

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER



DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER : Sunday 14 -04-2002



**Operation
Enduring Freedom**

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Toisa puts standby vessels up for sale

Toisa Limited has decided to put its fleet of standby vessels up for sale.

As the fleet does not form part of their core business strategy the company has decided to solicit offers for their five vessels - full details and price guidance are available from Offshore Shipbrokers Ltd

Studies for North Sea jacket removals awarded

Members of the Decommissioning Technology Forum (DTF) consisting of TotalFinaElf, Shell, BP and Kerr McGee have awarded SeaMetric International two studies for lifting and removal of jackets in the North Sea by using the Twin Marine Lifter (TML) system.

The main elements to be studied are: preparatory work, cutting and rigging; TML system rigging; preparation of preliminary marine operations procedures; preparation of schedule and cost estimates; safety and environmental studies; 3D - computer simulation of the operations; presentation and issue of study reports.

SeaMetric International AS is among a number of companies trying to pre-qualify for the removal of the two Phillips Petroleum platforms, and has joined forces with Halliburton AS and Stolt Offshore AS for this purpose.

Fire ferry toll rises to 27



TWENTY-seven people are confirmed dead and 105 others are still missing after fire destroyed a Philippine inter-island ferry off Quezon today, according to tomorrow's Manila Times. Many drowned after jumping from the **Maria Carmela**, which was about 18 km from the port of Lucena, South-East of Manila. The vessel, sailing from Masbate, was reported to have had 243 passengers and 47 crew on board when the incident occurred, in addition to a cargo of copra

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and several vehicles. A Manila radio station said the fire started with an explosion in the cargo hold; another report spoke of a deliberately started fire in the galley. The blaze engulfed the ship within minutes and burned fiercely until it began to sink at about 0930 local time. Survivors said passengers fought for lifejackets; so far 149 people have been rescued by fishermen, the coast guard and other shipping.

Safety ignored, say ferry survivors



SURVIVORS from the ferry **Maria Carmela**, which caught fire and sank in Tayabas Bay in the Philippines yesterday, have alleged that the vessel had no fire extinguishers, and insufficient life vests and life rafts. Among the 25 bodies recovered some belonged to those who panicked and jumped to their deaths. There were 265 people including 22 crew on board of whom 149 have been rescued. Some passengers without life vests and

those who could not swim drowned, a coast guard spokesman said. The owner, Montenegro Shipping Lines, denied the charge saying that passengers, including the crew, had panicked. Sacks of copra (dry coconuts), stuffed near the engine room, caught fire, which spread swiftly, some survivors said. The ship caught fire when it was an hour away from its regular port of Lucena after sailing in the early morning from Masbate. Maritime Industry Authority administrator Oscar Sevilla initially grounded a number of vessels belonging to Montenegro Shipping, which owns and operates a fleet of 27 inter-island ships. They were cleared after further inspections.

Cruise ship detained over dispute

IN the first case of its kind in China, the 10,298-GT cruise ship **Orient Princess** has been detained in the port of Guangzhou because of a pay dispute between 51 seafarers and employer Pallister Group of Panama. The Guangzhou Marine Court issued the restraining order after reviewing a lawsuit filed by the seamen, who claimed Pallister was holding back wages totalling HK\$3.2M (\$410,000). The vessel would be allowed to leave after the disputes were settled, a court official said, adding that the sailors were willing to continue to work on the vessel. The crew claims the owner began to fall behind in salary payments in 1997, with no payments made since last year. Negotiations with the owner to settle the dispute had failed. Market sources last September suggested that Pallister had sold the vessel

SHIPYARD NEWS

Samsung wins White Rose FPSO

Samsung Heavy Industries, the Korea shipyard, has been awarded the contract for build the Floating production, Storage & Offloading (FPSO) vessels for Husky Oil Operations Ltd for the White Rose oil

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field off Newfoundland.
The FPSO is due to be delivered by the end of 2004.

Aker Kvaerner to build topsides for FPSO

Aker Kvaerner has announced that Husky Energy has awarded its joint venture with Peter Kiewit & Sons the EPC contract for the topside facilities for the White Rose FPSO, for use offshore Newfoundland, Canada. The hull of the FPSO is being built in Korea at Samsung Heavy Industries.

Engineering, procurement and construction will be carried out under the name of Aker Maritime Kiewit Contractors (AMKC), which is expanding its facilities in St John's, Newfoundland.

The White Rose FPSO is due to start production in late 2005.

ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES

Cal Dive takes delivery of Q4000



Cal Dive International has accepted delivery of the Q4000, the ultra-deepwater, semi-submersible vessel designed to perform construction and well intervention tasks in water as deep as 10,000 feet.

"Following the completion of Gulf of Mexico project work for ExxonMobil, Kerr-McGee and Mariner Energy in extended sea trials, the Q4000 will be formally placed into service and mobilized offshore Brazil to establish customer recognition in this important deepwater market," said Owen Kratz, Chairman

and Chief Executive Officer.

"We are pleased that the Q4000 has been completed on time and within her \$180 million budget, an achievement many did not think possible given the vessel's unique design and the fact that CDI had never built a semi-submersible."

Features include a Huisman-designed, three-sided tower capable of lifting 600 tons. The vessel's 350t crane is the world's first with sufficient capacity to deliver loads to 10,000ft. The Q4000 also has a unique column-stabilized design that combines dynamically positioned station-keeping with a large deck space (15,000 square feet), significant deck load capacity (3,400t) and high transit speed (12kt). The vessel, which Cal Dive commissioned in 1999, was built at the AMFELS shipyard in Brownsville, Texas.

MISC plans redundancies



MALAYSIA International Shipping Corp plans to cut its workforce by ten per cent by the second quarter of 2002, sources close to the company said. MISC has total staff strength of 5,600 across its diversified sea transport and haulage business. The bulk of the redundancies are expected to be at the haulage division, which has been hit since the government decided to open the sector. Initially restricted to just five companies, the government's move to issue a number of fresh licences has resulted in as many as 50 haulage companies operating in West Malaysia alone. The rush of new players has pushed haulage rates down to their lowest levels in 30 years. MISC had a turnover of RM5.85Bn (\$1.54Bn) for the year ended December 31, 2001 with sales per employee being equated to \$274,700. This is much lower than shipping companies of similar size in the Asia-Pacific. Daiichi Chuo Kisen, Shinwa Kaiun and Orient Overseas (International) for example had sales ranging from \$572,275 to \$2.59M per employee in 2001.



Top : The **Bunga Kemboja** at the Singapore Anchorage during 1992

Redelivery nightmare for boxships

THERE could be as few as four or five major charterers of post-Panamax container tonnage in a few years' time, according to Bertram Rickmers, CEO of Rickmers Reederei. Addressing the German Ship Finance Forum in Hamburg today, he said owners of such tonnage could face a very difficult situation when ships redeliver on expiry of their initial charters, with a handful of charterers all declaring that the market is only \$12,000 a day. "That is why we have not gone into post-Panamax tonnage," Rickmers said, warning that it could be particularly difficult for unwary non-shipping investors who traditionally fund a large volume of container ships through the KG market. There were about 139 post-Panamax ships still due for delivery by the end of 2003, Rickmers told delegates, and there could be a very difficult market in large container ships for years to come.

Singapore seeks clarification

SINGAPORE prime minister Goh Chok Tong said today the Republic is taking Malaysia's complaints over land reclamation on a border island seriously, but is still not sure what exactly Malaysia's concerns are, as Kuala Lumpur has not officially specified these. Singapore has reminded Malaysia to send a note, the prime minister said. "Surely we'd be concerned if the shipping lane is narrowed and our ships going to Sembawang shipyard are affected. The ships going there are huge tankers ... And you can't narrow the lanes in such a way that our own interests are affected," Goh said. Malaysian concerns over the impact on shipping of Singapore's on-going reclamation project on a border island have intensified following last week's collision, which claimed two lives. On April 7 the work-boat Noella sank after a collision with a tug and barge unit within Singapore waters west of Pulau Tekong, the island where Singapore has started reclamation work. The bodies of two persons were found in the sunken craft. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said there was no report of any oil spill.

Ships need 60,000 extra passengers



THE TT-Line will need to attract 60,000 extra passengers to its new twin monohull service if it is to break even in the first year. A \$5 million advertising campaign will be launched in July to promote the shipping service which starts on

September 1.

TT-Line chief executive Peter Simmons yesterday was confident the new service would more than break even and predicted a \$1 million first-year profit.

Mr Simmons said the company had calculated the new ships would attract an extra 100,000 passengers, or a 31 per cent increase, bringing total passenger numbers in the first year to 430,000.

"We are currently turning people away from December through to April who want to travel on a monohull vessel," Mr Simmons said.

"The business case is based on the conservative end of the projections and we are confident we will achieve what we have said in the first year."

Annual capacity on the twin ships will be 1.5 million passengers.

Deputy Premier Paul Lennon said capacity would not be filled in the short to medium term.



"This decision has been taken not just with the next two or three years in mind, but the next two or three decades in mind," he said.

"That was an important consideration to encourage long-term investment in tourism infrastructure.

"We can't expect infrastructure to be provided in Tasmania if the operators can't see where the demand can be met [or] capacity can come from."

The State Government announced on Wednesday that it would buy outright two Greek monohulls for \$289.6 million.

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Opposition Leader Bob Cheek attacked the Government for failing to answer questions on "the biggest taxpayer-funded deal" in Tasmanian history.

During House of Assembly scrutiny committee hearings, Mr Lennon and Mr Simmons refused to answer several questions, citing commercial confidentiality.

The questions referred to the deal, projected demand for freight and car transport, and fare profile of travellers.

"In light of the fact that taxpayers are propping up TT-Line as a Bass Strait passenger monopoly, it is galling that we are refused information about crucial elements of the deal," Mr Cheek said.

"It is ludicrous of TT-Line executives to avoid answering questions because they operate in the corporate world and then hold out their hands for \$300 million worth of taxpayer handouts."

Mr Cheek said the cost of the purchase had blown out by \$10 million - for refit, delivery, legal fees and other expenses.

Liberal senator Guy Barnett said the TT-Line had never had to buy a ship outright.

"It's been pampered with bags of taxpayers' money," he said.

"The TT-Line has so far enjoyed almost \$400 million in Commonwealth and state taxpayers' subsidies."

Hundreds flee after chemical blast



Plumes of thick smoke can be seen for miles

Five hundred people have fled their homes after a major fire at a Tyneside chemical works sent smoke and fumes across the area.

A half-mile exclusion zone has been imposed around the Distillex factory on Percy Street East, North Shields.

The fire has disrupted transport links on Tyneside.

The solvent recycling plant was at the centre of a similar alert in January when a cloud of toxic vapour was released after chemicals overheated.

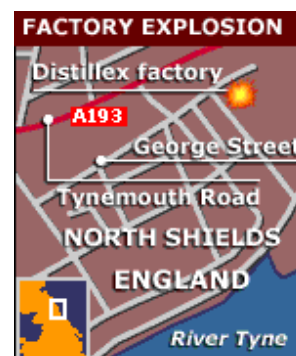
In the latest incident at 1530 BST on Friday, witnesses reported a number of muffled explosions and thick clouds of smoke hanging over the area.

A Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade spokesman said 10 fire crews tackled the flames at the height of the blaze.

No-one is thought to have been injured and 500 people have been moved from their homes.

It is not yet known how the fire started.

Metro trains stopped running between Tynemouth and North Shields, while the Tyne Tunnel road link under the river was closed.



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'Too dangerous'

A spokeswoman for North East Ambulance Service said: "There are 40 to 50 different chemicals involved which are highly toxic.

"At the moment we believe there are no casualties.

"The ambulance crews have not gone on to the scene because it is too dangerous. All the crews have been moved to the local police station in North Shields."

Distillex managing director Adrian Jones told BBC News Online: "As far as I'm aware there's an incident involving a fire which started in a skip and spread to a drum compound where we store drums of flammable solvents due for recycling.

"I believe that as they were making a transfer to the skip a spark was created as a natural result of metal contact.

"That caused the ignition of a material that was in the skip. That could be a rag with oil or solvent on it.

"The operator tried to dampen it with a fire extinguisher but was unable to and as a result the fire spread.

"No staff have been injured and we have not heard of any other injuries. I have no idea of the damage."

Eyewitness Bruce Walker, who works one mile from the scene, told BBC News Online: "At its height, the flames were about three times higher than the building and the smoke is about 300 metres high.

"The smoke is stretching all the way down the Tyne."

Skin irritation

Officials from the Environment Agency are at the scene.

A spokeswoman said the chemicals, which would have been stored in drums, were "virtually all liquid" and were likely to be mainly solvents.

One of the possible solvents, xylene, can cause short-term symptoms such as skin, eye, nose and throat irritations, headaches and dizziness after exposure to large doses.

Distillex takes waste chemicals from industry and separates re-usable products from waste and supplies them back to the industry as raw materials.

Police advised people living within the exclusion zone to leave their properties and go to the nearest public building such as the library or the Beacon shopping centre in North Shields.

'People calm' Rory Fleming, manager of the nearby Beacon shopping centre, said: "We have procedures in place if people come to the centre because they have had to leave their homes.

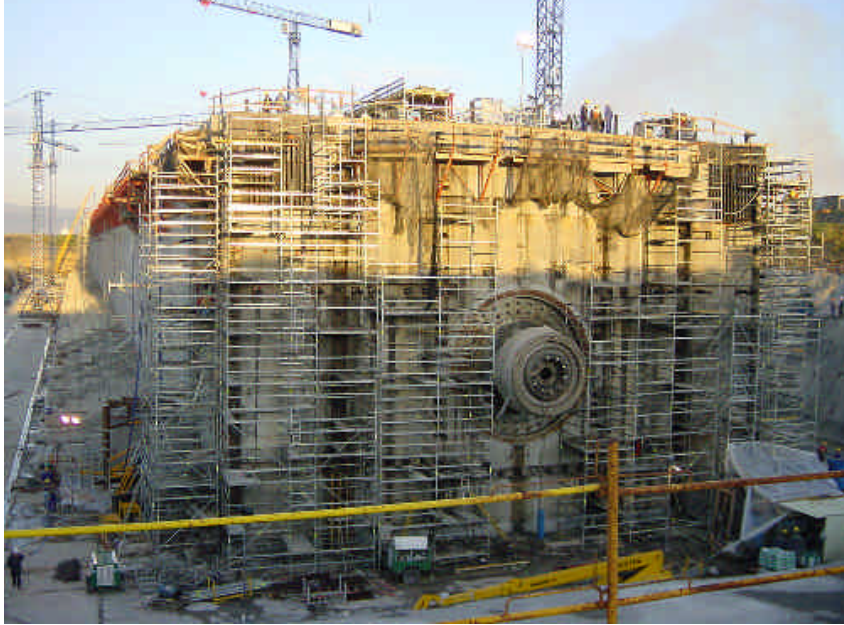
"Everybody is very calm - everyone knows about the fire but there is no panic."

In the incident on 30 January, a leak of methyl chloride from the Distillex plant forced many residents to stay in doors for three hours.

The poisonous gas, which leaked from a tank, was dispersed by strong winds.

MONACO PIER EXTENSION

At the large dry dock in La Linea (close to Gibraltar) Drace is still hard working on the construction of



the new pier extension for Monaco, the plan is that the drydock will be filled with water at May 6th , and the tow out which will be performed by **SMIT** is expected to be executed during August this year, after undocking the pier will be temporarily moored at a jetty where about 16.000 ballast water will taken in.

Upon completion of this ballast operation which will take about 4 days, the pier which measures 160.000 ton and is 352 mtr long, 44

mtr width at the bottom with a draft of 15 mtr will be towed from Algeciras bay towards Monaco where the pier will be installed, later in the shippingnews at article will be written about this project.



The whole marine operation is in the hands of **SMIT** heavy lift and transport.

Photo : Piet Sinke

INTEGRA DUCKLING



Referring to the shipping news a few days ago that the **AMSTELWAL** was renamed **INTEGRA DUCKLING** herewith a picture of the vessel with her new name whilst at her lay-up berth at the Amerika haven in Amsterdam - **Photo : Ton Grootenboer**

NAVY NEWS

Two British Naval ships arrived in Nigeria

MILITARY ties between Nigeria and Britain, will be strengthened as two British Naval ships arrived in the country for a four-day interactive exercise with the Nigerian Navy.



A senior diplomat at the British High Commission, who dropped the hint yesterday, explained that the visit of the Royal Navy destroyer **HMS Newcastle** – picture above -

and her support ship **RFA Grey Rover** – picture below - to Lagos, is the third since the European Union (EU) lifted sanctions on members' military co-operation with Nigeria.



Commander Steve Pearson, Commanding officer of *HMS Newcastle*, will during their stay pay a courtesy call on the Lagos State Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu and senior Nigerian military representatives, said Jon Sharp, the Second Secretary (Political Press) in the High Commission.

Sharp said that 26 officers, 70 senior ratings and 17 junior ratings

are on board the vessel.

He quoted an excited Commander Pearson as saying "it is a great honour for me to bring *HMS Newcastle* to Lagos. This will be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the links that the Royal Navy enjoys with the Nigerian Navy. I know that the entire ship's company will enjoy our visit and we look forward to making new friends."

Members of the crew will participate during their stay in charitable projects, maintenance works at Surulere and also attend social functions in the state.

Also lined up are novelty football, golf, cricket and rugby matches between the Royal Navy and their Nigerian counterparts tomorrow and on Sunday at Navy Town and Tafawa Balewa Square cricket oval, Sharp said.

HMS Newcastle, built at Wallsend on Tyne, was launched in 1975 but commissioned three years later.

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Her most recent deployment on the Naval Task Group, which involved sailing across the globe took her to the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf, the Far East, and across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii, North and South America, then through the Atlantic Ocean on her home bound journey to the port of Portsmouth. The vessel is currently deployed to the Atlantic Patrol, Sharp said.

Nederlandse mijnenjagers bij vlootschouw Letland



De mijnenjagers Hr. Ms. Maassluis en Hr. Ms. Hellevoetsluis zijn dit weekende (13 en 14 april) present bij feestelijkheden in Riga, de hoofdstad van Letland. In deze havenstad aan de Baltische zee wordt het tienjarig bestaan gevierd van de Letse marine.

Top : Hr Ms Maassluis (M 856) gedurende een bezoek aan Maassluis - foto : Piet Sinke

De beide schepen zijn al in Riga sinds donderdag en hebben ondermeer deelgenomen aan een 'sailparade'. Op 12 april vond een grote parade door de stad plaats. De parade eindigde in het centrum van Riga waar in de kathedraal, naast een aantal andere deelnemende landen, door kapitein-luitenant ter zee Gerrits een krans werd gelegd. In het weekende worden ondermeer sportwedstrijden georganiseerd voor de bemanningsleden van de verschillende schepen. Maandag varen de mijnenjagers weer richting thuishaven Den Helder.

MOVEMENTS

Another Stirling vessel for sale



Offshore Shipbrokers Ltd reports that the **Stirling Dee** is being transferred from the Stirling fleet of Seacor to Boston Putford Offshore Safety Limited for conversion into a multi role vessel.

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BOXER / SMITBARGE 1



The tug **Boxer** with the **SMITBARGE 1** (which was loaded with a module) passed Friday evening 21:00 hrs Hoek van Holland outward bound for the Hornsrev Windmill park offshore Denmark.

Photo's : Piet Sinke



SEAWAY FALCON



The **SEAWAY FALCON** arrived in Damietta,

The **LB-200**, which was under tow of the **SMITWIJS TEMPEST** and the **SMITWIJS TYPHOON** arrived also off Damietta.

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

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F-BPVY Yeah, he is REAL low! If Air France had names for their aircraft like PanAm did, we could call this one "**Clipper of the Fence**".- St.Maarten Princess Juliana Airport – Photo : Justin Cederholm

RIJNMOND WEATHER

zondag 14 april

9 uur 's ochtends
temperatuur: 6 graden
kans op neerslag: 30%
wind: matig (18 km/u) uit NW

5 uur 's middags
temperatuur: 9 graden
kans op neerslag: 20%
wind: matig (22 km/u) uit NNW

HAVE A LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING **SITES** FOR SHIPPING INFO AND PICTURES OF SHIPS
AROUND HOEK VAN HOLLAND AT :

<http://www.scheepvaarthoek.nl>

&

<http://www.mcf-rotterdam.nl>

DE KURSK - DE BERGING

13 APRIL 2002

13 OKTOBER 2002



Nationaal Sleepvaart Museum

Hoogstraat 1-3
Maassluis

