

Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

**Gubert Tide
Sierra Leone, Africa
Venus B-1 Prospect**

15 August 2009

After the 8,800 nautical mile delivery from Singapore to Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, I commanded the Gubert Tide based in Abidjan to support Anadarko drilling an exploratory well off the coast of Sierra Leone, Africa. The Venus B-1 well successfully discovered commercial hydrocarbons.





The Belford Dolphin Drillship was engaged by Anadarko to drill its deep water prospect Venus B-1 off the coast of Sierra Leone. The country was not politically stable so the base of operations was Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire, a three day voyage. This made logistics very challenging but all worked well.



The Belford Dolphin had many modern technologies aboard. My favorite ones were the cargo hoses rolled up on reels and extra long booms on the crane. These very simple items made for a very safe and efficient operation.



The orange and white drillship contrasted nicely with the blue Atlantic Ocean.



We are simultaneously pumping fuel through one hose and water through the other.



The Desoto Tide working alongside the Belford Dolphin shows how the Gubert Tide looked working alongside the drillship.



The Gubert Tide and Desoto Tide were excellent workboats and my favorite of the Tidewater fleet so far.



Chef Tobi Tah was a very loyal, excellent cook. Crewmembers like him make the tasks of command rewarding work.



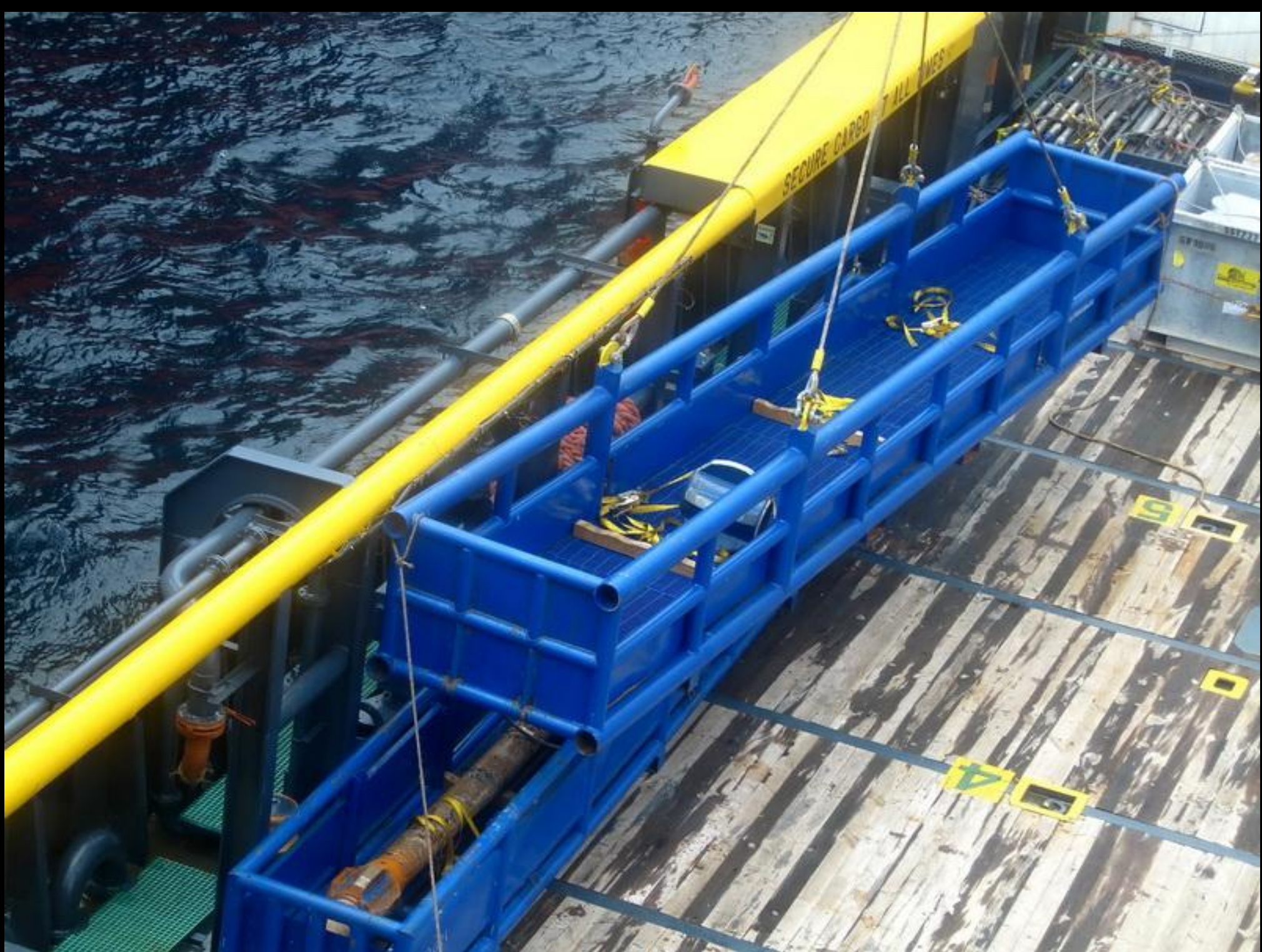
Capt. Daley is at the forward helm. The device in his hand is the joystick used for the DP-2 systems.



Fire drill on the Gubert Tide provides for a photo op. The Chinese fire suits looked a bit space age.



These fishing vessels would stay out for days offshore catching fish. It looks like a tough way to make a living.



Running an electrical cable inside the crash rail was one very bad design flaw. It didn't take long to destroy it.



Teaching mates to run the diesel electrical Z-drives and DP-2 systems is very rewarding (for both parties).



Tobi knew how to make a birthday in a foreign country feel like home.



Belford Dolphin is under her own power moving to the next location. Yes, she did find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.