

March 22, 2017

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A Sea Tale

With Pigs!

Dear Sir: It is with regret and haste that I write this letter to you; regret that such a small misunderstanding could lead to the following circumstances, and haste in order that you will get this report before you form your own preconceived opinions from reports in the World Press, for I am sure that they will tend to overdramatize the affair.

We had just picked up the pilot, and the apprentice had returned from changing the "G" flag for the "H," and being his first trip was having difficulty in rolling the "G" flag up. I therefore proceeded to show him how, coming to the last part I told him to "let go." The lad, although willing, is not too bright, necessitating my having to repeat the order in a sharper tone.

At this moment the Chief Officer appeared from the chart room, having been plotting the vessel's progress, and thinking that it was the anchors that were being referred to, repeated the "let go" to the Third Officer on the forecastle. The port anchor, having been cleared away, but not walked out, was promptly let go. The effect of letting the anchor drop from the pipe while the vessel was proceeding at full harbour speed proved too much for the windlass brake, and the entire length of the port cable was pulled out "by the roots." I fear that the damage to the chain locker may be extensive. The braking effect of the port anchor naturally caused the vessel to sheer in that direction, right towards the swing bridge that spans a tributary to the river up which we were proceeding.

The swing bridge operator showed great presence of mind by opening the bridge for my vessel. Unfortunately he did not think to stop the vehicular traffic. The result being that the bridge partly opened and deposited a Volkswagon, two cyclists and a cattle truck on the foredeck. My ship's

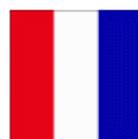
company are at present rounding up the contents of the latter, which from the noise I would say were pigs. In his efforts to stop the progress of the vessel the Third Officer dropped the starboard anchor, too late to be of practical use for it fell on the swing bridge operator's control cabin.



After the port anchor was let go and the vessel started to sheer I gave a double ring Full Astern on the Engine Room Telegraph, and personally rang the Engine Room to order maximum astern revolutions. I was informed that the temperature was 83 degrees, and was asked if there was a movie tonight. My reply would not add constructively to this report.



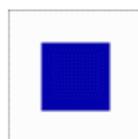
Up to now I have confined my report to the activities at the forward end of my vessel. Down aft they were having their own problems. At the moment the port anchor was let go, the Second Officer was supervising the making fast of the aft tug, and was lowering the ship's towing spring down into the tug.



The sudden braking effect of the port anchor caused the tug to "run in under" the stern of my vessel, just at the moment when the propeller was answering my double ring Full Astern. The prompt action of the Second Officer in securing the shipboard end of the towing spring delayed the sinking of the tug by some minutes thereby allowing the safe abandoning of that vessel.



It is strange, but at the very same moment of letting go the port anchor there was a power cut ashore. The fact that we were passing over a cable area at that time may suggest that we may have touched something on the river bed. It is perhaps lucky that the high tension cables brought down by the foremast were not live, but owing to the shore blackout it is impossible to say where the pylon fell.



It never fails to amaze me, the actions and behavior of foreigners during moments of minor crisis. The pilot for instance, is at this moment huddled in the corner of my day cabin, alternately crooning to himself and

continued...

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0500 Est. REMUS Recovery.

0800 Rendezvous S/V Machais.

1400 Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.

The AB Three*

According to the Maritime Industry Foundation, an Able-bodied Seaman (AB), a member of the deck crew, has a varied role on board a ship, which is often physically demanding, and by its nature, all-weather.

Able Seamen, as with any seafaring role, have to balance their family and work lives as they can be at sea for long periods of time. The flip-side of those prolonged stretches at sea is lengthy leave periods, which makes seafaring a unique profession.

Ahmad Derita is from Batam City, Indonesia. He's been working on ships since 2009 and told me, "I'm happy doing my job." When he's home he says he helps his wife. He has a 17 year old son and a 13 year old daughter. In his free time he loves to swim. He swims in rivers and pools and laughed when he pointed out that he is surrounded



*AB Three (aka Be 3) is also the name of a popular female singing group from Indonesia!

crying after having consumed a bottle of gin in a time that is worthy of inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records. The tug captain on the other hand reacted violently and had to forcibly be restrained by the Steward, who has him handcuffed in the ship's hospital while he is telling me to do impossible things with my ship and my person.

I enclose the names and addresses of the drivers, and insurance companies of the vehicles on my foredeck, which the Third Officer collected after his somewhat hurried evacuation of the forecastle. These particulars will enable you to claim back the damage that they did to the railings of number one hold.

I am closing this preliminary report for I am finding it difficult to concentrate with the sound of police sirens and the flashing lights. It is sad to think that had the apprentice realized that there is no

by water at work but would never dare to swim out here. He also says he likes all the passengers on board this time, but especially Captain Joe!

Andi Burhan is from Batam Island, Indonesia. He has four years experience as a seaman and says he is happy because of the togetherness he sees on board. Though Andi likes to talk about his work, he did say he has a wife and three children. In his free time he likes to go hunting and off-roading. He says he is proud to be a part of this unique expedition.



Mahmud Abdullah has many names. At home he is known as "Pance," on the ship he is known as "Pocoyo" (thanks to time in Mexico) and at midnight he is known as "Snacks." He is from Makassar in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. His wife, Irawati is a tailor. In his free time he listens to music, and loves sports and running. He points out he has no time for running on the ship. He likes to keep things happy and make people laugh to help keep minds off missing family. He says the crew is like family even though this is his first time working with his fellow AB's.

— Marika Lorraine



AB Three: Ahmad, Andi, and Mahmud (aka Pocoyo)

need to fly pilot flags after dark, none of this would have happened.

The End

I first saw this story in 1996, credited to Captain Neil C. Norton, former Queen's Harbour Master, Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada. If it isn't true, it should be! — ed.

★★SAFETY NEWS FLASH★★

If anyone needs to contact the bridge from the back deck in an emergency, like man overboard or an accident requiring medical attention, there is a call button on deck.

Go to the ladder going up to the third deck. Stand on the fourth step facing forward. Hit the button marked "CALL". Speak into the loudspeaker directly above you. The deck officer on watch will respond.

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LOST: Mostly clean blue, yellow, & white sock with logo "<d" sock. Free to a good home. See Bill 3071.

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.