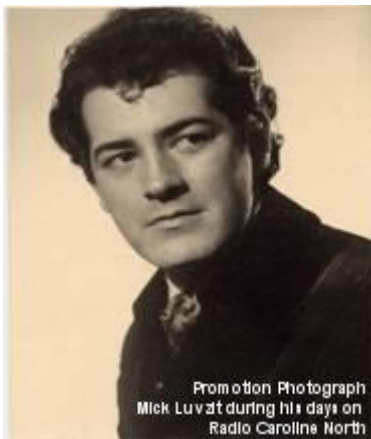


Hans Knot's International Radio Report - August 2003 (1)



Welcome to this early August edition of my report and thanks for the many e-mails which came in. Of course not all will be answered, just a selection. The first one, which came in, was from the new owner of the MV Communicator, David Miller - who probably doesn't understand that this international report is an open forum where all radio lovers can communicate with each other. He reflected on my report from last time when I mentioned the Communicator and brought a small report, which was sent in by two people from Amsterdam. They found the ship without a guard as well as one of the doors open. David wrote: 'I am concerned with the latest report of yours with info about the Communicator. As I said to you in a previous email the guard that was on board went home for a few days due to him being there for a couple of weeks without leave. I disapprove that the report has highlighted to the World that the ship is unmanned particularly as there is already a vandalism problem. The people who you report boarded the ship quite illegally and without permission from either Janie or me. I will be reported to the Police and legal action will be taken against them. As I am sure you understand the bad condition of the ship internally they report is due to malicious attacks which have been beyond our control. The inaccurate information regarding the fees at IJmuiden is simply incorrect. We have a fabulous relationship with the Harbourmaster who is very supportive to the ship and us. An agreement was made between us regarding how long she can stay there and we intend to adhere to this. The fees are certainly not expensive and the facilities we have are excellent for the work we need to complete before moving her.' Well David once again, the two were on their own ship watching to the Communicator. Saw that no one was on the ship and that the door was open. They reported it to me and within an hour I sent you an e-mail. Secondly the two are radio supporters and not youngsters who take vandalism as a hobby. So there is no reason

to report them to the Police. Above that go to a certain harbour and look for yourself how many ships are unmanned. And thirdly the two suggested that harbour fees are high. As they've their own ship they knew were they were talking about. Next to that they couldn't know that you've organised a nice price with the authorities. Nevertheless once again I want to add that this report has been published for a couple of years and it stays as an open forum where every radio enthusiast can bring in what he or she likes.



It was Mick Luvzit, whom offshore radio listeners from the sixties know from Caroline South as well from Caroline North, who wrote in to say he used a couple of nicknames during the time on international waters. 'Your Prez...the Wild One' (Prez short for President) 'Your Boss Jock', 'Your Soul Brother' and 'Your mad dad with the groovy turntables dripping wax all over your radio dial'. So if you've a personal nick name and you've worked in Offshore Radio, please let me know and I'll promise to publish the complete list at the end of this year.

Talking about Mick Luvzit, there's now a personal site about him and his personal memories: www.earthradio.co.uk/mick_luvzit.htm

Last time Ray Anderson mentioned at the end of the report that there would be a test transmission on July 17th. Many people tuned in but nothing happened. Due to Jan Parent, former Radio Monique deejay and nowadays working for the regional radio station Radio Zeeland, I learned around 12 o'clock in the morning that nothing would happen. He phoned with Nozema, the company responsible for the transmitter on this frequency. All he heard was that nothing was planned on that day for the frequency. But a day later it really happened. Here's one of the reports: 'today Friday July 18th a test transmission was heard on 1008 kHz, no station identification was heard when I listened about 1.45pm, the signal went off and came

back on at times, music heard ain't no mountain high enough by Tammi Terrell, the Doors, Pink Floyd with 'She Emily Play, Earth and Fire with Maybe tomorrow' and others. The address mentioned was in Frinton on sea announcing this is a test transmission from Radlon'. And there you are the tests which Ray had promised a day to late. So Ray maybe in the future give us a mail when you know for sure that a test will not be happening. Thanks!

The same day as the test transmission was on the air Roger Day announced that there will be some open days on the Ross Revenge early August. I know this report comes maybe too late. Nevertheless here's the news: ' The former Radio Caroline ship Ross



Revenge has moved to Rochester, not a stone's throw from the historic Castle and Cathedral, and is open for visitors in her new location on August 2nd and 3rd. The point of embarkation is Strood Pier, in the centre of Rochester just by the road / rail bridges over the river. Trips start from 11am. The boarding charge, including the short boat trip, is £5.00, and merchandise will be available on the ship. If you would like to visit the Ross Revenge, please call the trip organiser, Vaughan on 07890 279049. Please only call us during evenings or at the weekend. We need advance bookings so we know how many people we must accommodate.

Then a happy mail from Guido in Belgium: 'I was very surprised to find your report again in my mailbox. Since the early seventies I've tuned in to the offshore radio stations up till the end of Radio Caroline in 1990. Still this whole area is a part of my life and still collecting and watching the newspaper cuts magazines, tapes, movies and other material on a regular base. Recently Internet came also in my house. Still there are, as always rumours. I hope that one day a rumour will become reality and we will have another offshore radio station again. Are these emotions from our youth, which are still

there? I don't know but I didn't find the atmosphere on radio stations nowadays, which we had in those days at Radio Veronica, Radio Mi Amigo, RNI and the other ones. I do hope that one day the Ross Revenge, the Communicator or any other radio ship will find the way to international waters and bringing non complex radio programs for millions of listeners, without the use of computers. Also I want to thank you for the dedication you've for thousands of offshore fans. This with all the work you do with your sites on Internet and your reports. Already I'm looking forward to your next report.'

Thanks Guido for your nice words and hopefully your dream will come true one day!

On Radio 10 FM (also 1395 AM) each Sunday a personal top 10 of a well-known Dutchman can be heard. On the 20th of July, for instant, we could tune in to the personal top 10 of the Governor of the Province of Friesland, Ed Nijpels. A week earlier it was Jan de Hoop who played his top ten. Nice that Peace from Peter - we all know from the seventies - was included. Jan de Hoop, who worked in the seventies on Radio Mi Amigo as Frank van der Mast, is a newsreader nowadays on RTL Television.

On RTL4 there is a nice program in which Reinout Oerlemans looks back a old news and other interesting things which happened in the eighties of last century. On July 15th a nice special was made about the land-based pirates in Holland and it was focused on Radio Decibel in Amsterdam. Many of the people who have worked there made their career in later days in Hilversum, the centre of the radio industry in Holland. People like Rob van Someren, Roderick Veeloo and Jeroen van Inkel made their way starting with Radio Decibel. One guy in this special was René de Leeuw. A pity he didn't make it into the industry. We do remember him when one of the Delmare ships lost his anchor and Rene, who was only 17 years old, did the SOS calls: 'mayday maday, this is Radio Delmare. Please help us if no one helps us we will run ashore on the rocks.' Well rocks on the coast of Holland?

Last time Derek May brought in a few points and one of them was the idea to bring out a book of all the old Monitor Magazines. A response came in from Donald Scott in Benfleet, who wrote: 'No prospect of that at the moment, but it is our plan to eventually have them all published on our website (www.monitormag.org.uk). This is a massive project because prior to Monitor 27 we didn't have a computer so everything has got to be retyped. We may be able to use OCR software for editions 20 - 26, but we've tried it without success on the old foolscape editions, which were duplicated from stencils - the quality of the printing is just too rough for the software to be able to cope with it. It will be good when this project is completed, as we will be able to include photos which Buster was unable to reproduce in a duplicated magazine, and some photos in colour which we were only able to print in black-and-white. Although we didn't have the Internet when Buster was alive, he could envisage such a system and it was his dream to publish electronically and not have all the problems with delays and mistakes which always were inevitable with printers. Eventually we will bring his dream to life, and if Offshore Radio ever returns to the UK 'Monitor' will be there to report on events as they happen! Greetings from Don & Jean.

It was good to hear from the both of you. We have only good memories to the several visits I brought, together with Rob, to the both of you in Benfleet.

But there was more response to last month e-mail from Derek May. He wrote also about his experiences with reception of radio and television signals during the sixties: 'I lived in Banbury in the South of the UK, but had a rig of 4 television aerials wired in series to get height and length of conductor.' And just to that sentence brought the next e-mail to us: 'that is interesting. In the 1960s I went to school near Banbury and there was a Derek May there, so I wonder if it's the same person! Would you care to let me have his e-mail address or alternatively e-mail him and ask if he went to school in Brackley? It came in from Andrew Emmerson in Northampton.

And indeed the two knew each other from the sixties. Here's just a short piece of the answer which came in from Derek: 'Hi, yes it is the Derek May who used to come in on the bus from Middletom...I was unaware that you were an anorak.. I used to listen to the Pirates avidly at Magdalen, and have done ever since now Radio Caroline via Sky. Radio Veronica via Astra 19 degrees East. I used to listen along with Dave Upstone (he is still a Caroline supporter in Brackley), Taff Franklin, who used to like Radio England, Robert Southam to name the main guys. Also Roger (Trigger) Foreman got in touch about 6 months ago, he lives in SW London and also listens to 'good' radio on Astra and Caroline on Sky. So if I recall you was a year ahead - yes. I recall the Second Year Sixth guys playing cards and listening to Radio London on the radio in the Classroom next door to the sweet shop - it had a fluorescent light which kept a constant 'buzz' on the Radio. Even Caroline was too weak to overcome the interference.' Indeed two people finding each other back after almost 40 years. And Derek's reply to me was: 'Maybe you could start Anoraks Re-United!'

And finally someone else, a friend of Derek, wrote in: 'I sometimes get the feeling that I must be the only person in the Big Wide Wonderful World of Daffy Don Allen who hasn't actually met you Hans - only know of you. I spent some time in the 80s helping Buster & Jean produce Monitor, and have been an offshore radio fan since Day 1 (as far as England is concerned) in 1964. In more recent times have done housework on the Ross, although that became more difficult after she was moved to south of the Thames. I have known your contact Derek May for about 25 years and he passed on details (and forwarded the latest edition) of your monthly e-mail report to me. I'd love to be added to the list! Had I known of this before, perhaps I would have known the Ross has been moved to Rochester. I didn't find that out until I returned from a recent rare visit to Kent - having spent an afternoon looking for her at Queenborough. The poor old Ross's web site is rarely updated these days. Interesting that you have an interest in railways too, as I do. I did a marathon

day trip from Ipswich right across to Liverpool a couple of weeks ago - and happened upon 61 Lord Street whilst I was there. Sadly not much of the building now is to associate it with the original Radio Caroline North and the mv Fredericia. Don't you feel sorry for the kids today? - They have nothing like the fun we had in the 60s! It's nice to be able to communicate with you - best wishes for a great summer.' Graham Newman.

Thanks Graham, I must admit that I know a lot of people in the radio world but not all I've seen through the past 40 years since I began collecting material as a young boy, like others collected for instant stamps. Good to have you with us and now you're on the mailing list. Nice to see that you've visited Lord Street in Liverpool. So I did visit last year 'De Singel' in Amsterdam where Caroline had a temporary office in 1967/1968.

This brings some other memory to me. A couple of weeks ago I did had a visit from a guy who's totally in love with the offshore stations Veronica and RNI. He did visit me a couple of times through the years and reminded me at our first meeting. It was 1971 and he rang the doorbell like he did with every house in the street. He asked me if I wanted to sign a petition in the fight to keep Veronica on the air. I told him that I was into Free Radio and invited him into the house. Well some weeks ago he visited together with his girlfriend us again. And during that evening he remembered that in my then sleeping room the walls were totally covered with promotion material. As a reader you must have memories too on your sleeping or hobby room. Please do sent in your memories.

Then came a response from Cambodia, where Frits Koning is working as a free lance journalist. We know him from Radio Monique, Unique and other radio stations: 'Hi Hans, What a nice report again. Only one mistake you made writing that Maarten de Jong is living in Singapore. He lives in Jakarta (Indonesia) and I will try to visit him one day. Of course it's 'around the corner'. Earlier I did ask Frits to tell us a little more about the radio world in Cambodia and he told me: 'there's

not too much to tell, only one English language station can be heard. It's Love FM (www.lovefm.ws) where the whole day ballads and other sweet music is played. It's a radio station for a more international public so no 'Khmer propaganda'. They love the sweet music over here. Now and then I think by myself that a speedier program can be brought and I would love to do a fast breakfast program, to show them how radio can be made too. Making fast radio they've never heard of. Presentation is very slow and there's often a lot of space between talking and music. Women present most of the programs. Who knows if I will ever be on the air, anyway I will have a look at Love FM one day. '

Thanks Frits for this nice report. Hope you've more news soon and when you go to visit the station make a nice photo for us. Also thanks for the correction on the name of the country where Maarten de Jong, or Paul Lek (his own name) is living. It was Herbie the Fish who just wrote in 10 minutes before you to make the correction too. So you see all colleagues are reading this newsletter too!

Another message came in from Flashback Sales this time: 'Many thanks for your radio report, which we received the other day, unfortunately, you got our web address wrong,

Flashback Sales is the site we sell audio cables for vintage hi-fi from, the offshore radio stuff is at <http://www.pirateradiosales.co.uk> maybe you could fix it in the next radio news?

Well Dave and Lynn, there you go. But I must say that many readers did find your offshore site by pushing the button for it on your main site.

Then some questions were coming in from Justin who want some answers on the law aspects regarding offshore radio: 'Hi Hans, I recently viewed a web site concerning the Offshore 98 project and read a piece on the then forthcoming shake up in the Dutch Radio

Laws. I wondered what was the situation was with this review of the law? As far as I am aware, if a ship is registered in Panama, carries a crew which are non EU citizens (such as American, Polish etc) and anchored in International waters (be it the North Sea or North Atlantic), this would be entirely lawful as long as no British or Dutch citizens are involved with the broadcast itself. Could the Dutch or British board a ship that isn't subject to Any laws regarding an offshore broadcast? Surely this is piracy itself? As for tendering, there could be loopholes exploited, such as the 'Ross Revenge Supporters Group', a group who only help the well being and future of a ship they are fanatical supporters of. I doubt that the law has any of these issues 'tied up'. I think that Offshore radio could return if done on a smaller scale and operated strictly on a weekends only basis etc. Would like to know your thoughts.'

So please to you the reader give your answers to the questions Justin sent in.

By sending them to HKnot@home.nl

Bart van Leeuwen, Ferry Maat, Kas van Iersel, Rob van Someren en Peter Teekamp can be heard from August 31st on the new Radio Veronica. It will be on the 103 FM frequency in the main part of the Netherlands and the format will be oldies - mainly form the eighties and nineties. On that date it's exactly 29 years ago Radio Veronica closed down as an offshore radio station. As mentioned RTL got together with the Veronica organisation to get this station, which will be on for 24 hours a day, on the air. Hopefully it will bring a little joy in the radio again.

Some time ago I mentioned that Dutch Telecom, the authority responsible to get the land based pirates of the air, started the Action 'Etherflits'. In this they didn't wait anymore till complaint came in from people who had interference problems due to illegal transmissions. No, they would go for it and try to get as much stations as possible of the air. Pirate radio is very popular in

Provinces like Drenthe, Overijssel and East Gelderland. Now a spokeswoman from Telecom told us that in those parts of the Netherlands near to the German border it is more difficult to catch the station. The reason is that more owners bring their equipment to the other side of the border to transmit from the German side. Telecom will now work together with their German colleagues to solve the intense problem.

Last year we had already the next question in the report but as there are many more readers nowadays we do try it again. The question came in from Canada: 'I have been trying to get hold of Captain Martin Gips who was the Captain on Caroline North and was the one who married Janet & I on Sept 20, 1966. He was Dutch. Do you know of anyone who knows of his whereabouts or any of his relatives. I would really appreciate it" Thanks Mick Luvzit.

So anyone who knows Martin Gips, who worked for the Wijsmuller Company from Baarn, please be in contact with me so we can maybe make Mick a little bit happier. Another question, which came, is who knows the present whereabouts of Pete 'Dum Dum' Drummond. One of the old colleagues want to get in touch with him. So who has contacts with Pete Drummond, please let us know.

For those who are in London the forthcoming time please tune in to Capital Radio. Between 14 and 17 hrs on weekdays you can hear another 'old chap' from offshore days. It's Dave (David) Andrews who worked on the Ross Revenge in the second part of the eighties. A very nice guy, whom I met for the last time in the late nineties and who is a good deejay.

I've must been in a little hurry last time, finishing the report as another Internet address was not complete. The Loving Awareness site is as follows: www.getintola.nl.

Barry Crompton, one of the people who have worked a lot for Caroline lately wrote in to me: 'I will be, and a few others on our list

too, will in Amsterdam in October. So we will get to meet up, also Tony Christian said to me the other day that he will be over as well. Now the Ross is in Rochester/Strood on the Medway the reason I also say both towns as they are linked by the bridge. All the best and take care.'

Thanks Barry, also for including the nice photograph showing the new position for the Ross Revenge near the bridge which connect Rochester with Strood.

It was Clive Manning from Northampton who has also a question for you all to respond on, that is those who are reading the report in Great Britain: 'I have digital satellite receiver so I am looking forward to hearing the new Veronica from August 31st on. That brings me to another point, I wonder how many radio fans in the UK know that they can hear a lot Dutch stations such as Radio 538, Radio 10FM, Sky Radio, Yorin etc on satellite? Might be worth mentioning in one your reports?. Thanks once again for the excellent news reports, I always enjoy reading them. Clive.

For those who are dissatisfied that the Wonderful Radio London site, run by Chris and Mary Payne are not updated as regular as before I can mention that there is really a medical problem. Here's what Mary wrote about it: 'as you probably remember, I have a long-standing problem with my arm, which has recently become much worse. It looks like I shall really, really have to cut back on my typing to get it completely better. My therapist says it would be preferable if I didn't use the keyboard for 4-6 weeks. That isn't possible, but I will have to do much less typing. So if you receive short replies to messages, or no reply at all, you'll understand why. Some site updates may have to wait'.

Mary also asked me to publish a question, which came in her mailbox. Someone is looking for a song and did send it to Mary. And so she forwarded it for the report:

'Hello - I am hoping you can help me. I heard a song on the radio, when I was in London in the late 60's to early 70's. I only remember some of the lyrics, which goes as follows. "Beautiful flowers running with laughter, pick them to smell them ending their lives". I think the band was on a show on the radio and the song did not make it into the charts. I do not know name of song or who sang it. Thanking you for any help with this. Moh.

So anyone who can help Mo can answer him personally on the following address: mya2065241@aol.com

May I wish you, Mary, a happy recovery and hopefully the Anoraks are patience enough for some new updates in the future and hope we will see each other in Groningen in the Autumn together with Chris, Paul, Martin, Ulrike, Jana and Mark for a nice weekend.

In one of the reports in the past month I reflected on a couple of questions regarding the time it takes to put a radio station like MusicMann on the air. I did ask to take a lot of patience. Svenn Martinsen sent in some remarks on his forthcoming radio station on long wave. It's a reflection on e-mails appearing in one of the many newsgroups and so he did ask to use it for the report too.

'Originally posted by Richard Shops': Quote: Anyone any news on Cruisin' 216..? <http://www.northernstar.no> [QUOTE] Dead in the water, probably. Response from Svenn: 'First, I want to thank Richard for the publicity and the incredible rise in traffic his comments led to on our website. We have now well over 150000 unique hits since December 2001. I think this really shows the demand and market for a "good" radio station, with great music, presenters, news, I don't need to explain. We keep generally a low media profile though and will not tell the public everything that is going on. I will mention however that Richard is wrong. We have not given up. We have a good project and are continuing. I am not saying much though other than we are real pioneers and must work for the solutions of many questions from absolutely nothing. Good things

take time and patience. Such as the siting of the transmitter facility which has been quite a story. We knew from Day 1 in 1994 that the site question would be the big challenge. So we went for the Decca sites, each priced at only 6000 Pounds. However, the actual department in Norway responsible took a rather silly stand and demolished them, the last one late 1999. Norway btw also demolished its own AM 216(LKO Oslo-Kloefta 200 kW) site in 1995, so Norway is not an easy environment to create something in at all. To compare, when the UK INR networks (Virgin, Talk and Classic fm came on, be it AM or FM, the site questions were mostly already solved. Quite large strategic and tactical questions are involved in building a new super-power border blaster on AM. However, there is now a site possibility: <http://www.northernstar.no/press.html> we would however be quite stupid if that track was the only one to be followed. Quote: Wasn't this the one where someone, in another thread, said they had seen the business plan and it was totally unworkable? Svenn: 'No, another station definitely. I think a station planning to broadcast on 684 AM was mentioned in that thread. And I would be very interested to hear who had seen the BP for our AM 216 without authorization. Quote Richard: 'I noticed from the website that they have Paul Rusling as a consultant, so the BS element is going to be somewhat high. Svenn: Paul Rusling has been a good consultant and a good friend for us. He was the first who took an interest abroad, as early as 1996. He is not our only consultant, though, please check and enjoy the website. There is a lot of heritage and exciting material for radio fans, anoraks and more will follow when we have the time to update it. <http://www.northernstar.no> Due to the summer holiday, we are not able to continue the discussion from here, so finally, let me express best wishes to Richard and everybody concerned with "good radio", including the people wanting to put Big L back on 1008, to RTÉ for 252, and for the IOM 279 station. Svenn Martinsen Northern Star IBC AS(Norway)



Another question came in from France. One of the technicians on board the Ross Revenge was John, who had a nick name called 'The Plant'. The question is what was his real name. I know many of the former deejays and technician's from Caroline in that period are readers of the report so let your mind work and do send me his real name. Here's a photograph Leen Vingerling made.

It's Steve Young, 'the curly headed kid on the third row' who send in an alternative index of a new CD. Let's have some fun with his rundown:

The following songs are on a new album called 'Baby Boomers Turn Gray: Re-heated Oldies':

Paul Simon -"Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver"

Carly Simon--"You're So Varicose Vein"

The Bee Gees--"How Can You Mend a Broken Hip"

Roberta Flack--"The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face"

Johnny Nash--"I Can't See Clearly Now"

The Temptations--"Papa Got a Kidney Stone"

Nancy Sinatra--"These Boots Are Made For Bunions"

ABBA--"Denture Queen"

Leo Sayer--"You Make Me Feel Like Napping"

Commodores--"Once, Twice, Three Times My Back's Out"

Procol Harem--"A Whiter Shade of Hair"

The Beatles--"I Get By with a Little Help From Depends"

Steely Dan--"Rikki Don't Lose That Clapper"

Herman's Hermits--"Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Walker"

Creedence Clearwater Revival--"Bad Prune Rising"

Marvin Gaye--"I Heard It Through the Grape Nuts"

The Who--"Talkin' 'Bout My Medication"

The Troggs--"Bald Thing"

Thanks Steve and hope you and Trish are well and hope to see you one day in Europe.

On July 21st in the morning around 10 there was again a test on 1008 kHz, this time 95% modulated and on high power. It brought some nice oldies and a Wonderful Radio London jingle. The reception in Groningen was very good. So congratulations for the people at Nozema who are using a transmitter at their site at Flevoland for these broadcasts. Ray Anderson hopes to be on the air on a regular base with the transmissions in the forthcoming autumn.

On July 22nd a letter came in from Graeme in Scotland who wrote that he cannot totally agree with Derek May's comments on the quality of the British Radio: 'The digital DAB network here in Central Scotland has some excellent programmes. In the evenings I enjoy JAZZ FM from 7-10 PM with the very relaxing 'Dinner Jazz' followed at 10 PM - midnight with Tony Blackburn's Soul show. At midnight - 6 AM, Saga Digital (although on a computerised play-out system) has an excellent music mix all through the night with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald and so on. During the day I particularly enjoy Prime Time Radio especially at 9 AM, 1 PM and 6 PM with Sandie Chelmers. She plays lots of 1940's - 60's hits; and let's not forget Sheila Tracey's Big Band Program at 3 PM - 5 PM on Sunday afternoons. BBC Radio 2 recently carried an excellent 5-hour debate about the state of the music industry. Well, of course, we could have told them in five seconds what is wrong with the music industry. Every song sounds the same, every group looks the same and every group does the same pathetic dance routine. And, at one point in the debate, a guy came on and introduced himself as Robb Eden. As far as I know there is only one Robb Eden'.

Thanks Graeme, a lot of our readers in Great Britain will have a try to hear if they love the same programs as you do nowadays. By the way Robb reported himself already that he would be on the debate in one of the last reports.

Than on the 22nd test transmissions were heard on 1008 kHz from the Flevoland transmitter site of Nozema. It were tests for Radlon Ltd. Within 2 hours there came in 189 e mails reflecting the tests on my personal e mail. I must say that the signal was coming in in most places in good conditions. Even in Manchester and Leeds the signal was good, although some reports from London were less good. The signal was fading away. However also from Germany, Norway and France came good reports. Listeners in the Province of Zeeland and the western parts of Vlaanderen in Belgium had a weaker signal. Hopefully for Ray Anderson some backers will show up when they hear about the good result of the test signals. When the next one will be is not known yet.

The same day an e-mail came in with the next question: 'An unconfirmed report from a reliable source suggests that the MV Marianas is now at anchor near the Galloper Sandbank. Have you heard anything or is it wishful thinking?' The only thing I could mention is that I can't look at the Galloper and if I should have to hear the station first before believing it is on international waters.

Talpa Radio International came the same day with the happy press report that one of the two stations owned by the company, headed by John the Mol, is making progress in the listening figures. Radio Noordzee went from 5.2 up till 5.7%. Their other station, Radio 10FM, although loosing their FM frequency and only temporary on 1395 kHz and the cable networks, still took 6.9% of the total listeners in Holland. They only lost 0,2% to the last figures from last month.

On July 23rd around half past two in the morning the next came in from Radlon:

"RADIO LONDON TEST TRANSMISSION REPORT"

A BIG THANK YOU FROM BIG L...

Radioio London today carried out a test transmission on 1008 kHz from Flevoland in the Netherlands. Using 400 kilowatts of transmitter power.

We received over 300 reports by e-mail and telephone (mail reports will be delayed, of course). Reports were received from as far away as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and France. Plus the Netherlands, of course. Closer to home from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England.

These tests and your reception reports will greatly assist us in improving the signal into the UK. From your reports we can now prepare a contour map and compare this with the aerial pattern diagrams we currently have from the transmitter site to confirm and highlight existing black spots in the signal. Early indications show that our signal was good in the East, North and South but the Midlands and West London need to be improved upon.

Our engineers will now look at various options available to us. These are likely to include a combination of better processing, higher transmitter modulation and power (note that the channel is cleared for 1000 kilowatts) plus a detailed study of the antenna patterns, which could include a directional beam to the UK. We are hoping to have the engineers report by the end of the first week of August. This report, once implemented will then form the basis of our plans to provide Radio London with the best possible signal into the UK, which is our prime target area.

Again, a Big thank you for sending us your reception report and various other comments, which are greatly appreciated.

FOR FURTHER COMMENT OR CLARIFICATION PLEASE RING RAY ANDERSON: 01255 676252 FAX: 01255 850528

E-mail: bigl@radiofab.com

One radio friend from Belgium, Jean Pierre Berckmans, wrote to me that he received the signal from the new offshore radio station. I wrote him back that probably he had dreamed as offshore radio from the Flevo transmitter is not possible. Here is his answer: 'Yes that was a big mistake I did make. Probably I was making nostalgic dreams. I was 17 in 1966. My heart was going stronger yesterday when I heard the signal. Medium wave radio is still the feeling of warm radio. A crackle now and then doesn't matter as it gives a good feeling. It's like the good old records, which used to have noises which comes from using them often. But I waked up and now that it doesn't come from the North Sea but it really sounds as before!

It's nice to know that more people are publishing my report on the internet versus their site. Here's a plug for one of them: 'Hello Hans. A splendid spread on news and views expertly sculpted together from you own knowledge and others emails - I am happy to have it on the Wireless Waffle site on a link off my diary pages. In July I have put on the 3rd issue of my radio clip programme Wireless Waves in two parts, the second with some different offshore memories - to commemorate the Marine etc Broadcasting Act 1967. Keith Knight <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/waffler/>

And as Martin is going on holiday soon and so his site will be not updated for some weeks I thought to send this report within 10 days after the last one. I promise that I won't be back before August 16th. Let your news, gossip and memories come in as always at my PO Box 102 9700 AC Groningen Holland (old photographs are always welcome) or versus my e mail address Hknot@home.nl

And have a nice couple of weeks with warm weather, love and affection and good memories

Hans Knot

P.S. I'm finishing this report with the sad news that Talpa Radio, owner of Radio 10 FM, has decided to dismiss 30 of the people working for the station. Since Radio 10FM lost their bit for a FM

frequency and also the 695 AM frequency, they only transmit on the low power 1395 kHz and the cable networks. Deejays Ferry Maat and Bart van Leeuwen decided on their own to leave the station and will be back at the end of August with the new Veronica station. Radio 10FM is now a very low profiled station with only 10 people working for the organisation. It's a pity for a station with such a long history. They're leaving their building in Amsterdam and will use a studio, hired with the Wereldomroep in Hilversum. Later they will move again to a building, which will bring all the Talpa Radio work together. With the loss of the 695 and FM frequencies lesser advertising came in and so decisions had to be made.