

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 081



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Binnenbaan 36 3161VB RHOON The Netherlands

Telephone: (+31)105018000
(+31) 105015440 (a.o.h.)

Fax : (+31)105013843

Internet & E-mail

www.vlierodam.nl

info@vlierodam.nl



The **SMIT CYCLONE** and **SMIT BORNEO** operating at the sunken jack-up **AD-19** location in the Persian Gulf - **photo : Nick Sloan ©**

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

China collision toll rises to 53

THE death toll following the June 19 collision between two Chinese ships has risen to 53, according to a report by the Changjiang Navigation Management of the Ministry of Communications. The collision between two cargo ships, one of which is reported to have been carrying passengers against regulations, occurred on the Yangtze River near Chongqing in south-western China. The Changjiang Navigation Management has blamed the crew of Jianglong 806 for the incident, saying the ship should not have proceeded in thick fog. The vessel Peizhou 10 sank immediately after the collision. A fishing boat rescued 11 people. Contrary to initial reports, the government has clarified that Peizhou 10 was not a passenger ship. Salvors have yet to locate the position of the sunken ship.

Prestige section 'must be analysed'

A FRENCH member of the European Parliament has called for part of the hull of the tanker Prestige to be brought to the surface so that the causes of the sinking can be better understood. "We have heard a bit of everything about this disaster," Bernard Poignant said on Saturday, "but no one has ever stressed the importance of analysing the section of the vessel that was lost before the ship broke in two." He said it was possible that the hull section would shed some light on how the accident occurred and who was responsible. Repair work had been carried out in the area of the hull section. Poignant is to ask the European Commission to urge Spain to retrieve the section as it is lying in Spanish territorial waters. The Prestige sank off Galicia on November 19 last year



This handout picture from the Japanese Coastguard shows a boat carrying 10 to 20 Chinese activists near the Diaoyutai islands in Chinese, known as Senkaku in Japanese, in the East China Sea. The Japanese coastguard sent nine patrol boats and five aircraft to warn against Chinese activists attempting to land the controversial islands

PSD-schepen aan de ketting

door Ben Jansen

De drie voormalige PSD-veerboten Juliana, Willem-Alexander en Christina liggen aan de ketting. Een onbekend bedrijf heeft beslag op de schepen laten leggen om zijn financiële belangen veilig te stellen. Dat betekent dat de nieuwe eigenaar, de Italiaanse rederij Amadeus SpA, eerst waarborgen moet geven dat alle rekeningen worden betaald, voordat boten naar de Middellandse Zee mogen vertrekken.



Boven : De **Amedeo Maticena** en de **Athos Maticena** gereed om te vertrekken

foto : Willem Kruit ©

Het zag er dinsdagmorgen naar uit dat alle beletselen voor de afvaart van de inmiddels in **Amedeo Maticena**, **Atos Maticena** en **Ladies Maticena** omgedoopte schepen waren weggenomen. De aanpassingen die schepen hebben ondergaan, zijn goedgekeurd door classificatiebureau Veritas en de Portugese scheepvaartinspectie heeft de benodigde papieren getekend. De bemanningen tooiden de veerboten maandag feestelijk met vlaggen om de Zeeuwse bevolking te groeten, maar de wind was toen te sterk om de schepen te laten vertrekken.

Die wind was de volgende dag gaan liggen, maar toen deden zich problemen van financiële aard voor. Een onderneming die de aanpassing van de schepen mede heeft uitgevoerd of materialen daarvoor heeft geleverd, eist zekerheid dat haar factuur wordt voldaan. Daarom heeft het bedrijf via de deurwaarder aan de ketting laten leggen. Het beslag kan snel worden opgeheven. Daarvoor is een bankgarantie voldoende.

Seized explosives intended for Sudan

GREEK shipping minister George Anomeritis revealed that the ageing cargo ship **Baltic Sky**, which was arrested on Sunday with a 680-tonne cargo of explosive, was heading for Sudan. The seven-member crew of the 1966-built cargo ship consisted of five Ukrainians and two Azerbaijanis, who are being questioned by a public prosecutor. The 1,700-DWT ship was found to be carrying 680 tonnes of TNT and 8,000 detonators, loaded at Gabes in Tunisia on May 12 for a consignee with a Post Office Box address in Khartoum. But the ship never set course for Sudan and was wandering until yesterday in the East Med, having called at Istanbul on May 22 to change its master and take on supplies. It had been under constant surveillance by the Greek coast guard for the past month. It was finally intercepted in the Ionian Sea, apparently destined for Italy. It was escorted to the Greek port of Platygiali where it is being examined by anti-terrorist squads. The vessel is owned by a company registered in the Marshall Islands, and flies the Comoros flag.

CASUALTY REPORTING

GREEN GLORY (EGYPT)

London, Jun 23 -- A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: Falmouth Coastguard MRCC received a satellite distress alert at 1300 today from general cargo **Green Glory**, sinking in heavy seas in the Indian Ocean, with 27 people on board. The master of the vessel reported being unable to raise the alarm by radio or other means and the satellite distress alert received by Falmouth Coastguard stated that assistance was required urgently as all engine power was lost and the ship is taking in water in the engine-room and unlikely to remain afloat much longer. The first vessel due on scene is ETA 2300, UTC, and plans to undertake the transfer of the crew. Green Glory is currently 240 miles off the coast of Oman.

SUNGREEN (CYPRUS)

London, Jun 24 -- **C.c. Sungreen**, in tow of tug Fairplay IX, passed Skaw Jun 17 and arrived Rostock Jun 19, where it will effect engine repairs

SHIPYARD NEWS

Aker Kvaerner warns of shipbuilding loss

AKER Kvaerner warned investors this morning that it would make a small loss on shipbuilding this year, hit by increased costs at its Philadelphia shipyard in the second quarter.

"Aker Kvaerner estimates that overall the group's shipyards will deliver a slightly negative result for the full year," Aker Kvaerner said in a statement.

It said unexpectedly higher costs of building three vessels at Philadelphia would hit operating results in the second quarter by around Kr400m (\$56.40 million).

The cost of building a first containership at Kvaerner Philadelphia for Matson Navigation would be about Kr200m higher than expected and the delivery of the vessel would take place in August, one month behind schedule. The second container vessel ordered by Matson Navigation would be delivered in the second quarter of 2004.

But it said improved operations at its Finnish Masa-Yards would partly offset the weakness at the U.S. shipyard. Aker Kvaerner shares fell 3.6 percent on the news to Kr95.00 by 0810 GMT, under performing a soft Oslo bourse

VDS move adds spice to Vlissingen industry

DUTCH shiprepair company VDS of Middelburg plans to relocate its main workshops to larger premises at the Westhofhaven, Vlissingen, bringing a new competitive edge to a local shiprepair scene dominated by Scheldepoort Repair & Conversion.

This week the company, which only turned its hand to larger scale shiprepairs in April, finishes work on three ferries bought by Italian owners Amadeus from Provinciale Stoombootdiensten in Zeeland.

The five-week job on the newly renamed **Ladies Matacena, Athos Matacena** and **Amedeo Matacena** was carried out at available berths at Vlissingen.

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The project has provided an entrée into the ferry market.

However, VDS account manager Jaap van der Reijden said that opportunities in the wider general cargo, reefer and bulker sectors for ships up to 7,000 dwt had driven the move, due to happen by October, to larger premises. The Middelburg site is limited by draught alongside of 4.5 m but the new facilities will feature a 6,900 sq m covered repair shop and benefit from a dedicated 130 m-long repair berth offering 11 m of draught on open water with no restrictions on entry from the North Sea.

Mr Van der Reijden said that, where repair works require vessels to be moved alongside the company's new berth, additional harbour dues would be waived.

Once open for business at Vlissingen, the dedicated staff of 40 at VDS will be offering a full range of services, including electrical works, pipeworks, engine renewal, turbo-blower services, spare parts, accommodation upgrading/modification, container repairs and all kind of steel repairs for inland and sea-going vessels.

The new facility will also support mobile repair services around Terneuzen, Ghent and Antwerp.

Repair RoundUp Malaysia

Malaysia Shipyard & Engineering, Pasir Gudang, has won a three-ship order from London's Andros Maritime and a large refurbishment project from Monte Carlo's Single Buoy Mooring.

The Andros Maritime order is to repair three VLCCs, the 258,085 dwt **Falkonera**, the 258,094 dwt **Tinos**, and the 247,392 dwt **Aegali**, all owned by Aeles Maritime in Athens. Also from the London market, MOL Tankships has booked in the 281,559 dwt **Atlantic Liberty** for general repairs.

Under another three-ship deal, this time from Japan's International Energy Transportation, there are two Japanese-owned VLCCs under repair in MSE, the 281,050 dwt **Ryuohsanand** the 261,167 dwt **Tsukubasan**. The 299,986 dwt **Ikomasanis** expected shortly.

On the large project side, MSE has won a contract from SBM to carry out life-extension operations onboard the 268,953 dwt floating storage unit Yoho, at the same time as it is completing the tanker to FPSO conversion of Malaysian International Shipping Corp's 87,768 dwt **Bunga Kertas**, and the tanker to FSO conversion of Tanker Pacific's 109,300 dwt **Ross Sea**.

Maldives National Shipping has its 4,864 dwt tanker **Bonvoy 11** undergoing general repairs, and due are three ships from MISC, part owners of the shipyard, the 24,000 dwt bulk carrier **Sea Maiden**, the 73,220 dwt bulk carrier **Bunga Saga Lapan**, and the 26,587 dwt bulk carrier **Handy Islander**, and German Oldendorff's 22,150 dwt bulk carrier **Caroline Oldendorff**.

Netherlands



The new arrival this week in Shipdock Amsterdam is the 12,150 dwt general cargoship **Anjeliersgracht** , owned by Spliethoff.

Portugal

New arrivals for repair at Lisnave are the 147,447 dwt tanker **Mindanao** , owned by V.Ships, Norway and Hanseatic Shipping's 99,371 dwt tanker **Parnaso** .

China

Huarun Dadong Dockyard, near Shanghai, has won a contract from Germany's ER Schiffahrts for the repair of two containerships, the 35,798 dwt **CSCL Nile** , to be renamed **ER Perth**, and the 35,848 dwt **CSCL Indus** , which is to be renamed **ER Fremantle**.

Under repair in the yard are the 70,731 dwt combination bulk carrier **Jovial Duckling** from TMT, Taiwan, the 38,323 dwt bulk carrier **Alliance Trader** from Eastmark Associates of New York, and the 40,478 dwt bulk carrier **Gem of Tuticorin** from ETA Ship Management Company (India).

Thailand

There are five ships under repair in Unithai Shipyard: MISC's 34,072 dwt bulk carrier **Handy Success** , the 12,763 dwt ro-ro vessel **Cypress Trail** , owned by Norway's Solvang, Jan de Nul's dredger **CSD Vesaluis** , and two containerships, the 12,692 dwt **Gileong** , owned by Tong Joo, and the 41,427 dwt **Thanos** , owned by Greece's Evripas.

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K.P. van der Mandelelaan 34 - 3062 MB Rotterdam - The Netherlands

Telephone : (31) 10 - 453 03 77
Fax : (31) 10 - 453 05 24
E-mail : post@workships.nl
Telex : 24390 wosh nl

Fire hits operations at Umm Qasr

A FIRE broke out late on Saturday at Umm Qasr's old port, forcing operations at the recently re-opened Iraqi facility to be suspended. No casualties were reported. Agents at the port told Fairplay the blaze broke out at 1800 hrs local time in facilities previously used to handle sulphur and chemicals, sending clouds of yellowish toxic smoke in the direction of the 34,800-DWT bulk carrier Thor Orchid, which was discharging at the time. Workers and hauliers were evacuated as the vessel closed its hatches and prepared to change berth. The conflagration was finally brought under control at 0400 hrs yesterday by the Umm Qasr fire brigade, which had to work with inadequate equipment. The affected area has been cordoned off by port security, ahead of an investigation.

Stockholm says no to tonnage tax

SWEDEN'S finance minister has disappointed the country's ship owning community by saying that now is not the time to bring in tonnage tax. Minister Bosse Ringholm said in parliament that it would not be timely to present a draft bill to introduce tonnage tax as it would be in conflict with the principles of the Swedish tax system. "We have noted with disappointment the finance ministry's lack of interest in the competitiveness of the Swedish shipping industry," said Swedish Shipowners' Association spokesman Jan Blom. "The industry tries to achieve high goals, and if the prospects are not good, new thinking is needed." In October 2001, Sweden introduced the net wage system whereby owners can recoup taxes and social security contributions they pay on behalf of seafarers. But Blom told Fairplay that despite this, it is still difficult to operate ships profitably under the Swedish flag, and that tonnage tax would be the only solution.

Channel ferry operator disappoints

FRENCH ferry operator **Transmanche Ferries**, which runs daily freight and passenger services between Dieppe in France and the UK port of Newhaven, has posted disappointing figures for the year to May 31, 2003. Passenger numbers totalled 120,000 against the 200,000 target figure and only 27,000 trailers were carried compared with the targeted 48,000. The company said freight results were improving, with about 850 trailers now being carried each week. Passenger figures are expected to improve with the holiday season, but the operator needs to strengthen its image in the French market. "We will market Transmanche more aggressively, and bring in Internet on-line booking," management explained. Transmanche plans to replace the chartered Sardinia Vera by a vessel more suitable to rolling freight. "This could be another time charter, a second-hand purchase or even a newbuilding," a statement said. Another important target is to cut crossing times from four hours to three.

New Latvian ro-ro ferry link with Travemünde

LATVIAN Shipping Co has launched a new ferry line, Vent-Lines, between Ventspils in Latvia and Travemünde in Germany.



Photo : Stephan Giessen ©

The ro-ro passenger ferry **Kaptan Burhanettin Isim** will ensure port-to-port transit within 30 hours with its twice-weekly service, said Marita Ozolina-Tumanovska of LSC. This is the first ro-ro passenger ferry line to link Ventspils and Travemünde.

After Latvia declared itself independent, LSC was launched in 1991 as a state-owned company and was registered after privatisation as a joint stock company in 2002. This is the first engagement of LSC in this market niche.

The company, based in Riga, operates a fleet of 52 vessels worldwide. The main business field is product and chemical tankers from 6,000 dwt to 68,000 dwt, but LSC also operates reefers, liquefied petroleum gas carriers and dry cargo vessels.

Built in 1990, the 18,653 gt **Kaptan Burhanettin Isim** has a capacity of 1,800 lane metres for cars and trailers and cabins for 120 passengers. "If we are successful, it is planned to extend the service," said Ms Ozolina- Tumanovska.

The tonnage deficit currently prevailing in the market, the economically disadvantageous transportation of cargoes via road, and the favourable geographical location of Travemünde made this the optimum time for start-up, said LSC president Imants Vikmanis.

Travemünde is only 80 km away from Hamburg. "Our future EU membership will be an advantage, too," said Ms Ozolina-Tumanovska.

While the line will be operated by LSC, agency services will be rendered by Latvian Finnish Maritime Agency.

Third cruise ship added to Australasian fleet

P&O Cruises says it will add a third ship to its Australasian fleet, allowing more visits to New Zealand waters. The **Jubilee**, now sailing in a United States-based fleet, will become the biggest cruiser based in Australia year-round. The company says it hopes to double the number of New Zealanders sailing the South Pacific on P&O Cruises to more than 10,000. The Jubilee will be refitted before starting cruises in October next year.

Sohmen's Bergesen to delist

THE Sohmen family has gained full control of Norway's Bergesen through World Nordic, a company incorporated in Denmark to own Bergesen shares. Total control of one of the world's tanker majors was achieved through acceptances during and after the mandatory offer and through a "compulsory acquisition" of the outstanding shares in the company, World Nordic said today. Bergesen will apply to

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delist the company from the Oslo Stock Exchange, after which it will be a private company within the Hong Kong conglomerate World-Wide Shipping Group. "Although there was some speculation on the B shares, the vast majority of shareholders have clearly voted in favour of the acquisition," commented Helmut Sohmen, chairman of World-Wide Shipping Group. World Nordic had reached agreement to purchase 700,000 B-shares held by Folketrygdfondet, raising the ownership stakes to 97.81 per cent. The remaining shares were acquired compulsorily.

Strong opening for Med ferry link

ITALIAN ferry operator Medmar has posted encouraging results for the first months of operation of its new ferry service between Sète, France and Palma de Majorca in the Balearic Islands, and is making bullish forecasts for the coming months. "We should reach our target of 50,000 passengers per year in our first year," Medmar says. Medmar's agent in France said the line, which operates the 1,050-passenger capacity ferry **Donatella D'Abundo**, has carried 15,000 passengers since the start of the service early in March, "a very encouraging level that will increase strongly with the arrival of the summer season". A larger ferry, the 1,300 passenger **Giulia D'Abundo** (ex-Quiberon) bought from Brittany Ferries, was introduced on the service a few days ago to meet growing demand. Naples-based Medmar launched the service with the support of a major travel agent and tour operator in Montpellier. Its other itineraries link Italy, Sardinia, Corsica and Tunisia.

India's ONGC to buy ships

INDIA'S largest public-sector entity, the Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), is considering buying VLCCs and Suezmax tankers to carry crude oil from production centres to refineries. ONGC chairman and managing director Subir Raha told the press that the high volatility in the shipping market makes fleet acquisition a feasible proposition for the company, which posted net profits of Rs100Bn (\$2.1Bn) for the last financial year, 70 per cent up on the previous year. The plan also suits recent company developments, which include overseas oil exploration in Sakhalin, Russia and the Sudan. ONGC entered the charter market when its wholly-owned subsidiary ONGC Videsh chartered crude carrier Sea Falcon to carry 80,000 tonnes of crude from the Greater Nile Oil Project in Sudan to ONGC's refinery in New Mangalore. ONGC Videsh chairman Atul Chandra said that prospects of acquiring oil exploration rights in Iraq looked bright. Spurred by its successful bids in Sudan and Russia, ONGC is looking to countries including Myanmar and Libya for oil drilling and equity. ONGC management is also reportedly urging the sale of a portion of the government shareholding to strategic investors.

NAVY NEWS

Royal Navy takes delivery of second of class



THE shipbuilding division of the VT Group has handed over **HMS Severn**, pictured, the second of three river class offshore patrol vessels for the Royal Navy, in a ceremony at Portsmouth Naval Base.

HMS Severn will follow the first-of-class **HMS Tyne** into the Fishery Protection Squadron later this year after completing a period of sea trials and crew training.

6/25/2003

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The 80 m vessel is one of three that will replace the existing five island class ships. These carry out fishery protection duties around the UK coast.

The final ship in the class, **HMS Mersey**, will be handed over by VT later this year. The Ministry of Defence has procured them on a long-term charter agreement that will see the ships initially leased from VT for five years.

At the end of that time there are three options: the lease can be extended, the ships can be purchased outright or handed back to VT.

MOVEMENTS

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MULTRASHIP Towage & Salvage

Scheldekade 48

4531 EH Terneuzen

The Netherlands

Tel : + 31 – 115 645 000

Fax : + 31 – 115 645 001

Internet

commercial@multraship.nl

<http://www.multraship.nl>



The **PACIFIC WARLOCK** arrived with the **CASTORO SEI** in the Europort.

Photo's : Bob Soumang ©

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Oil tanker **M.T. PONTOS**, (ex ROSA T), IMO 7504031, gross tonnage 18092, Greek flag, signal letters SXKI, built in 1978, as seen passing fully loaded the Psittalia strait in Greece.

Photo : George Grekos ©



ROWANGARTH seen at the Tyne — **photo : Kevin Blair ©**

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The **MAERSK CHANCELLOR** moored in St Johns (New Foundland) — photo : Jim Callagher ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



Eight passengers sustained minor injuries as a Delta airliner was evacuated after a fireball flashed out of an engine at Tampa International Airport in Florida

Open Dagen Twenthe goed voor 300.000 bezoekers



De jaarlijkse Open Dagen van de Koninklijke Luchtmacht die vrijdag en zaterdag zijn gehouden op de vliegbasis Twenthe, zijn bezocht door in totaal 300.000 bezoekers. Vrijdag kwamen 50.000 mensen een kijkje nemen bij de jarige luchtmacht, zaterdag ruim 250.000. Ze konden genieten van een spectaculaire vliegshow, een interessante tentoonstelling en op de grond tentoongestelde vliegtuigen, geleide wapens en helikopters. In 2004 organiseert de luchtmacht Open Dagen op de vliegbasis Volkel

Thema van de Open Dagen op Twenthe waren de drie jubilea die dit jaar plaatsvonden. Zo is het in 2003 100 jaar geleden dat de gebroeders Wright in Amerika als eerste met een gemotoriseerd vliegtuig het luchtruim kozen. In 1913, 90 jaar geleden dus, werd in Nederland de militaire luchtvaart opgericht en in 1953 kreeg de luchtmacht het predikaat Koninklijk. Met het oog op de jubilea waren veel partners van de luchtmacht op de uitnodiging om deel te nemen aan de Open Dagen 2003 afgekomen. Naast de drie andere krijgsmachtdelen marine, landmacht en marechaussee, ook uit het buitenland. Uniek was de deelname aan de feestelijkheden door alle grote Europese demonstratieteams. Maar ook de aanwezigheid in de lucht en op de grond van verschillende historische vliegtuigen, gaven de Open Dagen glans.

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Als gevolg van de massale belangstelling, liepen de wegen rond de vliegbasis Twenthe al snel vol. Rond het middaguur stond er nog steeds acht kilometer file op rijksweg A-1 tussen Hengelo en Oldenzaal. Uiteindelijk kon iedereen de vliegbasis tijdig genoeg bereiken om te kunnen genieten van de Open Dagen. Veel mensen uit de directe omgeving hadden de fiets gepakt om snel en zonder files de vliegbasis te vinden, zelfs zoveel dat de originele fiets-parkeerplaatsen vol waren en de vooraf geplande overcapaciteit gebruikt moest worden. De Open Dagen verliepen zonder noemenswaardige incidenten. Op vrijdag kreeg een historische T-33 trainer een klapband, wat op zaterdag ook een P-3C patrouillevliegtuig overkwam. Beide klapbanden leverden echter geen probleem op.

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The **VIKINGBANK** seen here arriving with the **TAKLIFT 1** in Port Fourchon from the Azores Islands
Photo : Jan van de Water ©



SMITWIJS TOWAGE B.V.
Westplein 5b
3016 BM Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 10 412 6969
Telefax: +31 10 436 9587
E-mail: SmitWijs@SmitWijs.com



CORRECTION :
THE PICTURE OF THE ARGUS IN YESTERDAYS NEWSLETTER
WAS MADE BY JOHNNY VD VELDE