

## DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2002 – 050



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A detailed illustration of a large cable-laying ship, equipped with various cranes and specialized equipment, sailing on the water.

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## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

### Cruise death mystery

POLICE are investigating the mystery death of an Australian woman aboard a luxury cruise ship in the Pacific.

Mother of three Dianne Brimble, 42, was holidaying with her young daughter when she was found dead aboard the P&O liner **Pacific Sky** on the second morning of a nine-day trip to New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

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Initial tests have been unable to discover the cause of Ms Brimble's death, but witnesses told police she had been in the company of up to eight men who were seen taking drugs.



Ms Brimble's body is understood to have been found in a cabin belonging to four of the men.

Detectives from Sydney Water Police were flown to New Caledonia and spent the rest of the cruise interviewing shocked passengers.

A post-mortem examination carried out in the New Caledonian capital of Noumea proved inconclusive and officers are now awaiting the results of further tests carried out in New South Wales.

Ms Brimble – whose family said she had been very much looking forward to the \$1500 cruise – had been accompanied by her 12-year-old daughter Tahlia Mitchell, her sister Alma Wood and her niece Kari-Anne Wood.

The 240m ship left Sydney on Monday, September 23, at 5pm carrying 1500 passengers bound for New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Mystery Island.

Ms Brimble was found the following morning in a cabin on the boat's Dolphin deck, but could only be removed when they arrived at New Caledonia two days later. Ms Brimble's traumatised family also disembarked.

Detectives have been told by fellow passengers that Ms Brimble had been in the company of up to eight men on the evening before her death.

These men were reported to be taking drugs in the company of other passengers.

Four are thought to have left the cruise several days later in Vanuatu.

"When we first heard about it, we were sick to the stomach," fellow passenger and Queensland teacher Lisa Davis, 24, said. "I felt terribly sorry for her daughter – she had to stay on board for two days after her mother was found. It was terribly sad."

Ms Brimble's funeral, held on Friday in Brisbane, was attended by 250 mourners including both her former husbands, Mark Brimble and David Mitchell.

"It's been terrible," her son, Sebastian, 19, said of her death. "The holiday's something she always wanted to do. "We're all getting through. It's difficult but we have to move on. It's surreal. I couldn't really believe it."

A friend said: "Di was very much loved by her family and friends. She was a mother of three and all the three children miss her terribly." The Pacific Sky was at the centre of a tragedy earlier this year when 21-year-old Sydney mechanic Lorenzo Lombardo died from meningococcal disease soon after returning from a similar cruise. The luxury cruise liner prides itself on being the biggest and most modern cruise ship sailing from Australia.

## **BAM ZET BALLAST HAM DREDGING IN DE VERKOOP**

Bouwer BAM heeft baggerdochter Ballast HAM Dredging in de etalage gezet. De bouwer uit Bunnik zoekt samen met huisbankier ING naar mogelijkheden om de schuldenlast te verlichten. Volgens bestuursvoorzitter D. de Waard van Ballast HAM Dredging (BHD) wordt gesproken over een gedeeltelijke verkoop, die begin volgend jaar zou kunnen worden afgerond.

## **CASUALTY REPORTING**

### **Present events on HUAL Europe**



The Captain, Chief Engineer, First Officer and Helmsman have been interrogated for 7 hours by the Yokohama Coast Guard Authorities and the interrogation continues.

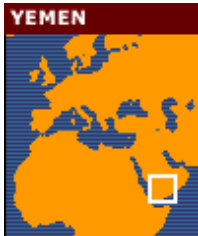
The **Nippon Salvage Company** went on board yesterday and inspector Ole Fjærgård joined them today.

The engine room and hold are flooded up to level 6 car deck with seawater mixed with oil. The divers have noted extensive damage to the hull. At present all efforts are concentrated on reducing the oil spill in and around the vessel, but for the moment the oil spill damages are limited. Representatives of the insurance company (Gard and

Scandinavian Underwriters) are present and a lawyer from Wikborg & Rein is on the scene assisting the crew. Most of the crew will be sent home tomorrow.

Thor Jørgen Guttormsen has had meetings with the Japanese Coast Guard in Tokyo and will meet the Mayor of the Island Oshima tomorrow.

### **Craft 'rammed' Yemen oil tanker**



The owners of a French oil tanker on fire off the coast of Yemen say they believe it was rammed by a smaller boat, before exploding into flames.

A junior officer on board the Limburg reported seeing a small craft "fast approaching"

the tanker in the port of Ash Shihr, at Mukallah, 570 kilometres (353 miles) east of Aden, and believes the two vessels touched before an explosion occurred.



Top : The **LIMBURG** in better times.



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Yemeni officials say they do not consider the blast an act of sabotage.

But Captain Peter Raes, managing director of France Ship, told BBC News Online it would be "near impossible" for an accidental explosion to have taken place, and that explosives were likely to have been on board the vessel which crashed.



All but one of the ship's 25 crew have safely evacuated and have suffered only minor injuries. One Bulgarian fitter is still unaccounted for.

An attack on the American warship the USS Cole near in the Yemeni port of Aden two years ago killed 17 US servicemen.

Captain Raes said that attack, which was blamed on al-Qaeda, was his "only point of reference" and that he had never seen any other similar incidents of vessels exploding.

### 'Serious speed'

"A junior officer saw a craft approaching the Limburg. He was of the opinion that we touched that craft and then there was an explosion," Captain Raes said. He

said that other explanations proposed by the Yemeni authorities, though theoretically possible, were "practically impossible".

An onboard fire or oil leak have been mooted as possible causes of the disaster.

Captain Raes said the Limburg was a new, double-hulled ship, and was barely moving at the time of the explosion, which took place during good weather.

He said that the force of the apparent impact had pierced both hulls and penetrated 7-8 metres into the cargo hold, which was loaded with crude oil.

He said only a very large ship, or one moving at "serious speeds" would be able to cause that damage.

He said that he did not believe that extent of destruction could have been caused unless the smaller craft had explosives on board, particularly as the kind of heavy crude oil the Limburg was carrying was not particularly flammable.



### Al-Qaeda crackdown

An early response from a French diplomat at the embassy in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, also compared the Limburg disaster with the USS Cole attack.

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However, in a more cautious statement, the French Foreign Ministry said it was too early to say what had caused the explosion.

The BBC's Heba Saleh says the Yemeni Government has been keen to shed its country's image as a safe haven for al-Qaeda militants.

So far, the authorities have arrested more than 100 suspected members of the group and of other Islamic organisations.

Those accused of the USS Cole attack are due to go on trial in the coming weeks.

### Massive blaze

The [Limburg's](#) captain reported an explosion on board at 0915 (0615 GMT) followed by fire, as the ship came into the port from Iran to complete its loading.



At the time of the blast, the Limburg was picking up a pilot to guide it into the terminal.

Eyewitnesses are reported to have described being shaken by the explosion and then seeing a massive column of smoke rising from the site.

Unable to control the fire, the crew abandoned ship at 1200 (0900 GMT)

An oil industry source told Reuters that 397,000 barrels of crude was already on board.

French Vice-Consul in Sana'a, Marcel Goncalves, said the Yemeni authorities did not have the facilities to contain such a large fire. French forces based in Djibouti who do have the necessary equipment are too far away to provide assistance, he said.

## ALVA STAR (BAHAMAS)

C.c. Alva Star remains aground at Keri, Zakynthos. Matsas tug [Amazon](#) is proceeding to the area. Anti-pollution crews are expected on scene to prevent pollution from occurring during refloating efforts.

## EIWA MARU (JAPAN)

Chem.tank Eiwa Maru has sunk after colliding with c.c. Ever Reward, prompting fears of a leak of its cargo, Coast Guard officials said. The collision occurred around 0300, local time, today about 20 miles off Japan's Izu peninsula, roughly 160 km west of Tokyo. There were no indications of a major leak after the tanker sank around seven hours after the collision. "There are no signs of any large leak at this point," an official with the Japanese Coast Guard in Yokohama said today. The spokesman for the Yokohama disaster prevention centre said that while xylene can be toxic in high concentrations, it is not water-soluble and any that leaked out would float to the surface. "There it will evaporate, taking from minutes -- if there is a strong wind -- up to five hours to completely disappear," he added. "So the chance of damage, even to marine life, is likely to be minimal." The vessel's crew of four escaped on a liferaft and were picked up by a nearby vessel, an official at the Shimoda Coast Guard station on Izu said. They went to hospital with minor injuries. There was no damage to the Ever Reward, which continued on course to Shimizu harbour on the Izu peninsula. Weather conditions were fine and visibility good at the time of the accident, the official said. A vessel with personnel trained to contain chemical leaks was among four vessels dispatched to the site

## JOLLY RUBINO (ITALY)

Salvage personnel have made good progress in operations on board grounded ro/ro Jolly Rubino in the past 48 hours. Yesterday, it was confirmed that a fuel tank previously thought to have contained approximately 250 tonnes of fuel still to be removed from the casualty contained only seawater; the fuel having been spilt soon after the vessel grounded. This was established after four holes were drilled into the tank to confirm its contents. It is now estimated that only 250 tonnes of pumpable diesel fuel remains on board -- significantly less than previous estimates of 600 tonnes. High swells of between three and four metres in the vicinity of the vessel have prevented the fuel removal operation from continuing today. Yesterday, operations began to remove hazardous cargo on deck. During the course of the afternoon, three loads -- containing between 40 and 50 barrels each -- were airlifted by a Mil Mi 8 helicopter to the temporary high security holding area on land, nine miles south of the vessel. This operation is continuing today. -- [SMIT Salvage BV](#).

## LE JOOLA (SENEGAL)

A press report, dated yesterday, states: Senegal has decided to tow the corpse-laden ferry Le Joola to its own territorial waters, retrieving the bodies there for burial, the interior minister said today. Interior Minister Mamadou Niang told reporters today said although corpses still are washing toward shore daily, hundreds of dead are believed still trapped in the ferry. "We are going to tow the ferry to be able to recover the bodies properly and bury them properly," Niang said. Twenty one naval vessels from Senegal, Gambia and France, 37 ambulances and one helicopter have also been pressed into service during the past week, he said. The towing effort will be led by the Senegalese navy with help from French Naval forces stationed in Dakar and a private company. Preparations for the operation began yesterday, Niang said.

## WAVERLEY (U.K.)

Following received from Coastguard Thames MRSC, timed 1403, UTC: At 1244, UTC, passenger Waverley (693 gt, built 1947), with 466 passengers and 25 crew, reported mechanical problem with starboard paddle wheel, 1.5 miles south-east of Scars Elbow buoy, River Thames. The vessel reported it had anchored, awaiting tugs. Tugs [Sun Sussex](#) and [Sun Mercia](#) took Waverley under tow at 1337, UTC, and estimated time of arrival at Tilbury Lading Stage is 1437, UTC.



## SHIPYARD NEWS

### DIAMOND PRINCESS (LIBERIA)



Japan's leading shipyard Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was left facing a severe loss of face for its new millennium shipbuilding strategy and a sharp drop in its share price passenger after the fire on passenger **Diamond Princess**. The London insurance market was also bracing itself for claims of up to \$400m for P&O Princess' 2,670 passengership in what could be the largest shipyard-related claim in history. Insurance experts and naval architects have already suggested that the 113,000 gt cruise vessel will be declared a total constructive loss to the full extent of

the \$325m physical damage coverage taken out on the vessel. Investors took a similarly pessimistic view with Mitsubishi Heavy's shares at the close, down 7% at Y282. The yard has been silent on the extent of damage and declared the vessel off limits to outsiders until next week. The police and fire department will start their investigations today. Initial reports from Japan said that the fire occurred in the Princess Fine Arts Gallery forward section of the fifth deck, the lowest deck for passenger cabins. The two floors above this were public spaces. The construction of the vessel was apparently one and a half months ahead of schedule and there were early suggestions that some equipment might be saved for use in the sistership Sapphire Princess. P&O Princess will most certainly have to refund the tickets it had started selling for a Seattle-Alaska cruise from Jun 15. There is also a significant loss of earnings and loss of passenger revenue policy placed on behalf of P&O Princess valued at \$60m. It is highly likely there will be a claim by the cruise line's insurers on this policy which is led by the Gard Protection and Indemnity Club (60%) and by RJ Kiln at Lloyd's (20%) along with other German reinsurers active in the London market. The fire might not dent the yard's bottom line this year but it could cause lasting image problems, analysts said. Shigeki Okazaki, a Nomura Securities shipbuilding analyst, said he feared Mitsubishi Heavy would probably incur other losses because of the disruption to its production schedule. Shipbuilding makes up less than 10% of Mitsubishi Heavy's sales, but the consequences of the incident may be painful for an industry leader that until recently had a sterling reputation for quality and on-time delivery. A Mitsubishi Heavy executive said: "Luxury cruiseships remain a strategic product of our shipbuilding operations. "But the company's reputation as a builder of passenger liners has undoubtedly been hurt."

## ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES

### Russia's Novoship to buy 12 Tankers in 2003-05 for \$400m

Russia's largest shipping company OAO Novoship, based in Black Sea port of Novorossisk, said Friday it will buy 12 tankers worth \$400 million in 2003-05, with a total deadweight of 400,000 metric tons and a total capacity of 3 million barrels. The company has already placed orders with South Korean companies Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. (Q.HMD) and Samho International Co. (Q.SHI) and Croatia's Uljanik Brodo, Novoship spokesman Valery Paliy said. Paliy said the company didn't intend to increase its capacity, instead the new tankers will replace old ships which the company intends to sell. "The situation on the shipping market is not favorable for growth as the tariffs have fallen 40% this year and this is a lot. Most companies merely aim to survive," he added. Paliy said Novoship has an option to buy more tankers if it wins a tender to transport crude from the Sakhalin 1 field with estimated oil reserves of 2.5 billion bbl and is operated by ExxonMobil (XOM). ExxonMobil is expected to short-list five or six shippers by the end of October, Paliy said. "It is too early to talk about the tender results,

but if we won, we would order a tanker that Exxon would need," he said. Novoship's oil shipments from Novorossisk are expected to increase considerably after the launch of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's pipeline which links Kazakhstan's Tengiz oil field with Novorossisk. CPC's estimated current capacity is 600,000 barrels a day to be expanded to 1.5 million b/d in 2025.

## SUPERFAST XII DELIVERED



The Board of Directors of Attica Enterprises S.A. wishes to announce the delivery of ultramodern car-passenger ferry **Superfast XII**, built at Flender Werft AG in Lübeck, Germany. Superfast XII is the second of a pair of Superfast vessels ordered at Flender Werft AG in March, 2000.

Superfast XII will join Superfast XI in the Adriatic Sea routes between the ports of Patras, Igoumenitsa and Ancona along with Superfast I and Superfast II which trade between Patras, Igoumenitsa and Bari and Superfast V and Superfast VI which trade on the direct Patras-Ancona-Patras route. Superfast Ferries ranks first in both passenger and vehicle traffic in the Greece-Italy route. Superfast XI and Superfast XII, each have a capacity of 1,550 passengers and garage decks for 130 large trucks and 100 private vehicles. They have four 12-cylinder Wärtsilä engines that produce a total output of 48,000 kw and speed in excess of 30 knots. Superfast XI and Superfast XII have an overall length of 199.9 m., width of 25.0 m, draft of 6.4 m and maximum height at deck 10 of 28.8 m.

## ELINE MULLER



Photo : The former **Eline Muller** at the slips in IJMUIDEN Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>  
photo : [Jas Louwen](#) ©



The **Eline Muller** which is decommissioned from the Multratug fleet, and at present underway to be scrapped encountered last week some problems , the vessel was pulled on a special made chair on the slips in IJmuiden , where the VOITH table and the aft SKEG was supposed to be removed, to reduce the draft so the vessel could carry on to Haarlem where she will be scrapped at Treffers, the vessel fell down for about 2 meters through the table due to that some heavy piece of wood gave way. Luckily nobody was injured during this accident, and the **Eline Muller** was put back on the special chair later in the day,

## **NAVY NEWS**

### **600 US Marines arriving for war games in Philippines**

Some 600 US Marines will start arriving in the Philippines next week for another joint military exercises, the military said on Saturday.

The joint war games, dubbed Talon Vision-02, will be held from Oct. 11 to 26 at the former US airbase of Clark in the province of Pampanga and other areas on the main northern island of Luzon, said Air Force spokesman Major Restituto Padilla.

The Americans will bring with them CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters and Cobra attack helicopters and F/A-10 fighter jets for the exercises in which a similar number of Filipino soldiers will take part, he said.

Security in and around Clark has been tightened particularly for the participants in the coming joint exercises, according to acting president Jose Victor Luciano of the state-run Clark Development Corp.

More police forces have also been deployed in the nearby Angeles City for American and Filipino soldiers intending to go out on rest and recreation in some entertainment establishments, Central Luzon police regional director Oscar Calderon said.

Both Philippine and American officials have said the exercises will be held as scheduled despite the death of one US soldier and two Filipino civilians in a bomb attack in the southern city of Zamboanga on Wednesday night.

The bomb explosion outside a bar near a military camp in Zamboanga also wounded another American serviceman and two dozen Filipinos.

The American casualties are among some 260 US servicemen who stayed behind to finish construction works after the six-month joint military exercises in the southern Philippines ended in July, in which over 1,000 US troops participated to help the local military hunt down Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Police suspected the bomb attack was carried out by the notorious Abu Sayyaf, which allegedly had links with the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11 last year.

The United States and the Philippines have also conducted several rounds of joint war games in Luzon earlier this year. Enditem

## **HMS SCYLLA LAST RESTING PLACE**



A consortium hoping to create Europe's first artificial diving reef by sinking a retired warship is to formally bid for the former frigate.

If the Artificial Reef Consortium's bid is successful, the decommissioned warship HMS Scylla will be sunk off the coast of Whitsand Bay, south east Cornwall.

Officials from the South West Regional Development Agency will meet today to discuss a funding application from ARC.

## **HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Docks At Rosyth**



HMS Illustrious, the Royal Navy aircraft carrier that was recently on standby in the Arabian Gulf following the September 11 attacks, sailed last week Thursday under the Forth bridges, heading for a two-year £100m

refit programme at Rosyth dockyard.

The carrier's arrival under the command of Captain James Morse completes a hat-trick of carriers to arrive in Scotland as part of a £312m refit programme carried out by Babcock BES.

HMS Invincible is also at the dockyard undergoing a £65m refit, due to be completed in March 2003, while HMS Ark Royal is on exercise in the Mediterranean after her extensive two-year £147m refit was completed by Babcock in August 2001.

Babcock said yesterday that following September 11 it had completed a review of its security at Rosyth and had recently implemented new and improved measures.

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Approximately 400 workers will begin work on HMS Illustrious in November, but vital preparation work will be carried out over the next few weeks.

The refit is intended to prolong the life of HMS Illustrious for 10 years, by which time the navy's new "super carriers" will be complete.

Lord Bach, procurement minister for the Ministry of Defence, said the arrival of Illustrious marked the final phase of the current carrier refit programme.

## MOVEMENTS



### Biggest ship ever passes under Tokyo's Rainbow Bridge

The 63,000-ton luxury cruise ship **Volendam** became the biggest ship ever to pass under Tokyo's Rainbow Bridge, setting the record on its first port call in the Japanese capital.

The Netherlands-flagged ship passed under the suspension bridge, built in 1993, that soars across Tokyo Bay during its approach to Harumi wharf in Tokyo Bay.



**"Statesman"** and **"Englishman"** at Alexandra dock 06/10/02.

Photo : Patrick Hill ©

## AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



## **Military training plane crashes in Philippines**

MANILA — A two-seater Philippine Air Force (PAF) training plane crashed Saturday in waters off Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines, an airport official said.

Cecilio Olivo of Zamboanga City International Airport said the plane was on a training mission when it crashed shortly before 11 a.m. into the sea off Sta. Cruz Island near the southern port city, about 847 kilometers south of Manila

## **NEW COLOURS FOR MARTINAIR BOEING 767**



Martinair Boeing 767 [PH-MCL](#) Special livery for Fox-Kids. The aircraft is supplied with 400 m2 stickers.

**Photo : Johan Knijn ©**



An Air Combat Command heritage flight passes in formation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., as part of the Aviation Nation Airshow. The heritage formation consisted of a modern F-15, top, two World War II-era P-51s, middle, and a Korean war-era F-86.

## .... FURIADE ....

Text & Photo's : Piet Sinke



At October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, for the 23<sup>rd</sup> time in the City of Maasluis the **FURIADE** was organized, this manifestation is every year organized at the first weekend in October around the old harbour of the city with flea markets around the city, with a lot of music.

A lot of ships were moored in the port and the most of the ships were open for

the public, the Dutch navy send the mine counter measure vessel **Hr Ms Maassluis**, the Coast Guard the new **Zeearend**, for the rest a lot of old (museum) ships, the tugs **FURIE** which is normally moored behind the national



tugboat museum, the **HUDSON**, restored in her original configuration as she sailed for Smit, other vessel in the port were the **ZEELANDIA** owned by Capt Marnix van der Wel. (below)



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**SMIT Salvage** was present with a Eerland barge on which people could do some diving in the tank to get some experience with this, the people of **SMIT** which were present welcomed a lot of people which got dressed in the diving suite and went into the tank.



## Vlootdagen Caraïbisch Gebied afgebroken



De vlootdagen van de Koninklijke Marine en de Kustwacht voor de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba zijn zondag afgebroken nadat om kwart over drie lokale tijd bekend was geworden dat Zijne Koninklijke Hoogheid Prins Claus der Nederlanden was overleden. De vlaggen gingen halfstok en de festiviteiten die vrijdagavond waren begonnen, werden afgebouwd.

De vlootdagen waren vrijdagavond van start gegaan in het havengebied van Willemstad op Curaçao. Tot op het moment dat bekend werd dat Z.K.H. Prins Claus was overleden, mochten de dagen zich verheugen in een grote belangstelling van de bevolking van Willemstad