



Master, Gubert Tide

Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

The Village of Pemba

Pemba, Moçambique, Africa

13 December 2009



Belford Dolphin Drillship



IMG_2431.JPG (above)

Fighting onboard fires is an all hands emergency. So, gun toting marines have to learn how to fight fires with the ship's equipment same as crew members do. The Mozambique marines learned well and had a good time learning



IMG_2436.JPG (above)

Salim has got to be the happiest man in the world. He is almost always smiling. I've only seen him mildly upset once or twice. Oliver smiles a lot as well. They are in month 6 of an 8 month contract. I'm not sure that I would be smiling after 8 months on board – unless I was Captain of a Cruise Ship.



IMG_2440.JPG (above)

The Gubert Kitty has taken to Emil's laptop. He likes sleeping on the keyboard. When he moves, striking keys, the computer makes sounds he likes. Emil is very devoted to our stray cat! We later found out that the Gubert Kitty is a land cat. He gets sea sick. Emil really has his hands full.



IMG_2443.JPG (above)

You know you are a fisherman when your net is much larger than your canoe. My question is, ok, so you make a big haul. How do you get the fish back to shore? Do you put them in the canoe and you swim alongside or do you drag them behind you in the net? I'm always surprised by what I see on the water here in Pemba.



IMG_2463.JPG (above)

OK, big net, but at least there is room in the boat for the fish they may catch. Notice the three sources of power they have. Outboard motor is unusual for these parts but I'm sure it is very appreciated by the crew. Paddles are more common. Then for shallow water and precise anchoring, there is the bamboo pole used to push the boat. The man in the bow has the bamboo pole.



IMG_2485.JPG (above)

Here are our young local fishermen friends again with their fish trap. They position it close to the dock. The dock is usually teeming with small fish, so it would not surprise me to find their trap full of larger fish. I've seen them work their trap a lot, but have not seen any fish in the trap yet.



IMG_2486.JPG (above)

Now we know why West Marine has never opened a store in Pemba. They would go so broke here in Pemba. Look at all the material - handmade, hand crafted, easy to make, easier to repair – from fish trap to boat. They are so ingenious. Of course not having an office job from 8 to 5 every day gives them plenty of time to work with their hands and accomplish hand crafted things like this. Progress, hmmm, I need to think about that.



IMG_2526.JPG (above)

Although not everyone has a motor, everyone does have paddles and push sticks. I must learn more about the bamboo poles. It must be grown locally because it is used so much. You will see it is the main component of their stone and mud houses. It's hard to believe that so much bamboo is imported. It must be indigenous to the area.



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IMG_2556.JPG (above)

Now, imagine yourself to be a pirate. You have just boarded the Gubert Tide and have shot and killed six Mozambique guards and three S African security consultants. Very unlikely, but just imagine with me. Now you are looking for the captain and crew who you can't find. You are down in the engine room and you can't find any doors leading aft. Question. Would you think that what you are looking at in this picture is a fake panel, a painted 4 x 8 plywood panel covering up the water tight bulkhead door? If you figured it out, you could remove the wood to find a water tight steel bulkhead door that is inoperative. I really like our fake bulkhead. I believe it is very clever! (Don't tell anyone!)

ESTACIONAMENTO
PUNTO FUERTE
BOCAQUERUBA

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IMG_2558.JPG (above)

A few of us used the extra time at the dock to do a little exploring. The Anadarko vehicles are equipped for action. Notice the shovel tied off to the luggage rack. I suppose the black duct is air intake for the engine allowing the vehicle to cross small rivers without killing the engine. No telling what other gadgets are on board. There is quite a market for equipment to survive safaris and just to be driving out in the middle of nowhere. The ads in S Africa are very interesting.



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IMG_2559.JPG (above)

Here are my security consultants waiting for our transportation to the Pemba Beach Hotel and Spa. This is the main office quayside. The Tidewater marine superintendant and agents office here. Anadarko has a good sized camp with offices and living quarters some 20 miles away under heavy guard. So far, I have felt very secure in Pemba. These people seem very mild mannered and law abiding. I hope it stays that way.



IMG_2566.JPG (above)

This one is called lunch on the run. Notice the extensive use of bamboo. Like I said, I believe it must be grown indigenously. I can't believe they are importing this quantity of bamboo. On the far left you can see a man using a homemade crutch. This is the backside of the village area that was photographed from the bay.



IMG_2567.JPG (above)

This gives you some idea of how the houses are made. They take two rows of bamboo and tie them together about 6 to 8 inches apart. Then they fill the space between the two “walls” of bamboo with rocks and stones. Then they pack the space between the stones and rocks with a mud that dries almost like a concrete. Some smooth the outside and inside walls to appear like stucco. I have not been in one of these houses, but I imagine that the thickness of the walls act as a good insulator. With a good sea breeze blowing through the house, they should be relatively cool.



IMG_2572.JPG (above)

Here is one with the walls painted green and advertisement hanging on the outside. It looks like some kind of store or restaurant, but we didn't have time to stop. The driver had to get back for other duties.



IMG_2574.JPG (above)

The house (hut?) on the left has the very typical thatch roof. You can see the bamboo and stone construction technique on the building on the right.



IMG_2582.JPG (above)

The Desoto Tide is departing the bay on her maiden voyage from Pemba to Collier, the first Moçambique drill site, about an eleven hour voyage north of here close to the Tanzania border.