

## DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 288



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**The CLARISSA seen enroute Rotterdam**  
**Photo : Chris van der Linden ©**

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## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The tug **BB OCEAN** seen approaching the **MSC Napoli** wreck site in Lyme Bay  
Photo : **Adrian Scales** ©

## Tientallen doden bij scheepsramp Congo



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Bij een scheepsramp in de Democratische Republiek Congo (RDC) zijn zondag zeker veertig mensen om het leven gekomen. Dit hebben de autoriteiten van het Afrikaanse land maandag laten weten.

Op de rivier de Congo was een boot met honderden opvarenden en een grote lading olie en hout gekapseisd en gezonken. Meer dan 220 mensen konden worden gered.



The **CANDY MACHINE** seen in US waters – Photo : Crew Jo Calluna ©

## Master praised, Samsung slammed over spill

Nearly 10,000 people are involved in clean-up as the **Hebei Spirit** oil slick spreads 40km along the shore, polluting 8,200 hectares of coastline. Five aircraft and 138 specialist ships have been deployed. The breaches in the vessel's hull have now been breached while the remaining oil is transferred into the tanker **Seyang**, before **Hebei Spirit** is towed into Daesan port. Taean Coast Guard is investigating 20 people, including the tugmasters, while the tanker's manager, V.Ships Singapore, today praised the master "The quick action of Capt Chawla helped lessen the oil spilled," said V.Ships. "The **Hebei Spirit** anchored in a designated area, kept a proper anchor watch and displayed proper anchor signals. When they realised that the tugs were going to pass close by in a potentially dangerous situation, they attempted VHF communication – however without response. Subsequently, the Marine Police was contacted and they also attempted to contact the tug, again without response." "Samsung needs to step up and take responsibility," a spokesman for the owners told Fairplay today. Shares in Samsung Corp, Samsung HI (charterer of the crane and tug) and insurer Samsung Fire & Marine dropped by 3-8% today. The tanker master was praised for trying to move his ship by slackening the anchor chain and using the main engine, and for quick use of ballast after the collision to reduce the outflow of oil. **Source : Fairplay / Lloyds daily news**



## Work starts on biggest cruise liner

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Work to build the world's biggest ever cruise liner is due to start. Construction of the 220,000 tonne ship, with the working title of **Project Genesis**, is due to start at the Aker Yards shipyard in Turku, Finland, when the keel laying ceremony takes place and the first blocks are laid into the dry dock.

Stood on its stern, the 1,180ft liner - able to carry 5,400 passengers - would dwarf Britain's tallest building, the 800ft One Canada Square in Canary Wharf. **Source : Channel 4**



The **GRAND ELENA** seen anchored off Cape Town  
**Photo : Jonathan Mapp ©**

## NK Boat Rescued by S. Korea's Navy

A South Korean patrol boat Monday rescued a North Korean fishing boat with a crew of five that had been drifting for 27 days following engine failure, the Navy said Tuesday.

The Navy ship rescued the fishermen who were aboard a one-ton wooden boat drifting 31 miles northeast of Ulleung Island in the South's East Sea at about 2:30 p.m. Monday, a Navy spokesman said.

The boat left the North's South Hamkyung Province on Nov. 13 and floated into southern waters after its engine broke after one day, the spokesman said. The fishermen were suffering from hypothermia and starvation following their 27-day ordeal. South Korean officials said the North Korean sailors will be allowed to return to the North in their vessel in accordance with their will as soon as they recover.

A South Korean Navy ship also rescued two North Korean soldiers in the East Sea last December. After receiving medical treatment at a military hospital, they returned to North Korea. **Source : koreatimes**

## **Boat sinks off Ecuador, 14 missing**

One person survived and 14 were missing after a boat with suspected illegal immigrants sank in rough seas off north-eastern Ecuador, the navy said on Monday.

The survivor, Guido Guaman, said the boat sailed from Atacamas, in Esmeralda province, and was heading for a ship offshore when it was overturned by high waves, Admiral Milton Lalama said in a statement.

Guaman said he lost sight in the water of 14 other people who were with him on the boat, all presumed illegal immigrants heading for an undisclosed location, Lallama added.

Navy and coast guard vessels and one helicopter were searching for survivors, he said. **Source : timesofindia**

## **Oil prices sink fishing industry**

Thousands of fishermen in Ba Ria – Vung Tau province, which boasts the most developed fishing industry in Vietnam, are heavily burdened by debt incurred after the latest oil price increase.

At the end of November, Vung Tau City's Mr. Bi's fishing boat returned after two months at sea with a VND100mil deficit. Several powerful storms hampered fishing abilities but prices remained the same.

Mr Bi has decided to dock his boat until the situation improves. His four other boats, which are still at sea, will also stay upon return. "The longer I have boats in the water, the greater my losses are," said Mr Bi, adding that even overly good fish sales cannot offset high fuel costs.

Tran Van Quan has also docked his two boats and cancelled his mid December fishing plans. According to Mr Quan, he would spend VND350mil (\$21,870) on fuel for his vessels' each voyage back when the price was VND8,700/litre; this would net him VND40mil (\$2,500). Now that the oil price is VND1,500/litre he would have to spend an additional VND60mil (\$3,750) on fuel, netting him a loss of \$1,250.

Ba Ria – Vung Tau ship owners say they are been caught in a vicious circle. If their boats continue going to sea, they will certainly face losses. However, if their boats stay idle, they will break down.

According to Pham Tinh, Head of the Seafood Committee of Phuoc Tinh Commune and also a boat owner, after the Government announced the oil price increase in November, 100 fishing boats have been left ashore. Many households in Phuoc Tinh Commune fear that they cannot earn a living fishing anymore. Some shipowners have decided to sell their boats to pay their debts.

Mr Tinh said fuel expenses are the most substantial voyage expense. The 17% increase in oil price means a 17% increase in fishing expenses. Meanwhile, the prices of fish have only seen slight increases. Dried cuttle fish, for example, is still VND125-130,000/kg, while other kinds saw a slight rise from VND5,000 to VND5,200/kg.

The disabled fishing industry is not only making boat owners miserable, but is also adversely affecting fishermen. Nguyen Hau, who has been a fisherman for many years, said he could earn VND2.5mil a month before, though the job is very risky.

Mr Minh fears that he cannot find work if ship owners decide to leave boats ashore. "Fishing allows me to earn a little money to feed my wife and children. If I stay jobless, my children will die of hunger," he said. **Source: Tuoi tre**

## CASUALTY REPORTING



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### Cruise ship, cargo vessel collide; minor damage, no injuries

A cruise ship carrying some 1,700 passengers collided with a cargo vessel Monday in a Uruguayan port, but no injuries were reported.

The **Norwegian Dream**, a Bahamas-flagged cruise ship, received damages described as "not serious" above its waterline and remained in harbor as authorities temporarily closed the Montevideo port, Uruguay's navy said in a statement.

The cargo vessel also suffered unspecified damages and at least five containers and some vehicles tumbled into the shallow River Plate estuary, naval authorities said. The ship remained afloat. The passenger ship, which recently left Buenos Aires to begin a 14-day cruise toward the southern tip of South America, was leaving port when it collided with the barge which was "adrift in the entrance channel," Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line spokeswoman Susan Robison said in a statement. "The overall safety of the vessel has not been compromised," Robison said. "However, there is damage to the ship's bow and forward ballast tank. The ship's engineers are conducting a full survey of the ship to ensure there is no further damage."

She said the **Norwegian Dream** is currently anchored off Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, and is expected to return to the dock overnight where it will remain while repairs are conducted prior to resuming its voyage.

The statement said the ship would miss two ports of call before repairs are complete, and passengers were being offered alternate shore excursions before it resumes sailing to Ushuaia, Argentina's southernmost city.

Maritime authorities said they closed the terminal area near the docks as a security precaution, as work cranes on barges tried to pluck the spilled containers from muddy waters made choppy by a day of rain squalls. **Source :** **Herald Tribune**





The **C2C ASTRALIS** enroute from Waterford to Zeebrugge encountered Westerly winds upto Force 11 Bft near Lands End which created damage to several containers and the gangway on starboard side of the vessel

Photo's : Henk Claeys ©



## Vessel carrying 10,000 cattle head sinks in Red Sea

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A freight vessel carrying about 10,000 head of cattle intended for a feast to mark an Islamic festival sank near the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea. The accident occurred Monday and all the cattle head on board drowned. However, all 22 members of the crew were rescued by Yemeni coastguards, WAM news agency reported.

A naval source in Al Hudeida province in Yemen was quoted by local media as saying the coastguards rushed to the area where the ship was stranded and were able to rescue the crew members and transport them to Al-Makha port.

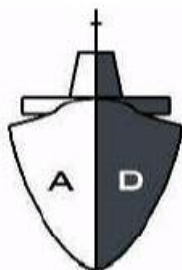
The ship was coming from Somalia towards Djibouti. It was not immediately known why the vessel capsized. The animals were to be sacrificed as part of Eid al-Adha, also known as the Sacrifice Feast, to be celebrated Dec 20.

The festival commemorates prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismael for Allah. Traditionally, a large portion of the meat is given to the poor. **Source : khabrein**

### NAVY NEWS

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The British Type 23 (Duke class) frigate **F 82 SOMERSET** seen moored in Portland

**Photo : Adrian Scales ©**



## £200 million British contracts to boost Royal Navy support

Two British companies were today named as preferred bidders for over £200m of contracts to provide essential maintenance for the Navy's support ships, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). Northwestern Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders of Birkenhead, and the A&P Group were named as the final two contenders.

The RFA flotilla, the Naval workhorse of the armed forces, consists of seventeen ships and totals 397,093 tonnes of shipping to keep the Royal Navy supplied with fuel, food, and ammunition at sea on world-wide operations.

Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, Baroness Taylor said:

"The new support programme will increase the availability and effectiveness of these crucially important ships. It will also generate significant savings through closer collaboration with industry, and sustaining industrial expertise.

I am delighted that, subject to successful negotiations, two British companies will provide this crucial support to the Royal Navy. This is in line with our aims under the Maritime Industrial Strategy."

Testing improved ways of supporting these vessels has already saved about £10 million. The MoD expects to be in a position to place a contract next year, subject to successful negotiations.

The fleet consists of:

- \* 6 Fleet and Support Tankers,
- \* 4 Dry Cargo Fleet Replenishment Ships,
- \* 4 Landing Ships Dock,
- \* 1 Landing Ship (Logistic),
- \* 1 Aviation Training Ship,
- \* 1 Forward Repair Ship.

Notes:

1. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) has seventeen vessels ranging from tankers, fuel and stores replenishment ships through to unique platforms providing such as Aircraft Training and Primary Casualty Reception (**ARGUS**), Forward Repair Station (**DILIGENCE**) and the recently launched Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary) Bay Class (Ships **LARGS BAY**, **LYME BAY**, **MOUNTS BAY** and **CARDIGAN BAY**).

2. Northwestern Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders, of Birkenhead, Merseyside, currently employs over 210 staff and is currently involved in maintenance work on RFA **WAVE RULER**. Over the past year, the company has successfully delivered similar work packages for **RFA DILIGENCE**, **RFA ORANGELEAF**, and **RFA WAVE KNIGHT**.

3. The A&P Group, based at Falmouth in Cornwall and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, employs over 1000 staff across the UK and is under contract for the through life support of RFA **ARGUS**. Over the past year, A&P has completed major work packages for **RFA BLACK ROVER** and **RFA FORT AUSTIN**.

4. The RFA employs over 2000 personnel, and is one of the biggest employers in British Shipping.

5. The RFA has supported the Royal Navy and the Army in Korea, Suez, Cyprus, Beira, Kuwait, Borneo, Belize and Aden. During the Falklands Conflict in 1982, the RFA spearheaded logistic support for the Task Force.

Source : [scoop.co.nz](http://scoop.co.nz)

## HMS RICHMOND VISITS GIBRALTAR

Arriving in Gibraltar on Tuesday morning is the Type 23 frigate, **HMS Richmond**.

The ship has spent the last 6 months on patrol in the North Arabian Gulf where her main task has been to protect offshore Iraqi oil platforms. Given that 90% of Iraqi oil flows through these terminals, these platforms are a major source of income for the emerging Iraqi economy and a prime target for the leaders of any insurgency movement.

In one operation, Richmond worked with the Yemeni coastguard to arrest human smugglers. Having covertly tracked two suspicious dhows throughout the day, under the cover of darkness, **HMS Richmond** followed the two smuggling boats as they headed back to Somalia and co-ordinated a close-quarters intercept. It is believed the boats had been used to smuggle illegal immigrants into Yemen from Somalia.

"Monitoring the suspected smuggling vessels from afar using the ship's tracking capabilities we could clearly see some suspicious activity underway," said Richmond's Commanding Officer, Commander Piers Hurrell. "Using the 'stealthy' features of the Type 23 Frigate, 13 suspected human smugglers were arrested and two vessels seized. The message this sends to others involved in this illegal activity is quite clear."

On her journey to Gibraltar, **HMS Richmond** called at Constanta, Romania where the ships' officers briefed members of the Romanian Naval Headquarters Staff on the operational and logistic aspects of their Gulf deployment.

'I am delighted that we were able to relate our recent experiences to our fellow colleagues as they continue to integrate their forces further into NATO,' said Commander Hurrell.

HMS Richmond, a 436ft Type 23 Duke Class frigate weighing more than 4,000 tonnes, will leave Gibraltar on Friday to return to her home base of Portsmouth. The ship was launched in 1993 and has a crew of 200. Richmond carries state of the art weapons and communications, including anti-submarine torpedoes, harpoon anti-ship missiles and a Merlin helicopter. **Source : gibfocus**

**THE URS TUG UNION DIAMOND IS DUE TO DEPART WITH THE (EX) FEARLESS FROM PORTSMOUTH SATURDAY DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> BOUND FOR GENT WHERE THE FEARLESS WILL BE SCRAPPED**

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The **MISTRAL** conducted trails off IJmuiden

Photo : Jan Plug ©

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The **DUAL CONFIDENCE** seen loading at the salt factory in the port of Harlingen. Never before a ship with this size visited the port of Harlingen, the vessel measures 159.9 mtr in length and is having a beam of 26 mtrs 12.000 tons of salt will be loaded in Harlingen and afterwards another 9500 ton will be loaded in Amsterdam, the destination of the vessel is Pennsylvania.

**Photo : Sipke Hogendorp ©**

## **GAC Opens Ship Agency Offices Australia-wide**

GAC Group announced an expansion plan with the opening of 13 ship agency offices in major ports throughout Australia. The locations include Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone and Brisbane in Queensland; Sydney (country headquarters), Newcastle and Port Kembla in New South Wales; Melbourne in Victoria; Adelaide in South Australia; and Fremantle, Dampier and Port Hedland in Western Australia. Each office will offer a full range of ship agency and maritime ancillary services.

Announcing GAC's latest move from the Sydney headquarters, Christer Sjadoff, GAC Regional Director, Asia Pacific says that it is the first time in the Group's 51-year history that it has launched such a large number of offices in a single country within a span of just two months. Henderson said that while the initial focus is on ship agency support, the company will introduce its extended portfolio such as GAC Fire, Rescue and Safety services, GAC Marine Logistics, as well as GAC-SMHI weather routing for safer voyage in stages at a later date.



The **BONN EXPRESS** seen moored in Veracruz

Photo : Rob Hazelbag ©

## 'Rhapsody of the Seas' debuts in Singapore

A Western-based global cruise brand is making a grand foray into the Asian market.

One of America's and Europe's biggest cruise operators – Royal Caribbean International – made its Asia-Pacific debut with the arrival of '**Rhapsody of the Seas**' in Singapore on Sunday, carrying some 2,000 tourists from Australia and New Zealand.



Photo : Alan Calvert ©

The ship is calling Singapore home for the next two months before calling on ports in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan and South Korea. Rama Rebbapragada, Asia-Pacific Managing Director for Royal Caribbean Cruises, said: "We chose Singapore for two reasons – to be our homeport for the '**Rhapsody of the Seas**' for our Asia programme which we offer in the Southeast region, and also as our corporate headquarters. Singapore has a lot to offer. Most nationalities like to come here and visit."

Last year, 850,000 passengers cruised through Singapore from destinations like Indonesia, India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Europe. The number of cruise passengers in Asia Pacific is also expected to grow by more than 40 percent from 1.07 million in 2005 to 1.5 million by 2010 and 2 million by 2015.

The arrival of 'Rhapsody', with its innovative onboard amenities and award-winning vacation programme which includes rock-climbing, is set to boost tourism in the region.

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Lim Neo Chian, Deputy Chairman & CEO of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), said: "To us, it's our commitment to grow the Asia cruise business. So it's really a demonstrated commitment to Asia. We will work with them to get more cruise ships here to our part of the world and to provide more cruise options to our visitors in Singapore."

With a capacity of over 2,400 passengers and 78,000 tonnes, the 'Rhapsody' is the biggest ship to homeport in Asia.

And with 11 decks, it is also among the tallest. In fact, the ship is so tall that it could not dock at the Singapore Cruise Centre at Harbourfront for fear of running into the cable cars. Instead, it has to dock at the Pasir Panjang Terminal, which is some 15 minutes' coach ride away from the Harbourfront. The arrival of the 'Rhapsody' highlights the need for a newer and bigger terminal for the cruise industry to grow, and STB believes the proposed new Marina South terminal could start work next year.

"In terms of facility, there are basically two issues right now – one is that the bigger ships have got some difficulties getting to the cruise centre; second is that because of the increasing demand in cruise business, the present Cruise Centre is getting a bit congested at times. So essentially we'll have to build new facilities. We've been looking at Marina South and we're working actively with all the different government agencies. We hope to be able to start work next year," said Mr Lim, who is optimistic the new Marina South cruise terminal will be ready in two to three years' time.

Even though 'Rhapsody of the Seas' moves on from Singapore after January, the Royal Caribbean is deploying another ship – '**Legend of the Sea**' – to Singapore at the end of next year. 'Legend' is of a similar class as the 'Rhapsody', but it is shorter and should be able to dock at the Singapore Cruise Centre.



The **SICAL TORINO** seen in IJmuiden  
Photo : Willem Harlaar ©

## Singapore plans second cruise ship terminal

Work on a second Singapore cruise ship terminal is likely to start next year, the chief of the city-state's tourism board said Monday. Lim Neo Chian said on local radio that plans call for a second terminal to be built in the Marina South district, where Singapore's first casino complex is expected to open in 2009.



"We're fairly optimistic that we should be OK to start next year," Lim said. He said some bigger ships have difficulty getting to the current terminal located across from Sentosa island. The facility has two berths for international cruise liners.

Because of increasing demand, the existing facility is also "a little bit congested at times," Lim added. He did not give a cost for the new facility but said "typical developmental issues" still need to be resolved. "Once the key issues are settled we will work at double time to get the cruise terminal up as soon as possible," he said.

Singapore has launched a series of projects to boost its tourism appeal. Among them are two casino developments, and a Formula One road race to be held next year. **Source : channelnewsasia**

## **Danaos orders three at Hyundai Samho**

Athens-headquartered Danaos Corporation (NYSE:DAC) has ordered three 10,100 TEU containerships. They will be built by Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries with deliveries set for January, February and March of 2011.

Danaos reports that a large international liner company is to charter the trio for 12 years each, at accretive rates.

The deal takes the Danaos contracted fleet of newbuildings to 34 ships with a total carrying capacity of 243,468 TEU or 160% of its current fleet.

Danaos says the total contract deal size for these three vessels is approximately \$450 million and will be financed by own funds and debt. Upon delivery, this three vessel block addition to Danaos' fleet of containerships is expected to contribute annually approximately \$ 51 million of additional EBITDA. **Source : MarineLog**



The **OCEAN SHARM** (former Smit Lloyd 56) seen in Ras Shukeir – **Photo : Klaas Reinigert ©**

## Costa to Double Presence in Asia

Encouraged by the positive trend of its cruises in Asia, Costa Cruises will increase its presence by positioning a second cruise ship in the region, beginning in March 2009.



Costa Cruises was the first international company to schedule regular cruises in China and Asia. Its operations began on July 2, 2006 with the **Costa Allegra**, which flies the Italian flag.

Left : Costa Classica  
Photo : Jaap van de Meeberg ©

A year and a half later, following the success of the product marketed both in China and internationally, Costa has decided to strengthen its presence in Asia from March 2009 onward with the deployment of a second ship – the 53,000 gross tonnage **Costa Classica**. With accommodations for 1,680 guests and 590 crewmembers, this refined and elegant vessel epitomizes Costa's signature Italian style and ambience for which it is known worldwide. With this second cruise ship in the Asian market, Costa will offer nearly 55,000 additional berths with a total of over 60 cruises, thus bringing its overall capacity in the region to 85,000 berths. Since Costa began operations in the Far East, more than 50,000 guests have sailed on the **Costa Allegra** on a total of approximately 100 cruises.

The **Costa Allegra** will offer 30 cruises from November 2008 through November 2009, some of which will be 14-day cruises, with departures from Hong Kong and Singapore on itineraries visiting some of the most exciting ports of call in the region. Meanwhile, the **Costa Classica** will be deployed from March 27 through November 7, 2009 on 33 cruises lasting between four and 14 days, with departures out of Singapore, Shanghai, Tianjin and Hong Kong on itineraries offering the finest destinations in several Asian countries.

As is currently the case, the product will be aimed both at the Chinese clientele, who are responding to Costa's product in ever-increasing numbers, and to international cruisers, including customers from other Asian countries, and Australia, where Far East cruises have a special appeal.

## Containership Sailings Asia - US East Coast to Be Cut Back

The Asian carriers making up the New World Alliance and France's CMA CGM plan to cut back containership sailings between Asia and the US east coast, reports TradeWinds quoting MOL.

This summer CMA CGM and the New World Alliance (Japan's MOL, Hyundai Merchant Marine of South Korea and Singapore's APL) launched the joint ESX service to the US east coast via the Panama Canal.

The eight-vessel, weekly line serves Hong Kong, Shanghai and Nimbo, as well as the US cities of Savannah and New York. It is planned to cut eight of the service's sailings between mid-December and the end of March.

In November, MOL said increased operating costs led it to begin withdrawing capacity early to the US west coast. The cost of fuel was the primary worry. **Source : SeaNews**



The Nigerian new build **Catflash I** for Bourbon Interoil being lowered into her element at Onne Port.

Photo : Eric Peute ©

## Africa Mercy back in the Canaries

The **Africa Mercy**, the world's largest charity hospital ship with a volunteer crew of over 300, is expected to enter dry dock at the Astican shipyard in Las Palmas at around 3pm Monday afternoon, for her first revision since entering active service in June this year. The 16 thousand ton hospital ship with six operating theatres onboard has just completed a successful six month campaign bringing hope and healing to war torn Liberia, West Africa.

During the dry dock, members of the crew who have children will be house in local hotels. The 19 families with 44 children from 11 different nations who even have their own school onboard, will enjoy a break from ship life thanks to the generosity of the hotel chains Lopesan Hotel Group, RIU Hotels and Resorts, and Sol Melia Hotels and Resorts.

When completed, the Mercy Ship will sail to Santa Cruz de Tenerife where the crew will be able to rest over the Christmas period before preparing the vessel for a new 9 month campaign in Liberia. From the 11th to the 13th of January, the ship will be open for the general public to enjoy guided tours through this very unique ship and learn about the health and lives of West Africans coming out of years of conflict where Mercy Ship serves.

For the past three years, Mercy Ships has offered specialized surgeries, developmental assistance, and educational programs benefiting thousands of individuals and many communities in Liberia as the nation struggles to stabilize after 14 years of civil war which destroyed the nation's infrastructure.

Upon arrival to the port of Monrovia, Liberia last June, the crew of the **Africa Mercy** resumed operations from sister ship the **Anastasis** which was retired this past July. Thanks to donors and corporate gifts in kind for the Mercy Ships nine-month stay in Monrovia this year, Mercy Ships provided

- 1,108 Liberians with free eye surgeries



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- 542 patients with life-changing maxillofacial, plastic or general surgeries
- 102 women with free surgery to repair childbirth injury
- Training for nurses and surgeons in VVF and other surgical techniques
- 75 patients including children with club feet received free orthopaedic surgeries



Photo : Piet Sinke ©

With only a handful of dentists serving the entire nation, the Mercy Ships dental professionals held clinic in a local facility off ship where they were able to treat more than 6,000 patients with nearly as many receiving oral health lessons as they waited. It is estimated by the UN that Liberia has only around 30 doctors and four functioning hospitals for the country's 3 million people, excluding NGO personnel.

At the invitation of the Minister of Health, Mercy Ships also brought in highly skilled volunteers who trained church leaders and health care workers through regular on site visits, lectures and conferences on issues of mental illness and trauma, partnered with villages to train agricultural workers & instructors, helped dig and rehabilitate wells, latrines and school sanitation facilities.

The **Africa Mercy** last docked in Santa Cruz in July on her maiden voyage to West Africa following an eight year, 43 million euro refit in the UK from rail ferry to hospital ship. The purpose-built hospital onboard the 152 metre 16,572 ton Africa Mercy includes six state of the art operating rooms, intensive care and several hospital wards with bed space for up to 78 patients. The ship has a crew berth capacity of 474 and was originally built in Denmark in 1980.

Volunteer professionals from more than 30 nations serve onboard. Doctors, dentists, nurses, community developers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, and many others donate their time and skills to the effort. Mercy Ships has performed more than 1.7 million services, with a value of 457 million euros and directly benefited over 1.9 million people.

Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, to bring hope and healing to the poor in developing nations. For more information see [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)

**The story of Mercy Ships is told in Ships of Mercy, published by Thomas Nelson US and is available at: <http://www.shipsofmercy.org>.**

Source : reliefweb

## MOVEMENTS



The **MTS TAKTOW** seen after conversion in Rotterdam-Caland canal where the vessel conducted bollard pull tests  
Photo Top : Ruud Zegwaard © - Photo Below : Henk Dekker ©

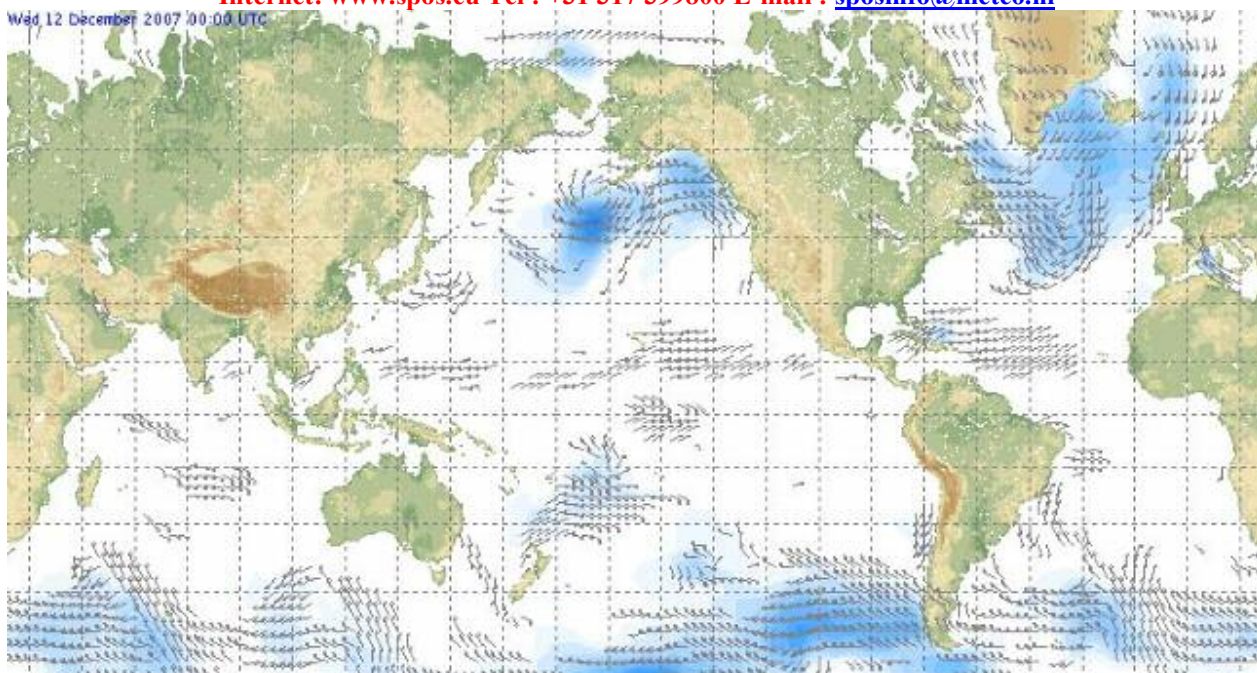


## MARINE WEATHER

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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 1000 vessels today.

**AANKOMST QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 NOG STEEDS ZOALS GEPLAND VANDAAG  
(WOENSDAG) OM 04:00 UUR MAASPILOT STATION GEVOLGD DOOR DE QUEEN  
VICTORIA OM 06:30 OP HET LOODS STATION**

**QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 GAAT NAAR DE WALHAVEN PIER 5 EN DE QUEEN VICTORIA GAAT  
NAAR DE WILHELMINA KADE**

**.... PHOTO OF THE DAY ....**



## DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 288



Iskes **ARGUS** seen "connecting up" to the **AMER EVEREST** in IJmuiden before entering the locks.  
**Photo : Piet Sinke ©**

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