



Cyclone Nargis - Myanmar (Burma)

Cape Negrais Committee News Bulletin -006-19th May 2008

Aluminium River Boat Assembly & River Trials on the Hlaing River

Two of the fourteen flat-bottomed river-boats air-freighted into Yangon from the United Kingdom for Save the Children have been trucked down to a jetty on the Hlaing River behind the Pun Hlaing Golf Estate this morning. These boats will be assembled today by a Team of mechanics under the direction of Brian Davison and Stuart Kingsley, two Operations Engineers who flew out from the with the cargo plane which brought these 14 boats to Myanmar on the 17th May.

The logistics team will commission the boats, which will then undergo river trials this afternoon off Pun Hlaing. The engines are fitted with propellers geared and designed for high torque, low speed, for hauling heavy loads of up to 6½ tons and up payloads, or up to 60 passengers. These two boats are to be used for training crews on their operation and maintenance before they go down to Save the Children in the Delta.

The engines are mounted on swiveling brackets in the stern, and the crews can raise and lower the height of the engine and propeller depending on the depth of the available water.

300 sq. mile Hlaing Bone Township added to our Relief Operations

Our group has added a new township, Hlaing Bone, to our area of the Delta. Located directly to the east of Middle Island between Laputa and Bogole, Hlaing Bone Township is an area of over 300 square miles which no organized aid has as yet arrived. We will access Hlaing Bone by boat from our base under construction at Thingangone on Middle Island, this being an extended area largely still under water. The population is as yet undetermined, but the inclusion of Hlaing Bone Township will bring the total area that our group has taken responsibility for to over 1,000 square miles of the lower Ayeyarwady Delta.





Pandaw II Hospital Ship and PHIH Medical Teams to the Delta

The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Paul Strachan has donated the Pandaw II to the relief effort to be used as a hospital ship. The Pandaw is being loaded with medical supplies and staff at Pyay, on the Ayeyarwady River north of Yangon. The ship will be tugged downriver to Ngapudaw, fully crewed and with a medical team, and is anticipated to arrive in the Delta by week's end.

In order to gain access to the isolated area of Hlaing Bone, which is now included as part of the Cape Negrais Committee's area of relief responsibility, the Pandaw will be moved from Ngapudaw to Maw La Mying Kyun. Moored in the heart of the Hlaing Bone Township's narrow waterways, protected from the tidal waves of the main tributary of the Patheingyi River, medical teams and Save the Children will have ready access from this hub to the riverine villages in this central and severely devastated area of the Delta.

Pun Hlaing International Hospital Medical Teams

Our team from Pun Hlaing International Hospital including doctors and nurses, received specialized trauma and emergency relief training at PHIH by Israel's IMPULSE (*Integrated Management and Preparatory Utilities for Large Scale Emergencies*), specially flown in from Tel Aviv. The IMPULSE team from Israel was led by Dr. Efraim Laor, Disaster Manager in Response to Large Scale Sudden Disasters, and three of his experts, Assi Albert Cicurel, Khaled Masalha, and Tzafirir Shifman. The Team is now ready to leave Pun Hlaing and will depart for Patheingyi by road tomorrow at 11:00am. They will arrive in Patheingyi to catch the 6:00 am Wednesday morning ship downriver and reach Thingangone at 2:00 pm.

This PHIH Medical Team, comprising 26 doctors and nurses, will take down to the Delta medical supplies, tarpaulins, jerry cans and a 100 cement bags. These will be used to build temporary shelters in Thingangone until the main barracks are completed there. One half of these Pun Hlaing International Hospital medics and nurses will be set up as a mobile team, and the other half will be stationed in our land-based hospital in the Thingangone which we are setting up in the new barracks unit.

Concrete footings for these barracks left from Patheingyi today at 8:00 am, and arrived in Thingangone at 3:00 pm this afternoon





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Relief Program by “*Cape Negrais Committee*” 19 May 2008

Yangon, 19th May 2008

Photograph Updates follow below:



Unloading one half of an aluminium river boat by crane beside the Hlaing River outside Yangon ready for assembly & river trials along the Hlaing River – Monday morning, 19th May 2008



Unloading the boats by crane at the Hlaing River outside Yangon ready for assembly beside the Hlaing River by a team under the supervision of UK experts – Monday morning, 19th May 2008





Cyclone Nargis – Myanmar (Burma) – Bulletin 006
Relief Program by “Cape Negrais Committee” 19 May 2008



Unloading the boats by crane at the Hlaing River outside Yangon ready for assembly beside the Hlaing River by a team under the supervision of UK experts - Monday morning, 19th May 2008



A member of our Cape Negrais Relief Operations Committee, Mark Tippetts, with the local assembly engineers under the direction of the Logistics and Operations' team from the United Kingdom, Stuart Kingsley and Brian Davison, on the jetty of the Hlaing River outside the Pun Hlaing Golf Estate, Monday, 19th May, 2008



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Relief Program by “*Cape Negrais Committee*” 19 May 2008



Stuart Kingsley, designer of the updated versions of these boats from the UK, supervising the installation of Mercury Mariner 40 HP outboard engines. Designed for 25 HP motors, these are the first boats fitted more powerful 40 HP engines



Brian Davison of supervising the assembly of two boats beside the Hlaing River ready for river trials - 19th May, 2008.



Cyclone Nargis – Myanmar (Burma) – Bulletin 006
Relief Program by “*Cape Negrais Committee*” 19 May 2008



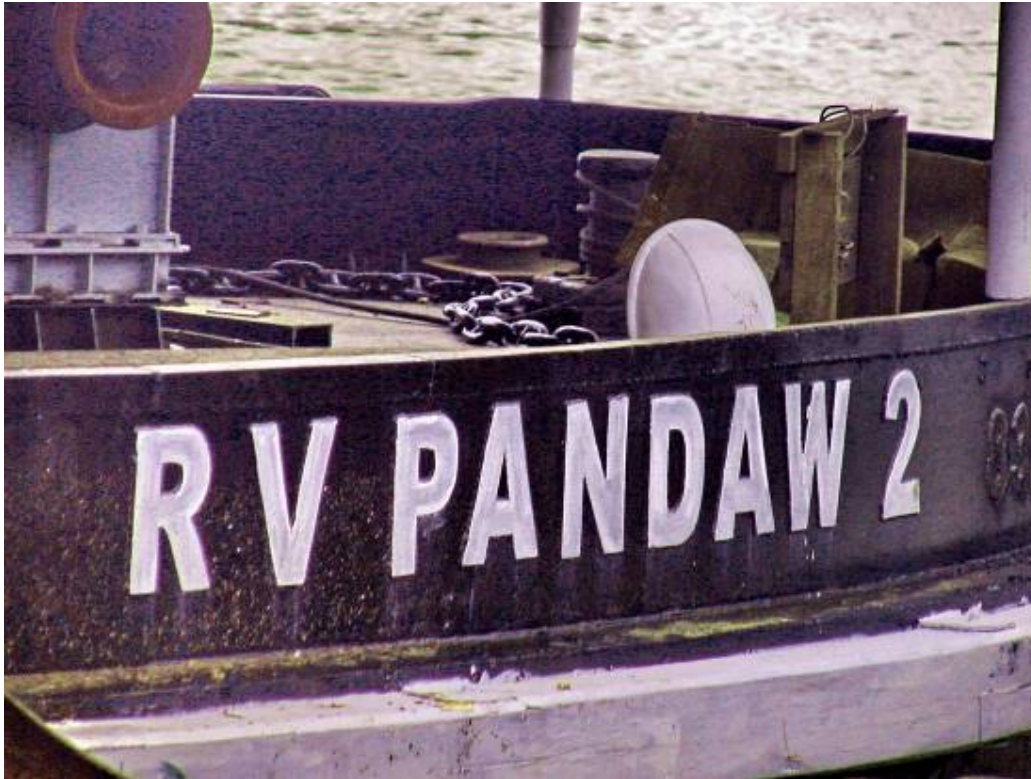
Assembling the river boats beside the Hlaing River - The assembly connection points can be seen clearly between the two halves of the aluminium hulls, with the Hlaing River in the background - 19th May 2008



Stuart Kingsley and Brian Davison with two of the river boat hulls - The stern assembly can clearly be seen, ready to receive a 40 HP Mercury Mariner outboard propulsion unit. The whole units, including the specially designed high-torque propellers can be raised or lowered from inside the hulls when the boats enter shallow waters. Hlaing River, 19th May, 2008



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Relief Program by “Cape Negrais Committee” 19 May 2008



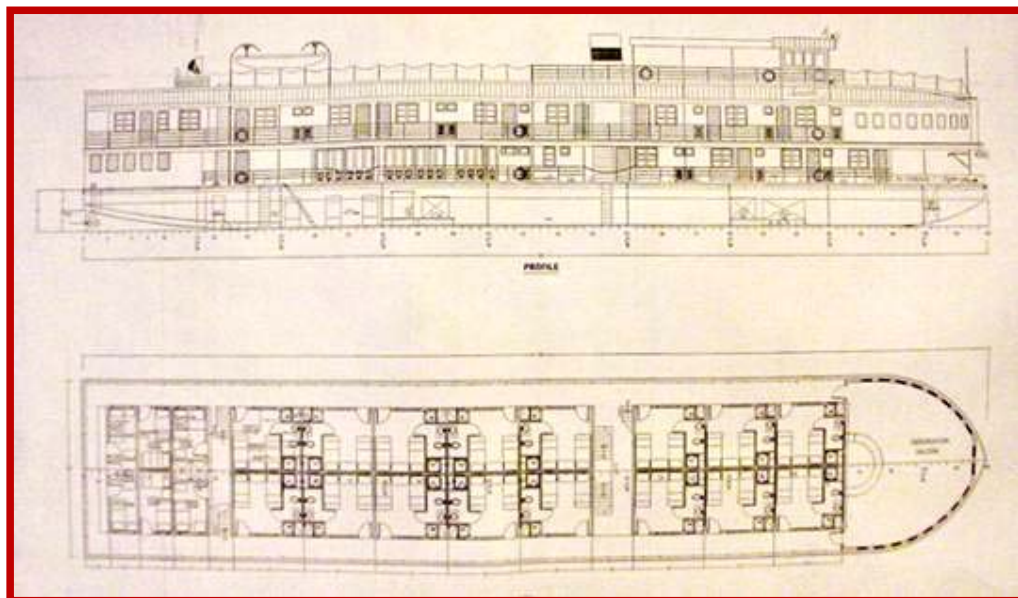
The Pandaw II moored beside the Ayeyarwady River - Built in Yangon's shipyards in 2001 for the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Paul Strachan has donated this 180 foot, 34 foot beam vessel for use by Save the Children as a mobile hospital ship in the Delta. With 24 double cabins, the ship is a classic triple deck river vessel with a shallow 3 foot draft for navigating the Irrawaddy between Yangon and Mandalay



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The Upper Deck of the Pandaw II in 2001 while under construction in Yangon Shipyards



The Pandaw II's three decks comprise one upper observation deck, and two accommodation decks - With 24 double cabins, the Pandaw can sleep 48 persons in comfortable cabins, each with their own connecting bathroom en-suite. Fully crewed, with a well equipped galley and laundry facilities, the Pandaw has its own onboard water desalination equipment for extended cruising. The ship has been as far north as Bhamo, and in the west, all the way up the Chindwin

