



## Hans Knot International Radio Report Christmas 2024

Welcome to this special edition of the report with many emails, memories, photos, surprises and more and let's begin with an interesting story from Bob in Thankerton, radio friend since we first met in 1978.

### **Shivering Sands Generators by Bob LeRoi**

With much conjecture on Social Media thought it worth sharing following. General: All the Forts were equipped with three Gardner 4LW 1800 30kVa Generators.

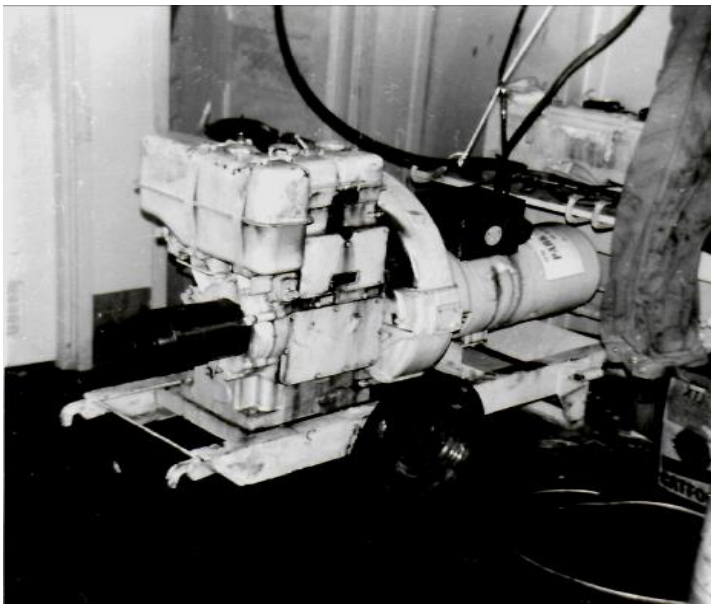


Army Forts Crane Hoist Operative Hatch to right of top doors

Naval Towers; at deck level 1 (A) north leg and Army Forts; Level 1 Searchlight Towers. Naval and all the Army Forts with the exception of the Control Tower had a Crane Hoist which had a massive rheostat above the operatives head to control speed N.B crane hoists could only lift 1 Ton.

Shivering Sands, Radio City: Could not access the WWII generators on the Searchlight Tower as Gun Tower Two had been brought down in 1963 by the 'Ribersborg' Bulk Carrier in 1963. Red Sands, Radio 390: Lawrence Bean brought a 4LW and the low voltage Gardner Generator back into use, the remaining LW used for spares.

Radio Sutch ran a tiny petrol generator of unknown origin which charged the batteries in the ammunition room which in turn powered the equipment and small Halifax transmitter.



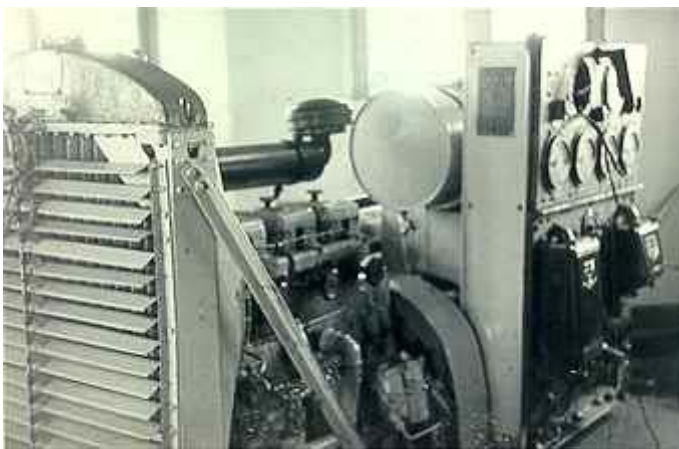
During the transition to Radio City a pair of Lister SR2 11.5kVa trolley mount Generators were brought into use. These were placed in the Men's washroom on the lower deck level on the then only occupied Southern Gun Tower 1.



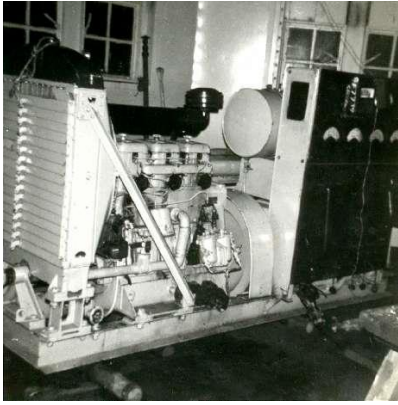
Dick (Dixon) made an improved exhaust from rubber pipe which caught fire!

Often during tendering demands on power from the crane hoist records slowed down and the transmitter was liable to blip. Consequently tapes were used when tenders arrived and a bigger generator planned. During the spring of 1965 Paul (Elvey) cut away walls and worked to make space and a bed for a new generator. In the ensuing weeks before delivery, Tony (Pine) tied ropes around the legs of adjacent Towers, tensioned and pulled to test the electric crane until the ropes snapped; Horrified, I had visions of a Tower being dragged over so I kept out of the way!

A boat duly came down from Gravesend with the new generator aboard, I was crane operator that day and despite many attempts the cane couldn't lift the generator.



Produced from 1929 until 1971 Lister JP3 Generator



Specification: 230v, 15kVa (JP = Joint Product) (3 = 3 Cylinder)  
Weight 2.4 tons

In 1966 a Detroit Flat Head Generator was bought with the Lister as standby. **Bob LeRoi October 2024.**

Thanks a lot Bob for writing this inspiring article. Andy Cadier is also writing an e mail from Kent: 'Hi Hans, as always thanks for the latest Radio Report, lots of things I never knew or had forgotten. Sad to hear about Bill Rollins I chatted with him aboard the PS Waverley some years ago. Very best wishes, Andy Cadier.'

31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 marked exactly 50 years since the offshore radio stations Radio Veronica, Radio Noordzee (RNI) and Radio Atlantis went off the air. To mark the occasion, 192Radio broadcasted live from the former Veronica transmitting ship and switched with NPO Radio 5.

Alex and Ria van den Hoek made video recordings and that video is now online. Including Tineke, Will Luikinga, Leo van der Goot, Rob Stenders, Erik de Zwart, Ad Bouman, Hans Becker, Marc van Amstel, Lion Keezer, Elly van Amstel, Ben Cramer, Rudy Bennett, Evert Stolman and Martien Engel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdzYiQ8fvHs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN-TqttSqeM>

On October 27th, 2024, Johnnie Walker, at the age of 79, was forced to end his unparalleled radio career due to health reasons. After originally starting as a DJ on the offshore stations Swinging

Radio England and Radio Caroline, he became famous on the night of August 14th, 1967, to millions of listeners with his announcement that Radio Caroline would not yield to Britain's anti-offshore broadcasting law (MOA) and would continue broadcasting ("A Man's Fight for Freedom"). With his uncompromising and unambiguous stance, he became a central figure in youth protest culture and resistance to the established old broadcasting system in the United Kingdom.

Fifty-seven years later - by now well integrated into the establishment and employed by the BBC for decades - he bid a wistful farewell. Following his final BBC broadcast, he added a symbolic 20-minute farewell on Radio Caroline.

A compilation of 125 photos from past decades vividly shows that Johnnie Walker never forgot his roots in offshore broadcasting. Over the years, he attended numerous radio events and reunions, participated in documentaries, special programs, and television features focused on the offshore stations. Thus, the circle closed for him.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321587620/>





And guess what? A one liner came in from the Emperor Rosko: 'On target as always, your two-monthly radio delight, well done boss! EMP.'



### Mark Dezanni from his own collection

Another e mail came from Mark Dezanni: 'Hi Hans, I just wanted to thank you for your continuing chronicling of all things offshore radio past and present. I always enjoying reading through your extensive reports and find plenty of interest and always learn something new. Keep up the great work! Love to you and Jana'.

Thanks Mark for your warm words. I hope I get the time to write more in the years to come. For those who didn't follow Mark Dezanni's career here's what in on the podcast site: 'Mark Dezzani started his radio life as a landbased pirate in Sussex and then London where he was a founder member of the community radio lobby group 'Free The Airwaves'.

In 1982 he moved to Seborga in Italy to work for Radio Nova International. In the late 80's Mark was a founding member of Sunshine Radio Antibes before joining Riviera Radio in Monaco as a freelance. Mark formed the TV and video production company Europa Productions in 1998 producing documentaries, TV news reports and corporate video.

In 2000 he joined Radio Caroline and in 2009 he launched RivieraLife.tv, a news websites with video reports for the Anglophone community on the French Riviera. "I am thrilled to be back on Radio Caroline, a real oasis for quality music radio in the desert of fast rotating small playlists and sloganeering liner cards.'

<https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/markdezzani>

Don Stevens gets nostalgic again:

At the shop this morning I was asked by a carer friend of mine how was it you got grabbed by the police for Caroline?, I'm answering this in the clear to avoid it getting lost in my usual post. To answer Michael it was a comedy of errors. The first was that the tender that came out to take Simon and myself off the Caroline ship had come from Harwich and not France, meaning we had a problem straight away, and the skipper of the tender asked us to make sure we went to Customs upon our arrival.

When we tied up, I took my suitcase and headed for the rail station, Simon said we should go to the Customs, I thought he was mad, and I carried on, got to the station, bought my ticket, and just as the train pulled in a police car siren blazing and lights flashing pulled up outside and two policemen arrested me, well, I was the only person on the station.

I'll not go into detail about the SNAFU of Simon's suitcase, Lord knows why he thought to go to Custom's, but, we were let go and told the Home Office would be in touch. Some weeks later, two men from the Government turned up at my home and asked me lots of questions, and I answered them if they concerned myself or my movements, as for Caroline, how it was set up and organised I pointed out that as a journalist I was not aware of that situation, but, they told me that they knew I was a broadcaster, interesting, someone was leaking.



Don Stevens Düsseldorf 2013

Photo: Hans Knot

By this time I decided to move home and was offered a post with the Estate of the Duke of Westminster, that might be a safe bet as I was given an apartment on his Estate and that might provide an increased level of security as opposed to being a tenant, and so I moved home, just off Sloane Square and spent my days gardening in Central London and working at Sloopys, Piccadilly Circus at night, the old Duke was a bit of a fan of pirate radio despite his advanced years, his Butler became a friend and he told me the Duke loved 'characters' and when Lady Leonora married Lord Patrick Lichfield I provided the music at the Reception, so, I should have been safe. However, one night, I was grabbed outside Sloopys at about 3am in Piccadilly Circus and taken into custody, again, I won't go into detail, but, I was held until I spilt the beans on Caroline, and it was clear that someone or some people had been talking, I said nothing, and so my confinement persisted.

After a few days I was quickly released, it turned out that my good friend Tony Allan, being a resident of that Parish, told Anne that he had a good idea where I was being held, and the two of them turned

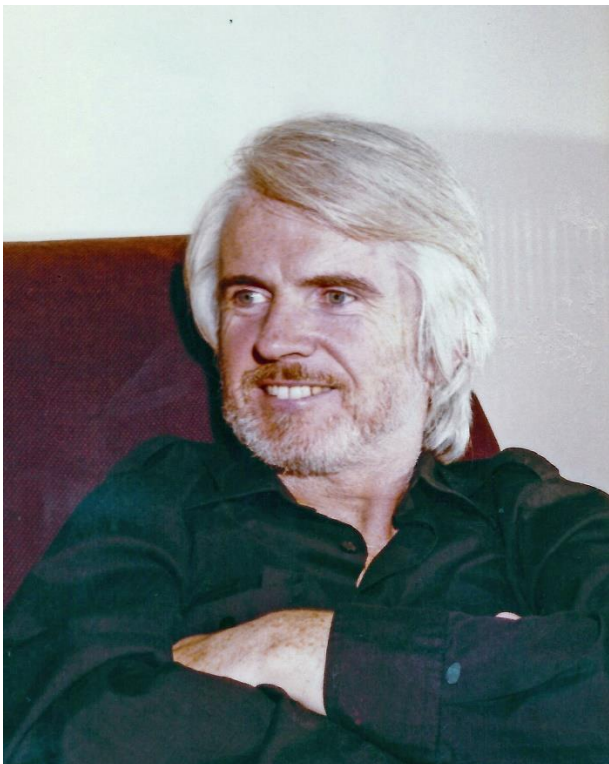


up and created mayhem, that the TV News would be informed and much else unless I was charged or let go.

Now, I was not charged as the Police told me I was not in their custody, I was being held by others, who also did not charge me, and the Police, seeing Tony and Anne plus my baby daughter in the mix, decided that 'sod it, this is not our problem' and let me go.

I was so relieved that Doris and Anne found me, and it turned out that the Walker's had also got involved (George and Billy Walker, owners of Brent Walker and owners of Sloopy's) so, the heat was on and I was let go.

Later, a raid on my apartment off Sloane Square took place, cassettes, papers and much more removed and threats made by those involved, the Summer and Autumn of 1974 was certainly full of life for me, and my wife Anne wanted out and a return to Vancouver. The Butler informed the Duke of what happened and I was told that nothing will happen again.



Ronan O'Rahilly Photo Theo Dencker

Meanwhile, Ronan was made aware of what was happening, Tony kept him appraised, and the three of us began the hunt for the informer or informers, and we kept drawing blanks, everybody who was interviewed or charged looked innocent, and I was still not charged even by Christmas 1974, and Ronan quickly sussed that the blue meanies were setting me up for the drop, not knowing that Tony was keeping Ronan informed, and that was when the plan to get me out of the UK and to Israel was mooted.

January 1975, my last visit from the men in black who told me that if I really wanted the job I had applied for on 210 all I had to do was give them names, travel and port details and my application would go through, the job is yours, they just want us to clear to clear you. I thanked them and said I really could not help them. With that they got up, verbal abuse was thrown as they left my home, and I passed on this to Tony.

Ronan now had a list of suspects, we had never guessed that IBA work would be the carrot, and Ronan and Tony had a couple of people in the frame. Suffice to say, I attended Court in March, Ronan was their too, and he had arranged for me to be driven to Heathrow a couple of days after the Court with JJ and go to Israel, Keith Ashton had made all the plans his end and so, the plan was set, but, who were the informers?

Fast forward to a Radio Day in Amsterdam in, I think, 2008, and I met a man, Ian Biggar, who made a point in telling me that he had been at the Records Office in Kew checking out the released files on Radio Caroline, and he told me he had the name of the informant, the name was all over the handwritten and typed notes in the file.

I did not even know the man named, never met him, could not spot him in a crowded room, but, after his Caroline run in he went on to a successful career in the IBA while I was blacklisted from all radio

work for all British companies, so, I was found out by a Grass. Oh, and the name that Ian Biggar discovered was Mike Baker.



Photo with thanks to Dick Offringa

It was deeply saddening news on 5<sup>th</sup> of November that Sieka, wife of Pau van Gelder, also known as 'Harkie' and 'the Mayor' announced that Paul had been hospitalised with a diagnosis of 'metastatic pancreatic cancer'. In the days that followed, it was especially supportive for his wife Sieka to share the sad progress of the disease process with a select few.

Then on Monday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> of December came the news that Paul 'Harkie' van Gelder had passed away. Drs. Paul van Gelder was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1947 and became best known as a disc jockey with the offshore radio station Radio 227, under the pseudonym 'Harkie' and through the VARA night programme 'No Time', which aired between 1989 and 2014. Van Gelder studied Dutch language and literature at the University of Amsterdam and his biological father was from Mobile in Alabama.

But Van Gelder had been active in radio before that, in 1963 as a lyricist for Mies Bouwman (VARA) and Theo Stokkink (KRO) and as a programme maker at Minjon (AVRO) with Felix Meurders, Anne van Egmond and Antoine Bodar, among others.

As stated, in 1967 he made programmes for the offshore station Radio 227 under the pseudonym Harkie, the first horizontally programmed music station aimed at a Dutch listening audience. Radio 227 only had a short existence as the organisation renting the transmitter ship *Laissez Faire* was not able to get an extension of the lease. This was partly due to the fact that a British law was introduced against the offshore radio stations which became the MOA in mid-August 1967. Despite this, Radio 227 reached as many as 3 million listeners weekly at one point.

He introduced genres like psychedelic music and soul to the general public. As Harkie, Paul Van Gelder was voted the number 3 deejay in Belgium and the number 5 deejay in the Netherlands by the readers of *Muziek Parade* at the end of 1967, an election that made him proud as he left big names behind in the favourite top 10 at the time.

Between 1979 and 1981, he worked as a lyricist and voice actor for VARA on Hilversum 3 in the absurdist mini radio play 'Tony Klaproos', together with Rolf Kroes and the VARA voice of the 1980s Ad Le Comte. During this period, he also worked with Willem van Beusekom, Koos Zwart, Jan Douwe Kroeske, Hubert Mol and Henk Westbroek in programmes such as *De Popkrant* and *Popdonder Plus*.

There were several years of silence around Paul but between 1989 and 2014, Van Gelder made the self-composed Radio 1 night programme 'No Time' for VARA, which played a lot of American music (Americana) from the past and present, interspersed with live performances.

He also introduced radio cartoons into his programme, following the example of Kenny Everett and Anton Kothuis, using a style all his own. Every time, it was a surprise for the regular listener what Paul would come up with again via his radio cartoons, which were also filled with delicious sound effects.

From 1975, he also worked for various other radio stations, such as Radio Lelystad, Radio Enkhuizen, Big L International, Radio Seagull, Radio 227 internet and TraxxRadio.

Besides disc jockey and presenter, Drs Paul Van Gelder was also a Dutch teacher, editor and musician as a banjoist-singer in the group Bottle up & Go.



### Paul on the annual RadioDay in Amsterdam 1999

Sadly, his life came to an end on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. I knew that the last few weeks had been an uphill battle and wish his wife Sieka and both children a lot of strength to bear this loss. A warm wonderful humourous person has passed away. I wonder with which former colleagues he will be reunited elsewhere.

Hans Knot, 2 december 2024.

I received a message from Fons Winteraeken from Limburg following up on the information in the previous report, which included Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Hollandia in late 1978, as well as Radio Caroline. Fons followed that period intensely and published about it in Dutch. Some of what he wrote about the said period he shared with me for publication in the report. Thanks for that Fons.

'On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1978, the transmitter on board the Mi Amigo was switched on and 'numbers' were passed to the onshore organisation. For the first 10 days of November 1978, testing was done almost every day, and especially during the afternoon. For hours, a carrier wave and with various test tones could be heard.



Minor frequency adjustment. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1978, most radio stations on medium wave, slightly changed frequency. That day, Radio Caroline was on air on 963 kHz. First, a test tone was broadcast, for four minutes, after which 'Caroline' by The Fortunes, Caroline's station tune, was played.

The only words, hurled into the airwaves from the Caroline studio, were: 'Don't despair, we'll be back someday'. So at that point, the generator for use with the 10kW transmitter was back in working order. At launch on 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1979, the new Caroline frequency turned out to be 963 kHz.

A new generator brought to the MV Mi Amigo. During an interview by Rob Olthof with Gerard van Dam in June 1980 Gerard van Dam, the brain behind Radio Delmare, told the following story: 'We then bought the Scheveningen 54 for fl. 25,000 from a restaurant owner, after which we climbed over a wall of the Entrepothaven in Rotterdam and stole everything from the Aegir needed and then brought it on board the Scheveningen 54. We needed stuff and we were out of pennies. The solution: to actually steal our own stuff back.



**Scheveningen 54 source unknown**

When we went out with the Epivan (yet another Radio Delmare ship) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1979. We had a ton of gas oil, enough food

and a lad of a generator on board and enough resources to keep Caroline afloat. My plan was to save Caroline from sinking and quietly transfer everything to the Epivan and quietly rebuild aboard that newer and bigger ship. We had made a pre-construction of the new mast in Scheveningen. The intention was that O'Rahilly would then come up with fl. 150,000.

At that time, the Mi Amigo would be dismantled and the Scheveningen 54 would be converted into a new radio ship. After all, the Mi Amigo was beyond saving, there were holes and cracks everywhere. The deal was that Radio Delmare would get two months of airtime on the Mi Amigo to accommodate advertisers and to retain the listening audience. The deal was: during the day Radio Delmare and Radio Caroline in the evening. The new generator, paid for by Fred Bolland, was put on board and we could scramble up. So Ronan didn't pay'.

Rob: 'Ronan's reasons for not paying were twofold: The generator was not working and Gerard had driven off a piece of the Mi Amigo's bridge when parking the Scheveningen 54'.

Gerard: 'The Scheveningen 54 was then equipped with gear for the Caroline organisation. That gear included a large Cummings generator, which had been paid for by Fred Bolland. We failed, the ship then returned because Ronan O'Rahilly refused to pay. So no Delmare broadcasts from the Mi Amigo. Quite a disappointment. Then we were in a dilemma of what to do next? In the end, we just anchored the boat off the Dutch coast at Scheveningen.

The station's leadership. After the end of the Aegir story, in September 1978, Danny Vuylsteke contacted Ronan O'Rahilly by phone at Ben Bode's expense, to propose running Radio Caroline. Ben Bode listened in with Vuylsteke. And Ronan O'Rahilly said, 'Guess who's here talking about the same thing?' Exactly: Fred Bolland....



Fred Bolland Photo: Leen Vingerling

The air castle with the name 'Radio Hollandia'. In the autumn of 1978, the name Joost den Draaijer (real name is Willem van Kooten) suddenly appeared in the media. He had retired from Hilversum 3 at the end of May that year because of the mixing of Willem's music publishing business and his radio work at NOS. Creative and inventive as van Kooten is, he developed, together with former Radio North Sea colleague Tony Berk, a cassette service with radio programmes under the name 'Radio Hollandia'.

The programming, which became known in October 1978, included former Veronica colleagues Will Luikinga and Jan van Veen in addition to the aforementioned. The production company, the Hoge Noot BV located at Alexanderlaan 2 in Hilversum, produced and distributed the cassettes. If the tapes were played in a correct order, a radio station could be heard. The tapes were destined for supermarkets, bars, restaurants and hospitals.



Will Luikinga, Jan van Veen, Willem van Kooten and Tony Berk in studio Radio Hollandia.

Noord-Hollands Archief, collectie Fotopersbureau De Boer

'A strange initiative, to say the least,' Freewave Media Magazine could be read in 1978. Ron Schultz went on to write: 'Some gentlemen from the Hoge Noot BV was seen a while back at the same table somewhere abroad together with Radio Mi Amigo boss Sylvain Tack'. And then a higher goal and success was assured if the tapes 'somehow did get on board a radio ship and broadcast via the 319 AM'. The tapes did come on board, but were not played by Marc Jacobs, Johan Visser and Ferry Eden, the saltwater team at the time.

The Mi Amigo staff refused to be used for the project. They had counted on the cooperation of Marc Jacobs and Rob Hudson, among others, to become tape recorders technicians and presenters. The generator failure was reason for Van Kooten and his men to try elsewhere then. That became the Principality of Sealand. As we

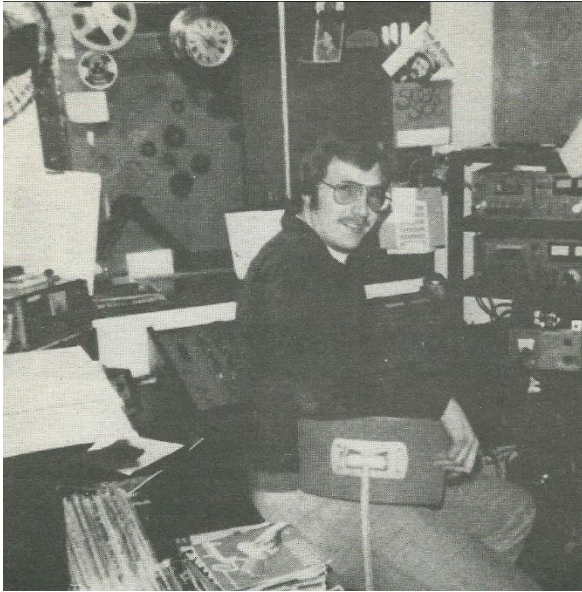
know, this did not go according to plan either and, among other things, Willem van Kooten's brother-in-law was held hostage and temporarily imprisoned at Rough Sands, a fort in the Thames Estuary off Harwich.

After the failed story of getting the Radio Hollandia tapes broadcast via the transmitter aboard the MV Mi Amigo, Bolland started up Radio Caroline Netherlands. Gert-Jan Smit did the advertising acquisition for Holland. Fred Bolland ran the business alone, assisted by programme manager Herman de Graaf. Ronan O'Rahilly was the owner of the boat.

At a later stage, Ronan and Danny Vuylsteke were in charge, said Peter de Vries at the Radio Day in September 2008 in Erkrath, Germany. Supply was done from the Netherlands and England with small boats such as the sailing yacht of Video Discotheque Wim and Marja from Oud-Vossemeer in Zeeland. The skipper often acted as Fred Bolland.

Bolland: 'The problem was always financing. I was getting money from my little shop, Disco Bolland in The Hague. But at one point that was not enough to keep the business going. Then came the Belgian branch led by Danny Vuylsteke. He had lots of contacts in Belgium from the Mi Amigo days, for which he had also recruited commercials. Danny had a lot of commercials and went to Ronan with them and said he wanted a share in the whole thing. He could make sure a lot of money would come in. My job was not ready then. I was doing acquisition with the record companies in the Netherlands for the station. Ben Bode then became programme manager. Programmes were recorded at his home in The Hague'.





Peter de Vries photo collection Wout van der Meer

For those who wants to read the complete story written, in Dutch, by Fons Winteraeken go to: <https://offshoreradio.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/LovinGoodMusic.pdf>

As editor I've to comment that the story so far written by Fons Winteraeken has one incorrect subject. That's Radio Hollandia ass the idea to bring it versus the Principality of Sealand was earlier than the idea to bring in on the Mi Amigo. More about that at a later stage in one of the reports.

Now Question time from Sweden:

I have a couple of short questions that you or your readers of your excellent report might be able to answer.

1. Of all the photos of the ship Mi Amigo I don't think I have ever seen any of the inside area underneath the bridge (below the poop deck). What was in there? Cabins? If so, what were they used for and how many were there?

2. As the Mi Amigo left the Dutch coast in September 1974 it anchored off the English coast. Did this move affect the signal strength in Belgium/Netherlands negatively to the point that some

advertisers on Radio Mi Amigo stopped using the station for their marketing?

So those are my questions. I wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year! Yours, Per Lindholm.

Here you can find many comments on our FB Pages:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/smcfbspot/posts/1363111665063843/?comment\\_id=1363271051714571&reply\\_comment\\_id=1363293265045683&notif\\_id=1733348509072424&notif\\_t=group\\_comment\\_mention](https://www.facebook.com/groups/smcfbspot/posts/1363111665063843/?comment_id=1363271051714571&reply_comment_id=1363293265045683&notif_id=1733348509072424&notif_t=group_comment_mention)

Another update from our photo archive: Radio Day 2005 in Amsterdam

22nd October 2005.

Hotel Casa 400, James Wattstraat 75, Amsterdam.

David Williams, Andy Archer, Michael Lindsay, Duncan Johnson, Spangles Muldoon (Chris Cary), Robb Eden, Graham Gill, Bob Noakes, Joop du Pau, Jan Harteveld, Hans ten Hoge (Hogendoorn), Pieter Damave, Peter Ford, Maurice Bokkebroek, Jan van der Meer (Rob Hessing), Herbert Visser, Elija van den Berg, Ad Roberts, Wim van Egmond, Edo Peters, Jan Veldkamp (Parent), Elly van Amstel, Rene van Elst, Hendrik van Nellestijn, Mary Payne, Trevor Adams, Michael Bakker, Martien Engel, Sietse Brouwer, Ian Biggar, Ken Baird.

Photos © Martin van der Ven (mvdv) and Hans Knot (hknot)



This was the programme schedule:

1. The heydays of watery wireless sounds David Williams remembering his days onboard the MV Mi Amigo (Radio Caroline South) and the MV Fredericia (Radio Caroline North) (interview: Martin van der Ven).
2. From offshore to onshore a) Sietse Brouwer over Radio Waddenzee en Radio Seagull and their lightship LV 8 b) Martien Engel and Michael Bakker about Radio Mi Amigo 192 (interview: Rob Olthof) c) Trevor Adams about the progress of the Project Red Sand
3. Radio Ventura from the M.V. Manor Park - An ill-fated offshore radio project in 1979/80 Ian Biggar and Ken Baird reminiscing
4. RNI in 1970: Enthusiasm, interference and drama A round table discussion with Andy Archer (moderator), Michael Lindsay, Robb Eden, Spangles Muldoon, Duncan Johnson, Captain Jan Hartevelde and technician Joop du Pau.
5. Radio Mi Amigo - from Playa de Aro to the Thames Eastury Jan van der Meer (Rob Hessing) and Maurice Bokkebroek with Herbert Visser.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720322347353/>

Next another question this time from Tom Edwards from, amongst others, Radio City fame. He's on search for a recording: ...a tape of a show featuring an interview with the Rolling Stones must be around there somewhere? We had a mass reaction from all of our faithful audience to the interview with all of the Rolling Stones...complete with the Owner Dorothy Calvert and I went to the Top Of The Pops studio done live in those days from the Lime Grove studios of the BBC...a Radio City scoop so well presented by Alan Clark. That's Pirate "Gold" if somebody has a copy of it all.'



Tom Edwards 1966 collection Colin Nichol

Black Rose @ Hans Knot 2024

Once again, we delve into one of the many mysterious projects, which were never realised and still need to be mentioned for the sake of the media history. For that, we go back to the month of December 1975 when the first reports appeared in a number of Dutch newspapers on the 20th. It was after a fairly long period without any mention in the newspapers of any new offshore radio projects that were being prepared. And then we got word that preparations were being made for a new offshore radio station project under the name 'Black Rose'.

It was mentioned that the project would be financially supported by shareholders, among others, who no longer knew their way around with their black money and yet were looking for a profitable investment object like this. It was further stated that several European companies, based in the Netherlands Belgium and Germany, were involved as sponsors or advertisers. The biggest sponsor mentioned was a Belgian-based company specialising in importing



Chinese porcelain and other products from the Far East. This company wanted to spend around 500,000 Swiss francs on advertising time, which in those days was roughly equivalent to half a million guilders.

<p>'Black Rose' in de loop van 1976 in de lucht</p>	<h2>Piraat gaat beleggen van zwart geld in 't buitenland stimuleren</h2>
<p>Na een periode van ogenschijnlijke rust in de radiopiraterij op zee, valt er, zoals maandag gemeld, op dit front weer een nieuwe ontwikkeling te signaleren. Gewerkt wordt momenteel aan de opzet van een commerciële illegale radiozender, „Black Rose” genaamd, die in de exploitatie financieel gesteund zal worden door met name aandeelhouders die met hun zwart geld geen weg meer weten en er toch een winstgevend „beleggingsobject” voor zoeken.</p> <p>Verscheidene Europese bedrijven (in Duitsland, Nederland en België), zullen als sponsor van programma's optreden. Een van de grootste sponsors tot nu toe met een declinatie van 500.000 Zwitserse franken (ongeveer een half miljoen gulden) is een Belgische importeur van Chinese porselein en ander Oosters goed.</p> <p>In de loop van 1976 zal het nieuwe piratenschip Black Rose, een licht model kustvaartuig van zo'n 1000 ton, voor de Nederlands-Belgische kust zijn paddestoelanker uitwerpen en met de illegale uitzending van gvarieerde commerciële programma's zal een begin gemaakt worden. Vermoedelijk zal Black Rose niet ver van het zendschip Mi Amigo vaste ligplaats kiezen. Het ligt in de bedoeling dat er 24 uur per dag muzikaal amusement, afgewisseld met commerciële boodschappen en toeristische informatie, de ether ingaat. De radiozender zal een sterkte bezitten van 150 kw, waarmee vrijwel geheel West-Europa kan worden bestreken. Op welke frequentie van de midden golf moet worden afgestemd om Black Rose te kunnen ontvangen, wordt nu nog niet bekendgemaakt, maar ze zal niet ver afzitten van de luisterhoogte van radio Mi Amigo.</p> <p><b>Liechtenstein</b> De onderneming van de radiopiraat Black Rose is in handen van een inter-</p>	<p>de oprichting van een illegale zender'.</p> <p><b>Over meer schijven</b></p> <p>„Ik zie inderdaad interessante aspecten voor een zendschip, al lijkt het er thans op dat het klimaat voor piratenzenders verslechterd zou zijn. Het heeft niks te maken met een verdrag van Straatsburg, alleen moet je je zaken nu wat gecompliceerder regelen. De zaken moeten over meer schijven lopen. Noodgedwongen. En dat is eigenlijk alles. Volgens mij blijft een commerciële piratenzender tot in lengte van dagen aantrekkelijk. Voor alle partijen: zowel voor de luisteraars en de beheerders, als voor de aandeelhouders, de sponsors, het bedrijfsleven en de reclamemakers”.</p> <p>Over de bevoorrading en de techniek maakt Toma zich geen zorgen. „Vanuit Spanje of Ierland regelen we de fouragering van het zendschip. We hebben er zelfs over gedacht om Black Rose in de Golf van Biscaye ter hoogte van Bilbao naar te leggen. De opnamen zullen over het algemeen op hand worden gemaakt en geprogrammeerd. In Zwitserland hebben we een relatie met studiofaciliteiten”.</p> <p>Toma pakt de acte van oprichting erbij waarin uitvoerig de doelstelling, het financieel beleid en de verdere regels en richtlijnen van Black Rose zijn omschreven.</p> <p>Om geen twijfel over de toekomstige status van het zendschip te laten bestaan, wijst Toma een passage in de tekst aan. „Opgericht zal worden een firma ter exploitatie van een commerciële radiozender buiten ieder territoriaal gebied”.</p> <p><b>Zwart geld</b></p> <p>Nu reeds, maar binnenkort ook in advertenties en later in de uitzendingen van Black Rose zal, zo beweert de heer Toma, het beleggen van zwart geld in het buitenland worden gestimuleerd. „Hiermee wordt het vorstendom Liechtenstein bedoeld. Dit beleggen wordt door onze internationale handelsmaatschappij, waarvan ik de naam liever niet publiekelijk bekend maak, verzorgd. Over het algemeen is het heel moeilijk om over dit soort zaken te discussiëren, maar wij willen er echt aandacht aan besteden. Te meer omdat de belastingdienst in Nederland toch al aan het jagen is op eventuele bezitters van zwart geld. Degenen die bij ons intekenen zullen nooit in het openbaar genoemd worden. Dus dat participeren in Black Rose kan ook zwart gebouren”.</p> <p>In de acte staat verder vermeld dat er 9 procent rente wordt uitgekeerd aan de aandeelhouders die vastgezet deelnemingskapitaal in de piratenzender hebben geïnvesteerd.</p>

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The organiser hoped that by mid-1976 the broadcast ship could become active as such. This, he said, involved a 'light vessel' of around 1,000 tons. A berth off the Dutch-Belgian coast was envisaged, with the intention of using a so-called mushroom anchor. Also, the first message stated that the vessel was likely to anchor near the Radio Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo radio ship Mi Amigo. This last comment gave enough reason to doubt the information, after all, that radio ship was in international waters off the British coast.

It was also announced that the radio station was intended to be listenable 24 hours a day with varied music programmes supplemented by tourist information, among other things. Nothing was made clear regarding the frequency to be used, except that it would not be far from the then wavelength in use by Radio Mi Amigo.



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1975, I came across a similar report in the Algemeen Dagblad, where some facts could be added to the story. For instance, 33-year-old Zeeland businessman J. Toma was the spokesman for Black Rose and he stated that one would also target companies in the Middle East. A private limited company had been set up for all activities, registered in Liechtenstein's Vaduz, where the organisation had had offices as of the 7th July 1970.

Toma also reported that an office would be opened in Cadzand, Zeeland, in early 1976. Again, this last remark raised some questions as opening an office to run an offshore radio station in the Netherlands would be a criminal offence under the law. Toma himself lived at the time on Boulevard de Wieringen in Cadzand-Bad.

ZATERDAG 20 DECEMBER 1975

ZENDSCHIP KIEST IN LOOP '76 BIJ MI-AMIGO LIJPLAATS VOOR NEDERLANDS-BELGISCHE KUST

## Radiopiraat 'Black Rose' wordt 'vluchteiland' voor zwart-geldbezitters

COORDINATOR EN BREIN IN REALISATIE  
**J. TOMA IN CADZAND**

CADZAND — Na een periode van geheimzinnige rust in de radiopiraterij op zee valt er op dit front weer een stevige ontwikkeling te zien. Generaal wordt momenteel aan de opzet van een commerciële illegale radiostation, 'Black Rose' genaamd, die in de geplaatste financiering getruwd zal worden door met name handelsbedrijven die met hun werf tijd geven voor weten en er zich een "winstverhaal" behoeven. Het is een "winstverhaal" behoeven. Het is een "winstverhaal" behoeven. Het is een "winstverhaal" behoeven.

In de loop van 1976 zal het nieuwe radiostation 'Black Rose' een kustvaartuig van 2000 ton, voor de Nederlandse kust van de D-1-legie' uitsending van spraakvertoeren, commerciële programma's via de middelen op op zee komen. Verpoortelijk zal 'Black Rose' niet ver van het zanddicht 'MI-AMIGO' veld lijnplaats kiezen. Het ligt in de bedoeling dat er 24 uur per dag muziek wordt uitgezonden, aanvullend met commerciële boodschappen en technische informatie. De zender zal een vermogen van 150 kW, waarmee vrijwel heel West-Europa kan worden bereikt. Op welke frequentie van de middelen moet nog niet bekend gemaakt, maar ze zal niet ver afwijken van de frequentie van radio 'MI-AMIGO'.

**Vestiging**

De ondernemers van de radiopiraterij 'Black Rose' is in handen van een internationale maatschappij in Vaduz en de Nederlandse kust. Het land is sinds 7 juli 1970 in Vaduz, de hoofdstad van het vorstendom Liechtenstein, gevestigd.

Coordinator en 'brein' achter de zender is Zeelandse zakenman J. Toma, woonachtig aan de Boulevard de Wieringen in Cadzand-Bad. Hij is de laatste groot-lidder van 'Black Rose' en werkt in



opdracht van de Liechtensteinse bank volgens de plannen uit.

Mede de Zwitserse Minister, ex-gerechtigde van 'Black Rose', onderbrengt Toma nauwe contacten. In de reeds bekende persoonsgegevens van Toma wordt vermeld dat hij een persoonlijk vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed.

It is being actively sought with the support of many millions, totaling the market value of the station. When will they still be asked why, because in the illegal market. It is the intention of the station to be a commercial station, for example, for the purpose of advertising. It is the intention of the station to be a commercial station, for example, for the purpose of advertising.

and investors, or sponsors, but to the directors and the shareholders." Over de bevoegdheid en de technische details Toma zich zeer zorgen. "De uit Spanje of het land regelen we de financiering van het station. We hebben er zelfs over gedacht om 'Black Rose' in de Golf van Biscaya te brengen van Bilbao naar de zee. De omvang van de zender, over het algemeen de het land zullen worden in de programma's. In Zwitserland hebben we een zender met een groot vermogen."

**Midden-Oosten**

Het is een van de belangrijkste activiteiten van de radiopiraterij met het Midden-Oosten. 'Black Rose' richtte op een commerciële radiostation, waarbij de zender van informatie over bestaande radiostations in Arabische landen via een radiostation. We zullen zender, over het algemeen de het land zullen worden in de programma's. In Zwitserland hebben we een zender met een groot vermogen."

Toma pakt de akte van oprichting erbij, waarin uitvoering, de oprichting, het financiële beleid en de verdeling van aandelen van 'Black Rose' zijn vastgelegd. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed.

Nu reeds, maar binnenkort ook in de vestiging en in de uitbreiding van 'Black Rose' zal, bevoordt de J. Toma. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed. Het is een vrti goed.

In de akte staat verder vermeld dat er een proces zal worden gevoerd tegen de ondernemers die de vestiging van 'Black Rose' in de Middelen-Oosten hebben gevestigd. Alle financiële transacties van Toma worden via de Zwitserse banken uitgevoerd, waar een rekening voor de holdingmaatschappij van de ondernemers wordt geopend.

The *Vrije Volk*, a newspaper that has not existed for decades, also carried information on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1975. For instance, Toma claimed that he and former RNI owner Erwin Meister were scouring Europe in search of investors. In that article, a mooring was again announced and it was in international waters off the Spanish coast, in the Gulf of Biscaya off Bilbao. One was to use a 150-kW transmitter that would be actively deployed over medium wave. Most of the programming was planned to be recorded at Meister's studio in Switzerland, after which the tapes would be sent to Bilbao to be brought aboard 'the Black Rose' for broadcast.

Toma reported to *Het Vrije Volk* journalist that the project had been deliberately delayed until things had calmed down around the offshore radio stations. It was further mentioned that, according to unconfirmed reports, the former owners of Radio Veronica would also participate in financing the radio project. Toma also claimed that the deed of incorporation stipulated that investors were guaranteed a minimum interest rate of 9% per year. To ensure everything ran smoothly financially, they had opened a bank account with the *Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft* in Switzerland.

But more was found in the newspapers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1975. For instance, Toma argued that running an offshore radio station, after the introduction of the anti offshore radio broadcasting law, had to run over more tranches but that a commercial radio station could be attractive long into the future. This for investors and listeners as well as shareholders and sponsors. Nor was Toma worried about supplies: 'From Spain and Ireland, we arrange foraging for the radio ship'.

The month of December 1975 then came to an end and 1976 came, during which, strangely enough, nothing more was published about Toma's plans and his radio station *Black Rose*. The present-day possibilities of using search engines did not help me either, and I assume that Toma, when he sent a message to the various media, was

more in need of attention than to be taken seriously. Moreover, I wonder whether he ever contacted Meister, because nothing about this project ever got out from Zurich.

Martin van der Ven has done some excellent work bringing back a lot of photo's from several RadioDays organized by us, in our photoarchive on line.

1996:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321697229>

1998:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321697319>

2001:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321790981/>

And also the 2002 event in Amsterdam had many known guests:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321947991/>

A year later many Anoraks and Radio People were back in Amsterdam:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321966336>

20 years ago: RadioDay and The Caroline Class of '73/'74 in Amsterdam. 224 pictures from 2004:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720322083562>

Run down 1978 t/m 2013, 2015, 2017 en 2023

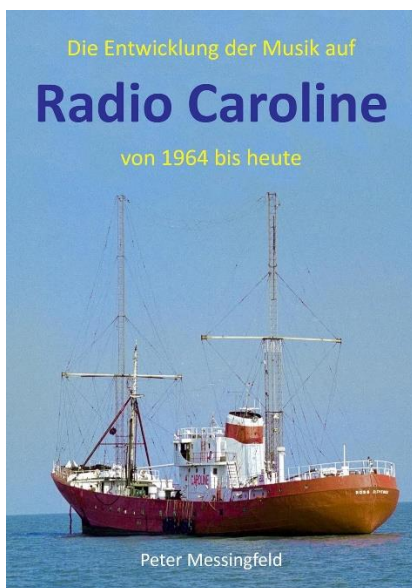
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/collections/72157634858311971/>

Much has already been written about Radio Caroline in many worthwhile books. However, Peter Messingfeld's brandnew book fills a gap and is highly recommended for all music lovers and readers interested in the history of broadcasting.

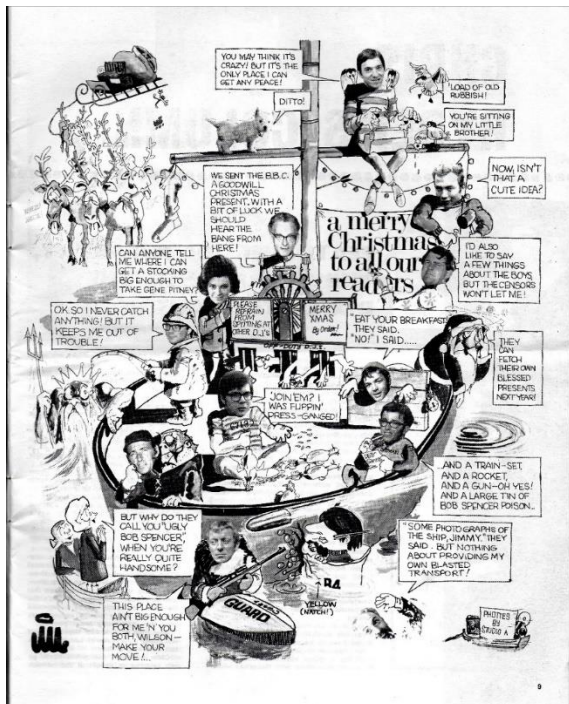
<https://offshoreradio.info/review-peter-messingfeld/>

The book is available on Amazon as both e-book and paperback in either English or German.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/BODLV4XZJ2/>



Last month a newspaper cutting was published in the SMC Group about Radio Scotland in which Cathy Spence was mentioned. It brought a wonderful memory from Andy Sennitt: 'I actually met Cathy Spence. I was 16 years old, and on holiday with my parents visiting my grandmother in Glasgow. Driving along with my father at the wheel we happened to go into Cranworth Street, and I saw the Radio Scotland sign outside number 20.'



My father spotted a parking place, and I got out of the car and went inside number 20. It was very quiet, and Cathy Spence told me there were no DJs in the building as it was crew changeover day. She wanted to give me a copy of the station magazine but they were out of stock. But the next edition was at the printers, so she gave me a working copy with handwritten notes to take away.

I held on to it for some years, but sadly it got lost when I moved to Denmark. I guess it would be worth something to a collector. In the 1980s I went to visit Benny Brown at Radio Luxembourg, and met Stuart and Ollie Henry who were doing a live show. So in the end, I did meet one of the Radio Scotland DJs. Great memories.'

Sad news came in around November 20<sup>th</sup> of the passing from RNI deejay Trevor Campbell. Although he had a very minor role in offshore radio his career went on in radio, Here's what the Pirate Hall of Fame has about Trevor:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djs7c.htm#campbell>

Next time for an e mail I got from Steve England, who I met for the very first time in 1973. Hi Hans,



My wife Barbara and I recently went to Australia and in Adelaide were shown round the bridge of the cruise liner The Crown Princess. A friend of ours was working as the security officer on this huge cruise ship. He managed to get us a tour of the bridge with the captain, who was charming. We spoke for about 20 minutes and just as we were going, I mentioned that I had spent 2 years at sea on much smaller ships - pirate radio ships. To my astonishment he said, "My father ran a pirate radio station." It turns out his father was David Lye who ran Radio 390.



**Steve England, Captain Chris Lye and Barbara Prentice on the Crown Princess**

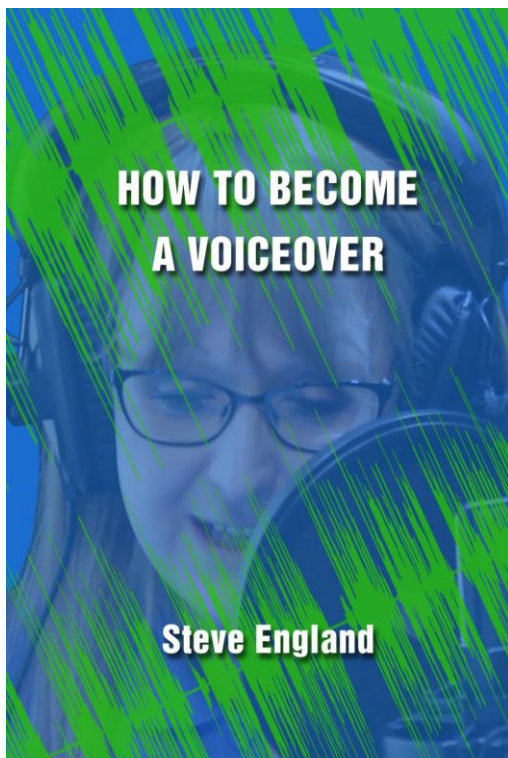
Even more amazing was that Estuary Radio Ltd, the holding company for 390 was in Folkestone where I lived as a boy and I had actually met and interviewed his father for my school magazine!



**Dawn MacRae, Barbara Prentice, Ian MacRae and Steve England**

While we were in Sydney I met up with Ian MacRae (ex-Radio City and Caroline) and his wife Dawn who were charming and very hospitable. Ian invited me to his home and I interviewed Ian for Offshore Echoes. What a nice guy and very funny.

Also, some more news - I have a book out! It's about how to become a voice over and is available on Amazon.



This is not me on the front cover - ha ha - it's my daughter Julia who is also a voice over.

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=steve+england+voice+over>

Keep up the great work I love reading your newsletter, Have a wonderful Christmas. All the best, Steve.'

Goodday Steve thanks a lot for the informative e mail about the travel you and Barbara made to Australia and what small the world can be talking to the son of David Lye on a not expected moment.

Also good to see you spent some time with Ian Macrae who is also reader of the international report. While reading your e mail my thoughts went back to 1973, a long time ago but the year we were in contact for the very first time at the Van Hoogendorpstreet in the Hague were Radio Caroline had the landbased studio at the time.



In our photo archive the Paul Krooshof collection has been updated:





<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157711978760616>

Well this ends this years Christmas edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Hope to receive questions, memories, photos and more and up till next report in 2025.

