

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 014



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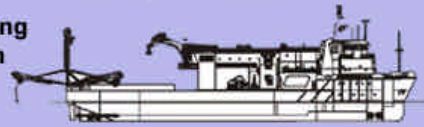
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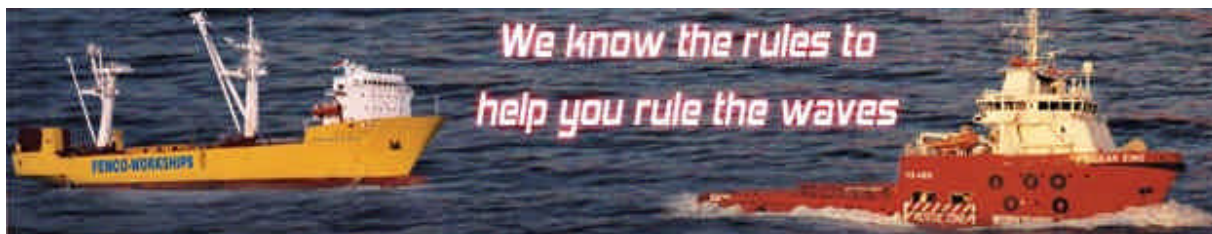


An F/A-18C "Hornet" assigned to the "Dam Busters" of Strike Fighter Squadron One Nine Five (VFA 195) launches from one of four steam-powered catapults on the Kitty Hawk's flight deck. Kitty Hawk is forward-based out of Yokosuka, Japan

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

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Icebreakers restricted in Baltic

FINNISH Maritime Administration icebreakers will only assist vessels heading for ports on the Gulf of Finland via the archipelago of Helsinki and Porkkala and not via the open sea where the ice conditions are worse. The decision, effective from February 2, was prompted by strong winds that started on February 1 and packed ice south of Porkkala, located west of Helsinki. Traffic between Helsinki and Tallinn will continue unaffected and vessels capable of proceeding without icebreakers outside the archipelago may continue to do so. Two icebreakers assist traffic in the region, FMA said. A Finnish Institute of Marine Research chart shows that the entire Gulf of Finland is covered by ice between five and 60 cm thick. Strong winds build the ice up against the coasts of Finland and Russia, which makes conditions for shipping difficult



The Greek-registered ship **Stemnitsa** with 100,000 tons of crude oil on board leaves the Russian port of Primorsk, February 5, 2003. Finland seeks European Union after failing to persuade Russia to stop the tanker, as it fears the ship does not have sufficient bow protection against icy conditions in the Baltic Sea.

Prestige clean-up could hit \$344M

THE final bill for the clean-up operations taking place in Spain, France and Portugal following the sinking of the **Prestige** could reach €215M-



320M (\$231M-344M), according to the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF). Although national governments are yet to provide any estimates of the clean-up costs, the ITOPF has made preliminary estimates on the basis of their own on-site surveys and local experts. A further €80M-250M could also be lost in the local fisheries and aquaculture industries, however this estimate will depend heavily upon when the fishing bans are lifted. According to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC), its claims office

has received a large number of inquiries since it was set up in La Coruña on December 20, however there has been only one claim made so far. According to a spokesman from the IOPC Fund it is still too early to decide on the level of payments resulting from the Prestige.

Sickness hits Sun Princess

ABOUT 250 passengers and crew experienced an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness on the P&O



Princess ship **Sun Princess** during a voyage from Los Angeles to Hawaii over the weekend. It is P&O's second US-based ship affected in the US in the last two months. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is currently testing to see whether those taken ill were suffering from the same type of viral illnesses experienced on more than eight passenger ships in the last four months. Reports said

the Sun Princess restricted the victims to their cabins. Publicized cases report nearly 2,000 passengers and crew affected, on major lines including Carnival, its Holland American Line subsidiary, Royal Caribbean and Disney. Late in November about 270 passengers and crew on P&O Princess' **Oceania** also reported sick from the highly contagious bug – which causes vomiting, nausea and diarrhoea – when it was in South Florida. The world's two largest cruise operators, Carnival and Royal Caribbean, both attribute the outbreak publicity for lower-than-expected bookings during the peak 'wave' season when nearly a third of 2003 cruises are reserved.





Left :

The Turkish OBO vessel **Vicky** at the drydock of the Rotterdam United yard showing the damage which occurred during the collision with the sunken **Tricolor** in the English Channel.

Photo :
via Alain Dooms

CASUALTY REPORTING

Drifting bulker taken in tow

A SMALL bulk carrier that sustained damage to its propeller in the Gulf of Bothnia has been taken in tow after it had drifted almost one full day. The 3,400-DWT Finnish-flagged **Envik** drifted at a speed of about one knot with ice that is up to 40 cm thick outside the Finnish port of Kaskinen after it had suffered the damage yesterday. It was taken in tow by the icebreaker Botnica last night, but it was not immediately clear to which port the ship would be taken. The 1983-built ship had a crew of ten on board but they were not in danger. A tough winter has raised concern among hull and machinery insurers that expensive claims from damage to propellers and steering gear could result from the adverse conditions

UK 33 vastgelopen op strand van Texel



De UK 33 van de gebroeders Piet en Tjeerd de Boer is maandagmorgen kort na vertrek uit Den Helder door een motorstoring op het

strand van Texel geraakt. De 17 jaar oude bokker kon pas dinsdagmorgen door sleepboten uit Den Helder en IJmuiden worden vlot getrokken.

De 'Willempje Hoekstra' was maandagmorgen uit de haven van Den Helder via het Molengat naar zee vertrokken, toen de bemanning plotseling vreemde geluiden uit de machinekamer hoorde. Schipper

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Jan de Boer besloot hierop om terug te keren naar de haven. Ter hoogte van de boei MG 6 echter ging het fout, omdat de ook 17 jaar oude Stork hoofdmotor plotseling ophield met draaien. Doordat er een stevige zuidwesten bries, kracht 7, stond besloot schipper De Boer om voor anker te gaan om een stranding te voorkomen. De UK 133 'Aaltje Jacoba' van dezelfde firma heeft hierna nog een poging gedaan om het zusterschip op sleeptouw te nemen, maar deze poging mislukte doordat de sleeptros knapte. Ook het anker hield het niet en door de wind en stroom raakte de UK 33 op het strand vast tussen twee strekdammen. Pogingen om de onfortuinlijke bokker met sleepboten los te trekken strandden, mede doordat het aflopend tij was.



Dinsdagmorgen om half negen, even na 'puntje' hoog water, kon de UK 33 pas van het Texeler strand losgetrokken worden. "We konden om de kotter heenlopen", vertelt schipper Jan de Boer, "we hebben samen met de sleepboot Simson van Rederij Wijsmuller uit IJmuiden een sleepverbinding gemaakt met behulp van 600 meter van onze eigen vislijn. Na anderhalf uur sjoeren slaagde deze er in om ons van het strand los te trekken." Na het vlot komen is de 'Willempje Hoekstra' naar de haven van Den Helder gebracht, waar de motor en het onderwaterschip op schade zullen worden gecontroleerd. De kotter zou volgens de schipper in eerste instantie op 1 maart naar Urk komen voor het inbouwen van een nieuwe motor en verlenging. Wanneer de schade aan de motor echter tegenvalt, zal de bemanning de kotter klaarmaken voor een vroegtijdig vertrek naar Urk.

SHIPYARD NEWS

Newport News accused of mischarging

US shipbuilder Newport News knowingly wrongly charged the navy \$72M in research and development costs for double-hulled tankers it was already building for commercial customers under existing contracts, the Department of Justice says. In a suit filed yesterday, Justice says the costs for developing the tankers were passed on as an overhead on major navy shipbuilding contracts between 1994 to 1999. The department says the "inappropriate billing" continued despite a 1995 warning from outside consultant Arthur Anderson that these charges could result in a suit filed under the False Claims Act. The tanker design for which Newport News allegedly falsely charged the navy was the so-called Double Eagle tanker, widely disparaged by the commercial US-flag maritime community. Seabulk International, formerly Hvide Marine, now owns and operates four of these tankers. Newport News, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp since November 2001, faces up to three times the amount of its losses plus civil penalties if found guilty. Northrop Grumman has not commented on the suit.

UK yards clinch £10bn deal to build two aircraft carriers

BRITAIN'S shipbuilding industry yesterday was thrown the promise of more than a decade of secure employment for 12,000 shipyard workers as the government opted for UK defence giant BAE Systems to build two new aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy.

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The UK government attempted to sidestep political fall-out over who to award Britain's largest ever warship order, worth £10bn (\$16.4bn), given BAE Systems overall project control, and heavily tipped bid rival Thales providing project design.

The two 60,000 tonnes aircraft carriers, which are due for delivery in 2012 and 2015, are also expected to generate £6.8bn worth of after care work for UK yards until 2060.

French defence group Thales said its part in the contract was worth e 1.5bn (\$1.62bn) and could mean an extra e 3bn in maintenance work.

The government compromise ends weeks of speculation over who would win the three-year battle for a contract, which has been held as the key to the future of UK shipbuilding.

Shipbuilding and Ship repair Association director Nick Granger said: "This is a great opportunity for UK shipbuilding to sort out its organisation and become effective and able to bid for more commercial contracts."

Defence secretary Geoff Hoon said the Ministry of Defence would take responsibility for providing trained shipyard staff and the carrier's new jump-jet JSF aircraft.

"BAE Systems has displayed a sound understanding of the complexities of the project and has developed a good relationship with all of the key shipyards," said Mr Hoon. "Thales UK has provided innovative design that is flexible enough to meet our needs."

Shipyards set to gain from the programme will include BAE Systems Marine's Govan facility, Vosper Thornycroft's new Portsmouth yard, Swan Hunter on Tyneside and Babcock BES at Rosyth.

"The involvement of other yards has not been ruled out," said Mr Hoon. "It is clear that the benefits for the UK shipbuilding industry and its related supplier chain across the country are significant."

Whitehall believes that the project will sustain 10,000 jobs and create a further 2,000, with small- to medium-sized companies such as Bath-based British Maritime Technology set to play a key role.

VT chief executive Paul Lester said he hoped to enter into talks shortly to secure 20% of the design and construction work, with construction work for its new Portsmouth shipbuilding facility.

VT says it will need to recruit around 1,000 new shipyard workers and expand its Portsmouth yard if it secures its proposed fifth of the contract.

"The project offers major opportunities for VT, with the potential to provide up to 10 years of work for our shipbuilding division," said Mr Lester.

Union leaders greeted the MoD's guarantee to put all of the aircraft carrier work into UK yards as good news for the future of UK shipbuilding and manufacturing.

Bill Morris, T&G general secretary, applauded the decision as a commitment by government to UK manufacturing. Mr Morris said: "The challenge is now for BAE Systems to deliver on time and on budget."

Last week unions had rounded on BAE Systems for axing more than 1,000 shipyard jobs at its Barrow-in-Furness and on Clyde warship facilities due to a short-term lack of orders. "This is effectively the biggest decision that the MoD has made in decades and is a much needed shot in the arm for shipbuilding in the North West," said Amicus regional secretary, Kevin Coyne.

UK engineer Rolls Royce is also set to benefit from the contract, with the propulsion part of the business worth an estimated £700m.

ATLANTIC KINGFISHER



The **ATLANTIC KINGFISHER** getting ready to be launched during September 2002 at the Halifax Nova Scotia Shipyard.

Photo's : Jim Callagher ©

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Cruise expansion for Marseilles

MARSEILLES, the French Mediterranean port, is expecting a significant rise in its cruise activity this year based on greater demand from the major lines and the opening of its new terminal. Port managers expect to handle at least 324 ship calls and 300,000 passengers in 2003 compared with 253 calls last year. Carnival Corp subsidiary Costa Crociere and European operators Festival Cruises and Mediterranean Shipping Cruises are to boost their activity at Marseilles, with Costa basing its 85,600-GT newbuilding **Costa Mediterranea** at the port, while Festival has booked 80 calls with its **Flamenco** and **European Stars**. MSC has scheduled 30 calls, including several by its 2,200-passenger capacity **MSC Lirica**, which is under construction at Chantiers de l'Atlantique for delivery in April. That month also sees the opening of the new Marseilles Provence Cruise Center, which will be dedicated to cruise ships and will handle up to 5,000 passengers at a time. **Queen Mary 2** is expected to make four calls to Marseilles in 2004.

Cyclone closes Australian ports

HIGH seas and gale force winds whipped up by the reforming tropical cyclone Beni forced the Queensland ports of Hay Point and Mackay to close, and weather forecasts indicate that severe conditions may continue at least through tomorrow. The ports will remain closed until further notice. The major coal port Hay Point was fortunate that three coal carriers, the Cape Ocean, Hyundai Power and Pacific Triangle, were able to depart before the port closed at 1030 hours local time, although one part-loaded ship, the Energy Angel, was moved to an anchorage outside port limits. Mackay reportedly had no vessels at berth at the time the port was closed. If the weather system veers to the north, it is possible that the ports of Abbot Point and Townsville could be affected. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology this morning reported the intensifying tropical depression was moving west towards the Australian coast at 5 kt, generating E/SE winds of 35-45 kt and high seas to four or five metres.

Infinitely more problems for RCCL

MIAMI-based cruise major Royal Caribbean (RCCL) has made greater earnings loss provision after discovering more damage than first thought to its Celebrity Cruises vessel Infinity. RCCL last week provided for reduced earnings of \$0.03-04 a share when it reported recurring propulsion problems with the 90,000-GT Millennium-class, 2001-built ship. RCCL said the Infinity would be pulled from service for dry-docking for at least 25 days. Now it says the propulsion system will require more extensive repairs than originally scheduled and is in transit to dry-dock in Newport News, Virginia. Similar

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problems have sidelined the Chantiers de l'Atlantique-built Infinity twice since June, 2001. RCCL has now cancelled a third cruise, in addition to shortening an earlier sailing, and says the Infinity will resume service on March 9. Earnings reductions have been increased to five cents a share.

MarAd confirms guarantee for Matson

THE US Maritime Administration has committed to providing \$150M in Title XI loan guarantees for the construction of two container ships at Kvaerner Philadelphia Shipyard, MarAd said on January 31. The 2,600-TEU vessels are scheduled for delivery on June 30, 2003, and April 30, 2004, for service in Matson's US West Coast-Hawaii service protected by the Jones Act. Matson and Kvaerner signed a contract for the ships last May and said each ship would cost about \$110M, "including owner's costs". The project began in 1999 as part of a joint plan to turn Philadelphia Naval Yard into a commercial shipyard, with participation from Kvaerner, Philadelphia Shipyard Development Corp, Delaware River Port Authority, the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia. Meanwhile, John Graykowski, MarAd's former deputy administrator, joins Kvaerner Philadelphia this week as senior vice president and general counsel. While at MarAd, Graykowski ran its shipbuilding initiative and financing programme. He left MarAd for the admiralty law firm of Dyer Ellis & Joseph.

Tidewater Takes Delivery of M/V Vickie Tide

Tidewater Inc., has taken delivery of the M/V **Vickie Tide**, a 175-ft. fast supply vessel. The Vickie Tide, constructed by C&G Shipyard of Mobile, Ala., is the first of a new class of vessel designed by Tidewater that can carry liquid mud below deck, dry bulk and cargo on deck while traveling at speeds in **excess of 20 knots**. The Vickie Tide has four Cummins KTA-50 engines and is outfitted with a dynamic positioning technology. The vessel's clear deck space is 20 ft. wide and 100 ft. long and carry up to 36 passengers. Three more sister vessels are currently under construction at C&G with planned deliveries throughout the remainder of 2003.

Wärtsilä snaps up Dutch two stroke service specialist

Wärtsilä Corporation has continued its drive to improve its service support of two stroke Sulzer engines and to grow revenues from after sales, with the purchase of Dutch marine service company Caltax Marine Diesel from Traas van Houte Beheer, writes Hugh O'Mahony.

The deal, which includes a workshop, sees Wärtsilä snap up an operation with annual net sales of E 12m (\$13m) and 90 employees. The newly purchased outfit is specialised in the service and reconditioning of two-stroke marine engine components.

The purchaser characterised the acquisition as boosting the potential for growth in northern Europe in this sector, saying that it formed part of Wärtsilä's strategy to offer total service to its marine customers. The acquisition contrasts with an earlier decision to scale down production in the Netherlands, where Wärtsilä closed down part of its Zwolle plant last year.

However, it fits in with the expansion of the group's Ciserv after-sales operation. This facility resulted from the purchase of the Gothenburg-based after-sales company from Aalborg in third quarter 2001.

Wärtsilä subsequently bought service companies JMC, Denmark, and Metalock, Singapore. Both companies were renamed under Ciserv. Caltax Marine diesel will be renamed Ciserv Netherlands.

NAVY NEWS

U.S. Warships Sail Through Egypt's Suez Canal

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Seven U.S. warships with marine landing capabilities sailed through the Suez Canal Tuesday, heading toward the Gulf amid a massive U.S. military build-up for a possible war against Iraq, Suez Canal sources said.

The United States and Britain, which accuse Iraq of hiding weapons of mass destruction, are massing hardware and thousands of troops in the Gulf ahead of a possible war.

Amphibious assault ships **Bataan**, **Saipan** and **Kearsarge** accompanied by dock landing ships **Gunston hall**, **Ashland**, **Portland** and

a transporter passed south through the canal, which connects the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, canal sources said.

Dock landing ships support amphibious operations, including landings via hovercrafts, conventional landing craft and helicopters, onto hostile shores.

Washington has said the Iraq crisis would come to a head in a matter of weeks, rather than months. Secretary of State Colin Powell has pledged to provide proof Wednesday that Iraq was hiding banned weapons from arms inspectors in violation of U.N. demands. Iraq denies the charge.

A key date in the runup to a decision about a U.S.-led war against Iraq is February 14, when U.N. inspectors are due to give another report on Iraq's compliance with a U.N. resolution demanding that it cooperate fully with their inspectors.

MOVEMENTS

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COSTAUD IN HOEK VAN HOLLAND



The French tug **COSTAUD** moored the harbour of Hoek van Holland

Photo : Henk van der Lugt ©

SMITWIJS ROTTERDAM ENROUTE



The **SMITWIJS ROTTERDAM** departed february 2nd from Vlissingen bound for Rotterdam

Photo : Wim Kosten ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Helikopter stort in zee

Een helikopter van het Belgische loodswezen is gisteravond op ruim vijftien mijl van de kust van Oostende in de Noordzee gestort. De vier bemanningsleden zijn door een helikopter van de Belgische marine uit het water gehaald.

Daarna zijn ze met onbekende verwondingen naar het ziekenhuis in Brugge gebracht. De helikopter van het loodswezen was op weg naar de thuisbasis in Oostende. Het toestel had daarvoor enkele loodsen afgezet op diverse schepen in de Noordzee en kwam korte tijd later in het water terecht. Over de toedracht van het ongeval was gisteravond nog niets bekend. De Belgische loodsopdrachten met helikopters zijn voor onbepaalde tijd gestaakt.

RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van donderdag t/m zondag:

Stijging van temperatuur!

Morgen mooi weer met zonnige perioden. Vanaf vrijdag veel bewolking en eerst kans op wat (mot)regen. Zaterdag lijkt droog te verlopen, zondag gaat het voor enige tijd regenen.

© Ed Aldus 2003	DO-06	VR-07	ZA-08	ZO-09
Maximumtemperatuur:	4	5	6	7
Minimumtemperatuur:	-2	0	2	3
Zonnekans in %:	50	20	30	20
Neerslagkans in %:	10	40	20	50
Windrichting kracht:	ZW-2-3	W-3-4	ZW-3-5	ZZW-3-5

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



TAKLIFT 7

Herewith 2 photo's of the Taklift 7 with the longboom whilst operating at the Rion-Antirion bridge project in near Patras (Greece)



Photo's : Peter Fido ©