

## DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 207



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The polish tug **CYKLOP** outward bound at Hook of Holland.

**Photo : Piet Sinke ©**

## **EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS**

### **Virus-hit cruise liner heads for Gibraltar**

Lawyers have warned that sick passengers on the P&O super-liner **Aurora** are ready to claim as much as ? 6,000 each s compensation for ruined holidays.

The liner, carrying more than 400 passengers struck by a highly contagious stomach virus, has already been turned away from Greece and is now on its way to Gibraltar, where authorities have not yet decided whether it will be allowed to dock.

Around 430 passengers and ten crew members have been affected by the virus. The liner is carrying nearly 1,800 passengers and more than 800 crew. The total claim against P&O could amount to as much as ? 2.5 million, according to Clive Garner, partner with Irwin Mitchell Solicitor's International Travel Litigation Group.

Mr Garner said: "We have already received enquiries from several people who wish to take legal action against P&O Cruises in the light of the current outbreak of illness on board the MS Aurora and we expect many more."

The passengers on the 76,000-ton liner became ill with a noro virus - a highly contagious gastrointestinal bug - after the ship left Southampton for a Mediterranean cruise on October 20, said a spokesman for the vessel's owner, P&O Princess Cruises. The ship is due to arrive in Gibraltar on Monday as scheduled, and is expected to return to Southampton on Wednesday.

### **Gibraltar may refuse to let stricken cruise ship dock**

Port authorities in Gibraltar gave no guarantee yesterday that the P&O cruise ship **Aurora**, with hundreds of sick British holidaymakers on board, would be allowed to dock when it arrives in the British colony tomorrow on its next scheduled port of call.

Gibraltar port doctors have been alerted to conditions on board, as maritime rules demand in cases of infection or death. But no decision on whether the ship may dock in Gibraltar can be taken until the ship arrives off the Rock and port doctors board the **Aurora** and inspect conditions at first hand.

"If it's contagious, we say no," Gibraltar port's duty officer, who declined to be named, told The Independent on Sunday yesterday. "International maritime regulations are quite clear on the matter: the ship stays in quarantine until it is cleared of infection."

This is the first time Gibraltar has faced the prospect of determining the fate of an infected passenger ship, the officer said. Previously infections had been reported only on mercantile cargo ships. Rules dictate that such ships must anchor offshore and await a decision from the port captain on the advice of port doctors.

The Gibraltar government's spokesman, Francis Cantos, said the priority was to protect public health on the Rock, and that public health authorities would decide today on whether passengers would be allowed to disembark when the ship arrived. "Our health authorities are in contact with the vessel, and we understand that all but 30 passengers are now recovering," Mr Cantos said.

Gibraltar's tourism minister, Joe Hollyday, said in a statement: "If there is a significant risk to public health that would be our first responsibility. However, we hope to be able to welcome Aurora's healthy passengers in Gibraltar." Mr Cantos declined to clarify whether this meant infected passengers would be confined to the ship.

## Helikopter training Zeeuwse KNRM reddingstations

Door : Kees den Hollander



De bemanning van de Zeeuwse reddingstations van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Redding Maatschappij (KNRM) heeft vrijdag deelgenomen aan de jaarlijkse helikopter drill. Met een Lynx helikopter van de SAR eenheid van Marinevliegbasis De Kooy te Den Helder werden een aantal hoist en evacuatie-oefeningen gehouden.

Regelmatig worden hulpverleningen op zee uitgevoerd door reddingboten van

de KNRM in samenwerking met helikopters van de Search and Rescue (SAR) eenheden van Koninklijke Luchtmacht of Koninklijke Marine. Het gaat hierbij om gecompliceerde en risicovolle procedures die dan ook regelmatig door de verschillende SAR-eenheden moeten worden geoefend.



Allereerst werden een aantal SAR oefeningen gehouden in de monding van de Westerschelde met de reddingboten **Zeemanshoop** en **Winifred Lucy Verkade-Clark** van de reddingstations Breskens en Cadzand. Vervolgens werd geoefend met de reddingboot **Uly** van het reddingstation Westkapelle.



en **Harder** van het reddingstation Noordland-Burghsluis rondom de Oosterschelddekering.

Na afloop van de oefeningen kon door de bemanning van de reddingboten en de SAR helikopter worden teruggezien op een geslaagde en leerzame dag.

Na de middag werden een aantal helikopter-evacuatie oefeningen gehouden met de reddingboot **John Stegers** (foto links en onder) van het reddingstation Veere. Deze oefeningen vonden plaats op het Veerse Meer ter hoogte van Veere. Tenslotte werd een hoist-operatie gedaan met de reddingboten **Koopmansdank**



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Voor verdere informatie kunt u kontakt opnemen met ondergetekende. Kijkt U ook eens op de homepage van de KNRM: <http://www.knrm.nl> of voor actuele informatie over het reddingstation Veere op <http://www.knrm.nl/veere>.

Kees den Hollander (PR-coördinator Veere)

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### Trasmed workers win concession

TRASMEDITERRANEA staff has called off an indefinite strike, according to Spanish union UGT. The union said a negotiated settlement was reached in which Trasmed agreed not to reduce staff levels on certain ships operating in the Straits of Gibraltar. Trasmediterranea, Spain's largest operator, was privatised last August. One of the conditions included in the privatization package was the obligation to maintain an existing labour agreement until 2008, which prohibited it from reducing staff till then.

Trasmediterranea today declined to comment on the talks.



A container ship is escorted by tugboats through the beginning of the 13.7-kilometer-long Culebra Cut, the narrowest section of the Panama Canal Friday, Oct. 24, 2003. The portion of the canal cuts through the Continental Divide.

### Ferry strike continues at Rio-Antirrio

Ferry strike continues at Rio-Antirrio Workers striking for better pension rights halted ferry service linking the western port of Patras at the Rio-Antirrio crossing to the Greek mainland for a second day today. The protest - due to end early Monday - disrupted traffic from Italy as truck drivers and other motorists were forced to make the crossing at Aegio, a port nearly 40 kilometers east of Patras. Strikers defied Friday's court ruling that declared their action illegal.

### Spaanse reddingsteams bergen lichamen van 20 illegale immigranten

Reddingsteams hebben aan de Zuid-Spaanse kust de lichamen van twintig illegale immigranten geborgen. Dat heeft een woordvoerder van de teams vrijdag bekendgemaakt. De teams uit het Zuid-Spaanse plaatsje Rota vonden vrijdag verspreid langs de kust vijftien lichamen. Eerder deze week werden al vijf lijken geborgen. Alle lichamen waren van mannen van Noord-Afrikaanse afkomst.



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De verdronken mannen zaten hoogstwaarschijnlijk op een met migranten volgepakte boot die vorige week zaterdag in de baai van Cadiz in zwaar weer omsloeg, meldde het Spaanse persbureau Efe. Volgens overlevenden van de schipbreuk zaten er zo'n vijftig mannen op de boot. Het is niet uitgesloten dat op korte termijn nog meer lichamen worden gevonden. Ieder jaar proberen duizenden Noord-Afrikanen de armoede op hun continent te ontvluchten door met wankelende bootjes de oversteek van Marokko naar Spanje te maken. Velen verdrinken daarbij.

## CASUALTY REPORTING

### TATE J AGROUND



The 185 meter long and 25900 BRT Bulker **TATE J** was aground near the breakwaters of the Flushing outer harbour from Sunday 09:20 hrs, the first tug on the spot was the **MULTRATUG 9** and was later joined by the **WALCHEREN**, the **TATE J** was refloated around 10:20 hours and towed to the anchorage for inspection

Photo : Peter Andriessen ©

## GUDRUN GISLADOTTIR (ICELAND)

According to press reports, the Norwegian Government, Coast Directorate, has invited tenders for the removal of sunken fishing **Gudrun Gisladdottir**. The contract went to Seloy Undervannsservice, Sandnessjoen, who have reportedly already spent more than NOK7 million on behalf of Icelandic principals, in their attempts to prepare the vessel for removal. Seloy reported that they estimated the removal operation would be completed around Dec 1. They are now applying for a port to which the vessel may be transported and where the fish cargo may be destroyed and bunker tanks emptied. --

## LINA A. (COMOROS)

At least eight people are missing, presumed drowned, after general cargo **Lina A.** (489 gt, built 1977) sank in stormy weather off Syria's coast, the Syrian state news agency SANA said. It said three people had been rescued, including a Syrian national. It did not give the nationalities of the other crew. The vessel had delivered roughly 500 tonnes of cement to Lattakia on Wednesday (Oct 29) and was just off the coast when a storm hit, the agency said. The vessel had requested permission to enter the port or sail out to sea to avoid the storm, but shortly afterwards, it hit a breakwater and sank. Rescue workers were still searching for the remaining crew.

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## **Norwegian Cruise Line to sail into N.O.**

The 1,748-passenger **Norwegian Dream** will begin operating out of New Orleans on Sunday, adding a cruise line at the Port of New Orleans.

Norwegian Cruise Line's 754-foot, 50,764-ton ship will be based in New Orleans from November through March for at least three years. Norwegian Cruise Line seeks to differentiate itself from other cruises operating out of New Orleans by offering the only four-port itinerary in the market. The **Norwegian Dream** will sail seven-day cruises to Cozumel, Mexico; Roatan, Honduras; Belize City, Belize; and Cancun, Mexico.

The company also promotes its "freestyle cruising" program, which lets passengers eat at anytime in the evening, in whatever restaurant they want, with whomever they want. There are no assigned seatings for dinner, which on cruises is the most formal and structured meal of the day.

Norwegian joins Carnival Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean Ltd. In offering "blue water" ocean-bound cruises out of New Orleans. About 680,000 cruise passengers are expected to get on and off ships in New Orleans this year.

Norwegian Cruise Line will soon operate cruises in the Hawaiian Islands using the "Project America" cruise ships built in Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Ingalls shipyard in Mississippi. Norwegian bought the hulls of the partially built ships on the cheap after American Classic Voyages, the former owner of the Delta Queen Steamboat Co., got overextended in its plan to build ships to operate in Hawaii and other places and went bankrupt. Taxpayers provided the loan guarantees for the ships.

## **Spliethoff orders ro-ro vessels in Poland**

New Szczecin Shipyard (SSN) has gained an order for four 205 metre long container/ro-ro vessels from Dutch Spliethoff Bevrachtungskantoor. Contract value has not been revealed but market sources indicate USD 160 million. The series B-201/II vessels are designed to carry containers, vehicles and forestry products. The 18,250-ton, 3,000 lane-metre vessels will have capacity for 660 TEU and 200 vehicles. The ships are built to ice-class 1A Super and the service speed will be 22 knots. According to Spliethoff, the vessels are intended to join Transfennica services, and the first vessel is to be delivered by the end of 2005. The SSN orderbook contains 29 vessels securing work till the end of 2006.

## **Stena Line goes for gold with a raft of awards**

Stena Line's award-winning streak has gone from strength to strength with the ferry operator chalking up a further three prestigious awards. For the 10th successive year Stena Line was voted Best Ferry Operator (Other Routes) at the prestigious British Travel Trade Awards 2003 - receiving more than 48% of the agents' votes. Stena Line also took silver in the Best Ferry Operator (Short Sea/Channel) category at the awards held on 16th October.

On a global scale Stena Line has been honoured with the title of the World's Leading Ferry Operator at

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the 2003 World Travel Awards, held in New York on 13th October. This is the sixth time that Stena Line has received this accolade.

And the title of Best Ferry/ Shipping Company was awarded to Stena Line for the 11th time at the Northern Ireland Travel and Leisure News Awards on Friday, 17th October.

Stena Line's string of successes began in March when Global Travel named it the Best Ferry Operator of 2003. Midconsort followed hot on their heels announcing Stena Line as their Favourite Ferry Company, and trade publication Selling Short Breaks declared Stena Line the Best Short Sea Crossing Operator of the year. In September Stena Line was named Top Ferry Company at the 2003 Travel Bulletin "Travel Stars" awards, sending Stena Line sailing ahead of its competitors.

Held on the 16th October at London's Battersea Park Marquee, the British Travel Trade Awards are the highlight of the travel industry's calendar, with winners nominated and voted for by the travel industry and travel agents reading TTG magazine, who organise the annual awards ceremony.

**Wendy Hartley**, head of Sales at Stena Line, comments:

"We are delighted to have received these honours. It is a great credit to the hard work of the whole Stena Line team who have made this year such a success for Stena Line.



Top : The **STENA BRITANNICA** arriving in Hook of Holland – photo : **Piet Sinke** ©

This has been a tremendous year for us, with 2003 seeing the introduction of our two new state of the art superferries the **Stena Adventurer** and the **Stena Britannica**, and the announcement of our planned route acquisitions on the Irish Sea. We have invested in all aspects of our business to ensure that we can offer a first class service to our customers, and we are proud to have received these recognitions from the travel industry." As a founder member of TIPTO (the Truly Independent Professional Travel Organisation), Stena Line offers training events and roadshows for travel agents across the country. Stena Line also arranges familiarization trips to Ireland and Holland to experience the Stena Line service first hand. With training days, in-store events and presentations at industry training events, support of the travel industry is at the heart of the Stena Line business.

### Notes to Editors

a.. Stena Line provides an unrivalled service from the UK to the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Holland. Routes include Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire or Dublin Port, Fishguard - Rosslare and Harwich - Hook of Holland.

b.. The new **Stena Adventurer** superferry was introduced on the Holyhead - Dublin port route in July 2003, raising the standards of style and customer service on the Irish Sea. The state-of-the-art vessel

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offers lounges, en suite cabins, shopping facilities, sandwich bars, the Metropolitan Bar and Food City with a wide choice of hot and cold food.

### NAVY NEWS



The guided missile cruiser **USS Vella Gulf (CG 72)** is conducting the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) exercise in the Atlantic Ocean



**USS Nimitz (CVN 68)** and her embarked Air Wing, Carrier Air Wing Eleven (CVW-11) pull into Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as they return from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

### MOVEMENTS

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Roro passenger ferry **AEOLOS KENTERIS** in service between Piraeus and Chios - Mytilene islands in Greece, seen during sunset at Oct 31st 2003 at Piraeus harbour

Photo : George Grekos ©



MY TRAVEL's **SUNDREAM** arrived in Amsterdam as one of the last passengerliners for this season

Photo : Joop Marechal ©

**After some intensive research and with the help of many others**

**Now on <http://www.groningerkustvaart.nl> a brief history of Dammers & v.d.Heide Shipping and Trading Company**

**Please send additional info or comments to Huug Pieterse [vegaars2@zonnet.nl](mailto:vegaars2@zonnet.nl)**

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The **MULTRATUG 7** with the **AMT WAYFARER** loaded with the Ex Humber paddle ferry **TATTERSHALL CASTLE** arriving at Great Yarmouth

photo : Grahame Hewitt



The tug **ZEELAND** operating at the Westerscheldt River

Photo : Alain Doods ©



The Polish Tug **CYKLOP** at Hook of Holland Sunday morning – photo : **Piet Sinke** ©  
( Thanks Peter !!! )

## **AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS**

### **AIRARABIA AIRBUS A320-211**



9H-ABP (A6-ABY) seen for the first time on roll out from Air Livery. Due to based at Sharjah.  
Photo : **A.J.Best** ©

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**UH-3H Sea King** helicopters assigned to the “Golden Gaters” of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eighty Five (HC-85) strapped with “Bambi” buckets depart Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar during a certification flight. Once certified, the aircraft will be used to assist in mutual efforts against fighting the wildfires raging throughout Southern Calif. Each bucket can hold 324 gallons of water weighing 3000 lbs

## RIJNMOND WEATHER

**OBSERVATION LOCATION : HOEK VAN HOLLAND – Sunday 02-11 22:30 hrs**

PRESENT WIND DIRECTION / FORCE	:	SW 12-17	KNOTS
MAX WIND DIRECTION / FORCE LAST 24 HRS	:	SSW 21	KNOTS
PRESENT BAROMETER READING	:	994.6	hPa
MIN TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	8.8	°C
MAX TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	11.9	°C
OUTDOOR HUMIDITY	:	89	%
DEWPOINT	:	9.7	°C
WINDCHILL	:	4.2	°C

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





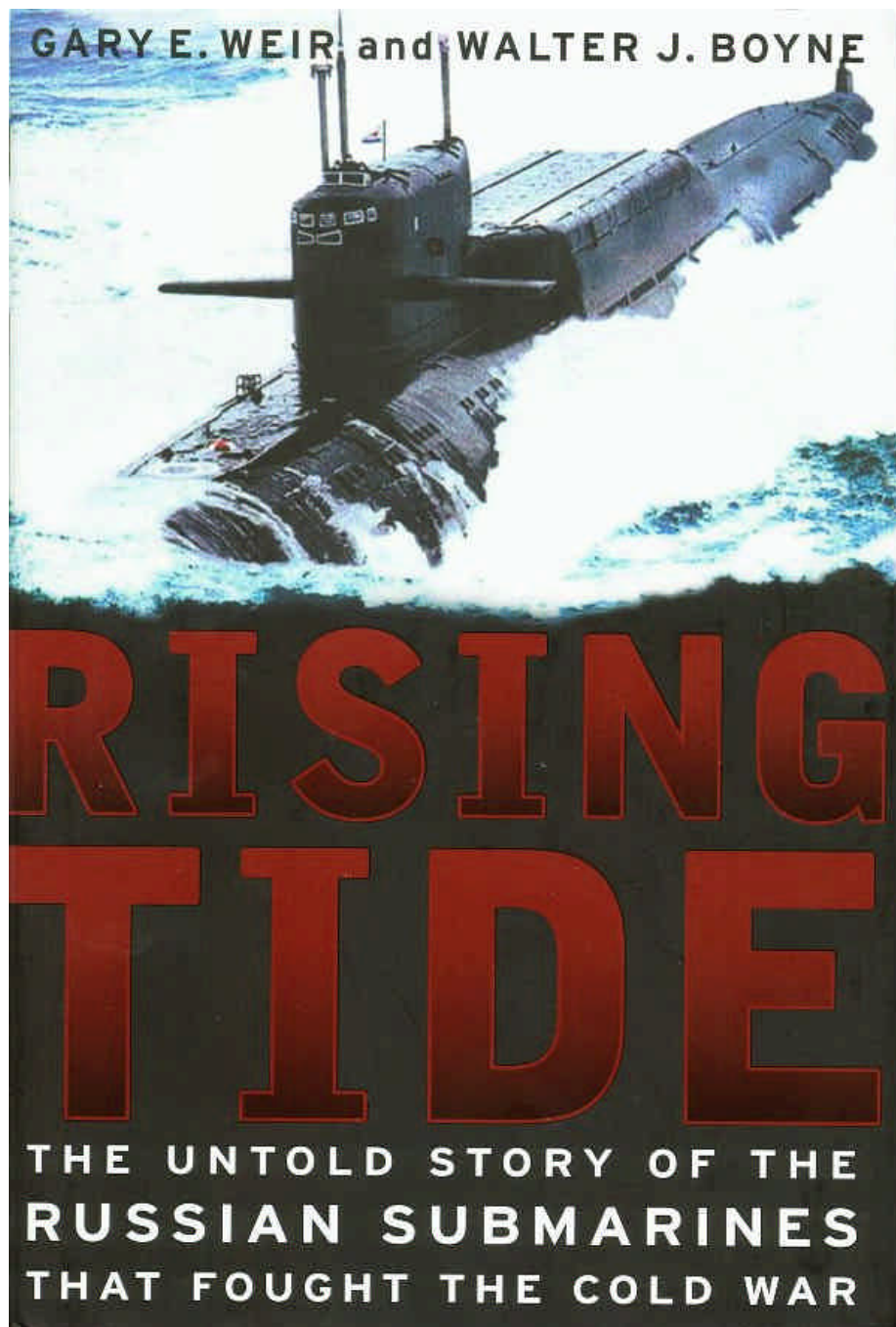
Early morning over Loch Lomond (Scotland) – photo : Piet Sinke ©

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Cover art of the new book "Rising Tide, The Untold Story Of The Russian Submarines That Fought The Cold War", coauthored by Naval Historical Center (NHC) historian Dr. Gary E. Weir, and former director of the National Air and Space Museum, Walter J. Boyne. During the Cold War, American and Soviet submarines were engaged in a deadly silent game of cat-and-mouse throughout the world's oceans. "Rising Tide" is the first book to document the story of the Soviet submarine service during that time.