

## DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 122



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The **HUSKY** of **HEEREMA** arrived Wednesday at Flushing- Sloehaven – **photo : Willem Kruit ©**

## **EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS**

### **Further US problems for seafarers**

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THE US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has suspended two programmes that waived visas for international travellers making connections at US airports for flights or voyages to third countries. The suspension of the Transit Without Visa and International to International programmes, which took effect on August 2, could create more difficulties for foreign seafarers. According to Haight Gardner Holland & Knight, a Washington admiralty law firm, the action "may have an impact on such things as crew changes for ships where the crew member was planning to travel through the United States en route either to the ship or to home. Now, such non-US persons will have to have a US visa to perform the travel." Some cruise passengers transiting through US airports are also likely to be affected. The DHS said the greatest number of travellers using the visa loopholes transited through Miami, which handled 70 per cent of the traffic, as well as Los Angeles and New York. The department said it suspended the programmes because it has received specific intelligence indicating "that terrorist groups have been planning to exploit these transit programs to gain access to the US or US airspace without going through the consular screening process."

### Dutch replace Indonesian crew

DUTCH ship owners say they have been forced to retrench Indonesian crew because security-related restrictions at US ports for ships with Muslim crew have resulted in additional operating costs and difficulties. Parcel tanker operator Jo Tankers told local newspapers it will lay off 100 Indonesian seafarers and replace them with Filipinos, while Carnival Corp's Holland American Line (HAL) has approached US legislators about the problems it faces with its own Indonesian employees, which comprise about 40 per cent of HAL crew. Chaplains and crew line officials have reported serious difficulties for Indonesian crew members, says the New York-based Center for Seafarers' Rights, citing the National Security Entry Exit Registration System program. The program also requires them to register with immigration officials each time they enter and exit the US. Dutch owners have traditionally employed Indonesian crew because of colonial ties. The International Shipping Federation says US State Department changes to visa requirements for crew -- which have further complicated and delayed visa processing for Muslim seafarers -- could discourage ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention on seafarers ID.

### Tasman Spirit: salvage moving ahead

SALVORS from Tsavliris, who had been contracted by [Tasman Spirit](#) owner Polembros, laid booms around the ship late yesterday to contain further oil spillage ahead of a renewed salvage operation expected to commence tomorrow. The foreign consultants who have reached Karachi are working out a salvage plan with the clear objective to evacuating oil from the grounded tanker as first priority. One of the two powerful tugs called in by the foreign salvors from Colombo and Dubai has also arrived to join the lighterage vessel Endeavor II to launch the salvage operation. Another tug is on its way from Colombo. Tasman Spirit ran aground while attempting to enter Karachi port's channel in adverse weather conditions on July 27. Karachi Port Authority, which operates the harbour, has instituted an inquiry to determine the causes of vessel's grounding.

### Polluting Bulcon ro-ro released

THE 10,400-DWT ro-ro [Dobrudja](#) has been released by French authorities after its owner, Navigation Maritime Bulgare, paid a bank guarantee of €300,000 (\$337,000). The ship was detained on July 30 after it was caught cleaning its tanks off the west coast of France. Analysis of the fuel in the ship's tanks showed that the oil in the vessel's wake had come from the Dobrudja. The master and the owners have been requested to attend a court hearing in the French city of Brest, where the case will be decided on November 18. The master risks a fine of up to €600,000, while the owners could be asked to pay up to €3M. The Dobrudja, which was on a voyage from north Spain to the Netherlands, was allowed to leave Brest on Friday evening. It is operated by Bulgare's liner division, Bulcon, on a

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regular container and multi-purpose service between northern Europe, the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.



An armed U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat watches the Potomac River near the Washington Monument next to the Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, August 6, 2003. Security in and around the nation's airports has been stepped up in an effort to continue safety on U.S. airlines

## MONA LISA ON THE ROCKS

It has been widely reported that **MONA LISA** (ex KUNGSOLM, SEA PRINCESS, VICTORIA) the 1966-built liner operated by Germany's Holiday Kreuzfahrten, ran aground and damaged her propeller when



she was leaving Magdalene fjord northwest of Svalbard inside the Arctic Circle, late Friday July 25, 2003. **MONA LISA** was able to free herself and continued the voyage to Ny Alesund where she arrived later the same evening.

The **MONA LISA** moored at Barcelona

photo : Nico Ouwehand ©

Divers were brought in to assess the damage. With the agreement of the classification society Lloyd's

Register, the ship left Ny Alesund on Sunday for Longyearbyen. The damage has been reported as minor. There were no reported injuries and the passengers are currently being to be flown back to Germany.

## Gekapseisde sleepboot rechtop

**Donderdag 07 augustus 2003 - ANTWERPEN - De bok Cormorant van Multtraship Salvage uit Terneuzen is er gistermiddag bij laag water in geslaag het wrak van de gekapseisde sleepboot Burcht van de Unie van Reddings- en Sleepdienst (URS) rechtop te zetten.**

Dat gebeurde met enkele dagen vertraging, omdat Rijkswaterstaat met het oog op mogelijke olie vervuiling alleen toestemming wilde geven voor de operatie als die bij daglicht zou worden uitgevoerd. Bovendien moesten de nodige voorzorgsmaatregelen worden getroffen om olie lekkages te

voorkomen.

De Burcht, die vrijdag bij het verlenen van assistentie aan het containerschip NOA voor de Berendrechtsluis plotseling kapseisde, arriveert in de loop van morgen bij Droogdok 6 in Antwerpen. Daar wordt de sleper geïnspecteerd en zo mogelijk opgeknapt. Bij het ongeluk kwam een 44-jarige URS-technicus uit Antwerpen om het leven. Hij kon niet tijdig uit de machinekamer worden bevrijd en verdronk.

## **CASUALTY REPORTING**

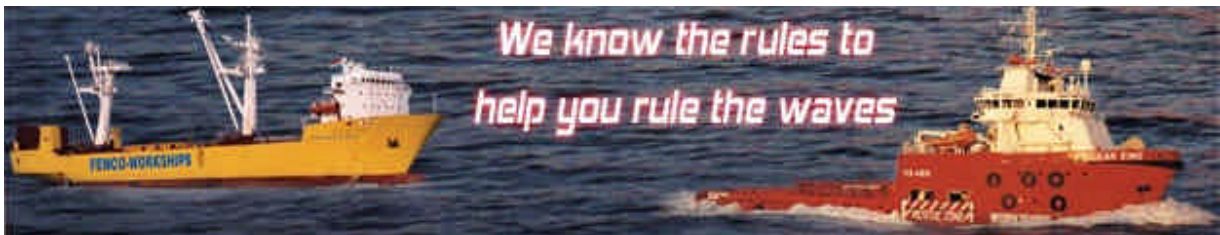
### **Fire on cruise vessel causes no injuries to 159 passengers aboard**

A fire broke out in the engine room of a cruise vessel carrying 159 passengers off the coastal resort of Porto Heli in the Peloponnese yesterday afternoon, but no one was injured. The blaze on the **Kely Cruise** was quickly extinguished by the crew and coast-guard officers aboard patrol boats which rushed to the scene. Nevertheless, the passengers were transferred onto another boat to resume their planned tour of Hydra and Spetses. It was unclear how the fire started.

## **ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES**

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### **Ferry service to hit freight targets for first time**

SUPERFAST Ferries yesterday predicted it would hit vital freight targets for the first time this autumn on the Scotland-Belgium route after record cargo figures for last month. The Greek operator declined to give the numbers of lorries being carried on its nightly sailings between Rosyth and Zeebrugge, but said they had increased by 250 per cent in July compared with a year ago.

Yannis Criticos, a director of Attica Enterprises, Superfast's parent firm, also said it was likely to have carried 250,000 passengers by this autumn, rather than the end of the year as previously expected. Mr Criticos said its freight targets, crucial to the long-term viability of the route, had changed from month to month since the service was launched in May last year. Earlier this year, ferries were understood to be carrying only 55 per cent of their freight capacity - 10 per cent below the then target. Mr Criticos said: "We are now more confident of reaching the target required for the service to



be successful," adding that passenger figures were doing "very well", with several fully-booked sailings last month.

## 'CRUISE' FERRY IS FIRST IN UK

A new £100 million ferry, due to start operating between Plymouth and France and Spain next year, will be the first UK-based ferry to offer cruise ship-style facilities for passengers.



The **Pont Aven** is presently under construction in Germany and is due to start on Brittany Ferries' routes between Plymouth and Roscoff and Santander in the Spring. As well as offering a faster journey time and an all-year-round service on the Santander route, the new ferry will have a row of passenger cabins with private balconies.

It will also be the first ferry in Northern Europe to offer an open-deck swimming pool with a cafe. The facilities represent a blurring of the boundary between conventional ferries and the increasingly popular cruise ships. Brittany Ferries spokesman Ross Williams said the aim was to make the 20-hour journey to Spain in particular pleasant for passengers. He said: "The cabins do offer customers more comfort, much along the lines of cruise ships. They offer customers travelling to Spain as much comfort as possible."

Last year, 491,000 people travelled to France from Plymouth and 134,500 left the city bound for Santander. The new ship is just one part of a raft of investment which the UK's ferry companies are ploughing in to the industry, according to the Passenger Shipping Association's (PSA) Annual Ferry Review 2002. Bill Gibbons, director of the PSA, said: "The number of people taking a holiday by ferry increased from 5.7 million in 2001 to more than six million last year which shows there is still a growing market for travel which comes with frills included."

## EBS wants to sell soy terminal Europoort

European Bulk Services (EBS) wants to sell its Europoort Terminal I to the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) of the United States. The two firms are in talks on the deal. A sale would mean acquisition of the transshipment and storage activities at the terminal by its current transshipment client. EBS uses the site to transfer soy products which are processed at the adjacent ADM plant. Annual throughput for ADM totals approximately 3 million tonnes.

It is intended that the 52 workers at the terminal will become employees of ADM, which is based in Decatur, Illinois. According to EBS, a sale would have no negative repercussions for them. EBS and ADM hope to complete the deal this year.

## **NAVY NEWS**

### **U.S. Sub, the Virginia, to be Christened August 16**

With a length of 377 ft., a beam of 34 ft. and a displacement of 7,800 tons, the Virginia is the first U.S. submarine designed to satisfy the requirements of regional and near-land missions in the post-Cold War era. The ship is also designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship -- reducing life-cycle costs while increasing underway time. Unobtrusive, non-provocative and connected with land, air, sea and space- based assets, Virginia-class submarines will carry payloads that include special operations forces; unmanned undersea vehicles; mini-submarines to transport special operations personnel; and 38 weapons (torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles). These capabilities will provide the U.S. Navy with continued dominance in coastal waters or the open ocean. Designed by Electric Boat, the Virginia class is being built jointly under a teaming arrangement between Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman Newport News in Virginia. In 1998, the U.S. Navy awarded a \$4.2 billion contract for the construction of the first four ships of the class. Virginia is the first of these. Virginia will be christened at a shipyard ceremony Saturday, Aug. 16, at 11 a.m.

## **HMCS SACKVILLE**



**HMCS Sackville (K181)** last remaining Corvette. Launched December 30, 1941 Built at St John New Brunswick. Displacement: 1,170 tons. **HMCS Sackville** is docked during the summer months at Halifax NS. as a Canadian Naval Memorial vessel and is rigged as she would have been in 1944. The pictures were taken at the Halifax Navy Yard on May 24th 2003 where the ship is docked during the winter months. **Photo : Jim Gallacher ©**

### **Navy Tanker Rescues Stricken Cargo Ship's Crew**

The captain of a Royal Navy supply tanker described how his crew saved the lives of 12 seamen after their cargo ship exploded and sank in the Persian Gulf.

Captain Nigel Jones said the Indian captain and 11 Pakistani crew members may have perished if the Royal Fleet Auxiliary **Brambleleaf** had not spotted their blazing dhow. The crew of the 40m-long craft are recovering aboard the 170m-long **Brambleleaf** — one of just two supply vessels left in the region following the war in Iraq — awaiting a replacement ship which is due to collect them tomorrow.

The rescue was carried out after a look-out on the **Brambleleaf** spotted a large pall of smoke on the horizon. Capt Jones ordered the vessel to adopt a defensive position due to the current political climate and set a course for the dhow. As the **Brambleleaf** approached, officers spotted the stricken crew in

a small boat around one mile from the dhow. Capt Jones said the dhow's captain told him the engine had exploded and the debris sparked a massive blaze among the cargo of matches, cement and batteries. "None of them were physically injured, but they were all in a fairly severe state of shock," the officer said. "In fact, I have had to admit one of them to the care of my medical staff because he appears to have had a delayed reaction and had ingested a lot of seawater."

Capt Jones said the crew of the Dubai-registered dhow, called Fate Al Rahman, had neither flares nor radio equipment for raising the alarm and were left floating in a busy shipping line amid temperatures of nearly 40C (104F). The 59-crew Brambleleaf supply ship, which weighs around 41,000 tonnes, was dispatched to the Gulf along with the British task force months before the outbreak of the war. It is due to return to UK waters in the autumn.

## **HMCS Victoria transits Panama Canal, heading for West Coast waters**



Top **HMCS VICTORIA** passing the Miraflores locks at the Panama canal – **photo : DND ©**  
Canada's newest submarine **HMCS VICTORIA** passed through the Panama Canal on its way to patrol the Pacific coast.



**USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)** and her crew prepare to anchor outside Hong Kong Island August 6<sup>th</sup> for a scheduled liberty call. Vinson Carrier Strike Group is currently on an extended deployment in the western Pacific, during an extensive maintenance period for the forward deployed USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) currently in dry dock in Yokosuka, Japan



## MOVEMENTS

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**SUPERFAST VI**, Ferry passenger liner (Greece - Italy), IMO 9198939, gross tonnage 32728, built in 2001, Greek flag seen entering the port of Igoumentisa in Greece on August 1st 2003, coming from Ancona Italy. – **photo : George Grekos ©**



The **SKS TANA** at Flushing pilot station – **photo : Willem Kruit ©**



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ANEK lines **LEFKA ORI** (White Mountains in English), Ferry passenger liner, IMO 9035876, built in 1992, gross tonnage 29429, Greek flag, as seen July 31st late evening in Igoumentisa.

Photo : George Grekos ©



top:  
The **OLYMPIC MELODY** seen at  
Flushing pilot – photo :  
**Willem Kruit** ©

DOCKWISE **DOCK EXPRESS 12** departed  
from Rotterdam –  
photo : **Dirk Kleijn** ©

## AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



View of the world's sole remaining **Boeing 307 Stratoliner**, seen behind an **Air France Concorde**, after the 307 arrived at Washington's Dulles International Airport following its final flight ever, July 6, 2003. The aircraft, the world's first pressurized airliner, capable of flying at altitudes of around 20,000 feet, will join the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum's collection at the Udvar-Hazy Center, where artifacts that cannot fit in the main museum in downtown Washington will be housed. This particular aircraft, built in the late 1930s, was originally delivered to Pan American Airways, where it was christened '**Clipper Flying Cloud**.' It then had a colorful career, flying for the U.S. Army Air Forces in WWII, returning to airline service in 1946, then passing through the hands of several owners, including infamous Haitian leader 'Papa Doc' Duvalier. After its eventual restoration, lasting six years, the airliner



made an emergency landing in the water near Seattle; it was restored yet again for its final flight to the museum. This Concorde was donated to the museum by Air France.

## RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van vrijdag t/m maandag:

**ZEER WARM WEEKEND!**

Zonnig en zeer warm met in het weekend tropische temperaturen. Langs de kust staat in de middag een aangename zeewind en wordt het 25 graden. Het blijft voorlopig droog.

© Ed Aldus 2003	VR-08	ZA-09	ZO-10	MA-11
Maximumtemperatuur:	27	30	32	27
Minimumtemperatuur:	18	18	19	18
Zonnekans in %:	70	80	80	70
Neerslagkans in %:	10	10	10	10
Windrichting kracht:	NW-2-4	O-2-3	O-2-3	N-3-4



## .... PHOTO OF THE DAY ....



The Dutch customs cutter **ZEEAREND** during an exercise with the British customs cutter **VIGILANT**  
photo : Flying Focus ©

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