



Happy Christmas radio

A very warm welcome to this Christmas 2019 edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Who ever thought that this report would still be published after so many years. Still many people around the world want to share memories, discuss subjects concerning radio and have their photographs digitalized for sharing. First of all I want to wish you and your relatives a very happy Christmas and all best wishes possible for 2020.

Of course there was a lot of response on the early November report and in this one there is a selection of these responses starting with the one from Ian Johnston who wrote: 'An excellent read as usual Hans! On one point concerning newspaper advertising - I was with Radio Scotland 242 and also writing for a newspaper group. Obviously I mention 242 a lot in my articles and asked the editor if he had any objections. His reply was that since the station came on air the newspaper advertising had increased because the advertisers liked to print "As heard on Radio Scotland"!'

Yes Ian profit on both sides was a logical thing although newspapers in the Netherlands were not always happy with the popularity of the offshore radio stations. Next is Robb Eden, who we know from RNI and Caroline. 'Sincere thanks for yet another action packed newsletter. Referring to your article from Mr. Bollier I believe that

all the DJ's and crew who worked on the ship will confirm that we had access to all areas of the ship. In fact, considering that MEBO Ltd. was in the telecommunications business there was little on the ship to suggest it, even the ship to shore was antiquated and very basic. Paul Harris visited the ship several times and I'm sure that he was never denied access to any area of the ship. Everybody in the Zurich office supported both myself, my fellow DJ's and crew. I could not have wished for a better employer. I wish I could say the same for the management of the Dutch company. With best wishes to all, Robb Eden.'



Marc van Amstel in RNI newsroom Photo: Hans Hoogendoorn

Thanks Robb for your nice comments and surely Edwin Bollier will be happy with these words. Edwin, by the way, became 83 last month.

Next is an e mail from Chips Panini: 'Hi Hans, I hope you are well. I have just enjoyed reading the latest International Report and it's so amazing that new information is always coming up, even though we are thirty years on from the last offshore station.

I thought you might like to know about a station we have in the UK called Atlantis! Broadcasting on DAB and on-line this is a sixties style station. Presenters include Steve England (from the original

offshore Atlantis and Caroline!), Kevin Turner, Peter Quinn, Roger Mathews and Dave Asher, all originally on Caroline.



Presented programmes are from 07.00 to 22.00 (GMT) daily. Auto rock service after that. Originally it was planned as a three month project, Atlantis replaced one of the Cyber Radio stations, Cyber Gold, permanently. Here is the website <https://www.atlantisradio.uk/>

They are planning an offshore period next summer, somewhere near Whitstable. Enjoy!

Thanks a lot Chips and good luck with the station. Hopefully the summer project will be successful too. I would like to hear in time the details of the project.

Of course there's also another interesting update made by Mary and Chris Payne during the last weeks. For an update on their Radio London site simply follow this link:

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

And from the London site over to the one run by Jon Myer:

I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New this month: we look at the 1966 Beatles tour of the States on which the group was accompanied by three offshore disc-jockeys; more photos donated by Helen Heath from her late father's collection - this time a set of pictures of the two Caroline ships of

the sixties tied up in Zaandam harbour; and we remember Peggy Proudfoot, the widow of the former Radio 270 boss Wilf Proudfoot, who died on 7th November at the age of 97.

Many thanks to all the contributors.

With best wishes, Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk



In this Christmas report also some longer articles, first of all an article I wrote some years ago and was published before in OEM.

THE STRUGGLE FOR 192 METRES

30 September 1972: a memorable day! Radio Veronica went "with one turn on the dial" from 192 metres to 538 metres, but there was also a test transmission on 259 meters, the first signal from the MV Mi Amigo, and thirdly RNI 2, a new station, which came on the air for a few days. As soon as Radio Veronica left 192 metres, Tony Allan opened the new station on the just abandoned wavelength.



Tony during a drive in show for RNI

Photo: Menno Dekker

In those days there was speculation about measures to be taken by the authorities, to silence the offshore stations off the Dutch coast.

The Algemeen Dagblad on 7th of July 1972: "The bills, being the ratification against the pirate stations, prohibit all collaboration with those stations. They can reach the Eerste Kamer (the House of Lords) by February 1973. It's expected that by that time the full effect of Hilversum III will be noticeable with the pirates."

Early July AVRO's Televizier broadcast a short report on the perpetrators of the attack against RNI's radio ship in May 1971. The divers had, just like Norbert Jurgens and Bull Verwey, served their prison sentence of one year. They were however angry about the non-observance of the financial agreements and therefore wanted to stage a sit-in in front of the Veronica offices in Hilversum. A spokesman for the divers was interviewed, as well as Bull Verwey, who stated he wouldn't pay! Bull felt blackmailed but didn't want to take judicial measures against the three divers.

After repeated requests from the harbour authorities, the MEBO I, former RNI tender, was moved by the Trip Tender company to Rotterdam, because she hadn't been used for a long period.

All official broadcasters had developed schemes for Hilversum III, but knew very well that this would cost a lot of money, to come from the STER-advertising and from the radio and television license fee

(the listeners!) A Volkskrant reporter on 8 July: "The increase of Hilversum III's broadcasting hours will make it easier to take over the entertainment function of Veronica and Noordzee. If this materialises, measures against illegal broadcasters off the coast will raise less resistance."

This also meant that at last, the bills regarding the Strasbourg Treaty's ratification could be shepherded through Parliament without political leverage.



Radio (offshore and official) news galore in the newspapers!

Telegraaf 12th of July 1972. The Veronica management revealed that the station won't suspend its activities if the Strasbourg Treaty is ratified by the Dutch Parliament. Within the management of the station they would search for situations allowing them to continue on an international basis. And they weren't the only ones having plans to carry on. Their decision was confirmed because Radio Noordzee's management too had expressed to carry on after the signing of the treaty. The second reason given was the fact that Radio Luxembourg's Dutch spoken programme would probably be strengthened and extended. According to Veronica, a strange situation emerged if they had to disappear whereas other stations outside the Radio Broadcasting Act, could continue their activities in favour of the Dutch audience.

Oddly enough 'Het Parool' on the same day had another approach to this subject; according to them Radio Veronica's management accused their competitor Radio Noordzee of only playing new records if they paid for. And further: Radio Veronica was convinced that Radio Noordzee, in the event of a ratification of the treaty, would carry on broadcasting. This would not be a problem for Noordzee,

because of their managing directors being Swiss citizens and thus unaffected by Dutch laws.

For Radio Noordzee the advertisers would surely remain attractive after the passing of a possible law, thanks to the enormously powerful transmitters and their the wide reach.

The 'Haagsche Courant' of the same day: "The Veronica management is looking for opportunities to get in touch with foreign contacts, so that the commercial pop station couldn't get caught under the Strasbourg Treaty stipulations." The station was compared with Radio Noordzee whose parent company belonged to a Swiss enterprise, where the Strasbourg Treaty hadn't been ratified. Residents of that country were not liable to penalties, because of collaboration with an offshore station. "Furthermore it stings painfully that Radio Luxembourg is ready to expand its Dutch language programme as soon as Veronica is muzzled."

Three days later, two professors from Utrecht specialising in international law, Prof. M. Bos and prof. L. J. Hijmans Van den Bergh, cast doubt on Veronica's status as a pirate. They considered that possible action against Veronica and other offshore stations, after the ratification of the Strasbourg Treaty would be contrary to international rules of law. Central was the question, if the government had the right to broaden the working of its criminal laws outside its own territory. "As far as today only seven out of fourteen countries have ratified the Strasbourg Treaty. The hesitating countries seem to have in broad outline the same objections as the Dutch professors."

Read here the original text of the Treaty from 1965.

<https://rm.coe.int/168006ff50>

Many papers reported that the two former radio ships of the Caroline organisation, laid up for years in Amsterdam and Zaandam, were up for sale.



Mi Amigo and Caroline North in harbour Zaandam

Photo: Rob Olthof

'De Linie' about the MV Mi Amigo: "The story of the pirates of the airwaves will soon be captured in a genuine museum. Gerrit van Dam from The Hague, once sailor on board of Radio Noordzee's MEBO II, has bought for fl. 20,400, a schooner he'll equip in due time as such. The ship has an appropriate past: it was once the place from where the Caroline youth programmes were broadcast. The other Caroline ship, called Caroline, was sold for fl.26,350."

The plans to fit out the Mi Amigo as a museum, and even a floating hotel where fans could stay overnight for a reasonable price and record their own programmes in the old Caroline studios, was put on the market and got even airplay on the VPRO where Gerard gave his fantasy free rein. A short visit cost 5 guilders and a one day stay

was 25 guilders, inclusive of lunch and dinner. The same sum for evening meal and night. Three nights stay with use of the studio under supervision of a well-known DJ cost fl.160, and a whole week stay fl. 250. Reservations could be made by phone (courtesy of Wouter Verbaan of The Hague). It's unknown how many people applied, but lots of fans volunteered to clean up and partly tide up the Mi Amigo.

The plan of the museum ship, was however the perfect cover to keep the authorities away from Zaandam harbour where it was hard work to get the radio ship ready for broadcasting.

On 19 July the results of an audience survey revealed, according to the official NOS, that more people tuned in to Hilversum III than to Radio Veronica and Radio Noordzee together. A NOS spokesman also denied that no action could be taken against Radio Noordzee, because their ship belonged to Swiss owners: "Since 1970 two articles are included in the Swiss laws, making it possible for the Swiss authorities to take action against individuals or institutions operating illegal radio stations on the basis of Swiss nationality or from Switzerland."

24 July 1972: for the time being no action against the offshore stations was to be expected. Again the government was at a deadlock.



On Saturday 29 July, a boat trip to the REM island and the offshore stations took place from Scheveningen. After Radio Veronica's

Norderney, the two visiting ships sailed to Radio Noordzee's Mebo II where the engines were shut down. During his Driemaster show Leo van der Goot gave a live commentary of the event. Flowers and requests were then passed on to the crew of the radio ship. To end the day, the visitor's ships sailed to the rusty remains of the REM island.

On 1 August came the sad news of the passing, at the age of 66, of Dirk Verwey, in Brescia; one of the three Veronica managing directors. Jan van Veen, his son-in-law in 'Het Parool': "The body will be flown over to the Netherlands. In respect of the death Radio Veronica's programme is partly altered for the rest of the day."

Ship breaker van de Marel got hold of the second Caroline ship, the MV Fredericia (often called the MV Caroline).

'De Volkskrant' of 10 August: "Saturday afternoon at spring tide ship breaker van de Marel hopes to tow the former English pirate radio ship Radio Caroline North into his breaker's yard in the small harbor of Viane, halfway between Ouwerkerk and Bruinisse. For weeks the radio ship waited upon the Oosterschelde mud flat, for tidal water, to be brought to Rinus van de Marel's breakers yard."

Van de Marel intended to start scrapping the ships decks on Monday 14 August, if the attempt to tow the ship in was be successful. He hoped to meet a lot of Caroline fans, eager to witness the end of the ship, although all possible souvenirs had already been stolen the previous years in the Amsterdam Houthaven. 'De Volkskrant' reported that the MV Fredericia had sailed to Zeeland on her own, bearing a heavy load consisting of chains: "The heavy eighty ton 1340 HP engine is still in good shape. According to van de Marel this previous passenger and freight ferry sailed between Denmark and Sweden and was built extra strongly to face the floating ice in the Skagerak."

Early August van de Marel had got a phone call from a Danish lady requesting to buy the telegraph from the engine room. He also

recalled that a Scotsman came to Ouwerkerk to express his gratitude for the many hours of listening pleasure of Radio Caroline. Some engineers from Radio Northsea International, got in touch to get permission to take some spare parts out of the transmitters. Years later, Rinus van de Marel emigrated to Africa and took the ship's bell of the Fredericia with him as a souvenir.

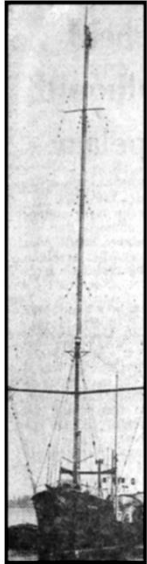
In many newspapers of 30 August 1972, one could read that the Dutch State had plans to buy the former REM island off the coast of Noordwijk. Negotiators of Rijkswaterstaat (Department of Public Works) had talks with the Hague millionaire P. Heerema, representative of the owner of the island, the Panamanian company Exmar S.A. The island, worth fl. 600.000 was sold, restored and used for measuring tide and gulfstream, wind power and wind direction till 2006.

'De Telegraaf': "If Radio Noordzee and Radio Veronica should disappear, important sources of income would be lost for the authors, especially the Dutch authors." In those days the Netherlands was a music exporting country, mainly thanks to the offshore stations that promoted Dutch music productions. The positive influence of both radio stations on the balance of payments could be rated at tens of millions of guilders a year. "All this is a sound reason for the Dutch legislator to tread very carefully in this matter."

On 2 September the MV Mi Amigo dropped anchor northwest of IJmuiden's north jetty. The ship had been towed by skipper Iskes, who wondered why they wanted to go to sea with the museum because in his opinion the ship didn't look stable enough. In contacts with Scheveningen Radio, a spokesman for the crew had said that they laid at anchor temporarily, waiting for a tug to tow the "museum" to a British harbour. But early in the morning of 3 September, the Mi Amigo had sailed on her own to a new anchorage some one and a half miles from the radio ships of Veronica and RNI. Later it appeared that the captain of the Mi Amigo had been

charged because the ship laid unlit; it wasn't until Sunday afternoon that he ordered to lay on emergency lighting.

RG 4-9-1972



● Dit is de Mi Amigo waarop Radio Caroline als derde etherpiraat weer uitzendingen gaat verzorgen.

'Muse

PIRAAT SCHIP VOOR 20 MILLE GEKOCHT

Van onze radio- en t.v.-redactie
IJMUIDEN/DEN HAAG — *Het piratenstation Radio Caroline gaat binnenkort weer zenden. Het schip, de Mi Amigo, van waaraf de uitzendingen zullen worden verzorgd, is daarvoor in de haven van Zaandam opgeknapt en opgetuigd.*

Men kon daar in alle rust aan werken omdat nieuwsgierigen tevreden werden gesteld met de mededeling dat men een varend museum voor poppiratenliefhebbers aan het inrichten was.

Speculation galore now that the ship was again anchored in international waters. Rumours about two medium wave transmitters, both with a power of 50 KW, one to be tuned to 259 meters, the other one to 270 meters. Both transmitters would be coupled to give a power of 100 KW, giving a smooth signal for the whole of the Netherlands. The organisation behind the radio ship was supposed to be the Bell Commercial Broadcasting Ltd, a company in both British and Dutch hands. 'De Telegraaf' of 4 September reported that a skipper from Scheveningen, who had taken a camera crew to the Mi Amigo hadn't been impressed at all! On board of the Mi Amigo, he had come across an amateurish crew, who had dropped one of the three anchors so incompetently that he didn't rule out that the ship would break adrift.

On 12 September, a Sikorsky helicopter had been chartered because reporter Wim Kroese, joined by photographer Ruud van der Lindenhad, to make a report of the MV Mi Amigo. 'De Telegraaf' of Wednesday 13 September: "The renowned radio ship Mi Amigo has chosen an anchorage off the Dutch coast. At exactly 6 kilometers

off the beach in one line with the former REM island the pirate lies at anchor between Scheveningen and Katwijk. We could see the crew up and about on deck, whilst the Scheveningen lugger 'Dolfijn' laid alongside with fresh supplies. On the Mio (sic!) Amigo, that flies only a flag of a well-known brewery, they didn't look up when photographer Ruud van der Linden, hanging out at low level beside the pirate, took pictures of the clandestine radio station.

As always in this radio world there was errors in the press. 14 September: the Mi Amigo wouldn't be a radio ship, but a gambling boat! On the high seas slot machines would be built in so that gambling would be legal in the future. A tendering service between Scheveningen and the ship would be organised.

Anton Rabbeljee, claiming to have been a collaborator of Radio Veronica and Radio Noordzee as well: "There's no transmitter anymore on board of the Mi Amigo. I witnessed myself the removal of the 259 transmitter and the 270 transmitter (that, by the way, had a power of only 10 KW) in Zaandam. Furthermore all aggregates were scrapped from the ship, except one for lighting on the high seas."

The same guy went on: Caroline would have chosen an anchorage off the coast to frighten The Hague, for a third pirate station and thus to urge the government to forbid Veronica's and RNI's broadcasts. "The fact too that Caroline hasn't been in touch with Dutch advertising agencies, makes the manipulations with the ship a stunt of Ronan O'Rahilly, the former owner of Radio Caroline. He's the organizer of a pop festival on the Isle of Wight and owns a number of night clubs in London. This is his cup of tea entirely!"

'De Telegraaf' 16 September: "At RNI they were since long aware of Veronica's plans to go to a new wavelength with a more powerful transmitter. Noordzee is now searching for expansion of the offered programmes. In addition to the 220 metres wavelength, on which

they want to keep on broadcasting Dutch programmes, RNI will soon broadcast on another wavelength as well."

De Tijd 19-9-1972

Radio Veronica naar 538 meter

HILVERSUM, 18 sept. — Met ingang van 30 september om 13.00 uur verlaat Radio Veronica de golflengte, waarop zij ruim twaalf jaar heeft uitgezonden. Zij gaat dan van de 192 meter naar 538 meter (is 557 kHz), aan de andere kant van de radioschaal.

Deze golflengte-verhuizing is het resultaat van twee jaar intensief onderzoek door Veronica-technici, nadat Radio Veronica in steeds sterkere mate hinder ondervond van Beromünster, welk station eveneens op de 192 meter uitzendt.

Obviously there had been tests on 538 metres for weeks. In the previous months Veronica engineers, under direction of José van Groningen, had carried out the necessary operations to have nightly tests at unexpected moments. Measurements were made at various spots in the country to see how the signal came in, and what the listeners, in the future, on 30 September and afterwards could expect. For more details, see 'Veronica 1 jaar later' by Rob Out. By the way, the last week of September 1972, Rob mentioned in several publications the forthcoming move. On the radio, on 192 metres, it was at the top of the hours the countdown on the way to '538'.

In those days many 45 rpm's of special songs about the frequency change recorded by Dutch artists were released. To name just a few: Johnny Hoes, Vader Abraham, Jacques Herb, de Makkers, Cornelis Vreeswijk, Jan en Zwaan. Vader Abraham's record was plugged in the Alarmschijf. But the Urker Mannenkoor and international artists too would perform in the last programme on 192, because according to

Rob Out, it should be a somehow melancholic show. But it turned out to be a great party.



Like always Rob Out succeeded in selling his station in a positive way and he announced that programming of his station would change as from 1st of October, and therefore all nine presenters would be deployed. 'Koffietijd' with Tineke, a show unheard of for the past two years, would come back in the morning hours. And regarding the opportunities of 538 metres: "Veronica has carried out a large technical investigation from which it appears that we are now received clearly in Maastricht and Groningen."

To ensure that the wavelength change would be a success, Veronica had spent a lot of money, by putting for instance full page advertisements in the national papers. Custom made jingles had been recorded and a sticker action has been set up.

One and a half million stickers were printed; this showed the huge audience and the popularity of Radio Veronica. There was also a contest on the station: 'de gouden golflengte' (the golden wavelength) results and prizes to be known in October 1972 when Radio Veronica would celebrate it's 12.5th anniversary.

In every issue of the weekly magazine 'Veronica 192' (established in 1971) Rob Out reached the fans in the column 'vanuit het ruim' (from the hold): "This 30 September at 1 pm Radio Veronica abandons the wavelength on which it has broadcast for more than 12 years. We go from 192 metres to 538 metres on the other side of the dial." The

reason was a power increase from 500 Watt to as much as 160 Kw in Beromünster (Switzerland), where a transmitter was active on the same frequency as Radio Veronica.

Here some Veronica 538 jingles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2RY0bxKeg8>

"The move is a result of two years of intensive research by Veronica engineers after Radio Veronica suffered more and more interference from the Beromünster transmitter."

The last years it became quite impossible for residents outside de Randstad (urban conglomeration of Western Holland) to listen fairly to their favorite station. News has reached us from Switzerland that shortly the power would be increased to 300 KW.

The previously mentioned research resulted in the choice of the 538 metres with the advantage of keeping most of the broadcasting power inside the Netherlands, so that interference from foreign stations is almost excluded, and a loud and clear sound quality becomes possible.

At the time of the change, some other European stations broadcast on 538 metres (Monte Ceneri in Switzerland, Greifswald in GDR, Faro in Portugal and Volgograd in the Soviet Union) but their power output was limited and the Veronica engineers didn't expect official complaints.



Weeks before the wavelength change, the station's management had decided to draw the listeners attention to the wavelength change. During the programmes between 27th of September and the 4th of October a big competition was held; listeners could win prizes worth more than 100.000 guilders, mainly made available by loyal

advertisers of the station, under the motto "Veronica's golden way to a golden frequency."



That particular 30th of September 1972, started with 'Ook goeie morgen' presented by Klaas Vaak, followed by Tom Collins till 12 noon. Then came a documentary looking back at 12 years of Radio Veronica on 192 meters, with highlights of former presenters such as Joost de Draayer, Jan van Veen and Eddy Becker, obviously livened up with jingles of those days and memories of and with collaborators to Veronica's actions.

The documentary was a teamwork production of Rob Out, Juul Geleick and Tom Collins. At last the jingle "You're sunny sound, every day 1 9 2, Veronica it's for me it's for you" and "1 9 2 vaarwel (farewell)", sung by the Urker Mannenkoor, was played. After the station had bid farewell, the engineers on board had half an hour to execute the necessary modifications to the antenna to be ready for starting, at 1 pm, with a welcome and the official broadcasting on 538 metres.

Just before one o'clock, a very strong signal was to be heard on 557 kHz; managing director Bull Verwey gave the listeners a hearty welcome. Many promotion spots and congratulations from Dutch and international artists brightened up the first programme after which,

as usual on a Saturday afternoon, the Top 40 and Tipparade were broadcast.



After Veronica had left 192 metres, another imposing other sound was to be heard on the same frequency, coming from the Mebo II, the radio ship of competitor Radio Noordzee, just half a mile away from the Norderney of Radio Veronica. After RNI's theme tune, Man of Action by the Les Reed Orchestra, DJ Tony Allen announced: "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, this is the start of a series of tests of Radio Noordzee Internationaal 2. We are broadcasting on '192' that is 1562 kHz. Radio Veronica will resume its broadcasts on 538 metres medium wave, that is 557 kHz." Then, on behalf of the management and all collaborators he wished Radio Veronica listeners welcome and said that the test transmissions would end at 7 pm to avoid problems with other radio stations.

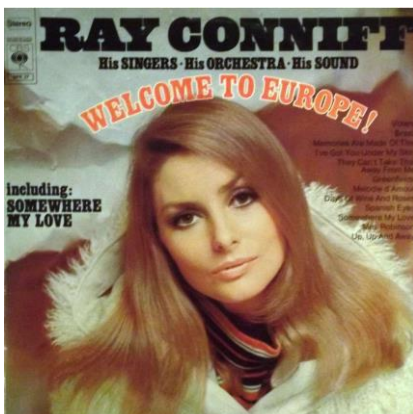
From an unnamed paper, but probably 'Nieuws van de dag' of 30 th of September: "Since Tuesday night Radio Veronica is busy trying to foil Radio Noordzee's attempts to get hold of its old wavelength. From engineers and DJ's of Radio Noordzee, Veronica discovered that Noordzee had plans to broadcast, next to the programs on 220 metres, light music for older listeners on 192 metres from 6 am to 6 pm."

Rob Out in the paper: "When we move to 538 metres this afternoon, we carry on broadcasting continuously on 192 metres with a carrier wave, and an announcement about 538 metres."

Later Juul Geleick remarked: "We have simply put a 100 Watt transmitter just to inform people that we had moved. We broadcast

that message for a week. The first news item was made up by the concerning reporter. That little 100 Watt transmitter wouldn't have any sense if we knew beforehand that RNI 2 would have used '192'. The 100 Watt transmitter came from Radio Holland, the company where Cees Manintveld and Jan van Bers (transmitter engineer) had worked. We just didn't know it. José van Groningen didn't know either. I was a member of the team to look after the wavelength change, because I was a radio ham and maintained the contacts with our Belgian advisor Frederique van Deuren."

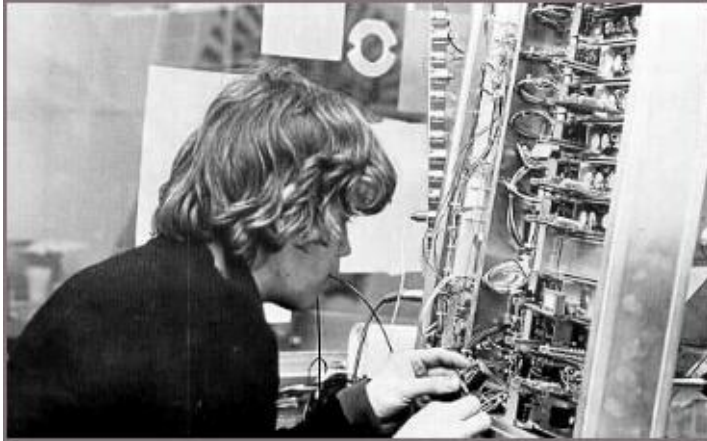
On Saturday 30 September transmitter engineer Peter Chicago was on board the MV Mi Amigo, where test broadcasts were aired with a loop tape of the Ray Conniff Singers music. The transmitter had sufficient power output, so that this repeated broadcast was heard without problems till 3 am on 1 October, in the North of the Netherlands.



Radio Noordzee had long had plans to launch a second, English spoken service, in September, keeping the Dutch service on 220 metres, and putting the English one on 390 metres. Early August tests were carried out on 390 and 355 meters, but without telling why. As always, speculations galore!

Hans Hoogendoorn, aka Hans ten Hooge of Driemaster team: "I presume Bussum/De Mol was unpleasantly surprised by the 192 action of the Zürich side. He was forced to react cool-headedly to radiate unity to the outside. On board we could see that something was going on, but only on the day itself the truth came out."

Pieter Damave, Radio Noordzee engineer on dry land: "We in Bussum knew a week before that it would happen; I can even remember that nightly tests were planned. These tests however wouldn't go on because Veronica was informed too and kept the frequency occupied by staying on the air all night.



Pieter Damave Photo: Unknown

Walter Galle, famous Flemish radio engineer: "I remember that the signal on '192' coming from the MEBO II was much stronger than the '192' of Veronica. A vigorous stunt, also bearing in mind there was no time to test this kind of broadcasts.

Buster Pearson in Monitor Magazine, Issue 3 of 1972: "The arrival of RNI on 192 metres is the best kept silent secret of 1972. Everybody was surprised. The previous Wednesday afternoon on 27th of September, I made as from 14 hours BST a recording of Radio Veronica on 192; suddenly at 3 pm a heavy carrier wave appeared on Veronica's wavelength, covering their signal completely for some minutes. I thought I was having to deal with a signal caused by a local land based pirate. But in the light of future events I presume RNI 2 was tuned then. I have logged RNI 2 again Sunday 1st of October as well as Monday 2nd of October till 10 am, whereas in both cases the Dutch programs on 220 metres were taken up. From that moment on I haven't heard of them regarding the RNI 2 broadcasts anymore."

Edwin Bollier, 4 decades later: "I remember very well the day Radio Veronica would leave the 192 metres. I took it for granted that a part of the Radio Veronica audience would stay tuned to 192 metres, just out of curiosity to see what would happen. I personally gave the on board crew the instructions to take over 192 metres as soon as the Radio Veronica transmitter would be switched off. I bore in mind that RNI 2 had all the opportunities to become surely a complete new service. Our Dutch partners in Naarden however had a totally different idea about it. That's the reason why, after a while, the test broadcasts of RNI 2 were discontinued."

Veronica en Noordzee knokken om 192 meter

**Van onze radio- en t.v.-
redactie**

HILVERSUM — Als Radio Veronica vanmiddag om half een van de 192 meter midden-golf verhuist naar 538 meter, zal de piraat toch ook op de 192 meter blijven uitzenden.

De 'Telegraaf' of Monday: "Saturday Radio Veronica's move from 192 to 538 metres has caused a war on the airwaves, whereas Radio Noordzee and later the new pirate Radio Caroline have caused quite some confusion." Followed by a short description of what happened that day.

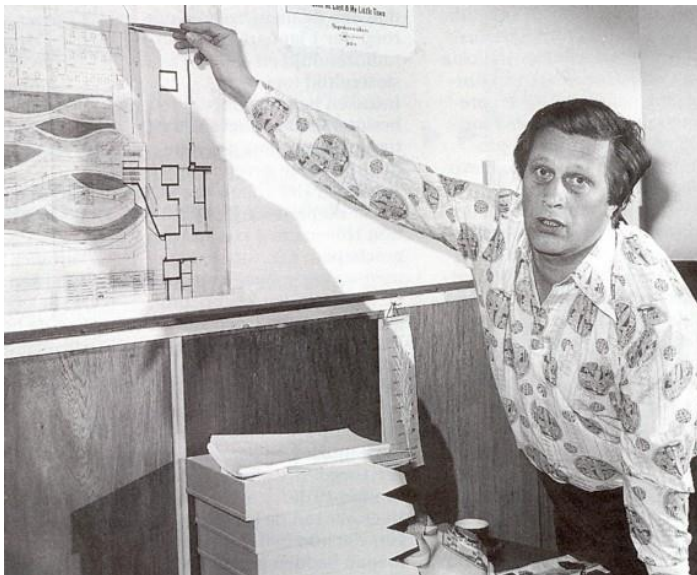
"Immediately after Veronica had left 192 metres on Saturday afternoon Radio Noordzee came on that frequency with a 'congratulation' meant for Radio Veronica. Radio Noordzee took over the first ten minutes of Veronica on 538 and broadcast ten on its own transmitter on 192 metres." The newspaper also discovered that 'they were not amused' at Radio Veronica with this competitor's

stunt, because in the first news bulletin they had immediately taken notice of the action on 192 metres.

Radio Noordzee said that this stunt was the best 'bomb attack' ever! "The pirate war still intensified when Saturday afternoon Radio Caroline too started test transmissions on 259 metres from the MV Mi Amigo. Sunday Radio Caroline wasn't on the air anymore. Veronica was listened to in London and Paris."

Monday evening 2nd of October, till 7 pm, tests went on. Newspaper of 3rd of October: "To the great annoyance of Radio Veronica, Radio Noordzee Internationaal went on broadcasting on 192 metres till 7 pm. On that frequency Veronica broadcast all day its jingle, inviting to tune in to the 538 frequency. Because of Noordzee's powerful transmitter that jingle was blown out completely."

Radio Noordzee's managing director John de Mol on the phone: "We carried on till 7 pm because several possibilities had to be tested on our spare transmitter. We have no need at all of occupying that frequency. We have enough on our plate with 220 metres."



John de Mol sr. Photo: Freewave Nostalgia Archive

Rob Out too, programme director of Radio Veronica, got a phone call from the newspaper; he fumed at Radio Noordzee's test transmissions: "We distance ourselves from those broadcasts. We don't run counter to it, because for us 192 metres are finished. But I

believe that the public opinion has experienced this procedure as very unfair. That's why we make no fuss over it."

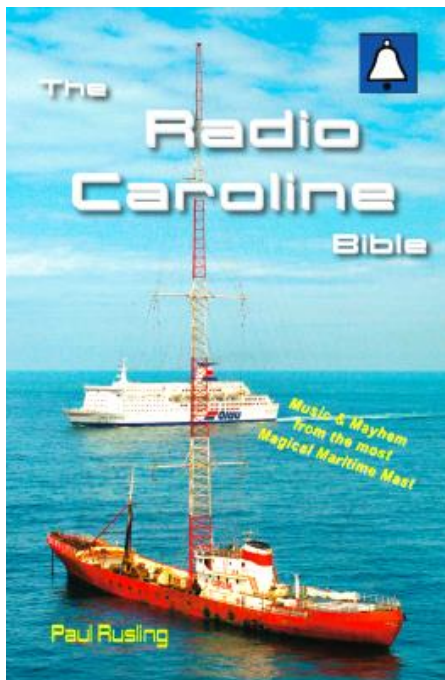
The Parool of 3rd of October under 'Pirate lads moved': "Obviously great excitement from the fans, but soon it appeared that it was only a test. Radio Noordzee wanted to give, with the spare transmitter, absolute assurance to its advertisers that in the event of a breakdown of the main transmitter the broadcasts didn't need to be suspended for one second. A hopeful idea. Nice too was that advert in which Veronica referred to the new golden frequency. Apparently you'd best listen to Veronica with your tranny put in your knickers." All this forty years ago!

During the month of November message time for Mike Pasternak aka Emperor Rosko who wrote: 'Mon Cher Hans, I have been remiss in not keeping you up to date but things are slow! Waiting on several national outlets to loosen purse strings and one big guy in Belgium. As you may have read lots fires in Southern California. They have been a nuisance and I do a lot of chasing files due to power cuts. Here are some snaps in case you have extra space! EMP.'



Thanks Emperor and hopefully your house and belongings were not damaged. Thoughts are with those numerous people who lost everything.

The Radio Caroline bible published in the Autumn has sold very well and a second reprint is now also selling well. It has a few extra pages allowing for more information, including details how Vincent Monsey blagged the prestigious *Newsweek* commercial and many other stories not told elsewhere. Reaction to the good book has been very positive; Ronan O'Rahilly will not let his copy leave his side and he has visitors read passages of it to him!



"We called it a bible, as it is a collection of stories from various sources, just as is the Holy Bible," explains Paul Rusling. "There are pictures of Caroline's three wise men of the cloth - Johan Maasbach, Dominee Toornvliet and of course Ram Dass, the inventor of Loving Awareness. Even Roy Masters is seen in the book, but the most glamorous pictures are of the Caroline queens - Oonagh, Frances, Kate and Charlotte plus some lesser known ladies, such as Pinky, Denine, Ines and Louise. To find out how those ladies figure in the story of Radio Caroline you must read the Radio Caroline bible, available on its web site or through Amazon, etc.

"Radio Caroline's pre-genesis begins with Tom Lodge's grandfather who was one of the inventors of radio, and brings readers right up date with 2019 events," says Paul. The story takes in associate

stations *Atlantis* and *Mi Amigo*, *DelMare*, *Paradijs* and *Monique* and even the new *Radio Mi Amigo* studio on the pier at Blankenberg which comes into use in 2020. The Radio Caroline bible is a comprehensive record of the greatest story ever, of the 'world's most famous' - Caroline.

<https://RadioCarolinebible.com>

Well let's go back to a sad day in Radio's history, August 31st 1974 and the closedown from RNI, Veronica and Atlantis. After Veronica closed down at 18.00 hrs CET RNI went on and the owners from the later one, Meister and Bollier and family, decided to go with a tender to the Veronica vessel to say goodbye. **This is an exclusive photo which is taken by Berry ZandScholten and is copyright Foundation Norderney. With thanks to Juul Geleick.**



E mail time again and this time from Per in Sweden: 'Hello Hans, I am one of your subscribers to your monthly newsletter which I enjoy enormously. Now I have a couple of questions that I hope you may be able to answer.'

First: I think I have read somewhere, many years ago, that at the Radio Caroline HQ in the sixties at Chesterfield Gardens, they were able to monitor not only the programmes of Caroline South but also of Caroline North.

I am fully aware of the fact that back then we lived in a much more noise free environment which enabled reception of mediumwave stations over longer distances. But with just a good transistor radio in London, would they have been able to pick it up? Or were they using some sort of external aerial?

My second question concerns TV reception in your home town Groningen. I read somewhere many years ago that in a part of the town, I believe the north west, it was possible for the local TV cable operator to receive and distribute Danish television. Is this true? If so, what aerials were used? Vhf or Uhf? Did they get stable reception? Was the Dutch TV audience interested in watching it? I would appreciate any light that you could cast on these questions. Thank you and all the best! Per Lindholm, Helsingborg.



Hi Per. Thanks for the questions and the first one seems unlikely to me. We lived in Groningen very good and the edge of the city and had very good reception with several stations. Others like Caroline North and Scotland came in but not that good. Caroline North's primary area and the station always attracted a large and dedicated audience not only in the north of England, but in Wales, Scotland, Northern

Ireland and along the east coast of Southern Ireland. I will put the question into the report.

Second question no Denmark tv on local network as we had no local network up till mid-seventies. We at our home had a RTV reception mast on the roof which was easy to reach. Holland had only one tv station in the late fifties and early sixties and my oldest brother (next year 80) was always interested in reception of radio and tv stations. By turning a bit the aerial for receiving the Dutch tv it became possible to receive NDR tv from transmitter in Aurich. When weather conditions were really good sometimes a Danish tv signal popped in but not that clear enough to follow for a longer period.

Another e mail came in from Denmark: Birgir Dorvil mentioned: Although this is in Danish maybe it could find someone's interest. It's about a guy, who managed to get hold of over 300 original tapes from Radio Mercur. <https://guide.dba.dk/tech/guldfund-martin-fandt-radio-mercurs-originale-band>

I found back in my archive a business card from the sales office from Radio 270 with a name of Bob R Heron and was wondering if 270 lover Paul Rusling knows this name.

Paul Rusling: It would be London based freelance as salesman. There were five or six of these, I think all were fired in 1966 because they didn't find any commercials. (Zero sales were no good to people like Wilf Proudfoot!). The only 'national' products I heard were Whitworth's dried raisins, Sunday Times and Reveille newspaper. Yes of course. The information is from Wilf himself and from the final advertising manager, Maurice Jeffrey.'

A Radio Luxembourg memory: 'How to play a disc on 208'.

I was listening to one of the many Georgie Fame albums I have, this time the one he did together in the early seventies with Alan Price. It reminded me of the numerous documentaries there are in which is mentioned that Ronan O'Rahilly started in 1964 his radio station Caroline as he couldn't get airplay for his star George Fame on other stations, including Radio Luxembourg. A station in the Grand Duchy

where in the early sixties the main airtime was filled with programs provided by record companies. Often listeners complained that the songs on air were shortened to get as much songs in the paid airtime.

With the combination Georgie Fame and Alan Price there was much more luck in 1971 when the song 'Rosetta' was released by the record company CBS. They went into the Luxy office in Hertford Street in London to visit the then head of programming Ken Evans. And they were not alone as CBS promotion man Steve Collyer joined them. He had a tape with him for Ken with the request to play it on the almighty '208'. Next was a small talk with Alan Keen, General Manager for Radio Luxembourg about the chart possibilities for the song and both agreed it had a very good change.



Ken Evans went on the phone to the grand Duchy. The next thing was to get the tape out to the studio in Luxembourg and Ken phoned with John Barter, the administrative officer in Luxembourg. And believe it or not, the same morning the song was brought to the airport and flown to the Grand Duchy where Paul Burnett collected the record from the airport and during the evening it was Bob Stewart at 11.30 p.m. who announced the song for the very first time on '208' being the next Powerplay on the station.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srD0Fpri6iM>

8.4.70

THIS IS RADIO NORD^{SEA} INTERNATIONAL, EUROPE'S ONLY
ALL DAY MUSIC STATION, BROADCASTING FROM
51 DEGREES, 42 MINS.-30 SECONDS NORTH - 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES
EAST, ON ~~215~~ METRES ON THE MEDIUM WAVE BAND.
ALSO BROADCASTING. ~~ON 1.210 MEGACYCLES, 4~~
IN SHORT WAVE ON THE 49 METER BAND - 6.210
MEGACYCLES. AND IN F.M. ON CHANNEL 50 - 102 MEGACYCLES.
ON THE AIR FROM 5:30 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M. - THIS
IS RADIO NORD^{SEA} INTERNATIONAL.

Above document is from April 1970 and I took it out of the box with Carl Mitchell memories from his RNI days.

Paul P J Johnson

Good Morning Hans, I met up with an interesting friend last weekend, non-other than Miss Radio Caroline 1978, who was a star attraction of the Caroline Roadshows in the UK that summer. Caroline kindly gave me some original photographs and Roadshow items, such a lovely and interesting lady.



We recorded a 319 Music Radio programme together (which is my project station) and Caroline kindly did a few voice overs for me. Caroline says 'Hello' to anyone who may remember her. Hans, please feel free to feature any of this in your Report and hope you will have a lovely time at Christmas and Best Wishes for the new year - PJ (Roger Harvey on 319 Music Radio)



1971 was a year I was listening a lot to two radio stations, RNI from international waters on 220 metres mediumwave as well as Radio Luxembourg, which was beaming into several Western Europe countries on 208 metres. On the first station I thought that in 1970 Mark Wesley was, together with Larry Tremaine, the best deejay of the team and to my luck Mark Wesley was heard again in May 1971, that time on Colorful Radio Luxembourg.

In an official press report Mark Wesley was announced by Radio Luxembourg as 'a rather dishy fellow', who worked for RNI as well for DJM records. Above that he was also member of the Cardboard Orchestra. At the time of arriving on Radio Luxembourg he was 23 and single. Also was mentioned that he wrote songs and recorded some of them too. But he didn't arrive alone with Radio Luxembourg as also a new jingle package was introduced in May 1971.



Surely I know that within my readership there are a lot of radio friends who were subscriber to the weekly news brief from Radio Sweden. It was a publication from the international service of the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation in Stockholm and was edited by some people including Arne Skoog.



It was a pleasure when another edition dropped on the floor at my parents gangway. I've not archived a lot of those but one of these newsletters was from May 18th 1971, being a Tuesday that year. It happened not in every issue but I was always looking into the

newsletter if there was something mentioned about stations in international waters.

In the above mentioned edition there was a section 'international waters' and the news was as: 'A new offshore station is present under construction and will broadcast from international waters as close to London as possible with a power of 10 to 15 kW 24 hours a day. The disc jockeys and engineers have already been chosen, and the station was almost ready to commence broadcasting. Following the newsflash it should do so as the problem of providing a tender service had been solved. It was Keith Harris from Camberley in Surrey who provided the news. Still wondering which station was mend to go on the air. And next to that nothing in the newsletter was mentioned of what happened on the evening of Saturday May 15th on the North Sea, when the RNI radio ship MEBO II was on fire.

It must have been around April 1971 that Ingo Paternoster, with whom I exchanged radio recordings a couple of times, informed me that a new club, German Radio Caroline, had been formed in Offenburg. The aim was to support the offshore radio stations as well as visit by the members of the club to Radio Veronica and Radio Northsea International. Also it was mentioned that members would get a spoken letter on a tape every third month, also containing the then next one with an interview with someone within the RNI organization.

Not much later members were surprised with a magazine, called Free Radio Magazine, in later years 'Radio News', and as publisher the Free Radio Campaign Germany. This became from 1972 on the longest running German Language magazine devoted to Offshore Radio. A tape service was run by the late Manfred Steinkraus on the island of Sylt. A strong group of radio friends devoted a lot of free time to make the magazine to a success and organised also several trips to Holland and the stations anchored off the Dutch coast. Some names to be mentioned will ring a bell to many of the readers: Frank Leonard, Wolfgang Meures, Theo Dencker, Ingo Paternoster,

Wolfgang Kettler, Peter Hartwig, Werner Hartwig, Wilhelm Klammer, Siegfried Pieper, Jurgen Kauer and Wolf Siebel.



They had a strong cooperation with other FRC Groups in countries like Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, England Southend and District (later becoming the famous Monitor Magazine), Belgium and France (OEM) as well as cooperation with the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting and The Pirate Radio News in Groningen. The later one became Freewave Media Magazine in 1978 and still is a regular publication, which counts also for the OEM, which is a publication from FRC France and Chris Edwards in London.

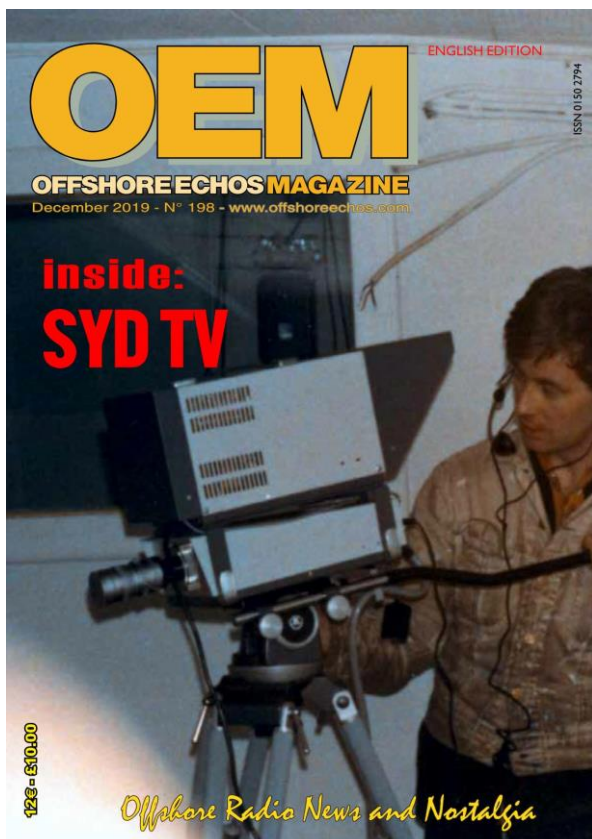
Not only many letters with information and telephone calls were shared, in which new information became free for publication, but also on an irregular base there were meetings, mostly in the harbour of Scheveningen which also sometimes led to the hiring of a boat to visit the radio ships. Memories from more than 45 years ago. A lot of those visits star photographer Theo Dencker joined the trips and he made the most marvelous photos about the history of Offshore Radio.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157675966665473>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157686917082804>

OFFSHORE ECHOS MAGAZINE

The latest issue of Offshore Echo's magazine is now available.



OEM 198 - December 2019 includes:

Lady in Distress - Caroline DJ Tony Kirk and the 1989 raid on the Ross Revenge

Paul Hollingdale interview

Radio Caroline 1972 return part 4

Syd TV, Radio Syd story part 11

Raiders of the Ross Revenge part 2

Mike Raven interview

OFFSHORE ECHO'S is the only magazine in the world entirely devoted to the history of Offshore radio.

You can get the magazine, and subscribe at

www.offshoreechos.com or write to Offshore Echo's, PO Box 1514, London W7 2LL, England

It was in the month of March 1967 that a large number of listeners of Swinging Radio England and Radio Dolphin were curious about the progress of the work on the radio ship of both radio stations, the Laissez Faire. It had gotten into trouble in a heavy storm and the transmitter mast had been demolished. On Radio Dolfijn the program of Lodewijk den Hengst was busy at that moment, who didn't notice any of the problems and was just presenting a program. However, the signal did not get any further than the radio ship because of the broken mast.

Repair was necessary in a harbour and so the choice was made for that one of Zaandam. One of the curious people at the time was Ehard Goddijn, who visited the radio ship on March 12, 1967 and reported about it in the Benelux DX-Club magazine of the month April that year. Let's see what he had to say at the time.

'I had the opportunity to visit the Laissez Faire because it was in Zaandam for a repair of the mast. However, when I arrived the mast had already been repaired. Only the guy ropes needed to be tightened. I had a long conversation with the English radio engineer Bob Gittus. It should be mentioned that first, because of customs, I was not allowed on board. During the conversation with Gittus a deejay from Britain Radio (now Radio 355) came along and he asked if I wanted to see the studio of Radio Dolphin (now Radio 227). After the aforementioned technician changed some sentences with the deejay I got permission to go on board.



Photo: Joseph Verbeke - OEM

And so I got interesting things to know. The two Continental Electronics transmitters with an E.R.P. of 55 kW are powered by two generators of respectively 180 kVa and 250 kVa. Both transmitters are connected to one antenna by means of a crossover filter. This system is unique for medium wave use. The radiated power of each transmitter is only 27 kW in winter, because the impedance of the transmitter antenna is changed by the large salt deposition and the stronger wind.

If one would still work with an E.R.P. of 55 kW in winter, spark discharge would occur. Soon they will be working again with 55 kW of power. The transmitters are built according to the system of screen grid modulation. To get the right modulation depth, a low-frequency power of no less than 6 kW is added by the l.f. amplifier to the power tube of the transmitter.

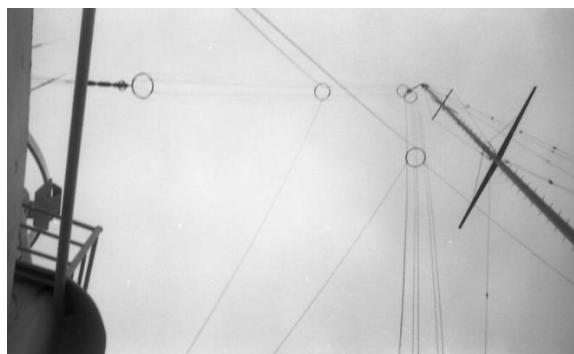


Photo Joseph Verbeke-OEM

I could not see the inside of both Continental transmitters, because the transmitter cabinets were sealed by customs. On the radio ship Laissez Faire a special studio has been set up for the news broadcasts and the recording of the advertising spots. 75% of these spots are recorded on board. In the studio of Radio Dolphin (227) there are several turntables, many tapes that are stored in a kind of carousel; two tape recorders and the carousels are constructed in such a way, that with the push of a button any desired tape from a group of 15 tapes emerges. All equipment is from the brand Collard.

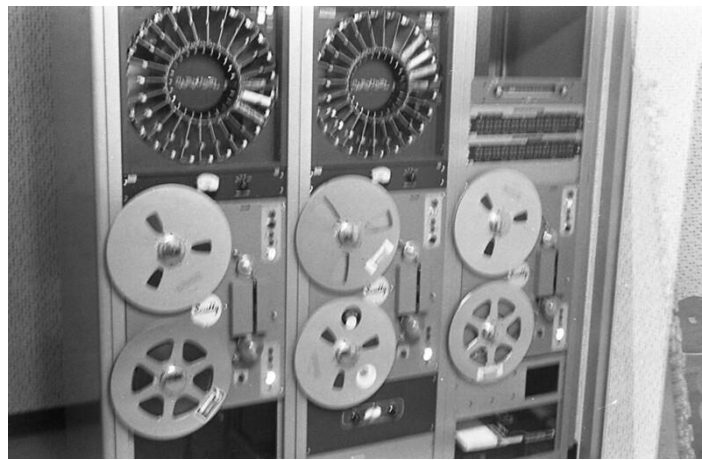


Photo: Joseph Verbeke-OEM

The main sponsor of Radio 355 (ex-Britain Radio) is Ted Amstrong. Every day he pays 250 pounds for his thirty-minute religious broadcasts. With that it will take some time before Radio 355 will realize the Radio Europe idea. Broadcasts in French were planned for the inhabitants of French-speaking Belgium', according to Ehard Goddijn at the time, for example in the Benelux DX magazine of April 1967.

With the last remark it can be noted that I only heard once about this so-called 'Radio Europe' planning and that was in the aforementioned article.

Here a message from Paul Rusling: 'Now, The day before yesterday we had an interesting call from Ines (Ronan's girlfriend) - I was

driving the car, Anne answered. Ronan was having his exercises with the trainer. He is really enjoying it now and it is keeping him very fit. It helps him to think a lot apparently and they had a reading session afterwards. He can read some stuff, but he likes Ines to read to him. Ines said that he wanted to send a message to his people, to tell them that he is OK and enjoying the exercise and enjoying the book too.

Talking about Ronan the last words for this edition from the readers side is for Andrew Dawson aka Andy Archer: "Hi Hans, eleven days before Christmas I was in London for lunch at the Chelsea Arts Club where incidentally Ronan used to play snooker. Passing Paultons Square I felt I had to take a photograph of Ronan's old flat , 14 Paulton's House.



Photo Copyright Andrew Dawson

Back in the seventies I often used to stay there and never once got a good nights sleep on his waterbed. The flat was the centre of much madness back in the day!"

Thanks a lot for these photos Andy, most appreciated.

Well for any reader who have comments, memories, photograph, questions and much more the e mail address HKnot@home.nl is open for responding every day. Feel free to responding. The next issue is planned for late February/ early March.



That finishes this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. In the meantime Jana and me wishing all readers and radio friends a Merry Christmas and a very good 2020.