

## Hans Knot International Radio Report Christmas 2023



Photo Old Time Christmas Radio

Welcome to another Christmas edition with again a lot of information, memories, e mails, sad news and more.

First attention to the next information from Martin van der Ven: 'In December 1996, my website "Offshore Radio Links" went online for the first time. A few years later it became the "Offshore Radio Guide" ([offshore-radio.de](http://offshore-radio.de)). Over the past 27 years, [hansknot.com](http://hansknot.com), [radioday.nl](http://radioday.nl), [seesender.de](http://seesender.de), [radiocaroline.de](http://radiocaroline.de) and [broadcasting-fleet.com](http://broadcasting-fleet.com) have gradually been added.



Now it's time for a more modern layout and, above all, a streamlining of the various sites. The new Internet platform:

**"Offshore Radio Nostalgia - A kaleidoscope of the Watery Wireless era"** is now online. It contains hundreds of articles by Hans Knot, interesting news, contributions and links as well as access to 30.000 photos and numerous videos. It's best to try it out straight away: <https://offshoreradio.info>

Thanks Martin for this very time-consuming work which has produced a fantastic new site of encyclopaedical value. I hope readers will enjoy it and we will have the opportunity to fill it with more information and photos for years to come.

Next memory time which we found on September 20<sup>th</sup> from Tom Edwards: 'Seeing that Mick Jagger is one of the guests at The State Banquet in France tonight I suddenly remembered some time late 1966 or early 1967 Dorothy Calvert and I went to the BBC's Lime Grove studios, where all the Rolling Stones were appearing that night on Top of the Pops. We used the interview recording on an Uher machine for Radio City's 'Five By Four Show'. Thinking about the fact that the government considered us stations as illegal, it was quite cheeky of us to do that interview. Quite a scoop for us. I can only hope someone, somewhere, might have that recording.'



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**5 x 4 SHOW**  
Stones and Beatles request  
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DAILY 6 a.m. to 12 MIDNIGHT

Postcards please to  
**THE REQUEST STATION  
OF THE NATION**

RADIO CITY, 7, DENMARK STREET, LONDON, W.C.2.

Well I can tell you it was aired on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1966. So dive in your City recordings if you have this special interview and if so, give it a mention to me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

And on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September sad news came in: Tribute by Mary Payne. 'In September 2023, our friend Kenny Tosh received the sad news from Lorne's daughter Kath that her father had died of cancer in Edmonton in May of that year. In 'The London Sound' Brian Long gives Lorne's real name as Paul May, but this was possibly an on-air name he had used. The Canadian's broadcasting career began at the age of 19, as an announcer on CKSA AM radio and TV in Lloydminster, Alberta, where he also compered live shows. He moved to Red Deer and CKRD AM radio and TV and hosted a breakfast show and afternoon programme.

Lorne had embarked on a tour of North Africa and Europe in 1966 and arrived in England at the end of that year. He joined Big L on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1967, shortly after his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. Lorne's shows, known as 'The King Thing' proved popular, bringing his unique style of broadcasting, to the regular Radio London format, where Big L revived 45s came from 'the King groove yard'.

However, 'Mrs. King's favourite son' became confused over the nationality of Lulu, announcing her as an Irish singer. The resulting torrent of mail from Big L listeners, informing him of Lulu's birthplace in Glasgow, indicated the sizeable audience that Lorne attracted. The incident resulted in Lulu not only forgiving Lorne, but recording a promo for his show, including a plug for her latest release, 'The Boat That I Row'.

Lorne left Radio London on May 30<sup>th</sup> 1967, like many of the DJs, departing ahead of the station's impending doom at the hand of the UK Government's Marine Offences Bill. After his short stint on Radio London, Lorne returned to Calgary working at CLJH TV, then CJCA and CHQT Edmonton.



In July 2004, I was fortunate enough to attend the First North American Offshore Reunion in Vancouver, and Lorne was there too, thanks to the generosity of fellow offshore DJ Ben Healy, from Radio Scotland, who also lived in Edmonton.

All the photos below were taken at that reunion. Unfortunately, Lorne did not have Internet access, so I was able to contact him only via letter. I did receive news of him occasionally

from Ben Healy. For more read here:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/lornetribute/lornetribute.html>

More sad news: Wim van de Water reported on MediaPages on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September: 'The man of the last hour of offshore station Radio Veronica is no more. Hans van Velzen himself has now completed his last hour. Many people were glued to the radio on that Saturday the 31st of August in 1974. The government had had its way and the immensely popular offshore radio station Veronica was not more after that sad Saturday. The famous photo with an emotion-overwhelmed Hans van Velzen in Radio Veronica's board studio after the station went off air made all the papers the following Monday.



## Hans van Velzen in 1974 Photo Foundation Norderney

After years of restoration, it was Hans van Velzen who officially reopened Veronica's on-board studio at Museum RockArt on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. Hans was also a welcome guest at the many Zeezender Dagen (Offshore Radio Days) at Museum RockArt, among other places. During those days, Hans regularly took a seat in the board studio at Museum RockArt and often, with visible pleasure, told the many fans about his memories aboard the legendary Veronica transmitter ship the Norderney.



## Hans van Velzen in RockArt Photo: MediaPages

Veronica and the board studio have forever remained the common thread in Hans van Velzen's life. Hans died on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023 at the age of 80. '

Next is Andrew Matthews who wrote: 'Hey Hans. I'm missing your newsletters, I do hope all is well? In 1970 a music festival named Pham City was held and involved was Ronan O Rahilly. I believe he put up money to fund a professional film team to record the whole event.

Unfortunately this footage has never been released of officially but there are screen shots available online. With that pirate radio



mention I thought you may be able to find out what happened to the film and if there were ways of obtaining a copy! From reading on various sites, I think it was but for unknown reason has not seen the light of day.

The event was called Phun City and held in Worthing, next to Brighton in Sussex, 1970. Either it was a 2 or 3 day festival. All the best, Andrew.'

So if anyone knows where to obtain a copy of the movie, if it exist, feel free to mail me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

A lot of information on the Phun City Festival is on the next internet site: <https://www.ukrockfestivals.com/phun-city-menu.html>



Photo: Old Time Christmas Radio.

Now back to September 28<sup>th</sup> with Fred Bunzl, who wrote by e mail: 'Dear Hans, I am writing with some sad news which nevertheless may be of interest to the many readers of your Radio Report who remember the struggle for free radio in the period from about 1966-1970. The info is here:

<https://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/david-prewett-rip/>

With best wishes and good health!

from

Fred

<https://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk>

M.V. Manor Park, who does remember this failed project? Martin van der Ven wrote about the project in his fleet pages: **'Ships details:** The Quo Vadis, a 492 ton 52 m length 8.5 m width cargo vessel, was built in Groningen/Netherlands by Gebr. Koops NV Hoogezand in 1956. Maximum speed was 9 knots. In 1978 the ship was renamed Manor Park. In September 1979 it was found in the harbour of Sunderland. At that time it was owned by Betson Shipping Ltd and Ringsend Marine Dublin having been registered by Blond Marine Services in Dublin.

The ship had a sufficient water-ballast system and a safe hull. It had been damaged by a large crane which even had affected the bridge. After the project failed in August 1980, the ship had different owners until it was converted into a floating sailing school in 1982.

Planned offshore radio station: **Radio Ventura / Radio Free England** in 1979/80

Photo's Ian Biggar can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720313044769>

Reflections on the project came on our fb SMC page: Stuart Clark 'Great photos, thanks Ian and Martin. I spent a week on her with Kevin Turner. We spent a good chunk of the time hammering off rusty paint and emptying the hold of water - by bucket and rope! As far as I know, no gear was ever put on board although they had a TX, possibly

two, stashed away in the Cambridge area. It was a decent ship and, if they'd been able to secure funding, could have been a goer as they had a Head of Programmes who was on Capital Radio at the time and had excellent contacts.

It was going to be called Radio Ventura when I was involved - I think Radio Free England was later floated - and the name changed to the MV Stormrider, which sounded like tempting fate to me! Respect to Chris Cortez and the ABC England/Cambridge crew for giving it a real old go. They came close to launching an English service on Radio Del Mare too. Hopefully all that is correct... it was a long time ago!



On CBS TV recently was a very interesting special about Sealand.  
With thanks to Wayne Hepler for the information:

<https://youtu.be/UeTgAwkbP5E>





Next is André van Os after receiving last report early October: 'Hi Hans,

'Thanks for nice radio report once again! Small thing: the picture of Roland Beaney was taken by Jodie Lingard and is therefore not from RadioVisie. I know because I'm in it myself. I personally put the lifebelt on him. The whole excellent series is here:

[https://www.woodleynet.co.uk/caroline/caroline\\_pics\\_2020-1.htm](https://www.woodleynet.co.uk/caroline/caroline_pics_2020-1.htm)

October 2<sup>nd</sup> sad news coming in from Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'I received an email from someone called Mark Lumsden late last night. It seems Alan "Neddy" Turner has died. Also a Pierre CapTen has also posted the sad news on Alan's Facebook page: "A message to everyone to and from all of Alan's friends, near and far, to announce that Alan Bennet Turner has sadly passed on. He passed on peacefully, at his home, in his sleep on the 1st October."



Alan Turner on Radio Caroline North from his own collection in the Pirate Hall of Fame archive.

Here's more info about Alan Bennet Turner from the Pirate Hall of Fame Archive: Ian Turner was born in Blackheath, London, on 29th March 1939. He got his first taste of showbusiness at the age of 19, while living in Singapore, but he had also spent time as a salesman, engineer and policeman before becoming a disc-jockey. Known as

"Neddy" after the character in *The Goon Show*, he joined Radio Caroline in 1964.

In the early days of the station the disc-jockeys had technical operators to play the records for them and Alan initially took on that role before moving to the other side of the microphone. Along with Tom Lodge and Jerry Leighton Alan took part in the ultimate long distance radio broadcast when the original Caroline ship, the mv. *Fredericia*, sailed round the coast of England and Wales to take up her new position off the Isle of Man.

We asked if anyone knew Alan's present whereabouts and, in April 2004, as Caroline celebrated its fortieth birthday, we heard from the man himself: "In the immediate years after leaving Caroline my wife Elaine and I ran a very successful retail/wholesale business but after a good few years of doing that I eventually drifted back into the world of aviation. For many years we operated an aviation maintenance facility. This involved a lot of traveling throughout the UK and northern Europe. One of our aviation projects was the operation and maintenance of the aircraft used by Invicta Radio (the Kent based local station, not the old pirate) for their 'Flying Eye' road traffic reports.

I have quite a lot of photos of that time and I also have the original LP which contains the station theme music '*Round Midnight* by Jimmy McGriff - the very first record played on Caroline."



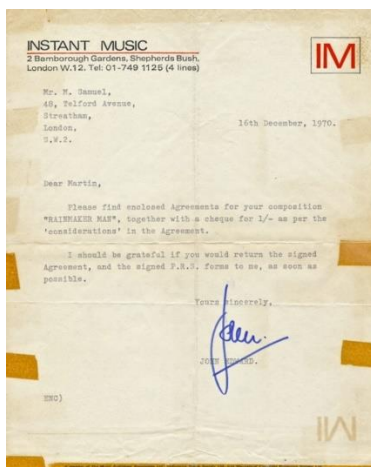
## Alan Turner and Hans Knot in 2017

Photo: Martin van der Ven

Alan passed away on the 1st of October 2023 at his home near Maidstone, Kent. He was 84 and had been suffering from cancer. Together with Martin van der Ven I met Alan Turner a few times. Among others, in 2017 in Harwich harbour where he gave us a comprehensive tour of the lightship from which radio broadcasts from Pirate BBC Radio Essex were made. He also took us to the space on the quayside where a small, but interesting, exhibition had been set up about the offshore radio stations. With Alan Turner's passing, another likeable personality from the offshore radio world has been lost to us.

Time for Martin H. Samuel who wrote: 'Hello Hans and many thanks for your International Radio Report 2023-4... 44 pages of fun-filled facts. In 1970, John Edward was the booking agent for the 5-piece pop group Heatwave (I was the drummer).

When we were recording a session for radio at the BBC, we conned the producer into letting us play my song, 'Rainmaker Man', by saying it was Bob Dylan's latest single. As the song was aired twice by DJ Jimmy Young on his Radio Show, via the BBC World Service, John Edward signed it to his publishing company, Instant Music.

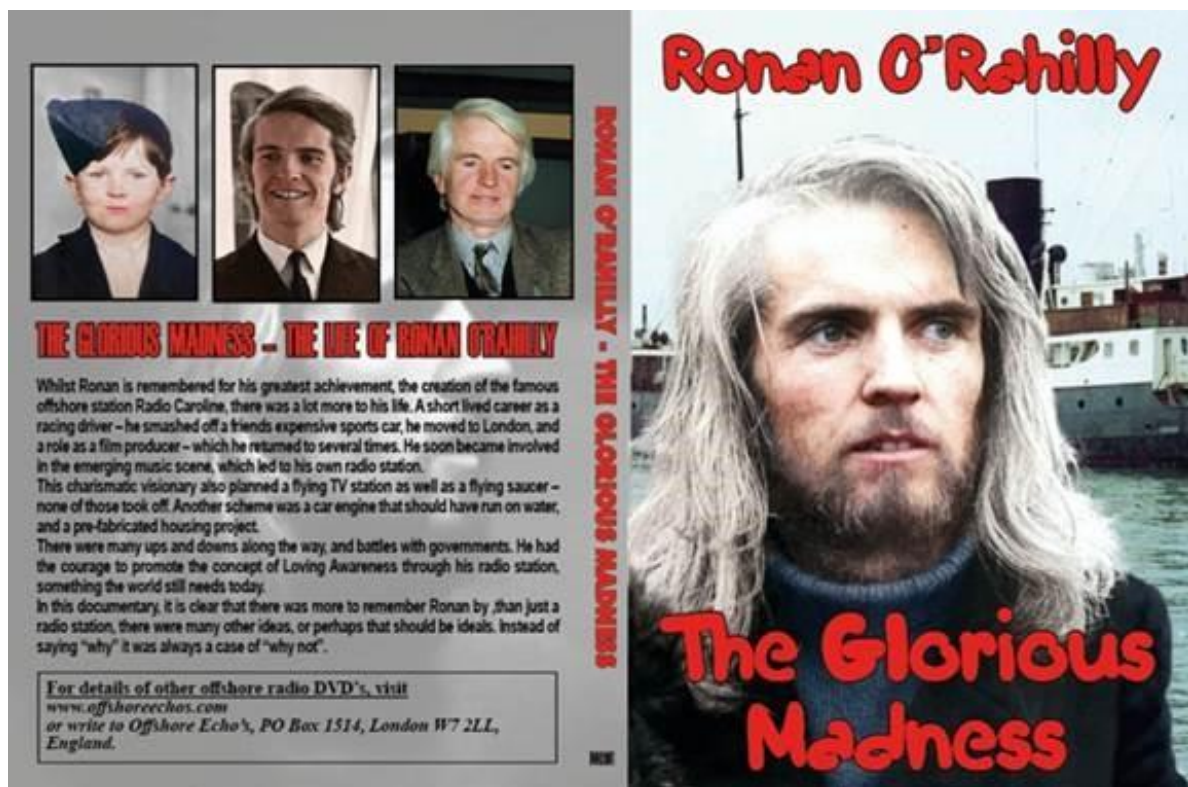


In 'consideration', John awarded me the grand sum of 1/- (one shilling), which I spent, at 2:00 am, on a cup of tea at the Blue Boar service station rest stop on the M1 motorway, on the way home from a gig. Ciao for now, Martin.'

Thanks a lot and the letter proves it all. I hope the tea was it worth.

Next is Peter Messingfeld from Germany: 'Hi Hans, thanks for an (again) very informative radio report. I was shocked about the death of Hans Hettelder as I only met him in May at the Harlingen Radio Day. He seemed in good health then. A reminder that all of us are not getting younger.'

Thanks also for mentioning my story about Radio Swan/Americas. There is a link on the German page to the English translation. The direct link is: [http://messingfeld.com/swan/swan\\_english.php](http://messingfeld.com/swan/swan_english.php)



DVD/Blu-ray 'Ronan O'Rahilly - The Glorious Madness'

Review by Martin van der Ven, [www.offshore-radio.de](http://www.offshore-radio.de)

Radio Caroline's founder Ronan O'Rahilly was revered by countless followers and companions who saw him as a steadfast fighter against state-controlled broadcasting. Critics of this enigmatic personality, on the other hand, accused him of becoming more and more of a grey eminence in the background, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, who channeled the funds needed to maintain the radio station and the ship into accounts in Liechtenstein and exposed the young DJs on board to immeasurable dangers without a captain or seamen.

Three and a half years after his death, Offshore Echo's now sets up a deserved memorial to Ronan O'Rahilly with this 135-minute, riveting documentary. Francois Lhote and Chris Edwards have spared no effort in tracking down seemingly every aspect of his eventful biography. The most modern technical possibilities made it possible to improve old black-and-white film recordings from the sixties and, above all, to significantly increase the quality of existing sound recordings.

One gets the impression that the most diverse video contributions from all available sources have been merged into a complete work, which above all allows the success story of this radio pioneer in the sixties to be understood. Accordingly, this is also the main focus of this recommendable film. Radio Caroline's broadcasting ships anchored in international waters symbolise Ronan's permanent fight against established structures and for the freedom of the word and music.

If I myself had not been a subscriber to the wonderful nostalgic magazine "Offshore Echo's Magazine" for decades, I would immediately take up the current offer of a combination of membership and documentary film.



For more information about this new DVD go to:

<https://www.offshoreechos.com>

Or write to:

Offshore Echos PO Box 1514 London W7 2LL England

Alex Hoek reported that on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 Bert Verweij passed away in his hometown Hilversum. He was a man of fine conversations and great stories. Besides husband, father and proud grandfather, Bert was son of Jaap Verweij - one of Veronica's directors. Bert was also a board member of the Norderney Foundation. Bert lived to be 76 years old. An interview with Wim van de Water and Bert Verweij can be found on you tube:

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

Kees Pronk made some trips to the Ross Revenge and the Communicator in the mid eighties and 145 photos of there visits are now in our Flickr Archive.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720311793839>

In our SMC FB group in the month of October I published a photo from Andy Archer, taken by Gerard van der Spek in March 1973. I wondered where this photo was taken. A discussion came and at one stage I asked Andy Archer if he knew where it was:

'I'm afraid I can't be much help. I've looked at it very carefully. A bottle of Jenever on table, so definitely Holland! It doesn't look like van Hoogendorpstraat. There appears to be a letter pinned to wall to the right of Paul McCartney, but I can't read the text.

Also something written under the photograph of the guitarist top right, again I can't read the text. (The texts may well hold a clue to

where it is). There are tapes on the table. So Hans, I'm sorry, I can't recognise the location.'

A few days later I published the photo on the right and Andy had the same shirt on. Rob Hofland came with the correct answer as the photo was taken in one of the cabins on the Mi Amigo.



Andy Archer



Peter Zonneveld, Joop Verhoof  
and Andy Archer

On Sunday Oktober 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 a small but interesting exhibition was organized in an former trains compartment at Goathland North Yorks Moors, It is a historically part of the North Riding of Yorkshire, it is in the North York Moors national park due north of Pickering, off the A169 to Whitby. Enda W. Caldwell was there and made a series of photographs to get an impression.

'Piratememories.com Chris Dannatt and Geoff Pearson former Traffic Manager and Graphic Designer for Radio London 1964-67! And North Yorkshire Moors Railway and with assistance from myself best known from Radio Luxembourg and Atlantic 252.'

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720311988345>



## Photo VOP from out the air taken by Kees Pronk

In the late afternoon around five o'clock, the sun was setting over the Mediterranean. Apart from providing beautiful sunsets and coloured skies, it was impressive standing on the beach having the radio on.



Photo: Kees Pronk

By five o'clock (sunset), Abie Nathan asked for a half-minute silence for all victims of violence. Below is one such clip I recorded on the Tel Aviv beach in October 1988. If you follow the news from the region of Israel in recent weeks you will notice the lack of a station like The Voice of Peace and those words and request for a moment of silence for all victims of violence that Abie Nathan made daily through his station are more topical than ever....

<https://pixeldrain.com/u/VvD1rxjw>

When we went out for the day, we would record hours with a timer. The flat cleaners had to stay away from that. By the way, we were in a hotel there, with an extensive breakfast buffet every day, was very good except on Saturdays, when there was no toaster, because 'on the Sabbath you shall not toast bread', but you are right about the cleaning lady, you always ran the risk of her pulling a plug to make room for the Hoover.

Still, we recorded quite a few hours there, both at the hotel, and on location with batteries. I remember one time we were at the coast, the tape was supposed to run for a while, but we wanted to go and see something, so we hid the radio somewhere in the bushes so that the recording could continue and we had our hands free for other things, and later retrieved the radio from its hiding place.

Yes time for a site update with Jon on the Pirate Hall of Fame:

I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

- Back in August 1967 André Potier, a Greater London Council member, visited Radio London. 56 years later, we have photos of his visit;
  - American TV went out to Sealand recently, interviewed Michael Bates and Mike Barrington, and showed archive footage of Radio Essex. We have a link;
  - we welcome a new offshore radio website, and say goodbye to another;
  - and there is another offshore chart courtesy of Ian Biggar. This time it is an incomplete Radio Atlantis 'Hotline of Hits' from March 1974 (featuring the station owner at number 40).
- My thanks, as ever, to the contributors. The next update will be on New Year's Eve. In the meantime, have a great Christmas.





Johnnie Walker and Robbie Dale (right) exchange presents in the Caroline office in Amsterdam. Photo from Pinky Siedenburg's collection, taken by Bill Rontree of the Sunday Mirror and kindly passed on to us by Robbie.

Best wishes, Jon

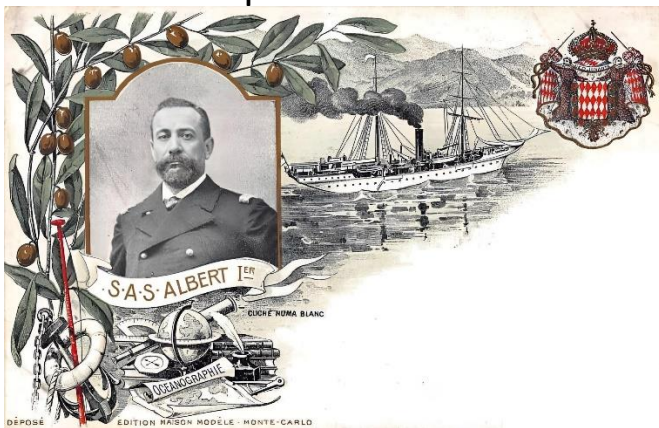
[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Next is a very interesting update to the 'Broadcasting Fleet', a very early form of using a ship to bring signals into the air.

<https://offshoreradio.info/hirondelle-ii/>

<https://earlyradiohistory.us/1913mon.htm>

A wonderful update with thanks to Martin van der Ven



From a vintage postcard

Next are requests from Marcel Strücker: 'Dear Hans, recently, I was searching in old Dutch newspapers for what they reported about Radio London at the time. During this search, I noticed something peculiar:



The Dutch papers Algemeen Dagblad, De Telegraaf, and the Algemeen Handelsblad published a story that Radio London was going to use Dutch DJs.

The person cited as the spokesperson for the organization in this matter was a certain Mr. Van der Waart-Van Gullik from Huizen, The Netherlands. The Algemeen Dagblad and the Algemeen Handelsblad published their articles on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1966, respectively, while De Telegraaf published theirs on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

But then, as I kept searching, I came across an article in De Telegraaf from November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1966, with the headline 'Radio London remains British.' I double-checked the publication dates to be sure, and they are indeed correct as far as I can figure out. This raises a few questions for the offshore radio community:

Who remembers who the aforementioned Mr. Van der Waart-Gullik from Huizen was and what kind of role he played within the Radio London organization?

Who even remembers the issue of Dutch DJs co-presenting with the English jocks? (According to the information, they were supposed to provide supplementary presentation, not have their separate programs.)

Could it be that the transition from Radio England to Radio Dolfijn (Flipper Radio) was perceived as a potential competitor, and Radio London might have considered a similar action (hiring Dutch DJs) as a response?

Last but not least, and most intriguing: how is it possible that the London organization stated on November 4, 1966, that there would be no Dutch presentation in the programming, and then barely two weeks later, the exact opposite was claimed?

Kind regards, Marcel Strücker.'

My direct memories Marcel are that indeed the newspapers mentioned the plans to go Dutch for some hours a day and that there would be organised an application round for potential deejays in Huizen and that the aforementioned person had been approached from the Philip Birch Agency to arrange this for the Radio London organisation.

In a long interview I did in 2009 Tom Mulder also talked about his great love for Radio London and his application. He also made a promo for Big L: <https://freewave-nostalgie.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Freewave-433.pdf>



Next Wim van de Water: 'The Museum of the 20th Century in Hoorn has had the highly successful exhibition '90 Years of Lego' for almost a year now. Two very special and unique objects were recently added to that exhibition. The legendary radio ships of Radio Veronica (Norderney) and Radio Noordzee (Mebo II) have been recreated as models in Lego and are now on display in the Lego Expo. Responsible for the construction was museum employee Angelo Abear. Angelo built both models based on dozens of photos of both broadcasting ships.

<https://www.museumhoorn.nl/pg-5548-7-7378/pagina/welkom.html>

Martin van der Ven has updated the offshore radio archive on Flickr and wrote: Some unique photographs were sent to Hans Knot on October 27th 2008. The photographer Chris Vermeulen took these shots, when the MV Fredericia was towed into IJmuiden harbour in March 1968. Chris didn't know that the ship would enter the harbour towed by the towing vessel MV Titan from the Wijsmuller Company. He suddenly saw a ship with a big mast and luckily enough he had a photo camera with him. If you look carefully you will see that when the ship is in inner waters that there is another vessel, the Nestor, towing the Fredericia. These must be the very last photos of the MV Fredericia in salty waters! With thanks to Chris Vermeulen.

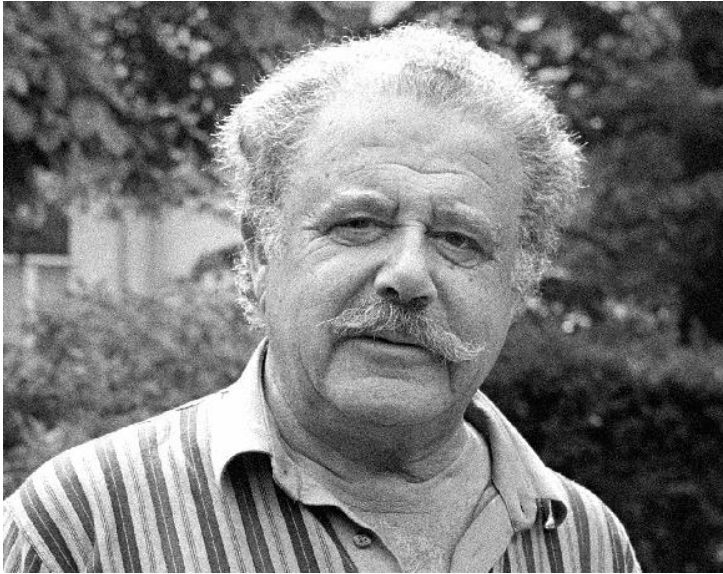
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720312221993?fbclid=IwAROK4pu9CNZ8s2\\_stTxqxcRSRhJ2elfHtd\\_CmUizsgrH3hAuMbfCWmVfT8](https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720312221993?fbclid=IwAROK4pu9CNZ8s2_stTxqxcRSRhJ2elfHtd_CmUizsgrH3hAuMbfCWmVfT8)

Time for an article I wrote in Dutch years ago but interesting to do a translation:

The early commercial makers

Fifteen years ago, I was sent a demo that came from a production company that made commercials for Radio Veronica, among others, as early as the early 1960s. At the time of listening, I realised that it must have been a very early form of demonstration presentation on a tape in the Netherlands. The recording, from 1963, began with trumpet blaring followed by a fierce voice saying: 'De la Mar presents radio commercials'. Then another voice with: 'Good day, on this tape recording I represent De la Mar's radio, television and film department. A department you are all interested in more than ever just now.'





Elli Asser. Archive RadioVisie

The voice was Eli Asser's and he also said that his assistant was Wim Schipper. Why 'more than ever' interested in radio advertising? Well Radio Veronica had found its way to listeners and this company, founded in 1880, initially focused on making advertisements for daily newspapers, followed by commercials for advertisers in cinemas, among other things. But when from the North Sea came radio with advertising, a new way had been found to make a living. The department was therefore described as the "newest shoot on the De la Mar tribe".

'Het Algemeen Dagblad' of 3 August 1963 reported on the new branch of De la Mar, a thriving company that had started producing advertising jingles and sponsored programmes. Not only were they working for Radio Luxembourg's Dutch-language service, but also for Radio Veronica. 'However much the participants in this industry (the advertising firms, producers and artists) live with the concept of sound advertising, the outside world knows little or nothing about it. One realises the existence of such advertising only at the moment, when the dozens of transistors on the North Sea beach release slogans on the bright blue sky.'



The newspaper's journalist, who used the initials 'WH', opined that still several dozen companies, which made this form of advertising, at least as far as Radio Veronica was concerned, were in a mysterious haze of illegality. This despite the fact that the radio station had been on air for almost three years. He was referring to the fact that numerous artists did not wish to sign a contract if a certain company had approached them by De la Mar employees to participate in one of Radio Veronica's programmes. This was because, if accepted, they would come into conflict with the recognised broadcasters.



To get a clear impression of the company's radio activities, the journalist therefore had a conversation with Eli Asser: "It is clear that advertising on television, in whatever form, will eventually make its appearance. While everyone in the business world - and therefore also in the world of advertising - is waiting for that, we have, by way

of bridging, started with radio. Not that radio advertising will eventually disappear, I certainly don't believe that. But as important as it is today, it won't be once television advertising is possible." It can be assumed that he was referring to the difference in price level between the then future television advertising and that of radio commercials. De la Mar, and thus Radio Veronica, which one represented to the business world at the time, charged 12 guilders per advertising second. For a second of advertising in a weekend programme, 15 guilders was charged. In 1963, the price for a 15-minute sponsored programme was 500 guilders, while that on weekends cost 625 guilders. Of course, customer amounts were increased by production costs, such as payment to participating artists and studio costs.

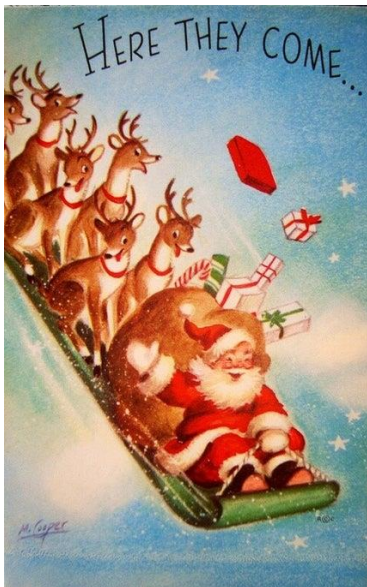
Well-known Dutchmen of the time started earning a penny on the side, such as singer Tom Kelly, who could be heard with a sponsored programme by Wajang Plant Margarine. In this, he played records from his own collection. It was mostly South American music and he also always sang a song himself. The programme lasted 15 minutes per episode and was produced by De la Mar for Radio Veronica.

Another was 'Lion Pops'. It was another sponsored programme broadcast on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and financed by Lion's Seal. It mainly featured the latest top hits, presented by Tineke. Every week it also released a record with two top hits in 'an unoriginal version', which could be obtained for 40 Lions stamps and 1 guilder. Lion stamps, in turn, you got in numerous shops when buying, for instance, your groceries or the meat in the butcher's shop.

The programme featured a 'voice of a lion', voiced by Rijk de Gooijer, who incidentally also recorded his own programme at De la Mar. This was a programme of sunny holiday tips, funded by Bayer, which was trying to market its product Delial to 'women'. Also worth mentioning is a programme, sponsored by Heinz Soups, which was presented on Sunday mornings by Cor Lemaire and Eli Asser. Finally, I would like to

mention the duo Conny Stuart and Ko van Dijk, who presented a programme under the names 'Nancy and Mamsie'. Again, it was a programme paid for by Bayer, and that was to promote its product 'Aspirin'.

The commercials, which were made at De la Mar, had a minimum length of 10 seconds, the short duration of which was claimed to be effective when repeated. It was substantiated in the said demo by repeatedly presenting a spot for the new breakfast product of the time: 'Brinta'. At Radio Veronica in 1963, some spots were repeated eight to 10 times a 24-hour period. Asser did have a clear opinion on the role of commercials in a radio programme: "I think it's a matter of simple code, that in a radio programme for a commercial radio station, the advertising message has a separate place. Of course, you can adjust the mood of a programme to suit the cause you are advertising. You don't bring sunscreen in a rain programme and oil fires not in a programme about a summer day. But otherwise, when producing such sponsored programmes, you do have to make sure, that you put a real programme in front of the people. A programme they can enjoy undisturbed, and in which the advertising message has a clearly separate place."



Eli Asser also elaborated at the time on the issue that certain artists did not want to cooperate, in order to avoid problems with other employers in broadcasting country: "That some, who are employed by the broadcasters, do not want or are not allowed to cooperate on these programmes is logical to me. In no company would one allow employees to 'schnabble' for a rival firm. "

However, the problem did not only occur with the broadcasting employees, who were permanently employed by the broadcast societies. A number of so-called loose employees were also reluctant to cooperate with De la Mar's productions. Asser: "They sometimes don't dare very well - although the number of those, who do participate, is increasing. We obviously need these people, in terms of presentation as well as music and drama."

By the latter, Asser was referring to the performance of a number of one-act plays, which he had been commissioned to write by an advertiser: "Eight short and witty sketches, played by Ko van Dijk and Conny Stuart. They fit into the framework of ideas about commercial radio. It should be dead-on radio at a good standard, radio that people don't just make a background instrument of, but actively listen to. Hence the one-acts. I believe that advertising gains value only when it is made in the context of good programmes - and good programmes are then, of course, not just serious programmes."

At the time, De la Mar was trying to make high-level programmes for the two active commercial radio stations, Veronica and Luxembourg, and to do so in close cooperation with the business community, which was increasingly recognising the importance of the commercial radio medium. @ Hans Knot

During the seventies, Kurt Sellenthin (at that time his last name was Kristkowitz) travelled to The Netherlands, but also to the UK to visit radiostudio's, radioships and other radiostation related sites.

Kurt always brought his cassette- and even taperecorder to record airchecks, brought his fotocamera to take still pictures and brought his Super 8 filmcamera to film his own (offshore) radio movies.

Over the past period, these S8 films have been digitised and further processed to make them available on Kurt's Radio Films channel on Youtube.

Kurt filmed without audio, so the audio has been added by Werner Tschoepe and Ben Meijering. In the coming period Werner and Ben will release these films one-by-one and today the first film is going live.

Here is Kurt's trip to the Radioships on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974:

<https://youtu.be/ZM7GPTRCPPE>

In July 1973, Kurt was one of the offshore radio fans, who visited the Radio Northsea International studio in De Hofstede 'Oud Bussem', Naarden. The scene, that starts at 2:14, includes Brian McKenzie, who can also be seen at the end of the film. From 2:45 onwards, Peter van Dijk and Erik Post are recording a radioprogram.

This film is a straight copy of what was filmed and edited by Kurt back in 1973. No footage has been removed from that original edit. Please note that this film has been stabilised as much as possible, but the picture sometimes still might be somewhat shaky.

Although not completely sure, the actual date of this visit was probably on July 30th, 1973.

<https://youtu.be/853Ks0DOR0s>

When pushing the know 'abonneren' on the you tube it's possible to get regular updates by e-mail.

Who would have ever thought this?





Photo: Herbert Visser

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: In the 1960s, it was often said that you were either a fan of The Beatles or a fan of the Rolling Stones. The older youngsters of the time were also sometimes pigeonholed when it came to the radio stations popular with young people in the first half of the 1970s. Fan of Radio Veronica or fan of Radio Noordzee.

Both stations had beautiful accommodations at the time, in Hilversum and Naarden respectively. Of course, the Hofstede Oud-Bussem in Naarden was historically the oldest but also the most beautiful. The premises at Flevolaan 41 in Naarden, located in a rustic wooded area, have already hosted a number of radio projects, such as the commercial Radio Noordzee Nationaal, which had an FM licence between 1992 and 2005.

For many years now, 100%NL's programmes have also come from the Hofstede Oud-Bussem. As the photos show, the last few weeks saw hard work in the space next to 100%NL's. The intention is that this space will be used by the current organisation using the name Radio

Veronica. Who would ever have thought that in that beautiful place the name 'Veronica' would one day be heard?



Photos: Herbert Visser

Martin H. Samuel wrote: 'Hello Hans, in 1970, I lived at No. 53 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, London, from where a land-based, mobile, London pirate radio station would occasionally broadcast. Mostly for short periods of time, to avoid detection by the BBC, before moving to a new location. Co-incidentally, the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum is at No. 23 Rosendale Road.'

<https://www.bvwtm.org.uk/index.htm> All the best, Martin H. Samuel'.

Thanks Martin, yes I've made many footsteps at the Rosendale Road as I visited the museum a few times in the period Gerry Wells was still alive.



At the Wireless Museum in the late nineties. Photos: Rob Olthof



Sad news from Bob Le-Roi: 'Dear Website followers and listeners, Bob here with an important message. As you may know, for many years I have provided an historical broadcast website, majoring on the Offshore Forts where I began my career, together with local interest features, personal pages and general info old and new. However, it's with a heavy heart and sadness, I have to announce the closure of my website.

Since constructed over two decades ago technology has moved on a pace, leaving my site built in outdated code vulnerable to abuse.

The site was recently compromised from overseas with more serious follow on implications. Having carefully considered rewriting in modern certified code, the task is too arduous and cost prohibitive to contemplate to continue on a regular basis.

Most things have a life expectancy. Luckily my good friend Hans Knot's two-monthly round-up and Jon Myer's Pirate Hall of Fame, will continue to fly the flag.

Happily, the decision to close the site has no impact on my popular weekly 'Bob's 60's Splash' programme, which continues around the world, so please continue your support and regular feedback.

Finally, in closing, I would like to thank you for all your contributions and support of the website over the years, and as I say in each weeks programme: 'It's out from me, and over to you. '



Bob LeRoi from his own archive

Christmas 1990 saw Chris Colby, Neil Gates, Mike Watts and Roy Balls on board the MV Ross Revenge. Transmissions had ceased on 5th November. Here the photos Roy made during that Christmas

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720313163292/>

Paul Bailey made an interesting posting in our SMC FB Group: 'I collect second hand books and sometimes there is a surprise waiting for you inside the book. This particular book came from the withdrawn stock of the Drake Public Library, Centerville, Iowa. A slip of paper fell out. It was a cutting from Time, June 30, 2014.

"Casey Kasem, King Of The Countdown"

By Rick Dees

At 17, I fell in love so deep it lasted a lifetime. The love of my life? Radio. It was then, on my way to my first on air audition, that I

turned on the car radio and heard a fascinating voice. He sounded like a cartoon character. He was counting down the hits from no. 40 to no. 1. When he said "This is Casey Kasem" I was hooked.



I knew at that moment that if I could learn to count backward. I might have my own show some day. Thanks to Casey's inspiration, there hasn't been a day that I did not love being in front of a microphone (in my case, the Neumann U47). Even though we competed for the same audience at times, I enjoyed a unique friendship with Casey, who died on June 15 2014 at the age of 82 .

We even shared the same recording studio in Hollywood. Like our friend Dick Clark, Casey was an original. We dedicated this week's Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 Countdown to Casey Kasem and reminded all artists who strive to be number 1 to remember Casey's closing words: "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."

Janet Alldis is rightly proud of her father, Barry Alldis, who was a DJ on Radio Luxembourg 208. Unfortunately he died too young, very suddenly at 51 and it was only then that Janet saw the influence he had had on his listeners. The family were inundated with boxes of tributes.

From then on, Janet has worked hard to keep the memory of her father alive; firstly publishing a book full of interviews, and now with



a song, 'Under The Covers', which she wrote and is co-produced by Freddy Cannon. You can vote for the song on the Heritage Charts in the UK - please do so! The song is also available on Spotify.

"Dad's life was all about music and so I too had the urge to express my feelings and childhood memories into a song. It is my story," says Janet.

Benny Brown has worked on radio in Luxembourg for so many years, one might think of him as 'the last man standing' in radio here. Born in San Francisco, Benny obtained his first job in radio as a teenager in Hawaii, by mowing the grass at the local radio station in return for "free" records!

He's been enamored with radio all his life, and as a teen listened to lots of faraway radio stations late at night. Benny came to Europe after military service in Vietnam. He was on the air with AFN in Frankfurt, and then lured to Radio Luxembourg in 1979 by their Programme Director in London (Tony Prince.)



At the time, Radio Luxembourg 208 was the world's most powerful commercial radio station, and Benny was working with their medium and short wave broadcasts, as well as with Luxembourg's 'Community Radio' every afternoon.

Benny Brown was twice selected by Billboard Magazine as the 'International Radio Personality of the Year.' Later, while based in London, Benny worked with European syndicated radio programming. In the German language, Benny hosted the weekly 'American Top 40', which was the world's most-listened-to radio program.

Benny was on the radio at RTL's Radio Letzebuerg from 8 to 11pm for eight years from 2008 thru 2015. And since 2015, he's regularly heard on Luxembourg's Radio 100,7.

Listen and watch this special program:

<https://play.rtl.lu/shows/en/in-conversation-with-lisa-burke/episodes/n/2031703?fbclid=IwAR3l-XQwxfAn8ICZy2jFkpJ8o5IWHo06Ca7R3Q3J-cxUKGWwa86Rz59PCwA>

As Martin van der Ven reported at the beginning of the report that the various sites we run have been merged, one of the next steps is to refurbish the photos that had been on the sites for many years in lower resolution, using artificial intelligence, and replace them with the higher resolution ones. The first batch has now been posted:

© Wout van der Meer. Wout worked as Radio Caroline's Peter de Vries on the MV Mi Amigo in 1970/80.

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720313236610?fbclid=IwAR2NI-C5jmycI8gjjMC61b-Ir46\\_448GixatIW9FOFfkwrmpptLfeeIJqs](https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720313236610?fbclid=IwAR2NI-C5jmycI8gjjMC61b-Ir46_448GixatIW9FOFfkwrmpptLfeeIJqs)

And that brings us to the end of the annual Christmas report. Jana and myself wish all readers a wonderful Christmas and much prosperity in the new year, which once again I attempt to delve into radio's rich history. And of course our annual Christmas card is here too:

Merry  
Christmas

★ AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Warme Kerstgroet,  
Jana & Hans

