

## DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 213



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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY :**



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The **ANGLIAN EARL** is the former **MAERSK LOGGER** pictured at A&P on the Tyne Saturday

**Photo : Kevin Blair ©**

## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

### Augustea to act over carrier losses

ITALIAN towage operator Augustea has told the Spanish company Gijonesa de Desguaces that it would be forced to take action by this evening if the impasse over the French aircraft carrier **Clémenceau** was not resolved. Augustea had been contracted to tow the decommissioned warship to Greece for removal of toxic material, but the Athens government blocked the move. A spokesman for the towage company told Fairplay: "We are unwitting victims of a dispute between France and Spain and are losing €20,000 (\$22,860) a day keeping two tugs alongside the vessel for the past two weeks." He acknowledged that such a large ship cannot be seized to ensure payment but is well aware that the aircraft carrier, now lying off Sicily, cannot be accommodated at many local ports. The issue is further complicated because, by law, ownership remains with France despite the ship's sale to a Spanish company=2E "Who do we take orders from," the Augustea spokesman asked. The French ministry of defence gave the order for the towing to stop, arguing that breakers' yards in Turkey do not meet EU standards.

### Toxic 'ghost ships' can be stored in UK waters before return to US, says Beckett

Two toxically contaminated ex-US Navy ships, heading to Britain for a dismantling that cannot now take place, will be stored in British waters until they can be sent back to the US, the Government announced last night.

The two lead vessels of the fleet of so-called "ghost ships", originally coming to Britain to be broken up by a company at Hartlepool on Teesside, Able UK, have now nearly reached the Channel after being towed across the Atlantic by tugs.

However, since they set out from the US coast where they have been laid up for years, the permission to dismantle them has been withdrawn from the company by the Environment Agency, and there have been continuous protests from environmentalists about the pollution danger they allegedly pose. Two more ships are following some distance behind.

This week the Government has seemed at a loss as to what to do about all of them, with various departments passing responsibility elsewhere. But last night Margaret Beckett, the Environment Secretary, announced that the lead ships would be allowed to dock in their original destination, Hartlepool, before being returned to America.

No other port was able to take the ships at short notice, the Government said in a statement. "The UK Government and its agencies continue to work intensively with the United States authorities to resolve the issues associated with the other two ships currently in transit to the UK," the statement said.

Mrs Beckett said last night: "I have impressed on the US authorities that the proposed shipment of these vessels to Hartlepool for dismantling cannot be completed consistent with international rules and community law. In this situation the law requires the ships to be returned to the United States."

She said the immediate return of the first two ships was impracticable, but they would be stored at Hartlepool "pending their return to the US at the earliest opportunity".

### Les Landes to sue Prestige minister

THE French province of Les Landes is to sue Spain's minister for public works, Francisco Alvarez Cascos, for sending the Prestige tanker away from its coast. The southern French administrative body wants Cascos to pay €1.7M (\$1.94M) in damages caused to the coast of Les Landes from the Prestige oil spill. The authority blamed Cascos for the incident and accused him of not having the means to prevent the oil from spreading northwards. The €1.7M sum is based on oil clean-up figures calculated by municipalities in the Les Landes region, Spanish reports have said. The total sum may rise if lawyers include damages to tourism in the region incurred from the disaster.

## Pirates storm oil tankers in Indonesia

A maritime watchdog says pirates have raided two tankers in Indonesia and robbed the crew at gunpoint. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) says the first attack occurred off Indonesia's Bintan Island when a gang boarded an oil tanker, took hostages, and robbed the crew at gunpoint.

The bureau says the ship's bridge was left uncrewed for an hour while it continued underway in busy waters. In a second attack in Indonesia, this time on a liquefied petroleum tanker, pirates armed with guns and knives took hostages and robbed the crew before escaping in speedboats.

Reuters news agency says the two attacks are the most serious in more than six armed assaults targeting merchant shipping in Indonesian waters in the last week. Late last week, the IMB said the number of pirate attacks worldwide had surged to record levels and blacklisted Indonesian waters as the most dangerous in the world.

## Greenpeace ship heading for 'toxic' Alang

AHMEDABAD: The plight of nearly 40,000 workers in one of the world's biggest shipbreaking yards, located at Alang on the Saurashtra coast, who deal with some of the most hazardous chemicals in dangerous working environment, is once again going to come into international focus with the **'Rainbow Warrior'**, the icon of the environmental pressure group Greenpeace, expected to arrive at the yard early next week.

The vessel, which set sail from Mumbai on Friday morning for a month-long tour of the subcontinent to strengthen Greenpeace India's campaign for 'corporate accountability', will camp in and around Alang for almost two weeks.

Authorities here expect a confrontation between Greenpeace on one side and the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) and the ship-breakers on the other as Greenpeace activists plan to stop Alang-bound ships suspected to contain toxic substances.

"We intend to expose European ship-owners who continue to dump ships-for-scrap and toxic wastes on our shores in clear violation of Indian Supreme Court directives," said G Ananthpadmanabhan, executive director of Greenpeace India. The vessel will undertake "toxic patrolling of the seas" around Alang.

Greenpeace ship-breaking campaigner Ramapati Kumar said that ship-owners and shipping companies make huge profits from ships but do not invest in ensuring clean recycling of ships.

## World's largest cruise ship starts second round of tests

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SAINT-NAZAIRE, France : The **Queen Mary II**, the largest passenger ship ever built, left port in western France on Friday for a second round of tests ahead of its maiden transatlantic voyage in January.

Despite beautiful weather on France's Atlantic coast, the sight of the massive liner leaving Saint-Nazaire attracted far fewer onlookers than it did in late September, when a crowd of thousands applauded the ship's departure.

A team of 400 engineers will put the ship through a series of trial runs between the offshore islands of Belle-Ile and Ile d'Yeu to ensure that the ship is up to code. The tests were expected to run through Tuesday.

"Everything that has not been tested will be checked this time," said Jean-Remy Villageois, project manager for French shipbuilder Chantiers de l'Atlantique, a subsidiary of struggling engineering giant Alstom.

The 150,000-tonne vessel - which is 345 metres long, 41 metres wide and stands as high as a 23-story building - will be able to accommodate some 2,600 passengers and 1,250 crew members.

The ship will include a 1,000-seat theatre, a planetarium, a spa, a ballroom, five swimming pools, 2,000 bathrooms, 3,000 telephones, 4,500 steps and hundreds of works of art. Cunard, owned by US cruise group Carnival, is paying US\$800 million (695 million euros) for the new crown jewel of its fleet.

The cruise liner - expected to be in use for some 40 years – is scheduled to be delivered to Cunard in December, and then to make its first trip from Southampton, southern England, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on January 12, 2004. **Queen Elizabeth II** will christen the ship on January 8 in Southampton

## Bisso Marine Loads Water Injection Module onto TRITON VIII

Bisso Marine Company, Inc., heavy lift division recently loaded on to the M/V **Triton VIII** a 300 ft. by 60 ft. by 12 ft water injection module. Bisso's heavy lift derrick barge, **LILI BISSO** performed the lift. The M/V **Triton VIII** is owned by Heerema Marine Contractors. The module was constructed by Premier Industries of Harvey Louisiana. The module is bound for the **Zafiro Producer**, FPSO, in Equatorial Guinea, West Africa. The 350 ton module will be used to inject water under extremely high pressure to numerous wells simultaneously to enhance oil recovery. The power source for the unit is a 7000 BHP Solar Turbine with a 3500 GPM X 2300 PSI pump.

## Japan gaat 400 walvissen vangen in expeditie bij Antarctica

Een vloot van vijf walvisvaarders is vrijdag vertrokken uit de haven van het Zuid-Japanse Shimonoseki voor de jaarlijkse expeditie naar Antarctica. De vloot is van plan zo'n 440 dwergvinvissen te vangen voor een omstreden onderzoeksprogramma van de Japanse overheid.

De vangst van de walvissen, die is goedgekeurd door de Internationale Walvisvaartcommissie (IWC), heeft scherpe kritiek gekregen van milieuactivisten en landen die tegenstander zijn van de jacht op de dieren. Volgens hen heeft de 'walvisvangst voor onderzoek' commerciële doeleinden, omdat het vlees uiteindelijk gewoon wordt verkocht. Japan zegt de bevindingen van de walvisvaarders te gebruiken in onderzoeken naar de walvispopulatie en -migratie die moeten aantonen dat de commerciële vangst



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kan worden hervat zonder ernstige consequenties voor de walvisstand te hebben.

De IWC stelde in 1986 een verbod in tegen de commerciële walvisvaart om de bedreigde diersoort te beschermen. Een jaar later gaf de commissie Japan wel toestemming een onderzoeksprogramma op te zetten om de walvispopulatie in de gaten te houden. Om de kosten van het programma - zo'n 32 miljoen euro - te dekken, verkoopt de overheid het vlees van de dieren na het onderzoek aan restaurants.

Japan is wereldwijd een van de grootste consumenten van walvisvlees, dat in het land wordt beschouwd als een delicatessen

### Rotterdam helpt Scheveningse vissers



**Hr.Ms. Rotterdam**, sinds 5 november onderweg naar Monrovia, heeft haar eerste patiënt behandeld. Op ongeveer 120 km ten zuidwesten van het Britse Lands End vroeg het Scheveningse vissersschip Johanna Maria om tandartshulp voor een van de opvarenden. De patiënt werd hierop door een Lynx-helikopter van boord gehesen en naar de Rotterdam vervoerd.

Daar bleek dat de man een kaakontsteking had. Na een korte behandeling en de juiste medicatie was de Rotterdam een opgeluchte visser en wat verse haring rijker. Het schip zal op 18 november voor de kust van Monrovia aankomen.

## SHIPYARD NEWS

### SSW bullish about its future

KARL-Heinz Jahncke, managing director of insolvent German shipbuilder SSW, is bullish about prospects regarding newbuilding contracts from European owners. The yard has signed a sub-contract with fellow struggler HDW to build four accommodation blocks, two foreship and other sections for 2,500TEU containerships ordered by Münchmeyer Petersen Capital from the Kiel builder. That would bridge a gap in work following delivery of the containership ER Elsleth to ER Schiffahrt next month. SSW won the sub-contract in a bid battle against Polish builders, and was only achieved by extending the working week for the remaining 380 workers from 35 to 38 hours. The ER Elsleth is the last of six ships of an identical design to the MPC ships. Ironically losses suffered in the construction of the ER Schiffahrt six-ship order led to SSW filing for insolvency in September 2002, and the subsequent sub-contracting of three hulls at Daewoo Mangalia yard in Romania to cut costs

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## **Furious hauliers block Genoa port**

HAULIERS have blocked access to Genoa's VTE terminal after queuing for three days because high winds had halted operations at the port. Fairplay understands that some hauliers had even called on police to 'free them from abduction' because VTE would not allow them to leave the port. Despite their low-profile, VTE's Panamax cranes are unable to work in strong winds and crane drivers are forced to stop working for safety reasons. The halt to operations had also caused a long queue of ships waiting to berth and some masters threatened to re-route their cargo to neighbouring ports, at which point VTE started resuming operations. But the hauliers were furious at the way they had been treated and went on strike, accusing VTE management of only being concerned about their shipping clients. The port authority this morning called on all parties to solve the dispute

## **Nordo-Link upgrades Baltic link**

NORDO-Link, part of the Finnlines group, will add a fourth ro-ro on its service between Malmö in southern Sweden and Travemünde in Germany. Starting on 13 January, the 20,000gt **Finnsailor** will join the Lübeck Link and Malmö Link, both of 33,100gt, and the 26,000gt **Finnarrow** in the operation in the southern Baltic. Finnsailor that has 119 passenger berths and 1,696 lane metres of freight capacity, will be transferred from Finnlines' operations in the northern Baltic. The company currently has three sailings a day in both directions, but customers have suggested that a night time departure from Malmö would be needed. Now the last ferry departs the Swedish port at 2200 and the next one will be the morning sailing at 1000 the following day. The port in Malmö is part of Copenhagen Malmö Port, the Swedish-Danish port company with business on both sides of the Sound

## **HORNBECK OFFSHORE REPORTS THIRD QUARTER 2003 RESULTS**



**Top :** The **HOS BRIGADOON** in Port Fourchon – **photo : Piet Sinke ©**

Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc. announced that revenues for the quarter ended September 30, 2003 increased 26.5 percent to \$28.2 million compared to \$22.3 million for the same quarter in 2002. Operating income was \$8.3 million or 29.4 percent of revenues for the third quarter of 2003, compared to \$7.2 million or 32.3 percent of revenues for the same quarter in 2002. Third quarter 2003 net income was \$2.2 million compared to \$2.0 million for the third quarter of 2002.

The primary reason for the increase in revenue was the increase in the size of the Company's fleet by an average of 8.3 new generation offshore supply vessels ("OSVs") during the third quarter of 2003 compared to the third quarter of 2002. The decrease in operating margin was primarily due to soft market conditions in the Company's OSV segment.

### **Nine-Month Results**

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, revenues increased 22.9 percent to \$81.6 million resulting in operating income of \$27.3 million or 33.5 percent of revenues, compared to revenues in the same period last year of \$66.4 million, which resulted in operating income of \$24.8 million or 37.3 percent of revenues. Net income totaled \$9.1 million for the first nine months of 2003, compared to net income of \$8.4 million for the first nine months of 2002.

## **NAVY NEWS**

### **Navy sues French frigate contractor**



Taiwan's navy has filed a US\$590 million lawsuit against French military contractor Thomson-CFS over the 1991 La Fayette frigate deal, *The Liberty Times* reported.

Quoting an unnamed military source, the report said the navy had hired a French lawyer to file the lawsuit in a French court against Thomson-CFS, which has been renamed Thales. The navy is demanding Thomson-CFS return a US\$500 million kickback allegedly paid to officials from France and China to smooth the deal. The navy is also seeking US\$90 million for the damage the La Fayette scandal has caused to its image, the paper said. The hearing for the civil suit will open next month, the paper said. Taiwan ordered six Lafayette frigates from France in 1991 costing US\$2.8 billion dollars to beef up its sea defenses against China. The six frigates are now serving in Taiwan's navy. The contract barred the taking of commissions, but French middlemen sought US\$500 million from Taipei to remove Chinese and French opposition to the deal. China bars France, which has diplomatic ties with Beijing, from selling arms to Taiwan.

## Pearl Harbor submarines in joint naval exercise

Japan's navy began a major annual training exercise yesterday, including joint manoeuvres with the U.S. Navy, mobilizing as many as 25,000 personnel, 80 ships and 170 aircraft around Japanese shores.

During the 10-day manoeuvres -- the largest this year -- the Maritime Self-Defense Force will be joined by the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet to simulate anti-submarine, air defense and anti-ship warfare, according to Japan's Defense Agency. The training is part of an annual exercise aimed at countering a "national crisis," the agency said. The U.S. Navy is mobilizing about 10 Japanese-based vessels, including two submarines from Pearl Harbor, the aircraft carrier **USS Kitty Hawk** and destroyer **USS Curtis Wilbur**, as well as some 7,500 personnel, Navy spokesman Jon Nylander said. Among the Japanese vessels participating is the 7,250-ton **Kirishima**, a destroyer equipped with the advanced Aegis air defense system. Reconnaissance planes and helicopters will also take part.

Officials refused to comment on exactly where the maneuvers were being held, saying only that they were in "Japanese waters."

Japan has been providing noncombat assistance such as refueling and shuttling of supplies to U.S. and British ships in the Arabian Sea since late 2001 to support the U.S.-led war against terror. Japan's pacifist constitution restricts its military to a noncombat role overseas.



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Three Japanese warships carrying about 600 sailors left for the Arabian Sea in late October after the Cabinet approved a six-month extension of the mission.



**USS Nimitz** arrives in her homeport at Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, November 5, 2003. Nimitz flew more than 6,500 missions, sent more than 4,790,000 e-mails and traveled more than 63,500 nautical miles during her extended 8-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**High Speed Vessel Two (HSV 2)** Swift is participating in the West African Training Cruise (WATC) 2004, a regularly scheduled exercise, conducted since 1978, consisting of a series of bilateral interactions between the United States and individual African nations. Host nation participants in this year's WATC include Cameroon, Ghana, Gambia, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and South Africa



## MOVEMENTS

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The **STENA VOYAGER** leaving Stanraer (Scotland) bound for Belfast  
Photo : Tommy Bryceland ©

## BULFORD DOLPHIN ENROUTE MEXICO



The Greenock based tug **SHANNON** was mobilized to Belfast (Northern Ireland) to assist with the departure of the semi submersible rig **BULFORD DOLPHIN**, this rig is due to be towed to Mexico by the **FAR GRIP**.

(Photo's : Tommy Bryceland ©)



Offshore Ijmuiden the first attempt to install the current measuring pole was aborted due to the weather situation, the spread consisting out of the sheerlegs **MATADOR 3**, the jack up platform **DE ZEEBOUWER** and the tug **TAKTOW 1** will start a second attempt during Sunday when the weather forecast is more favorable for the operation.

Photo's : Henk Doornhein ©

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Passenger cruise, **OLYMPIA I**, as seen on Nov 7th 2003. Greek flag, 5119 gross tonnage, built in 1953.

Ship is laid up since some years at Eleusis bay anchorage in Greece.

**Photo :**  
**George Grekos ©**

Cruise passenger **S. Solar**, St Vicent and Grenadines flag. Built in 1953.

As seen November 7th 2003, at Eleusis anchorage Greece.

Ship is the legendary **Stella Solaris** which is recently sold to Indian interests for scrapping. The famous lady is going to depart in about 5 to 7 days, heading to Alang India.

**Photo : George Grekos ©**







The tug **EN AVANT 5** towed a loaded barge from Stettin to Rotterdam

Photo : Gijs Versluis ©



The **MSC HINO** outward bound at Flushing pilot station

Photo : Willem Kruit ©

## **AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS**

### **Easyjet fills more seats**



No frills airline Easyjet has unveiled a further strong increase in passenger numbers. The company said it carried 1.9 million passengers in October, up by 18% on the same period of 2002.

That brought its total passenger numbers for the year to late October to 20.6 million, a figure boosted by its takeover of rival budget carrier Go last year.

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October's load factor, or the number of passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, rose to 85.5% from 83.8% a year earlier.

Easyjet's passenger tally for October fell short of the 2 million carried by arch-rival Ryanair, which last year increased its capacity by buying KLM's no-frills subsidiary, buzz.

### Press report

However, Ryanair's load factor for October dipped to 84%. Analysts have increasingly begun to focus on load factor amid worries that budget airlines have been expanding too quickly.

Easyjet shares were up 1.25p at 278.25p in early trade. Easyjet's latest passenger figures came as the Financial Times reported that the European Commission was poised to declare some of the incentives Ryanair has received for setting up bases at regional European airports illegal.

Any such ruling would increase Ryanair's costs, and make it more difficult for the airline to negotiate advantageous deals with other small airports.

Ryanair shares were 23 cents lower at 6.73 euros.

## Air India plans to buy Airbus, Boeing planes

The board of India's state-run international flight carrier, Air India, approved on Saturday a plan to buy a mix of 28 planes from Airbus and Boeing Co in a deal estimated to be worth 100 billion rupees (\$2.21 billion).

An Air India statement said the company will buy 10 Airbus A340 and 18 Boeing 737-800 planes.

The plan needs the approval of the Indian government before Air India can place the orders.

## JAL jumbo has near miss with military jet

A Japan Airlines (JAL) jumbo jet came alarmingly close to an unidentified aircraft as it was approaching Naha Airport last Wednesday, the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry said.

The captain of the jetliner who reported the near miss to the ministry Friday said the unidentified aircraft was probably a military plane. Ministry officials launched investigations into the case, suspecting that the unidentified aircraft may be either a U.S. military plane or a Self-Defense Forces aircraft.

At around 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, JAL Flight 933 from Tokyo's Haneda Airport was flying at an altitude of some 360 meters toward Naha Airport when its captain spotted a jet plane on the left side of his aircraft, according to his report to the ministry.

The unidentified plane was flying in the same direction as the JAL plane, and subsequently turned right.



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Shortly after the captain spotted the plane, the traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TACS) on the Boeing 747 went off, ministry officials said. At the instruction of TACS, the jetliner quickly descended and avoided a midair collision.

# Martinair recommences flights to Colombo

***MartinAir commenced scheduled weekly direct flights between Amsterdam and Colombo from November 6.***

MartinAir, a subsidiary of global carrier KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, was operating to Sri Lanka in 2000, but withdrew due to insufficient business. However, the boom in tourism on the strength of the peace process in Sri Lanka has encouraged the airline to resume services, MartinAir's General Sales Agent in Sri Lanka, Carsons Airline Services said. The inaugural flight arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport last week, bringing over 100 passengers. The weekly flight offers 250 seats.

Coordinator Quality and Procedure of MartinAir, R.C. Rob Leinweber said the continuing growth of Sri Lanka's tourism industry, which has seen a 30 per cent increase in recent years, had prompted them to look optimistically at the island again.

He said the real image of Sri Lanka was very different to the one sometimes presented by various international media organisations. Therefore, he had given MartinAir complete assurance to expect "the friendliest of welcomes when they arrive in the island".

"As a European Dutch airline, we have 45 years experience and have seven cargo aircraft. Martinair's resumption of flights to Sri Lanka is its second opening in Asia, following the commencement of flights to Katmandu, Nepal. We are also planning to fly to India," he said.

## RIJNMOND WEATHER

**OBSERVATION LOCATION : HOEK VAN HOLLAND – Sunday 09-11 08:00 hrs**

PRESENT WIND DIRECTION / FORCE	:	E-ly 5	KNOTS
MAX WIND DIRECTION / FORCE LAST 24 HRS	:	ENE 10	KNOTS
PRESENT BAROMETER READING	:	1019.1	hPa
MIN TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	4.1	°C
MAX TEMP LAST 24 HRS	:	10.3	°C
OUTDOOR HUMIDITY	:	84	%
DEWPOINT	:	1.8	°C
WINDCHILL	:	4.3	°C

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



The former **DELFBORG** now named **MAY** at the slip in Alblasterdam – photo : Ton Grootenboer ©

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