Newspaper time as the next was published in the Clacton and Frinton Gazette some days ago:

'A pirate radio stalwart has jumped ship after more than 40 years of helping to keep Radio Caroline on the airwaves. Albert Hood, 80, from Windsor Avenue, Clacton, began his Radio Caroline career by running covert tenders from Brightlingsea to the station's pirate radio ships,

Mi Amigo and later Ross Revenge, which were broadcasting from 16 miles off the Essex coast in international waters.

At the risk of prosecution and possible imprisonment Albert, with the assistance of his wife Georgena, took food, supplies, DJs, records and equipment out to the ships under the radar of the authorities and in often hazardous conditions.

read more here:

<https://www.clactonandfrintongazette.co.uk/news/17671517.albert-jumps-ship-after-40-years-aiding-radio-caroline-pirates/>

Also from this point Albert and Georgina thanks a lot for all you both did under sometimes very bad and critical circumstances and I hope you both enjoy the rest of your life in good memories to the time you both gave yourself to Radio Caroline and more.

Also this is very interesting to read and you can download the pdf there too: Miley, Frances M and Read, Andrew F (2017) *Financial control, blame avoidance and Radio Caroline: Talkin' 'bout my generation*. *Accounting History*, 22 (3). pp. 301-319. ISSN 1032-3732
<http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/67723/>

In Hilden, Germany on June 15th the annual German Radio Day was held. Around 300 photos and 2 movies can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157709156032346>



And now the final chapter from Phil Champion about:

RADIO LUXEMBOURG 208 2.7.1951-31.12.2015

Radio Luxembourg's first announcer, Stephen Williams and the first Briton to say: "This is Radio Luxembourg", was awarded the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on May 7th 1992 - one of the few foreigners to receive it.

Top Twenty

Let's look at the long-running chart show. A lot of this information comes from Dave Taylor and others' contribution to the Popscene website. Luxy called it the world's first chart radio show. It was based on the sheet music sales compiled by the Music Publishers Association. The first No.1 was "Galway Bay" by Bing Crosby. From January 1960 208 used the "New Musical Express" chart. After July 1965 they used a special version of the NME chart compiled on Friday. In August 1971 it became the Top 30 moving to Tuesdays. During the 1970s it became a prediction chart, trying to forecast what would be in the Radio 1 actual sales chart the next week. During the 1980s it was called the Original Top 20.



Benny Brown Archive Radio Luxembourg

Deejays hosting the chart were: 1948 Teddy Johnson, Spring 1950 Roger Moffat (He started off with Nos.1, 2 & 3 & then played 14 other tracks from the chart, but not in any particular order), 1950 Pete Murray, 1955 Keith Fordyce, 1960 Alan Dell, 1960 David Gell, 1961 Barry Alldis (David Gell stand in), 1966 Don Wardell, 1967 Paul Burnett (Bob Stewart stand in), 1974 David Christian (Tony Prince stand in), 1975 Peter Powell, 1976 Bob Stewart, 1982 Tony Prince, 1983 Dave Eastwood, 1984 Benny Brown, 1985 Jonathan King, 1986 Tim Smith, 1987 Peter Anthony, 1987 Shaun Tilley (The show went to Monday nights at 2000 and went back to a Top 20 in October 1987 and from 1st December 1990, back to Sundays at 2100), October- December 1992 Tony Adams.

208's influence on Communist Eastern Europe

Some people think 208's English programmes were one of the factors undermining Communism in eastern Europe. Despite the directional antennae beaming the signal the other way it was listened to in East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia as listeners' letters showed. The pop music they heard triggered a desire for change and liberty among young people behind the Iron Curtain. In 2010 Luxembourg's Ambassador to Poland was struck by how many of the political, economic and cultural elite had been listeners to the English Service in their youth. It was incredibly popular. It opened their ears to the free world, letting them dream of a colourful world unlike that of grey, oppressive Communism. In fact David/Kid Jensen was recognised by a Polish man 40 years later purely by his voice.

It was a similar story in Czechoslovakia. The Luxembourg Embassy set up a website for people to give their memories of how 'Laxik' affected their lives. The politician Jaroslav Kunera wrote that many were searching for new information. In politics it was Radio Free Europe (RFE) which was jammed, for music it was Laxik. A number of singers

listened to the records and taped them to sing along to later or else played from memory like The Shadows instrumentals. They listened to pop or great soul singers like Otis Redding.



The singer Petra Janda said that 208 substituted "what our official culture denied to us. They played this boring... swing music. And RL played different, modern music influenced by the coming Rock and Roll. My whole generation listen to RL on a daily basis and talked about what was played and when and some even took notes in their notebooks." Another comment was that in the late 1950s and 60s Laxik was No. 1 with its music whereas there was too much talking on other stations which was boring. The producer Vladimir Mertlik wrote that 208 represented a link with "a world over there -a world which I wanted to belong to." Tony Prince was especially popular around 1970 as he often gave greetings on air to his Czech listeners. One listener said that RL had a natural spontaneity unlike Czechoslovak radio or Austria's State radio Ö3. Another recounted that the 208 djs really liked their job and were enjoying it immensely, unlike the way Czechoslovak Radio music programmes were presented. The authorities tolerated Laxik and never jammed it though some thought they did. This could have been a harmonic of RFE on 719 kHz - on 1438. From 1948 the Communist rulers promoted folk music to unite the world. RL was the only source of rock and beat music plus information on new trends in the 1950s and

1960s -this was otherwise inaccessible especially in the 1950s. As part of her thesis for Brno University in 2012 Veronica Stefekova looked at RL's effect on attitudes. She concluded that Laxik helped ordinary listeners survive the Socialist State reality. It helped professional and amateur musicians in their musical development. It increased young peoples' interest in music and learning English. The 'forbidden fruit' aspect contributed to its popularity. Czechoslovak soldiers in their barracks listened almost exclusively to Laxik, according to the Czech "Military Review", much to their officers' despair. The review stated. "This station is the most sophisticated form of psychological warfare of the West."



It wasn't always easy being a listener in a Communist country. In East Germany listening to foreign stations was forbidden. Those who did could expect at least insults. One person who wrote about Radio Luxembourg in the 1950s received a visit from State Security. Under the hardline Ulbricht regime (1950-71) an example was made in 1959 of five youths who were each given five years jail for listening to such stations including Radio Luxembourg. Many East Germans secretly

listened to 'Luxis'. Schoolchildren would talk about "die Hitparade" the next day with close school friends. The following Honecker regime tolerated listening to RTL. By 1988 a young East German lady was able to phone-in her vote to "Rock Wars" with Shaun Tilley and Jessie Brandon and go out live on air -two years before the Communist state crumbled.

In other Communist lands there were listeners. Some comments on youtube clips of 208 jingles and programmes show this. It was heard in Estonia in the 1980s when it was "really 'hot' in Estonia then." It was listened too in Russia. 'Bella B' started listening in 1971: "That was the main source of fresh music." Another Russian wrote that he tuned in around 1965 on a military receiver while on military service with the Soviet army!

208 left for the German Service

From now the third Service to use 208 had all the airtime. On early Sunday evenings they continued German religious broadcasts on 208 only. In 1990 it was still No. 1 in Germany of the private stations and No. 8 overall. On September 30th it marked its 33 years with the longest singles chart in history lasting 18 years and with a number of djs who were leaving; Frank, Dieter, Thomas, Max and Viktor. From October 1st it had called itself 'RTL Radio' with new programming and more music aimed at a younger audience of 25-45 year olds.



Jingles were from America. Shows were three hours long. The music, selected by computer to fit the target audience was now 'Die besten Hits' with 40% new music and classic hits from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s with 20% being German-language titles. However, an hour on

Sundays at 0800 was reserved for schlager music and on 208 only, not FM. Talk would be information, not drivel. Through the peak weekday programming there would be talk about the quality of life, trends, hot topics, comedy and humour. This change caused the previous djs and almost all the editorial staff to leave. Of the familiar names only Helga and Jochen were left. German listeners until the beginning of the 1970s had wanted German songs but then later there was a demand for songs in English.

From 1990-94 the German Service was less reliant on 208 or short wave. Its programmes were now heard part or most of the time on 15 private FM stations with programming produced for a while from Stuttgart. The German radio scene had changed too. Dj Jochen wrote that in the 1970s and 1980s RL competed with 13 or 14 public broadcasters. Now there were 270 stations, costing Luxis both listeners and advertising revenue. In 1991 RL moved from Villa Louvigny after almost six decades to the new Kirchberg studios in a purpose-built new building on the north east of the city.



German format change

Two years later came a new format and a re-title to 'RTL Radio Der Oldiesender' in November 1992. This was to combine music from the good old days with 1990s life. The format was fun, music and bringing back the memories from the late 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. A chart show "Oldies der Woche" (Oldies Week) was aired Sundays 1200-1400 where female dj Uschi Nerke played the best hits from Britain and America 1963-73. This also went out on three FM stations: Reutlingen 104.8, Marine Radio Radio (101.8 and 105.3) and RTL Radio Hochrhein

while other FM stations relayed the A/C format. By now there were jingles with a female singing "RTL Radio." The format change seemed to revive the audience. In Baden-Wurtemberg state a survey showed this rose from 109,000 in 1992 to 306,000 in 1993. RTL was again market leader. However, former English Service Programme Controller Jeff Graham is quoted on woner-uk (on an internet forum) as saying that when RTL became CLT the managers were from a banking background not radio or TV. CLT then decided to charge each Service for transmission running costs. The German Service wanted to extend the Oldiesender into the evening after the English had closed down. Now though, they had the full costs of a 1.3 Mw transmitter to pay for. So the 24 hours a day service was reduced to 18 hours after six months to 0600-2400 then six months later shortened to 0600-2200 on 208. Veteran dj Jochen did a four hour daily show. In 1995 the Luxembourg government awarded him the Chevalier de l'Ordre de Mérite du Grand Duchy de Luxembourg medal. Shows were quite long like 0530 Programme Director Holger Richter, 1000 Julia who took over from Jochen on his retirement, 1400-1800 Martina. From April 1996 the station ID was 'RTL Radio Die Grössten Oldies.' A "Die Grössten Oldies" promo by two German djs said that they played pop (clip of ABBA record), soul (The Supremes), disco (George McRae) and Rock and Roll (Bill Haley.) From 1998 it was decided that the oldies had to be at least 15 years old - which now allowed records up to 1983. It stabilised its audience despite increasing competition with more than 100,000 listeners per hour average. In the late 1990s part of the 208 airtime was hired to Radio Nederland Wereldomroep -the Dutch world service.

Hiring out more airtime

The sounds on 208 changed on January 1st 2001 when airtime was hired to Mega Radio. This was an attempt to create a national pop/dance station aimed at 14-24 year olds. it went out 0600 (Sundays 0730 because of religious programmes) -1900. They had also hired

airtime on other radio station's transmitters since 1997. By March 2003 they had financial problems and had not built up sufficient listeners and so closed on April 4th at 0100. It was back to RTL on 208. Already from January 2002 airtime was hired to China Radio International from 2000. At first this seemed to be in English. From September 5th 2005 it rebranded itself as 'RTL Radio - Die Besten Hits alle Zeiten' - almost a German copy of Radio 10 Gold in the Netherlands with their slogan 'De Grootste Hits aller tijden.'

With listening to RTL on medium wave declining, even more airtime was hired out. Religious broadcasts in German could be heard at 1930 and 1945 CET. I seem to remember some time back one in Norwegian. KBS World Radio, the external service of South Korea's public broadcaster, was heard daily from 1730-1800 BST/1830-1900 CET from early 2008. China Radio International (CRI) hired even more airtime, this time dropping English and French in favour of German, as part of its policy of getting 'China friendly' airtime in a number of European countries and the USA. Eventually this became a block of five hours in the morning on 208 plus another three late evening. By late 2009 German religious programmes were aired 0500-0600 on full power then the interval signal broadcast until the German Service opening time. A change in the music came from July 1st 2015 when the best hits station was relaunched as 'RTL-Deutschlands Hit-Radio' with the best new hits and the greatest hits targeting 25-55 year olds as the studios were moved from Luxembourg to Berlin. However, by December 2015 there was an RTL "Happy Hour" of easy-listening music 2100-2200 CET announced as on 1440 with CRI continuing afterwards.

By October 2014 208 aired an interval signal from 0455 then 'RTL Radio Die Besten Hits alle Zeiten' from 0500 CET -0700 and 1200-1900. Between 0700-1200 and 1900-2400 it was CRI in German after which it closed for the night. Religious programmes went out 0430-0500 and 1830-1900. From April 2015 208 was switched off 1300-1700 during the music programming. There used to be a lot of religious

programmes, one since 1958, but these were down to two.

Closing Marnach

Originally there were pressure to close the Marnach 208 station in 2011. There had been substantial housing development to within several hundred metres of the masts. Concern and complaints were coming in about the harmful effects of electromagnetic interference. Since 2002 a local residents association of Marnach village (pop. 581) had been trying to get the masts closed down. They claimed that lamps, hearing aids, electric hobs, faxes and garage doors wouldn't work properly. In 2006 the Luxembourg government's Inspectors of Labour and Mines studied such problems and confirmed the many antennas were responsible. Two M.P.s asked questions in the Luxembourg Parliament. As several internet posts suggested: (1) Why move to such an area? (2) No doubt these residents carry round a switched-on mobile phone on their person! (3) There are probably lots of electromagnetic waves from their laptops etc. Power had been reduced; 208 was now said to be 300 kW daytimes.



The site was granted a two year extension to 2009 then it was extended to 2011 and again to 2014. By July 2014 the UK mast and its reflector were closed down-with the former dismantled by March 6th 2015 - as the complaints seemed to refer to the UK transmitter. The

UK masts had not been used after September 2013 when CRI took its English and French programmes off in favour of German only. It was agreed between the Luxembourg Government and CLT to close Marnach at the end of 2014. CLT's transmission subsidiary Broadcasting Centre Europe took the Government to court to prolong the operational facility. It was said that CRI was keen to prolong its contract for hiring airtime. The court ruled that "the field strength limit of 3 V/m, specified in an EU directive the Government referred to, applies to electric equipment in general but not to transmission facilities where the radiation of an electromagnetic field is not an unwanted side effect but the very purpose," as a local newspaper reported. So in September 2014 Marnach transmissions were given a year's reprieve to close along with the German medium wave transmitters at the end of 2015 and with the Government agreeing to buy the land at the market value.

The programming by October 2015 on 208 was now: 0355 CET Interval signal, 0400 RTL-Deutschlands Hit-Radio' except Sun 0600-0630 Missionswerk Freundesdienst (religious), 0700 China Radio International (CRI), 1200 RTL etc, 1210 off air, 1655 RTL etc, Wed 1725-1730 Lutherische Stunde (religious), 1830 Missionswerk Freundesdienst, 1900 CRI, (by December) 2100 "Happy Hour", 2200 CRI, 2400 Luxembourg National Anthem, 0001 off air.

On its final day, December 31st 2015, 208 had a English presence again at 0000 BST/0100 CET with a repeat of Mike Hollis' two hour history of Radio Luxembourg first broadcast at the 1991 closedown. It was repeated at 1300 CET as 208 was kept on through the day. That afternoon RTL's normal Top Vierzig (40) of 2015 was broadcast. Nearly half the records were in German, the rest English. News was at 12 minutes to the hour read by a female while a male followed it at 9 minutes to with the weather. The station ID on the hour mentioned the FM frequencies and online -but not medium wave. The dj was animated, there were promos and commercials -but no jingles. Non-stop music

started the evening with the "Neues Jahr Party" which was cut into at 1830 BST with German religious show "Radio Freundes-Dienst" with Joseph Sneed who called it the end of an era. CRI followed at 1900. One report says the last hour was in English. The Luxembourg Waltz which was usually played at the end of transmissions was played for the final time to end transmissions on 208 at 2259 BST/2359 CET. So ended 64 years of 208 and 60 years of the Marnach transmitting station.



Demolition

The masts were dismantled on February 11th 2016. A feature on the 16th on RTL's Luxembourg TV showed the anchors for the antenna cables being cut with an oxy-acetylene torch then all three masts falling to the ground. Next engineer Nico Scheer showed the big, empty transmitter hall then in another room the twin silent large AEG generators. Benny Brown, interviewed at Sunshine 100.7, said that RL "was a superb place, the people were great. I couldn't have been any more happy than to work at 208." Speaking about the demolition of the masts, he said it was an emotional moment. "Those transmitters were my voice and those of many others." He added that Radio Luxembourg was a cult. It had listeners all over Continental Europe as well as the target areas of Great Britain and Scandinavia. It was a cult -you could only listen in the evenings.

I have counted 85 djs/announcers listed as broadcasting from the

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the English Service. The first 17 were on Long Wave but the 18th, Pete Murray, was on both. Two 208 djs returned years later. Barry Aldiss was on from 1957-66 then returned in 1976 until his passing in 1982. Keith Fordyce was on from the age of 27 in 1955 to the 1960s when for a few years he did taped shows from London but returned aged 54 in 1982 after Barry's passing for 6 months, still sounding very good on air and among somewhat younger djs. Some lasted a number of years. I've counted 52 actual djs (not variety show hosts) who made programmes in London. Some of these had been based first in the Grand Duchy then moved to London: Pete Murray, David Gell and Keith Fordyce while Paul Hollingdale moved the other way.

A noticeable feature is how long some djs stayed with RL. David Jacobs was on 20 years, all from London. Pete Murray did six years in Luxembourg then another 12 from London. Out in Luxembourg long stayers were Mark Wesley (10 years), Stuart Henry (13), Barry Aldiss with 9½ and 6 years, Tony Prince (16) and Bob Stewart with a record at 22 years. Bob was regarded as a safe pair of hands. Collins says that from 1975-83 Bob drew the biggest night-time audience figures. If he filled in for another dj he would always hold their audience figures.

Perhaps the best comment comes from Luxembourg club dj Chris Baird (known to the 208 djs) at one of their reunions, "Radio Luxembourg was the Voice of Europe."

And that ends a long but very interesting series on the history of Radio Luxembourg for which I want to thank Phil Champion and surely there will be another interesting article from him in the future. That's all for this edition of the report and I hope to be back with you at the end of the summer. Keep sending your memories and more to Hknot@home.nl and enjoy life!

