

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 073



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News reports received from readers and Internet News articles taken from various news sites.

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The EVELYN MAERSK left the builders for trails – Photo : Bent Mikkelsen ©

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Jupiterstraat 33
2132 HC Hoofddorp
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 2555 62711
Telefax: +31 23 557 1896
E-mail:

smitwijs.sales@svitzerwijsmuller.com

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IN MEMORIAM

Today the sad news reached me that my former seafarer colleague

HERMAN HOUWELING

Passed away Friday night at an age of 68 years old.

Herman sailed with Smit Internationale at the ocean going tugs for more then 25 years since 1960, the last years as Chief Engineer, I remember Herman myself very well, when I was working with him during the "**Ganaveh Project**" in Iran during 1986, when **Herman** encountered an accident, he was hit by a wire ondeck of the Takpull 750, Herman was transported to a hospital in Busher, where the doctors took the wrong conclusion and the wrong treatment was given what resulted in that **Herman** could not walk properly anymore, the hospital was located very close to a nuclear power plant under construction which was bombed everyday by the Iraqi airforce, I remember this was scary, special every night when I was going from Ganaveh to Busher by car to bring clean clothes and food to **Herman**, finally we managed to get **Herman** out of that hospital and transported him to Holland , but it was too late and **Herman** was not able to sail anymore on the ocean going tugs.

Sad memories, which I don't forget

Herewith I wish his family, relatives, friends all the strength with the loss of this live

*******HERMAN rest in peace *******

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Six Bodies Pulled From Sea

The bodies of six dead persons have were reportedly found on the shore of Kismayo, the southern port city of Somalia.

No one recognized the bodies seen at the beach and it is unclear what killed these people. All of them were men thought to have drowned.

Investigations to identify the deceased are ongoing in Kismayo. Muqtar Dhere, a businessman at the seaport, said a number of rescue workers were engaged in removing the bodies out of the sea.

"The six bodies seem to be shored up by the sea wave, but definitely we do not know their identities yet," he said.

He said the government took care of the situation. "They will be taken to the morgue and their identities will be made public by the government," he added.

Smit's Rotterdam Port Workers Resume Strike for Pay Increase

Smit Internationale NV tugboat staff at the Rotterdam port went on strike over wages Saturday for the first time since a court on March 9 ordered an end to a four-day stoppage as it was causing too much damage to the port's refining sector.

Dutch trade union FNV Bondgenoten doesn't know how long the strike will last, union representative Cees Bos said in an e-mailed statement today. The union is seeking an increase in monthly pay and a one-time net payment for each of the division's 240 workers.

The tugboat workers of Rotterdam-based Smit, the world's largest marine salvage company, have held several stoppages since February, forcing customers to seek other companies to tow their ships. Smit handles 70 percent of the traffic at Rotterdam, Europe's busiest port, including the transport of crude oil.

The strike is "very annoying," Claudia van Andel, a spokeswoman for Smit, said by telephone today. "We still hope for a mediator," she said. Profit at Smit almost doubled last year as ship towing in Rotterdam increased because of strong winds and as income rose from salvage contracts including the repair of off-shore oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The harbor towage unit, which also operates at ports in Antwerp, Belgium, and Singapore, accounts for 20 percent of Smit's group sales.

The union wants a pay rise of 45 euros (\$59) a month and a one-time net payment of 800 euros for each of the unit's workers. According to a Smit statement last month, the union is demanding a 16 percent overall raise for a one-year agreement, whereas Smit is offering 16 percent for two years.



The tug **BROEDERTROUW XVI** seen departing with the **VANTAGE** from Rotterdam bound for IJmuiden
Photo : Wim van Noort ©



KNRM LIFEBOAT ZEEMANSHOOP IN ACTION



Saturday the Breskens based KNRM lifeboat **ZEEMANSHOOP** was called out for a small yacht at the Westerscheldt river which encountered problems in the middle of the traffic lane

Photo : Richard Wisse ©

Samenwerking leidt tot drugsvangst

Amerikaanse eenheden en het stationsschip voor de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba, **Hr.Ms. Zuiderkruis**, onderschepten op vrijdag 9 maart ruim duizend kilo cocaïne tijdens een gezamenlijke counterdrugsoperatie. De contrabande werd aangetroffen op een go-fast in het centraal Caraïbisch Gebied.

Door slechte weersomstandigheden opereerde de Amerikaanse boordhelikopter op vrijdag 9 maart vanaf **Hr.Ms. Zuiderkruis**. Tijdens een patrouillevlucht detecteerde de helikopter een verdacht snel varende vaartuig in het centraal Caraïbisch Gebied. De helikopter dwong de snelle boot tot stoppen, waarna het Amerikaanse schip het vaartuig onderzocht. Hierbij werden tientallen balen cocaïne – met een geschat gewicht van ruim 1000 kg – aangetroffen. De vijf opvarenden van het schip zijn aangehouden en overgedragen aan de Amerikaanse autoriteiten.

Na deze succesvolle actie vervolgde **Hr.Ms. Zuiderkruis** haar patrouille op zoek naar andere verdachte eenheden. Hierbij werden nog twee schepen aangehouden en onderzocht, hetgeen zonder verder resultaat bleef.

VERNIEUWD BOOTHUIS IN LAUWERSOOG



Zaterdag is het vernieuwde en vergrootte bemanningsverblijf van het KNRM Station Lauwersoog door de schenker mevrouw **Titia Visser** indienst gesteld door het naambord "**TITIA VISSER**" te onthullen.

Photo : Pim Korver FILM+VIDEO ©

Erika manager denies moving crew from France

SSG-GÖTEBORG. A senior employee at the Erika's management company, Panship, denies having flown the Indian crew out of France just after the catastrophe so that they could not be questioned by the authorities. Instead, he slammed the actions of the authorities. According to Antonio Pollara, the crew was treated badly, the police took documents from him by force and he was afraid that both he and the Erika's master would be thrown into jail. He told Lloyd's List that there was a revolutionary atmosphere, with the authorities looking for heads to roll before they had established who was responsible. When the court wanted to know why the crew was installed in a hotel and questioned by the insurer and the flag state Malta and right afterwards flown out of the country despite a court having requested that they remain available for questioning, Pollara said that he had never seen any such request.

'Drunk' Carnival passenger rescued

A search and rescue operation off the US coast has ended after a man was spotted in the water and airlifted to safety.

The operation got underway 30 miles off Fort Lauderdale early on Friday after a man was reported to have plunged from a Carnival vessel while drunk. A passenger onboard the 110,200-gt **Carnival Glory** (built 2003) told officials that a 24-year-old man had jumped through a cabin window and plunged into the sea apparently while inebriated.

The man was spotted waving at crew from the sea and was airlifted to hospital, though his condition is unknown.

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The US Coast Guard (USCG) had sent a helicopter and a cutter to the scene and was assisted in the operation by the Carnival vessel and another cruise vessel believed to be in the Disney fleet. The Panama-flagged **Carnival Glory** undertakes five- and seven-day voyages in the Caribbean.

CASUALTY REPORTING



Photo : Swedish Coast Guard ©

SvitzerWijsmuller Sweden lost their tug **BOHUS** Friday afternoon. While approaching Lysekil and Brofjorden the tug lost its power and drifted aground on a rocky bottom in heavy weather. The exact spot was just north of Karingon. Quit quickly the hull was cracking and water came into the engine room. The crew of four was airlifted of and safely landed ashore. **BOHUS** has just returned from nine months of service at Svea Gruva on Spitsbergen along with the Danish flagged college **SKULD**, That is why the funnel are not the regular SvitzerWijsmuller. The charter was with the Norwegian Jebsen Group and the funnel is theirs.

Scrap ship blaze in Japan

Firefighters and a patrol boat were called to the scene of a burning general cargo ship in an eastern Japanese port.

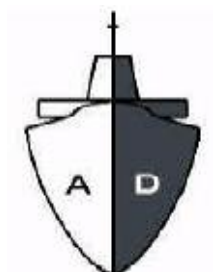
Ten fire units and a Japanese Coast Guard vessel were required to extinguish flames onboard the 1,293-gt Cambodia-flagged **Zhong Sheng** (built 1979) after part of its cargo of scrap metal ignited in the port of Kisarazu, Chiba on Friday morning. All 11 Chinese crew members escaped unharmed from the blaze which took hold in some of the vessel's scrap iron cargo. A crew member first noticed the blaze and alerted the ship's port agent who in turn informed the coast guard.

The **Zhong Sheng** is owned by a Chinese company.

NAVY NEWS

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ANGLO DUTCH SHIPBROKERS bvba



Waterstraat 16
2970 SCHILDE
BELGIUM
Tel : + 32 3 464 26 09
Fax : + 32 3 297 20 70
e-mail : anglodutch@pandora.be



The **FORT ROSALIE** visited the port of Brest
Photo : Jacques Carney ©

Electric Boat Awarded Contract

Electric Boat Corporation, Groton, Conn., is being awarded a \$9,990,000 modification to previously awarded cost-plus-fixed-fee contract (N00024-96-C-2100) for execution of the **USS Texas (SSN 775)** post shakedown availability to accomplish the maintenance, repair, alterations, testing, and other work. Work will be performed in Groton, Conn., and is scheduled to be completed by February 2008. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The Supervisor of Shipbuilding Conversion and Repair, USN, Groton, Conn., is the contracting activity.



The **A 271 GOLD ROVER** seen in Santos (Brazil)

Photo : Bruno Pricoli ©



The Peruvian government purchased the 2nd NOVOSHIP tanker **GRIGORIY NESTERENKO**, the tanker arrived at the Callao Anchorage and will be renamed soon in **BAP ZORRITOS** and will sail for the Peruvian Navy in the coastal trade, the same as the sistership **PETR SCHMIDT** which was renamed **BAP BAYOVAR** last month.

Photo : Piet Sinke ©

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info@disamaritime.com
www.disamaritime.com

Ketelaarstraat 5c
B-2340 Beerse
Belgium

Tel : + 32 (0) 14 62 04 11
Fax : + 32 (0) 14 61 16 88



info@disacivil.com
www.disacivil.com

SSN yard delivers container carrier

SSG-KOLOBRZEG. After a 2-week delay, the SSN shipyard in Szczecin delivered the container carrier **Cap Prior** (ex-Almathea) on 8 March to Marquest Shipping Co Ltd, a German-controlled shipping company registered on Cyprus. The **Cap Prior** is the 19th unit in the B-178/I series. The vessel's first voyage will be to Genua after which she will sail to and from South America on a charter with Hamburg Süd. The 2-week delivery delay will have financial repercussions for the crisis-hit yard.

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Telephone : (31) 10 - 453 03 77
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Danes buys tug in Finland

SSG-RINGKØBING. Danish bulk-operator Britannia Bulk DK A/S has enlarged its tug fleet with the purchase of the Finnish owned (Alfons Håkans) tug **Baus**. It has now been renamed **Vornaes II** and flies the Panama flag. The tug is unusual as it now has been owned by Norwegians, Swedish, Finnish and now Danish owners during its 37-year long career. It will be converted into a pusher-tug and then work the fleet of bulk barges owned by Britannia Bulk DK, which took over the SvitzerWijsmuller bulk barge fleet and pusher tugs in 2006. Since then it has purchased an additional bulk barge from Alfons Håkans and now also a tug to operate the barge. The **Vornaes II** was built in 1970 as the **Baus** by P. Høivolds in Kristiansand S and is fitted with a MaK engine giving it a bollard pull of 32 tonnes.



The **TEKNIK PERDANA** moored at Loyang Marine base (Singapore) – Photo : Capt Jelle de Vries ©

Sarawak Timber Industry to Seek Extra Land for Shipbuilding

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) hopes to obtain another 49 hectares of land to facilitate the shipbuilding industry in the new township of Tanjung Manis in Sarikei. Minister of Urban Development and Tourism Datuk Sri Wong soon Koh said an earlier allocation of 81 hectares for the industry had been fully taken up by local and overseas shipbuilding companies. STIDC is coordinating the industrial development of the township which also houses the country's second biggest deepsea integrated fishing port. He said the Tanjung Manis Shipbuilding zone would cater for the construction, repairs and maintenance of ocean liners and cargo vessels of up to 20,000 tonnes. If approved, the shipbuilding industry would have 130 hectares of land allocated to it, he said. He said Sibuan would be linked to Tanjung Manis when the 88-km long Sibuan/Bawang Assan/Serdang/Tanjung Manis Highway project is completed in 2009. The government is spending RM530 million for the project which is expected to attract more investments into the area once it is completed.

Dubai Ports completes sale of controversial US operations

Dubai port operator DP World has completed the sale of its US operations, drawing the curtain on its controversial investment in the United States, the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.

The state-owned company said it has finalised on Friday a deal to sell its wholly owned subsidiary P O Ports North American (POPNA) to AIG Global Investment Group.

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It did not disclose the price. An Internet statement said the sale "fulfills the commitment made by DP World last year to sell its US assets to an American buyer." DP World had acquired its US operations early last year through its 6.9 billion dollars acquisition of P O -- a deal making it one of the world's largest port operators.

But following fierce congressional opposition to the US part of the deal on security grounds, and despite the backing of President George W. Bush, the Dubai government decided in March to relinquish DP World's operations at six US ports.

DP World announced in December it had reached a deal to sell its US port operations to a subsidiary of AIG. The deal was reportedly delayed as US port authorities slapped an 84-million-dollar transaction fee on it, which DP World said in February it would not pay. DP World did not refer to any settlement that may have been reached over the transaction fee.



The **SEA CLOUD** seen in Bridgetown (Barbados) - Photo : Stuart Warmink ©

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The **AL SALHEIA** seen arriving in Rotterdam-Europoort

Photo : Teun van der Zee ©

Strike over LNG terminal

Marseille port workers have blocked merchant shipping there as they strike for the right to work the Gaz de France terminal now under construction. Local news reports say the strike began on Wednesday at the petroleum facilities of Fos and Lavera and has now been extended to the merchant traffic of the strike-prone port but does not affect passenger shipping. Around a dozen ships are said to be stuck at the quays and another 20-odd in the roads.

The strikers are demanding that they, as employees of the port of Marseille, be entrusted with the connecting and disconnecting of LNG ships calling at Gaz de France's Fos-sur-Mer terminal. Gaz de France wants to use its own employees for security reasons, according to the local reports.

SvitzerWijsmuller finally buys Adsteam

SvitzerWijsmuller have closed the deal on the purchase of Australian tug-company Adsteam. The board of Adsteam has finally accepted SvitzerWijsmullers offer for the shares at a price of AUD 2.54 (EUR 1.51) and SvitzerWijsmuller have accepted that it will only be possible to purchase 84.78 per cent of the shares in the company instead of the intended 90 per cent. In February the last official hurdles were cleared as the English competition authorities made it clear the SvitzerWijsmuller was to sell its activities in Liverpool in order not to create a nation wide monopoly business. The purchase will add around 200 tugs to SvitzerWijsmuller fleet of around 300 tugs making the company the worlds largest tug operator.



The **MINERVA NOUNOU** seen in Rotterdam-Europoort

Photo : Jan Oosterboer ©

MOVEMENTS

THIS SECTION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY :



MULTRASHIP Towage & Salvage

Scheldekade 48

4531 EH Terneuzen

The Netherlands

Tel : + 31 – 115 645 000

Fax : + 31 – 115 645 001

Internet

commercial@multraship.com

<http://www.multraship.com>



Update on Ralph Tuijn's trip to cross the Pacific by rowing boat from Callao to Brisbane,

After 3 days rowing , Ralph covered 68 nm, 7005 nm to go to Brisbane

He reports as follows (sorry in Dutch)

"In de avond weer eens heerlijk een Kip-Ceylon

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maaltijd gemaakt. De minst favoriete maaltijd op de Atlantic. Dan blijft er in elk geval 1 minder over voor het einde van de tocht, en van een berg Parmezaanse kaas en tabasco gaat het ook heel anders smaken. De tweede nacht gaat in en ik kan totaal nog niet wennen aan het twee-uur-op en twee-uur-af ritme in de nacht, zodat ik bekaf ben in de morgen."

's Ochtends bel ik even met mijn moeder, die vooral zeker wil weten dat ik altijd aangeliend zit. Even later heb ik mijn eerste radio interview vanaf de Pacific op Radio 1 bij het KRO programma: "Dingen die gebeuren". Net als op de Atlantic zal ik daar wekelijks te horen zijn op vrijdagmiddag tussen 14.30 en 15.00 uur. Bij de wereldomroep ben ik wekelijks op dinsdag te horen en ieder eerste zaterdag van de maand om 7.20 bij de NCRV op radio 2.



The **CAPE CHARLES** arrived in Amsterdam
Photo : Slotmaritimephoto ©



The **STOLT BASUTU** seen leaving Callao Port (Note the **Unicorn** funnel)
Photo : Piet Sinke ©

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This ship entered Cape Town as the "**Essco Bounty**" on 4 October 2006 and was placed under arrest. During her six month stay her name changed to "**Maria A**" in December and then again to "**Alkistis**" early in March 2007 without even shifting from her berth.

She finally left Cape Town 16 March 2007

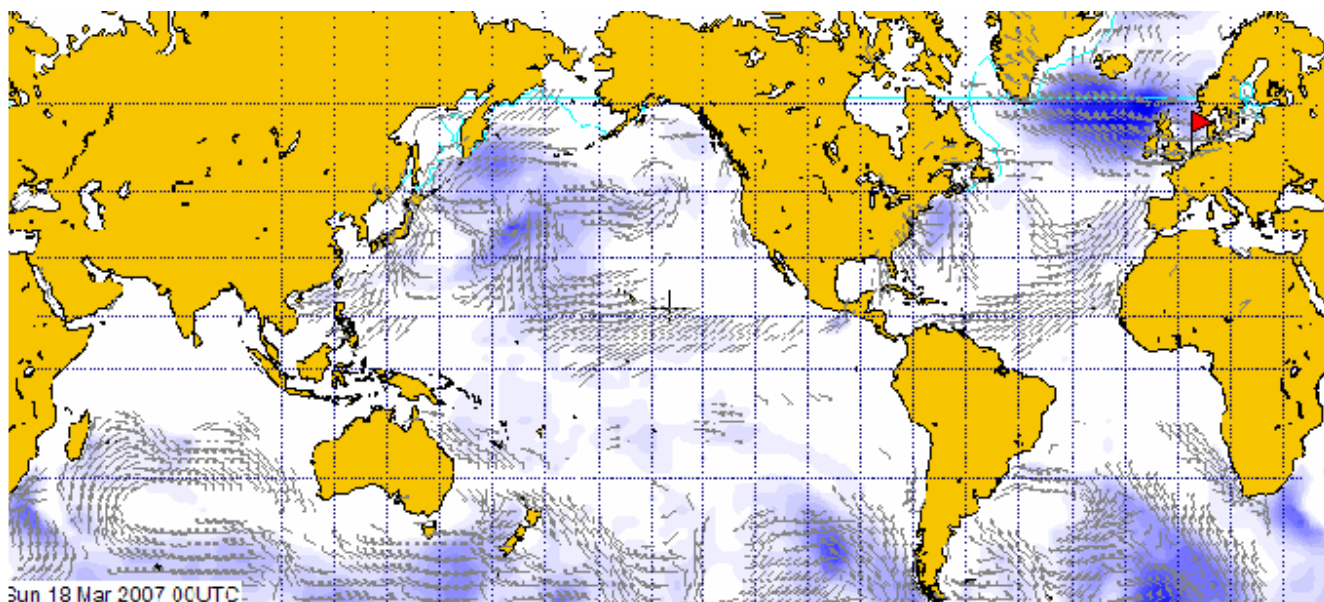
Photo : Glenn Kasner ©

MARINE WEATHER

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Today's wind (+6Bft) and wave (+3m) chart. Created with SPOS, the onboard weather information & voyage optimisation system, used on over 500 vessels today.

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The Trailer hopper dredger **VOLVOX ASIA** seen dredging in the port of Dampier (Australia)

Photo : Jeroen Anneveld ©

BOEKBESPREKING

Door : Frank NEYTS

"Trafalgar 200 Through the Lens".

Een prachtige foto zegt soms meer dan een volledig boek. Sommige ervaringen kunnen niet met woorden worden weergegeven, een foto komt ons hier vaak ter hulp. Het prachtige fotoboek "**Trafalgar 200 Through the Lens**."

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Queen Elizabeth II 80th Birthday Edition van DP Kilfeather is hier het sprekende bewijs van. Het boek is een privé-uitgave van de freelance fotograaf en is een verzameling van stuk voor stuk unieke foto's van de vlootparade gehouden voor de Britse Zuidkust naar aanleiding van de 200ste verjaardag van de Battle of Trafalgar.

Het boek biedt niet alleen een magnifiek beeld van de festiviteiten die rond de vlootparade werden gehouden, menig foto biedt de gelegenheid om oorlogsschepen die onze wateren niet dagelijks bevaren in close-up te zien. Maar het waren niet alleen de schepen die bij de parade centraal stonden, ook de mensen aan boord werden in het boek op de voorgrond gebracht.

"Trafalgar 200 Through the Lens" (ISBN 0-9553004-0-1) telt 173 pagina's. Het boek kost £29.50 (plus P&P) en is enkel te krijgen bij de auteur, DP Kilfeather, 5 West Mead, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 2SL, UK. Tel. +44.1903.775.748, E-mail: des@deskilfeather.com
Zonder twijfel een aanrader

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