

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 187



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The pusher tug **MAAS** and the tugs **SMIT RUSLAND**, **SMIT FINLAND**, **SMIT IERLAND** and **SMIT POLEN** ready to transport the 6th element (named **OM 5**) from the building dock to the immersion location at the Oude Maas river.

Photo : Piet Sinke ©

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Onderzoek naar kartel bergers

Peijs schakelt NMa in na mislukte aanbesteding [Assi Euro Link](#)

Scheepsbergers maken mogelijk verboden prijsafspraken. Dat suggereert het ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat, naar aanleiding van een geflopte aanbesteding voor de berging van het vrachtschip [Assi Euro Link](#). Dat schip is eind januari jongstleden 75 kilometer ten noordwesten van Texel gezonken.

Texel/Rotterdam - Volgens minister Peijs hebben de bergers aanneemsommen voor de berging van het scheepswrak ingediend die buitenproportioneel hoger waren dan de ramingen door het ministerie. Peijs heeft de Nederlandse Mededingingsautoriteit (NMa) ingeschakeld voor onderzoek. De vorige minister van Verkeer en Waterstaat, R. de Boer, heeft een risicoanalyse laten maken en heeft aan de hand van de resultaten bezworen dat de Assi Euro Link snel moest worden geborgen, vanwege de nautische risico's. De kans is aanwezig dat er andere schepen op botsen. Hij heeft zeven bergers uitgenodigd een aanbieding te doen.



The tall ship [RV Heraclitus](#) sails under the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in San Francisco, Saturday morning, Oct. 11, 2003. The research vessel was returning home for the first time since it was built and launched in Oakland, Calif., in 1975. The ship, chartered by the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation, has voyaged over 200,000 sea miles documenting the health of coral reefs from the Amazon to Antarctica.

Rampoefening op Ketelmeer

Diverse hulpdiensten uit de regio's Flevoland en IJsselland en het kustwachtcentrum Den Helder hebben zaterdag een grote rampenoefening gehouden op het Ketelmeer. Ruim tweehonderd hulpverleners in veertig voer- en vaartuigen waren betrokken bij een nagebootste aanvaring tussen een tanker en een passagiersschip. De jaarlijkse calamiteitenoefening in Flevoland is een initiatief van

Rijkswaterstaat. Evaluatie en aanbevelingen zijn pas in december gereed. Bij de drie uur durende operatie 'Tussen Wal en Schip' botste op het Ketelmeer rond negen uur 's ochtends een tanker met gevaarlijke stoffen op een charterschip met 35 passagiers. Enkele personen raakten (zwaar)gewond of sloegen overboord. Beide schepen raakten stuurloos en giftige stoffen lekten uit de tanker in het water.

Seafarer pay talks to be resumed

TALKS between shipping employers and the International Transport Workers' Federation are still bogged down on methodological issues such as the basis on which any pay award should be based, according to sources close to the negotiations.

The talks have broken up in London with the sides far from agreement.

While there has also been some discussion on substantive issues, headway is reported to have been limited and slow.

With the unions seeking an 8% pay rise and the owners after a considerable decrease if the present \$1,200 a month benchmark cannot be justified, such lack of progress is probably unsurprising.

The London talks were the third round of discussions that have seen earlier meetings in Singapore and Cyprus.

Two further meetings have been agreed, with the two sides due to reconvene in London on October 30 and 31. There will also be a final meeting in San Francisco on November 12 and 13

SMITWIJS LONDON



The **SMITWIJS LONDON** is still enroute with the **FPSO P-43** from Singapore to Rio de Janeiro, the transport passed Cape Town South Africa), at present the transport is encountering 8 BFT with about 10 meter swell, as can be seen at the pictures and the speed dropped below the 3 knots.

Due to the high swell sometimes the neighbour tug, the Chinese **DE DA** is hardly visible, The ETA of the transport in Rio is around October 26th.

Photo's :

**Via Capt Gerrit Verschoor
Master Smitwijs London**



Veel doden gevreesd na ramp met Nigeriaanse veerboot



Meer dan 150 opvarenden worden vermist na het kapseizen van een veerboot in het oosten van Nigeria. Dat zei een woordvoester van het Rode Kruis zaterdag. „Aan boord van de veerboot waren meer dan 150 mensen en er zijn nog geen berichten over overlevenden“, aldus de zegsvrouw. Zij kon niet zeggen of al lichamen waren geborgen.

De veerboot voer van Numan in de provincie Adamawa naar Jen in de provincie Taraba toen het een pijler raakte van de Numanbrug. Hierna kapseide het schip dat ook cement en andere goederen

vervoerde. Op de wegen en waterwegen van

Nigeria vinden veelvuldig rampen plaats als gevolg van de deplorabele toestand van boten, voertuigen of wegen. De ongevallen kosten vaak het leven aan veel mensen.

Greenpeace urges action on scrapping

GREENPEACE has called on government environmental inspectors in Europe to apply existing regulations on waste to the shipping sector, writes Brian Reyes in Gibraltar.

The group, which has waged a long campaign to clean up shipbreaking, circulated a list of 124 vessels that were sold for scrap and exported from Europe without intervention from national environmental agencies.

It added that all the ships were likely to have contained toxic substances and that the failure to inspect them prior to export constituted a failure to apply relevant legislation.

“Implementation of existing rules and regulations is crucial and can in fact prevent illegal dumping of toxic waste,” Greenpeace said in its latest shipbreaking newsletter.

“When existing European regulations are enforced the export of hazardous wastes from European countries to other parts of the world is near to impossible.

“However, when it comes to the implementation of the European Waste Shipment regulation, a lot is left to be desired when it comes to implementing these rules to the shipping industry.”

UK fleet of merchant tonnage up almost 30%

THE UK owned and registered merchant fleet grew by almost 30% over the past year in tonnage terms, reaching its largest size for more than a decade.

Official statistics show that there were 305 UK owned and registered trading ships of 500 gt and above, totalling 4.48m gt, at the end of June this year. This compares with 268 ships of 3.48m gt at the same time in 2002.

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Tonnage flying the Red Ensign is now at the highest level since 1986, with the number of British-flagged trading vessels totalling 454 ships of 8.63m dwt, compared with 342 of 4.85m dwt a year ago.

Further growth is expected, after China's Cosco — one of the world's biggest shipping concerns — said last month that it was considering the transfer of some tankers and containerships to British flag and management.

Brian Orrell, general secretary of officers' union Numast, said he was pleased that tonnage tax seemed to be delivering a boost to the British flag.

But he expressed concern that training intake and employment stability was not making similar progress. "The increase in the size of the fleet is welcome and creates its own pressure to bring about benefits for employment and training," he said.

"However, while cadet numbers are better than they have been, officer employment has not really improved and it is now time that we look at how that can be changed," he added.

GUNNISON SPAR PLATFORM INSTALLED

Saturday Heerema's **HERMOD** installed with a Dual Crane Lift of 6200 tons the new Spar platform "Gunnison" for Kerr Mc Gee in the Gulf of Mexico



Photo made during the move out of the **Gunnison** spar platform after completion of the works

Photo : Jan Terpstra – Ch. Engineer Hermod ©

CASUALTY REPORTING

Ship ablaze off Durban coast

Rescue workers from a number of KwaZulu-Natal emergency services are evacuating the crew and passengers of a container ship that caught fire off the coast of Glen Ashley and Umhlanga Rocks north of Durban on Saturday.



Top ; File picture of the **SEA ELEGANCE** – photo : **Dennis Shum – Hong Kong ©**

The ship, called the "**Sea Elegance**" apparently caught fire following an explosion on board, but Lifesaving SA spokesperson Leon Garbade said he could not confirm this as information was still sketchy. He said the vessel, which was en route from Singapore to Durban, was still ablaze and that he had no word yet on fatalities or missing crew or passengers.

Garbade confirmed the National Ports Authority and the National Sea Rescue Institute were at the scene and that firemen from Durban Metro Fire were attempting to put out the blaze

Fears of more explosions on burning ship

Durban emergency services struggling to contain the raging blaze aboard the foreign registered container ship that caught fire off the Durban coast on Saturday, have expressed fear that more containers on the vessel could explode.

It is alleged the "Sea Elegance", which was on its way to Durban from Singapore, is carrying explosive material. Lifesaving SA's chief executive, Rashard Davids said rescue workers feared the materials aboard the ship could react with the light rains that started falling at noon on Saturday: "This could only complicate matters." "We don't know what to expect really, one can only report on an explosion after it's happened. Nobody can get near the vessel except by air, that is why we activated the Nokia rescue helicopter. It's also raining now which complicates matters," Davids said.

His deputy, Mike Rodda, who was hovering in the air aboard the helicopter searching for a crew member believed to have jumped overboard, said the Durban fire department was at the scene but had called for additional backup. The fire department confirmed this and added that its crews were having extreme difficulty getting near the smouldering ship because it was located not at port but at sea, and because radio communications were bad.

SABC radio news has reported most of the crew members are still aboard the Sea Elegance. The

National Ports Authority and the National Sea Rescue Institute said they were using tug boats to get the crew to safety.

ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES

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Peter Döhle and CSAV in joint \$203m order

CHILE's Compania Sudamericana de Vapores has again teamed up with Germany's Peter Döhle, placing a \$203.7m order for three 6,500 teu ships to be built by Hyundai Heavy Industries, writes Janet Porter.

The two partners, which already have 16 ships jointly on order, also have options for a further trio of 6,500 teu units. The first couple of newbuildings will be delivered in the final quarter of 2006, CSAV said yesterday, with the third, plus three more if options are declared, scheduled for first half 2007 completion. This latest order follows on from a sizeable newbuilding programme for CSAV, consisting of four 3,100 teu, six 4,050 teu units and six of 5,500 teu.

CSAV and Peter Döhle will each have 50% ownership of the latest newbuildings, the Chilean company advised the stock exchange.

NAVY NEWS



The Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker **A 109 BAYLEAF** completed her maintenance period at Sembawang shipyard in Singapore and seen here departing again passing Loyang supplybase

photo : Jaap van Heeren ©

Cost Cutting has Hit Navy's New Ships'

Two new aircraft carriers being built for the Royal Navy are having to be pared down to cut costs, it has been claimed. The naval architect in charge of the project said the original multi-role concept had been abandoned. Expensive state-of-the-art command and control systems were being removed, and the ships may even have to be shortened. Simon Knight, of BMT Defence Services, said in an interview with The Engineer magazine: "What we had before was a ship that could be a frigate in terms of its self-defence capabilities, and that could be a command and control ship in terms of its communications.

"It was the Holy Grail in terms of a ship that had everything, and we are trying now to pare it back to just the aircraft carrier role." Recently, there have been reports that the future aircraft carrier (CVF) programme was sailing into a storm because of escalating costs. Contracts to build the two 60,000 ton vessels have been awarded jointly to BAE Systems and Thales. The carriers, due to enter service in 2012 and 2015, will operate the short take-off and vertical landing variant of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. In July, it was reported that the cost of the project had ballooned from £2.8 billion to as much as £4 billion. Mr Knight said costs had escalated because it was decided to amalgamate features of the two separate bids made by BAE and Thales.

Top-of-the-range command and control technologies specified by BAE Systems were to be placed in a Thales-designed platform. "Those were the most expensive systems and that meant the price went up," said Mr Knight, whose company is contracted to Thales. Attempts were now being made to remove the more costly systems from the design. Mr Knight added: "What we are trying to do now is to see if we can get the price down, and one of the trade-offs is to look at if we can have a smaller ship. But, principally we are trying to take out some of the excess functionality."

Shortening the ships from the original 290 metres might mean reducing their aircraft carrying capacity from 48 to as little as 20. It could also affect the amount of space devoted to crew accommodation, said Mr Knight. He also warned that the whole project was in danger of being delayed by demands on the design team to justify all its decisions. The Ministry of Defence denied that the carrier project was adrift. A spokesman said: "The programme is still in its assessment phase, with the MoD, Thales and BAE Systems working closely together to work out the right balance of performance, time and cost. "Nothing will be fixed until we award the demonstration and manufacture contract, as originally planned, next Spring.

"What is certain is that we will deliver the overall capability requirements that the Royal Navy needs, as set out when we announced the future carrier programme in the strategic defence review five years ago. Our target in-service dates for the two carriers remain 2012 and 2015."

MOVEMENTS

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The **AMSTELGRACHT** passing Terneuzen enroute Antwerp – **photo : Alain Doods ©**



The new Iskes tug **THETIS** arrived "home" in IJmuiden welcomed by the **Arion**, **Pollux** and **Argus**
Photo : Jack van der Valk ©



The supportvessel **WALVIS 5** seen here working offshore Nigeria – **photo : Sicco Ritsma ©**

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The VOPAK tanker **DUTCH SPIRIT** seen here arriving in Antwerp – [photo : Willem Kruit ©](#)



The **MAERSK RHONE** seen here arriving in Antwerp – [photo : Willem Kruit ©](#)

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Passenger ferry **FLYINGCAT 3**, Greek registry, built in 1998, 614 gross tonnage.
As seen outbound Rafina Greece on Oct 10th 2003

Photo : George Grekos ©



The **RHINE FOREST** arrived in Rotterdam - Waalhaven – photo : Jos van de Boel ©



The **BUGSIER 21** in action – photo : Capt Hans Bosch ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Staking treft Austrian Airlines



Piloten en cabinepersoneel van de Oostenrijkse luchtvaartmaatschappij Austrian Airlines hebben zaterdag het werk neergelegd. Zij deden dat na mislukte besprekingen over bezuinigingen en kortingen op het loon. De staking zou tot in de avond duren. Het vliegend personeel is het oneens met door de directie voorgestelde bezuinigingsmaatregelen. Daardoor zou ook het personeel geld moeten inleveren. De

onderhandelingen hierover liepen al een jaar en werden afgelopen maandag zonder resultaat beëindigd.

Volgens de luchtvaartmaatschappij vallen er geen lijndiensten uit. Die worden uitgevoerd door partner Lufthansa en andere maatschappijen. Ook huurt Austrian Airlines vliegtuigen en bemanningen in.

250,000 to watch Concorde retirement landing

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to pack Heathrow Airport to watch the final flight of Concorde, following unprecedented interest in the aircraft's retirement.

Special grandstands will be built at the airport for enthusiasts and the public to watch Captain Mike Bannister land Concorde for the last time on a commercial flight.

BA has sent special invites to people across the world to be on the final flight from New York to London on October 24.

The historic crossing will be televised live in the UK and watched by huge numbers of people in London and the south east. BA has been staging special events across America in recent weeks which have drawn large crowds of people wanting to catch a glimpse of Concorde.

David Noyes, BA's American executive vice president, said a special send-off was being planned at New York's JFK Airport for the final 7am flight. "From the reaction we have had over the past few weeks, it is clear people in the US feel affection for Concorde," he said. Ba claims an estimated 250,000 people are expected at Heathrow to witness the final flight, with passengers travelling from across the world to be on one of the final flights.

One German couple flew to London, went on Concorde to New York and returned straight away on a subsonic flight. BA is considering a plan to keep one of its seven Concorde flying for air shows and flypasts, and is expected to reach a decision soon. The company is also looking at flying a Concorde to the United States on December 17 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first manned and powered flight.

A slide in passenger numbers and high maintenance costs have been blamed for the decision by BA and Air France to retire Concorde.

Malaysia Airlines to fly direct from London to Penang and Langkawi islands

National carrier Malaysia Airlines will introduce direct scheduled flights to the popular resort islands of Langkawi and Penang from London beginning October 19 and 21.

The twice weekly B747-400 flights to Langkawi will depart London's Heathrow Airport on Wednesdays and Sundays, while the London-Penang flights will depart Tuesdays and Saturdays, it said in a statement. "The direct flights are aimed at making it easier for British as well as other European tourists to come to Penang and Langkawi for their holidays," the airline said.

The carrier said the island's sandy beaches, local cuisines and duty free shopping would make them attractive holiday destinations. The airline also said the high Pound-Ringgit exchange rate in favour of the British currency would make both island resorts even more attractive.

"Malaysia Airlines has received very encouraging bookings for both the inaugural flights to Penang and Langkawi thus far with more bookings expected before the flight departure dates," it said.

RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van maandag t/m donderdag:

SCHRALE OOSTENWIND!

Overwegend zonnig en droog. Wel zorgt een stevige oostenwind ervoor dat het schraal zal aanvoelen.

© Ed Aldus 2003	MA-13	DI-14	WO-15	DO-16
Maximumtemperatuur:	14	13	12	12
Minimumtemperatuur:	6	6	6	6
Zonnekans in %:	70	70	70	70
Neerslagkans in %:	5	5	5	5
Windrichting kracht:	O-4-5	O-4-6	O-4-6	O-4-5

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The tug **SMIT RUSLAND** – photo : Piet Sinke ©

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