

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 226



Number 226 ****DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER***Monday 24-11-2003

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Last Saturday the 4th element of the new to build HSL tunnel underneath the Dordtsche Kil was transported from Barendrecht to the building location, this time with some special guests onboard as can be seen at the pictures above

Photo : Hans de Jong – Maritime Pictures ©

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Marifoon nodig voor communicatie tussen schippers en brug

door Wout Bareman

TERNEUZEN - De bediening van de bruggen over het Kanaal Gent-Terneuzen bij Sluiskil en Sas van Gent werkt niet zoals het moet. De afdeling Zeeland van de schippersvereniging Koninklijke Schuttevaaier zal volgende week bij Rijkswaterstaat aandringen op maatregelen. Maar nu al staat voor de schippers vast dat een directe marifoonverbinding tussen de scheepvaart en de brugwachters onontbeerlijk is.

Schuttevaaier wil, na de zoveelste aanvaring tussen de kanaalbrug bij Sluiskil en een passerend binnenschip, een nieuwe discussie op gang brengen over de communicatie tussen brug en schip. Jaren geleden leidde dat tot een conflict tussen de brugwachters en de leiding van de Scheepvaartdienst Westerschelde, waaronder ook de scheepvaartbegeleiding op het Kanaal Gent-Terneuzen valt. De dienstleiding wilde de coördinatie centraal op de sluizen in Terneuzen regelen om chaos in het marifoonverkeer te voorkomen. De brugwachters weigerden prompt deel te nemen aan een marifoonopleiding omdat ze niet met de passerende schepen mochten communiceren; ze mochten het `radiocontact` alleen uitluisteren.

Aanvaring

Na de zware aanvaring van de ongeladen binnenvaarttanker **Zennestroom** met de brug, een week geleden, vindt de schippersvereniging Schuttevaaier dat de brugwachters en de schippers voortaan direct met elkaar moeten kunnen communiceren. Regiocoördinator J. de Vries van Schuttevaaier-Zeeland, nota bene zelf voor zijn pensioen bij Rijkswaterstaat één van de cursusleiders op dat gebied: „Er is duidelijk iets mis met de bediening van de bruggen. We willen niet wachten op nog meer ongelukken, dus er moeten snel knopen worden doorgehakt. Er moet antwoord komen op de vraag of het ongeluk van vorige week vrijdagavond had kunnen worden voorkomen bij een direct contact met de brug. Dat weten we niet. Maar eigenlijk kunnen we niet wachten op dat antwoord. Ruim een jaar geleden botste het binnenschip Libertad ook al op de stempels van de draaiende brug. Na een jaar hebben we daarover nog geen duidelijkheid. Die zaak ligt nog steeds bij de officier van justitie in Middelburg.``

De **Zennestroom** (3143 ton) van rederij Van der Sluijs was vrijdagavond omstreeks tien uur op weg naar Terneuzen. De kapitein had de havendienst in Terneuzen kenbaar gemaakt dat hij, met het stuurhuis in de laagste stand, geen brugopening nodig had. Maar achter de **Zennestroom** lag een kustvaarder te wachten, die wel een brugopening vroeg. Op het moment dat de brug ging draaien, ging het mis. Bij die manoeuvre zakte de brug iets en daardoor kwam de tanker in aanvaring met één van de stempels van de brug. De kapitein liep zware verwondingen aan zijn gezicht op. De rederij onderzoekt of Rijkswaterstaat aansprakelijk kan worden gesteld voor de schade. Volgens Van der Sluijs had de tanker ruim onder de gesloten brug kunnen doorvaren en waren er vlak voor de sluispassage geen aanwijzingen dat de brug zou gaan draaien.

Navy Rescues Chevron Hostages

Kills one kidnapper, arrests 20 others

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A kidnapper was gunned down yesterday and 20 of his colleagues arrested when a Nigerian Navy ship on rescue mission swooped on them at the Pennington oil flowstation where the armed bandits have held hostage 18 workers of US oil major, Chevron Texaco, in the last two days.

The rescue operation was launched by the Joint Military Task Force on the Niger Delta, with the Naval warship **NNS Kyanwa** in the lead.

At least one of the hostages was seriously injured during the rescue operation. THISDAY gathered that the rescue operation was made more difficult by the fact that the kidnappers wielded highly sophisticated arms and resisted being dislodged.

"One of the hostage-takers was killed and a Chevron staff seriously wounded in the course of the operation," a top official of the military task force told THISDAY on the phone.

The youths, our cheeks revealed, stormed the flowstation on Tuesday demanding the immediate payment of N260 million to an indigenous security company said to have worked for Chevron on the platform. They also demanded for compensation for oil spillages that allegedly occurred in the area in the recent past.

The workers were abducted on Wednesday when the youths of Bini-Oru Security from the Foropa Community stormed ChevronTexaco's Middleton and Pennington Oil Platforms off the coast of Bayelsa State. The action has since led to loss of 300 barrels of oil per day (bpd) following the closure of the Middleton platform.

The international oil market reacted swiftly to the attack on the US oil firm, with crude prices rising sharply to \$32 per barrel. Chevron said in a press statement signed by the company's General Manager, Public and Government Affairs, Mr. Sola Omole, that following intense negotiations with the youths, four of the kidnapped workers was initially released.

"Fourteen persons are still being held by those who boarded the facilities. So far, no one has been reported injured," the company said. Chevron said the incident has been reported to federal security agencies. It added that both the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and other state agencies, had also been informed of the kidnap.

"Senior officials of the Bayelsa State Government were helping with the negotiations to ensure a safe and peaceful resolution of the incident," it stated. Wednesday's abduction of Chevron workers, was the second of such attack on the company's personnel in two weeks. Early last week, 12 oil workers were kidnapped on the Escravos waters on their way to production facilities. The 12 were released later.

The latest issue almost disrupted participation of ChevronTexaco in the Annual International Conference of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Exporationists (NAPE) in Abuja, as its representatives hurriedly evacuated their exhibition stand. "This onslaught is getting too much, it seemed the youths have turned it into a big-time business," said a senior official of the company. Chevron said in the statement that it was prepared to take further actions deemed necessary to ensure the safety of its personnel and protect the NNPC/Chevron joint venture's assets.

It would be recalled that Chevron, Nigeria's third biggest oil producer, has been losing 140,000 bpd of its oil output since last July, after the company was forced to close all its swamp production facilities following rising ethnic violence in the Warri area of Delta State. The Nigerian Gas Association (NGA), a body of gas producing and distribution companies, said yesterday it was worried by the incessant youth restiveness, which it said, was induced by the deep sense of marginalisation in the Niger Delta.

According to the spokesman of the group, Mr. Mike Owhoko, the body will hold a stakeholders' session next week to look at how host communities could be involved in the effective management of crisis to

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reduce threats. NGA noted that the unrest in the Niger Delta has eaten deep into Federal Government revenue.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian kidnap saga, coupled with yesterday's multiple explosions in Istanbul, Turkey and reports of a possible decline in US crude oil stocks, sent oil prices to a high \$32.92 per barrel at the New York Mercantile Exchange .

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Alvaro Silva, said the group will produce more oil if prices remain outside its \$22-\$28 a barrel band. OPEC has pledged to keep its basket price within the range by raising output by 500,000 barrels a day if the basket price holds above \$28/bbl for 20 consecutive trading days, or lowering output by 500,000 b/d if the basket price stays below \$22/bbl for 10 consecutive trading days.

OPEC will meet on December 4, to settle new target output ceilings. It cut production by 3.5 percent last September to defend the band after a sudden steep fall in prices triggered fears of a price collapse.



Historical photo of the **VINTANGE** which struck an unknown object in front of the Flushing boulevard at the Westerscheldt River in 1956-57,

Foto : collection **Henk Kort** (kapitein Brulboei van de Rotterdamsche Lloyd)

Prosecutor to determine whether truck's load violated cargo laws

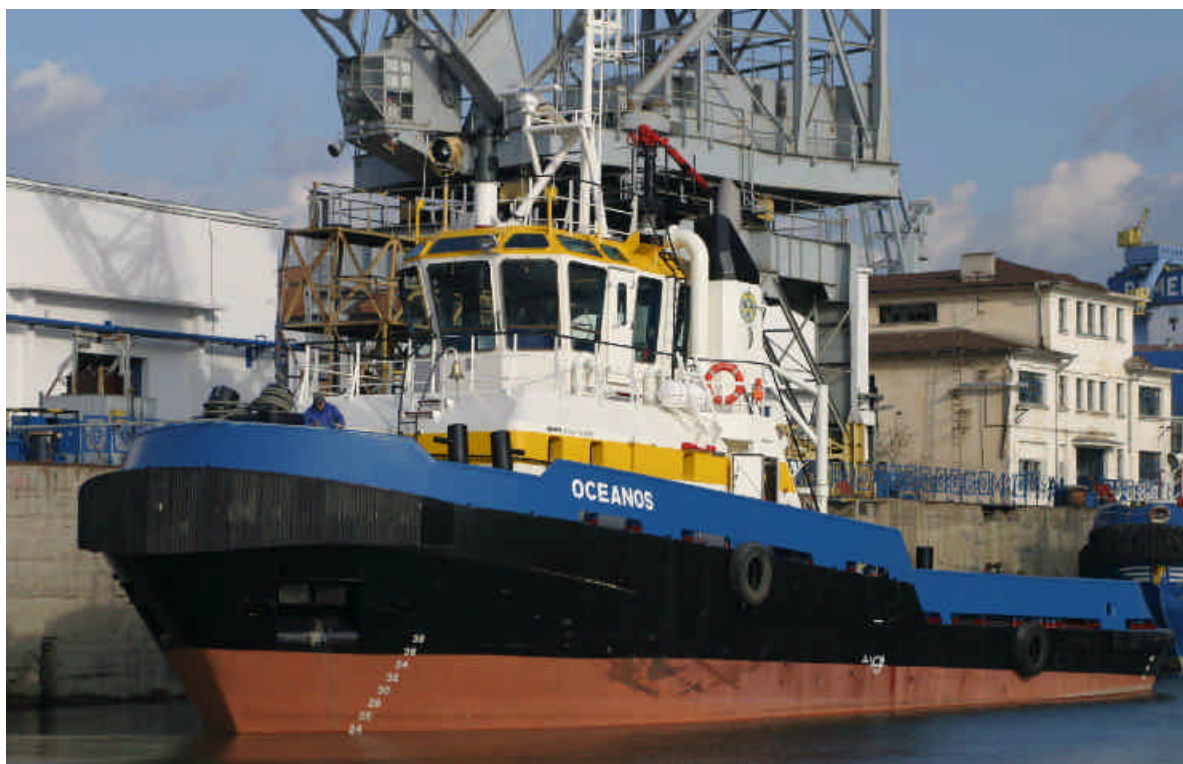
A Piraeus prosecutor ordered a preliminary investigation to determine whether a truck's cargo of chemicals, which caught fire aboard the Knossos Palace ferry early on Wednesday, had violated existing legislation regarding dangerous loads. The probe is also to determine whether Port Authority workers, responsible for checking the cargo of vehicles, carried out the necessary checks. Meanwhile, Iraklion police said they arrested two men disembarking from the ship at the Cretan port on Wednesday after discovering more than 700 grams of heroin, nearly 200 grams of cocaine and over 500 ecstasy pills in their car

CASUALTY REPORTING

FIRST (MONGOLIA)

Thirteen sailors were rescued from Russian vessel Fest (? general cargo First) today during a storm in the Sea of Japan. According to the marine rescue centre in Vladivostok, the storm-bound ship listed, water started to leak into the engine-room, and the main engine stopped. The vessel sent an SOS signal. Another Russian ship, which was nearby, came to the rescue. Despite bad weather, with the waves more than six metres high and the wind reaching 20 metres a second, the crew was saved. According to the latest information, the list of the ship in distress reached a critical mark of 60 degrees.

SHIPYARD NEWS



The STANTUG 2909 **OCEANOS** fitting out at the Damen shipyard in Galati (Rumania)
photo : Huib Lievense ©

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Visserijsector wacht klappen

door Harmen van der Werf

MIDDELBURG - R. van de Gruiter, eigenaar van visgroothandel Van de Gruiter in Middelburg, heeft het net gehoord. Eurocommissaris Fischler heeft voorgesteld het scholquotum voor volgend jaar te verlagen met veertig procent. Voor alle Noordzee-landen moet het omlaag van 73.240 naar 44.000 ton, vindt hij. „Als dat doorgaat``, zegt Van de Gruiter, „is dat desastreus. Dan gaan er klappen vallen in de sector.``

Of Fischler zijn zin krijgt, moet half december blijken. De Europese ministers van Visserij komen dan bij elkaar om de visquota voor 2004 vast te stellen. Nederland, het belangrijkste land voor de scholvisserij, gaat zeker proberen de schade zoveel mogelijk te beperken. Minister Veerman van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit zet in op 65.000 ton, altijd nog een forse verlaging.

G. Meun, secretaris van de Federatie van Visserijverenigingen, hoopt van harte dat Veerman slaagt. „Maar je moet weten hoe dat gaat, zulke onderhandelingen. Nederland heeft vijf stemmen op een totaal van ruim tachtig. Wil Veerman iets bereiken, dan zal hij steun moeten zoeken bij de grotere Europese lidstaten die elk tien stemmen hebben. ``t Is altijd een kwestie van geven en nemen.``

Volgens visserijbiologen is de vangst van ondermaatse vis één van de voornaamste oorzaken van de kleinere scholstand in de Noordzee. Veerman is bereid maatregelen te accepteren om dit aan te pakken. Het is de vraag of hij het daarmee redt. Scholvisserij is vooral een Nederlandse zaak.

Nederland heeft 40 procent van het Noordzee-scholquotum. Tel daarbij op de Engelse, Belgische en Duitse kotters in Nederlandse handen en het aandeel stijgt naar 75 procent.

Vishandelaar en -verwerker Van de Gruiter wil zich nog niet gek laten maken. „Ik wacht het af. We hebben het dit jaar ook gered, terwijl het scholquotum al tot een historisch dieptepunt was gedaald.``

Visverwerkende industrie in Nederland haalt vanwege gebrek aan voldoende grondstoffen, met name schol, platvis uit het buitenland. Ook Van de Gruiter doet dat. „Maar ik kan je één ding vertellen, als het scholquotum met veertig procent wordt verlaagd, valt dat niet op te vangen met buitenlandse vis.``

In Urk heeft de visverwerkende industrie inmiddels alarm geslagen. Die is daar ook vooral geconcentreerd met 58 bedrijven en bijna 1600 werknemers. Van de Gruiter`s visfileerderij is de enige in Zeeland en behoort landelijk tot de modernste. Het bedrijf waar zo`n dertig mensen werken, is bijna volledig gemechaniseerd. Wekelijks wordt er 100 tot 120 ton vis verwerkt. Van de Gruiter is ervan overtuigd dat hij 2004 doorkomt. Zijn werknemers hoeven niet te vrezen voor hun baan. „Dat het voor andere, minder gezonde bedrijven moeilijk wordt, staat vast.``

Van de Gruiter vindt dat de Nederlandse vissers gestraft dreigen te worden voor hun nette gedrag. „Ze vissen het scholquotum van dit jaar niet eens op, wordt dan gezegd, maar ze hadden dat al lang op kunnen vissen. Dat is niet gebeurd, omdat ze de vangst netjes spreiden om het jaar vol te maken. Hadden ze dat niet gedaan, dan was het quotum in oktober al opgevist.``

Minoan profits up

Greek ferry operator Minoan Lines said yesterday that nine-month group net profit rose to 4.1 million euros from 0.8 million last year, with sales up 9.5 percent from the same period in 2002. Group nine-month sales totaled 155.2 million euros. It added that on a parent company level, net profits reached 3.6 million euros in the nine-month period compared with a 1.7 million loss a year earlier. Minoan said in a statement that based on the nine-month results it expected to deliver a net profit for the full year 2003.

Anek Lines report 9M profits of 18,93 euros

ANEK Lines announced a 6,11% increase, regarding its 9M sales that reached 136,94 million euros, from 129,05 million euros of last year;s corresponding period.

EBITDA reached 34,35 million euros from 33,62 million euros in 9M:02, while EBT increased by 19,6% reaching 18,93 million euros from 15,83. In other news, ANEK announced that has completed its financing – loans restruction.

NAVY NEWS

French warship visits south China port



A French light frigate arrived at Zhanjiang port city in south China's Guangdong Province, launching a five-day goodwill visit.

The vessel, **Prairial**, is led by Captain Patrick Macary, it has 91 officers and sailors on board. It is the first French warship to visit the port which was open for the first time to two US guided-missile ships in September this year.

During the stay, the crew will meet local officials and have sports contests with Chinese sailors.

Young Fails to Delay Navy's Corvette Tests

THE testing of the South African Navy's new corvettes and their radar equipment will not be delayed after the Cape High Court turned down an application by losing arms deal bidder C'I' to prevent installation of the radar system pending the outcome of arbitration over payment.

Judge Andre Blignault gave weight to the claim by Reutech Radar Systems, which subcontracted the construction and testing of eight tracker radar consoles and software to C'I', that it would be hit with about R15m in penalties and damages if the application was granted.

The judge found C'I' MD Richard Young, on the other hand, had failed to show that it would face irreparable harm if it was forced to wait until an independent expert had decided whether Reutech still owed his company R13m as claimed.

Reutech has argued C'I' failed to comply with their agreement regarding the testing of the consoles and has not satisfied the full contract yet.

Blignault said at the heart of the application was Young's concern his company's rights of ownership might be lost. C'I' was not asking for the consoles to be returned, however, but for outstanding money, and this money had been placed in a trust account by Reutech pending the outcome of the hearing.

A devastated Young said the defeat was a case of a big company with greater resources taking on a small company.

Chinese Navy fleet back at port after overseas visit

A Chinese Navy fleet returned to Zhanjiang Port in south China on Friday, ending its 37-day visit to Guam of the United States, Brunei and Singapore.

The fleet began the trip on Oct. 15 as the first visit by the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army to Guam and Brunei and the second tour to Singapore.

The fleet was composed of the missile destroyer **Shenzhen** and the depot ship **Qinghai Lake**.

MOVEMENTS

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The **VERGINA STAR Z** seen here in Cape Town

Photo : Ian Schiffmann ©

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The **SEARAMBLER** outward bound at Maas Pilot station – photo : Piet Sinke ©



The **Glory C** visited the Clyde last week. She came arrived from Belfast with a part cargo of animal feed. She started off from Rosario in Brazil and should finish her cargo discharge in Scotland. She had an old name the **Bunto** or **Bunko Maru** painted over on the bow and her funnel had **SANKO** markings clearly showing under her present owners colour.

Photo : Tommy Bryceland – Scotland ©

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The **NORA MAERSK** arrived in Wellington (New Zealand) and was assisted by the **TE MARU** when going alongside

Photo : Simon Brown ©



The **RACHEL BORCHARD** outward bound from Rotterdam – photo : Fred van der Spek ©

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The **KIGORIA** operating in Arctic conditions – photo : via **Gerrit Verweij** ©



The Polish tug **POSEJDON** departed with the sheerlegs **MATADOR 3** from Rotterdam bound for Portsmouth (UK)

Photo : top : **Aad Sinke** © / below : **Piet Sinke** ©



AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS



A German border police armored personnel carrier secures a plane of Israel's national carrier El Al Airlines at Berlin Schoenefeld international airport on November 23, 2003. The airport stopped all flights for an hour after security personnel detained a suspicious person on the flight, German radio reported

Right :
A commercial plane of the German company DHL.

DHL has suspended flights to Iraq after one of its planes was hit by a surface-to-air missile



The latest addition to the FREE BIRD fleet , a Airbus A 320 seen at ATATURK airport in Istanbul
[photo : Irfan CALISKAN ©](#)

RIJNMOND WEATHER

OBSERVATION LOCATION : HOEK VAN HOLLAND – Sunday 23-11 17:00 hrs

PRESENT WIND DIRECTION / FORCE	: SE 0 - 5	KNOTS
MAX WIND DIRECTION / FORCE LAST 24 HRS	: E-ly 10	KNOTS
PRESENT BAROMETER READING	: 999.9	hPa
MIN TEMP LAST 24 HRS	: 5.4	°C
MAX TEMP LAST 24 HRS	: 10.6	°C
OUTDOOR HUMIDITY	: 87	%
DEWPOINT	: 11.8	°C
WINDCHILL	: 14.1	°C

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



VOPAK's **DUTCH FAITH** inward bound at the Maas Pilot station Sunday.

photo : Piet Sinke ©

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NOTE :

THE LAST FEW DAYS I AM ENCOUNTERING PROBLEMS WITH CHELLO WITH SENDING THIS NEWSLETTER OUT TO ALL READERS, CHELLO IS AT PRESENT UPGRADING THE SERVER AND IS NOT ABLE TO SEND BULK MAILS OUT LIKE THIS NEWSLETTER, WHICH IS AT PRESENT SEND TO MORE THEN 700 E-MAIL ADRESSES DAILY

SORRY FOR THE INCOVENIENCE.

IN CASE YOU DON'T RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AND IF YOUR CURIOUS IF THE NEWSLETTER WAS MADE THAT DAY YOU CAN ALLWAYS FIND THE NEWSLETTER AT THE WEBSITES:

www.tugspotters.com

www.nautiek.nl

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