

Hans Knot International Radio Report Winter Edition 2020.

Welcome to the first edition of the International Radio Report in this new decennium. Well the report started very small in 1997 with only newsflashes in Dutch and around 2004 it had grown so much that it went all English. Again from all around the world people reflected to the Christmas issue 2019 as well did sent happy wishes for me and my Jana. It's all very much appreciated. Of course also questions and memories from the readers in this issue, but also very sad news.

Dutch radio legend Tom Mulder died on January 2nd. Tom Mulder was 72 years old and was cremated in private on Tuesday, January 7th. On May 16, 1969 he started his radio career. Under the name Klaas Vaak he presented his first programme at the then offshore station Radio Veronica. By listening a lot to Radio London and his example Tony Blackburn he created his own sound on the radio. RadioDrama and Goeiemorgen were programmes that many listeners of Radio Veronica listened to.



Klaas Vaak 1970. Photo 192 Magazine

In 1973, with the possible disappearance of the offshore radio stations in sight, Klaas Vaak decided to make the switch to the TROS, where he made programmes like the Havermoutshow, 50 Pop

or an Envelope and Night Watch to great successes. After his time at the TROS he was very active for the first commercial radio station in the Netherlands, Cable One.



After this station was banned by the government we heard Tom for many years on Radio 10, which was also called Radio 10 Gold for quite some time. It's more than 15 years ago that he had a brain infarction and Tom Mulder's shiny radio career came to an end.

In 2009 I had an extensive e mail interview with Tom which can be read via the link below. <http://freewave-media-magazine.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Freewave-433.pdf>



Tom Mulder 2007 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Tom received the RadioDay Award in 2007 and here is the laudation I wrote for this award: 'And this one is going to a Dutch personality

who's roots in radio are also going back to the sixties. Like the nominated person for the technical Award this guy tried to get a job in 1966 on Radio London and even made some jingles for the station, which he suddenly heard played one morning on 266.

Every presenter in radioland also has his own example from which he adopts parts of his style. So does our nominee. Tony Blackburn was his great example and even the one liners of Bessie Blackburn were written down and translated and then displayed in Dutch in the programme of the winner of this Radio Day Award.

Our nominated person is a very friendly person who I know for many decades and has the ability - although very popular with especially the housewives - to take a big distance in normal live from all related to radio. He must have been a real problem maker for slow technicians as our nominated person is also very well known for the wonderful, mostly home-made jingles he had in his programs in Veronica days. He has a more than 35 years long career including offshore radio station Veronica, TROS Hilversum 3, Cable One and Radio Ten Gold.

I would love to have Ed the Speaking Horse here to introduce our nominated Dutch deejay: Ladies and gentlemen give a big applause to Tom Mulder also known as Klaas Vaak from Veronica days.'

Tom Mulder will be remembered for a long, long time.

19th of December Paul Rusling brought this news: 'Congratulations today to old Radio 270 boy, Roger Gale. Today he was appointed Deputy Speaker in the House of Commons. I'm sure many of us will enjoy hearing him (and seeing him!) on the Parliamentary Channel as well as the TV news. Roger was one of the original Radio 270 DJs, he was there wasn't the mast crashed down and helped chop free the loose stays with a fire axe. Read Stephen Muirfield's gripping account of this on re=<https://Radio270.net/Engineering.html>

Thanks Paul for informing us and later on in the report we come back to you. Next an e-mail from Peter Ingelse: 'Dear Hans, thanks again for an interesting Radio Report. I really enjoyed reading it. Born in 1965 I missed a lot, but the stories are beautiful, just like the real memories I have of the ships. Through 'my' Ipam medium wave station HappyAM I get in touch with more and more like-minded people and that also deepens the beautiful hobby. A great opportunity to wish you, your wife and family all the best for the coming year. Kind regards, Peter Ingelse, Middelburg.'

Thanks a lot Peter and the station has also an own Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Happyam.nl/>

In 2017 the late Graham Gill was interviewed by Wim van de Water in Museum RockArt in Hook of Holland and the wonderful Alex Hoek video from this interview can be viewed by entering the next link:

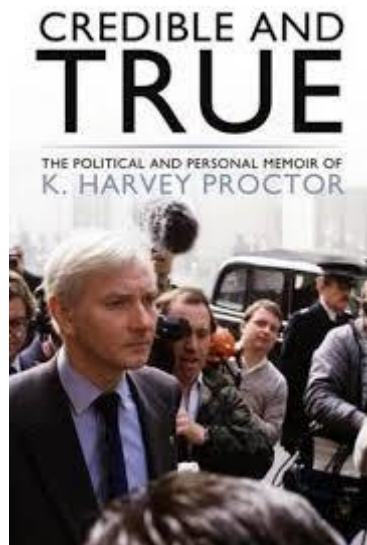
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSUqDECtrZ8&feature=youtu.be>

Next is an e mail from Ed Waterson: 'Dear Hans. As usual, your latest report is full of good stuff. I remember seeing the masts of the two Radio Caroline ships in 1970 while touring Europe as a hippy in a purple Ford Anglia covered in psychedelic flowers.

Now there's another offshore broadcaster who's been in the news recently but whose name rarely gets a mention in the world of radio. Harvey Proctor, the former MP for Basildon and Billericay has just been awarded £900,000 for the treatment he received at the hands of the Met during the notorious Operation Midland, when a fantasist made false allegations against a number of Establishment figures.

So what's his connection with offshore radio? The answer is that on the suggestion of Wilf Proudfoot, another former MP, young Harvey (then reading History at the University of York) hosted a number of half-hour political programmes broadcast on Proudfoot's Radio 270. These went out in the late evenings during the summer of 1967. They

weren't a great listen for a sixteen year old but they were certainly controversial.



I meet Harvey many years later when he was the P A to the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle. He's a charming gentleman with a colourful past and seems to have attracted controversy ever since those broadcasts off the Yorkshire coast. That's a little bit of nonsense for your report. Best wishes Edward Waterson.' Well there was a link to 270 Edward so thanks a lot for sharing.

Next a comment on a newspaper cutting which is below the comment: Jim Blair who wrote above newspaper article originally wrote for Radio Scotland's 242 Magazine and when re-publishing it recently on my fb page there was an interesting comment from Ben Healy

'Jim Blair was the original fake news. Nothing that he says is true. Many ex Radio Scotland DJs went on to be very successful on the radio or other endeavours. 4 of us were offered positions on Radio Luxembourg and RTE Ireland etc. he applied to be a disc jockey many times but was turned down. We were treated like rock stars when we came off the boat for our one week off. He never got the limelight he craved. Sorry but he comes out with shit like this he is going to get a push back. As for Stuart he was a great broadcaster and more important a wonderful human being. Stuart and I had many great conversations. He was a true gentleman. He left us to soon.' John

Kerr, Richard Park, Mark Wesley, Brian McKenzie, Tony Meehan, Bryan Vaughan, Tony Allan, Jack McLaughlin Alan Black, Mel Howard, Jimmy Mack. to name a few had very long careers in broadcasting or endeavours.

Thanks for these comments Ben.

The Glasgow Herald 3-2-1968 OEM



Swinging to the forefront

JIM BLAIR'S POP ROUND-UP

SINCE the inauguration of Robin Scott's wonder wireless, namely, Radio One, I have made a point of listening to only two disc-jockeys — Scotland's Stuart Henry and Liverpool's Kenny Everett.

I must admit to being biased in Stuart's case, having known him from the days when he "swung to you on 242," via a rusty old Irish lightship known as the Comet, but better known as Radio Scotland.

You may recall that this Edinburgh-born former actor first hit the headlines by being violently seasick on board the pirate ship after only two days. Even after hypnotic treatment he found that he couldn't stomach the constant rock and roll of the sea.

However, he was kept on by

Radio Scotland, taping programmes in Cranworth Street which were then transferred and broadcast from the floating station. He then inherited the title of Britain's only land-based dee-jay.

The fact that Stuart continued as a member of the 242 crew caused some heartburning among other disc-jockeys, who complained that he received too much publicity.

What they really meant was that Stuart, shoulder-length hair and all, was instantly recognisable as a disc-jockey, whereas when they came ashore after a two-week stint few people, if any, knew them.

Perhaps the others had a genuine grievance because when the offshore stations were forced to shut up shop Stuart was called to London for an audition—sadly his colleagues at Radio Scotland disappeared, most of them swapping their

record "cues" for dole queues.

The only other Scots disc-jockey I know of is Jack McLaughlin, who is now an announcer with Grampian Television.

Stuart was hired, much to everyone's surprise including his own, and so he moved up five metres to 247. He was given the Friday "Midday Spin" show, an hour-long show which has a peak listening audience and is generally considered one of the chancier programmes.

Simon Dee, Duncan Johnson, Kenny Everett, and David Ryder have disappeared from Monday to Thursday shows, with only Everett moving to a better spot, his own Sunday morning programme from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

♦ ♦ ♦

But the pattern of the Friday "Midday Spin" show continues to please—the wailing bagpipes, the gruff Scots accent, and that insane laugh. In fact, he finds that it goes down a treat with our bowler-hatted friends over the Border.

His success brought an immediate reaction from the bosses at Broadcasting House—television "appearances" on "Top of the Pops," "Juke Box Jury," and last night on "All Systems Freeman." His other radio work included being compere on "Family Favourites" and "Family Choice," as well as interviewer on "Pop Inn."

For Kenny Everett, undoubtedly the funniest and most talented of the ring-a-ding boys (in my opinion), Stuart has nothing but praise. He agrees that a tremendous amount of research and technical work goes into each of his programmes.

Incidentally he is also responsible for some of the better jingles on Radio One, the intended funny ones.



Stuart Henry

Next it's mystery man around the corner only a few times. In an interview in 1964 he - Rolf van Brandtzaeg - already told he was the one who opened The Scene Club in London and also brought together with Ronan O'Rahilly the money from investors to start Radio Caroline in 1964. Strange thing about it is that nowhere in the books about the history of the station the name - as far as I know - can be found back.

Lately I got a lot of newspaper cuttings including from the Dutch Hitweek. In one of these the name of Van Brandtzaeg appeared again. In 1967 he was 24 year of age and was born in Sweden. The interview mostly goes about the London Scene, Carnaby, James Bond, visiting luxury restaurants and more. And again he tells about his important role within the then Caroline organisation. Are we reading about one of the more infamous dreamer?

ROLF V. BRANDTZAEG



Foto: Hans van der Vliet

The Sceneclub, waar The Stones debuteerden, en waaruit Radio Caroline voortkwam. Samen met zijn copain Ronan O'Rahilly (27) brachten zij op 1.3.1964 samen via diverse geldschieters een groot bedrag bijeen, en stichtten hiermee een van de eerste pirate-pop-stations.

Van Brandtzaeg is een veel gevraagd organisator. Van backgroundmusic voor JAEGER-modeshows tot adviseur van de chique popdiscotheque The IN-Place. Briljant fotograaf (KING Au-Pair-Girls; Queen) met een grote liefde voor James Bond equipments. Trots eigenaar van een wel heel bijzonder geïmprementeerd schilderij door Paul de Lussanet, voorstellende

LONDON/Mayfair - Caroline Penthouse
Tegenover mij zit het wat corpulente Rolf 'baron' Van Brandtzaeg (24). Afkomstig uit Zweden, maar nu met zijn groovy haircut, al een vijftal jaren een van de swingenste Londoners. Oprichter van

een paar damesborsten. Een onderneming met het Nederlandse Flashing Fashion mislukte.

We luisteren naar Veronica.

- Wat vind je van Hitweek?
RvBr: Cool, maar een beetje dun.

- Hoe gaat het nu met Caroline?
RvBr: The ship is still rocking

- Maar als Harold Wilson tnderdaad alle schepen opdoekt?
RvBr: De platenmaatschappijen zijn méér tegen ons. Waar wij een grote luisterdichtheid hebben, worden aanzienlijk minder platen verkocht.

- Om terug te komen op RC. Zijn er mogelijkheden voor Nederlanders bij jullie?
RvBr: Alleen voor birds. De hele crew van het schip is nederlands, though.

- Hoeveel DJ's zijn er?
RvBr: 5-Tom Lodge, Tony Blackburn, Graham Webb, Norman St. John, Dave Lee Travis.

- Wat is je favoriete sound?
RvBr: ORGAN

- Reis je veel?
RvBr: All the time

- USA??
RvBr: I'm quite happy with Europe

- Naar welke clubs ga je?
RvBr: In-Place (beroepshalve) Scotch, White Elephant (besloten restaurant)

- Wat vind je van de Carnaby Street Gear?
RvBr: Vulgair

- Geloof je dat het de JB-kant opgaat?
RvBr: . . . with me. . . ?

Chris Edwards reflected from Hanwell in London: Rolf was a photographer who rented space at Caroline House in the "turret" at top of building. He took the photo on the Caroline Christmas card with the bell and sunset. Apart from that he seems to be one of those "hangers on" in the early days of Radio Caroline.

Mike Barraclough answered too: Rolf van Brandtzaeg appeared with Simon Dee at the Felixstowe Carnival Queen contest 17 June 1964. Described as a 'senior executive' at Caroline's London office. A google search also comes up with photographs credited to him.

<http://radiocaroline50.blogspot.com/2014/06/>

Still I had the feeling I had to do with one of the many dreamers in the sixties and took contact with Paul Rusling to know his idea about this guy. He promised to write to Oonagh as she was the best right hand Ronan could get in the sixties and knew almost everything which was happening in the sixties within the organization and she answered the question with: 'Rolf. All lies of course, dear Rolf, what a con man! You could not dislike him though. He lived at the top floor of Caroline House and never paid his rent.'

He also had nothing to do with the Scene Club. It was rented as is, no licensed bar, one could say it was like a small warehouse before it's time. Bottles of soft drinks, only money involved was excellent sound system for discs and staff, brilliant lady DJ Sandra, I worked at the cash desk! Only way I could pay my baby minder. All the bands doing their thing at the Scene Club brought their own sound systems Ginger Baker, The Who, Rolling Stones, Animals, etc. '

Thanks Paul and Oonagh and it's clear we have another 'dreamer' there with Rolf van Brandtzaeg. More of Oonagh's stories and reflections about Caroline can be found throughout the Radio Caroline Bible, with the first 'world exclusive' of her picture too!

<https://www.radiocarolinebible.com/index.html>

Anyone of the readers who can remember another 'dreamer' we can mention in the next issue of the report? HKnot@home.nl for all reflections.

Well next space for an update from Bob LeRoi: 'A warm welcome to the long overdue Website update.

In Scrapbook it's 1985 in the Knock Deep with some pictures and audio clips from Laser 558 during Eurosiege. Radio Sutch and City Part 20 has some fine PC colour enhanced images courteously of Harm Koenders with audio. There are some photographs with audio clip of one of the many Grand Forts Tours out of Queenborough.

Plus features in the Personal Pages you might find interesting
Many other pages have been updated with additions, and we're in the process of changing all site audio from swf 'flash' to mp3
Finally, you'll find details of the latest on-air 'Bob's 60's Splash' programmes:

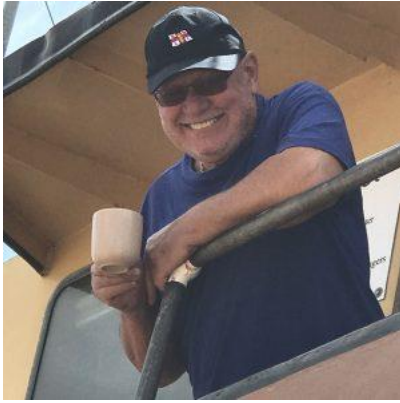
Bob's 60's Splash

The crazy idea to resurrect 'Bob's 60's Splash' has begun to pay off; it's still early days yet but the radio stations taking the programme, gratifyingly rather like it. Currently you can hear 'Bob's 60's Splash' on a number of UK stations and in the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Norway and Slovakia.

Unlike anything of its sort, it's original, fresh, and authentic, presented in a lively upbeat manner. It attracts a commendable audience, surprisingly, comprising a large number of young people that are interested in today's music heritage.

In essence 'Bob's 60's Splash' has a number of key features. Tracks and facts on a weekly featured 'Vintage Vinyl' LP and 'Spotlight Artist(s)'. The 'Commercial Cash Casino's' back, 'Cover Lover' does as it says, with a cover version of an original song. On 'Foreign Exchange' there's a song with a Continental connection and a couple of 'Classic Instrumentals' thrown in for good measure.

I'd be pleased to hear from radio stations that might like to take aboard the programme.



Bob LeRoi Photo: Maritime Radio

Enjoy Your Visits www.bobleroi.co.uk

Sometimes things can go crazy in the radio world. In the past decades I have cooperated in countless programmes in the Netherlands but also in many other countries. In the time before the internet rejoiced in our lives, interviews were often conducted and you just had to wait and see if you got a recording of the programme afterwards. Nowadays you get the interview or program digitally pretty soon.



On the Morning of January 28th by surprise I found an e-mail from Martin Vinther Rasmussen in my mailbox in which he tells me that he is putting together a special page about Danish radio history and by exchange he also received many old recordings. He found a recording

from 1988 of Radio Viborg with presenter Allan Würtz who interviews me in Danish and in which I talk to him in English about The Voice of Peace by Abe Nathan. You can listen to it or download it via the following link.

<http://www.danskradio.dk/lyd/DX/RV,AOR,VOP.mp3>

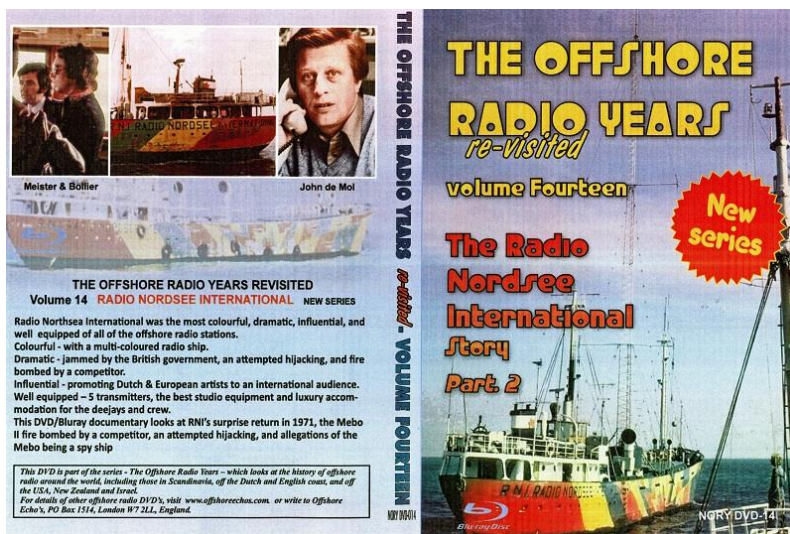
Next an e email from the USA. 'Good morning Hans. It's a very cold day in DC but things are heating up around pirate radio in the US. Here is the link to yesterday's article from Radio Ink.

<https://radioink.com/2020/01/08/nab-statement-on-senate-passage-of-pirate-act/>

AJ Janitscheck

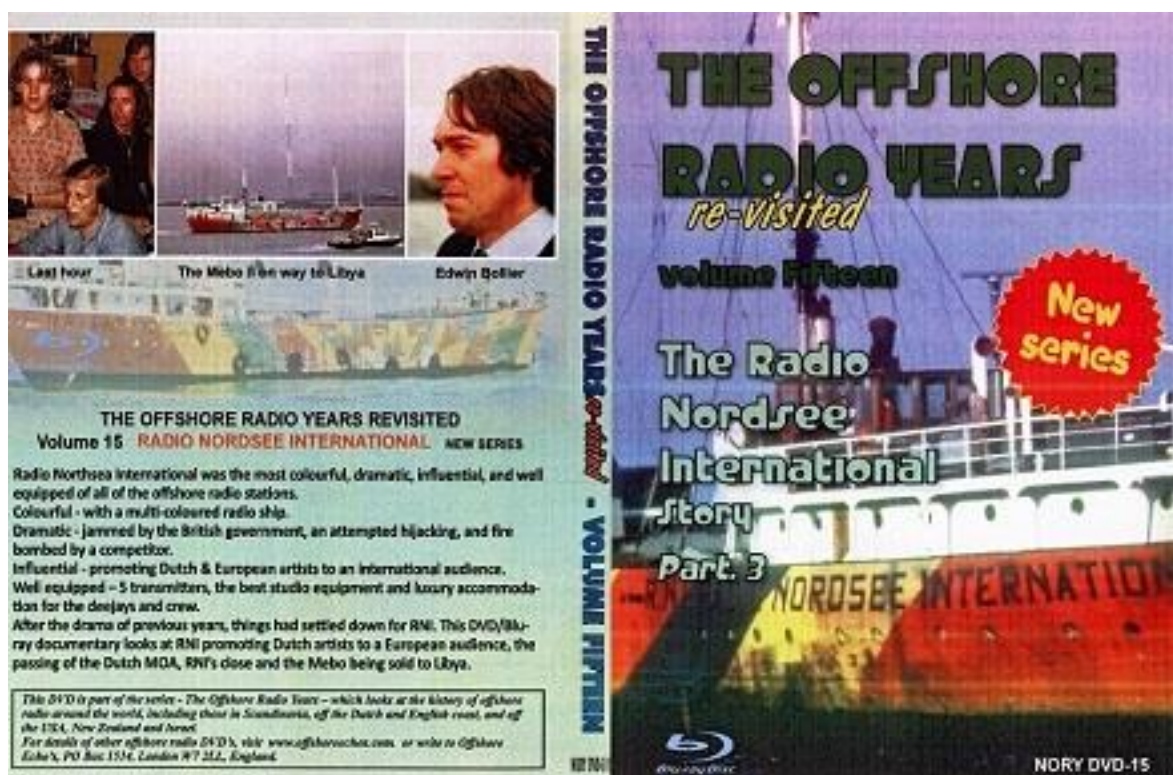
REVIEW*****Martin van der Ven:

Review The Offshore Radio Years Re-visited (New Series). Volume 14 Radio Northsea International Part 2. 1971-1972



When RNI came back from the ashes as a phoenix in February 1971, I was ambivalent. The best broadcasting time was now reserved for Dutch hits and disc jockeys like Jan van Veen, who appealed rather to older housewives. But I was quickly taught a better lesson: RNI soon developed a fascinating mix of lively English language evening broadcasts and a professional Dutch programme, which also included exciting live broadcasts from the radio ship Mebo II with new formats. And the dramas of the first year also continued: a fire

bomb shook the ship in May 1971, and in November the anchor chain broke. The several-day attempt with "RNI 2" in September 1972, on the other hand, was just a nice comedy. Future-oriented structures had long since been established, so that RNI initially seemed indispensable in the European broadcasting landscape. The new DVD/Bluray comprehensively depicts all this in the well-known excellent quality. Once again, a captivating masterpiece has been created that gives the interested viewer a comprehensive impression of all the events during 1971 and 1972. Colourful video recordings, crystal-clear studio and FM recordings, countless jingles and photos form an overall absolutely recommendable product that should not be missing in any collection. You can already look forward to the third and final part, which will be released soon. For more details go to the OEM site: <http://www.offshoreechos.com/>



After the first two parts of the big RNI documentation I was even more excited about the last and third part. And this part appealed to me quite differently, even more touched me. Because you feel from the beginning: Here an era comes to an end, a certain political will

drives a successful project to the wall. The perfect juxtaposition of video recordings in black and white and in colour, supplemented by countless photos in excellent quality, interesting audio recordings, jingles and more recent interviews is something we are familiar with from earlier products. But this time a shiver ran down my spine, the very close end of RNI brought tears to my eyes. What a pity that this great chapter in the history of offshore radio ended so painfully in Libya. In summary: This DVD/Bluray completes an absolutely worth seeing trilogy! <http://www.offshoreechos.com/>

Martin van der Ven.

Thanks a lot Martin now a subject we had in the last issue of the report: Some reflections on the question if Caroline North could be heard in the Caroline offices at 6 Chesterfield Gardens in London. First here's Bob Noakes. 'Hoi, Hans! Many thanks for your report, as always a good read. Per from Sweden asked about a rumour he had heard that Caroline office personnel in London were able to monitor transmissions from the North ship.

In the 'sixties I studied in north London, not far from Chesterfield Gardens and listened from time to time to the North transmissions myself. I used a domestic receiver, a Pye 1111 (the stereo version of the 1108) which was neither especially sensitive nor particularly selective, yet even with no more than the internal ferrite stick antenna reception after dusk was reasonable. If I had wanted to listen regularly then an outside aerial would probably have provided a healthy signal, which is possibly what they did at the office; and electrical interference should hardly have been a problem in Mayfair where there was no significant industry.

However, I cannot recall having ever listened to the station during the hours of daylight during which I was hardly ever at home anyway. Bob Noakes.'

Next it's Paul Bailey: 'Hello Hans, it would be possible for Radio Caroline HQ in Mayfair to hear Caroline North in daytime, despite

the distance. When I lived in Melton Mowbray, which was roughly 150 miles from Caroline South, and roughly 180 miles from Caroline North, I could hear both stations loud and clear during the day. despite not being in the primary, or even the secondary, reception areas for the stations.



Caroline House before renovation. Photo: Hans Knot

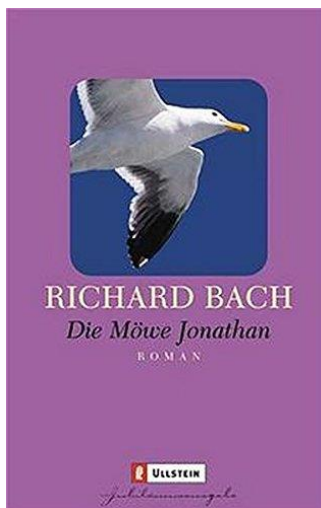
To get better reception, I merely plugged an audio connection lead into the external aerial socket of my transistor radio - a socket designed for plugging car aerials in to the radio to get better

reception in cars - and it was as though the stations were only just down the road! Radio amateurs will tell you - "the wire does the work". A good aerial can work wonders.

But I would have thought that they would need a radio with good selectivity, and the ability to reduce adjacent noise. Just a short walk away from Caroline HQ was a large establishment which sold Eddystone Radios, which was Imhofs. Now I wonder! People at the BBC Monitoring in Caversham near Reading, not that far from London, were able to hear Caroline North all the time. Paul Bailey.'

Next a reflection on the name Ram Dass which was in the report mentioned last time. Jan Sundermann wrote: 'I must admit that I never heard the name of Ram Dass before. Then I took out the original LA album and checked the large photograph inside. Some familiar faces there including the Mahatma, but no sign that could lead to Ram Dass at all?

By the way, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the book of Richard Bach was published in German as 'Die Möve Jonathan'. I have a copy of 2007, and that was already the 25th edition.



Three weeks ago I had a maybe once in a lifetime call on the phone. It was the media research institute "Kantar" www.kantartns.de questionnaire on broadcasting, those institutions that generate the Media Analyse

www.agma-mmc.de on audio broadcast reception in Germany. The interview with me took nearly three quarters of an hour starting softly with 'do you know this programme or station, and have you heard it over the last week, or month or three months?'

The stations questioned had been those to be received in our area of living, but also from other Bundesländer. A computer had selected our phone number, and from that it was clear which stations are audible here. Then it became personal habits about the usual times of listening and the various ways of distribution like FM, DAB or online streaming. Personally you could also add stations that had been not on their listing.

Among others, I added Radio Caroline and had to spell that to the lady. So I avoided more confusion by naming Radio 5 on longwave for example. Finally I agreed to fill in a two week log sheet online documenting what station, at which time and by what means I have tuned in. This was all fun to be among the officially said 67000 interviewed persons per period. Well, it seems to be impossible to have them all for more than half an hour on the phone, right?

But I fear, I have not put the current media figures topside down with my habits. The reason is, these statistics are timewise 'gliding' average values, taking into account always also past figures. Obviously to avoid shock waves in the station managements when figures going up and down. Any readers do have similar experiences in their countries? Jan Sundermann.'

Thanks a lot Jan for sharing this experience with us. Of course those who are on the other side of the telephone line are mostly students who earn a little money, so it's normal that the name 'Caroline' doesn't say much to them. On the other hand 67000 people? Must be a big organization to do the interviews.

Mike Barraclough recently came with the next interesting news: Robin Garton has recently uploaded a 90 minute video he co-produced for the Pharos Trust about Pirate BBC Essex 2004 to his YouTube channel. The LV18 was anchored offshore for the 2004

broadcasts as it was again in 2007. Dave Cash, Keith Skues, Steve Scruton, Ray Clark and Tim Gillett, who has just announced his retirement from BBC Essex and who says of the Pirate BBC Essex broadcasts he organised "Those celebrations of 60s offshore pirate radio were by far the pinnacle in listener terms of my time in radio" all featured as well as others some will recognise. The title is misleading, apart from a short section at the start the majority of the video is footage of Pirate BBC Essex 2004.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCT1Lsl7wVs>

Here a message about a project by Paul Bailey:

A massive research in getting names on an internet site bringing in all kind of people who worked on, for or promoted one or more offshore radio stations. That brings almost 3000 names from people who were active between 1958 and 1990. It's like a big quiz to fit station name or activity behind the names. So maybe is there a rainy day to fill in those your self: <https://offshoreradiopeople.wordpress.com/roll-of-honour/>

Next time for Jon Myer: January early:

I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

- There is the sad news of the death of Nigel Fell who was heard occasionally on Radio City using the name John Martin as well as on the Voice of Peace, off Israel, where he was known as John Reith. He was a regular correspondent and contributor to The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame and will be greatly missed;
- we have added some star-studded audio: Radio Caroline South's Keith Martin interviewing singer Del Shannon and Caroline North's Ric Jonns talking to Herman's Hermits;
- plus there's another audio clip added to last month's page on The Beatles' final Tour of America;

- we have more Caroline Countdown of Album Sound charts from 1979 courtesy of the Felixstowe & Offshore Radio Facebook page;
- and congratulations to former Radio Caroline DJ Simon Barrett who married Alicia Medrano in December.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed and supported the site during 2019.



Chris Cooper collection Chris Cooper

- And early February: Chris Cooper was heard on Radio Caroline over Christmas 1989 / New Year 1990. Following the collapse of the giant aerial mast and the Dutch police raid, not to mention six continuous years at sea, the mv Ross Revenge was looking somewhat tatty by then. Chris has kindly shared some photographs from his time aboard (with more to come in a future update).
- plus we have three 'Caroline Countdown of Sound' charts from the sixties with audio clips courtesy of www.azanorak.com

With all best wishes, Jon at The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

E mail time again: I have just read your Radio Report from start to finish and very much enjoyed it. You spend much time devoted to this subject and I'm sure that many people also enjoy the tales you

uncover. Thanks again and a best wishes to you and your family. Andy Miles,'

And of course Rosko came around again early January: 'Hi Hans Happy New year my man, thanks as always for the shout up. In the round up of radio news!

I think you broke a world record this last December, the issue was the biggest, longest ever! Stay out of trouble and stay safe. Yours truly, The only Emp you know! '

Thanks and hopefully you did spell it completely. I've now 71 pages text but decided to break the report in two parts, so around springtime another will be published.



Rosko and the Corona Virus. Collection: EMP.

And another e mail from England: Dear Hans Another excellent Christmas read. So sad that Wilf has gone to that TXMR above the sky but wow what a commitment and contribution to our past - and with you around - our present it seems. Sincerely a sparkling 80 year old John Ross-Barnard JP retired.

Beautiful pictures taken some years ago as well as recently from the radio ship Jenny Baynton in Harlingen by Paul Krooshof and now in the Flickr Archive pages from Martin van der Ven and me:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157712328646421>

Time for a special I wrote early January which I want to share in the report too:



Did you ever hear a Coca Cola commercial on one of the offshore radio stations? I surely did so time to explore the power of those commercials.

It was in 1964 that the idea arose at the Canadian branch of Coca Cola Ltd., in collaboration with the advertising agency McCann-Erickson, to use pop artists to bring their product to the attention of young radio listeners. Young Canadian singer Bobby Curtola was chosen as the first artist to sing 'Things go better with Coca Cola'. Despite the fact that many Canadian radio stations refused to play it on the radio, it was still a success. Curtola became a kind of advertising pole for the bottling company and appeared throughout the country for promotional activities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CS45M-EhjLM>

The success of the actions with Bobby Curtola was reason enough for the parent company to go big. Many well-known artists were willing to sing a commercial on the same theme for about 90 seconds, which was distributed worldwide. Radio stations were also given the so-called musical beds that could be used for the already well-known

games on the radio. Radio Veronica, for example, had the so-called 'Hittip Toto' in the summer of 1971 in which the version of The Fortunes was used as a 'musical bed' by Lex Harding.

Returning to the first idea of using the soft drink as promotional material through commercials sung by an artist, Curtola was not the only one from Canada, because in the next 12 months other pop artists from that country were willing to participate as well. For us in Western Europe totally unknown names like 'J.B. and the Playboys', 'Jack London', 'David Clayton' and 'Thomas and the Shays' were also willing to promote the ultimate taste through their singing.



As already mentioned there were many artists participating in this project in the US and later worldwide, the first of which were Roy Orbison, The Four Seasons and The Supremes. Hardly any bigger names were possible at that time to put the advertising campaign on super sharp. And the success of the first Canadian artist in this campaign led to more at the time. As you know, Canada has an English part as well as a French part, which automatically meant that French-speaking commercials had to come as well to promote the soft drink. For this purpose 'Cesar and the Romans', 'Les Baronets' and 'Les Cailloux' were hired. However, the biggest name in the French campaign was Petula Clark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLNikUr-tTI>

An awful lot of versions of the theme were sung in and when a new hit formation appeared on the firmament of some potential, the people of the advertising agency were there like chickens to record another new version. It often happened that several versions were

recorded with a certain group, like those of the British group The Fortunes. On You Tube there are plenty of 'Coca Cola it's the real thing' spots to score.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zJmhAt8q4E>



And then there is the story of Bill Backer, creative director for the Coca-Cola account of the aforementioned McCann Erickson advertising agency. In January 1971 Backer flew to London to meet Billy Davis, the music director for the Coca-Cola account, and write radio commercials with two successful British songwriters, Roger Cook and Roger Greenaway. British artists were supposed to sing the new commercials and even planned a single version with The New Seekers.

The heavy fog in London forced the plane to land at the airport near the Irish Shannon. Before disembarking the passengers were advised to stay near the airport in case the fog lifted. Some of them were furious about their accommodation. The next day Backer saw some of the most angry passengers in the airport café. Brought together by a common experience, many were laughing and sharing stories about snacks and bottles of Coca-Cola.

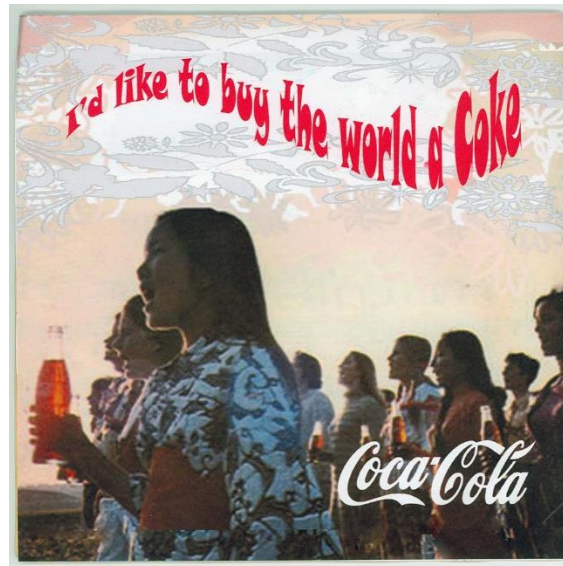
It was then that Bill Backer saw a bottle of Coke in a whole new light and began to see a bottle of Coca-Cola as more than a drink that refreshes a hundred million people a day in almost every corner of the world. So he began to see the familiar words, "Let's have a Coke," as more than an invitation to pause for refreshment.



They were actually a subtle way of saying, 'Let's keep each other company'. And Backer knew they were said all over the world like he was in Ireland. So that was the basic idea: to see Coke not as it was originally designed - a liquid refresher - but as a little commonality between all the peoples, a universally loved formula that would help keep them company for a few minutes.

When he finally arrived in London, Backer told Billy Davis and Roger Cook what he had seen in the airport café. After expressing his thoughts about buying a Coke for everyone in the world, Backer noticed that Davis' first reaction was not at all what he expected and asked him, "Billy, do you have a problem with this idea? Davis slowly revealed his problem. "Well, if I could do something for everyone in the world, it wouldn't be to buy them a Coke."

Eventually, according to tradition, coincidence at Shannon airport became the source for the composition of 'I'd like to buy the world a coke' and a special version was composed for The New Seekers, but their manager said the group didn't have time to record the song.



Davis had a group of studio singers record the new song 'I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke'. They called themselves The Hillside Singers in order to identify with the image that was shown during the promotional film. Within two weeks after the release of the Hillside Singers recording it was in the national charts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBmOX_lodh4

Two weeks later Davis was able to convince the New Seekers to find the time to record their version of 'I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (in Perfect Harmony)', the new title for the song version of 'I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke'.

He took them to the studio on a Sunday and produced the song which became a Top 10 hit, followed by the Hillside Singers' version as #13 on England's pop hit list. The song was recorded in a wide range of languages and sold more sheet music than any other song in the then previous 10 years. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWKznrEjJK4>

The Coca-Cola Company donated the first \$80,000 in royalties, which writers and publishers of the song had earned, to UNICEF under an agreement with the writers. It meant an eternal fame for the song which, when the first tones are heard, almost everyone starts singing or humming. So, time for a Zero Coke for me!

Bill Backer about the commercial

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=151&v=tSNU1TvF4pc&feature=emb_logo

Courtesy of The CocaCola Company Archive.

Next an e mail from the south of the Netherlands: I've questions about the steering wheel from the Mi Amigo, Germain Akcx had stolen it in 1978, but something structured me.

It was not the original steering wheel of the Mi Amigo. No, and I dare say that with certainty and can prove it. Take first a look at the picture of the steering wheel in the wheelhouse of the Mi Amigo in 1965 and later the picture from 1974 and you'll see that both steering wheels differ! Look at the bars, which are grooved differently, in 1974 there is also a big rim over the steering wheel.

I would like to open a discussion about that steering wheel and who can help us out? I also once read that Marc Jacobs had been given a steering wheel that would be the one that 'mister' Ackx had nicked. Does Marc still have that one? Could we compare it to both photos?

Could you take a look at them, Hans? Maybe we can have a nice discussion with people who were aboard the Mi Amigo. Take a good look at both steering wheels, they're really different. Greetings... from "photo fluffer" Henk Kruize.'



Alice LaBrie Hille at the wheel
George Hare collection

Brian Anderson and Ben the
carpenter. Source unknown

Colin Nichol copyright Barratts Photo-Press Ltd

Well Henk, we're going to find out and maybe we'll find out if Marc has the real steering wheel of the Mi Amigo or not. If so, it would be one of the few remains, also the story goes that Stevie Gordon took the microphone from the Caroline studio after the last closedown on March 19th 1980.... you know, I'm so excited to find out... It's been almost 40 years since the Mi Amigo went down to the ushers, but still, I feel like it was yesterday.

The other day I was listening to a tape of Radio 192 in which Hans Verlaan was interviewed about his last night on the Mi Amigo, he made, sorry I have to say, a hero story of that... "The LP's drove all the water when I looked down the stairs" and then Caroline had to go off the air" , or... "I stood for hours on the tires hanging along the ship before I could jump over to the lifeboat"... I keep it more like Tom Anderson's version.

Still, I have to keep it a bit on the "wear and tear" of the memory because in the same program Tineke claimed that the Norderney was at 2 (yes two) anchors, one at the front and one at the back... so... I rest my case.

I did send the photos to Marc and he responded with: "That 1965 steering wheel looks much smaller. Could well be, that the original was stolen when the Mi Amigo was at the quayside. The steering wheel I have here looks exactly like the one in the picture from 1974, with a few small differences, so I don't know why the salesman at the time said it came from the Mi Amigo.'

Thanks Marc and other response can be send to HKnot@home.nl

Next I was wondering who this lady Alice LaBrie Hille on the 1965 photograph is. As it was collection Colin Nichol it took contact:

'I do know about this, she was from the team of the New York TV show 'Tell the Truth' that Ronan went to NYC to take part in. I did meet she and Hall later in NYC, in early 1972. They have since divorced. You should find more if you search under their names and New York, etc. There has been a good deal there on them. She came on a visit in return for Ronan's taking part in the TV show, at Ronan's invitation. She was most charming. Very good to hear from you Hans and I wish you all the very best. I'm fit and well with my 83rd coming up at the end of the year. It's breakfast time here and a warm and sunny morning. I'll be having lunch today with a friend at a park by the beach. Colin Nichol.'

Good to hear that you're doing well at your age and hopefully you can enjoy many more years. Take care. Well in the meantime we learned where the other photos are on the internet: Jon Myer wrote:

'Thanks for letting me know Hans. Colin's reply reminded me that I have seen the pictures before. They are on Chris and Mary's site:

<https://www.radiolondon.co.uk/caroline/george/memorabilia3.html>

Ian Godfrey from London is next: 'Many thanks for the Autumn edition of the Report, which I didn't get round to reading till yesterday. I still have the same downloading problem and am still hoping that someone can sort it out pretty soon. I was quite surprised though to find that I could read it as part of your email; as was the case till probably about 2 years ago.'

I was intrigued by the Sept 1977 photograph of the group outside Robin's Records. At this time I lived in the same building as a lady called Valerie Stark. I was introduced to her almost two years earlier than this by a friend of mine; who described me as "also being interested in Radio Caroline." We went on a couple of the boat-trips

organised by Dave Hutson. It seemed quite clear on one of them that skipper Arthur Ord's intention (presumably because of the 'non-assistance of an illegal radio station' edict) was simply to do a circuit of the Mi Amigo and sail back to Brightlingsea. Valerie was the only one who challenged him - protesting, justifiably, that we hadn't paid all that money for nothing and, amazingly the skipper relented; allowing Val to shake Mark Lawrence's hand!



Samantha Photo: Collection Rob Olthof

I wondered at the time whether this could have been construed as assisting an illegal radio station! Val wasn't with me on quite a dramatic trip in November 1976 - when we were marooned on a sandbank for 7 1/2 hrs. This was when I met a lady called Christine Smith - sitting below decks. I haven't seen or heard any reference to her since. Val knew Albert and Georgina Hood; at least because we spent a weekend with them in Dec 1977. Chicago and Johnny Jason visited her round this time and we went for a drink with Johnny on one occasion. Val also introduced me to Samantha in summer 1977. It's highly likely that she attended events that I was completely

unaware of. One key point is that the Valerie I'm referring to is also no longer with us. The lady in the front row does resemble her. Unfortunately the quality of the photograph isn't that great.

I still find the Wednesday RNI feature on Offshore Radio Sounds gets the adrenaline flowing at times; notably today, with a recording of a February 1970 test on 186, with Horst Reiner, plus Roger Day on recorded station IDs. Regards, Ian Godfrey.' Well maybe the people mentioned in the autumn edition can come back with answers on the questions you've made.

If RNI fans are talking about captains on the MEBO II there are two names which occur immediately which are captain Onnes and captain Harteveld. Recently I got a question from Paul in Overschild in the Netherlands if I ever heard about a captain called Captain Peco. Paul was reading the Graham Gill story and as I was assisting Graham with writing the book I know the story Graham told me about and which is also in the book: 'Earlier I tried to get along on the ship with everyone and Captain Thijs was everyone's idea of a good Captain but on the other hand the Serbian captain was to my mind a rather odious creature who liked throwing his weight around. He has every right to be captain of the ship but he fancied himself as captain of the radio station as well. He had a brother that he often brought on board, a rather pushy type, about 25 years of age, who was always trying to 'get me into bed' so to speak and of course I refused his frequent advances.

And so Captain Peku started intimidating me: "why can't you "make it" with my brother" he said to me more than once. On one occasion I told his brother to bugger off and just to spite me the next day the Captain came to me while I was in the galley where I was reading a collector's item book on the popular TV series at the time 'The Onedin Line'. He just snatched it away from me. I said to Captain Peku: 'Do you mind, give it back'? He just gave a threatening sneer

and said: 'You don't get it back.' This was just not a ship's captain. It was.....a Serbian bastard and he had a big ego and sadistic nature!

On the MEBO 2 that Serb captain ruled and didn't stand for any nonsense. He has in my opinion a sadistic nature and would have been an ideal choice for a prison guard. One just had to put up with him or maybe risk being thrown over the side in the middle of the night. It was another reason for me to eventually take up the Caroline offer to return to the Mi Amigo.' A clear and heavy memory there from the late Graham Gill.



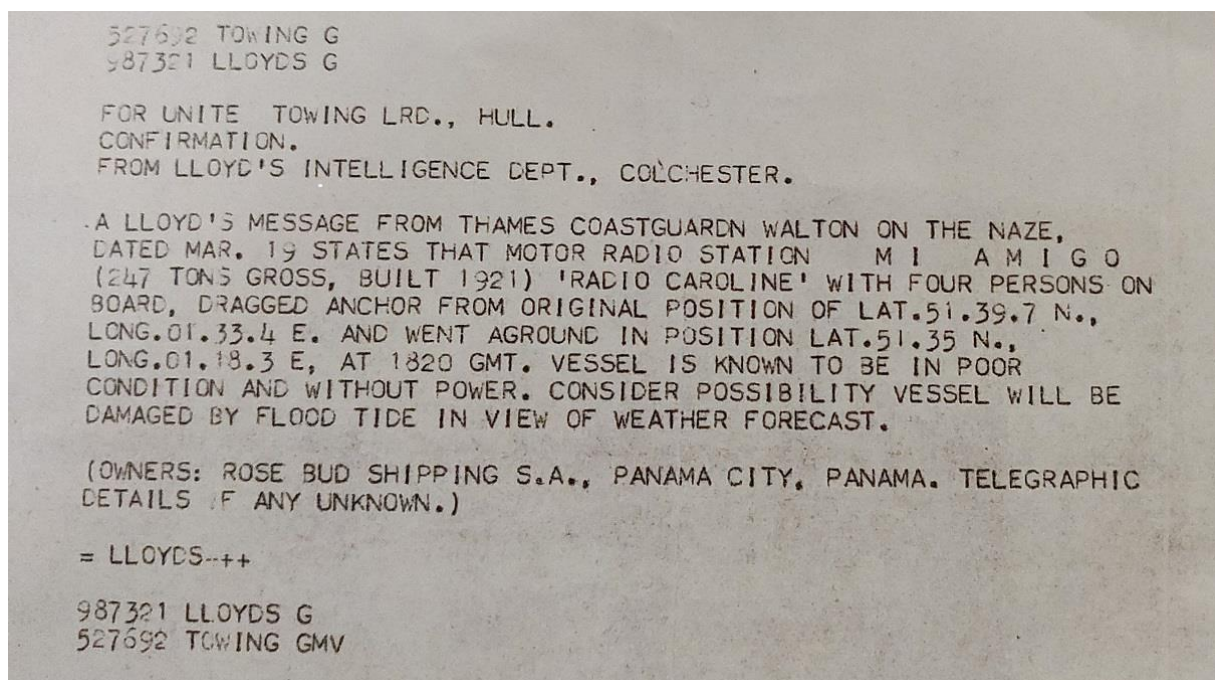
Graham Gill in the seventies Photo: collection Rob Olthof

Anyway it seemed that Paul from Overschild didn't know nothing about this captain Peco and so the idea came to get in touch with Brian McKenzie, who of course was also on the MEBO II during the

period Graham Gill joined in and Brian remembered Peco with the following comments: 'He was captain for the last part of RNI. I believe he was hired by Bollier. He was good guy but he and Graham did not get on. I think he did not like gays and Graham was very (in your face). He loved eating raw onion and garlic with olive oil. In the summer he could be plotted anywhere in the ship by the aroma of his sweat! We used to laugh and say Peco wax down here.'

Thanks Brian for your memory too. Next it is Naud Nelissen who wrote: 'A few days ago, one of the English FRS presenters sent me a scan of a document. He in turn received it from someone whose brother worked in the marine towing business near Hull in the 1980's. It is a copy of a telex that he received on the day the MV Mi Amigo sank: March 20th 1980.

It seems that the company that that person worked for is the original recipient of the telex. The coordinates are at least different from the official position where the Mi Amigo sank.



527692 TOWING G
987321 LLOYDS G

FOR UNITE TOWING LRD., HULL.
CONFIRMATION.
FROM LLOYD'S INTELLIGENCE DEPT., COLCHESTER.

A LLOYD'S MESSAGE FROM THAMES COASTGUARDN WALTON ON THE NAZE,
DATED MAR. 19 STATES THAT MOTOR RADIO STATION MI AMIGO
(247 TONS GROSS, BUILT 1921) 'RADIO CAROLINE' WITH FOUR PERSONS ON
BOARD, DRAGGED ANCHOR FROM ORIGINAL POSITION OF LAT.51.39.7 N.,
LONG.01.33.4 E. AND WENT AGROUND IN POSITION LAT.51.35 N.,
LONG.01.18.3 E, AT 1820 GMT. VESSEL IS KNOWN TO BE IN POOR
CONDITION AND WITHOUT POWER. CONSIDER POSSIBILITY VESSEL WILL BE
DAMAGED BY FLOOD TIDE IN VIEW OF WEATHER FORECAST.

(OWNERS: ROSE BUD SHIPPING S.A., PANAMA CITY, PANAMA. TELEGRAPHIC
DETAILS IF ANY UNKNOWN.)

= LLOYDS---++

987321 LLOYDS G
527692 TOWING GMV

So it could be that at the time of the telex the ship was still drifting. I thought: let me send it to you. I don't know if you've ever published anything like this before. Greetings Naud Nelissen.'

Dear Naud, it's a very unique telex. It is clear, however, that it is a kind of warning that the ship was in distress and could perhaps be

seen as a tip to send out a boat to possibly tow it, although this is not explicitly mentioned. I'll take it with me in the report but first I'll put it in two Facebook groups to elicit reactions. Thank you for thinking of me.

Paul Rusling responded on the fb mentioning: 'This is a Lloyd's service that all big tug companies subscribe to. United were one of the UKs biggest and based in Hull. Rosebud (Panama company owned by McLendon and Thompson originally) lost ownership when the vessel was auctioned in May 1972.'

Before I forget, here an update from Mary and Chris Payne at the Big L site:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Well almost at the end of this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Doug Wood was there with an e mail in which he mentioned: 'From Sunday 23rd February, and the eight weeks up to Easter weekend we are carrying The Radio Caroline Story (A Life On The Medium Wave) in eight parts narrated by Andy Archer, and it's the updated one which includes extra clips from the likes of Tom Lodge and many more. Over the Easter week The RADIO SHIP TWO will carry a special 21 hours sequence of Radio Caroline's output from the 60's through to the 80's. That's on the 128 stream.

<https://tunein.com/radio/The-RADIO-SHIP-TWO-s124231/>

And talking about Eastern surely before that weekend there will be another report as it stands now there are 42 pages which had to wait. Nevertheless let your memories, photos, questions and more come to the regular address: HKnot@home.nl

Till next time take care and all the best from us in Groningen, the Netherlands.