

London : Thursday  
March 20, 1980  
Price : Ten pence

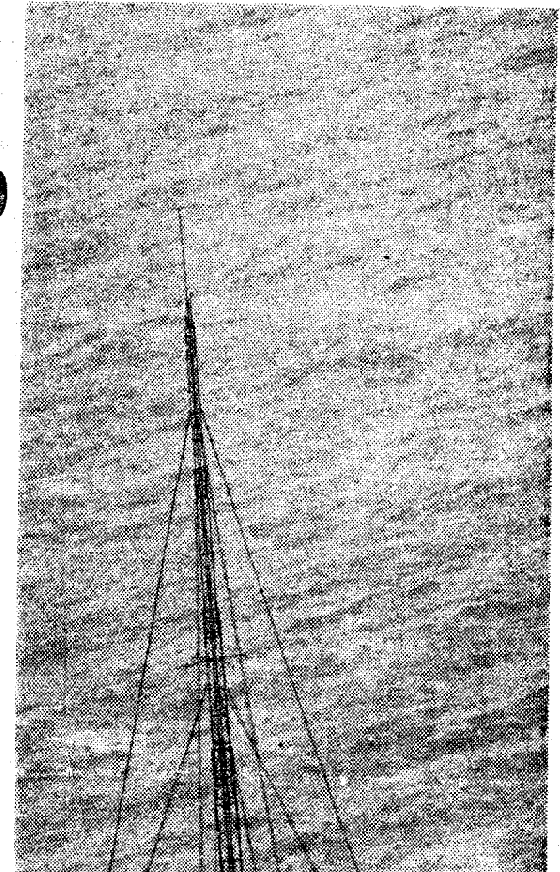
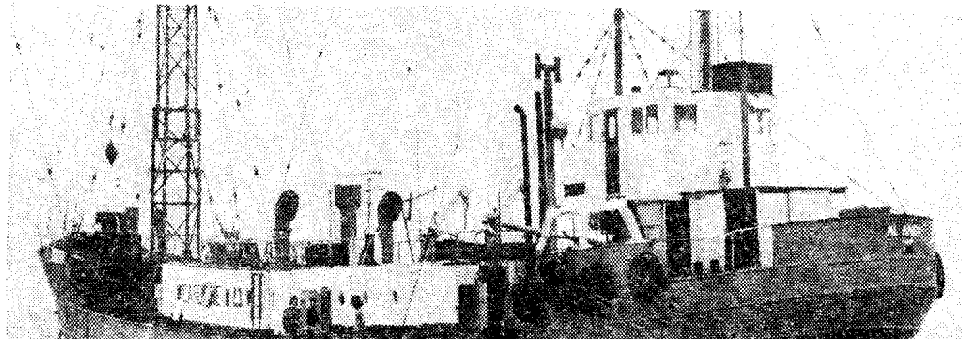
Evening

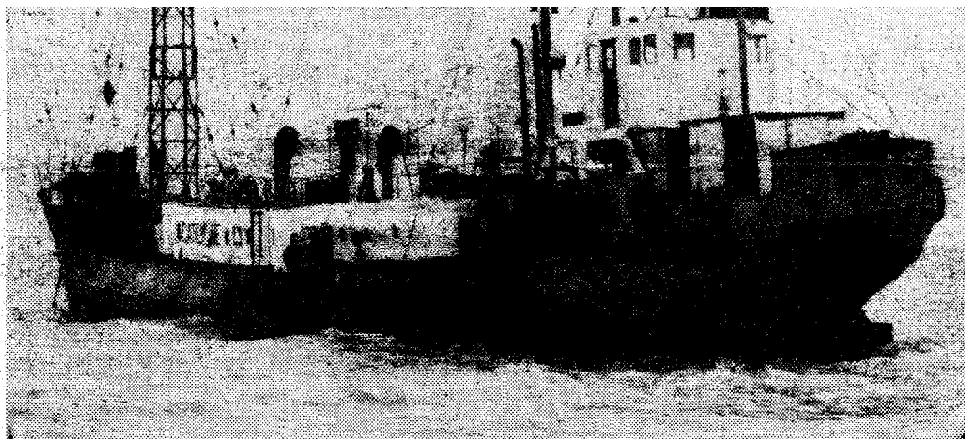
# STANDARD



**Pop pirate Radio Caroline sunk  
in gales—lifeboat rescues DJs**

**SO LONG,  
AMIGO!**





ON THE AIR—Radio Caroline's Mi Amigo, sunk after storm drives her aground.

**RADIO** Caroline, the pirate radio ship that started the Sixties pop radio revolution, finally fell silent today when it sank off the Essex coast in gale force winds.

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.

It was the final drama for the 80-year-old Mi Amigo, the home of Radio Caroline since it started broadcasting pop music to Britain and Europe in 1964.

### Hanging on

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."

"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.

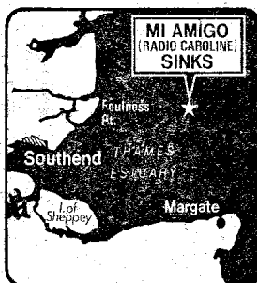
He said: "It was quite exciting at first and then things got a bit hairy. It didn't seem dangerous at the time I think because I'd been up all night and was terribly tired."

"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,

by Keith Dovkants, Donna Leigh and James Johnson

## 'Can we bring our canary?'



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."

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. "Its 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."

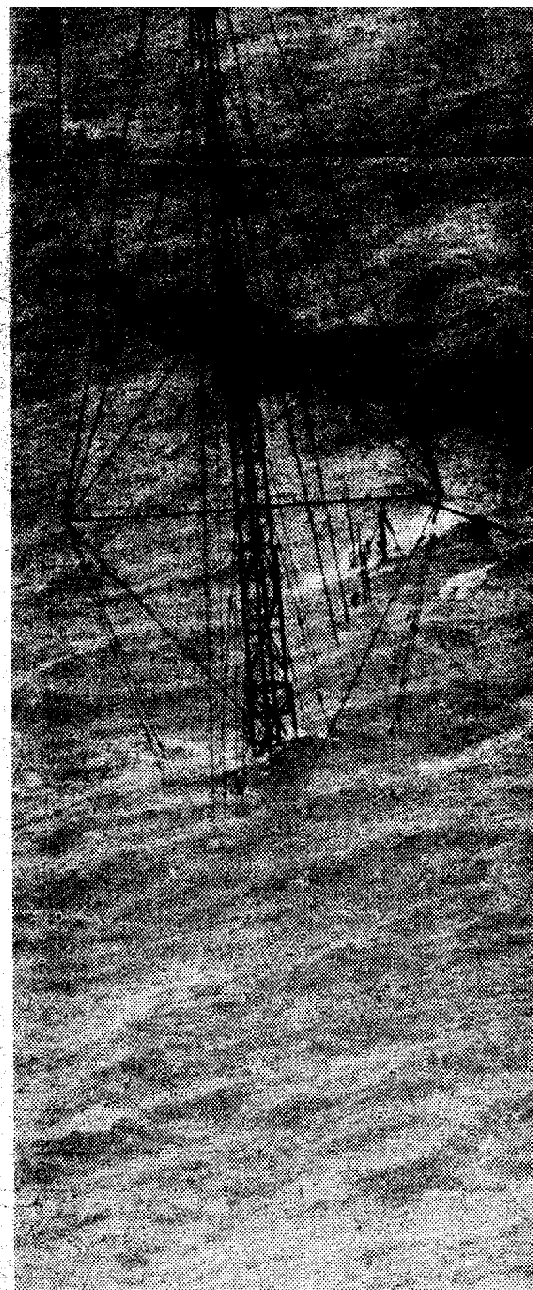
### Coastguard

"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.

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 Tim 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.



Evening Standard: Mike Moore

OFF the air... the sunken ship today.