

Ruud Doets died on Wednesday 9th of August 2023 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 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 11th 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 crowdpuller there. On the 11th 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'Rahilly'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