

## **TABLE TALK / TO THE POINT :**

**OCTOBER 2011**

**DICK JENKINS:** Whilst reading Norman Willis' excellent Appreciation of Dick Jenkins in the latest "Two Oceans Journal" I was reminded of an occasion when Dick was called in by a senior manager at Dorbyl Marine and told in no uncertain terms "Mr. Jenkins, I do not approve of your management methods - but I do like the results!"

*An Illinois Congresswoman called her airline booking agent to ask how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:30 a.m., and got to Chicago at 8:33 a.m. The agent explained that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she couldn't understand the concept of time zones. Finally, she was told that her plane went fast, and she accepted that.*

**M V QUEEN ELIZABETH :** We are in Quebec tonight (28 September) and it is bloody cold. We have been up the Coast from New York and tomorrow we leave for Corner Brook, Nova Scotia, as our last port before crossing "The Pond" back to Blighty.



M V QUEEN ELIZABETH AT TALLINN. Photo : Wikipedia

It is a lovely ship but not as good looking as QE2 with no poop deck and very little forecastle. Food excellent and good entertainment and I have started work on my story for a future issue. – ***Our Globetrotting Travel Correspondent.***

*An Airline Ticket Agent in the USA received a call from a Kansas Congressman's member of staff who wanted to book a trip to Cape Town. She started to explain the*

*length of the flight and the passport information required, and then he interrupted her with, "I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Cape Town is in Massachusetts ....." Without trying to make him look stupid, she calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts, Cape Town is in Africa." He hung up.*

**NAVY NEWS:** The Navy's submarines that (according to some) "cannot go to sea" were very busy with SAS *Charlotte Maxeke* returning from a one month patrol in the Mozambique Channel in support of anti-piracy operations. She was just in time to wave SAS *Queen Modjadji* farewell as she sailed for Durban and then onwards to Dar es Salaam for Exercise INTEROP EAST.

The Combat Support Ship SAS *Drakensberg* also sailed for Dar es Salaam as part of INTEROP EAST

For those of you who do not know it, the Royal Canadian Navy after the one sea-going boat was damaged following a grounding incident in June, and her replacement boat that she was due to train up, had a fire in the EW mast in September, now does not have a single operational boat.

The Royal Australian Navy had a serious incident (propulsion failure and subsequent loss of control with emergency surfacing) earlier this month and is down to only one available boat in a fleet of six. This is not aimed at denigrating any other navy but is a clear indication that we can still handle our technology – albeit with difficulty.

SAS *Amatola* has finally arrived home after a four+ month deployment up the Mozambique Channel and was relieved off Durban by SAS *Mendi* on her second stint up there. It is fascinating to note how many members of the public still question their effectiveness by asking "But why have they not caught a single pirate yet?" Sigh.

I can, however, hopefully make our readership happy by confirming that after the four incidents that motivated our assistance, no more have occurred. Thus the Navy remains alive and running itself ragged.- *S A Naval Officers' Association – Spindrift/Spunyarn.*

*"The purpose of Telkom is not to make a profit, it's to provide electricity..."- Julius Malema on Radio 702 – 2 August, 2011 (Now you know).*

**A LOCAL SUCCESS STORY :** Local defence company Reutech Radar System's RSR 210N air/sea surveillance radar has successfully passed its final qualification review (FQR) in Norway. The South African company is supplying RSR 210N radars to the Royal Norwegian Navy (RNoN).

Reutech Radar Systems is the main subcontractor to Norwegian enterprise Electronicon, which was contracted by the Norwegian Defence Logistics Organisation to supply helicopter control radars for the RNoN's new *Fridtjof Nansen*-class frigates. The South African radars will also have a secondary function as supplementary surveillance radars.



AN ARTISTS' IMPRESSION OF KNM *FRIDTJOF NANSEN*. – Google.

The FQR followed successful sea acceptance trials in Norwegian waters at the end of June. These, in turn, were preceded by a number of engineering trials, often undertaken during poor weather and adverse sea state conditions.

These trials included numerous accuracy measurements, close and far range air and sea target detection performance evaluation, and confirmation of the radar system's ability to correctly classify targets as surface, air or helicopter. Sustained performance in the presence of electronic countermeasures was also demonstrated.

“The trials collectively proved the system's ability to provide the ship with a high performance supplementary air-sea surveillance capability, as well as to provide high accuracy helicopter position reporting, even under complex clutter conditions encountered in the Norwegian landward, littoral and open sea environments,” noted **Monique Lenhoff** of Reutech Radar Systems.

The RSR 210N operates in the X-band (super high frequency electromagnetic spectrum band, between 5.2 GHz and 10.9 GHz) and the radar has already been fitted to three of the five *Fridtjof Nansen*-class frigates – the name ship herself, KNM *Otto Sverdrup* and KNM *Roald Amundsen* (KNM is the Norwegian abbreviation for His Norwegian Majesty's Ship). The remaining two radars will be delivered later this year and early next year. They will be fitted to KNM *Helge Ingstad* and KNM *Thor Heyerdahl*.

The Fridtjof Nansen-class frigates are named after famous Norwegian explorers and are the newest, biggest and most powerful warships in the RNoN. Each displaces 5 290 t, has a length of 134 m, a beam of 16.8 m, a draught of 7.6 m and a top speed of 26 knots. (In comparison, the South African Navy's Valour-class frigates each displace 3 590 t, have a length of 121 m, a beam of 16 m, a draught of 5.95 m and a top speed of 28 kts.)

The last of these ships, KNM *Thor Heyerdahl*, was handed over to the RNoN in January by its builder, Navantia of Spain. – **Keith Campbell** – *Engineering News 7 September 2011*

**AND ANOTHER :** At the same time Carl Zeiss Optronics (South Africa), previously know as Eloptro and situated in Irene, just outside Pretoria/Tswane, has announced that they have now supplied twenty five South African built periscopes via their parent

company, to submarines in fifteen navies! Their submarine optronics experience began with support to the SAN *Daphné* Class Submarines and the amazing modernisation of our periscopes under Project NICKLES. Now they are suppliers to the world. - *S A Naval Officers' Association – Spindrift/Spunyarn.*

*Proudly South African without a doubt. Positive spin-offs of the much-criticised Arms Contract.*

**CLAUDE CHOWLES** : Chief Petty Officer Claude ‘Chuckles’ Choules RN/RAN who has died at the age of 110 was the last combat survivor of World War 1. He was quite a character and the Australian Navy have bestowed a very special honour in his memory. A new vessel is to be named after him in a few months time.

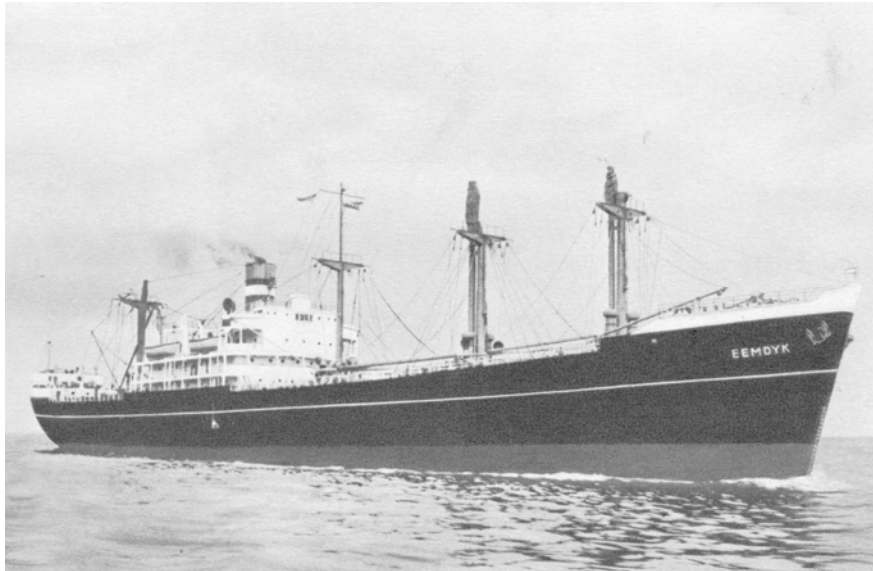
Having had to decommission their two ex USN Newport Class Amphibious Transports earlier than planned due to corrosion and poor maintenance, they urgently needed a replacement ‘lift’ to tide them over until the arrival of the two new build Canberra Class Amphibious vessels. As luck would have it, the UK’s 2010 Defence Strategic Review had just made one of their Bay Class Landing Ship Dock vessels, the 5 year old RFA *Largs Bay* (L3006), surplus to requirement and thus up for sale.



RFA LARGS BAY. - Photo : Wikipedia

The RAN quickly stepped in and their bid (£65 million) acquired her. Although there is a Largs Bay in Adelaide, the decision has been taken to name her HMAS *Choules* (L100) when she commissions into the Navy after arrival in December this year. - *S A Naval Officers' Association – Spindrift/Spunyarn.*

**A BLAST FROM THE PAST:** S. S. EEMDYK was a 9 894 grt Standard 15 Knot cargo ship (similar to KENILWORTH CASTLE and GOOD HOPE CASTLE). She was ordered from the Caledon Shipyard in Dundee as EMPIRE ALBION but was completed in 1944 as TERBORCH for the Dutch Government in London.



SS EEMDYK ex TERBORCH ex EMPIRE ALBION - 9 894/44.

In 1946 she was sold to the Holland Amerika Line and renamed EEMDYK, operating in their colours until 1960 when she was sold to an American company to become the Panamanian-flagged ORIENT MERCHANT.

In 1965 she ran aground in Lake Erie and was declared a constructive total loss but was bought by a British owned company and renamed ZAMBEZI (Liberian flag). Two years later she was sold for demolition at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

*Redneck is a historically derogatory slang term used in reference to poor white farmers, especially from the Southern United States. It is similar in meaning to cracker (especially regarding Georgia and Alabama), hillbilly (especially regarding Appalachia and the Ozarks and white trash (but without the last term's suggestions of immorality)). – Wikipedia.*

*You're An EXTREME Redneck When.....*

- 1. You let your 14-year-old daughter smoke at the dinner table in front of her kids.*
- 2.. The Blue Book value of your truck goes up and down depending on how much gas is in it.*
- 3. You've been married three times and still have the same in-laws.*
- 4. You think a woman who is out of your league bowls on a different night..*
- 5. You wonder how service stations keep their rest-rooms so clean.*
- 6. Someone in your family died right after saying “Hey guys, watch this.”*
- 7. You think Dom Perignon is a Mafia leader.*
- 8. Your wife's hairdo was once ruined by a ceiling fan.*
- 9. Your junior prom offered day care.*
- 10. You think the last words of the Star-Spangled Banner are 'Gentlemen, start your engines'.*
- 11. You lit a match in the bathroom and your house exploded right off its wheels.*

- 12. The Halloween pumpkin on your porch has more teeth than your spouse.*
- 13. You have to go outside to get something from the fridge.*
- 14. One of your kids was born on a pool table.*
- 15. You need one more hole punched in your card to get a freebie at the House of Tattoos.*
- 16. You can't get married to your sweetheart because there's a law against it.*
- 17. You think loading the dishwasher means getting your wife drunk.*