

Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

M/V Ken C Tamblyn Ghana, Africa

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Sekondi-Takoradi, Twin Cities 1



Sekondi-Takoradi, population 335,000, is the capital of the Western Region of Ghana. It is Ghana's fourth largest city. The chief industries are timber, plywood, shipbuilding and railroad repair. It lies on the main railway lines to Accra and Kumasi.

Sekondi, older and larger, prospered from a railroad built in 1903 to hinterland mineral and timber resources. Takoradi has an important deepwater seaport, Ghana's first, built in 1928. Both stemmed from 17th Century Dutch, Swedish and English forts. During World War II, Takoradi Air Base was an important staging point for British aircraft destined for Egypt. The 26th South African Air Force Squadron was also based in Takoradi during WWII flying anti-submarine and convoy protection patrols over the Atlantic

Takoradi Technical Institute houses a Fab lab, equipped by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which is the first of its kind in Africa.



Here is a typical street scene in Sekondi. Women carry 50 or more pounds in all kinds of shapes and sizes on their head in addition to carrying a baby wrapped around their back.



The statue is of a native chief that was famous in the history of this area. The colors green, yellow and red are the colors of the flag of Ghana. The flag is upright if green is on the bottom (grass) and red on top (sky).



Our agent stopped at this stand to buy some line needed by another ship. The owners of these stands can provide an amazing variety of items. There are hundreds of these stands in the area.



Some of the official buildings and grounds are very elegant.



The Albert Bosomtwi-Sam fishing harbor is the base for hundreds of fishing boats using miles of nets.



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This mammoth fishing vessel is being built of mahogany laid one plank at a time by hand. What a beauty she will be when completed and should last a lifetime.



Here, one of the more conventional 50 foot fishing canoes is being carved from a tree.



The office of our agent shows the volume of business they must do in Takoradi and Sekondi harbors.



This shows the oil and gas concessions offshore Ghana. We work the Jubilee Field which as you can see is very close to the Cote d'Ivoire border. Many rigs and vessels are arriving from the Gulf of Mexico.



The woman in red and yellow was over 70 years old. With exercise like this every day you stay very healthy!



A load like this is heavy enough but with the bucket being full of water, she is carrying well over 100 pounds.



They practice posture and balance from a very young age to enable them to carry such a cumbersome load.



Dinner being raised in the wild on the hoof!



Paa Grant (1878-1956) was born into an influential merchant family. The grandson of Francis Chapman Grant, he prospered as a timber merchant in the first decades of the twentieth century. He was a founder and the first president of the United Gold Coast Convention in 1947.



These are tall bamboo poles with TV antennas on top of them, an interesting life style to say the least.



The main street of Takoradi has a large open drain running down the middle of it.



I'm not sure who she is, but she was the best dress woman I saw that day.



The center of Takoradi