



The GROUND RULES

News From the Consulting Firm of MARTIN, OTTAWAY, van HEMMEN & DOLAN, INC.

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Sydney Cook—by Henk van Hemmen

For those who have had the privilege of meeting or working with Sydney Cook and also for those many friends who remember him well from his long tenure in the maritime industry, we would like to focus our spotlight on a gentleman who, although now retired, not only left his marks of professionalism and integrity on the maritime world as a whole, but also particularly on our firm during the years that he was associated with us.

My wife and I had the pleasure of visiting Sydney and his charming wife, Lilika, in Boca Raton, Florida in January this year and found the ever vibrant and sharp-minded "Sydney Cook" in good shape with all Class certificates valid.

We had a great time, a visit with conversation unavoidably larded with many shipping and surveying anecdotes which included tales of the British Merchant Marine in the 1930s and during World War II at sea, all based on Sydney's experience.

It was in 1968 when I made my first wobbly steps in the marine underwriting surveyor's world, when I met Sydney in the shaft alley of the M/V "DANAE" on dry dock in Rotterdam. With an ever-pleasant smile on his face, I remember him welcoming me in my new function by saying, "Oh, you are the young man that John van Aalst hired!"

"Sydney, young man, stay healthy, together with Lilika, to keep us all young and favor our younger generation with your knowledge and experience, as I know they all frequently call on you!"

Field Survey Reports (part three)

The final installment in our three part series on "Field Survey Reports" will address some of the issues surrounding the reluctance of interested parties to participate or sign the document.

When the time comes to place a signature at the bottom next to one's name, we often see big burly

men twist around trying to find an excuse not to sign. Some even put an illegible scratch under the document hoping that it will not be recognized.

Why is this you may be wondering? Several reasons come to mind, unfamiliarity with the system, no guts to stand-up for what is correct, fear of taking responsibility and the fact that it eliminates to some extent the possibility of twisting around and changing things later on. A great many people think that they are signing their life away when they put their "John Hancock" at the bottom of the document.

What few people realize is that if there are reasons for changes or supplements to the "Found" and "Recommended" sections of the field survey, one can call for a supplementary survey at a future date. Any party in a joint survey has the right to call everyone together for a second, third or twentieth supplemental survey for that matter.

The field survey system is straightforward. Everyone looks at the same damage at the same time in an objective way, the extent of the damage and the necessary repairs are recorded in a "Found", and "Recommended" format and everyone signs at the bottom. What could be simpler?

Cargo Surveys

It surprises us still that some of our clients express amazement when they learn that we also routinely carry out cargo surveys. Cargo surveys have been increasing over the past year particularly out of our New Orleans office spearheaded by Jason Fernandes.

The firm carries out discharge surveys, cargo damage surveys dealing with everything from ferrous sulfate contamination to steel coil damage and the mitigation of loss and salvage of the cargo. A particular favorite survey of Jason's involves flower bulbs from Holland, which is fitting considering the Dutch roots of the firm. (*Pun intended*)

Post POSIDONIA 98

In keeping with tradition, Jim Dolan and Rik van Hemmen from our firm attended this year's Posidonia in Piraeus, Greece. As in past years, the conference was a complete success and Jim and Rik had the opportunity to meet with our many Greek friends at the numerous receptions and functions.

Wedding Announcement!!!

David Tantrum married Marianne Carroll on May 15th in Asbury Park, New Jersey. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in the Seychelles.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LUCKY COUPLE

Support Staff — The key to success

Many of the firm's clients have given positive feedback on the quality of work performed as evidenced by our timely and professional reports, opinions, certificates and preliminary advices. Much of this credit should be directed to the excellent support staff located in our Red Bank office.

Without our in-house administrative assistants, secretaries and account representatives, the product delivered to our clients would not be possible. These individuals are in fact unsung heroes/heroines of the firm.

Many of you have had the opportunity to talk with the support staff individuals and we felt it would be of value for you to see their smiling faces as evidenced by the photograph in this issue.



From left to right:

Richard Ottaway, Alla Tsiring, Karen Christopulos and Marianne Herrick

S. S. "JOHN W. BROWN"

The Liberty Ship "JOHN W. BROWN", one of the last survivors from the great fleet of over 2,740 built, will call at Charleston, South Carolina from August 12 to 17, 1998. The vessel is a living, working World War II memorial and museum dedicated in honor of the Merchant Seamen, Naval Armed Guards and Shipyard Workers of W.W.II.

Many of you will recall our article titled "The way it was" in our October 1996 issue which dealt with the Liberty Ships. Warren and Elizabeth Chandler of Martin, Ottaway and Chandler, Inc. are on the Committee that is sponsoring this event.

The ship will be open to the public from the 13th to the 16th and a day cruise in the harbor will occur on August 15. Contact Project Liberty Ship at (410) 661-1550 for further details.



MARTIN, OTTAWAY, van HEMMEN & DOLAN, INC.
172 Monmouth Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

For additional information about any item in this Newsletter, or to be placed on our mailing list, please contact us at the following numbers:
Voice (732) 224-1133 Fax (732) 224-8631 or email us on the Internet at martinnottaway@msn.com