

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 211



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EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

The QE2's Bon Voyage

After Three Decades, Luxury Ship Bows Out of Atlantic Service

After carrying millions of passengers and sailing the equivalent of 230 times around the globe, the **Queen Elizabeth 2** will soon make her last trip across the Atlantic. On Morning Edition, NPR's Susan Stamberg takes listeners aboard for a tour of the grande dame of passenger ships.

Cunard, the QE2's British parent company, is owned by the American cruise giant Carnival Corp. But Capt. Ian McNaught says, "We're not a cruise ship. We're a passenger liner." Touches of luxury abound, from the library, casino, kennel and spa to the Harrods department store aboard.

The QE2, which has been sailing since 1969, will soon make its last transatlantic voyage but will continue to sail the Mediterranean and the waters off Northern Europe. The even bigger Queen Mary 2 will take over her trans-Atlantic duties in 2004.

Send ghost ships home

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FRESH calls were made to the Government yesterday to stop four contaminated "ghost ships" from entering British waters.

The ex-US Navy vessels — including the Canopus, above — are heading for the Able UK yard in Hartlepool, to be scrapped in a dry dock.

But councillors in the Teesside town want Transport Secretary Alistair Darling to block them and order their return to the US. They claim the ships are not permitted to sail on our seas.

Their call comes after the Environment Agency withdrew its approval of the operation, saying Able's dry dock did not have planning permission.

Campaigners fear the ships, contaminated with toxic chemicals, pose a risk to the environment.

But the DoT's Maritime and Coastguard Agency ruled they are seaworthy.

The ships — the first of 13 to be towed across the Atlantic in a £11million deal — are due in British waters in a few days. The DoT insisted yesterday it did not have a say on blocking the boats.

But Shadow Environment Secretary David Lidington said: "The confusion at the heart of government gets worse."

Able UK insisted it had permission for the work.

Australian navy tows boat people back to sea

Australian Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said the 14 suspected asylum seekers who reached Melville Island aboard a fishing boat yesterday claim to be Kurds. She said a naval vessel had towed their boat further from the island, north of Darwin, while a people smuggling task force decides what to do with them.

"The only advice that I have is that they claim to be Kurdish," Senator Vanstone told reporters.

She could not say what success, if any, Turkish Kurds had had in applying for protection visas in the past. Contesting excision law must wait till Friday She said regulations gazetted yesterday that excised northern islands from Australia's migration zone could only become invalid after the Senate disallowed them.

"These regulations are effective; that means the people will not be entitled to make a valid visa application," she said. The earliest a disallowance motion, as foreshadowed by the Australian Democrats, could be moved was Friday, she said.

The Northern Territory government asked whether Darwin, 90km from Melville, would be the next port excised from the migration zone.

Senator Vanstone refused to rule out any part of the mainland also being excised. "I'm not going to be drawn into another discussion," she said. Surveillance won't stop smugglers, says Vanstone But she said surveillance could not prevent people smugglers reaching Australia.

"No amount of practicable surveillance over such a broad range of coastline and range of islands will be successful," she said. "The way to be successful is to excise these islands from the migration zone."

She criticised opposition immigration spokeswoman Nicola Roxon's description of the excision as surrendering Australian territory.

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"No more flurrying around the edges, pretending islands have been surrendered when they haven't," Senator Vanstone said.

"They've (Labour) got a simple question in front of them: are they happy to excise these islands from the migration zone so that we can better protect Australia's borders?"

Senator Vanstone could not confirm reports that the Tiwi Islanders had been told not to talk to the media. She also defended an air exclusion zone applied by customs over the island yesterday which prevented media getting to the island.

Community leader tells of boat being towed to sea The boat was towed out to sea in the early hours of this morning, said Milikapiti Community management board council chairman Gibson Farmer.

Defence, immigration, customs and quarantine officials were today interviewing the 14 men and four crew on board HMAS Geelong, about 20km from the island, added a spokesman for Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone.

The federal government yesterday moved to excise the territory's Tiwi Islands from the Australian migration zone after the Indonesian fishing vessel landed at Melville Island, north of Darwin.

Authorities who arrived yesterday, together with crewmen and 14 suspected asylum seekers believed to be from the Middle East, had left the island, Mr Farmer said this morning.

"They towed the boat away in the early hours of the morning," he said.

"Last night I saw the Navy boat; it arrived about 1730 (CST) yesterday and it anchored out in the bay.

"They left about two or three o'clock in the morning. "Everybody woke up this morning, they've seen no boat, they've seen nothing." Mr Farmer said authorities had not told locals where they were taking the boat. "I think they are probably on their way back to Darwin," he said. "I think they've all left.

"Planes were buzzing around all night; it's all quiet now." The spokesman for Senator Vanstone said a decision would be made today on where to take the men. They were being interviewed by defence, immigration, quarantine and customs officials, he said. "They will be having a bit of a chat to the people about what they are doing here and exactly where they have come from," he said.

Northern Territory furious at lack of consultation A furious Northern Territory government is asking whether Darwin will be the next port excised from Australia's migration zone.

NT Chief Minister Clare Martin said no territory authorities were consulted before or after the federal government yesterday moved to excise the territory's Tiwi Islands from the migration zone.

"The first we heard of it was through the media," Ms Martin told ABC radio. "To put it into place yesterday for Melville Island, and not a call to the territory, not a call to any of the authorities in the territory, I think it is extraordinary behaviour from the federal government.

"If they can have an exclusion zone at Melville, I suppose you have to ask next are they going to have one at the Cox Peninsular and what about Darwin. "It's an absurd policy. The issue of people who arrive here in boats illegally is a serious one for Australia to deal with, but simply saying we will make an exclusion zone and not call that, in this case Melville Island, part of Australia.

"If you look at how that could progress, Darwin is very close, are we going to be also (excised)?"

Navy Arrests 7 Ships With Crude Worth \$250m

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TWO Naval warships stationed in Warri **NNS Kyanwa** and **NNS Ologbo** to fight bunkering and pilferage, among others, last week, arrested two mother ships and five supplier ships and accessories with a combined total of over 142 million barrels of crude oil valued at over \$250 million.

Very reliable sources, who confirmed the arrest and seizure of the ships, gave the names of the ships and quantities as M.T. African Pride, 11,800 metric tons; M.T. Capbreton I, 7,800 metric tons, and M.T. Prosperity, 2,315 metric tons.

Others are M.T. Zoogu, 1,000 metric tons of crude oil, M.T. Tina and M.T. Glory with a combined 3,000 metric tons and M.T. Alex with 437 metric tons of AGO but was later released.

According to the source, the mother ships and suppliers were caught at the Forcados, Escravos creek as well as the Benin River while transloading the smuggled crude. Explaining that the arrest and interception of the ships was a major breakthrough in the Federal Government's fight against bunkering and pilferage in the Niger Delta, the source added that very rich Nigerians, some of them represented at the highest levels in government were discovered to be behind these unpatriotic activities. These illegal activities are so dangerous that in several instances in the past, the operators threatened to kill the officers and personnel of security forces if they failed to play ball.

"I am aware that in some of these cases of arrests, the officials involved were offered as much as N50 million to let go, but they refused resulting in threats of diabolical means of revenge or the sending of hired killers.

Since the deployment of the Naval ships under operation "Safety Value," the two Naval ships in concert with Operation Nwanba, another Naval warship stationed in Western Naval Command headquarters, have been policing the Bella/Enwah oil field, ABO-FPSO Terminal, Escravos oil terminal, Forcados oil terminal and SPDC EA project.

Tanker op Westerschelde vlotgetrokken



BORSSELE - Bergers van Multraship Salvage en URS Salvage hebben woensdagmiddag op de Westerschelde de Italiaanse tanker **Mimmo levoli** vlotgetrokken. Het 125 meter lange schip strandde rond half vier ter hoogte van de Total-steiger bij Borssele. De oorzaak was een mankement in de stuurinrichting. (photo : Peter Andriessen ©)

Het schip was onderweg naar Antwerpen met 8000 ton vloeibare olieproducten aan boord.

Bergers stuurden meteen nadat het schip vastliep, de sleepboten **Multratug 9**, **Multratug 11**,

Fonda en **Drado**. De vier sleepboten wisten het schip ruim een uur na de stranding, tijdens vallend water, vlot te trekken. De **Mimmo levoli** werd vervolgens naar het ankergebied Everingen gebracht, waar werd bekeken of er geen lekken waren geslagen in de huid van het schip. Nadat alles in orde was bevonden, kon de **Mimmo levoli** op eigen kracht de reis naar Antwerpen vervolgen.

Bug ship returns home

THE BUG-HIT cruise liner **Aurora** finally returned home to Southampton this morning - after 17 nightmare days at sea. The ? 200million vessel - which caused controversy when Spain closed its border with Gibraltar after it docked there - arrived back in England at around 6am.

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More than 550 of the ship's 1800 passengers are said to have contracted the highly contagious norovirus, causing vomiting and diarrhoea, during a trip around the Mediterranean.

And today many of those - who paid up to ? 8,000 for the dream trip were planning legal action against tour operator P&O.

TV Wife Swap pair Michelle and Barry Seaborn who were on board said they planned to sue the company for taking them "hostage" after being given the all-clear by the ship's doc. Michelle blasted: "We have flights from Gibraltar with British Airways but P&O would not give us our passports. They held us hostage and we will be suing them for kidnap."

Mrs Seaborn accused the crew of "brainwashing" passengers over the last few days to give a good impression to the media when they arrived back in Southampton.

However, some passengers praised the crew and said they did not blame P&O for what had happened. Helena and Andy Banks, both 42, on board with their two kids Lewis, eight, and Matthew, six, said "the crew dealt with it extremely well".

And John and Valerie Stephenson, from Nottingham, added: "We have had an absolutely wonderful time. "The ship was beautiful. It was unfortunate there were people who were ill but we had a good time and have no complaints."

Only one person on board the ship was suffering any symptoms of the bug when it docked this morning and there have been no new reported cases.

Aurora will now be thoroughly cleaned before heading off tonight on a three-day cruise around the Channel Islands.

TWO passengers died on the Aurora from heart conditions, it emerged yesterday.

New twist in Tasman Spirit saga

PAKISTAN'S communications minister, senator Ahmed Ali, has resigned from his post in a move that some speculate might allow for an out-of-court settlement of the Tasman Spirit impasse as per the American P&I Club stipulation. The minister did not give the reasons for his decision and was not immediately available for comment. Pakistan's national media has listed different reasons behind Ahmed's resignation. The English language daily Dawn reported that Ahmed was forced to tender his resignation after he was unable to seek punitive action against some senior executives at Pakistan National Shipping Corp and National Highway Authority. But other newspapers quoted official sources as saying that Ahmed was forced to resign after military intelligence agencies unearthed a corruption scam in which he is alleged to have accepted billions of rupees in the recently awarded NHA contracts. Official sources close to Prime minister Zafar ullah Jamali confirmed to Fairplay today that Ahmed had resigned, and also revealed that he had supervised the official inquiry into the grounding of the Polembros tanker and pushed for compensation through legal action

Nieuw verblijf voor bemanning van reddingsboot KNRM

door Marcel Modde

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NEELTJE JANS - Het KNRM-station Noordland krijgt de beschikking over een nieuw verblijf voor de bemanning van de reddingsboot Koopmansdank. Het gaat om een voormalig schip dat speciaal voor dit doeleinde is verbouwd.

Het voormalige graan-verlaadschip kon worden gekocht met een gift van de Stichting Familie Klem-La Brijn en wordt vernoemd naar de in 1976 overleden weldoener Wim Klem. Vertegenwoordigers van de stichting stellen het onderkomen zaterdag 29 november officieel in gebruik, na een samenkomst voor genodigden in het Topshuis op Neeltje Jans.

Onderdeks is een ruimte gemaakt waar de overlevingspakken van de bemanning kunnen worden opgehangen en gedroogd. Later wordt daar ook nog een werkplaats ingericht. Het boothuis, wat opvalt door zijn `stuurhuttorentje` bestaat verder uit een zit- en vergaderruimte, een kantoor voor de schipper, een slaapkamer voor geredden, een volledig ingerichte keuken, toiletten en een badkamer. De verbouwing is voor een belangrijk deel uitgevoerd door de vrijwillige medewerkers van het station Noordland.

Harder

De Koopmansdank bestrijkt het Noordzeegebied in de Oosterscheldemonding. De andere kant van de Stormvloedkering wordt bewaakt door de eveneens bij het station Noordland horende Harder. Voor die kleinere boot werd eerder al een drijvend boothuis gebouwd. Het bemanningsverblijf bij de Koopmansdank liet langer op zich wachten door uiteenlopende problemen rond de diverse bouwontwerpen. Uiteindelijk werd de oplossing gevonden in het voormalige schip. Tot voor kort was de bemanning van de Koopmansdank aangewezen op een bouwkeet en een opslagcontainer.

CASUALTY REPORTING



The containership "**Cec Faith**" suffered a black-out and hit the rocks at Marøya near Stavanger today at 11.00 am. The ship was on her way from Bergen to Sandnes. The tugs "**Lars**" and "**Bamse**" assisted her to the AkerKvaerner yard (Rosenberg Verft) in Stavanger for inspection of the damages. The master indicated damages to the propeller. (Photo : Terje Moen ©)

SHIPYARD NEWS

Maltese yard restructure sealed

THE deal that will see a comprehensive restructure of Malta's shipbuilding and repair industry was finally signed and sealed at a ceremony in the prime minister's official residence. Malta Drydocks Corp and Malta Shipbuilding Co are to be dissolved and their assets and liabilities transferred to the government. A new company, Malta Shipyards Ltd is to be set up with 1,700 workers, taken from the existing 2,600, under new conditions. The remaining 900 will be offered early retirement. A new shift system is to be introduced and workers are to be encouraged to acquire new skills and training. After

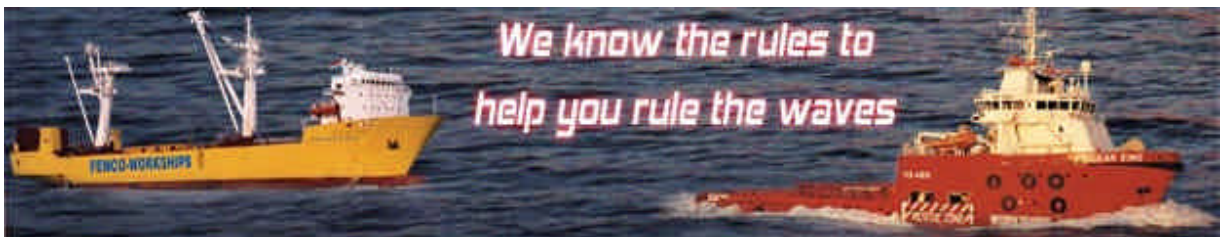
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the agreement was signed deputy premier Lawrence Gonzi, who headed the Shipyards Task Force, said it was an exceptional agreement drawn up to address the root of the problems and challenges facing the shipyards. He stressed that this was the last chance being given by the people for the industry to recover and attain financial viability. The General Workers Union said it was satisfied by the agreement. Unofficial reports say John Cassar-White, former chairman of both shipyards, will take the top job at Malta Shipbuilding Ltd.

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Princess warns Helsinki over fees

CONCERN is mounting in Helsinki that high charges are hurting the cruise industry after Princess Cruises threatened to cut the city from its schedule. "Finland is one of the most expensive places for cruise ships to call in the world," said port spokesman Eeva Oittinen. She revealed that Princess Cruises will drop Helsinki calls by its 109,000gt Grand Princess next summer unless it gets a rebate to charges levied by the Finnish Maritime Administration. Each call costs the line about €70,000 (\$80,000) in pilotage and fairway charges. "These account for three quarters of the total cost of a call – our share is about 13%," Oittinen said. Because cruiseships call only five to seven times a year, they are not eligible for FMA discounts for frequent users. Helsinki and FMA have discussed the problem, but so far without result. The Helsinki city government will discuss the issue at a meeting next Monday. Helsinki received 192 cruise calls this year and so far, 188 calls have been booked for 2004. "The figures are quite good in themselves, but we are losing market share," Oittinen said, adding that visiting cruise passengers leave an estimated €10M (\$10.2M) in revenue to the capital region.

Tallinn boosts Silja profits

A STRONG rise in passenger and freight volumes, mainly on its Helsinki-Tallinn services, boosted third quarter earnings at Silja, which forecasts a full year result better than that of 2002. The Finnish subsidiary of the Sea Containers group has posted a pre-tax profit of €17M (\$19.4M) compared with €14M in the same period last year. The number of passengers rose 12% to 4M, with the Helsinki-Tallinn service leading the growth on a 16% increase to almost one-quarter of the total. The number of freight units carried rose 23% to 94,000 with the Tallinn service again recording the fastest rise:

volume there trebled to 25,800 units. The board forecasts that if the present trend continues, the final quarter of the year should also be better than 2002. Last year, the company booked a pre-tax profit of €17M.

Danish line files for bankruptcy

DANISH ferry operator Færgeruten Langeland-Kiel, which has been running between Bagenkop on the island of Langeland and Kiel since April, has filed for bankruptcy. Operations have stopped and 35 employees have been made redundant. The line had chartered the ropax ferry Langeland from Norwegian owners to transport German tourists to the Danish island during the summer. The reduced winter schedule, which was intended to end on 30 November, offered five sailings a week. The line had been financed by 2,000 shareholders participating with an average investment of €500 (\$574).

NAVY NEWS

Indian Navy to carry out joint exercise with the Chinese

In a significant measure towards enhancing interoperability between India and China in the maritime field, the Indian Navy will, for the first time, carry out a joint exercise with China this month.

A detachment of three frontline warships comprising two warships and an auxiliary vessel of Indian Navy, currently on overseas deployment to the South China Sea, will participate in exercise to be held in the East China Sea on November 14, a defence ministry spokesman here today said.

The exercise, the first of its kind, is aimed at ensuring the safety of maritime trade and improving coordination in search and rescue at sea, he added. Commanded by Rear Admiral RP Suthan, the Indian task group comprising the guided missile destroyer **INS Ranjit**, guided missile corvette **INS Kulish** and replenishment tanker **INS Jyoti** will be making a port call at Shanghai from 10th to 14th of this month. From there, they will proceed to the exercise area in the East China, where they are likely to be joined by a similar number of ships from the Chinese Navy, while fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters are also expected to join the exercise.

Corvette tendering was above reproach: SA Navy

South African Navy chief Johan Retief says the Navy participation in the tendering process for four corvettes -- the first which arrived at Simon's Town on Tuesday -- was above reproach. Welcoming the arrival of the **SAS Amatola** from Germany, Retief said he had been asked many times how the SA Navy was approaching the allegations of corruption regarding the tendering process for the vessels.

The arms deal -- to provide submarines and corvettes for the Navy and fighter and trainer aircraft for the South African Air Force -- has been bogged down in controversy over alleged bribery and corruption. "I can only speak on behalf of the Navy. I have no mandate to do otherwise. To date, not a single member of the Navy has been prosecuted for any irregularities during the acquisition process. As far as I am concerned, the Navy's participation in the process has been above reproach."

He noted that allegations by various subcontractors "are still hanging in the air and have been for the past three years".

Retief said statements "and counter-statements do not bring us anywhere and the Navy has elected not to involve itself in this war of words".

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The navy chief noted that in 2001, the public protector had advised some of the parties to take their allegations to court. Asking himself rhetorically if the projects could be cancelled -- with three more corvettes scheduled to arrive from Germany next year -- he said: "Of course they can. The projects have, however, progressed so far that cancellation penalties will include the total price of the contracts as well as the loss of any counter-trade benefits."

"It must be kept in mind that in order to afford these projects, the Navy has embarked on a massive disposal programme and the last Daphne-class submarine will be decommissioned on November 28 with its disposal immediately following that."

"Similarly, the first five strike craft have already been struck down and are being offered for disposal as scrap." "Cancellation of these projects will effectively leave South Africa without any maritime defence. The motives of people demanding cancellation of these projects need, therefore to be closely considered." African Defence Systems -- which has won a systems management subcontract for the combat suite for the corvettes -- and arms company C2I2 have been engaged in a war of words over the tender process. Democratic Alliance MP Nigel Bruce recently produced a letter in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts showing that ADS was allowed to drop its bid from R32,4-million rand to R29,64-million rand, a day after the deadline for final bids. Auditor General Shauket Fakie, however, said ADS had made a mistake with its figures and had been allowed to change its tender.

NAVYS EASTERN FLEET TO CONDUCT EXERCISE WITH FRENCH NAVY

Surabaya - The Indonesian Navy's Eastern Fleet plans to conduct an exercise with the French navy in Indonesia's western shipping lane near Surabaya, East Java, Navy spokesman Lt Col Guntur Wahyudi said here on Monday. The exercise, to be codenamed "**Passex**", will mark the conclusion of a visit by a French warship to the East Java provincial capital of Surabaya. The French warship, commanded by Rear Admiral Wilmout Roussel has been in Surabaya since November 2 and will stay there until November 7.

Second RMN patrol vessel en route

The second Blohm+Voss-built MEKO 100RMN patrol vessel for the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) has left Hamburg aboard the heavy-lift vessel **Condock V** en route to Lumut for final outfitting at the facilities of Penang Shipbuilding & Construction-Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd (PSC NDSB). Departing on 6 October 2003, the transit to Malaysia is expected to take around 45 days.

MOVEMENTS

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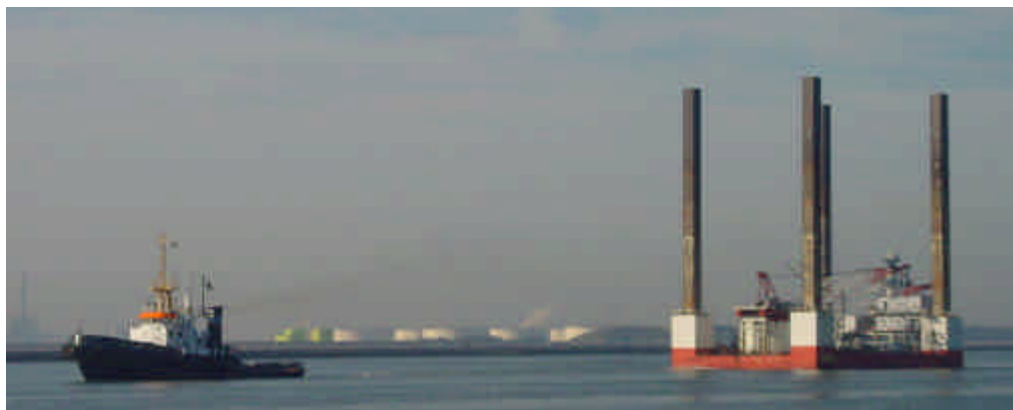


The **ZEEBOUWER** departed from IJmuiden to install a pole offshore IJmuiden which will measure the current and the waves, this in view of a new to build windmill farm.

Photo : Joop Marechal ©



The **CAMILLIA ACE** at the Westerscheldt river enroute Gent —photo : Willy van de Velde ©



The tug **BOXER** arrived with the jack up platform **BUZZARD** in Rotterdam

photo : Jan van der Klooster ©

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The Greek **ANTONIS** disembarking the pilot at Flushing pilot station – photo : Willem Kruit ©

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