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## Former Radio Mi Amigo DJ Norbert has died

**DATELINE** Rumbeke, Belgium 3rd February

Former Radio Mi Amigo DJ Norbert (Van Slambrouck) has died at the age of 85.

Norbert was born in Brugge on 31st December 1937, the son of bicycle dealer and manufacturer André Van Slambrouck.

He grew up in Brugge and after schooling at the institute of the Xaverianen brothers, he studied economic sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven, graduating in 1963.

In 1968 he began his successful singing career with hits such as "Song for Mary-Ann", "Watch Out for the Paint", "And I'll Never Forget", "Where is the Time" and "Summer Girl".

He performed almost everywhere and became one of Flanders' most popular singers.

In May 1968 he launched his own radio program on BRT 2: "Variété with Norbert", but at the peak of his success he became seriously ill, forcing him to avoid any activity for a year.

After recovery and discharge from the hospital, he took a job in real estate sales in Spain, then when he returned to Belgium Sylvain Tack offered him a job at his soon to be launched offshore station, Radio Mi Amigo.

Norbert was a prominent member of the first DJ team and presented his daily "Norbert Show" as well as "Norbert's Saturday Showtrain". He also became a top DJ of the popular Mi Amigo Drive-in Show.

When the station became illegal in September 1974 and the organisation, including DJs, moved to Spain, Norbert left Radio Mi Amigo and became artistic director of a discotheque in Sint-Kruis-Brugge staging "Norberts Hey Club" or the "Norbert Feestzaal". Flemish and international artists such as Donna Summer, The Rubettes, The Tremeloes and Smokie, also appeared in his shows.

In 1979, after renovation, the business was renamed "Norbert Hey Center" and as soon as local radio stations were allowed to operate in Belgium Norbert started the Free Brugse Radio-Omroep, the VBRO in 1981.

VBRO quickly became very popular and a few years later it was a fully-fledged station, with its own news service, professional programming and a skilled team of presenters and engineers.

It was Norbert who created the station and distinguished it from the other stations on air at the time, with a wide range of music and programmes.

Following a change of management and reorganisation in 1991 Norbert left and moved first to Oostende and then Rumbleke, providing training courses for young radio presenters.

A few days before his birthday in 2022 Norbert had a fall at home and he died as a result of subsequent complications on 3rd February 2023.

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## **Original Radio Caroline DJ and technician, Alan Turner, has died**

**DATELINE** Kent, England 2nd October

One of the first technicians/DJs on Radio Caroline, Alan Turner, has died aged 84.

Alan 'Neddy' Turner was born in Blackheath, London, on 29th March 1939.

His early jobs included salesman, engineer and policeman before becoming a disc-jockey. He obtained the nickname "Neddy" after the character in the popular 1950s BBC radio comedy series The Goon Show.

Alan joined Radio Caroline in 1964 as a technical operator (to play records for the DJs before they became 'self-op'). However he soon moved to presentation and was one of the three DJs (with Tom Lodge and Jerry Leighton) who sailed with the MV *Caroline* from Essex to the Isle of Man following the merger with Radio Atlanta.

After leaving Radio Caroline ran a retail/wholesale business with his wife, and later operated an aviation maintenance facility.

Alan passed away on 1st October 2023 at his home near Maidstone, Kent after a battle with cancer.

*(Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)*

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# Former Radio City and Radio 270 DJ Mike Hayes has died

**DATELINE** 23rd December 2023.

Mike Hayes first started his radio career while serving in the RAF with the Aden Forces Broadcasting Association.

After returning to the UK, he sought more radio work and worked briefly on Radio City.

After Radio City closed in February 1967 Mike joined Radio 270 to present The Mikey Mo Breakfast Show and Mikey Mo's Evening Show.

Mike was on shore-leave at the time of the station closed in August 1967. He had intended to return to the ship for the last day, but bad weather prevented this so Mike used his contacts with the RAF and persuaded a helicopter pilot to fly over the North Sea and drop a bag of pre-recorded goodbye messages to the radio ship *Ocean VII*. Packed in with the tapes was a note warning the DJs not to mention how they had been delivered. Unfortunately the bag did not land on the ship, but landed in the sea and sank. Unaware of the message, the DJs on board thanked the helicopter pilot on air for his efforts. As a result questions were raised in the House of Commons about what the RAF was doing supplying a pirate radio ship.

After his time at sea, Mike moved to Germany and then to Holland, where he worked in computers for many years then did some occasional film and TV work.

Mike died on 23rd December 2023.

*Additional material courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame ([www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk))*

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