

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 2003



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The **FRIEDRICH RUSS** moored in Lubeck

Photo : Joop Keesmaat ©

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Queen to name new flagship next year

Cunard has confirmed that the Queen will name its new flagship *Queen Mary 2*, at Southampton on January 8, next year. The company's current flagship, *Queen Elizabeth 2*, this port's longest and largest visitor, was launched by Her Majesty at the Clydebank yard of John Brown and Company on September 20, 1967.

A much earlier, notable royal occasion on August 17, 1954, was when the Queen launched the Shaw Savill Line's *Southern Cross* at Harland and Wolff's Belfast shipyard. This vessel's long career has just ended.

Billed as the largest, longest, widest and most expensive cruise ship ever built, *QM2* is expected to be handed over by its St Nazaire builders, Chantiers de l'Atlantique, on December 22. It will undergo its second set of sea trials from November 7 to 11.

The ship is expected to attract considerable interest when it arrives at Southampton later in December. Two shake-down cruises, each of two days, are scheduled before the vessel commences its maiden voyage from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale on January 12, 2004.

Fitted with a 157,000 hp diesel and gas turbine power plant, the 345m-long ship is capable of 30 knots. Accommodation is provided for 2620 passengers and a crew of 1253.

For Shaw Savill, *Southern Cross* represented a new and revolutionary concept of transport. No cargo was carried, and the ship's twin-screw steam turbine machinery was located aft. Designed for a service speed of 20 knots, the 20,204gt was fitted with 1100 tourist-class berths.

The ship commenced its maiden voyage from Southampton via Panama to Wellington, Sydney, Cape Town and Southampton on March 29, 1955. Its success led to the larger 24,733gt (1412 berths) *Northern Star* being ordered from Vickers-Armstrong's Newcastle yard.

Northern Star commenced its maiden voyage, from Southampton in the opposite direction, on July 10, 1962. Withdrawn from service in November, 1975, after a period of cruising, the ship arrived at Kaohsiung on December 11, 1975, to be broken up.

By then, *Southern Cross* was enjoying a new lease on life as a Greek-flag cruise ship. After being laid up at Falmouth on April 26, 1972, it had been sold later in the year to Greek interests and converted for cruising. It returned to service in 1973 under the name *Calypso*. Later, it became *Calypso I*, then *Azure Seas*, but since 1993 has carried the name *Oceanbreeze*.

On October 5, *Oceanbreeze* arrived at the Outer Anchorage at Chittagong, having been imported by a local shipbreaking firm for demolition. But following the leakage of seawater into the vessel, the ship developed a 20-degree list to port.

The Chittagong Port Authority sent two tugs to provide assistance and pump out the veteran, which resulted in the list being reduced to four degrees.

It is also reported that because of its size, the ship cannot be towed to shore for scrapping. So this vessel, which received favourable comments and much publicity when it entered the round-the-world New Zealand service, bows out on a much quieter note, with no fanfare.

Belgen willen in reuzenfles naar VS varen

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 203

ANTWERPEN - Een avontuurlijk echtpaar uit Antwerpen wil komend voorjaar in een reuzenfles naar Amerika varen. Het geheel zelfgebouwde vaartuig, compleet met dopje, is zo groot dat de twee er in kunnen lopen en liggen.

De 65-jarige Fons Oerlemans en zijn vrouw Kee hebben vier maanden gebouwd aan hun bijzondere boot, de [Spirit of Antwerp](#). Alleen de kajuit en stuurhut moeten nog af. Dan vertrekken ze vanuit Antwerpen naar de Canarische eilanden en steken van daar over naar Florida. Ze verwachten de tocht in twee maanden af te leggen.

De Antwerpenaar had gehoopt dat het flesmodel enkele drankenfabrikanten zou aantrekken als sponsor. Dat is nog niet gelukt. Nu betaalt hij de kosten maar zelf

Enorme grijper op weg naar Maasvlakte

door Piet Kleemans

ZIERIKZEE - Hij weegt 38.000 kilo, is 5.40 breed, kan in luttele minuten 60 kubieke meter kolen verplaatsen van een zeeschip naar een kolenbunker en is gemaakt in Zierikzee. Dat is in het kort het signalement van de grootste schaargrijper ter wereld. Het gevaarte - een product van constructiefabriek Nomag - ging gisteren op transport naar de Maasvlakte.



De kolossale grijper wordt op de Engelse kade overgeladen op een drijvende ponton. (foto Dirk-Jan Gjeltema ©)

Van een kleine constructiewerkplaats heeft de bijna tachtig jaar bestaande Nomag zich ontwikkeld tot een van de drie spelers op de wereldmarkt voor allerlei soorten industriële grijpers. Het meest recente hoogstandje is de schaargrijper die gisteren de fabriekspoorten verliet. De grijper is een eigen Nomag-ontwerp. Door een bijzonder sluitsysteem toe te passen wisten de mensen van Nomag een schaargrijper te ontwikkelen die zeer snel sluit. Hetgeen inhoudt dat in minder tijd meer gelost of geladen kan worden. Het grote grijperoppervlak geeft het gevaarte betere 'opschooncapaciteiten' dan zijn soortgenoten, claimt Nomag. Bij het grijpen van de laatste 30 procent lading uit scheepsruimten hoeft volgens de fabrikant minder of bijna geen gebruik te worden gemaakt van bulldozers.

Kolen

De schaargrijper begint zijn werkzame leven bij EMO, dat werkt op de Maasvlakte bij Rotterdam. Daar wordt de grijper ingezet voor het laden en lossen van kolen, vertelt M. Hubregtse van Nomag. Een kleiner broertje - overigens nog altijd 13 ton zwaar - van de schaargrijper is bestemd voor energiecentrale PowerGen pic in Engeland

Zoekactie na vals alarm op Oosterschelde

NEELTJE JANS - Reddingboot de Harder van het KNRM-station Noordland is gistermiddag uitgerukt voor een zoekactie op de Oosterschelde.

Aanleiding vormde een melding van een felrode vuurpijl ter hoogte van Kats. Volgens woordvoerder K. Groeneveld heeft de reddingboot de omgeving tot aan de Zeelandbrug afgezocht, maar niets gevonden dat wees op een schip of watersporter in nood.

De melding was via het alarmnummer 112 binnengekomen bij de kustwacht in Ouddorp. Groeneveld vermoedt dat het ging om iemand die vuurwerk voor de komende jaarwisseling wilde uittesten. Het onterecht afsteken van dergelijke noodsignalen is strafbaar, aldus de zegsman.

CASUALTY REPORTING

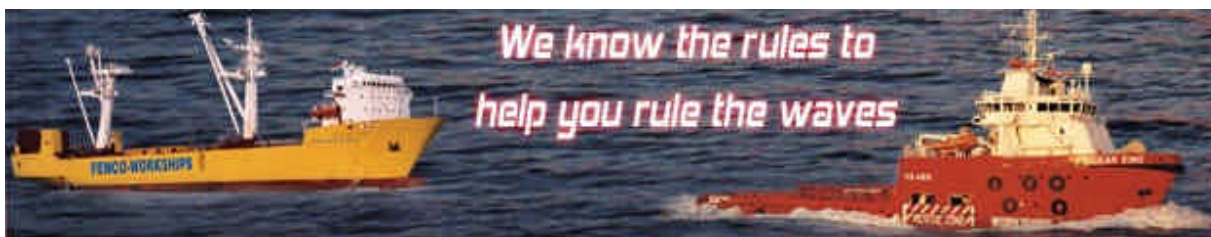
PURRSEAVERANCE (U.S.A.)

Ferry **Purrseaverance** (243 gt, built 2001), part of a planned ferry service to Key West, ploughed into rocks along the shore between Miami and South Beach after veering out of control today. No one was injured. The Coast Guard said the vessel, owned by Miami-based Fast Cats Ferry Service, was conducting sea trials with an 11-member crew when it veered sharply off course and into the rocks lining MacArthur Causeway. The vessel partially climbed up onto the shore, with one of the twin hulls coming to rest against the side of the concrete barrier that borders eastbound traffic lanes across Government Cut from the Port of Miami.

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UK imports first LNG in 20 years

THE UK's National Grid Transco (NGT) has signed a twenty year deal with BP and Algerian oil group Sonatrach to import gas at its new LNG terminal on the Isle of Grain in south east England. The terminal will be commissioned early in 2005 and operated by Grain LNG, an NTG subsidiary. It will be able to accommodate LNG carriers of up to 145,000 m³. "Our terminal will provide the first imported LNG into the UK for over 20 years, with scope for future expansion," said NGT group director Edward Astle. Sonatrach will provide 5Bn m³ of gas per year from its Algerian reserves, with the rest from BP's worldwide gas resources. There will be about one shipment a week. A BP spokesman told Fairplay that "it is too early to say whether BP owned tonnage will be used or other ships. We are building several vessels for gas shipping."

Car builders switch ports

JAPANESE car manufacturer Mazda has returned to Rotterdam Car Terminal (RCT) after a decade-long absence and will export 40,000 cars annually to the UK. Mazda decided in 1992 to shift the import of about 100,000 cars annually for the Dutch and German market to Antwerp because Rotterdam could not offer the desired facilities. This cargo will remain in Antwerp, but Rotterdam will now replace

Sheerness for its UK imports. The cars will be shipped from Rotterdam to Purfleet and Immingham at much lower UK distribution costs compared with Sheerness. Broekman Group, RCT's owner, expects to handle about 200,000 cars next year and is adding a second four-story, 5000-car capacity garage. Meanwhile, Nissan has decided to switch about 55,000 cars from its Amsterdam terminal to Emden. The cars originating in Newcastle and destined for the German and Scandinavian market, can be served faster and cheaper through Emden according to the company. Amsterdam will retain the distribution of about 70,000 cars to the Benelux, Switzerland and the German Ruhr areas. The large European distribution centre for car parts will also remain in Amsterdam, however, Nissan, which owns the Amsterdam terminal, wants to sell it to an independent company.

Transmanche orders newbuilding

FRENCH ferry operator Transmanche Ferries (TF) has revealed plans to order a newbuilding ferry for its Dieppe/Newhaven service. The company has put out a tender at European level for the construction of a 22 kt ro-pax vessel that can carry 70 trailers. The Dieppe-based company says it will spend up to €40M (\$46M) into the newbuilding, which will replace the chartered Sardinia Vera. TF is expected to award the order early next year at the latest. Meanwhile, the company has suffered a blow with the announcement that one of its major clients, the local road haulage company Express Freight had been placed into receivership. Express Freight is currently TF's third largest client and a possible liquidation of its activities could have serious consequences for TF, which has seen its business grow regularly since it started in March 2001.

Safmarine opens offices in Democratic Republic of Congo

SAFMARINE'S offices in Kinshasa and Matadi have opened for business. The company plans to host an official opening early in the new year.

An experienced team of sales, service and finance staff migrated from other local maritime agencies to serve in the new office.

Safmarine is now placed to offer the DRC its shipping solutions, said Jan Van de Castele, DRC country manager. Mr Van de Castele was previously Safmarine's country manager in Ghana and has more than 20 years' experience in the shipping industry.

Currently, Safmarine offers customers three services calling at Matadi/Boma.

The Angola-Congo express service (a direct multi-purpose service from Europe (Antwerp and Lisbon) and the SAF-WAF combo service (a direct multi-purpose service from the South African ports of Durban and Cape Town) are both fully Safmarine operated services.

Customers are also served via the Southern range feeder service (a full container feeder service with transshipment in Abidjan).

WAL teams up with Delmas

WEST-AFRIKA Linien-Dienste is joining forces with Delmas in the Europe-West Africa trades after being dumped by P&O Nedlloyd.

The German and French lines announced this morning that they would be working together from next month.

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 203

The lines will offer two services, the Hebdo I with five vessels of about 1,590 teu capacity and and Hebdo II with four ships initially of around 1,000 teu each.

West Africa specialist WAL had been partnering P&O Nedlloyd in a four ship service until the Anglo-Dutch line decided to withdraw from the trade altogether.

WAL, which said it very little advance notice of P&O Nedlloyd's decision, was forced to make alternative arrangements very fast.

Delmas and sister company OT Africa Line are also African specialists, but have recent reduced capacity because of difficult trade conditions.

Delmas and Otal recently joined the Europe West Africa Trades Agreement. WAL is already a member.

NAVY NEWS



The Dutch Caribbean Guard ship [Hr Ms F 824 Bloys van Treslong](#) arrived back in Curacao
Photo : John Smit ©

VT STARTS TYPE 45 PRODUCTION AT PORTSMOUTH

Warship building returned to Portsmouth Naval Base after more than 35 years when production work started at the VT Group's new facilities on the Royal Navy's new Type 45 destroyer.

VT (formerly Vosper Thornycroft) will build blocks for the first six of the new Class of circa 7,000 tonnes



DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 2003

vessel so far ordered, under the prime contractorship of BAE Systems who started production work at Glasgow earlier this year.

In a ceremony at VT's new Portsmouth shipbuilding facility, Naval Base Commander Commodore Amjad Hussain pressed a button to start steel cutting on a laser cutter, one of several pieces of state-of-the-art machinery installed as part of the £50m. facility.



VT will build the bow section, masts and funnels of the ships with the blocks moved by barge, also under construction at Portsmouth, to BAE Systems' shipyards in Glasgow for whole ship assembly. The first block is scheduled to leave Portsmouth in 2005 and some 600 jobs are being sustained at VT by the programme.

The last ship built at Portsmouth Naval Base was the Leander Class frigate **HMS Andromeda** in 1967 and VT is hoping that prospects in the UK and overseas will lead to the facilities also being used for full ship construction in the future.

France scraps demolition deal

FRANCE'S Ministry of Finance confirmed it would rescind a scrap deal with the Spanish company Gijonesa de Desguace concerning the demolition of the French aircraft carrier **Clémenceau**. The Spanish company is said to have breached the sale contract, after it was discovered that the aircraft carrier was heading for Turkey for demolition instead of Spain as clearly stipulated in the sale contract. A government spokesman described how the vessel and its tug were caught off Sicily, bound for Turkey via Piraeus, Greece. "The vessel was supposed to be made asbestos-free and demolished in Spain, and nowhere else. We suspect the buyers wanted to remove the asbestos with a low cost Turkish workforce where European [health and safety] regulations are far less coercive than in Spain," he said. The **Clémenceau** has been ordered to remain on stand-by off Sicily under French navy guard, pending the settlement of the case. The French authorities, however, announced that the vessel has been re-sold to another buyer, the German company Erckhart Marine, a subsidiary of the Thyssen group. Discussions between Eckhart Marine and the towage company, which was chosen to take the **Clémenceau** to the demolition yard, have already started.

USS NIMITZ RETURNS HOME



Relatives wave to sailors aboard the **USS Nimitz** as it docks at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, on October 27, 2003. The **Nimitz** carrier support group returned from an eight-month deployment to the Iraq including combat in the Arabian Gulf. The Nimitz will return to its homeport in San Diego, California on November 5.

Indian navy ships visit Malaysian port

A destroyer and missile corvette from Indian Navy arrived Tuesday at Port Klang, 40 KM west of here, for a three-day goodwill visit.

The two vessels, **INS RANA** and **INS KIRCH**, docked at the Star Cruise Terminal at West Port of Port Klang, Malaysia National News Agency reported.

The High Commission of India said in a statement that the visit was part of Indian Navy's goodwill call on ports of friendly countries in the region.

Both ships belong to the Eastern Fleet on the Indian Navy. They are the combat arm of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Vishakapatnam.

The statement said the two ships had a crew of more than 600 officers and men. **INS RANA** is a modified Kashin Class Destroyer, commissioned in February 1982, and is equipped with weapons and sensors to provide all round point and area defense capability. The ship can meet all challenges and threats from the air, surface and underwater. It is fully geared to face any nuclear, biological and chemical threat at sea.



Top : The **INS Kirch** of the KORA Class – photo : Coll. Piet Sinke

INS KIRCH is the second ship of the Kora Class Missile Corvettes. It was commissioned in January, 2001 and built by Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai. During their stay here, officers of the Indian Navy would be interacting with their Malaysia's counterparts in the Royal Malaysian Navy, the statement added.

"The visit of the Indian naval ships will serve as an important step in the direction of establishing beneficial mutual relations between the two armed forces," it said

MOVEMENTS

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SEAWAY FALCON ARRIVED OFF LIBREVILLE



The "**Seaway Falcon**" arrived monday 20 miles off Libreville in Gabon to meet the crewboat "Surfer 250" for a crewchange. Then she sail north to the Triton Ceiba field where the FPSO "**Sendje Ceiba**" lays. Here the "**Seaway Falcon**" will install two umbilicals that it brought with it from Rosyth. Tuesday the supply/stand by vessel "**Maersk Dee**" came alongside for transfer of cargo to the FPSO.

Photo : Oddgeir Refvik ©



The dredger **GEOPOTES 14** seen near the Maas centre buoy – **photo : Fred van der Spek ©**

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 203



The **SOUND OF SLEAT** is the former ferry **DE HOORN** which served for years between MAASSLUIS and ROZENBURG, after serving in Scottish waters she is now berthed at Greenock and for sale.

Photo : Tommy Bryceland ©



The **CALMAC** ferry **LOCHNEVIS** seen in the port of Greenock

Photo : Piet Sinke ©

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 2003



Royal Olympic Cruises MTS **OLYMPIA COUNTESS**.
Greek flag, passenger cruise, built in 1976, 16795 gross tonnage. As seen at Keratsini repairing base
Greece, October 28th, 2003
Photo : George Grekos ©



The **MAERSK RAVENNA** departed from Curacao — **photo : John Smit ©**

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

KLM NON STOP TO CAPE TOWN

The first nonstop KLM flight between Amsterdam and Cape Town landed at Cape Town International airport 0840 Oct 27. The return flight took off at 1855. It was operated by a Boeing 747-400 named City of Cape Town. KLM will initially operate 4 nonstop flights a week increasing to six a week from

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 203

December when the Boeing 777 will be used on the route. KLM has been flying to Cape Town with daily services since 1992. The flight was via Johannesburg where the aircraft made a one-hour stop to embark/disembark passengers.



The B-2 Stealth Bomber, made by the Northrop Grumman Corp., is shown landing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., in this undated handout photo. Defense contractor Northrop Grumman swung to a profit in the third quarter and raised its full-year estimates on strong sales of its ships and unmanned surveillance vehicles. The company said Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2003, it earned \$184 million, or \$1 a share, for the quarter ended Sept. 30, compared to a loss of \$59 million, or 56 cents per share, in the same period last year.

A fleet of F-16 jet fighters of Taiwan's air force fly in formation at the end of the island's biggest ever wargame last month. Taiwan's defense ministry is tight-lipped on a report that the military has been quietly developing a medium-range surface-to-surface missile capable of attacking rival China's Shanghai



RIJNMOND WEATHER

OBSERVATION LOCATION : HOEK VAN HOLLAND – Wednesday 29-10 22:30 hrs

PRESENT WIND DIRECTION / FORCE	:	SSW 5 - 10 KNOTS
MAX WIND DIRECTION / FORCE LAST 24 HRS	:	WSW 15 KNOTS
PRESENT BAROMETER READING	:	989.9 hPa
MIN TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	4.7 °C
MAX TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	10.2 °C
OUTDOOR HUMIDITY	:	86 %
DEWPOINT	:	5.2 °C
WINDCHILL	:	1.7 °C

Vooruitzichten van donderdag t/m zaterdag:

ONBESTENDIG!

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 203

Veel bewolking, weinig zon en van tijd tot tijd regen of buien. Vooral op zondag staat er een stevige zuidwestenwind.

© Ed Aldus 2003	DO-30	VR-31	ZA-01	ZO-02
Maximumtemperatuur:	9	10	10	11
Minimumtemperatuur:	5	5	5	7
Zonnekans in %:	30	20	30	20
Neerslagkans in %:	30	70	40	80
Windrichting kracht:	Z-3-4	ZZO-3-5	W-3-5	ZW-5-7

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The new SCOTTISH FISHERIES PROTECTION AGENCY patrol vessel **MINNA** seen here departing from the port of Greenock

Photo : Piet Sinke ©

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