

## HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT MARCH 2010

Hello and welcome to this issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. As promised in the February issue in the forthcoming months you will receive shorter reports as well as irregular issues. The reason is that I've too much workload at the moment to give it a full attention. However thank you all to those who send in interesting material in the past weeks. This issue will bring us later the sad news of the death of two important persons in the world of offshore radio. Let's start, as usual, with the first e mail which came in after the report was released:



Elly van Amstel on Radio Monique  
Photo: Leen Vingerling

The first one came this time from Holland and Elly van Amstel. I met her first way back in the early eighties at Frits Koning's place in Amsterdam. Later in the second part of the eighties both would work onboard the MV Ross Revenge for Radio Monique. Both did several interesting things within the Dutch Radio scene. Elly wrote me: 'Nice from you that you wrote about Radio 10 in last issue of the report. Soon there will be a reunion of former team members from Radio 10. Jeroen Soer, once director, is organising the reunion via Linked In. By the way, I had the honour to be the first to do a live shift in the program 'Graveyard' at Radio 10.

Minutes after Elly came in, it was the Emperor who thought to be the first again, but he was beaten by a lady: 'I will bet I am the first to reply! Hi, it just popped up on the screen so I am sending you a hello with in sixty seconds! Emp'

Well I had to write him that he wasn't and was beaten once again. The Emperor came back from California with the next surprise: 'Well I can not faster than 60 seconds! She must be sitting in the office next to you! I also sent you my birthday photo with the cute deejay Opal. She's doing some work for the Wedding Channel (Tony Prince) and is working for KCFM in Hull.



Opal, Paul Burnett, Anonymous and Emperor Rosko

I'm having a lot of fun doing Big L international nightly shows and all the great stations that takes our shows. I had a great time recently doing the Alan (Moon Dog) Freed documentary. The history of rock and roll can not be told without his name in it. If any of your readers in Sydney read this and know Bob Rodgers please pass on [erosko@roadrunner.com](mailto:erosko@roadrunner.com). Have a good Report. EMP

Some info about the Hull station: 'The KCFM 99.8 music policy promises that you'll hear the very best 'feel good' music. At KCFM 99.8 we are proud to play a great mix of your favourite tracks from the 60's upwards. You'll hear us play the best new music too.' As seen on the photo also Paul Burnett, who worked on Radio 270, Radio Luxembourg, Capital Radio and a lot of other stations, can be heard on Saturdays 12 pm BST. with the 'Best Of The 50's, 60's & 70's on The Weekend R & R' plus 7pm: 'The Sunday Sesh' playing all the new single releases alongside Hull & East Yorkshire's Official Album Chart. <http://www.kcfm.co.uk/>

Thanks Emperor and next time there's another change to hit the number one spot. Next we go to Leicestershire: Dear Hans. Thank you once again for your excellent report for February 2010. This is the year surely for celebrating 40 years since Radio Nord See which began broadcasting in 1970. A fantastic year, the year that the conservatives came to power with Edward Heath. This as a result partly due to RNI's conversion to Radio Caroline. This temporarily happened during the election campaign. And let's not forget the featuring of the record made of Labour's Postmaster General Edward Short, based on the tune of 'Dad's Army'

as everybody remembers! As I remember sometime in the Spring that year, Roger 'Twiggy' Day could be heard on 186 metres MW doing the voice over to test transmissions on the wavelength (I'm not sure if RNI had already started transmitting on 31m and 49m wave bands on short wave, because how else was I able to pick the broadcasts up so clearly in Sheffield at that time, where I was living!. 'If you are hearing me say this please write today to Radio Nord See International, PO Box 113, Zurich in Switzerland.' Yes, the names all come back - Andy Archer (still around), Duncan Johnson (the voice of 'This is 2 6 6'), Alan West, the late Carl (the weird beard) Mitchell, the late Tony Allan (excellent in opening the subsequent 'Summer RNI' broadcasts at proximally 3pm (Dutch time) each day in 1971, the later Spangles Muldoon, Horst Rheiner, and Mark (Westerly) Wesley. I was at University at the time so RNI was the radio station that I always listened to (standoff insulators and aerial wire set up to the correct measured wavelength or factor of it!) It was a hobby of mine to find the different broadcast frequencies it adopted at different times owing to UK HM Government authorised jamming as much as the amount the Amigo II was chased across the North Sea.



Carl Mitchell (photo: Hans Knot archive)

And if this does not sound barmy enough, I went to the USA in the summer of 1971. I used to switch the ice cream chimes on the Jumbo Ice cream truck, which I used to drive round the estates of Outer Cleveland, Ohio. Most of them were black ghettos, where ice cream sold better. I was broadcasting RNI jingles in between hit records of the time from a pre-recorded cassette tape I had brought from the UK! I was a teenager then and lived on the edge!! But it sold ice cream as the locals came out to see the curiosity driving the truck! I will quickly reassure you that I have now become more conventional since those times. I sincerely hope I don't owe royalties!

I admired enviously the model seen held in your excellent report - a real treasure. Although I respect the pirate ships of the 1960s, I have always thought that the

MEBO II was the King of them all as it was palatial as compared with the former (how could I have said that against *Galaxy* and the *Radio Caroline South* ship! -no offence intended). Just a few thoughts of those days and sorry if appearing boring and self centered. Kind regards to you  
Bernard Robinson.'

Well Bernard, it was most enjoyable to read your memories. It reminded me to so many things happening in 1970. I thought it was best to bring for the first time an exclusive photograph, which came from the Carl Mitchell archive. This archive was given to me more than 25 years after his death and brought some very special souvenirs.

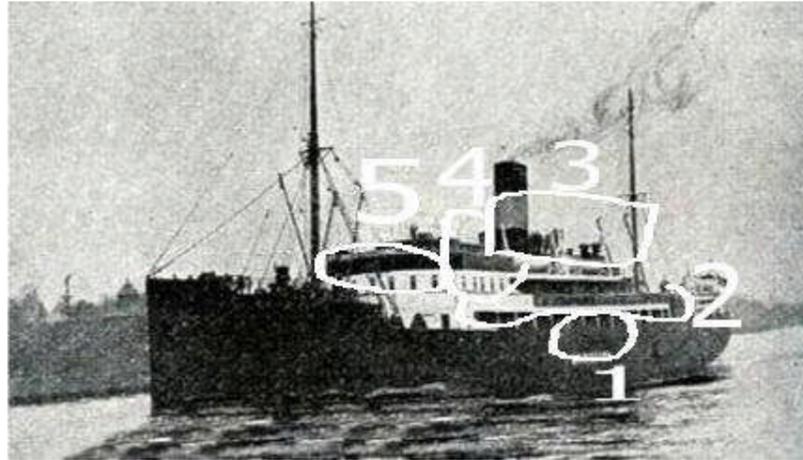
Let's go to Spain: 'Hi Hans. Thanks for the latest report. Here some more news on Pirate FM. This new station is now on air, for more information go to [www.piratefm.biz](http://www.piratefm.biz) Several former Caroline jocks can be heard on this station which is based in Tenerife Canary islands. The weather is good down here but recent thunder storms and some rain but still around 20 degrees most days. Regards,  
Paul Graham.'

Thanks a lot Paul and good to hear from you again. Lot's of luck with the station!

'Hi Hans, Jim Corbett from Warrington in England. May I thank you very much for sending me the 'Hans Knot Reports? I know you work very hard to put it all together and it is time consuming. I enjoy reading them keep up the excellent work do take care my friend regards Jim.'

Thanks for your nice words Jim, most appreciated. Now on to John Bennet who come back to the photo of the sister ship of the *Fredericia*, which was published last month:

'Dear Hans, I was amazed to see the photo of a possible sister-ship to the *MV Fredericia* in your recent Radio Report. I've studied the photo for a long time and compared it to existing pictures of the *MV Fredericia*. There are many differences.



1. This ship has a name of only eight letters, beginning with an "L". Further, the Fredericia's name when she was a ferry boat was situated more towards the bow and higher up side.
2. This ship has approximately 13 places, marked off by dividers, on each side. The Fredericia had 10.
3. This ship shows two lifeboats on the port side, yet the Fredericia only had space for one lifeboat on the port side.
4. This ship has five window/portholes on the superstructure leading to the roof. The Fredericia has had two squares on both port and starboard.
5. This ship has five windows immediately below the front of the bridge. On The Fredericia, there were four windows situated further down, between a front-facing port door and starboard door.



I think that the differences between both ships are so large that they can't be due to any part of the conversion to a Radio Ship whilst in Greenore, the ship would have had to be shortened by 20 metres. It seems this was one of the Fredericia's sisters. Thank you for your great work Hans, best wishes, John Bennett.'

Well John very well done and a clear explanation of the differences. Thanks a lot and take care.

Anyone who wants to share memories or photographs can send it to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

'Hello Hans, just as an aside, I have been given the opportunity to go to live in New York with a lady friend and would like to see if there are any radio opportunities for me. Have you any contacts I could try in New York? Best regards, Phil Hilton.'

So any reader who has an idea for an answer on Phil his question about New York can mail him at: [mail@philhilton.co.uk](mailto:mail@philhilton.co.uk)

From Australia it was Graham Webb who asked me to inform the readers about the next internet site: <http://www.otrcat.com/>

The next e mail is from a brand new reader: 'Hello Hans. My good friend Paul Peters passed me this newsletter which I found fascinating. I too was involved in land based pirate radio -Sunshine Radio with Roger Matthews - Radio Caroline. I now am heard on several stations - see tag line below. Keep up the good work its great. Regards Geoff from Dorsett. [www.geoffandandy.co.uk](http://www.geoffandandy.co.uk)

Listen in the UK: Express FM | Forest FM | MTJR

Listen in the US: WZEO | WRTW | KZEO | WCRP | XRQK | WPNT | Hamilton Radio | KQRO 99.9 The Crow | Radio Free Phoenix | Mix Utah 94.5 | Wide Music | SuperStarRock.com | Radio 252. Listen in Canada: Retro Radio One. Listen in Australia: 3PTH | 2SYD | 2MEL. Listen in New Zealand: KIX FM | Radio Kidnappers Listen in Greece: Energy FM. Listen in Spain: Ace FM.

Thanks Geoff and you're always welcome to tell some of the memories about your pirate days for the Radio Report.

A regular responder to the report is Mike Terry: 'Hi Hans. Please would you mention that I have opened a fans only Facebook group called "Wonderful Radio London 266". (As I couldn't find one elsewhere) and the response has been very encouraging with many joining, with many memories and photos being posted. Membership should accelerate as friends tell friends. I entered the group description as: "This group is for those who appreciate the superb offshore broadcaster which was off the English coast in the mid 1960s. It was for many the greatest radio station ever. This group is by fans for fans, it has no connection with any organisation using the name Radio London, Big L or similar." Regards, from Mike Terry, Bournemouth.'

Thanks Mike and a lot of success with this special group. Next an e mail from Canada. 'Hi Hans, as always a real pleasure to read your latest reports. Please give my regards to Bill Green and thank him for the kind words. It were our listeners that kept us going on Caroline North and having a party on the air as well as playing great music. Bill or anyone else can e mail me at [mickluzit@shaw.ca](mailto:mickluzit@shaw.ca) and I will reply.

I'm waiting for my new laptop, an apple, to do some more show to send to Europe. Will keep in touch and all the best to your friends. Especially for you and your family. Stay happy and healthy. Peace and Luv from Mick Luvzit.'

Thanks Mick and I hope your condition is getting better and better. Keep in touch, Hans. Next a message from Scotland and Graeme Stevenson: 'BBC Archives have confirmed on their Facebook group this morning that, for those of you overseas, you should now be able to listen to most of the radio programmes in our collections - something we've been working towards for the past year. Do tell your friends as we know a lot of people were disappointed that they were unable to hear our wartime and suffragettes programmes.' And there was a reader who tipped me with a wonderful radio show on the internet. Ron Sedaille All Request Saturday Night 102.9 WDRC FM VIDEO AIRCHECK 12 19 09 Part 3  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxBIKF-QhIs&feature=related>

After reading the next message I would like to ask you to give your opinion on the message to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) 'Radio Caroline, the famous offshore pirate radio station that fanned the flames of the youth culture explosion in the 1960s, is to be reborn this summer. Celestial Radio, created by artists Zoë Walker and Neil Bromwich as part of a commission for Essex County Council, has been devised as the 'lost' final broadcast from Radio Caroline and will be transmitted from a boat moored off the Essex coast. Speaking to the 24 Hour Museum, Neil Bromwich explained how Radio Caroline's legacy kept cropping up during their research about the area. "It was one of those things that came up that Radio Caroline had been broadcast off the coast here," he said. The two artists, who've been working together for around seven years, explore the space between real landscape and imagined location, transforming perception of place by creating a magical environment. <http://www.culture24.org.uk/art/art22352>

And now for all those former shipmates it's question time as I got an e mail from a student in France:

Hello! I'm a French student doing a Master's thesis on pirate radios (Radio Caroline and Radio London especially) and I've been given your email by Rob Chapman. I'd like to get in touch with former deejays of Radio Caroline and/or London and also with people who actually listened to those radios. Rob thought that maybe you could help me find emails or addresses... so I'm trying my luck! Thank you for reading and I hope you'll be able to help me. Here are a few questions I'd like to ask: How did you get the opportunity to work on Radio Caroline and/or London? Did you realise how important you were for people? Can you describe a regular day on board? Why did you leave? What do you think the government disliked about pirate radios? (The questions would of course be different depending on who I would be talking to

and these are just examples) I would also love to get in touch with people who actually listened to Radio Caroline and Radio London, and know why -in their opinion- it sounded better than the BBC, how they reacted when Radio London closed down, if they listened to Radio 1 or if they kept listening to Radio Caroline. So feel free to give my email address to anyone who could answer some of these questions!

[sophiedespax@free.fr](mailto:sophiedespax@free.fr)

I hope a lot of you, including former listeners from the sixties, will respond to Sophie so she can go on with her research.



Very recently I visited Rob Olthof of the Foundation for Media Communication and found out that some new photo lists and paintings were on his walls at home. This including the above masterwork, which was painted in the mid sixties by Ronald Schuurman. Very nice work and if you've also such an artwork please sent a photo to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

After we had Mick Luvzit earlier on now time for another Caroline North as well as South deejay, which I met for the last time in 1995 in London, already a long time ago. 'Hello, I hope you are well and staying warm and dry. We are all well here. We have had a lot of rain, but no problems. As you know I live in the Stillpoint Zen Community, the Umi Foundation, and that this is a non profit organization, and because of our official non profit status we've been given access to a new computer browser toolbar, which is called the Umi-Foundation toolbar. Now here's the gift, by installing it into your browser, then when you shop on line at any of the stores (from Amazon to Zazzle), a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to the Umi Foundation, and at absolutely no cost to you. This is because we, the Umi Foundation, the Stillpoint Zen Community, is a non-profit foundation that is totally supported by donations. Also, you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons. And then in addition, the toolbar has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to the Umi Foundation. So we would be most grateful for your participation. Thank you. But

also, if you wish, we would love it if you passed this onto your friends. Here is the link for your download:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/umi-foundation>

All the best, Tom Lodge.

Well Tom I hope many readers will follow your advice! Thanks and take care.

Back to England now: 'Have a look at this: Here is the real Adrian Cron

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx2BEf5CcKQ>

It's the real Adrian Cronauer, interviewed last year. Cheers, Chris Baird.'

Adrian Cronauer is the name many people associate with the movie *Good Morning, Vietnam* — the story of an Air Force radio announcer who used imagination and innovation to make more of a difference with his craft than his superiors felt they could tolerate. The real Adrian Cronauer, although he may not be as outrageous as the myth makes him, is a man whose talents and experience give him a unique perspective on the Vietnam War. Cronauer's involvement with communications and media began at a very early age.

The only child of a machinist and a teacher, he got his first taste of television by playing piano on a locally produced children's program in Pittsburgh. During his high school years, he volunteered at the local Public Broadcasting System station. He started out opening letters but ended up doing radio announcing by the time he was attending the University of Pittsburgh. He also played a major part in starting the school's campus radio station. By 1962, he was a full-time student majoring in broadcasting at the American University in Washington, D.C. Cronauer needed only 11 credit hours to graduate when the draft board pressed him to exercise his option to volunteer. Like many young men eligible for the draft in the 1960s, he decided to volunteer for the Air Force, hoping this would provide him with a wider choice of assignments than he otherwise would have had. His first choice was for flight training, and he passed the battery of tests necessary to qualify. The time commitment for that option, however, was more than he wanted to make, so he withdrew the application in order to make another choice. The Air Force found his next selection more suitable to their needs: Cronauer entered training for broadcasting and media operations.

In the mid-1960s, broadcasting was practiced in a fairly unimaginative and routine manner in the armed forces. It often included making training films and recording mind-numbing lectures. Things finally picked up a bit for Cronauer when he transferred from Stateside duty to an Armed Forces Radio station in Greece. There he found ways to add a little style and moxie to an otherwise pea-green military broadcasting universe. More can be found on Historynet:

<http://www.historynet.com/adrian-cronauer-air-force-radio-announcer-in-vietnam.htm>

I was recalling some memories about Laser 558 lately and also listening to some old shows when suddenly the commercial for Kimera's Lost Opera was heard. That took me to search on the web: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJJD0SvrcqQ>

And what about this one

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En1vMy4Ah-Y>

Next Wim van de Water who wrote to me that recently he got several photos for his site from 'Genootschap Oud Zandvoort' which were taken in August 1970 when Kees Manders went to the MEBO II with the idea to get the ship into harbour.

Let's have a look:

[http://www.mediapages.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=896:kees-manders-en-radio-noordzee&catid=50:noordzee-archieff&Itemid=29](http://www.mediapages.nl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=896:kees-manders-en-radio-noordzee&catid=50:noordzee-archieff&Itemid=29)

T shirt time again and here we have the RNI team, I think way back in 1973 with three of them wearing a RNI T shirt on the deck of the MEBO II. Left to right: Brian McKenzie, Mike Ross, Arnold Layne, Graham Gill and Don Allen. I dugged the photo out of the archive of Graham Gill.



Third former Caroline North deejay in this report: 'Hello Hans, My name is Wally Meehan, I was on the Radio Caroline North Ship. way back when. I have made a demo for Radio Caroline, I thought you might like to hear it. "The Ballad of Radio Caroline" and "We love you Caroline". If you would like to hear it, please can I have an address to send you a copy? The base is a little loud, but that will be altered on the finished copy. Best wishes. Wally (Spain).

In the meantime I've got the cd and must say that it sounded good and I preferred the 'We love you Caroline' song as the best. Gave some advices by Wally Meehan and hope one day the song will be released. Keep us informed Wally and thanks.

Next the monthly letter from Ian Godfrey: 'Hi Hans. Many thanks for the February Report. This email isn't specifically related to the Report but, having not been in touch for several weeks, and having a few hours spare on a Sunday evening, with 'Stafford's World' playing in the background, I thought I'd drop you a few lines (a phrase which no one seems to use these days!) Internet radio-wise, there have been a few changes to the seven hours of continuous listening I referred to in a previous email. As 'Pirate Radio Skues' radically changed format at the beginning of the year, effectively dropping the 'pirate radio' element, I can now get to bed a bit earlier and agree to do certain jobs on Mondays as opposed to other days!'

Well watch out Ian as I heard a recent program where the pirate part was back again.

Ian went on with: 'at the other end of the spectrum 'Big L Goes Dutch' started a couple of months ago, a highly recommendable show for anyone interested in minor hits/rarities. Last Sunday I discovered a show on Mi Amigo 192, featuring a top 40 from 1969. About three weeks ago I thought I'd try to get Mi Amigo on its new streaming and thought I was doing the logical thing by following a procedure in the Roberts Radio instruction booklet and managed to eradicate all my favourites and presets! Apart from being able to listen to a couple of them on the computer, I was feeling a bit bereft for 16 days and, after about a dozen fruitless enquiries, my former computer tutor managed to solve the restore everything and also agreed to do a software update, resulting in a revised display, giving more information about each station. I'm interested in any event connected with RNI's 40th anniversary - which would probably compel me to get a passport! I'll have another look at the Report tomorrow and try some of the links, plus one or two others from previous Reports, including Colin Dale's Radio Sutch.'

Thanks a lot Ian and soon we will have a meeting of the Radio Day Team and will decide which program we will have at the Radio Day in Amsterdam. Keep in touch for all information at [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)



During the last few months I had many contacts with *Graham Gill* to try to get his book as good as possible on the road, later this year. That means for me: reading his chapters and giving advice and bring in the historical facts. Next we will do the lay out and so a lot of photographs came on the table, which I hadn't seen before. It will be really a book in which not only his days on offshore radio will be told but also the very interesting story about his days in radio. But I will tell you more on the book at a later stage. Mid February *Graham* came to *Groningen* to work during two days on the book and he took with him a big plastic bag filled with all kind of memories including many letters from listeners during his days on *Radio Caroline*, *RNI* and *Radio Netherlands*. In the book will be a special chapter about the listeners and their response to the programs and we've decided that in the following months also memories, which will not be in the book, will be revealed in the *Hans Knot International Radio Report*.

In this issue of the report first a reception report which describes how reception was in *Sweden* in 1974, when *Graham Gill* was working for *Radio Caroline*.

LISTENERREPORT

To Radio Caroline -----  
-----

I had the pleasure to hear your broadcasting the 6th of AUG. 1974  
at 2216-2321 o'clock <sup>CET</sup> ~~CET~~ Frequency 1187 kHz. SINPO 3333  
As evidence on the receiving noted I, this following programpoints:

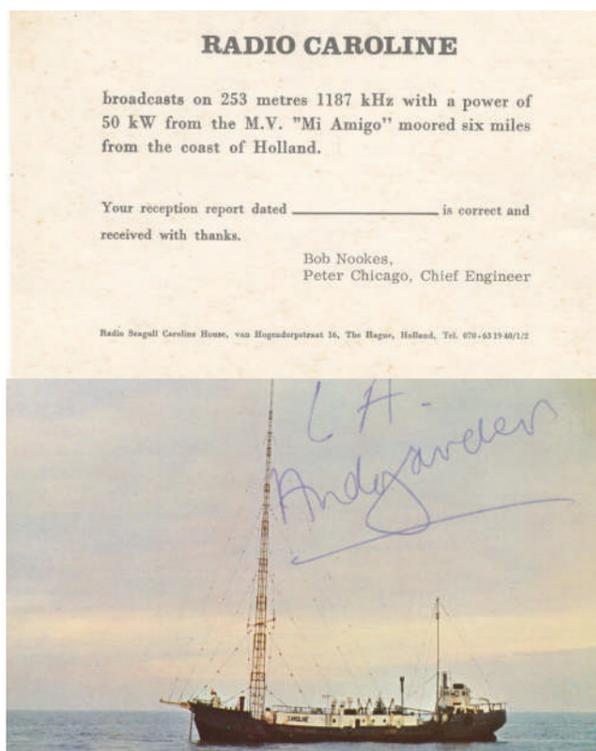
TIME

2216: Music -----  
19: Music -----  
30: Caroline jingle and then music -----  
35: ~~Beach Boys - Cabin Esens~~ from the album 'Supersecion it took 9 1/2 minu  
46: Beach Boys - Cabin Esens -----  
50: music with the name Down on your nees -----  
53: the mailing adress to Radio Caroline -----  
54: tomorrows program -----  
54: Music -----  
58: music -----  
2304 Johnny Jason talked 2305 music from Cream, 2313 about the food on Mi  
The programpoint I liked best was Amigo, 2314 music, 2321 music -----

I was born the seventh of february 1957.

With respectful regards  
*Per-Anders Vålemark*  
Per-Anders Vålemark  
Utvällinge  
262 00 ÅNGELHOLM  
SWEDEN  
-----

Also I found a Radio Caroline QSL Card, which I haven't seen before and from which I think it never found the way to the listeners. In the plastic bag a few were found in blank envelopes. On the backside of the card a printed text in which the name of technician 'Bob Noakes' is spelled wrong.



Nicknames came in this months from Robert Longham in Suffolk and all were names used on RNI: Brian 'the mad kilt' McKenzie, Brian 'the king of rock and roll' McKenzie and Arnold 'the Prince of album tracks' Layne.

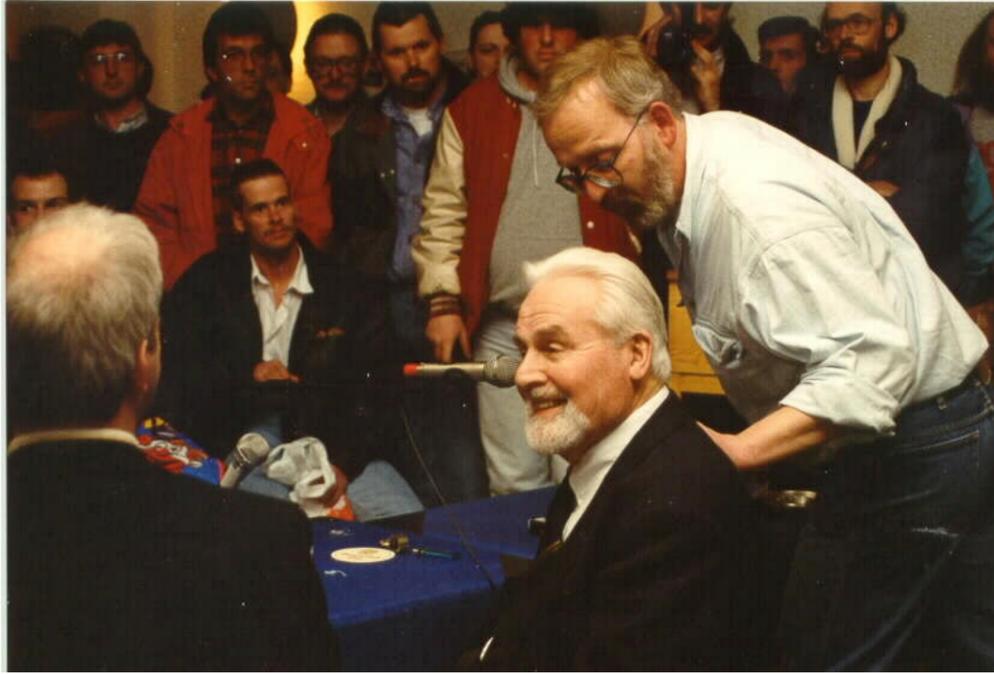
Former RNI newsreader Peter Ford told us the sad news that he recently heard from Vick Pelly, station manager at on stage at RNI in 1970 that his friend and MEBO II Kurt Baer died suddenly last year. He was one of the people on board the radio ship when it went on fire on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1971. Another Swiss crewmember sometimes mentioned in the program was Bruno Brandenburg. He recently stopped working with the police in Zurich, where he worked after his radio period.

Three segments with info regarding Graham Gill and this is the second one. He wrote me an e mail: 'I came across this archive Radio piece while trying to look up an old colleague of mine who must be around 80 by now. This information is rather dealing with Australian and Melbourne Radio in those early days when I was just beginning. I hope you enjoy reading it all.

[www.melbourneobserver.com.au/obmag061115.pdf](http://www.melbourneobserver.com.au/obmag061115.pdf)

Last year September we celebrated with family and close friends the fact that Bull Verweij, former director of the offshore radio station Veronica became 100 years of age. How many times someone sees someone near to you become hundred years? I believe only once. Well now some months later we have the very sad news that Bull passed away on February 19<sup>th</sup> in his sleep. Together with his late brothers, Dirk and Jaap and a very good team of people he made Radio Veronica to a big success.

Millions of former listeners still remember the march through The Hague when people demonstrated against Dutch government when they tried to introduce a law against offshore radio. The last hour of Veronica, from August 31<sup>st</sup> 1974 must be the most played radio show in the world, as this has been repeated so many times through the years by several radio stations.



The late Bull Verweij at the Radio Day in 1994. Photo: Hans Knot Archive

Also in the decennia after the closedown Bull appeared on several radio related parties and was guest during two of the annual Radio Days as organised by the Foundation for Media Communications. In 1994 and 1994 Jelle Boonstra and I had, during a few sessions, a many hours long interview with Bull about his life and about Veronica, which lead to a double cd. The first copy was given to him on the opening of the exhibition 'Dutch offshore radio stations', which was held in Dutch Broadcast Museum in 1994. In 2007 we honoured him with the very first Radio Day Award for his outstanding work in the history of Dutch commercial radio. My thoughts are with his family.

Other sad news came in versus Jon Myer and Bob LeRoi: 'Susan Moore daughter of Reginald Calvert wrote on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February: I am sorry to write to let you know that my mother died today, about 3.30pm Sunday 21st February. She was nearly 82 years old and had been suffering with her health for sometime. She had a heart bi-pass operation some 30 years ago - and decided to have another operation last Wednesday - on the slim hope of a few more years - but sadly, did not manage to pull through this time. Candy is arranging the funeral and hoping to have her buried next to my father, Reg Calvert, at Dunchurch. Over the years she has done many things, organising dances, managing pop groups, running a pirate radio station,

having a music publishing company etc etc. She got very frustrated with being old and frail as she always thought she was still 21 and going to live forever.'

Thanks to Jon and Bob

It was with great sadness to learn of the death of Dorothy Calvert. She showed, directly after her husband was shot in the sixties, that she was a power woman. She took over the running of the station as well as promoting and managing several pop groups and artist. Next to that she was running a publishing company and being a mother caring for her children. A second heart operation in a few years was too heavy for her. Personally I was in contact with her a few times when I was writing my book on Radio City in the eighties of last century. It was a warm contact which related to give me information which hadn't been published at that stage before. May she rest in Peace. A very good tribute can be found here:

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/dorothyc.htm>

Next one: 'Hello Hans. Hope you are keeping well. A piece of news for you, Former Radio Caroline engineer and deejay, Jim Richman, has joined Offshore Music Radio to present a three times a week show on OMR. His first show will be aired at 10.00am GMT on Sunday 28th February; it will be repeated on Wednesday and Saturday. Regards Colin Stevens, UK Station Manager.

<http://www.offshoremusicradio.com/>

Before the third item about Graham Gill we go to Eric Wiltshire who wrote:

'Dear Hans. There are many ways to fight for your station and we have a new one, please see attached. We're still building the service, but some shows can be found here <http://audioboo.fm/tag/rti>

When former BBC broadcaster Eric Wiltsher opened a small mountainside radio station it was a boyhood dream come true. At 20.40 on 9 April 2005, he played Cher's 'Believe' and RTI, the first major English speaking radio station in Slovakia, was launched. Within weeks RTI was claiming a million listeners across Europe. Then out-of-the-blue Slovak licensing authorities used an obscure piece of communist legislation to pull the plug on the station and as quickly as it arrived RTI.fm was gone. Its studios in the ancient town of Poprad, in the Spis region, were abandoned. Eric said: "We got taken off the air just over a year ago and I was devastated. It was a dream I had since childhood to one day open a European station." But the Slovaks trounced the dream when they decided Eric was broadcasting too many. Eric Wiltsher pictured outside AquaCity, Poprad English programmes. He said: "They seemed to conveniently forget that, with their blessings, we were an English/Slovak speaking station." But things changed when, last week, Eric phoned home to set up a deal which could change the face of broadcasting and bring an incredible 40 million new listeners to RTI's flagship show, Postcard from Poprad.

Eric, aged 55, said: "Seconds after we closed RTI, I was inundated with offers of help, particularly from ex-Radio Caroline people - some even offered airtime from neighbouring European countries, but that wouldn't give us our audience back. At the same an old journalist mate of mine, Leigh G Banks, got in touch and did some guest slots on the internet phoenix of RTI. Postcard from Poprad was basically just a weekly telephone chat which we recorded. It was literally, a message home every week, a postcard. Amazingly, people around the world thought we were funny, as we moved the show to a Zoo format, and we ended up being taken up by major radio stations. Now we are aired across Texas, the UK and Europe - and we've got an audience greater than the top three commercial stations in Slovakia combined. And the new deal done with London-based Audio Boo could potentially turn the show into one of the biggest in the world, bigger than the Rush Limbaugh show in the US, which claims more than twenty million listeners."

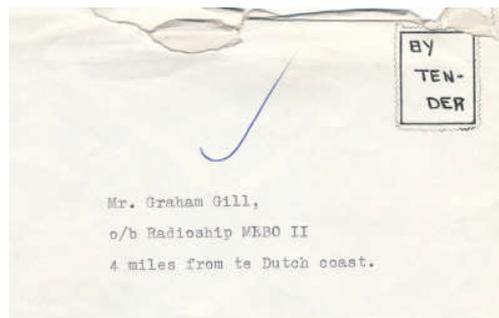
Audio Boo - a social networking site where people leave sound bites about their lives - is a major free application on iPhones and now Postcard from Poprad is sent to potential 40 million users every Friday afternoon. Leigh, who broadcasts from his cottage in Woodseaves, Staffordshire, said: "I've been a print journalist all my working life and when Eric suggested we do Postcard From Poprad it was just something different. I also have to admit the level of interest from listeners, as that's what they even via the web, has shocked me. It was also a bit of a fight-back on Eric's side after what the Slovak authorities did to him. The show is really just two grumpy old men having a bit of a row about the news and having a laugh at the same time. There really isn't anything else like it on the air, say our listeners, and thankfully people seem to love it."

Eric spotted the opportunity to run the station at the turn of the millennium when Slovakia's post-Communist parliament - beguiled by the strength of the euro compared to its own ailing koruna - decided to make English their second language. So he persuaded Luton businessman Jan Telensky to take over a failed tourist radio station at the foot of the snow-capped High Tatras between Slovakia and Poland. RTI.fm broadcasted local news on the hour in Slovak, road and weather reports, and dedicated more than half of its airtime to indigenous programming. But the Slovak radio authorities wanted more Slovak content and overnight this small broadcasting miracle at

the heart of Europe became an enemy of the state. Officials claimed RTI.fm was breaking the rules and, like a punch in the ear, it hijacked RTI's new FM license and gave it to a local man. Eric said: "It was ridiculous, we invested huge amounts of time in coordinating the new frequency for RTI and Poprad and the regulator gave it to a chap who has done nothing with it for the local community, we were stabbed in the back." Mark Rock. Founder of AudioBoo, said: "As many media people did, I watched the RTI story unfold with interest and then Eric and I discussed how AudioBoo could help. Initially we could only offer Eric a way to announce aspects of Postcard From Poprad on a five minute 'Boo'. Then we improved the software and we could air Postcard from Poprad in full. It really is one of the funniest shows in the world." Mr Telensky said: "I was totally devastated for Eric. He had put so much into the project. The AudioBoo opportunity puts RTI back where it should be, with a global audience."

For more information about RTI at: [www.rti.fm](http://www.rti.fm)

Third time around for Graham Gill: As mentioned he brought with him a plastic bag to Groningen in which a lot of letters. Many of them were letters with common requests, which were send to the P O Box addresses from Radio Caroline and RNI, which both were in Hilversum up till late August 1974. Also letters to him, while working at Radio Netherlands, went to a postal address in the village of Hilversum, the radio city in my country.



But there were also listeners who thought there were other ways to write in to deejays on board a radioship. So I found the above envelope in which two letters were, from Diana and her sister Karin from the Hague. It was addressed to Mr. Graham Gill, c/o Radioship MEBO II 4 miles from the Dutch coast. The letter arrived on board the radio ship MEBO II in August

1973. You see that both girls also not attached a stamp to the envelope but made their own one. The letter was brought to the office of the company Roos in Scheveningen harbour, which was the main tender company for the radio station between February 1971 and August 1974.

Next month more on *Graham Gill* his memories and hopefully also you. As you can write in and send your questions, memories and more. Have a good month and someday, one day I will be back. But keep in mind that the reports will be shorter this year due to other commitments.

One final news flash as *Jana* and I are very proud to mention that we became proud 'grandmother and grandfather'. *Irene Knot* and *Wim Zandstra* became parents of the twins *Femke* and *Sil* on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

More in about four weeks time. *Greetings, Hans Knot.*