

# A LAST, SAD SILENCE FALLS ON BOARD BIG L

## RADIO LONDON SIGNS OFF FOR THE LAST TIME



FROM A BEATLE . . . REGRETS

### RINGO STARR:

● I'M just saying cheerio. As you know, we are going off the air. It's a pity that radio will never be the same—but it is one of those things. ●



### MOMENT FOR TEARS

Alexandra Towle, a public relations girl in Radio London's headquarters weeps as she hears the closing-down broadcast from the ship. In the background—a picture of the floating radio station, which will now sail to a Hamburg dry dock.

### Rewards were fat

BY NICOLAS TRAVERS

The pirates had a good run for their money. The rewards were fat. Something like £5,500,000 must have passed through their hands in two-and-a-half years.

Roughly half went to Radio London, perhaps more than 30 per cent to Radio Caroline, and the rest was split between a fleet of seven lesser pirates, led by Radio 390.

Radio London was backed by Texans. Radio Caroline's backers at various times included Mr. Jocelyn Stevens of *Queen* magazine, Mr. Ian Ross, the financier, and through their link with the former Radio Atlanta, Mr. Jarvis Astair, gambling club owner.

Radio London cost the most, at about £500,000, against some £200,000 for Radio Caroline—and nil launching costs on the Thames estuary. Radio 390 and Radio City fort stations.

# PIRATE FANS IN LAST FLING RIOT

By JOHN HILL

**MORE THAN** a thousand chanting teenagers besieged London's Liverpool Street railway station last night in protest against the closure of the pirate radio stations, outlawed by the Government at midnight.

Youths and girls ran riot as the disc jockeys and staff of Radio London arrived after closing down during the afternoon.

'Big L,' which broadcast from a ship anchored off Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, had gone out with a bang.

Throughout their last day, disc jockeys asked fans to meet them at Liverpool Street station.

## INVITATIONS

Scores, then hundreds of teenagers accept the invitation. For hours they took over the station, shouting and chanting along platforms and over bridges. Many wore black armbands in "mourning."

Railway police and station staff put up crash barriers and linked arms. But the crowd—mostly girls—crushed past them.

Station announcemnets were drowned in the din of teenagers chanting: "London, London." Crowds massed around a car, climbed on its roof and blocked all police attempts to clear a path for it.

## LAMENT

His colleague, Mark Lennox, was trampled underfoot by girls who tore at his hair.

It was a chaotic end to the three years of pop radio.

But now, the pirates are sunk by the new Marine Offences Act which makes it an offence to work for or supply any pirate with advertisements, food or records.

Radio Scotland played itself out with a bagpipe lament at midnight. Radio 270, broadcasting from Scarborough Bay closed down during the day.

But Radio Caroline is carrying on from ships off the Isle of Man and the South-East coast.

Owner Mr. Ronan O'Rahilly, aged 28, has transferred his headquarters to Amsterdam.

*Will Britons who listen to Caroline be prosecuted?*

A Post Office spokesman said last night: "It has always been an offence to listen to unauthorised broadcasts such as these offshore transmitters. But it is unlikely we would take action against ordinary listeners."

When the Radio London train pulled in from Ipswich it was surrounded within seconds.

The window of a compartment was shattered, and one of the station staff gashed his arm as he was pushed against the window by fans racing through the train's corridor.

Policemen were flung to the ground after a banner reading "Freedom Goes With Radio London" had been fiscated.

The train should have left again for Yarmouth at 7.30 pm., 40 minutes after it arrived. It eventually left 19 minutes late—still carrying many of the Radio London fans who refused to get off.

But, ironically, most of the disc jockeys arrived on a later train which pulled in at 9 pm. Even then, mobs of fans were still rampaging over the station, chanting: "266 London—Bring It Back."

The disc jockeys were cornered, signing hundreds of autographs. One, Pete Drummond, said: "We hoped there would be a bit of a demonstration. But this is awful."

## THE LAST DAY OF FREEDOM

**M**ONDAY, August 14: A monument in the history of pirate radio. Radio London, "Wonderful" to the end, died in a blaze of glory. And it was so sportingly saluted by her rival for so long, Caroline. I have always had a slight preference for Caroline. Now I have no choice.

However, on Monday, I chose to listen to BIG L's final, and finest, hour. Tributes from each and every London d-j, past and present, the inimitable Kenny Everett, Tony (hullo) Windsor, Duncan Johnson, everybody. Discs played were so appropriate—"The Last Time," "It's All Over," even a bit of "Heroes And Villains!"

All day the Beatles were very much in evidence and I felt it fitting that their "Day In The Life" was chosen to be the closing record. Fitting, too, that Paul Kaye, the first voice heard on Radio London and the only man with London all the time, should say the "Goodbye."

Big Lil struck up the old familiar tune. But this time, no tomorrow morning. No news, daft jingles, schools spot, nothing. It was frightening when Big Lil stopped, and for ever, 266 on the medium waveband became nothing. Empty, I turned quickly to the old, familiar 259, and I must say I have never felt so proud of anyone as Caroline's Robbie Dale then. He stayed on. He welcomed obvious newcomers from London. He saluted London as a sister and asked for a one-minute silence on Caroline South to mourn the long, long silence of London. Then—apart from Radio 270 and Scotland which closed at midnight—he declared that Caroline South and her Northern sister ship were alone. For the umpteenth time, music struck up on Caroline. It was Pete Seeger: "We shall overcome."

ALISON TURNBULL, aged 15, 1, Richmond Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.

# Pop pirate



DISC JOCKEY LENNOX IS MOBBED  
SEE PHOTONEWS: PAGE FIVE

# fans run wild

By ROBIN TURNER

**T**HE angry silence of pop pirate fans exploded into a roar last night when 1,500 teenagers besieged London's Liverpool Street station. They mobbed three trains bringing disc jockeys from Radio London and Radio Caroline south and for more than three hours almost brought the huge terminal to a halt.

In one rush, a crowd barrier was smashed through a window of the 6.50 from Harwich, bringing the Radio Caroline staff into town.

Carrying banners with "Freedom went with Radio London" and chanting "266 London—Bring It Back," the crowd swept aside British Railways policemen, and surged aboard.

## Held up

The Caroline staff fought their way through to taxis. A car thought to contain disc jockey Tommy Vance had to be rescued by police.

The train, which should have gone on to Yarmouth, was held up for 40 minutes while the compartment with the shattered window was changed, and the fans were taken off. But when it pulled out several were still aboard.

The second train, the 7.40 from Harwich, was switched at the last moment to Platform 14.

But the howling fans soon tracked down their idols, and police were again swept aside.

And when the 9.5, also from Harwich, arrived, the 1,000 teenagers still waiting turned over a platform run-about and finally caught up with the disc jockeys—nine from Radio London.

Jockey Mike Lennox, bearded, flared trousers flapping, fled into the men's toilet, followed by yelling girls.

He was rescued by police and forced into a car.

## Contract

There was consolation for him when he reached his Chelsea flat. A contract with the B.B.C. to act as compère and link man on a two-hour programme on both Radio One and Two was waiting.

**The Battle of Liverpool Street came only a few hours before the Act banning the pirates came into force.**

From midnight last night it is an offence for any British national "to operate, work for, give assistance to or collaborate in any way with pirate radio stations."

**BUT** at one minute past midnight both Radio Carolines—one off Essex, the other off the Isle of Man—were still operating.

They say they will force the Government's hand by asking police to arrest "a volunteer" who will land from Caroline South.

Then they will fight the test case all the way to the Commission on Human Rights.

The "volunteer" will probably be either Johnnie Walker or "Admiral" Robbie Dale, both disc jockeys.

# Near-riot as pirate jockeys come ashore

By Daily Mail Reporter

**THE OUTLAWED** pop pirates came ashore last night—and caused a near-riot among 1,000 teenagers.

The youngsters were waiting at Liverpool Street Station, London, when the train carrying seven disc jockeys from Radio London pulled in.

They burst through steel barriers, surged past four policemen and a dozen members of the station staff and leaped on to the train.

As they rushed along the corridors in search of their idols, a window was smashed. Assistant stationmaster Mr. Bill Ranger was pushed against the broken glass and gashed his right arm.

The disc jockeys themselves had broadcast the time of their arrival from Radio London before the station closed down for the last time at 3 p.m. yesterday.

## Amazed

They said over the air from the ship, anchored off the Essex coast: "Come and meet us off the Ipswich train. And wear black armbands."

Even the ship's engineer, known to the fans only as "Ginger," was surrounded by teenagers chanting: "The end of London is the end of freedom."

Some of the disc jockeys, having reached their taxis, simply drove round the block and returned for more adulation.

The injured Mr. Ranger said: "A lot of the trouble was caused by the disc jockeys not leaving the station straight away or driving around for a while and then returning. But there's not much damage really."

In the crush, several policemen lost their helmets, but a senior officer said later: "We were amazed at how well-behaved they were. Our main job was to see that none of the teenagers got hurt."

The new Act making it illegal for Britons to have anything to do with pirate radio stations came into force at midnight last night.

The only pirate station defying the ban is Radio Caroline.

# Riotous exit of Jolly Roger

## SKETCH

By  
**SYDNEY BRENNAN and PETER THORNTON**



Surrounded by police to keep away the fans, Mike Lennox arrives in London, his job finished

**T**HE swinging pop pirates of Britain finally swung out of existence last night—to a deafening howl of disapproval from thousands of teenage transistortites.

Radio London, a former minesweeper moored off Frinton, Essex, went off the air at 3 p.m.

Radio 270, moored off Scarborough, followed with Radio Scotland at midnight—when the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act came into force.

But as the music ended, the protests began. More than 1,000 screaming fans, wearing black armbands or ties, turned up at Liverpool-street Station last night when Radio London's disc jockeys arrived.

Police helmets flew, carriage windows were smashed and some teenagers were slightly hurt as they burst through police cordons with banners demanding: "Wilson out" and "Free radio for Britain."

Retired pirates Ed Stewart,

Mark Roman, Tony Brandon, Chuck Blair and Ian Damon were mobbed as soon as they left their train. And later police told two of the disc jockeys to leave a bar which had been invaded by teenagers.

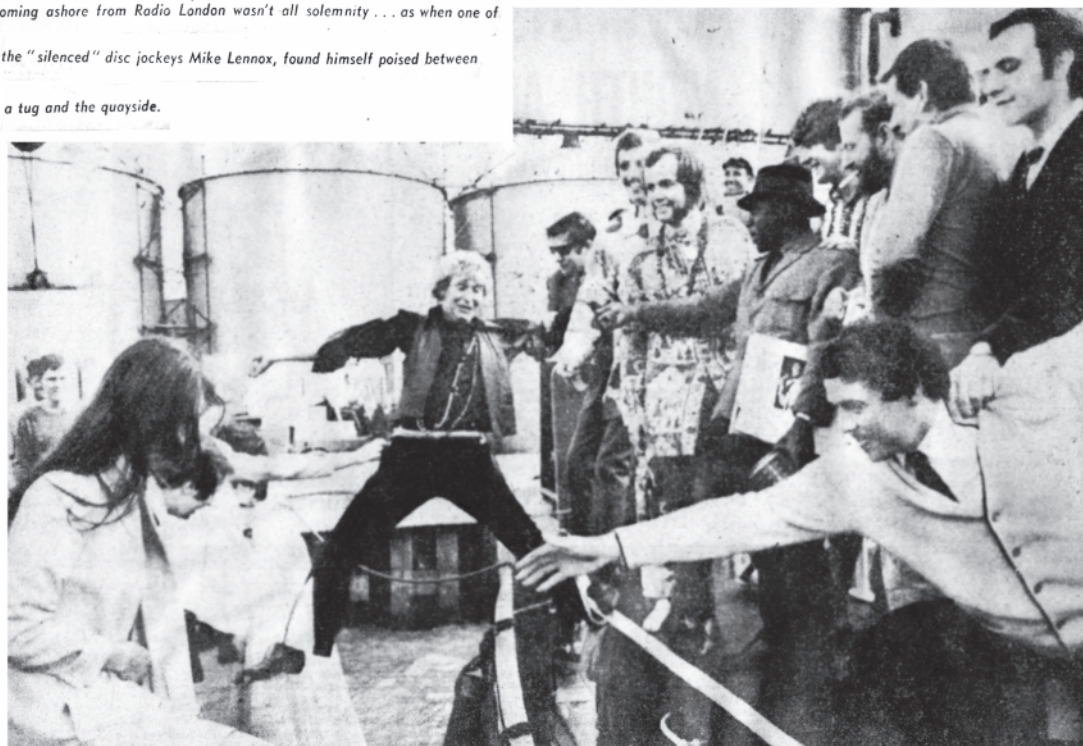
Canadian disc jockey Mike Lennox, 25, stepped ashore to find a BBC contract waiting for him. He will comper a new show on Radio I and II starting in the autumn.

**T H I S M O R N I N G**, Radio Caroline North is the only legal pop ship left around Britain.

The pirate, anchored off the Isle of Man, has a temporary reprieve because Privy Council documents applying the Act to the island have not yet been served.

Radio Caroline South, anchored off Frinton, had two disc jockeys aboard last night. And they were preparing to hoist the Jolly Roger . . . and await a siege.

Coming ashore from Radio London wasn't all solemnity . . . as when one of the "silenced" disc jockeys Mike Lennox, found himself poised between a tug and the quayside.





As the disc jockeys come back from the sea . . . riots at the station

## PHOTONEWS

by Robin Turner

DEJECTED and beaten, Radio London went off the air at exactly 3 p.m. yesterday. Its disc jockeys arrived home to riots at London's Liverpool Street station.

But Radio Caroline prepared to fight the Government's ban on the radio pirates.

As the boats bringing the "Big L" staff into legality arrived at Felixstowe others took Radio Caroline South volunteers Johnnie Walker and Robbie Dale into exile.

They have chosen to live in Holland and not land in Britain for at least three years rather than give up a life on the ocean radio wave.

Walker, 22 years old and a mechanic before becoming a disc jockey, said: "I could have got a job with the B.B.C. but this has become a



Pete Drummond—  
with the records

matter of principle. I am determined to stick it out.

"Commercial radio must come ashore, I believe. Surely the Government cannot go on ignoring the popularity of the pirate stations."

Robbie Dale, with nautical

beard, said: "We both wanted to be the first to make a broadcast when Caroline becomes an outlaw, so we have split the midnight programme up so we can both do it. It will be a momentous occasion."

The Mayfair headquarters of London and Caroline are only 100 yards apart—but yesterday the spirits could not have been more widely separated.

In Curzon Street, home of "Big L," there was dejection. A secretary sat on the stairs and said: "We are just going to cry our eyes out."

Beatle Ringo Starr ended an hour of farewell messages from pop stars, including Tom Jones, Cilla Black, and Dusty Springfield, by calling it "a sad day for everybody."

But there was no crying at Radio Caroline in Chesterfield Gardens. This morning their offices will open in Amsterdam hoping for business as usual.

## Gone . . .

All round Britain the Jolly Roger was being hauled down. Radio Scotland, the only pirate North of the Border, closed at midnight with a skirl of the bagpipes.

Radio 355, Radio 227, and Radio 390 disappeared in deference to the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act, 1967, which makes it an offence to operate, work for, give assistance to, or collaborate in any way with pirate radio stations.

At Ramsey in the Isle of Man 200 people cheered as five rebel disc jockeys left the harbour for Caroline North anchored off the island.

For the moment they can still land on the Isle of Man and provisions can still be sent out from Ramsey, because the island has not yet received its official copy of the order banning help to the pirates.

It was the British Government's intention to extend this order to the island that led to its dispute with Britain.

Last night Miss Alice Bacon, Minister of State at the Home Office, invited the island's Governor, Sir Peter Kerruish, to meet her in London on Thursday.

Meanwhile Caroline goes on. The first pirate to appear three and a half years ago with a new world of non-stop pop.

The last to disappear.

## Final pay-out for the DJs on quayside

By SALLY MOORE

**I**T was farewell yesterday to Big L. At precisely 3 p.m. Radio London went off the air—silenced by the Government ban on pirate radio stations which came into force nine hours later.

There was no farewell party for the disc jockeys and staff.

"Everyone's too sad," said agent George Bacon, waiting to pay them off at Felixstowe Docks.

"It's especially sad for those who have got no jobs now. They damn good at their work, but there aren't that many DJ jobs around."

Captain Ricketts, skipper of the tug Ocean Cock, set sail for the pirate ship, Galaxy, during the morning while pop records from Radio London were still being broadcast to millions of fans.

### Choppy

He waited near the ex-minesweeper, anchored four miles off Frinton, on the Essex coast, until the station closed.

Then he brought the nine DJs and three engineers back to Felixstowe. A sad, 12-mile journey through rough, choppy seas.

Left on board the "pirate" ship were a crew of Dutch seamen—preparing to sail in to dry dock in Hamburg.

"The ship cost about £2,000,000 to equip and the equipment is staying on board," said Mr. Bacon. "It is proposed to sell her as a radio ship I think."

Ironically, at Felixstowe Docks last night, the Ocean Cock berthed near a cargo ship with the words "Wilson Line" on the hull.

Disc jockeys Ed Stewart, Mike Lennox, Pete Drummond Hay, John Peel, Willie Walker, Paul Kaye, Chuck Blair, Mark Roman and Tony Brandon were cleared by Customs on board the Ocean Cock.

Then Mr. Bacon passed them their wages—a £2,000 handout.

### Records

Later they went in a hired bus to Ipswich, and on by rail to London—with their suitcases and their share-out of Radio London's record stock.

Ed Stewart said: "We are all very sad because this is the end of the happy era of free radio."

"After the station closed down, we all had a drink because we were so sad. I've been with Radio London since July, 1965. Now I hope to be working for the BBC."

American Chuck Blair said: "I felt terrible. I've been in pirate radio fourteen months. I've had offers from Radio Caroline and from the BBC but nothing is settled yet."

Disc jockey Paul Kaye—who was the first to broadcast from Radio London—closed down the station.

To millions of fans he said: "Big L time is three o'clock. Radio London is now closing down." Then Radio London's "Big L theme" was played.

When Radio London closed, Radio Caroline South—which is determined to continue broadcasting—observed a minute's silence.

Four of their British DJs—though outlawed at midnight from working for a pirate station—are staying with Radio Caroline South. They are Robbie Dale, Johnny Walker, Ross Brown and Chris Anthony. Chris left for the ship only today.

### Similar

At Felixstowe, a Radio Caroline spokesman said: "The company has found them a place in Amsterdam. They will live there now."

There was a similar determination yesterday at the other Radio Caroline, in a ship anchored four miles out in Ramsey Bay, Isle of Man.

Three defiant DJs were last night the only British

subjects on board the ship—the new law only applies to British nationals operating pirate stations.

A crowd of 200 saw the defiant three—Dee Harrison, 21, Mark Sloane, 23, and Martin Kayne, 23—sail on the tender, Offshore 3, from the Ramsey quayside.

With them went Australian disc jockey Jimmy Gordon, 23, and Canadian Don Allen, who aren't affected by the new law.

Mark Sloane, of London, said: "I am fighting for free radio and free speech."

Martin Kayne, of Folkestone, said: "I don't know for sure what I shall do—but I believe in what we are doing now."

Dee Harrison said: "I am prepared to come

ashore and be arrested and go to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

But the Order of Council which makes the new law applicable on the island has not arrived yet.

### True

A Manx Government spokesman said: "We haven't had it. We don't know where it is."

A GPO spokesman in London said: "It is true that the legislation cannot be enforced on the Isle of Man—or the Channel Islands—until the Order is delivered."

A Home Office spokesman said: "We don't know when it will be sent. It could be a few days."

# Teenagers 'in mourning' mob DJ train

**A** CROWD of more than a thousand pirate radio fans ran riot yesterday—the day the pop stations were silenced.

The teenagers staged a mutiny against the Government's antipirate legislation at London's Liverpool-street Station.

The fans, wearing mock mourning bands on their sleeves, packed the station to greet seven Radio London disc-jockeys.

Behind a banner which announced: "Freedom went with Radio London," they stood chanting "Big L, Big L."

As the pirates' train pulled in, the crowd burst through barriers and thrust police and porters aside to pour on to the platform. Girls were trampled underfoot.

Hundreds of fans boarded the train and raced along the corridors hunting for the DJs.

### Smashed

A carriage window was smashed as the crowd surged around the train.

Police reinforcements dashed on to the platform to grapple with the fans. Some of them were knocked down.

Former Radio London DJ Keith Skuse, now with the BBC, was mobbed and pushed to the ground as he left his car to greet his former colleagues.

He had to take refuge in a woman's toilet—with

By  
KENELM JENOUR  
and JACK BELL

policemen barring the door.

At last the disc jockeys, helped by technicians who had travelled with them from the pirate ship off the Essex coast, battled their way through the crowd.

Eight taxis whisked them away from the station.

But the fans stayed on chanting "266 London—bring it back."

They besieged a car which they believed carried disc jockey Tommy Vance. A squad of policemen had to rescue it.

Only two pirate ships—Radio Caroline North and South—were still broadcasting last night. Caroline's headquarters have been transferred from London to Amsterdam.

### Silenced

The other stations were silenced by Postmaster-General Edward Short's Marine Broadcasting Offences Act, which came into force at midnight.

It bans Britons from operating, working for, supplying or advertising on a pirate station.

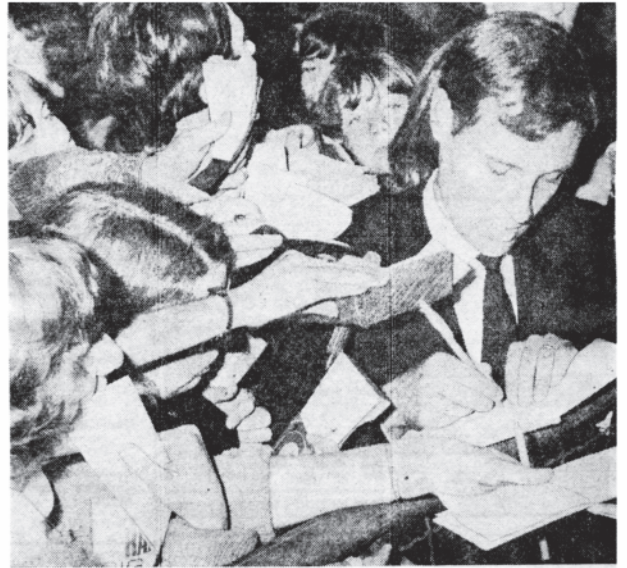
But the Post Office will not take action against listeners who continue to tune in to Radio Caroline.

A GPO spokesman said last night: "Although it has always been an offence to listen to an unauthorised station, no one has ever been prosecuted."

Farewell to Big L



Safe at last: disc jockeys Keith Skuse (left) and Mike Lennox are driven away after struggling through hundreds of fans last night.



Radio London DJ Ian Daemon signs for the fans after arriving at Liverpool Street last night.



The end of an era—police remove screaming fans as the Radio London disc jockeys arrive at Liverpool Street station

# POP RADIO 'PIRATES' ABANDON SHIP

## DISC JOCKEYS IN SIEGE

L. MARSLAND GANDER  
Television and Radio Correspondent

**A** BAGPIPE lament from Radio Scotland, one minute's silence on Radio Caroline, expressions of sorrow from unemployed disc jockeys and a near-riot at Liverpool Street Station, marked the end of most of the pirate radio stations yesterday.

After midnight only the two Carolines, North and South, were still in action—one off Ramsey, Isle of Man, the other from Holland. Neither the Post Office nor the Home Office could save yesterday when the Order in Council applying the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act to the Isle of Man would come into force.

"As soon as possible," was the Post Office statement. This affects the fate of Caroline off Ramsey, but the making of the Order depends on a meeting of the Privy Council.

The Liverpool Street trouble came last night when more than 1,000 teenagers burst the barriers to welcome seven disc jockeys from Radio London, which was anchored off Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, and ended broadcasting earlier in the day.

As the train from Ipswich arrived the teenagers surged forward and, despite four transport policemen and a dozen of the station staff, broke through the barrier and engulfed the train.

Waiting cameramen and news reel operators were carried on the tide as teenagers swept along the platform and raced through the corridors of the train.

The disc jockeys were Mark Roman, John Peel, Edward Stewart, Paul Kaye, Moke Lennox, Willy Walker, and Chuck Blair. They and other members of the radio's staff had to fight their way through the mob.

### CLOTHES TORN

#### Police escort

One disc jockey was overwhelmed and some of his clothes were torn before he was escorted away by police. Several hours after the train arrived, the teenagers were still besieging the station.

The disc jockeys had been delayed because their tug had to detour over sandbanks at low water. They arrived over two hours after the expected time.

Radio London, known as "Big L," to its devotees, closed with a programme that resembled a funeral feast because of the numerous references to the sadness of the occasion. A recorded message from Ringo Starr, of the Beatles, was terse.

It ran: "This is Ringo and I am just saying cheerio to all you Radio London listeners because as you know we are going off the air. It is a bit of a pity and the radio will never be the same but it is one of those things. Cheerio."

The station continued advertising to the last the commercials, including ones for cigarettes which are banned on I.T.V.

### DOCTORS EXEMPT

#### Illness on board

The Act stipulates that no British subject may work for, supply or advertise on the pirate stations. But should a radio announcer fall ill he may be treated by a doctor without the doctor risking prosecution.

Two British subjects who are staying with Radio Caroline South as disc jockeys are Robbie Dale and Johnny Walker. They were due to sail for Holland yesterday.

The station proposes to keep going with foreign supplies and advertisers and operate 24 hours a day. Ronan O'Rahilly, the head of the company said yesterday that he was opening advertising offices in Paris, New York, Toronto and Amsterdam.

### SKIRL OF PIPES

#### "Scotland" closes

Mr. T. V. Shields, managing director of Radio Scotland, his fellow directors, Mr. Allan Carr, and Mr. Stanley Jackson, and five of the stations disc jockeys attended a clan ball for 3,000 teenagers at the Locarno Dance Hall, Glasgow, to which the closing minutes of the stations broadcast were relayed.

A skeleton crew remained on board the broadcast ship, the Comet, off the Fife coast, to send out the concluding programmes, to the skirl of pipes and the refrain of "Auld Lang Syne."

Radio 270, which broadcast from a Dutch lugger in Scarborough Bay, also closed down last night.

# Caroline playing on—with 'Love'

From ADAM RAPHAEL

Radio Caroline, Monday

A Force 6 wind was rocking Radio Caroline on her moorings 3½ miles off the Essex Coast today as she became the only pirate radio station to defy the Marine and Broadcasting Offences Act.

Life aboard the Panamanian-registered ship *Mi Amigo* seemed surprisingly relaxed when I went out to visit her from Felixstowe with the tender *Offshore One*, supplying the ship from Britain for the last time.

A continuing stream of "Love Love, Love," the Beatles' hit and "We Shall Overcome," the freedom song, seemed to soothe away any disturbing thoughts on board that those Britons working for her now face a possible two-year prison sentence on return.

The last semi-legal hours of pop pirate radio were not without emotion. Caroline's three remaining disc jockeys wandered round decks, their pink shirt tails hanging out, bemoaning the sins (unexpurgated) of Harold Wilson and the follies of Edward Short, the Postmaster-General, in being so beastly to them.

### Mixed feelings

As 3 pm approached everyone on board began listening to Radio London's final broadcast from the *mv Galaxy*, anchored barely half a mile away. Initial sadness as Big L's theme tune died away for the last time was soon replaced by the happy thought that Caroline was now the sole representative of "free radio."

"Oh boy," said Johnny Walker, a disc jockey whose sideburns were almost as long as his shirt tails, "we're gonna have some audience tonight."

The decencies, however, had to be observed and there was a ritual minute's silence from Caroline for Big L, followed by Caroline's raucous theme tune, "Caroline, Oh yea, yea, yea." The two remaining British disc jockeys on board, Robbie (The Admiral) Dale and Johnny Walker, said they had already moved home to Amsterdam, where they have been provided with a flat by the Caroline organisation.

### Bible programmes

Both are confident that Caroline can get enough advertising from foreign sources to make up for the lost British accounts. In the immediate future they look to American Bible programmes to provide the bulk of the revenue, for at present the outlook is bleak, with only seven accounts compared with 170 at the peak of the station's fortunes 18 months ago.

If not the end, at least the beginning of the death throes of the pirates seem to be in sight. Caroline is armed for all eventualities, with Benjamin Britten's "Turn of the Screw" to give dignity backing to the best advertisements and Wagner's "Tannhäuser" which the programmers say is reserved for a royal death. Whatever else, Caroline cannot be said to be a ship without culture.

# First pirate survives all the rest

By our own Reporter

The first of the pirates, Radio Caroline, is now also the last. Radio London, after hours of farewell messages from record makers—a Beatle and a Stone among them—signed off crisply in the afternoon with "Big L Time is three o'clock. Radio London is closing down."

At midnight Radio Scotland went off the air to the strains of a bagpipe lament. The other pirated wavelengths which have given their numbers to stations—355, 227, 390, and 270—are now all clear.

Radio Caroline now has the market to itself from its two ships, off Harwich and off the Isle of Man. And, for the time being at least, the company can beam its programmes at the Isle of Man and have the pleasure of knowing that in this outpost of the United Kingdom the sweeping provisions of the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act do not apply.

For most of the United Kingdom the Act came into force at midnight, making it an offence to operate or give any assistance (other than for the purpose of saving life) to a pirate. To extend it to the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, however, an Order in Council has to be signed.

The signing has not yet taken place and last night there was no definite indication of when it would. Probably not before Thursday, when a party of Manxmen comes to London to talk over the matter with the Minister of State at the Home Office, Miss Alice Bacon. The islanders will point out that their House of Keys has passed a motion calling on the Commonwealth Secretariat to investigate the case for more independence for the Isle of Man.



# THE PIRATES' FAREWELL

Big L's music men sign off...and sail into a mobbing



The Big Crush for the Big L. heroes. Fans storm a car taking the disc jockeys from Liverpool-street station last night.

## Epitaph on the pop pirates

RADIO LONDON, one of the "big two" pirate pop stations, said farewell to its 12 million listeners yesterday with messages of regret from Beatle Ringo Starr, Rolling Stone Mick Jagger and others that it helped to make famous.

It closed down at 3 p.m. — nine hours before it became illegal for Britons to work for, supply or advertise on pirate stations.

Today, only its great rival, Radio Caroline—first of the pirates in March 1964—is left.

Radio London has made an estimated profit of £500,000 from advertising in the two years eight months it has been broadcasting from a ship off the Essex coast.

It spent its last day beaming messages from the stars between pop records.

Dusty Springfield, Cilla Black and Tom Jones added their condolences to those of Ringo and Mick Jagger.

Radio London chief Mr. Philip Birch told listeners: "In the time we have been on the air I think we have done a lot of good."

The last disc was the Beatles' LP, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

The last word was left to 32-year-old announcer Paul Kay.

He said: "Big L time is three o'clock. Radio London is closing down."

Radio Caroline hopes to keep its two ships going—one anchored off the Isle of Man and the other off the Essex coast—by using international advertising and getting supplies from outside Britain.

Mr. Ronan O'Rahilly, 28, the Irishman who started Radio Caroline, said last night: "We are carrying on broadcasting whatever happens. It would be ludicrous to stop now—just because the Government has passed a law against British supplies and advertisers."

Caroline now has only two Britons working for it—disc jockeys Johnny Walker and Robbie Dale. They have set up home in Holland because they would risk arrest if they returned to Britain.

The other pop pirates which shut down before midnight were Radio 270 and Radio Scotland which signed off with a bagpipe lament.

Radio 355, Radio 227 and Radio 390 have all gone off the air in the past two weeks.

The BBC's all-music station, Radio One, designed to fill the pop gap left by the pirates, will not start broadcasting until September 30.

The BBC said of the time-lag yesterday: "We were not sure until a month ago the date on which the anti-pirates law was to take effect."

### CAROLINE AND THE DAILY MAIL

THE Daily Mail is discontinuing publication of Radio Caroline programmes because this is illegal under the new Act. Penalties range from a maximum fine of £400 to two years' jail or both.