

CAROLINE MOVEMENT

CM BULLETIN

BULLETIN NUMBER FOUR****AUTUMN 1979****18 PAGES****ALL THE NEWS

THREE OFFSHORE STATIONS... IT'S A LOT BETTER

WITH THIS ISSUE OF the Bulletin, Radio Caroline is now broadcasting again. The long six month wait during which the CAROLINE MOVEMENT could achieve little is now well behind us. Our membership is growing again quite fast and we hope that it will continue to do so in the coming months. We welcome all those new members that held back from joining either because they lacked faith or were ill informed about the station, believing it was finished altogether. After many months off the air, it was easy for doubts to set in. But thinking back to March 1968, it was to be over four years before Caroline returned. Most of us would have waited just as long this time round if it had been necessary.

We have to thank the few Caroline staff without whom the return at Easter would not have been possible. These include everybody on board the boat and all those on shore in the back up services. Let's hope this new phase in the life of Radio Caroline will be long and successful. It is to be hoped that the long silence has served a purpose and not so many people will take 'The Lady' for granted in future. Remember that another long winter awaits the Mi Amigo. We hope it will not be as long as the last one, but anything could happen.

And we also hope that you will all do your best to bring new members into the MOVEMENT. The more members we have, the quicker we can involve members at a local level. Don't forget—the more the merrier. And it is, after all, your CAROLINE MOVEMENT.

by GEOFF BALDWIN (chairman)

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AT LAST

At last,
wakes

ACTION

IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, Parliament at long last woke up to the threat the notorious Marines Broadcasting Offences Act (1967) poses to individual freedom. Mr Austen Mitchell, Labour M.P. for Grimsby, sent 2 written questions to the then Secretary of State, Dr Shirley Summerskill. He questioned her about the arrangements made by the Government to monitor the transmissions of both landbased and offshore pirate stations. His actions were in response to letters from Caroline Movement member, Mr Patrick of Grimsby, detailing the implications of—and the acts performed under the auspices of—this Act.

Mr Mitchell—referring to the case of Mr Jackson—Hunter—said: "I can't help feeling that Mr Jackson has been dealt with in a very heavy handed manner, if in fact his sole offence was to display a sticker. I hope that this is in fact the only prosecution of this kind".

DATELINE 30/3/79+++Mr Mitchell sends two written questions to the then Secretary of State, Dr Shirley Summerskill+++SUMmerskill replies +++

? To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were prosecuted in 1977 and 1978 for offences connected with offshore pirate radio stations under the Marines Offences Act; and what sentences were imposed.

! DURING 1977, FIVE PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE MARINES etc BROADCASTING (OFFENCES) ACT 1967. THREE WERE CONVICTED AND FINED SUMS RANGING FROM £125 TO £200. THE CASE IN WHICH THE OTHERS ARE INVOLVED IS NOT YET CONCLUDED. THERE WERE NO PROSECUTIONS UNDER THIS ACT IN 1978.

? To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements are in force to detect pirate radio stations either onshore or offshore, and if he will make a statement.

! MONITORING AND DETECTION OF ILLICIT RADIO STATIONS ONSHORE IS CARRIED OUT BY THE POST OFFICE ACTING AS AGENTS OF THE HOME OFFICE (i.e. THE POST OFFICE INTERFERENCE SERVICE). ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING THE TRANSMISSIONS OF OFFSHORE ILLICIT RADIO STATIONS ARE MADE BY THE HOME OFFICE ITSELF, BUT NO SUCH TRANSMISSIONS HAVE BEEN DETECTED FOR SOME MONTHS.

a lone man at Westminster up to the dangers

Mr Mitchell told Mr Patrick: "Thanks for putting me in touch with sources which can provide more information, I've already got a great deal. You've whet my appetite to pursue this further so that I've already asked the Home Office for a report on the prosecutions and asked for a series of questions in Parliament. I'M hoping to pursue the arguement after the election, always assuming I get back."

+++FOOTNOTE+++Mr Mitchell has been elected M.P. for Grimsby. We welcome him as an ally along with the Caroline Newsletter in our campaign to have the MOA revised+++

CAROLINE SLAMMED

RADIO CAROLINE HAS BEEN the target of a violently critical article by Mark Neil, a columnist for the Free Broadcasting Movement. Writing in the organisation's latest magazine (FBM 10), he claims: "Radio Caroline is still run by people who want to line their pockets. They don't care about you the listner. That is why they have hardly any English programmes".

CARE

He goes on to say that although the boat almost sank last winter, the 'boss' (Presumably Ronan O'Rahilly) didn't care. Neil claims: "They had of course lost the £2,000 a week from Radio Mi Amigo. But now the station is back, the 'boss' loves it. It didn't cost him a penny to get it back."

SHORT

"And by having short broadcasting hours, low power and d.j.s who are happy to work for nothing, it costs very little to keep her out at sea and on the air."

He adds: "Now they have TWO Caroline Roadshows and a Music show—all pulling in money."

RUBBISH

"And they also have a few advertisers and 2½ hours of religious rubbish (2¾ hours on Sunday)—all paid for. Here are us on land, spending money on badges and stickers etc. Plus all these free radio mags—hours goes into them. But ask your self—is it worth it?"

WRONG

"I may be wrong. But do think before you answer—DOES Caroline care?"

Mark Neil was guest writer in FBM 10. The Free Broadcasting Movement have asked us to stress that the opinions of guest writers may not be those of themselves.

TAILPEICE***What do you think? Do you agree with the above article? More importantly, what do YOU really think of Radio Caroline's programmes? Are they better than—or worse than—those before the winter of '78? And is the Dutch service any better than the original Radio Mi Amigo? What do you think of the new Radio Mi Amigo? And Radio Delmare? Come on! SOUND OUT on Offshore Radio. WRITE TO US now with your opinions. Mark your envelopes 'SOUND OUT'. We will print the Good, the Bad and the Ugly in the next Bulletin (COMING SOON), So—tune in your critics ear and get writing!!!!

did you know

...that housewives favourite, Keith Skues of Radio London 266 is now programme director of Radio Hallam, Sheffield's ILR station?



MI AMIGO

An erratic flight...

A FULLER STORY HAS now emerged about the events that led to the long silence of Radio Mi Amigo that began on October 29, 1978 and didn't end until June 1979.

The agreement between Radio Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo that had been in operation at the beginning of October said that the Dutch side would supply food, fuel, and water to maintain the vessel used at that time by both groups, the M.V. Mi Amigo. It also said that Radio Mi Amigo would be responsible for the maintenance of equipment on board the radio ship ~~with all the~~ (e.g. the generators). While they had supplied the ship with all the essentials, during 1978 little attention had been paid to the generators. By the Summer of 1978, one of the main generators had packed up altogether and it was necessary to fall back on the other one. Broadcasting hours were restricted, until this second generator could take the strain no longer and ground to a halt. No spare parts were available so things came to an abrupt halt. Mr Sylvain Tack (boss of Radio Mi Amigo) had doubts about continuing with his station because he had little control over the people in his organisation who were based in Belgium. Tack lives in exile in Spain—if he ever returns to Belgium, he faces a prison sentence. The Belgians were not running things properly and were making money out of the station without putting any in.

Radio Mi Amigo in its former form, should have continued to the end of 1978 at least. But once both stations were off the air, Tack decided to finish the whole thing. The letter of November 27, 1978, that Tack received from the Spanish Authorities (supposedly requiring him to cease all activities involving Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline) is treated by most observers as an excuse—probably to break his contracts with advertisers. Tack has subsequently used his studios in Spain to produce programmes for legal low powered FM stations in the country. Another source suggested that the station had been given a medium wave frequency plus the right to use 15kw on it in Spain. Yet another report received by our news desk suggested that the shop ~~had~~ in Playa de Aro had been closed. We believe that the studios have now been leased to engineer Maurice Bokkerbroek who is now running a sound system shop there. Tack announced that he was selling up his villa in Mas Nous above the Playa Resort, and possibly going to South America. Some observers believe that all this has been a clever ploy to enable Tack to direct the fitting out of the group's new boat without harassment. Other sources suggest that Tack was taking some sort of legal action against some of his former Mi Amigo Drive-In Show people for breaking an agreement to ~~pay him~~ a share of the profits. This would make sense, bearing in mind the situation that existed at the time. He also believed to have said that he would try to forbid the new Mi Amigo set up to use the name for either the station or the Fan Club. Finally, in this long list of speculation, Tack also made noises to the press on the Continent about having the Mi Amigo towed in if any other station tried to broadcast from it. He considered himself part owner of, or investor in, the vessel. Some sort of agreement was agreed but we have no details of this.

MI AMIGO RETURNED IN JUNE+++FULL STORY:PAGE 16++++++MI AMIGO++++++

ADDRESSES Radio Mi Amigo:P.O.Box 640,Port Louis,Marituis.
ADDRESSES Radio Caroline(Dutch):Alta Mira,Avenue Ansól,Marbella,
ADDRESSES Spain.
ADDRESSES Radio Caroline(English):A321,Rosas,Gerona,Spain.

THE WARS

AFTER A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS BATTLE, Radio Delmare has finally started regular transmissions. The station first started broadcasts in the summer of 1978, but a vicious string of disasters hit the baby of offshore radio.

The original vessel being used—the 'Aegir'—broke its anchor on September 11, 1978, and was towed in and impounded by the Dutch Authorities. A second attempt to get on the air waves in January of this year also ended in tragedy. The organisation's second boat, the 'Epivan' (previously named Scheveningen 54) was also towed in by the Dutch Authorities. They assumed that there was a transmitter on the boat and because it was in Dutch territorial waters, they took it. However, it materialised that there was in fact no transmitter on board the 'Epivan' and the owner of it is claiming her back from the authorities. This will obviously take time as the legal process is completed. It probably suits the purpose of those concerned to tow in a boat and drag out a long court battle. Whatever the final outcome, it will be the station that suffers, not the authorities.

At the beginning of the year, it also looked as Radio Delmare would broadcast from the 'Mi Amigo'. The 'Epivan' was used to deliver the Cummins generator that Radio Caroline now uses. The deal—which was for a short period only—fell through for various reasons. Relations between the two pirate organisations then turned sour.

The Delmare organisation, Prodihaag, had only hired the Cummins gennie from a company named Amake B.V. who, by mid March, wanted their generator back or further payment for its continued hire. As the Caroline organisation had decided not to pursue any agreement with Delmare, Mr Gerard van Dam (the man behind Delmare) retaliated by printing an article in his Delmare fan magazine (Delmare Clan Kraft.) It listed the names and addresses of various people said to be behind the new Dutch service of Radio Caroline—including tendering. It was further claimed that a record shop owner in the Hague had contacted potential advertisers for Delmare, offering to advertise their products on the new Dutch service of Radio Caroline. This person was claimed to be the organiser of Radio Caroline in Holland. It appears that the Caroline organisation have now paid for the Cummins generator.

We revealed rumours in our last Bulletin that the Delmare organisation were preparing yet another ship for broadcasting. Details were a closely guarded secret because of the raids that had hit the group before. The company had also been hurt by the loss of two boats plus a vast amount of equipment. But sure enough, by the beginning of May a new vessel—the 'Martina' (renamed 'Aegir II') left harbour and anchored off the coast of Goeree, Holland. The 'Aegir II' is a 270 ton vessel from Scheveningen. She is 40 metres (140 foot) long and was apparently used at one time as tender for the RNI boat, 'Mebo II'. The studios were installed before the radio ship left harbour. But the transmitter was to be taken out to the boat once she was safely out of Dutch territorial waters.

OF DELMARE

The return of Radio Delmare was originally planned for May 1. But fate grabbed hold of events and Delmare was almost dashed again. The Dutch Authorities (R.C.D) had been observing operations close at hand and on May 4, seized transmitter equipment, two cars, a trailer and a speed boat. At the time of this raid, the 'Aegir II' had not left harbour. But as soon as possible after this, she sailed straight out to sea. Once she was out at sea, the R.C.D. sent out a fishing boat which anchored close to the Delmare boat to watch out for any boat supplying her. The resources of the Delmare organisation had already been stretched to the limit. Observers were wondering if the station would ever, in fact, finally make it to the air.

Suddenly, on May 9, 1979 192metres/1556kHz sprang to life and Radio Delmare was back in business. Broadcasts were from 05.00hrs BST until 18.00hrs BST (06.00hrs until 19.00hrs CET). The signal is of this is very weak (estimated at about 1 kilowatt). For this reason, reception in most parts of the country is virtually non-existent. In London, Capital Radio's 194m transmissions cause interference with Delmare and even on the sea front at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, reception can only be described as average.

The station's programmes are on tape produced by the Prodihaag organisation. To avoid legal problems, Radio Delmare has bought a legal private station in Italy. The tapes (pre-recorded in Holland the night before) appear both on the Italian and the offshore set ups the following day. The Italian station, known as TeleRadio Delmare, is in Mira Mare, on the Italian Adriatic coast. The word 'Delmare' means, in Italian: "Radio of the Sea". The programming is of a very high standard, and is not so brash as Radio Caroline (Dutch).

But Delmare's problems have continued. For the last two weeks of July and the first one of August, the station was off the air. The management of Delmare-anxious to increase signal strength-told the engineer to try and increase the power. This didn't work, and the whole thing blew up. The transmitter engineer worked feverishly to repair it, but then the transformer gave out. It is believed that the Delmare organisation are frantically searching for a bigger transmitter-possibly 5 to 10kw. There have also been changes in the organisation. Already the staff of d.j.s has changed and Prodihaag office in the Hague is not in use at the moment. A new office-plus a new phone number-is planned. At present, the only way to get in contact with the station-and the attendant Delmare Clan and Epivan Roadshow-is via the Dutch address of Prodihaag. This is: Postbus 61605, 2506 AP Den Haag, Holland. The name 'Epivan', incidentally, comes from the name of a denture firm that advertised with Radio Delmare!

Whatever the future holds for Radio Delmare, she has already earned herself a large chunk of any history book on offshore broadcasting. She is the very first, entirely new offshore radio station to start up in spite of all the European legislation-including that of Holland!

=====

YOU can buy a piece of the Bulletin-see page 13 for details, O.K.?

Caroline on telly?

GRANADA TELEVISION COULD Feature Radio Caroline in their 'World in Action' TV show. This exciting news-which, if it materialises will be the first time since London Weekend's 1977 programme that Radio Caroline has featured on television-is a result of Scottish CAROLINE MOVEMENT member, Mr D. Trail's recent letter to Granada. In it, he recalled the two programmes made by the North-Western T.V. company in the sixties. The first, in 1964, looked at the preparation of the 'M.V. Caroline' in Greenore prior to the station's beginning. The second was made after August 1967. Mr Trail suggested it was about time that Granada repeat the exercise.

In a letter sent to him by Mr R.A. Fitzwalter, editor of 'World in Action', the man said: "We will discuss your proposal at the next team meeting and consider its programme possibilities."

But YOUR action could sway the decision of the TV company. If over a thousand people write, it will prove that a programme about 319 would be of interest to the public-as well as informative. Now's the chance to flex our muscles. Get out your pen and paper and WRITE NOW! Get your friends to write to. Don't forget to say why YOU think that a telly programme about 'The Lady' would be of interest to the public in this, the 21st year of offshore broadcasting. Get on with it NOW!!! Write right this minute, O.K.?????

GRANADA'S ADDRESS: World in Action, Granada Television, Ltd, Manchester, M60 9EA.

(LONDON ADDRESS: registered office-36, Golden Square, London, W1R 4AH)

NEWS EXTRA

Prince Roy Bates of Sealand, the ex-World War II fort in the Thames Estuary, has been charged under the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1949. He is accused of making an illegal broadcast from the fort-declared by Bates to be an independent state-earlier this year. It is believed that the purpose of the case is to test whether or not Sealand comes under the jurisdiction of U.K. law. In the sixties, Bates ran pirate station Radio Essex and BBMS from a similar fort. Rumours of him broadcasting again have been rife ever since the IBA announced that Essex was to get an ILR station.

L *****
Landbased pirate station, Delta Radio has been heard transmitting sporadically in the Midlands on 319m/963 kHz for an hour or two after

Radio Caroline's closedown at 10pm.

Reports just received by us suggest that the long awaited short wave service from the Voice of Peace-the Mediterranean's offshore station-has finally opened. Transmissions of 1kw are believed to be in the 48 metre band-possibly 6240kHz. The Voice of Peace operates from the Peace Ship and aims its programmes at the Middle East. It is supported by adverts and broadcasts with a 50kw transmitter on 195m/1538kHz.

TOPS FOR NEWS+THAT'S YOUR ACTION PACKED BULLETIN+++++

Melinda Squire, 18, Caeconna Road, Portmead, Swansea, West Glamorgan.
Dez Malandain, 7, Westfield Crescent, Pateham, Brighton, Sussex.
Les Ward, 11, Victoria Road, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire.

le all the way on 3/19

FOR LONG?

A much stronger signal was also now apparent because the 50kw transmitter was reputedly being run on higher power (40-50kw). Apart from further minor breaks in transmissions and continued problems with cartridge machines, things seemed to go fairly well for a further two weeks. New plugs were heard on the English service for record companies and disco equipment etc (e.g. Pulsar Lights, More Music, Music-master, FAL). The Caroline studio had been dried out following the water logging it received in January. It was brought into use for the English service. This enabled more promotions to be recorded, instead of the d.j.s having to read them out each time.

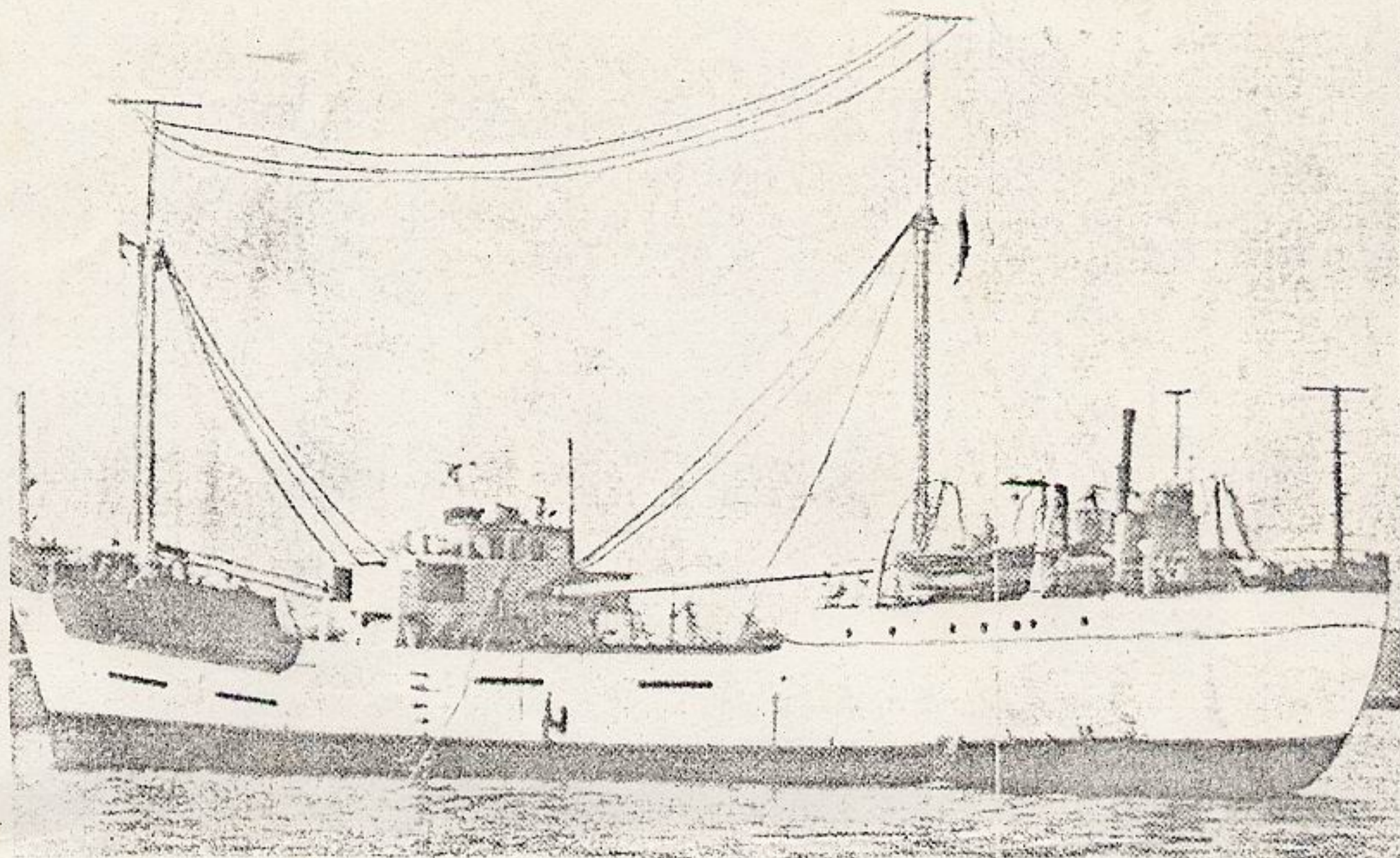
The next sign that fuel was low was on May 22 when transmissions were again on low power using the small transmitter. The next day there was a break in the breakfasts show (hosted by Rene van Elst) of over half an hour. And on Thursday, May 24, the station went off the air during the afternoon but returned at 19.00hrs BST after a break of four hours for the English programming. This was to be the beginning of five days silence. The station was out of fuel again. And the emergent fuel crisis made it difficult to obtain sufficient fuel supplies. Also the fact that it was Bank Holiday weekend meant that it would be Tuesday, May 29 before anything could be arranged. Caroline eventually returned on May 30. The station continued again as usual until June 11 when it failed to appear. On Wednesday evening she returned, staying on the air until midnight. But on Saturday, June 16, ~~the~~ the station closed early.

On Monday, June 18, the station stayed on until 23.00hrs BST. But even more curious was the second broadcast of a religious programme "Prophecy for Today" with Pastor Perry W. Rockford. The first, lasting for 30 minutes, had been broadcast on Sunday, June 17. The second, ~~on~~ on June 18, lasted only 15 minutes. These particular programmes kept being broadcast until the middle of July. The transmissions were very irregular and intermittent. But they did provide much needed cash for the Caroline organisation. In the London Evening News of June 13, an article made it clear that not only was the station having difficulty finding sufficient fuel supplies (because of the widespread shortages) but the Caroline organisation was also having problems raising enough cash to pay for the fuel. The item gave the ominous warning that Radio Caroline might have to go off the air again.

On Saturday, July 8, at 19.00hrs BST, another American programme was broadcast. Presented by Roy Masters, the show was called "How Your Mind can Keep You Well". It lasted 60 minutes and was produced by the 'Foundation of Human Understanding', which is based in Los Angeles. The programme is taped there and takes the form of callers phoning in and talking to Roy about various things. The cost of hiring the hour's airtime from Caroline is believed to be about £85-£90. The programme is now broadcast every night at the same time. On Sunday nights, two more religious shows have been broadcast every week since the start of July. These programmes are believed to be the result of a high ranking Caroline official's trip to the USA recently.

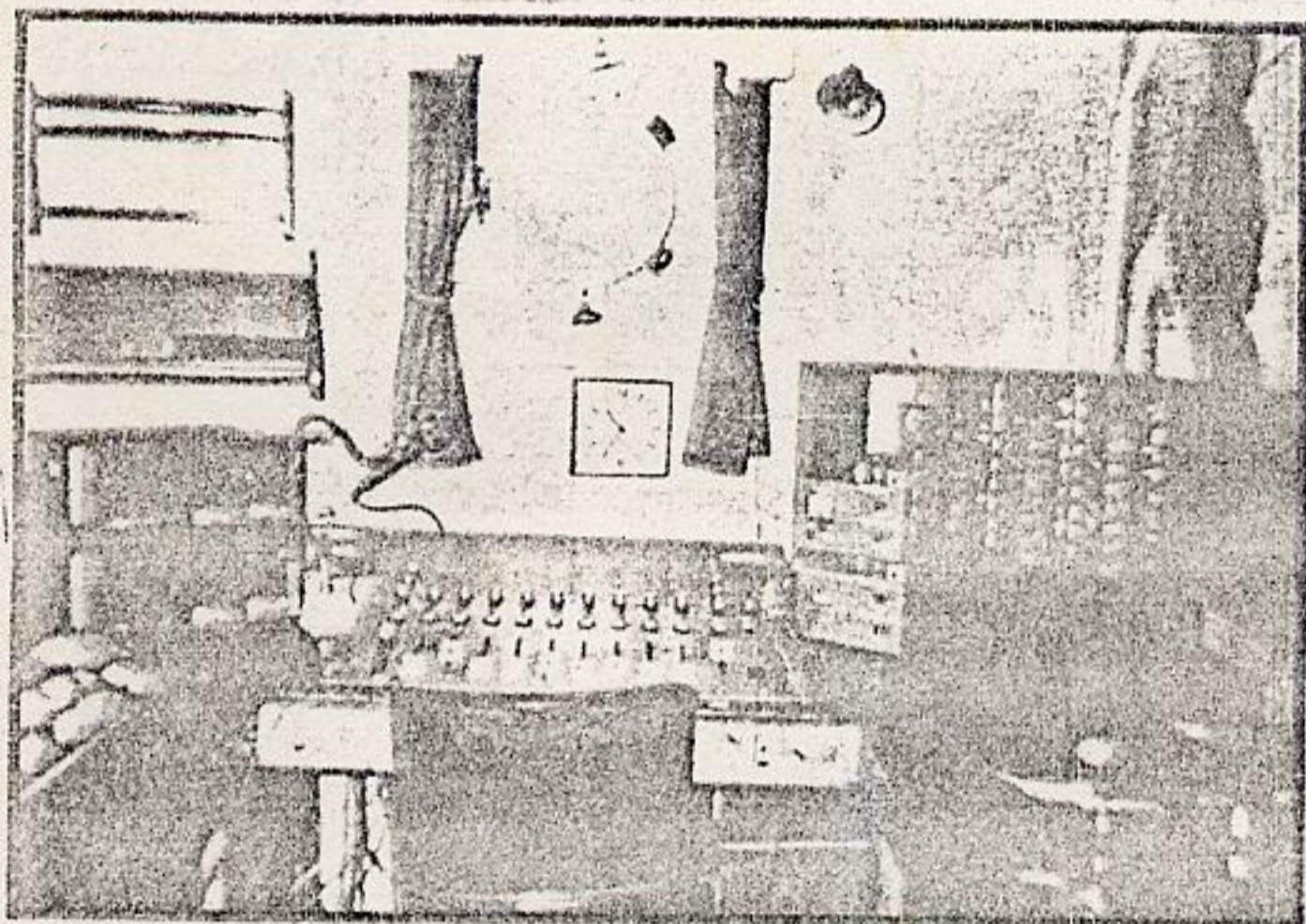
FIRST EVER BRITISH PUBLICATION OF PIX OF THE MAGDALENA AND HER STUDIOS.

RIGHT: The M.V. Magdalena just prior to broadcasting.



Mi Amigo

BELOW: The main studio on board the M.V. Magdalena. This used for all live shows, and is full of up-to-date gear.



NOT SO GOOD

The new Mi Amigo is not so up tempo as the original, and consequently hasn't had the impact caused by it originally. Very few of the old jingles are used, and all the commercials are played at the top of the hour. Only the programmes of 'original' Ferry Eden are as excellent as the first Mi Amigo's superb shows. Listeners in England will find that the transmissions of BBC Radio One on 275m block out the Mi Amigo signal. The BBC claim 2,000 letters of complaint that Mi Amigo is blocking out Radio 1. An article in the London Evening News in July said: that the organisation intended to start an English service. If this does happen, it will be on a different frequency to ensure good reception.

In their words...

"ON OCTOBER 20, 1978, we were forced to stop our transmissions because the generators of our radio ship, the 'M.V. Mi Amigo', were out of action.

However, since March 1978, we have been going ahead with the construction of a new project! A project that must guarantee a longer and better future for the station.

This fact also explains why no repair work was carried out on the generators. The old ship had already long since proved incapable of functioning fully and all the apparatus on board was ~~obselete~~ obsolete. The new project which therefore must guarantee the future of Radio Mi Amigo could not be allowed to leak out at any cost so that proper progress could be guaranteed. This was also the reason why strange rumours were going around above all that a station that had been on the air for nearly five years would not be returning.

But... ultimately we have realised the project completely on schedule. We are somewhat proud to give you the data about the, not new, but 'regenerated' station, Mi Amigo."

With Best Wishes,
MI AMIGO

RNI

RADIO NOVA INTERNATIONAL, SAN GIACOMO, VIA MONTE FONTANA, CAMPOROSSO ITALY.

Radio Nova International,
102.5MHz FM for the French
and Italian Riviera. With
all your top offshore d, jss