

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 038



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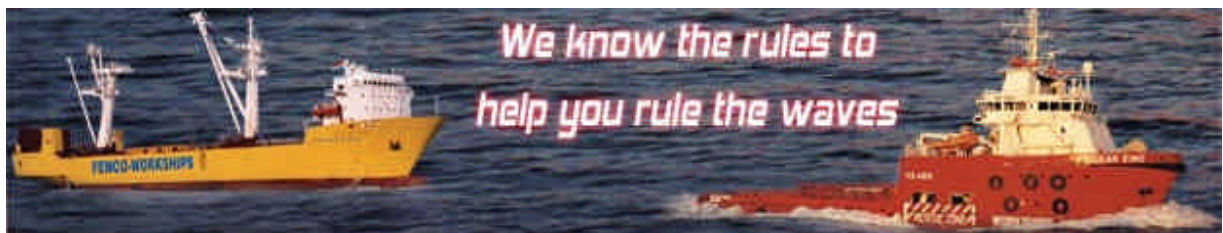
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Bow Eagle officer finally sentenced



RONNIE Zape, the officer in command of the product tanker **Bow Eagle** when it collided with and sank the French trawler **Cistude**, was finally sentenced to five years in jail yesterday by tribunal judges in Bergen, Norway for "failure to assist persons in danger". Four fishermen died in the incident. The final sentence is more than the four years jail requested by the general attorney last week which inaccurate reports had given as the final sentence. "This sentence is still not long enough," commented the lawyer acting on behalf of the trawler's captain. Following the collision, the Bow

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Eagle continued on its way, failing to bring assistance to the fishermen. Zape, in command of the product tanker at the time, said he thought the collision was not serious and that there was no need to stop. A Filipino rating, Antonio Andres, who was also on the watch at the time of the accident, reported full details of Zape's actions two days later.

JAN STEEN



The **Jan Steen** of Van Oord ACZ seen here working at the **JURONG PIPELINE** project in Singapore
Photo : Bert Kielen ©



Left and top :
The **ASIAN HERCULES II** doing
some lifts at the Bonga in
Newcastle on Tyne.

Photo's : Alex de Leur ©



Red Sea three confer on premiums

THREE Red Sea states are to launch a last-minute bid to stave off exorbitant war risk premiums, Fairplay has learnt. Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia expect to be excluded by hull underwriters on the pretext of war in Iraq and terrorist reprisals, as they were in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. The three are on the verge of launching a high-profile lobbying campaign aimed at persuading the British and US governments to provide guarantees that would dissuade insurers from declaring them war-risk areas. Although negotiations would be conducted individually, transport ministry officials have conferred and will synchronize their efforts. In the likely event of failure, they plan to seek compensation from the IMO. Promises by the recently-formed Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping to lobby underwriters have failed to materialize.

More Panama licence fraud

NEW cases of fraudulent Panamanian seafarers' licences have been uncovered by an internal investigation within the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP). Three AMP employees have been arrested and a fourth, accused of being one of the chief planners of the scam, is being sought after the discovery of 22 fraudulent certificates. Authorities say a junior messenger stole provisional licence forms at the behest of one of his managers, with the intention of selling them for up to \$5,000 on the black market. The messenger co-operated with internal investigators once the fraud was discovered and all 22 licences have been recovered. It is the latest in a series of fake Panamanian seafarers' licence scams in recent years. More than 20 AMP employees have been punished for their involvement in the frauds.

Aker wins \$13.8m installation contract for Statoil

AKER Marine Contractors has scooped a Nkr100m (\$13.8m) contract from Norwegian state oil firm Statoil for the offshore installation of its Kristin semi-submersible production platform.

The scope of work includes transport and pre-installation of the anchor system, tow to field and installation of the platform in the Norwegian Sea. The project will start up immediately and is scheduled to be completed spring 2005.

Transport and pre-installation of the anchor system will be performed during summer 2004, utilising the new build construction vessel, *Boa Deep C*.

The vessel is owned by one of Aker Marine Contractors' minority shareholders, the Norwegian company Taubatkompagniet

Shell axes 350 North Sea jobs

SHELL Expro is dispensing with 350 staff and contractor jobs in the North Sea, twice the number that had been feared by trade unions in a worst-case scenario.

Adding to the bad news was an announcement by oilfield services company Schlumberger that it is to shed up to 80 jobs.

Shell executives flew out to North Sea installations this morning and oil service firms Wood Group and AMEC staged a series of presentations to break the news to the workforce.

The oil giant employs around 1,500 in the North Sea and is aiming to reduce its costs by 25%. It began talks on a review with contractors last October.

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Offshore union chief Jake Molloy of the OILC reacted to the news angrily. He said: "Obviously there is widespread concern among the workforce about the impact on health and safety. The ability of the workforce to maintain these installations is already being stretched and the workforce feel that they simply will not be able to cope come these cuts."

There was reaction, too, on the political scene. SNP MP Alex Salmond said: "I am deeply concerned at these job cuts. I'm concerned that Shell seems to be withdrawing from the North Sea as a major player."

"Now many other companies are coming in in a big way making new discoveries but the big two companies, BP and Shell, are both drawing in their horns. I'm concerned about safety, I'm concerned about activity levels."

Schlumberger employs 1,600 workers at its Aberdeen base. It says the move to axe 80 jobs is due to a downturn in North Sea activity. The firm has already lost 3,000 jobs worldwide.

CASUALTY REPORTING

14 feared dead in China ship collisions

Fourteen people are feared dead in two separate ship collisions in the Pingtan sea area of southeastern China. The Xinhua news agency said the first accident happened on Saturday when a fishing boat from Fujian province collided with a Shanghai-registered ship. The fishing boat, with 12 sailors aboard, sank. Three sailors were rescued. Another accident took place several hours later in the same area when two ships collided, throwing nine sailors into the ocean. One of the ships, the Haogang, sank with only four of the crew being saved.

GRASMERE (SINGAPORE)

Following received from the Japan-based managers of Lpg Grasmere, timed 0300, UTC: Vessel remains aground. Crew have inspected the vessel and found no visual damage. Tugs have been tasked, ETA p.m. Mar 17. Vessel anticipated to refloat soon after the tugs arrival.

VOPAK TERMINAL FIRE



Left :

Picture made during the fire at the **VOPAK** terminal last Friday .

Photo : via **Carina van Vliet**
Royal Dirkzwager Maassluis

MORO II (GEORGIA)

General cargo Moro II (1285 gt, built 1971), Alexandria for Kiato, with 10 Egyptian crew, cargo potatoes, due to strong prevailing north-east winds in the area of Beaufort force 8 (gale) grounded in sandy shallow waters north west of Kiato port after dragging anchor early this morning. There were no injuries or pollution and refloating efforts are being made under own power. (Note -- Moro II sailed Alexandria Mar 14.) London, Mar 17 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo Moro II grounded in approximately lat 38 02N, long 22 44E, at 0500, UTC, today. Vessel is still aground, approximately four metres from the coast. No pollution, damage, if any, not known.

Three dead as Chinese ships collide off Taiwan

TWO mainland Chinese cargo ships have collided near an outlying Taiwanese island, causing one vessel to sink and killing at least three of its crewmen, Taiwanese police told the Associated Press.

The *Haugang 508* sank after colliding with the *Runda 402* Saturday night in rough waters near Tungyin island, which is close to China's southeastern coast, police said.

Taiwanese patrol boats rescued four sailors and were still searching for three missing sailors from the sunken ship, they said. A Chinese patrol boat also joined the rescue effort, they said.

It was not immediately clear how many were on board both ships when the accident occurred.

SHIPYARD NEWS

French shipyards face consolidation with military counterparts

CONSOLIDATION between France's naval and commercial shipbuilding sectors must be considered, the head of France's leading commercial shipbuilder has acknowledged.

Speaking in the wake of last week's announcement that diversified engineering group Alstom would post losses of E1.4bn during this financial year, Alstom Chantiers de l'Atlantique chairman and chief executive, Patrick Boissier, said: "We know that to build up our maritime activity we will have to find alliances.

"It is peculiar to France that, on one side there are yards involved only in the naval business and on the other we have the civil yards. France is the only country where this is the case & in every other country they take advantage of available synergies. There is certainly room for improvement."

The shipbuilder is eight months from completing the prestigious *Queen Mary 2* project, and the end is also in sight for a number of other cruiseship projects.

Mr Boissier said that it was too soon to say that consolidation between Alstom's commercial shipbuilding interests and those of the ministry of defence arm Direction des Constructions Navale (DCN) was inevitable.

"DCN is involved in a change of status and they must go through this process before we can speak about anything else."

The ministry of defence department is due to be transformed into a company in June.

GRAMPIAN SURVEYOR COMMENCED SEATRAILS



The **GRAMPIAN SURVEYOR** yard no 427 leaving for official sea trials last 7th of March.

Photo : Balenciaga Shipyard ©

Hindustan Shipyard in plea for aid

HINDUSTAN Shipyard is finding it hard to survive and has delayed the payment of salaries of the administrative staff and officials by 10 days this month, according to local media reports.

The employees — 3,750 in total, including 420 officials and 1,000 administrative staff — were paid salaries on March 10, the Hindu Business Line said.

“There is no delay in payment of wages to workmen and they were paid as usual on the tenth of the month, but the rest had to wait for 10 days more,” an official source confirmed.

Unions and management have urged the government to increase budgetary support to the yard to enable it to execute orders on time.

The yard has a few orders on hand, but for smaller vessels. It is also working on a submarine for the Indian navy.

The business is starved of working capital and the meagre budgetary assistance is not adequate to meet the establishment charges, trade unions complain. The yard is trying to prune the workforce by implementing VRS. But the scheme would have to be implemented as a part of another financial

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restructuring which awaits central clearance. One capital restructuring had already been carried out in 1995, but it was not found adequate to remedy the situation.

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Gladstone expansion commissioned

THE new third berth at the RG Tanna Coal Terminal in Gladstone, Australia was officially commissioned, accommodating its first vessel. The 89,000-DWT Japanese-registered bulk carrier **Suirei Maru** is loading more than 78,000 tonnes of coal for delivery to Tachibana in Japan. "Berth 3 will enable Gladstone Port Authority to further grow port trade, particularly given that several previously untapped central Queensland coal reserves have been earmarked for development," port authority chief executive Leo Zussino said. Gladstone's new 396-m-long berth – part of an A\$80M expansion project – increases the Tanna terminal's annual coal loading capacity by a third to 40M tonnes, and will be served by one of the existing two shiploading systems.

Tokyo Gas lines up third vessel

TOKYO Gas is planning to back construction of a third liquefied natural gas carrier for its fleet in support of the group's growing portfolio of free-on-board gas purchasing contracts, writes Tony Gray.

Shigeru "Sam" Muraki, president of subsidiary Tokyo LNG Tankers, said the 145,000 cu m vessel was likely to be owned by MOL and long-term chartered by his company. Delivery would be required in 2006 or 2007, but probably the former, he added. Such an arrangement would mark a change of course in Tokyo LNG Tankers' relationship with MOL.

Tokyo LNG Tankers has two 145,000 cu m Moss-type newbuildings on order which are both owned by the company. MOL will be the operator of these vessels, which are being built by Kawasaki Shipbuilding and scheduled for delivery in September this year and March, 2005.

As well as using the new vessel for its own free-on-board LNG purchased from Australian and Sakhalin projects, Mr Muraki said it could also be used to transport gas for other buyers, possibly in South Korea and Taiwan, and even for delivery to the US west coast. Tokyo Gas was more optimistic than some other forecasters on the potential growth of LNG demand in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Muraki said: "We predict high demand for the next 10 or 15 years, including new markets such as China."

LNG demand is forecast to rise from almost 80m to 120m tonnes in 2010 and 155m tonnes in 2015.

CAMILLA (FINLAND)

Ro/ro Camilla remains at St. John's, Newfoundland, in her original condition. She was sold "as is, where is", with the newsprint cargo on board. Sale price was reported to be in the region of US\$750,000.

Corsica Ferries add services with Corsica Express II



Corsica Ferries are to inaugurate a new service from Vado to Bastia on Monday 17 March to be performed by the vessel **Corsica Express Two**. With effect from next month some of the vessel's services will call in Ile Rousse.

MOBY LINES

Moby Lines is said to be still looking for a second-hand ferry to be purchased as soon as possible.



Top : The **MOBY FANTASY** laid up for the winter in Genoa – Photo : Piet Sinke ©
The company is also studying an updated version of the **Moby Wonder/Moby Freedom**

NAVY NEWS

More U.S. missile ships head to Red Sea

CAIRO - At least three more missile-firing U.S. warships and three U.S. attack submarines passed through the Suez Canal on Saturday heading south to the Red Sea, Suez Canal sources said. U.S. defense officials said on Thursday they planned to move about a dozen missile-firing warships from the Mediterranean Sea to the Gulf region to join more than 60 other U.S. ships in preparation for a possible war on Iraq.



The crew maintains a close watch as the spruance class destroyer **USS Deyo (DD 989)** transits the Suez Canal, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, March 14, 2003. The United States moved more warships and armor into position at the weekend, ready for an attack on Iraq that may be just days away.

The canal sources said the two destroyers, one cruiser and three attack submarines were seen moving through the waterway on Saturday afternoon. A Navy spokesman said five warships made the trip on Friday. Military experts say any U.S.-led war would probably begin with the launching of Tomahawk missiles on Iraq, which Washington accuses of hiding weapons of mass destruction. Baghdad denies possessing such weapons. Commander Jeff Alderson, a spokesman for the Bahrain-based naval component of the U.S. Central Command, said ships being moved are attached to the carriers **Harry S. Truman** and **Theodore Roosevelt**, which remain in the Mediterranean. By shifting the ships toward the Red Sea, U.S. military planners are putting them in position them to fire missiles toward Iraq without flying over Turkey, which is keeping Washington guessing over its views on any war. Another U.S. naval ship, which could not be identified, entered the Suez Canal on Saturday along with a U.S. Navy salvage ship, the canal sources said. Defense experts say it takes a ship about five days to sail from the Red Sea to the Gulf

Navy manoeuvres on Monday off Goan coast



Indian Navy will display its awesome fire power and carry out manoeuvres in which its sole aircraft carrier **INS Virat**, destroyers and submarines will take part off the Goan coast here on Monday.

Left : The **INS Virat** at anchor 02-2001 offshore Mumbai.

Photo : Coll. Piet Sinke

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INS Virat, centre piece of Navy's carrier battle group, will be supported by its latest Kashin class guided missile destroyers, guided missile frigates, guided missile covettes and high speed missile vessels. Navy's formidable sub-surface combat prowess will be demonstrated in the presence of one of its latest missile- capable submarines and by fleet replenishment tanker. The manoeuvres to be held, naval officials, said will showcase the operation of carrier borne fighter aircraft. Naval manoeuvres, being conducted under distinguished visitors programme, will be witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani, Defence Minister George Fernandes and some other cabinet ministers, Members of Parliamentary Defence Consultative Committee as also those of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

MOVEMENTS

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SMITWIJS LONDON



Top : **SMITWIJS LONDON** – photo : Piet Sinke ©

The **SMITWIJS LONDON** is at present sailing in the Arabian Sea enroute to Singapore towing the **VLCC THALASSA**, the 330 mtr, 278,000 dwt VLCC "Thalassa" will be converted to an FPSO in Singapore.

BUTEGARTH



The **Butegarth** sailed from Swansea Saturday bound for Tallinn - photo: Chris Jones ©

SEAWAY FALCON



Left :

The **SEAWAY FALCON** is undergoing a drydock period at present in Brest

Photo : Jan Plug ©

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Left :
A golden oldie, the former
SMIT LLOYD 1 as the **SEA
SERV III** seen last week in
Malta

Photo : Capt Cor Bakker
©

Right :
The **SMIT LLOYD 25** seen in
Nigeria recently

Photo :
via John Bruinsma



AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



A **F/A-18 Hornet** launches from the flight deck of the **USS Harry S. Truman**, Monday, March 17, 2003. The **USS Harry S. Truman** aircraft carrier and its battle group are currently on deployment in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

A weapons load team from the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing prepares to load 2,000-pound bombs onto a B-1B Lancer bomber, at an undisclosed forward deployed location in Southwest Asia, March 16, 2003. The team loaded a total of twelve 2,000-pound bombs in support of operations in the Middle East. The B-1Bs, from the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, are assigned to the 405th AEW in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van dinsdag t/m zaterdag:

Minder zon!

Vooral in de nacht en ochtend veel bewolking en kans op mist, in de middag ook zonnige perioden. Het blijft rustig en droog.

© Ed Aldus 2003	DI-18	WO-19	DO-20	VR-21	ZA-22
Maximumtemperatuur:	10	10	10	10	13
Minimumtemperatuur:	2	2	2	2	1
Zonnekans in %:	40	40	40	50	60
Neerslagkans in %:	10	10	10	10	10
Neerslagkans in mm:	0	0	0	0	0
Windrichting kracht:	NNO-1-3	NW-1-3	W-1-3	NW-1-3	ZO-3-4

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



UT 737-L design, hull no 137 at the Søviknes Shipyard, to be named **ISLAND FRONTIER** ready to be launched

Photo : Oddgeir Refvik ©