

"Big Battered Banana Boat"

On The Scene: 225 Miles Off The Isles of Scilly

Feature Date: February 29 2008

Event Date: February 1 2008



Countryman & McDaniel

The Air & Ocean Logistics- Customs Broker Attorneys

International Trade Consultants

"Overlooking Runway 25 - Right, at Los Angeles International Airport"

On The Scene -- 225 Miles Off The Isles of Scilly

A 2008 Countryman & McDaniel

Cargo **Nightmare** Prize Contender

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"Full Speed Ahead" - M/V Alva Star - Nov. 2006	"Container Pool" - a mystery - May 2002
"Where The Trade Winds Blew" - Oct. 2006	"Strangers On My Flight" -- by Frank Sinatra - don't blame us - we only report this stuff!
"Maersk Montevideo Melee!" - M/V Leda Maersk - Oct. 2006	"Dropping In On The Trucker" - it happened again - April 2002
"Laying Down On The Job" - M/V Cougar Ace -- Aug. 2006 -- Amazing !	"UNDER Achiever" - tell your friends ! - March 2002
"Vine Ripened Tires" - M/V Saga Spray -- May 2006 -- Amazing !	Tell It To The U.S. Marines! - A Symbol of Our Day of Infamy - Sept. 11
"Mis-Fortune" - M/V Hyundai Fortune - March 2006	Heavy Metal - lifting the un-liftable object - Disaster at Monrovia July 2001
"Scheldt Snafu!" - M/V Grande Nigeria - Feb. 2006	Rail Mate -- an Egyptian rail loss - Tragedy At Ain Sokhna July 2001
"A Day A The Beach - M/V APL Panama - Jan. 2006 - OUR EPIC COVERAGE	Meals: Ready To Explode - Navy container barbecue at Guam! June 2001
"NO Rails" - destruction of New Orleans - Dec. 2005	America West Kisses Concrete M/V Ville De Orion - stack shift at LAX
"Backhaul !" - for July 2005	U.S. Navy EP- 3 -- China Hostage Situation - Spring 2001
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"Catch of The Day" - for March 2005	M/V OOCL America - Feb. 2000
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"Big Battered Banana Boat"

M/V Horncliff

On The Scene

225 Miles Off The Isles of Scilly



A Cargo **Nightmare** Prize Contender

The Date: February 1 2008

The Time: Evening

The Place: 225 Miles Off The Isles of Scilly



M/V Horncliff In Better Days

Vessel Name - [Horncliff](#)

Crew: 27

Sisterships - [Horncap](#) (1991) & [Hornbay](#) (1990)

Passengers: 12-14

Type of Vessel - Ro-Ro refrigerated container ship

Displacement: 9,600 tons

Builder - Uljanik-Brodogradiliste, Pula, Yugoslavia, 1991

Dimensions: 504 ft. x 75 ft. x 28.5 ft.

Built Year: 1992

Power: MAN B&W - P 10 440 kW - V 20 nds - 7 cales

Flag - Liberia

Capacity: Containers: 322 TEU & 180 cars

Owner: [Horn Linie](#), Hamburg

Service Speed: 20 knots

IMO No: 8912041

Crane: 4 x 25 ton

The Prolog To Disaster -- Big Battered Banana Boat

PROLOG >> [M/V Horncliff](#) is a classic "Banana Boat" operating for [Dole Corporation](#), carrying fruit for the [Del Monte](#) company from the [Caribbean](#) to the [UK](#).

On Feb. 1 2008 [M/V Horncliff](#) was traveling to [Dover](#) with a cargo of fruit for the [Del Monte](#) company from [Costa Rica](#) when three violent, huge waves struck the vessel about 225 miles (360km) off the [Isles of Scilly](#).

During the storm the ship lost 90 containers overboard, but that allowed the ship to return upright.

Beyond all, the greatest moment of peril was felt by passengers on a honeymoon not to be forgotten!

Michael S. McDaniel - Your Editor

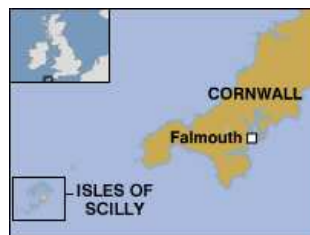
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M/V Horncliff of The **Horn-Linie**. Visions of A Different Era.

Horn-Linie is an independent shipping company serving trade between northern Europe and the Caribbean and North Europe, West Africa: Cameron, Mauritania, Benin and Togo. It is a dedicated and experienced niche carrier, offering the market direct connections at fastest transit times. The scope of service comprises containers of all types, rolling stock, breakbulk and facilities for 12 to 14 passengers.



There Was Nothing Scilly About This Storm

When **M/V Horncliff** was about 225 miles (360km) from the **Isles of Scilly** on Feb. 2008, she was struck by three violent waves and **90 containers were lost overboard**.

Three people injured during the incident were treated at the **Royal Cornwall Hospital** in Truro.

An initial assessment carried out by marine surveyors and representatives of the owners found an 18in (0.46m) hole on her port side.

Cranes will be used to lift and secure the remaining containers of fruit - an operation expected to take a few days.

Temporary repairs were carried out to allow the ship to sail to **Antwerp**.

A warning was issued to shipping in the south western approaches to be aware of the 90 floating containers 180 miles (290 km) south of **Ireland**.

M/V Horncliff, a 12,887-ton cargo ship is flying the Liberian flag and was built in 1992.

12,887-ton refrigerated cargo vessel **M/V Horncliff** was battered by a storm and took on water off **Cornwall** on Feb. 2. Injured personnel were air-lifted to a hospital. The vessel is now moored in **Falmouth Harbour** where surveyors found an 18-in (.46-m) hole in the vessel's side. 90 containers were lost overboard.

From our Sr. Correspondent **Tim Schwabedissen** (Wed. Feb 6 2008).



Royal Air Force Gunsite Photo of **M/V Horncliff** Crew Awaiting Rescue.

A Helicopter From **RNAS Cudrose** in **Cornwall** Managed To Rescue The Skipper of **M/V Horncliff** On Feb. 2 After The **RAF** failed On Feb. 1 Night In Force 9 Gales.

The captain had suffered spinal injuries and internal bleeding. Three passengers were less seriously hurt - one with a broken hand, another with head injuries and a third suffered a fractured shoulder & broken ribs. It is thought that the additional crew injuries were sustained during attempts to fasten the containers to the ship in the storm but the exact circumstances of what happened is still unknown.



Flight Lieutenant Jon Singh Flew His **RAF Westland Sea King HAR5 Helicopter** In Storm Force 10 Winds, Some 70 Miles Off The Coast of **Cornwall** To Rescue The Capt. & Six Others. The Swell Was 35ft to 45ft, With **M/V Horncliff** Pitching Heavily In These Very Rough Conditions. Bravo Zulu!



M/V Horncliff had 31 people on board, including 6 passengers, among them honeymooning German couple **Barney** and **Suzanne Carstensen**. They were on the bridge with the captain when **M/V Horncliff** was rocked by a huge wave.

Suzanne Carstensen, 50, whose ex-sailor husband suffered a fractured shoulder & broken ribs said:

"We had changed course to try and get away from the storm when the ship was hit by three big waves. I thought it was our last moment of life. The captain and my husband crashed over the floor and the captain was in big pain crying out."

"The ship went right over and then the containers came off the ship and it came back up. Then we knew we had survived. It was really horrible and you cannot imagine unless you are there."

The couple got married late last year and went on **M/V Horncliff** -- which has a handful of staterooms for paying passengers -- to see the **Caribbean** while on honeymoon. The trip was more than they bargained for.



After **M/V Horncliff** limped into Falmouth, staff from the **Maritime and Coastguard Agency** boarded the vessel to carry out an initial assessment and found water damage due to an 18in (0.46m) hole on her port side. Ballast water was pumped out of the ship on Feb. 3 to bring the hole clear of the water.



Containers Had Been Hanging off **M/V Horncliff** Since The Storm Hit



Smashed Reefer Container Aboard **M/V Horncliff** - Yes, We Have No Melons Today.

M/V Horncliff Lost 90 Containers Oversea



M/V Horncliff Discharging Cargo At Fort-de-France In 2007



M/V Horncliff Takes On Bananas At Cartagena, Columbia In 2000



M/V Horncliff With Palletized Bananas At Cartagena, Columbia In 2000



M/V Horncliff Was Carrying Bananas & Other Fruit From **Costa Rica** to **Dover** When She Encountered The Storm About 200 Miles Off Southern **Ireland**.



The Exceptional High Seas of Feb. 1 2008 Also Forced A Fishing Trawler To Run Aground In The **Outer Hebrides**, Trapping 14 Crew.

EDITOR NOTE: The contributions of Our Correspondent **Ashley Black** for this feature are greatly appreciated.

Michael S. **McDaniel** - Your Editor

Shippers Must Have Quality Marine Cargo Insurance Because..... "Ship Happens! ©"

To Repeat -- No Matter How Careful You Are -- Or Who You Hire "Ship Happens! ©"



"Ship Happens! ©"

The Dedication of This Feature Is Simple: To The Crew of [M/V Horncliff](#) and her families.

SPECIAL NOTE: The historic dangers of carriage by sea continue to be quite real. Shippers must be encouraged to purchase high quality marine cargo insurance from their **freight forwarder or customs broker**. **It's dangerous out there.**

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Other Ocean Related Features From [The Cargo Letter](#)- these are just examples

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["Back To The Beach"](#) - M/V Riverdance - Feb. 2008



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["A Day A The Beach - M/V APL Panama](#) - Jan. 2006

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["M/V Ville D' Orion"](#) - Bad L.A. Stack Disaster! April 2001 -- **UPDATED** - May 2002

["Pier Review"](#) - Sept. 2001

["Singles Only"](#) - visit our individual moments of transport crisis for more.

The Greatest Container Losses Of All Time - these are the grand fathers -

[M/V OOCL America](#)

[M/V APL China](#)

[M/V APL Panama](#) - The EPIC

["Great Misfortune"](#)- M/V Hyundai Fortune - March 2006

SPECIAL NOTE: The historic dangers of carriage by sea continue to be quite real. Shippers must be encouraged to purchase high quality marine cargo insurance from their freight forwarder or customs broker.

It's very dangerous out there.

Thanks To Our Contributors For The "Big Battered Banana Boat" Feature

Our Contributor for this feature is:

Our Correspondent Ashley Black

The Cargo Letter appreciates the continuing efforts of these valued contributors. **Thanks Pal For Your Contributions!**

NOTE: Please Provide Us With Your Additional Information For This Loss.

EDITOR'S NOTE FOR SURVEYORS, ATTORNEYS & MARINE ADJUSTERS: The Internet edition effort of **The Cargo Letter** now celebrates it's **8th Year of Service** -- making us quite senior in this segment of the industry. We once estimated container underway losses at about 1,500 per year. Lloyd's put that figure at about 10,000 earlier this year. Quite obviously, the reporting mechanism for these massive losses is not supported by the lines. News of these events is not posted to the maritime community. Our new project is to call upon you-- **those handling the claims** -- to let us know of each container loss at sea-- **in confidentiality**. Many of you survey on behalf of cargo interests with no need for confidentiality. Others work for the lines & need to be protected. As a respected Int'l publication, **The Cargo Letter** enjoys full press privileges & cannot be forced to disclose our sources of information. No successful attempt has ever been made. If a personal notation for your report is desired -- each contributor will be given a "hot link" to your company Website in each & every report. Please take moment & report your "overside" containers to us. If you do not wish attribution, your entry will be **"anonymous."** This will benefit our industry -- for obvious reasons! **McD**

* **NOTE:** **The Cargo Letter** wants you to know that by keeping the identity of our contributors **100% Confidential**, you are able to view our continuing series of "Cargo Disasters." Our friends send us materials which benefit the industry. The materials are provided to our news publication with complete and enforceable confidentiality for the sender. In turn, we provide these materials to you.



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