

## International Hans Knot Radio Report

September 2023

Welcome to another edition of the radio report. I hope the summer, or winter, depending where you're living, made some smile and more on your face. Also in this edition e mails, review of a long awaited book, news, memories and more.

Today, June 21<sup>st</sup>, we received sad news from the organization behind the Beatles, Elvis and Offshore Radio Museum of Ships: 'Our great radio friend Hans Hettelder passed away this morning after a short illness. Hans is the builder of the beautiful radio ships in the Museum of Ships that he set up in Alkmaar. After Hans had already given an exhibition with his radio ships six years ago, since last year he had a permanent exhibition in the Beatles museum.

This fulfilled the greatest wish that the ships so perfectly built would get a permanent place. It was his passion and his life to tell visitors everything about the ships. Hans was also a much loved colleague in our team, full of wonderful stories that we couldn't get enough of. We will miss this colorful person in our museum, but his legacy, the beautiful ships will be preserved as a permanent tribute to Hans Hettelder. Rest in peace Hans, we will miss you. Beatles, Elvis and Zeezendermuseum, Zeezenders from the past!



During several RadioDays in the past Hans was also present to show his models. *Above is a photo taken by Hans van Dijk in 2012*

On you tube is a video produced by Alex Hoek and Wim van de Water about Hans Hettelder and his radio ships:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3MFWnV8rwI&t=4s>

On June 21st Kees Brinkerink wrote in an e mail:

*We proudly announce that the production team of Frank van Heerde and Kees Brinkerink from now on have a weekly show on 192radio, on Thursday evenings from 19:00-21:00 UK time. The show will be called: "Offshore and more".*

*To celebrate this fact, we will, after lots of requests, start off this Thursday, June 22nd, with a repeat of the Radio 227 top 50 of June 4th, 1967, part 1. Part 2 will then be broadcast next week. Happy listening!* In the meantime the specials are a regular on the station and each week a message about the contents from the program that weeks is published on forehand on our SMC FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/251003686274652>

Next it's Andrew Matthews: 'Hi Hans. Just a quick thank you for yet another packed, entertaining and informative newsletter.

I listen nowadays to Radio Caroline on MW in my kitchen most days and it's so good to hear the old school jingles (not played enough) .

Whilst I realise the presenters are volunteers I must say some just don't have a voice for radio! Best wishes Andrew. '

What a luck that others are sounding really good and yes we may not forget that those on air are all volunteers.

Time for an e mail from Mark Dezanni: 'Who does remember Jamie King on Radio Caroline in 1986/1987? Well recently she was in Europe. First what the Pirate Hall of Fame has information on her career: 'Jamie King An Australian, Jamie joined Radio Caroline in July 1986. She had previously worked in America and New Zealand, as well as

her home country. She stayed with the station for just over a year, leaving in August 1987. Jamie then spent some time with Sunshine Radio in the south of France, was Programme Director of Virgin's overnight sustaining service Radio Radio and ran an Australian-owned radio syndication company in London before returning home. Kevin Turner tells us: "She now lives in Perth, married with two kids and works for the ABC."

Mark Dezanni met her recently after many years



Photo Collection Mark Dezanni

Also our Los Angeles man, Rosko is here again: 'Thanks for the plug. Radio Caroline North follows a clock given to us by management which is geared for the most commercial acceptance. For pure 60's they offer up the original shows. Clock calls for some Motown and reggae and 2 from 60's 6 from 70's and 5 from 80's. I try to please the older types with just great songs. 😊 PS I would prefer to concentrate of getting their Caroline North output to a daily basis! Warmest regards, EMP.'

Rosko reflected on earlier comments from my side why not more sixties songs were played in his breakfast show on Caroline North.

I must now go very deep through my knees as I made one mistake in last edition when I was bringing the message from Martin H. Samuel. It was about John Edward. There were I wrote: 'After my time on Radio City' should be 'After his time on Radio City'.

On with the show for another memory: It is best known that Radio Veronica's management made it clear from the station's inception that, in principle, it did not want to broadcast religious or politically oriented messages. The associated fringe areas were also to be avoided as much as possible. Nevertheless, the archives contain a number of cases where things did go slightly wrong and politicians in particular tried to defend themselves if they 'happened' to be heard on Radio Veronica.

On 1 August 1964, for example, the Telegraaf - then the most important newspaper in the Netherlands - reported that an employee of the station had been present on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Of July at a demonstration in Drenthe, "Thursday Meppeldag". At the meeting where the then Queen's Commissioner, Mr. H.K. Gaarlandt, and the Mayor of Meppel, Prof. Mr. A. Kleijn, spoke. Of course, the press was in full attendance, including someone from Radio Veronica, who held the microphone with the aforementioned authorities during the presentation to bring along information for use.



The meeting took place while a new industrial estate was being opened by both gentlemen. Weeks later it was expensively announced in the Telegraaf, always a disseminator of Veronica news, that soon the recordings would be available for listening via Radio Veronica.

In their defense, both authorities went on the record by stating that this was a public meeting where information was provided that would be intended for everyone. Moreover, they argued that Veronica's people had come all the way to Meppel and that this had been a reason not to exclude them from the meeting.

Prof Kleijn: "Through detours I heard that they wanted to broadcast fragments of the meeting. To be sure, I phoned the office of the Queen's Commissioner, but in Assen they had the same view as me: let them use the recordings in peace. It would have been different if they had wanted to conduct separate interviews with us. If that was the case, as a public servant I would have absolutely refused."

A very nice series of photographs taken 52 years ago is now on line. Donated to our archive by Paul May and digitalized and cleaned by Ben Meijering. Martin van der Ven have put these on line:

Photos from RNI days:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157644604539646>

And a visit to the Mi Amigo in Zaandam, also in 1971:



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157637642763263>

June 24<sup>th</sup> this e mail came in from Christopher Brisland 'Hi everyone, more MW transmitter closures sadly. Smooth Radio have just announced that they will no longer be broadcasting on AM/MW across Suffolk after June 30<sup>th</sup>. This means the final end for Foxhall Heath 257m/1170 K/c's which originally brought us Radio Orwell, and Great Barton 240m/1251 K/c's, which originally brought us Saxon Radio. End of an era - I can also remember when Amber Radio was on these frequencies, another great station. There are also a few other MW transmitters around occupied by either Smooth Radio or Gold Radio, which have closed on the same date.....as 257/1170 is local to me, I will be posting a tribute to it on here in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, here is a video I made earlier today of two of my vintage valve radio's (Pye model 806 1938 and Invicta Model 31 1947) having a last listen to 257 and other nearby transmissions, which are due to close on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Regards, Christopher Brisland

[https://www.facebook.com/people/Wireless-of-the-Week/100063285004857/?locale=zh\\_HK](https://www.facebook.com/people/Wireless-of-the-Week/100063285004857/?locale=zh_HK)

We reach back in history for a moment to 1972. Both Caroline ships had spent years lying in Amsterdam's Houthaven, among other places, and were sold via public sale. The Fredericia, the larger ship, disappeared to a shipbreaker in Zeeland while the Mi Amigo came into the hands of Gerard van Dam, who - as it turned out later - acted on behalf of Ronan O'Rahilly as a stooge.

Later in the year, an interview with Gerard van Dam could be heard via the VPRO, one of the legal broadcasters in the Netherlands at the time, in which he explained that the Mi Amigo was going to serve as a offshore radio station museum and also offer fans of the legendary

Caroline the opportunity to spend a night on board, at a reasonable price.

An idea that served as a cloak for the work done by numerous volunteers in Zaandam, where the *Mi Amigo* had been towed to. And all to make it possible to bring the former Radio Caroline South station ship back into international waters in the near future. At some point, this did happen but there had been another intermediate step as members had been written to via the Free Radio Campaign Holland regarding the possibility of visiting the museum or spending a night in one of the cabins where once one of the former beloved deejays had their sleeping quarters during their stay.

Reservations were possible partly by paying in advance, which meant that the necessary money still ended up with Gerard van Dam and his crew to buy paint and other items to restore the station ship to reasonable condition. The idea of museum and more appeared to have been a way of fooling the authorities, among others.

How did Gerard van Dam actually come up with the bright idea of putting the story about the museum's interior on the big time? Was it Ronan's idea or Gerard's own? An answer never came and the question can unfortunately no longer be answered by either of them as they have gone to heaven.

However, no less than 13 years after the *Mi Amigo* returned to international waters from Zaandam, the answer seems to have come from where the idea originated. A letter was published in the January 1985 edition of *Offshore Echo's*.

The sender of the letter focused on a article in the earlier issue of *OEM* about Dutchman Gerard van Dam, later known from Radio Delmare, among other things. And yes in 1972 Gerard van Dam claimed that he was responsible for bringing back the *Mi Amigo* into international waters. The writer went on with: 'I hardly know the man

in question. Having met him only a handful of times and that more than 10 years ago.

However I can guarantee that Van Dam was behind the relaunching of Radio Caroline in 1972. I was living in a bedsit in South London at the time with my then wife Elaine, when this rather badly dressed Dutchman with teeth sticking out of odd angles turned up on the doorstep wanting a place to stay. He also wanted to see Ronan O'Rahilly. I seem to remember that we spent hours on the telephone arranging a meeting. Subsequently, I spent something like 15 to 20 hours, two days running, with Gerard van Dam and Ronan O'Rahilly, all of us trying to convince the other two that the idea was impossible to relaunch Caroline. Absurd, workable, possible and impossible. The sticking point was the money.



Alan West (Fossey) Photo: Ben Bode

I threw it in, for what it was worth, the idea of getting of the ship out of whatever dock it was rusting at the time, on the basis of towing it to Scheveningen or to some place to a berth where it could be opened as a pirate radio museum, at least for a period of some months, so that some money could be raised. I recall that this was the turning point. We all three went our separate ways. I never heard



another word from either O'Rahilly or Van Dam. The rest you know. A lot of thanks you get for things in this business, huh?' was signed Rob Scott, aka Alan West born Fossey.

Rob Scott was the name he used when working on the Voice of Peace and partly when he was active in radio in Ireland in the eighties of last century. He used also Ross Randell as his name and not forgetting Alan West. Well he also passed away, in 2017 at the age of 70, so he can't also tell us not more about the Radio Caroline Museum ideas.

The Galaxy in Hamburg. Martin van der Ven wrote: 'This short film comes from the archive of Kurt Sellenthin (formerly Kristkowitz) and has been kindly provided by Werner Tschoepe. With thanks to Ben Meijering for digitalising and putting the movie on line.

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

Dennis Hartley with a question: 'Remembering when RNI used this tune from Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid as an RNI jingle with odd "RNIs" sung to this music. I think it might have been Stevie Merrick singing but I am only guessing. Does anyone know?'

Time for a special videoclip o you tube featuring the Emperor Rosko

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1591415407748314/permalink/3597665770456591/>



Also a mail came in which he wrote: The Emperor is now green and enclosed a photo which tells a lot about his greenness

Next is an e mail from Germany and Wolf D. Rock: 'Hi Hans, I have to admit I often don't find the time to read your reports when they come out. Such great work! Takes time to look at it. But maybe this book would be interesting for you to mention it?

Besides listening to Radio Caroline and writing about radio now and then I am a German amateur radio operator, Member of DARC (German amateur radio club) and GFGF. The latter is a society for the history of radio technology, [www.gfgf.org](http://www.gfgf.org).

The GFGF has a members magazine like the amateur radio club and also technical books about historical radio technology. One is about communications receiver technology from 1929 till 1983, written by three German engineers and radio amateurs:

<http://www.miller-e-books.de/2022/12/kurz/>

The GFGF (actually, me) translated it into (British) English and relaunched it as an e-book

<http://www.miller-e-books.de/2022/12/short/>

Of course this is about receivers for communication, not music, but still could be interesting especially for DX'ers. Many might know some of the mentioned radios.'

Thanks a lot for the info and yes within the readership are many people who are interested in that part of communication too.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Rick Crandall, who we know as Rick Randall from Swinging Radio England wrote: 'Music Tampa Bay streaming and music programming will be managed by Daniel Lonin effective, Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, replacing founder Rick Crandall who is entering phase two of

retirement with sights set on some other projects, while continuing to follow the local music scene. Daniel has been an integral part of MTB over the past decade and was creative director and chief technical operator during the launch and operation of 96.7 FM in St Pete until it was turned over to Radio St Pete, Sunshine 96.7 about 3 years ago. He is a passionate follower of the local Tampa Bay Music and well positioned to guide MTB well into the future.'

We wish Rick all the best with his future projects.

In 1978, there was also another debate around the financial injection, which was granted annually from the Dutch government to the Hospital Church Ship De Hoop. This ship, or actually ships as there have been four in service, has had a long history.

The initiative to launch the hospital church ship was from Reverend J. Chambers, pastor of the English Church in Amsterdam. In 1897, he proposed setting up an association to equip a hospital church ship, which could be sent to fishing grounds in the North Sea. On the 5th of May 1898, the 'Nederlandsche Vereniging ten behoeve van zeelieden van elke nationaliteit' was founded. Not only were sick sailors cared for but on Sundays, church services for fishermen were held on board 'De Hoop'.



Hoop IV: Photo Theo van Halsema

As stated, there were four different ships over the decades and at the time of the aforementioned discussions in 1978, De Hoop IV, built in 1963 at the Pot Brothers' yard in Bolnes, was in service as a hospital church ship until 1988. The ship had a length of over 60 metres, and in addition to the 24-member crew, a doctor and a church minister were always on board. After 1988, the ship had various other duties and was under various ownership.

The question in February 1978 whether the hospital church ship De Hoop should remain in service or not, could not yet be answered. This was because Minister van der Stee of agriculture and fisheries had not yet presented enough arguments for his decision to sharply reduce the subsidy to De Hoop. An opinion which was expressed by the standing parliamentary committees on fisheries and public health.

In a conversation with members of the committees with the minister, the future of this ship came up for discussion in particular. Since no other financial sources were available, the fishermen could not pay for it and at the Ministry of Health they were still studying possible subsidy schemes, the possible curtailment of the subsidy meant the end of De Hoop. Minister Van der Stee argued at the time that the ship was no longer much needed. This was then strongly contested by the fishermen.



Studio Radio Rock from the press files for the movie

The chamber committees felt that minister Van der Stee had not yet studied the matter sufficiently to have already based his cuts on it. It was felt that it should first be investigated whether international solutions could not be found and whether there could be possibilities on which some tasks performed by the crew of De Hoop could not be done in another way.



First presentation of the movie in Amsterdam Photo: Rob Olthof

It was eventually decided to continue financing and the Hoop IV remained in service in the same capacity for another 10 years. In the year 2008, The Hoop IV was used for a film about the offshore radio stations in the 1960s. A film that appeared in cinemas under the title 'The Boat that Rocked'. The film used a fictitious name for the station, Radio Rock. In Amsterdam, the film premiered for the Netherlands at the Tuschinski Theatre.

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### **Wanted: A Permanent Home for 50,000 QSL cards and Letters!**

The time has come! The QSL collection housed in the Indianapolis Heritage Collection in Indiana needs a new home, a permanent home. Estimated at 50,000 and possibly higher, this collection of QSL letters and cards from all over the world covers a little over one hundred years of radio history, beginning in the year 1922. This massive assemblage is made up of QSLs, mainly from mediumwave and shortwave stations, though

there are some from amateur, television, communication and FM stations. As a major historic collection, it is offered free to any location that is willing to house, organize, and care for this valuable historic collection, the world's largest in private hands.

Also available for distribution, some free and some at negotiated prices, are the following:-

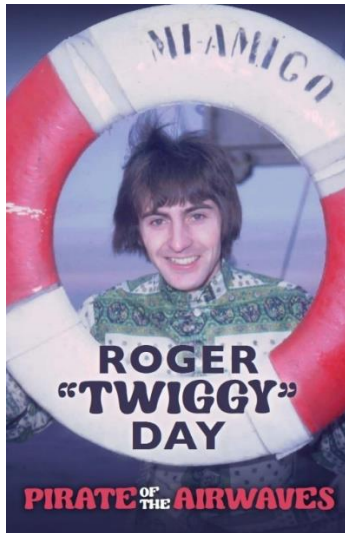
- \* **Radio Cards:** Hundreds of miscellaneous radio cards, worldwide
- \* **Complete Set WR(TV)HB:** 1947-2023: 77 volumes
- \* **Small Radio Souvenirs:** A thousand or more small radio items, including fridge magnets
- \* **Complete set Passport to World Band Radio:** 1984-2009
- \* **Radio Station Documents:** A dozen filing cabinets containing one million and one paper documents from radio stations in every country
- \* **Complete set Popular Communications Magazine:** 1982-2013
- \* **Complete set Monitoring Times Magazine:** 1997-2011
- \* **Bound volumes of Radio News:** 1938-1959, 26 bound volumes
- \* **Miscellaneous Radio Books:** One hundred or more

Dr. Adrian M. Peterson  
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## Next it's time for another book on the special topic offshore Radio

Review Roger Day  
Roger "Twiggy" Day: Pirate of the Airwaves  
Copyright 2023 Roger Day  
ISBN 978-1-3999-4972-9  
330 pages, hard cover, illustrated black and white and colour



In front of me finally lies the book I had wanted to read years ago about Cheltenham-born Roger Thomas, who has a 56-year career within the radio industry and whom millions of listeners of his programmes have come to know as Roger "Twiggy" Day. He took a long time to share his many memories with us.

He does come right away with an opener that is unprecedented. Usually one preface can be found at the beginning of a book. Roger picks up right away with four people, each of whom has written their own foreword and, of course, a memory of their time spent with Roger. They include Ron O'Quinn, his programme director at Swinging Radio England, and Andy Archer, whom he met as a colleague at a number of radio stations.

The first chapter describes Roger's home life with his parents and older brother, and the first contact with that delightful little cabinet, in which the lamps glowed and from which the signal entered the living room, was when his parents requested a request record from BBC Radio's Uncle Mac on the occasion of his 5th birthday in 1950.

But also the chapter where he describes his teenage years and not radio was there for his debut but an appearance on Southern TV's television programme, Pop the question.

Meanwhile, Roger had already discovered the first offshore radio stations with Radio Caroline initially being the favourite but with the arrival of Radio London a different choice was made. In 1965, having already had the requisite experience in the local and regional ballroom as a deejay, he attended a Big L Roadshow at the Marquee Club in London and had the courage to speak to Dave Cash at the bar asking if there might be a chance to get a job at Radio London.

Dave told him that all the jobs were taken but that a new radio station would soon be on air: Swinging Radio England. Naturally, Roger recounted that time when he learned a lot about radio making from Ron O'Quinn and his colleagues. Especially about presenting a programme by speaking to only one listener and thus getting a big reach. Too bad there is no depth in his perception of that period. Surely it must have been a thrill, involving a lot of experiences with various colleagues, from which a great story could have emerged.

Of course, he also talks about presenting the news on both SRE and Britain Radio, which he was not cut out for and was quickly removed from. By the way, Roger Day was the first person to get a job interview at SRE as an Englishman. The second, Peter Dee, subsequently had to change his name because it sounded too much like Roger's name. What if Peter had been hired first. Would Roger Day then have been the person who had to change his name to Johnnie Walker?

One notable item, of which I had not heard before, was his involvement in test broadcasts of Radio Andorra, aimed at England, in April 1967, almost two years earlier than Don Allen could be heard once via the same station. It remained with testing because reception in England was a disaster.



Of course, the time at Caroline South and Caroline International is described with Roger also publishing a timeline of when he came on board and each time also when he went back ashore with the tender. After the seizure of both Caroline ships, Roger plunged back into performing in various clubs but also got the opportunity to join Radio Luxembourg from June 1st, 1968.

There he worked with former offshore radio deejays like Colin Nichol, Tony Prince and Paul Kaye. But how disappointing it was, the programmes were presented with the use of a technician, one of whom even fell asleep during his shift. What caused this was not revealed. In between, he married his new love Jenny Brown and decided to resign in October 1968. Working at '208' was so disappointing but a request for Roger to accompany The Beachboys' tour as a presenter also led to the decision.

He himself also went back to presenting deejay shows here and there, treating us in a separate chapter with a listing of venues without any kind of stories what went on during those gatherings. But even that was temporary. It came to an end as he was approached by Meister and Bollier to become the programme director of the new station in 1970, Radio Nordsee International.

At the time of use of the 186 metres, the message went from Roger to the leadership to commission another frequency as interference from the shipping bands was bound to happen. However, Roger Day probably did not have someone reading intensively since he is talking about the 86 metres. Regarding RNI, he recounted, among other things, the arrival of Larry Tremaine from the US, whom he immediately could not stand. Unfortunately, no substantiation followed as to why this was the case. Of course, the period comes up when RNI was Radio Caroline for a short period and, because of Larry

Tremaine, he was no longer wanted on board the MEBO II at a certain point.



Larry Tremaine. Photographer unknown

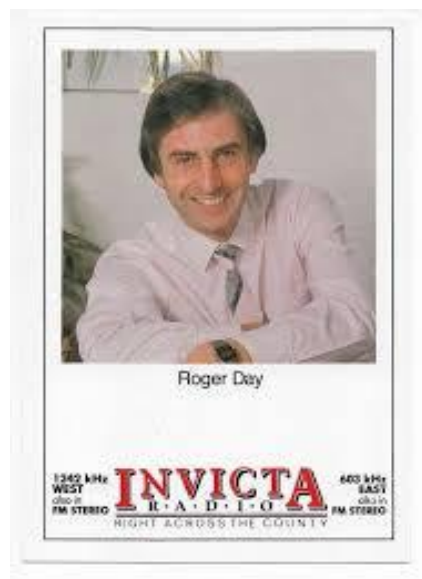
Bread had to be earned and so Roger went 'on the road again', unfortunately listing the gigs without sharing with the reader the experiences. Late January 1973 saw the start of a new radio period at United Biscuit Network, run by Dave Dennis, which lasted over seven months for Day as he got a job that would link him to one of the first ILR stations, Piccadilly Radio in Manchester, until the end of September 1979.

He was the first voice heard on the station, which was run by Stevie Merike, a former Radio Caroline colleague. In those early days, Roger writes, he experienced his "only" gig by voicing spots for Granada TV. Truly a very entertaining chapter to read at least twice to take it all in properly. But once again, the question arises in my mind whether Roger had anyone read along because two more TV appearances come along. Moreover, I wonder why there was absolutely no mention of the

return to Radio Caroline in 1973. However briefly, a reference and a reason why this was so brief is a historic omission in Roger Day's book.



Besides an ode to his favourite football team Manchester United, of which he was a huge fan from an early age, Roger takes us by the hand to various ILR stations where he was active. All this may or may not have been appreciated and, moreover, he himself was not always happy with the stations where he subsequently worked including BRBM, Radio West Bristol, Invicta Sound Kent, Pirate FM, Jazz FM, again Piccadilly Radio, Channel Travel Radio and more.



On half a page, Roger then reports his involvement in the Isle of Man longwave project that did not get off the ground and lets us know more about reunions he was involved in. But Pirate BBC Radio Essex and then his time at Local BBC Radio get more attention as well as radio projects of his own. In 2015, Roger decided to serve a totally different employer and that is as a driver at Boots and recounts his

health problems and is honest regarding his divorce from his wife, where he also has words of praise for her. Of course, Roger Day makes space for the success of Boom Radio.

## BOOMradio

Speaking of space, at the back of the book there are seven blank pages that, according to every reviewer, should have been filled with source references to photos and images and a closing note: Acknowledgements. Maybe for the next printing Roger Day?

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> I published a photo and small story in our fb group: Another photo telling me a lot which I want to share. Not only it shows a lot of nice old cars but also a segment of a temporary mast from the Mi Amigo. And what are all those people doing there? Well it was May the 4th 1973 and these were only a part of the 450 people who got together from several countries to make a trip out to sea.



Scheveningen May 4<sup>th</sup> 1973 Photo: my own collection

The late Rob Olthof and myself had organised the trip and we hired several ships from ships owners at Scheveningen harbour like Jacques Vrolijk. However the weather conditions were too bad to go out to the radio ships in international waters. A week later we went successfully, although with not the same amount of people. Also it was that same May 4th 1973 that the double LP History of RNI, produced by Jacob Kokje and me, in cooperation with Nico Steenbergen, Mike Ross and Ferry de Groot, was sold for the first time there in the open air from Scheveningen. I have still my 2 copies, which one is totally mint.

Rob Mastenbroek commented with: 'It looks like the top of the short lived mast'. Which such a name one should know all about masts. And a long reflection came from Norman Barrington who wrote: 'Rob is correct. And Hans Knot is also correct that a picture speaks a 1000 words.

This is the top section (and capacity pole) of the de Kerf mast, that came crashing down. It left the section below it very bent, (see it in attached photo) that in turn, was removed fairly soon after, and we broadcast with top two sections missing May to July.

The two replacements came out and sat on the roof of the mess room, until we finally got them up on 10th July.



**MV Mi Amigo 1973 Photo: Norman Barrington**

Atlantis started daytime on 15th July and tomorrow (24th) exactly 50 years ago, Barry Andy and I launched Radio Seagull. I was the first to mention the new name in a test transmission an hour before the official start.

With thanks to Paul Rusling who sent the link to the next video: An RTE mast that had towered over Offaly for 50 years has been demolished in Ireland on Tuesday July 27th.

The red and white structure has been out of commission since 2008. Crews established a safe zone around the site in Ballycommon from which people, and their dogs, could watch the mast fall.

This is the moment the skyline was substantially altered:

<https://www.midlands103.com/news/midlands-news/final-preparations-underway-to-demolish-offaly-radio-mast/>

Also Herman from Belgium sent us some links which are interesting:

23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2023

Special report about the 50th anniversary of the radio ship Voice of Peace. Recordings of the last day of broadcast from the BBC Kranji Singapore relay station.

[https://awr.org/program/engmi\\_wav/](https://awr.org/program/engmi_wav/)

BBC Radio Four 1992 The Voice of Peace was an offshore radio station broadcasting to the Middle East for 20 years from the former Dutch cargo vessel MV Peace anchored off the coast of Tel Aviv.

Founded by the late Abie Nathan and The Peace Ship Foundation, based in New York, the station broadcast almost continuously between May 1973 and November 1993.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FtoE4oYfPw>

Rainbow Foundation with Abe Nathan in Memory:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSL\\_2VepgCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSL_2VepgCU)

E mail time from the USA: 'Hi Hans! I just got a little bit of time to read your latest newsletter. As always, I couldn't put it down until read all the way. The nostalgia is so enjoyable even for one who's never been to the UK. You're the best my friend! Phil {on the subcontinent of Minnesota}.'

Thanks a lot Phil and I hope also this edition will be full of nostalgia for you and other readers.

Sad message from Rudy de Saedelier, who reported:

'Radio Caroline's podcasts will no longer receive updates for the time being, and the reason is unfortunately hugely tragic. Roland Beaney, the man who was in charge of recording Radio Caroline's shows and then uploading them on Podomatic, the main source for the Caroline podcasts, died on July 27th. He was struck by a severe brain hemorrhage on Wednesday 26th. He lost consciousness in the ambulance on the way to hospital in Southampton and was declared brain dead on Thursday afternoon.

Roland Beaney was a very active volunteer within the Caroline organisation for many years. In addition to his responsibility for the Caroline podcasts, he was actively involved in the maintenance of the Ross Revenge for many years and was the organiser of the meeting days in Hamble of the Radio Caroline Southampton Support Group.'



Roland Beaney. Photo Archive RadioVisie

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Ian Davidson wrote: 'This weekend marks 69 years since I first when on the air at 2RG, Griffith, New South Wales, Australia at the tender age of 19! Here I am on air at the 2RG controls in 1955, when everything was manual, 78s for commercials, 16" transcriptions at 33 RPM and 45s didn't even arrive into the studio until a few years later!

I remember having to use my own reel to reel to copy off the 45 of Rock Around The Clock as it wasn't released on 78 in Aus, so we couldn't play it on air without! Studios today are like spaceships in comparison! Forgot to add that prior to obtaining my first position as a radio announcer I was trained by Bryson Taylor in Sydney who was a broadcaster famous for his commentaries for important occasions i.e. Anzac Day March. I was delighted when I was an announcer at Capital he visited me at Capital Radio one day on his visit to the UK.

Looking forward to hopefully making an appearance on the Radio London RSL at Felixstowe in August. Cheers - Wombat!





This e mail came from Mary Payne in which she mentioned another update for the memory pages regarding Wonderful Radio London.  
<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Early September it was Brian McKenzie who shared his memories of his period he was working for RNI in the seventies of last century: 'Having been listening to the final days of RNI back in the 70s I imagine that most people that remember it are of a similar age as myself 23 haha .....

Something that RNI introduced to radio was "the real meaning of International radio.." We played music from Holland, Germany, France, Belgium and a few other European countries all on what was termed the 'English Service' No other station before or after has had such a diverse playlist. we were not a Top 40 station, and it worked. Our logo 'the voice of a young Europe' really was what we aimed for. And fulfilled the original idea from the creators of the station Erwin Meister and Edwin Bollier and Victor Pelli. If you never heard RNI then OK, but it was a very special Radio Station. It was staffed by very special people who were all crazy but I think gave listeners great radio.'



**Brian McKenzie on the tender 1974 Photographer unknown**

There were several people reflecting on the memories like Ian Biggar: 'I had just turned 13 when it went off Brian, but clearly remember. Sad day! I was looking forward to the return as Radio Nova, but the Dutch government had other ideas. Was lucky to work with your old colleagues Don Allen and Robin Adcroft in Ireland.'

As well as Simon Mason: 'RNI fueled my addiction to European music that could only be satisfied by me taking our local Hull - Europoort ferry and buying dozens of albums at Radio Leo in West-Kruiskade, Rotterdam in the 70's.'

And reader Chris Faulkner: 'I remember hearing Focus, Earth and Fire and Golden Earring way before any of my so called school mates ever had. (They were Luxembourg and Radio One listeners). When tracks from Focus, etc got into the charts I already knew them, thanks to you and all the other D.Js on the ship. Thank you all aboard the MEBO II'.

Dee Dee Calmayer: 'To this day RNI is my favourite station. It captured the feeling of being young and European. (I'm still European of course). Some fab DJs and interesting and diverse playlist. My personal favourites were Roger Day, Brian McKenzie, Dave Rogers, Don Allan and Mike Ross. I also enjoyed the sound of the Dutch Service when we could pick it up here in Scotland.'

Jeff Martin: 'RNI was a very special and unique station. I loved it. I'll never forget sitting on my bedroom floor, crying my eyes out when it went off for the last time. I was 17. You were a special broadcaster too, without question.'

Robin Dee: 'Still my favourite station of all time. I used to have the 49 metre SW service playing all day in my garage workshop while repairing cars on this very radio - Then always playing MW at night on the car radio out with the current girlfriend. I introduced a few to the station! Great memories.'



Mike Grant: 'I still listen to RNI recordings in my car on a daily basis Brian (On MP3 as I suspect many others do!). The days of real and fun radio unlike the mindless drivel churned out today by so called "music radio". The "Greatest hits" radio channels that we get today are only OK if you want to hear the same "hit" from each artist being played over and over! Radio Caroline is the exception but I can't get that in the car during the day!'

On Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> the annual German Radioday was held.



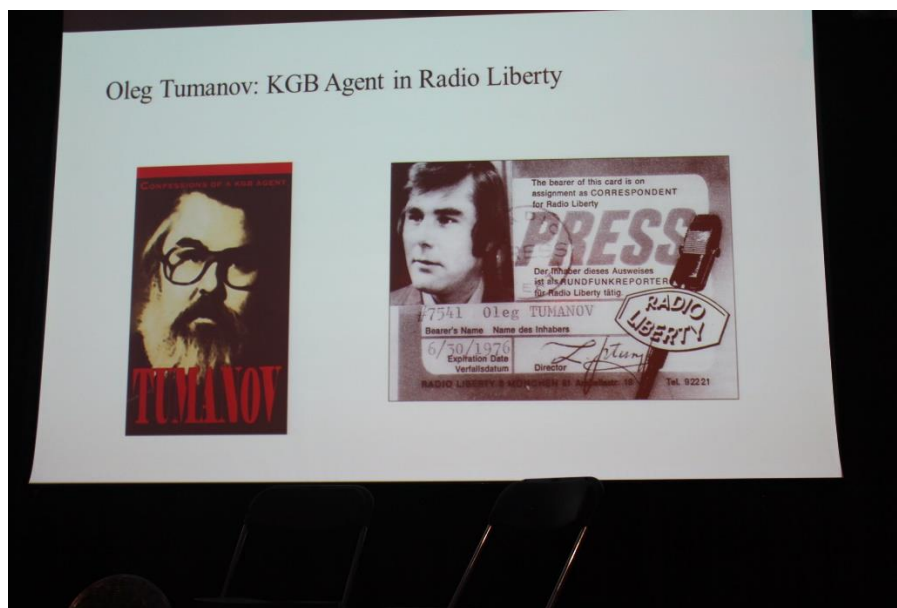
Chet Reuter and Alan Beech

Martin van der Ven reports:

On Saturday, 9 September 2023, it was that time again: for the 21st time, radio enthusiasts from Germany and the Netherlands met for the "Erkrath Radio Day", which used to take place at the observatory in Erkrath and since 2017 has been held at the QQTec Museum in Hilden. Dr Helmut Stein, the founder of the museum, presents an impressive collection of radio and television equipment from several decades. Thus, the museum offers a wonderful environment for radio enthusiasts. About 30 participants came together in hot late summer weather to listen to a wide range of lectures and discussion contributions. As always, Jan Sondermann had provided an interesting programme.

At the beginning, Martin van der Ven reported on a radio project that was realised more than seven decades ago off the Greek island of Rhodes. Here, from 1952 to 1964, the US broadcasting ship USCGC Courier was moored, which, according to the words of the then US President Harry S. Truman, was to transmit a "cargo of truth" to the Middle East and the former Soviet Union. With powerful medium- and short-wave transmitters and a complicated reception and transmission system, this political radio station served as a source of ideas for the later offshore stations in the North Sea that brought pop music to Europe.

The American author Richard H. Cummings ("Cold War Radio"), who lives in Düsseldorf, had already been the focus of an extensive interview at last year's Radiotag, where he gave fascinating insights into his work at Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. This year, Cummings complemented his report with impressive case histories of Eastern Bloc agents infiltrated into these radio stations.



Herbert Visser then reported in detail on the reorganisation of the broadcasting landscape in the Netherlands in a conversation with Helmut Slawik. There, VHF frequencies had been reallocated in a costly auction. As managing director of the stations 100% NL and Slam FM, Visser works in the former Radio Noordzee building "Hofstede" in Naarden. Both stations were recently sold to the Belgian media company Mediahuis, which has now also taken over Radio Veronica. Thus, the successor station of the famous offshore station Radio Veronica will in future also be housed in the well-known building of its former competitor Radio Noordzee. Herbert Visser will also serve as managing director at Radio Veronica.

Alan Beech and Mandy Marton came to Düsseldorf from England. As a long-time technician on Radio Caroline's broadcasting ship Ross Revenge, Beech also set up Caroline's medium wave station on 648 kHz in Orfordness. With an exciting PowerPoint presentation, he reported in detail about the commissioning and maintenance of the transmitter as well as future plans. As usual, he answered numerous questions from the audience confidently and competently.

Mandy Marton concluded the talk with a captivating slide show that clearly showed her love of radio for many years. Over several decades she gained experience also as a presenter on RSL programmes on Radio Caroline and Radio London as well as Radio Seagull, where she can now be heard regularly on the internet. She worked on various broadcasting ships such as the Jenni Baynton in Harlingen, the LV 18 in Harwich and a lightship in Liverpool. The audience thanked her with sustained applause.



**Mandy Marton**

Five people took photos during the day, which can be found in our Offshore Radio Photo Archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720311119623>

Talking about RadioDays, Ben Meijering updated his page with photos from the RadioDay 2006 as held in Amsterdam with a wonderful program including the Voice of Peace reunion. He added 26 photos never seen before as well as replaced all the other 31 photos for new ones in better quality. You can find these versus:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAbC7U>

Next is Norman Barrington: As part of the Felixstowe Radio Days 2023 which was a number of special events, arranged by Ray Anderson of radiofab.com over 17 days featuring a 17 day Radio

London RSL a live show compered by Roger Day on Saturday 12th, I did a live show from the 'Bus that Rocks' on that evening, Sunday 13th featured interviews with DJs and engineers from three decades, and I gave a presentation on the impact of jingles on top 40 radio with the influence of American style radio on our offshore stations, that changed radio in the UK forever.

Monday August 14th 2023 was the 56th anniversary of the Marine Offenses Act, and myself with two friends made a trip to the original anchorages of the British offshore radio stations prior to the MOA. which brought an end to the musical armada..

Paul May (RNI) and Roger Twiggy Day were scheduled to come out with us to do the honours, but had to cancel at the last minute. I later realised that if they had indeed come out we would have had a virtual May-Day on our hands! (Boom Boom!).

So it was down to us three and the skipper Tony. Dubbed "The Last Tender" I left four wreaths at the sites of the four most well-known stations. This included ship to shore link ups with the Radio London RSL.

Play the video I made along with Brian Anderson who has all the right gear, play it loud & proud, preferably on a big HD screen with good speakers, or at least good headphones, and don't turn off when you think it's finished, but wait until the video stops itself!

I have used some short snippets of commercial music, for historic purposes, they are overdubbed with waves breaking, and I claim exemption by the "Fair Use" policy.

<https://www.normanb.net/The%20Last%20Tender%2014-08-23%20...>

[This is a large HD download video is 16 mins runtime]

Thanks a lot for sharing Norman and next is Albert Hood about his work for the Caroline organization through many years:

'I never thought I was breaking any laws all was doing was feeding and watering the crew and deejays, or to put it another way my friends. And the MOA does state you can carry goods to preserve life and that is all I was doing and they could not prove otherwise.

I admitted to nothing and I strongly believe if you admit to nothing and knowing they had no proof I felt safe They (the authorities) did try several times but as I wouldn't admit to anything they couldn't prove anything Since the Ross Revenge was towed into Dover if had quite a few chats with police officers from the Alert 3 the Essex police boat that hassled us on many accessions.



[Free Radio Forum click to enlarge](#)

They said good luck for getting away with it. But as I said to them you only boarded us on the way home. Had you boarded us on the way out you would have had plenty of proof. Their answer to that was that they could have boarded us the way out as we hadn't committed any offence hadn't been committed so hence all the evidence was gone



Technically we were only allowed to carry water and medical supplies but not food. I do it all again if need to as I enjoyed every minute of it.'

Again some sad news:

Ruud Doets died on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of August at the age of 81. Ruud worked as a technician on board the Radio Veronica radio ship Norderney. Among the last words he spoke, when the Veronica transmitting ship ran aground on the Scheveningen beach on the 2nd of April 1973, were. "To our regret, we have to cease our broadcasts because we are getting too close to the beach. We are about to disembark. Well, everything else is fine here. We hope everything continues to go well. We also hope we can provide music again soon. And keep supporting us. And to all the women strength." A still young and now also late Arend Langenberg had concluded the broadcasts moments before with the reassuring announcement that people ashore need not worry. Everything on the ship was under control and operations were proceeding as usual.

And Ruud opened the Veronica return on 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1973 from the Mi Amigo. During the last decades he was regularly visiting the various Veronica and Radio Days in Hilversum, Amsterdam and Harlingen.

Nonetheless, the Norderney had been knocked off her anchors and drifted from her berth about 11 kilometers offshore, towards the beach. The ship had gotten so close that the remaining crew also had to disembark. A dangerous job. A lifeboat was alongside, and people had to jump from one ship to another. Due to the high waves, one ship was sometimes metres higher than the other. Nevertheless, everyone eventually managed to get to safety. Moments later, the Norderney was on the beach and grew into a huge crowd puller there.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1973, Radio Veronica started broadcasting again, this time from the MV Mi Amigo, because the Norderney could not be detached. The Veronica management then decided to accept Radio Caroline's Ronan O'Rahily's offer to use his transmitter. Technician Ruud Doets was given the honour of opening the programmes from the Mi Amigo.

In spring 2021, Doets was admitted to a nursing home where he thoroughly enjoyed the memories of his very long time aboard the Norderney during which he weathered many storms.



Photo: Gerard Doets

With thanks to Gerard Doets, Wim van de Water and Jean Luc Bostyn

Next er mail time with Sally: 'Hi Hans, my eye fell on this:

<https://www.vrza.nl/wp/2022/04/16/radio-caroline-north-paasuitzendingen/>

Official amateurs paying attention to an offshore radio station.  
Greetings, Sally Mens in Utrecht.

Interesting recently was a report I found in the newspapers of the then Joint Press Service (Gemeenschappelijke Persdienst) and may

be considered the earliest report I have ever come across in my search for the activities of the then 40-year-old Israeli businessman Abie Nathan, who shortly after the war in the Middle East in his private plane carrying a peace message for Nasser from Israel to Egypt. He also landed in Amsterdam in late August 1967. He was on his way to England and reported that he wished to buy a radio ship there.

He did not specify which ship it was but it can be assumed that he meant Radio 270's former offshore radio ship, which had in fact been put up for sale. Nathan also reported that the intention behind the purchase was to go from the Mediterranean.

Sea to propagate peace in the Middle East. Nathan believed that the then last war had been largely the result of a years-long radio campaign that had been conducted on the side of the Arabs and on that of the Israelis had sown hatred.

With his then-future peace radio station, he wished to break down the barrier thus created. He reported, when the purchase was complete, to an anchorage off Tel Aviv to anchor the transmitter ship and start broadcasting in Arabic, Hebrew, English, French, Greek and Turkish. He added that his plan was popular in Israel especially among young people.



The MV Cito later became the Peace Ship.

## Photo collection Hilbrand de Boer.

Apart from radio broadcasts for peace, Nathan also thought of a school to be built in Nazareth for Israeli and Arab children. To get contributions for the construction of this school, he wanted to make a flight from Tel Aviv to New York in his plane, which was about the same age as himself. In all the towns where he was going to land, he was going to ask the mayor for contributions.

I never knew anything of the latter possible action but the Peace Ship came to be, purchased in the late 1960s in Groningen and between 1973 and 1993.

Next update time with Bob LeRoi

'Hello Hans It's crazy but busier than ever these days! At long last something of a site update ...

A few 1960's postcards/photocards from Radio Scotland, Britain Radio England & Caroline.

Some nice images from another of our accompanied Grand Forts Thames Estuary Cruises.

More photographs from Laser Hot Hits, 100 more vintage images added to the Harbour Years page and lots more to follow in the future!

Those that follow the weekly 'Bob's 60's Splash' you'll find a log of previous and future programmes

Enjoy the sunshine

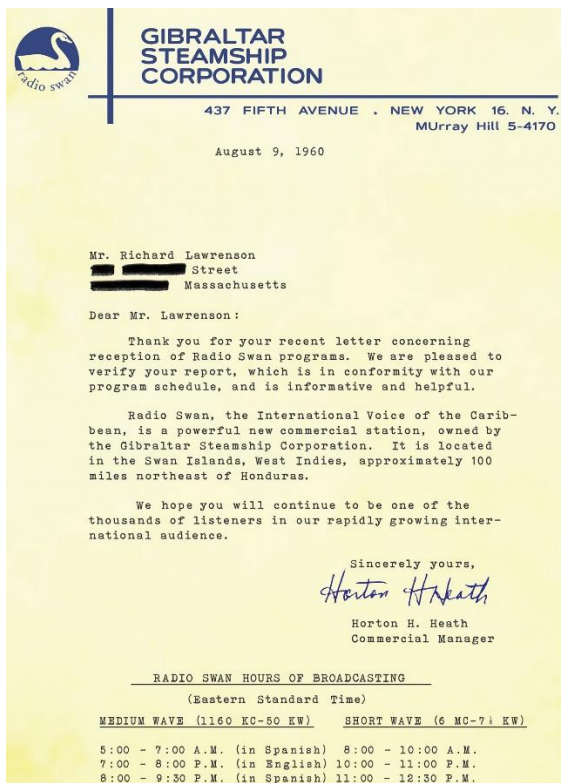


<http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/Home/Home.html>

Bryan in Australia wrote: 'Thanks Sir Hans: 'I have enjoyed the Harlingen Radio Day photos. It was reminiscent, seeing photos of the MEBO II model and ship.

I wonder why DJs used pseudonyms? Was this for popularity, for example a German DJ adopting an English name? (Well using their own name could bring them in problem trespassing a law in their own country).

Next a very interesting article from Peter Messingfeld about Radio Swan: 'During the annual 'Free Radio Meeting' in Hochdahl, Chet Reuter gave a presentation on Radio Swan. He had listened to this station himself in the 1960s and followed the reports about the secretive station in the American press at the time. My interest in shortwave listening and radio in general only began in 1970, so I was not familiar with Radio Swan. But I did remember secret and underground stations like Radio Rebelde, La Voz del C.I.D., Radio Clarin and others - stations I was interested in even then because of their unofficial character.



[Click on the document to enlarge](#)

When I learned that declassified documents from the CIA archives (about 12 million pages so far) contained information on Radio Swan, my curiosity was finally aroused. For some years now, most of these formerly secret documents have also been available on the internet. This has brought to light many facts about Radio Swan about which one could only speculate until now.'

More can be found using this link: <http://messagingfeld.com/swan/>  
Yes, it's written in German but using this translator it will be very enjoyable to read Peter's article: <https://www.deepl.com/translator>

Next Jon and his regular update: 'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- we have photos of some of the offshore radio stars who attended the recent Radio Days nostalgia event in Felixstowe;
- if you listened to Radio Caroline in 1967-8, you would have heard a lot of music by David McWilliams. There is a new compilation album on the way;
- we hear of an LP released by a former Radio 270 DJ back in 1967;
- and Ian Anderson has kindly provided a Radio Northsea International Top 30 chart, complete with DJ Hit Picks, from March 1973.

I hope you find it all interesting. Best wishes, Jon'

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

A few weeks ago, when I was preparing this part of the report, it was Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The various personal Facebook pages from radio friends as well as those of internet radio stations were full of memories of the same date, but in 1974, already more than 49 years ago. Of course, it is wonderfully nice to see that after so many years,

radio lovers still feel aggrieved by the measures, taken at the time by the then government and members of Dutch Parliament.

It involved the introduction of a number of amendments to an existing law that officially made it impossible to participate in the activities of an offshore radio station from our country. Moreover, advertising and provisioning a broadcasting vessel were also considered violations of the law, popularly known in history as the 'anti-zeezenderwet'.

Going through the various pages, it was noticeable that the main focus was on the disappearance at the time of Radio Veronica and, to a lesser extent, the loss of RNI. More than a hundred memories passed by within half an hour, while scrolling through the selection of radio friends. Including some who also paid attention to the timely departure of the radio ship Mi Amigo from the international waters off the Dutch coast to those off the east coast of England in the Thames Estuary.

From the Mi Amigo at the time, both Radio Mi Amigo's broadcasts, via taped programmes only, and those of Radio Caroline were provided. The fact that on 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1974, for example, the programmes of Radio Atlantis, whose international service in particular sounded like clockwork to me, also came to an end, but was completely absent from the memories of Facebook radio friends.

I myself did not take a specific look back to that particular Saturday at the end of August 1974 that day but went in search of the early days of the offshore radio stations anchored in international waters off the Dutch coast.

This is how I ended up with a preserved newspaper cutting from 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1960, the year when Radio Veronica had started broadcasting and could be received in part of the western Netherlands. The arrival of the station roughly coincided with the advance in our country regarding sales, and thus popularity, of

transistor radios. Because sales of portable radio had taken off very fast in the Netherlands. This was partly because radio sets had become considerably smaller and cheaper to buy, as they used transistors.



In the summer months of 1960, the press release revealed, sales of portable radios were even higher than those of the so-called home sets. Moreover, sales were particularly favorably influenced by the fact that when buying a second radio, the head of the household did not have to pay a financial contribution for the distribution of radio signals, something that was later called a 'viewing and listening fee'.

Moreover, they claimed, the purchase was also encouraged by the fact that many a transistor radio could also be used as an amplifier for a turntable present in the house. Some youngsters went so far as to take both the transistor radio and the turntable outside to have even more listening pleasure in the park or at the beach. The prices of the various transistor radios available, which came in a variety of shapes and sizes, were between 80 and 300 guilders at the time. A spokesman for the Dutch Association of Radio Retailers said most transistor radios sold at the time were in the range between 125 and 200 guilders, quite a high amount for those days.

It was sometimes quite surprising when a cyclist passed by who carried with him on the handlebars, via a leather strap, such a



transistor radio, which was also tuned to a happy-sounding radio station, mainly on Radio Veronica's 192 metres. It had been more than 40 years since the first radio sets were introduced in our country and many persons had been tempted to save up for a long time to buy a receiving set for use in the home and/or business.

All sets had to be handed in during World War II, by order of the German occupying forces. Fortunately, not everyone complied with the requirement but cleverly managed to give the device a hiding place. After May 1945, sales of the devices picked up slowly but by 1960, having a radio set had become commonplace in the Netherlands. Figures from that time indicate that over 2,300,000 sets had already been sold in our country.



And as for 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1960, an employee of daily newspaper Het Parool had visited some beaches to ascertain the presence of people carrying a transistor radio. It was not made clear what the weather condition was that day, nor was it reported how many people were enjoying themselves on the beaches. Citing Scheveningen beach, he reported that he counted two people, equipped with a transistor radio, who had the device switched on in a soft tone. This was equal to the regulations put in place by the resort's municipal council. Finally, he pointed out the presence of binoculars, which could be used to view Radio Veronica's transmitting ship remotely for 20 cents.

And a sad message at the end. Jan de Boer / Hugo Meulenhoff died on the 18th of September, after suffering cardiac arrest. He was due to retire a day later. Hugo Meulenhoff worked as one of the on-board deejays at Radio Mi Amigo in 1977. Later, he was briefly active in Flanders at Radio Gemini in Kortrijk. Since the start of 'Veronique' in 1989, he earned his living at RTL as an editor and 'voice over' for news coverage, a job he held for 34 years. He also worked weekends at RTL Rock in 1992.

On Radio Mi Amigo, he worked with Frank van der Mast, Herman de Graaf and Marc Jacobs, among others. Besides programmes like "Also Goeiemorgen", "Hallo bent U daar?" and the Top 40, Hugo was responsible, together with Frank, for the farewell programme on 23 July 1977, called "Farewell 1-9-2, all the best with it". A few days later, Radio Mi Amigo would return to the airwaves on 212 metres.



Hugo Meulenhoff at Zeezenders 20 in 1978

Well that's all for this time. Keep sending your e mails, memories, photo's, questions and more to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) and another report will be there in December. Keep enjoying radio's history. Greetings Hans Knot