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Evening

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Lifeboats save radio DJs — 'the hairiest rescue I've ever done'

POP PIRATE CAROLINE IS SUNK



RADIO Caroline, the station that began the pop radio revolution in the sixties, was finally silenced today when the pirate ship *Mi Amigo* sank off the Essex Coast

A spokesman for the station, which has braved many disasters, said: "It looks like the end this time."

The crew of four—including three disc jockeys — were rescued by lifeboat before the ship went down.

Mi Amigo has broadcast continuous pop music programmes to Britain and northern Europe since 1964.

Only her masts and superstructure were showing above the sea this morning after a night of force 10 gales and waves which towered above deck height on the 150ft long ship.

The crew including two Britons, were taken off by the Sheerness lifeboat in the early hours.

They could now face charges concerning illegal broadcasting. They were questioned by the police at Sheerness and a Home Office spokesman said: "The four crew could face charges under the Marine Offences Act."

Coxswain Charlie Bowry, who led the six crew lifeboat said: "The operation to get the men off took twelve hours. It was the hairiest rescue I've ever done."

Hanging on

"The waves were coming at us from all directions and we had to pick our time before going alongside to grab the men off the ship."

"My crew were hanging on to the lifeboat rails and snatching them off the ship one by one. We spent several hours trying to get the last man off."

Stevie Gordon was last to leave the ship. He said: "It was quite excit-

ing at first and then things got a bit hairy. It didn't seem dangerous at the time I think because I'd been up all night and was terribly tired."

"I was last off because I'd been helping to throw the others over to the lifeboats. Then it took a long time before I was able to jump across myself."

"The storm had been blowing for about three days. I was asleep yesterday afternoon when somebody woke me up and said it looked as if we were in trouble. The trouble was we lost the anchor and then hit a sandbank. After that the ship began to take in water heavily."

Records

"At first we had thought we would be able to see it through because the ship has weathered storms in the past."

A spokesman for the station said they hoped *Radio Caroline* could carry on in the future despite the loss of the ship.

"It is likely that everything has been lost including the station's priceless collection of records and archive tapes. It is a very sad day for radio."

Amid the scenes of drama during the storm rescue there was a moment of humour—

one of the crewmen begged the lifeboat crew: "Can we bring our canary?"

The lifeboat crew agreed and there was another anxious moment as the canary—in its cage—was pulled to safety. "It's eyes were popping out," said coxswain Mr Bowry.

"The man with the canary didn't want to leave. He asked me on the radio if he could take personal belongings and I said I was anxious to get people off."

"It took him five minutes to

make up his mind. When he did, he came whistling along the deck with the canary under his arm. I thought: "What next? But we got him off with his bird all right."

Coastguards and lifeboat crews in the Thames estuary were privately heaving a sigh of relief at the *Mi Amigo* finally sinking.

Coastguard

One coastguard said: "Thank God she's gone without loss of life. She was only kept afloat by her pumps."

The crew were named as Britons Tom Anderson, from Suffolk; Nick Richards, from Essex; Stevie Gordon, from Denmark, and a Dutch deckhand, aged 18, who joined the ship only two days ago.

Coastguards said the ship was in shoal water about 13 miles north of Margate, off Foulness. Trinity House was notified and the *Mi Amigo* was listed as a danger to shipping.

The pioneers of pirate pop—Page Two.



RADIO CAROLINE'S *Mi Amigo*—sunk after storm drives her aground.

by Keith Dovkants, Donna Leigh and James Johnson

'Can we bring our canary?'



Simone, by blushing Robin

OLYMPIC gold medal winner Robin Cousins flew into London today—and blushed crimson when asked about a romance with skater Simone Grigorescu.

"She's very important to me," he said. "But for goodness sakes I'm 22 and she's 19 and we've got time to wait haven't we?"

PAGE FIVE



Glorious Meryl

"Like Bette Davis, this actress can play for sympathy in a hopeless case and convince us she deserves it. . . ."

. . . Alexander Walker on Meryl Streep's performance in *Kramer vs Kramer*, the film the Queen saw premiered this week. His review is on

CENTRE PAGES

London soldier dies in blizzard

PAGE TWO



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Body found on storm mountain

by Ian Glover-James
THE BODY of a 26-year-old London soldier was recovered from blizzard-swept Welsh mountains today.

Search teams had been looking for the Lance Corporal in the Territorial Army — a married man — since he failed to check in after a night navigation exercise.

More than 130 troops and four helicopters searched for the soldier, who was part of a group which set out from the Storey Arms public house near Brecon on Tuesday to cross the 3000-ft Brecon Beacons in bad weather.

About 40 soldiers started out on the six-mile exercise. Two others who had lost their way were rescued early today and brought to safety in poor health.

The body was found near an outdoor education centre about two hours after the search resumed today and is being brought down from the mountainside.

The Army has refused to say whether the soldier was a part-time member of the Crack Special Air Services regiment, which often carries out training exercises in the Brecon Beacons.

Last year two SAS men, one a major, died from exposure

during tough exercises in the mountains. The Army was criticised by the Brecon coroner after their deaths for the

nature of the exercises.

Rescuers said that although the soldiers on the current exercise were well equipped,

the weather yesterday was atrocious, with sub-zero temperatures, snow and high winds.

A breath of Siberia sweeps across Britain

by Lynda Murdin

INTENSE cold and strong winds today dashed Britain's hopes of sliding gently into a warm spring.

The cold spell, caused by high easterly winds from Siberia, has come after one of the warmest Februarys for many years.

It caught the country un-awares.

But in London, a spokesman at the Weather Centre said the capital was not really all that cold—it just felt that way.

"It is very cold for March when you consider that temperatures are not going to rise about 3C or 4C whereas the average for the time of

year is about 9C or 10C. But it's not extreme," he said.

"A strong easterly wind is making matters worse and that seems likely to decrease."

Otherwise, the weatherman could offer little respite. The outlook is for unsettled weather with outbreaks of sleet or snow.

Lambing fears

In Wales, a 26-year-old Army corporal went missing after a training exercise on the snow-swept Brecon Beacons. A search by soldiers, police and mountain rescue teams continued throughout the night.

Off the Welsh coast a warship's motorboat had to be towed to the mother ship by

Tenby lifeboat after it broke down in rough seas.

Blizzards closed many roads across the Pennines in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The RAC reported that 18 major roads in the North-west were closed. Many roads in the Nottingham area were also blocked and snowdrifts were reported on the M62.

Icy patches and poor visibility brought 50 mph speed restrictions on the M62 and the M1 in the north.

Strong winds coupled with high spring tides prompted fears of flooding along the north-east coastline.

Farmers in the North were concerned about the effect the sudden cold snap would have on the start of the lambing season.

Mortgage hopes dashed

by Richard Northedge

BUILDING Society chiefs admitted today that there is little prospect of a cut in mortgage rates this year after a gloomy report on interest rates from the Bank of England.

Some societies are considering reducing the number of loans they expect to give this year—and that could mean mortgage queues, which were beginning to shorten in the South East, growing again.

The governor of the Bank of England stated in his quarterly report today that there is no alternative to high interest rates until inflation slows down.

Remote

But inflation is expected to accelerate in the next few months and there seems little chance of the Bank's minimum lending rate falling from its record 17 per cent before the summer.

There are fears that interest rates could go even higher. The Bank has already been forced to give the High Street banks help to stop them raising their base rates.

If the Bank's minimum lending rate were raised again the building societies would almost certainly have to increase mortgage rates above their present record 15 per cent.

Mr Alan Douglas, director of the Provincial Building Society, admitted: "If we have a rise in Bank Rate that would certainly precipitate a movement from the building societies."

Last wave to an old friend

by Steve Doughty

THE battered, rust-streaked Mi Amigo was the last symbol of the broadcasting revolution that deposed the Light Programme and heralded the era of commercial radio.

Dubbed "Queen of the radio waves," she began her broadcasting life in Easter 1964, as Radio Caroline South. For a few weeks she broadcast in tandem with Radio Caroline North. Then she was on her own.

From the moment she anchored a few miles off the Frinton coast, the 274 ton 150 foot ship introduced hit pop records 24 hours a day, DJs with American-style patter and catchy jingles.

Struggled

Pop fans in their thousands throughout Britain and North Europe turned away from the BBC and tuned into Caroline.

The Mi Amigo gave many of today's top DJs their big break. Tony Blackburn was one of the pioneers.

The Radio One disc jockey, who joined the pirate ship a month after the start, looked back nostalgically today. "I'm very sad to hear the ship has gone. I spent two years aboard. "It could be very uncomfortable in bad weather. The studio was high above the waterline and really rocked about. I had to be strapped into my seat or I would have been thrown around the cabin."

At the end of 1965, DJ Blackburn was rescued by breeches buoy when the ship ran aground in a storm after shipping her moorings.



DISC JOCKEY Tony Blackburn: "I had to be strapped into my seat."

"I wouldn't have missed that time—it was very exciting. But for Radio Caroline the BBC would never have changed and there would still be Mrs Dale's diary. There would have been no commercial radio," he said.

Capital Radio DJ Dave Cash, another pirate product, began his career on Radio London moored nearby Caroline.

He said: "I used to spend a lot of time on Mi Amigo. She was an old ship then and I'm surprised she didn't sink a long time ago. She was something special and this was a sad thing."

Most of the pirates were sunk in August 1967 when Britain outlawed offshore radio broadcasting with the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

Join up, urges Maggie

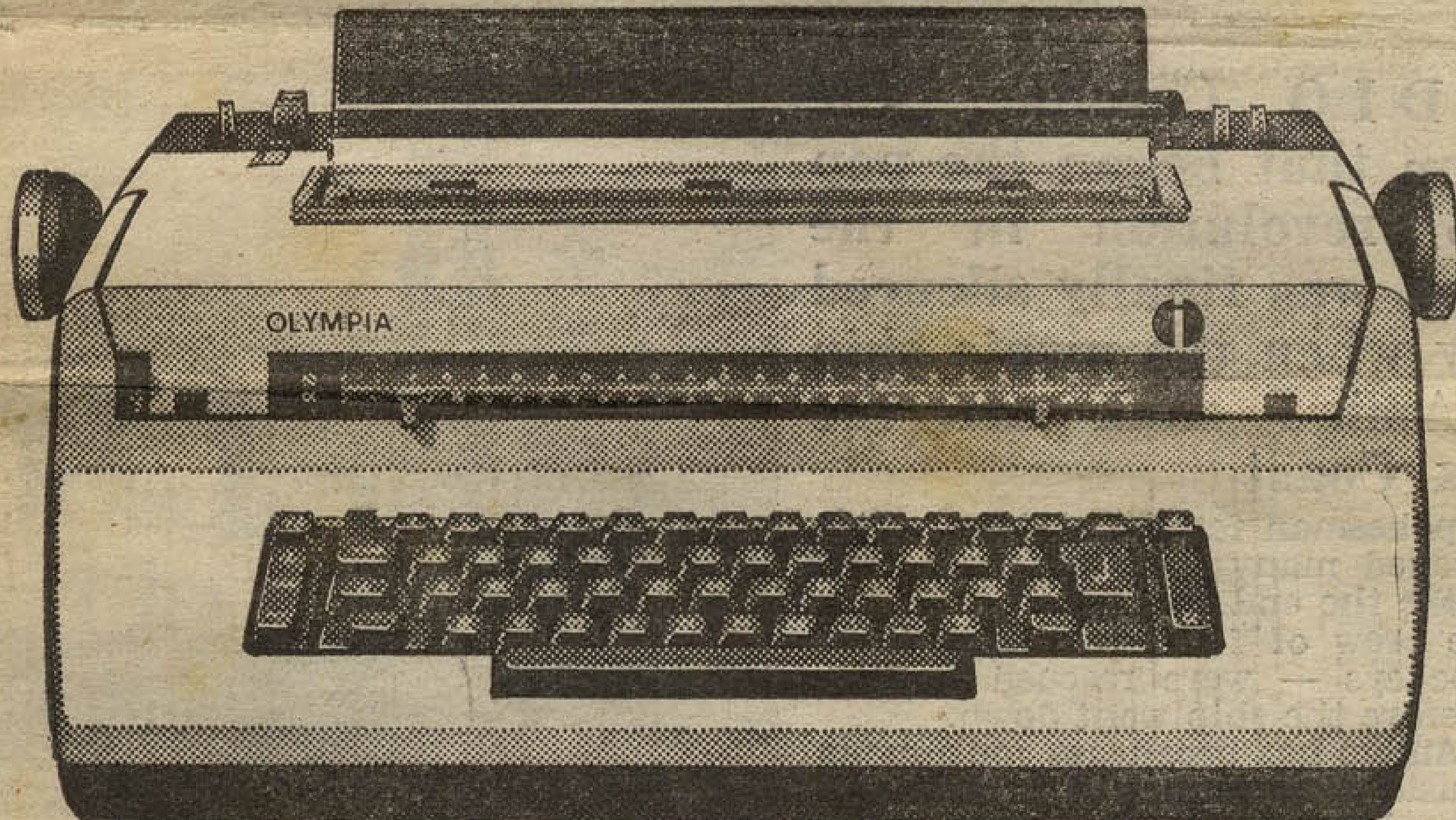
MRS THATCHER today called on employers to encourage their workers to enlist in the Volunteer Reserve Forces.

She said in a statement sent to employers' associations: "The Territorial Army and

the Volunteer Reserves of the Royal Navy and RAF are essential to the nation's defence.

"They must be well manned, well trained and well equipped. The Government is taking all the steps within its power to this end."

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Evening News

THURSDAY: MARCH 20 1980

10p

NIGHT
SPECIAL
CLOSING PRICES

Lost soldier dies in snow

A LONDONER from the crack Special Air Service Regiment, missing in arctic conditions on a snow-covered mountain, was found dead today.

An RAF Sea King helicopter spotted the body near an outdoor education centre on the Brecon Beacons in Mid-Wales. About 140 people had been taking part in the search since early this morning.

The 26-year-old Territorial Army lance-corporal, who had been missing since Tuesday, was found lying face down half a mile from a main road.

The SAS man, whose name has not yet been released, had walked less than a mile from the start of a lone night navigational exercise.

The weather conditions on the 3,000-ft. mountain were appalling, with deep snow, sub-zero temperatures and high winds.

Safety review

The Ministry of Defence is expected to order a major inquiry into the circumstances of the part-time soldier's death. Last year two SAS men died of ex-

posure while on an exercise in the same area and a coroner called on the Army to review its safety measures.

The man found dead today had set out on a three-and-half mile exercise on Tuesday night in freezing conditions.

The alarm was raised by 40 other soldiers in the party when he failed to check in yesterday morning.

His body was spotted by radar operator Stan Jones in the helicopter from RAF Brawdy after a three-hour sweep.

Flight Lt. Brian Birks, station spokesman at Brawdy, said later: "Their first impression was the soldier had taken off

his pack exhausted, laid down and just gone to sleep."

The helicopter, captained by Flight Lt. Paul Critchley, managed to land in the snow, pick up the body and take it to a nearby mountain rescue post.

One of the several mountain rescue teams which had taken part in the search brought the body down to Brecon.

A spokesman for the Army's Wales HQ said: "There is no obvious cause of death."

"There will be a full military inquiry, as there always is no matter what the circumstances are when a soldier dies."

STORM SINKS POP SHIP CAROLINE



Julia's night of triumph

JULIA MCKENZIE'S first-night performance as a Hollywood star in the musical spectacular *On the Twentieth Century* at Her Majesty's won acclaim worthy of Hollywood itself.

After the show, well-wishers besieged her dressing room. And *Evening News* reviewer Felix Barker wrote: She blossomed triumphantly into a razzle-dazzle star. See Page 17.

Picture by JIMMY JAMES

By ANDREW HOGG and PAUL SMITH

THE pirate pop ship Radio Caroline sank today in gale force winds and mountainous seas about 13 miles off the Essex coast.

The four disc jockeys aboard were rescued by the Sheerness lifeboat, which had made 12 attempts to draw alongside.

The *Mi Amigo's* troubles began yesterday evening when she ran aground on a sandbank. When the tide came in, gale-lashed waves pounded the ship.

The last broadcast made was at two minutes past midnight when senior disc jockey Stevie Gordon said they were abandoning ship.

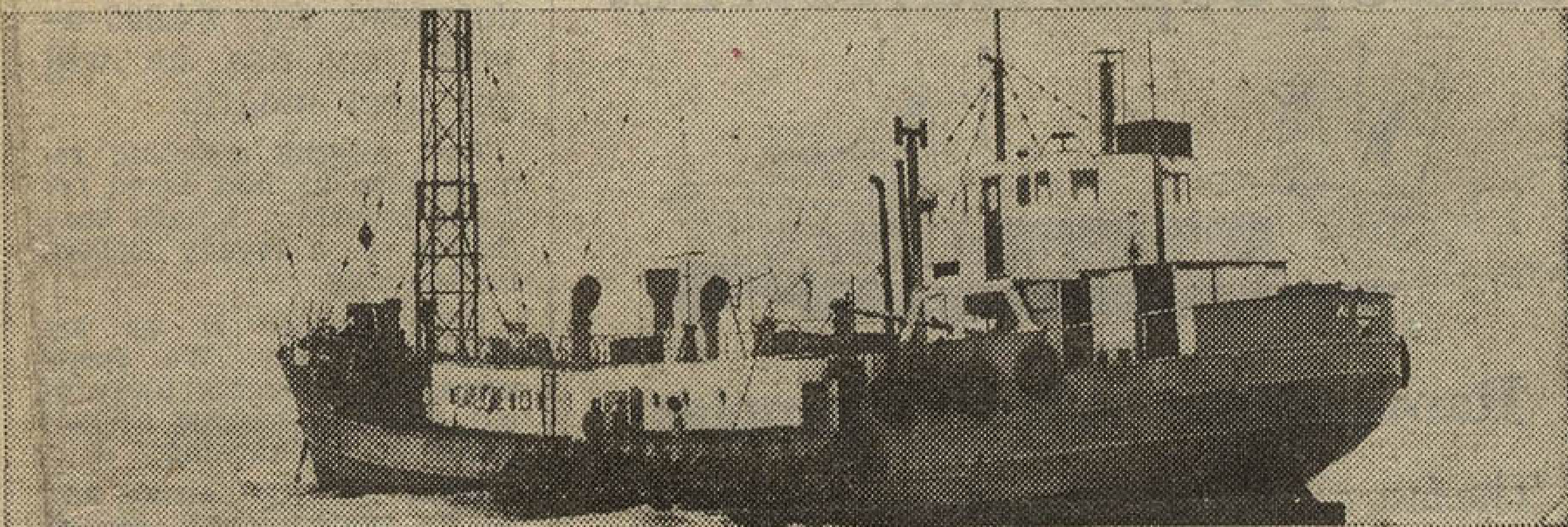
Pumps no good

He told listeners: "For the safety of those on board we are going off with the lifeboat. Don't worry, we are all OK."

Then Stevie and DJs Tom Anderson, Nick Richards and Dutchman Hans Verlaan, went up on deck.

Stevie said: "The sea was a boiling cauldron. We had made the decision to leave very reluctantly, but the pumps were no match for the water coming in."

"Waves were breaking over the ship and Tom and Nick, who had been trying



Silenced . . . Radio Caroline's home, the *Mi Amigo*, before the storm.

to set up a second pump, found themselves working in water up to their chests. We didn't really have time to be frightened — we were just trying to save the station.

"The lifeboat had been standing by about a mile away and in the end we had to ask her to come in and pick us up."

"First we tried to get our possessions on to the lifeboat but it was too rough to attach a line."

"In the end we just had to leap for our lives. Nick and Hans, the youngest, went first. They had to sit on the deck rails, hanging on to a safety line and wait for the lifeboat to get as close as it could."

"Once in position, we literally hurled them across and willing hands grabbed them."

"Tom went next, and I was the last to go. I had worked on the ship since 1976 and felt a great deal of affection for her."

There was no one else on board — except the ship's canary, which the DJs managed to rescue.

The spot where the ship sank, 30 miles south of Clacton, is in a tidal wash and the depth of the water varies between 10 and 25 feet.

Lifeboat coxswain Mr. Charlie Bowry said the 12-hour rescue operation was the "hairiest" he had known.

Opposition

The four DJs were taken to Sheerness police station where they were reported under the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act, 1967. Tom Anderson was taken into custody.

Suffolk police were on their way to Sheerness to interview him about another offence for which they had a warrant outstanding.

The sinking of *Caroline* ended 16

Contd. on Page Two

Transport chiefs 'failing London'

LONDON TRANSPORT was today accused of under-spending by up to £70 million over the last ten years.

GLC leader Sir Horace Cutler claimed that this was why the public did not get a proper service.

He said: "Capital expenditure is used for improving the service to the people and this has not been accomplished."

"In the ten years that we have been in charge they have under-spent by between £60 million and £70 million."

"It is now nearly ten years since

Underground one man operation was accepted in principle — we still haven't got it."

"The fact is that since the business has been under the GLC control, LT has had greater security and more money than ever before," he said in a letter to The Times.

London Transport commented: "Last year, as Sir Horace agrees, LT overspent its capital budget slightly for the first time in some years."

"Had it not been for the capital budget cuts announced last week, the budget would have been fully implemented this year."

Police seek 100 in Tube station riot

DETECTIVES are seeking 100 people following a battle at a London Underground station and at a hospital, a court heard today.

Seven people appeared before magistrates accused of threatening behaviour following incidents last weekend at Neasden station in North-West London. Later there was trouble at the Central Middlesex Hospital, where

By RICHARD FORD

some of the injured were taken.

A train driver was injured and a Jubilee Line train badly damaged in the disturbances.

The seven were all remanded on unconditional bail to appear at Willesden Court on June 10.

Detective Inspector Leslie Briggs said: "There are a number of protracted in-

quiries still to be made concerning far more serious offences, and possibly involving some 100 people in this case."

"We have still to interview a man who is very seriously ill in hospital."

The seven defendants included an 18-year-old girl.

Magistrate Mr. John Bangay warned them all that if they did not appear in June they would face a more serious charge which could involve "a considerable financial penalty."

He advised them to seek legal representation.

RAIL unions and London Transport are to consider a joint attack on pubs with discos in their battle against violence on the Underground.

The unions are meeting London Transport's chief solicitor on Monday to plan silencing disco music in pubs near stations.

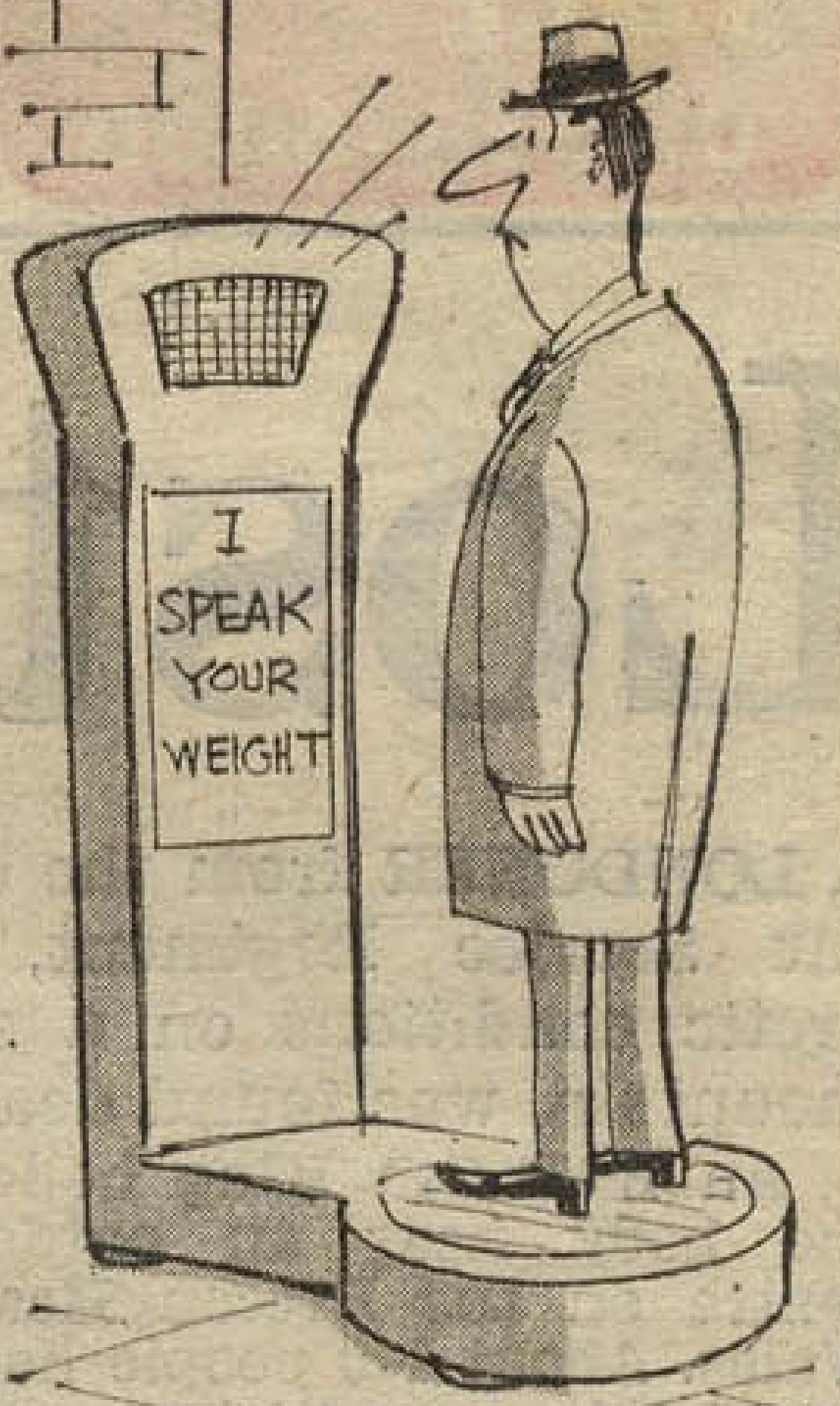
ASLEF, the drivers' union, wants to take landlords to court to oppose their music and drinking licences.

Mr. Ted Miles, London Transport official of ASLEF, said today: "This is the first time that we would be joining forces with London Transport to silence these places," he said.

ASLEF drivers and guards last night voted not to work on the Jubilee Line after 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mr. Tony Salvis, branch secretary of the Baker Street ASLEF branch, said: "The men are very angry indeed."

COOKSON



"... 11½ stones ... but expected to rise rapidly with your 19.9% salary increase."

TOMORROW IN THE NEWS

Divorce and the scarlet woman

FOR every three marriages there is now one divorce. Suddenly the subject is back in the news again as the American film Kramer v. Kramer spotlights the human tragedy behind divorce.

But are the British being hypocritical about marriage breakdown? Do we not make titles like "divorce" sound like scarlet woman, asks MP Austin Mitchell in tomorrow's Evening News. And he suggests a new kind of court, without lawyers, that could provide a humane solution to marriage break-up.

Suicide

ACTING may be glamorous, but it is also tough. Alec McCowen, one of our leading actors, twice contemplated suicide. Each time he fought his way back.

On the eve of two plays at the National Theatre and the publication of his second book he tells Penny Junor of the self-discoveries that keep him going.

ANOTHER actor David Soul, alias Hutch, found TV stardom tough. Now he fights for privacy and in tomorrow's Evening News he tells James Green he found it.

PLUS the pint-sized actor who's about to play Biggles on screen tells William Hall why he is right for the part.

It's all in the News tomorrow.

WEATHER SERVICE

Tonight: Dry and very cold.

Tomorrow: After moderate early frost, bright or sunny intervals at first becoming cloudy with perhaps a few wintry showers later. Winds light to moderate, north-easterly. Max temp. 5C (41F).

Outlook: Remaining unsettled and rather cold.

Channel, North Sea and Irish Sea: Rough, becoming moderate.

My girl... by Robin Cousins

OLYMPIC skating champion Robin Cousins spoke today about his plans for the future... including his relationship with teenage figure skater Simone Grigorescu.

Cousins is back in Britain for a skating gala at Richmond tonight, part of a 15-city tour.

And in London today he admitted that his friendship over the past year with Simone had become "more than just a brother and sister relationship."

But he said there was no

"high romance and marriage" in the air, adding: "I am 22 and she is 19. I think we have got time to wait."

Simone and Robin train together whenever possible in her home town of Denver, Colorado. He said: "She really does have a very great future if she can cope with all the pressures."

"I think she knows that, despite the fact that we are separated a great deal, I will still keep in touch with her," said Robin.

He added that she meant a great deal to him.

But it seems many other girls are also interested — he has recently received seven proposals from unknown fans.

Robin, casually dressed in jeans and sweater, arrived at Heathrow Airport early today.

He looked fresh despite the gruelling 23-day tour which will take him to East Germany and Russia among other countries.

Since the World Championships, in which Cousins, 22, won the silver

medal, questions have been raised about his future.

He said today: "I can of course answer that I will be turning professional, but I cannot sign anything until my amateur commitments are over."

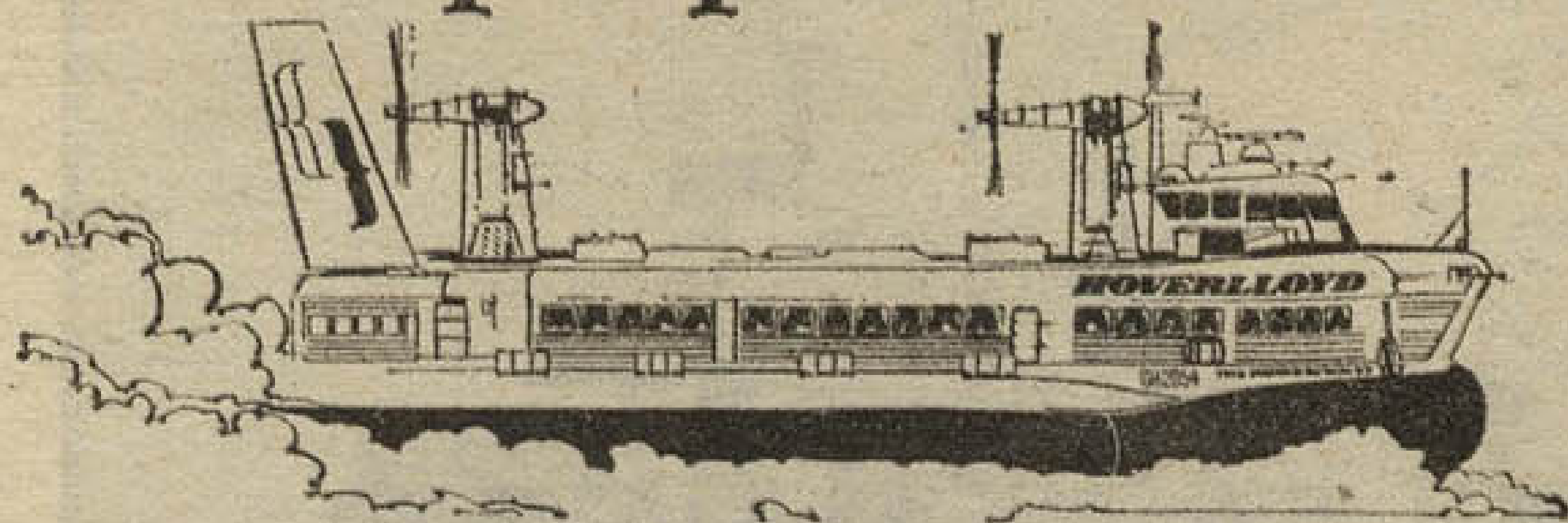
That is not expected to be before the first week in May, but already offers have been pouring in.

As for estimates that he could earn £1 million, he said: "One million pounds sounds very nice but it is going to be a hell of a lot of work."



Robin Cousins today... discussing his future.

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The Cross-Channel Time Machine

Scholey's £4,000 rise

By IAIN MACASKILL

STEEL chief executive Mr. Bob Scholey today defended the £4,000-a-year pay rise he will get next month.

And, angrily rejecting reports that he had asked for more, he said: "I have been sitting on a bloody iceberg for too long."

"The trouble is we are slaves to duty. We spend more time flogging away at our job than looking at how much we are earning."

With the steel strike now in its twelfth week, reports of big pay rises for British Steel bosses have angered unions.

But Mr. Scholey said that the steel chiefs' pay rises were part of staged rises for state industry bosses fixed by

the Top Salaries Review Body.

They were justified because governments had frozen the salaries of state industry chiefs between 1972 and 1978.

Mr. Scholey's pay rise, from April 1, will push his salary up from £33,000 to £37,000—or 12 per cent.—a year.

Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, will get £6,000 more to give him £48,000—or 14 per cent.

And salaries of board members will go up from £27,500 to £29,000.

Mr. Scholey rejected allegations by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

that he had asked for more. "We are not in the business of demanding — our salaries are fixed," he said.

Sir Charles said at his London home that his own salary had risen by the equivalent of only 9½ per cent over the last seven years.

"By comparison with the private sector we get low rates," he said. "Maybe I ought to employ Bill Sirs to get a better rate."

"The salaries of particular members are fixed by the Government. There is no scope for me or anybody else to negotiate."

Steel unions are angry because of the deadlock in negotiations over British Steel's latest offer of ten per cent more a year, plus 4.4 per cent in local productivity deals.

Radio Caroline sinks

Contd. from Page One

years of radio history, which led to a massive shake up of the BBC radio service.

It was the first British pirate station and faced non-stop opposition from the Government from the day it started broadcasting pop on Easter Saturday, 1964.

The Marine Broadcasting Offences Act in 1967 outlawed Caroline and a clutch of other pirates and drove the stations farther out to sea.

More dramatically it led to the setting up of the BBC's own pop channel, Radio One, and caused a shake-up in the whole radio network.

Former Caroline DJ Tony Blackburn said today: "I was very sad to hear she has sunk. Radio Caroline gave me everything—it started so many of us off."

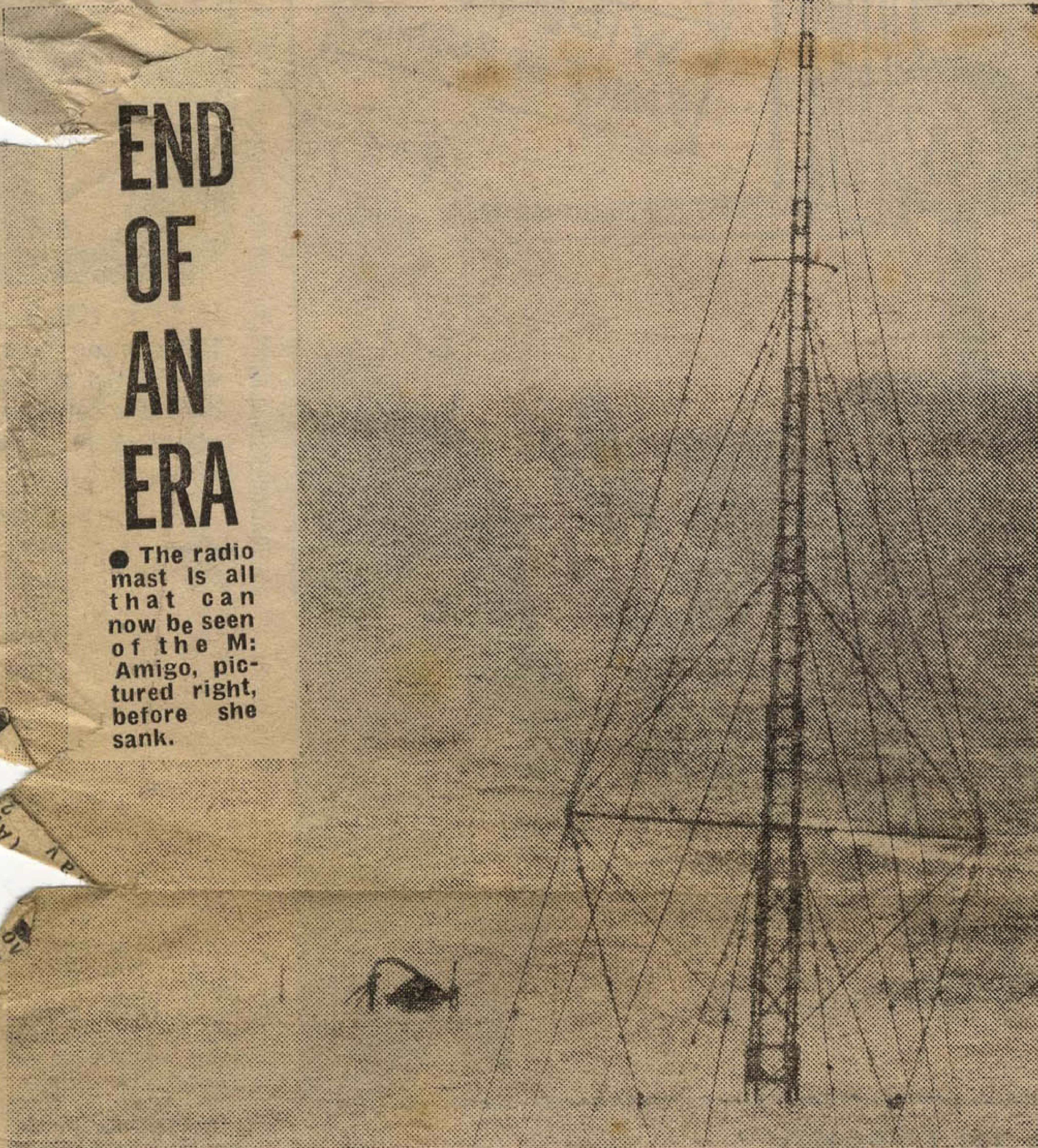
Two years ago a National Opinion Poll put the station's listening figure at five million. A shut down last year for repairs slashed that figure, but station staff estimated they still had about 500,000 listeners, with the number steadily climbing.

The Spanish office of Radio Caroline said today they would be inspecting the ship. There has been talk for some time that they would replace it with a more modern vessel.

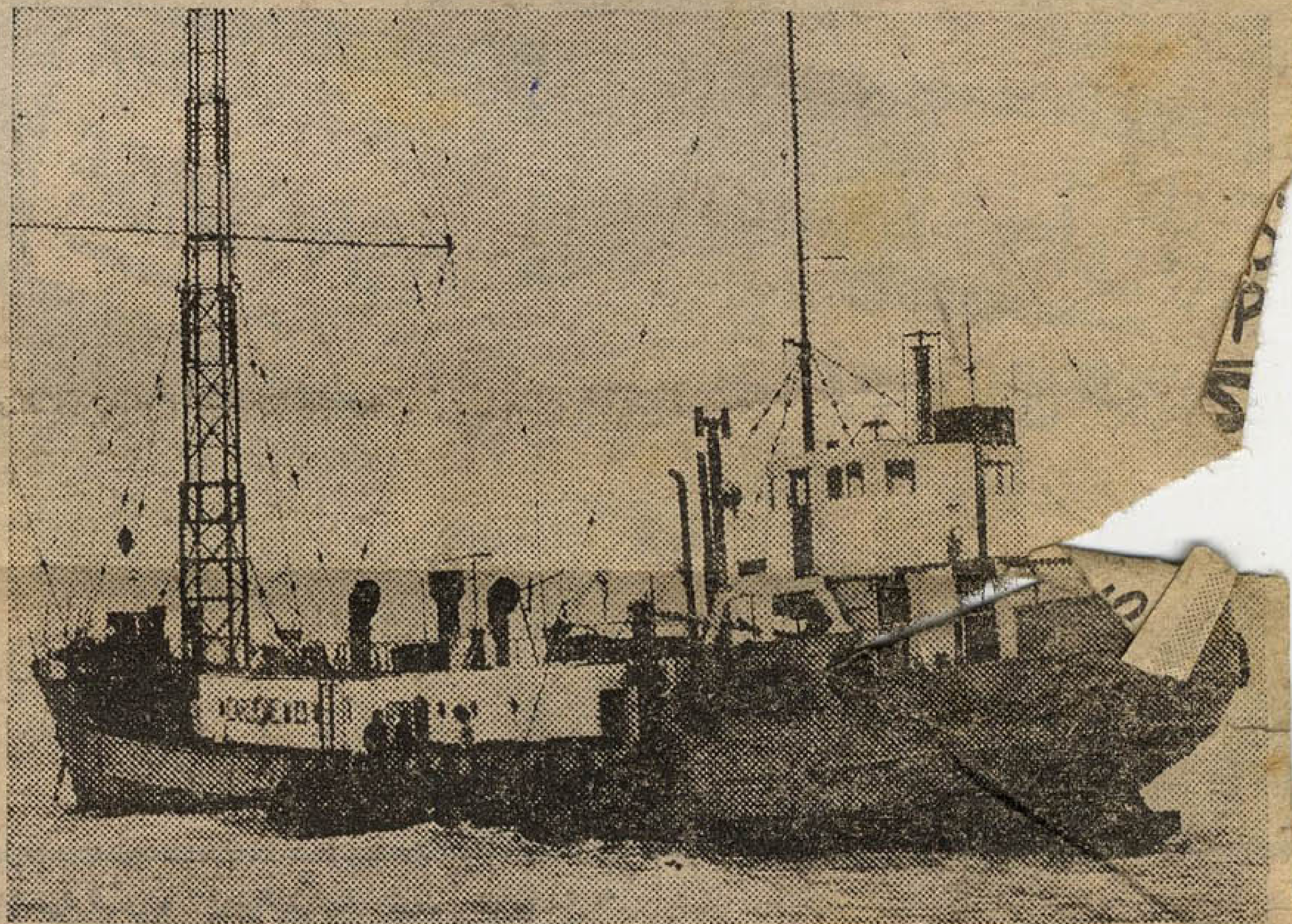
RADIO MAYDAY!

END OF AN ERA

● The radio mast is all that can now be seen of the M: Amigo, pictured right, before she sank.



Four DJs and a canary rescued as pop pirate Caroline sinks



RADIO CAROLINE, the pirate pop station the Government could not silence, was finally sunk yesterday . . . by the sea.

Gale-lashed waves forced the station's base ship from its moorings off the Essex coast and onto a sandbank in the Thames estuary.

Then the huge rollers lifted the 350-ton M: Amigo off the bank and it vanished in 25ft of water.

Minutes before the M: Amigo went down, the station's four disc jockeys—and their pet canary—were rescued by a lifeboat.

One of them, 23-year-old Nigel Tibbles—who broadcasts as Nick Richards—said later: "It was all very hairy."

The death agony of Caroline began at 6.15pm on Wednesday when the crew put out a Mayday alert after the ship's anchor cable snapped.

Code

The lifeboat Helen Turnbull from Sheerness, Kent, ploughed 20 miles through Force 10 gales to go to her aid.

Startled pop music fans listening in soon

By IAN HEPBURN

became aware the ship was in distress.

Caroline fan Buster Pearson of South Benfleet, Essex, said: "From 8pm onwards they put out taped music with no chat from DJs."

"A series of code numbers were broadcast during the evening and then a DJ asked listeners to telephone the station's mainland office and give the number 57."

"This was obviously the code for distress."

The pirate station finally went off the air two minutes past midnight playing its signature tune, Caroline.

The lifeboat made twelve attempts before it could get near enough to the M: Amigo to rescue the DJs at around 1am.

Coxswain Charles Bowry, 44, said: "It was

the trickiest rescue operation I have ever performed."

"We were flung in every direction. The waves were pitching us 4ft above the M: Amigo's gunwales and then plunging us 12ft down."

The DJs—Mr Tibbles, from Rayleigh, Essex, Nigel Latko, 31, of Bournemouth, Timothy Lewis, 27, from Saxmundham, Suffolk, and Dutchman Ton Lathouwers—had to leap aboard the lifeboat.

Dramas

Radio Caroline first started broadcasting off Clacton, Essex in 1964 and produced a string of top DJs for the BBC—including Tony Blackburn, Dave Lee Travis, Simon Dee and Andy Archer.

But the station was involved in a running battle with the Government and the BBC and in 1967 it was forced to move outside British territorial waters.

At the 59-year-old M: Amigo was involved in many dramas—and once Tony Blackburn had to be winched to safety off it.



Tony Blackburn . . . made his name on Caroline

'We were being flung in every direction'

Rose of England

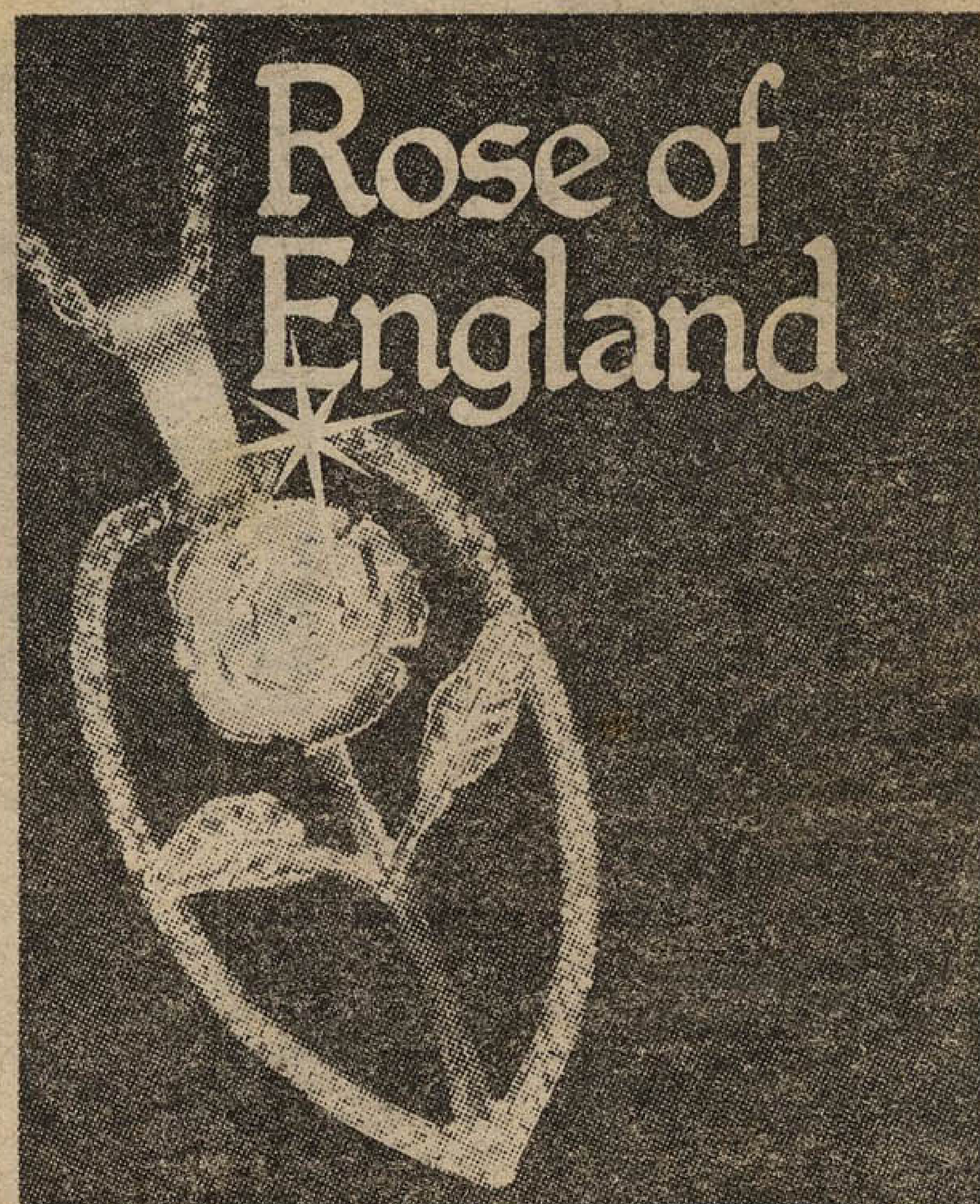


Illustration shown larger Actual size 32mm x 20mm

Hand-crafted in Sterling Silver, this exquisite pendant portrays the traditional Tudor Rose—the exclusive badge of England. Beautifully modelled in the finest detail, enclosed in an elegant heart shape and suspended on an 18" Silver Prince of Wales chain, this Rose of England

ORDEAL FOR DJs AS POP SHIP SINKS IN STORM

'Queen of pirates'

Caroline is dead

by IAN MONK

PIRATE disc jockeys told yesterday of their vain battle to save the stricken Radio Caroline pop ship.

Hours after being plucked from the raging sea which finally sank Britain's last offshore radio station, one said: "We are lucky to be alive."

DJ Steve Gordon — whose dramatic final broadcast ended Caroline's 16-year rebellion—added: "It was pretty terrifying."

"There was so much water on board that it was breaking over our heads as we stood on deck."

"The wind was at Gale Force 9 and the waves were like the sides of houses."

The terror began in the early hours yesterday when the ship, dragged from its anchorage by the storm, ran aground on a mudbank 12 miles off the Essex coast.

As water poured in, the DJs sent coded messages amid the music to alert Caroline officials ashore.

Safety

Nick Richards, 23, said: "We were so busy at the pumps and bailing out that there was no time to be afraid."

Steve's last words on the air — just after midnight — were: "For the safety of those on board we are going off with the lifeboat."

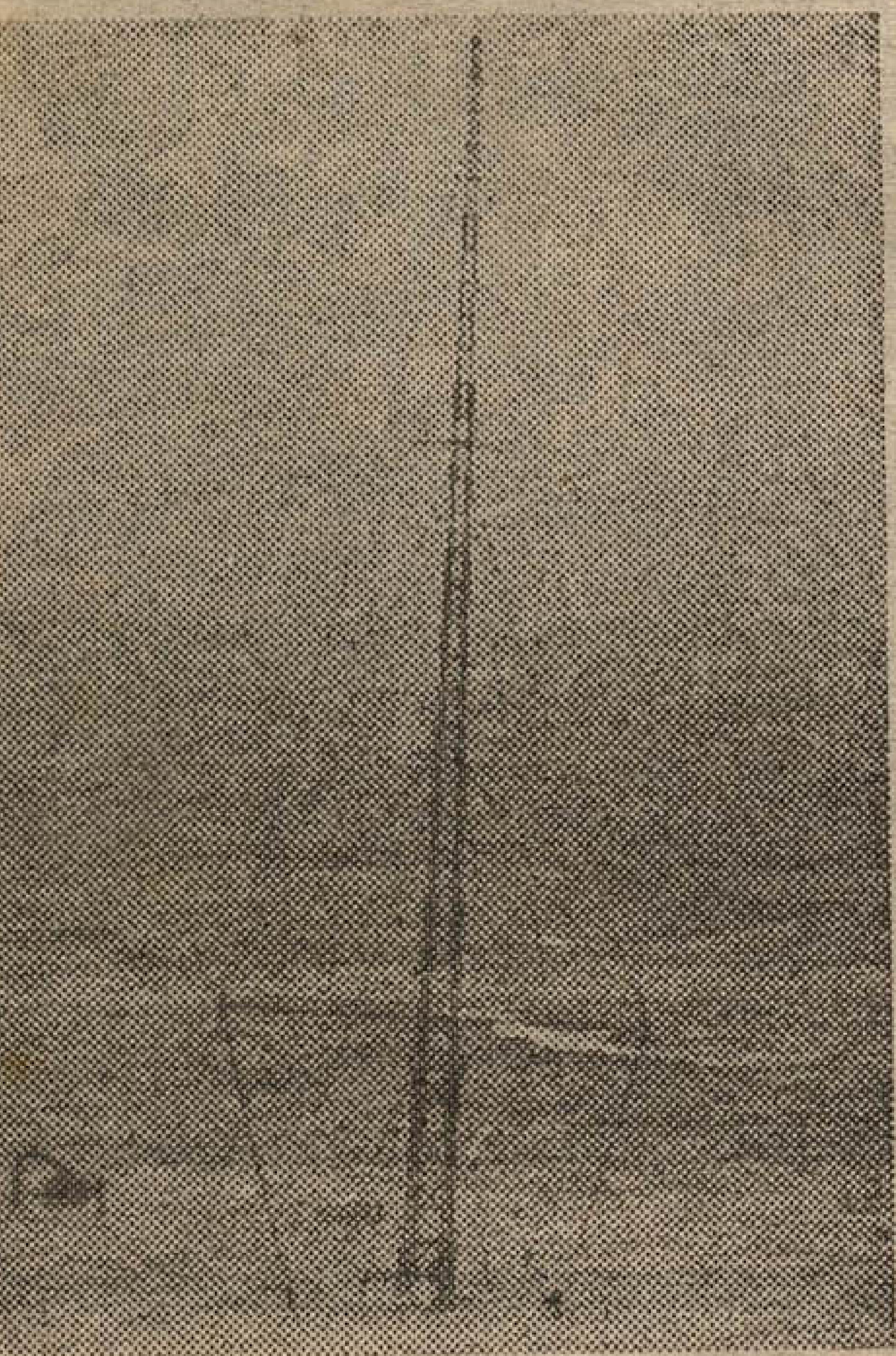
"Don't worry — we're all OK."

Then he closed with the Fortunes' hit, Caroline — the station's theme tune.

Steve, Nick and colleague Tom Anderson now face possible prosecution under Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

FAREWELL

Kidnap victim Thomas Niedermayer, who vanished six years ago, was buried outside Belfast yesterday.



Caroline . . . aerial view

Yard blacklist slammed by a drug-buster

by DON MACKAY

A FORMER police chief yesterday hit out at a secret blacklist that has branded him an enemy of law and order.

The list, drawn up by the Metropolitan Police, names ex-Detective Chief Inspector Dick Lee alongside an officer convicted of corruption.

Mr. Lee, who led Operation Julie, which smashed a £100 million drugs ring, said the dossier was "disgraceful" and a gross invasion of privacy.

Before he left the Thames Valley force two years ago he repeatedly attacked methods used by the Metropolitan Police.

At night he stated that he had "extremely" added: "police- it



Mr Lee

BYE BYE CAROLINE

THIS is all that remains of Radio Caroline, the pop pirate ship that ruled the waves for 16 years.

She sank yesterday after running aground in the stormy North Sea off the Essex coast.

Only the 160ft. tall mast is left ... a final reminder of the pop

Storm sinks pirate radio ship

station that refused to be sunk by officialdom.

The end came when Caroline's four disc jockeys were taken off by a lifeboat.

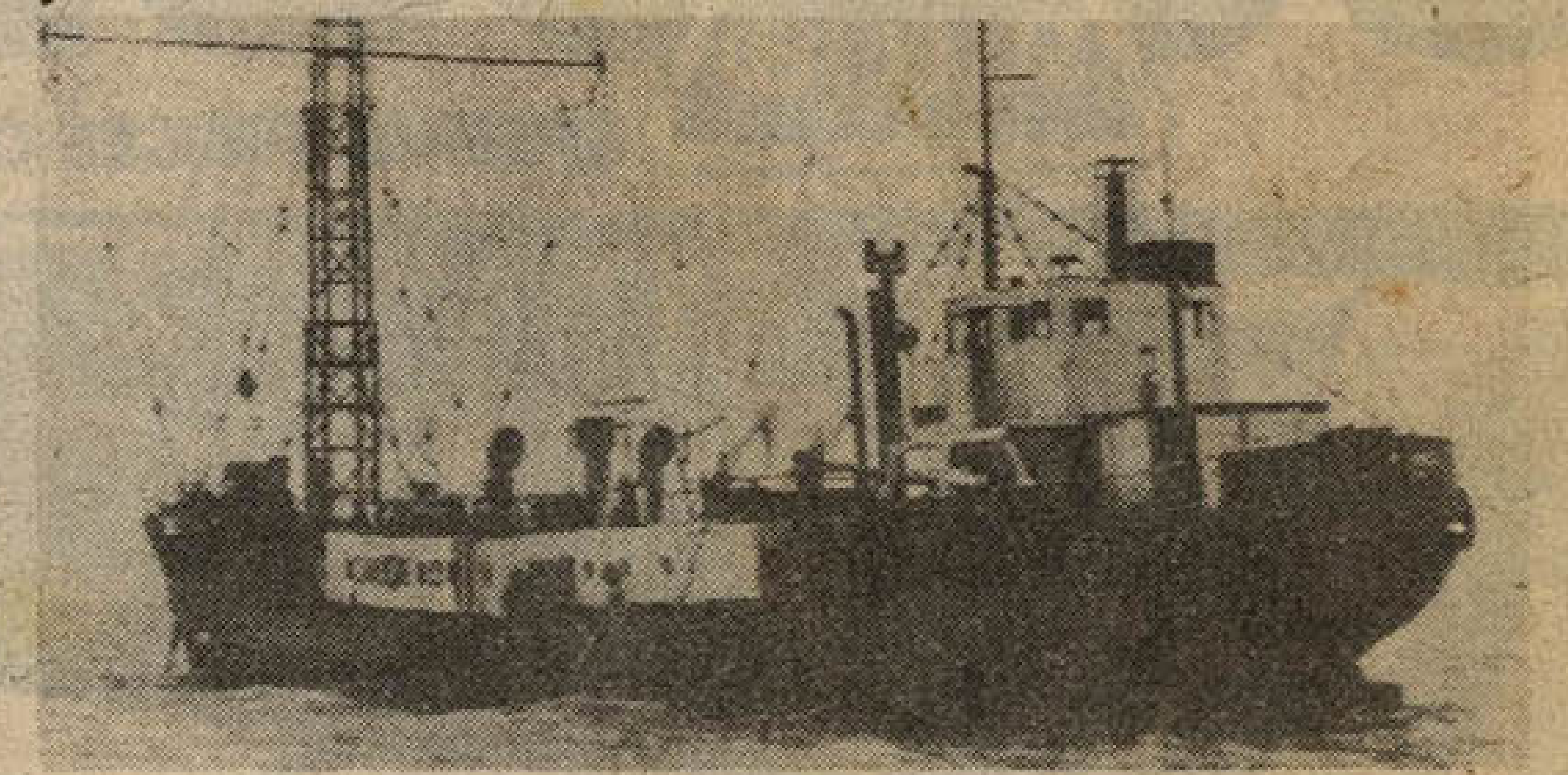
LOYAL

As they were being rescued the station signed off to its one million listeners by playing a recording of Caroline ... the song that first launched the

station in the swinging 60s.

Caroline, Europe's only album station, built its reputation on pop music broadcast round the clock in English and Dutch.

The station had such a loyal following that it forced the BBC to scrap its old Light Programme and to switch to non-stop pop music under the new name of Radio One.



The pirate ship ... before the storm.

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All that remains of the once proud station.