



DEUTSCHE AFRIKA-LINIEN
JOHN T. ESSBERGER

news

July/2024

The Group's In-House Magazine

www.rantzau.de

Jubilee Special Edition



The moment of truth: spraying water for the newly christened vessels

Photo: YPS/Peter Neumann

100 years of John T. Essberger: A celebration for all

Double christening in the port of Hamburg, senate reception in the town hall, garden party on Palmaille, a post-naming dinner in the von Rantzau family's White House and an exhibition in the Maritime Museum



Happy godmothers Caroline von Rantzau and Annette von Rantzau

Who would have thought? 21 June 2024 was a day that no one at the shipping company will forget. In beautiful summer weather, interrupted only briefly by a cooling shower in the evening, employees and guests celebrated from midday until midnight. The long-prepared anniversary programme offered one highlight after another. Captains and officers had already attended a team-building crewing seminar at the Palmaille offices the day before. Dr von Rantzau welcomed the participants and invited them to the following day of celebrations.

The day began punctually at midday in the new Hamburg Cruise Centre Baakenhoef in HafenCity. The location was well chosen, as this is exactly where the group had built and operated its own Africa terminal at the end of the 1960s. In memory of Liselotte von Rantzau, who represented the second generation of the Essberger family, the city has named a nearby

square after her. The two new-buildings "Eberhart Essberger" and "Heinrich Essberger" (7,135 dwt each) lay bow to bow on the quay, flagged across the tops. Experts immediately recognised that the order of the signal flags corresponded to the names of the respective ships. Finger food and drinks were served in the party area. People could linger at tables and benches under sunshades.

In addition to many prominent guests of honour, all festively dressed, the captains and officers in particular cut a fine figure in their new uniforms.

Almost the entire von Rantzau family had arrived with their children and grandchildren to take part in the christening ceremony. They gathered on the specially designated stage. Philipp von Rantzau greeted the guests with a powerful voice, giving the welcoming speech for the first time on behalf of his father Eberhart von Rantzau.

(continued on page 2)



We are family! Johann Heinrich von Rantzau and Dr Anna Brandenburg with Leo and Clara, Dr Eberhart von Rantzau, Caroline von Rantzau, Patricia von Rantzau, Annette von Rantzau, Nofretete von Rantzau-Gaillard, Caroline Risch, Heinrich von Rantzau, Christian Albrecht von Rantzau with Vito, Georg von Rantzau with Cuno, Philipp von Rantzau, Ann-Mari von Rantzau with Anton and Henri, David Risch, Georg Risch and Alison Risch (left to right)



Philipp von Rantzau opening the official part of the christening party



Caroline von Rantzau releasing the champagne bottle with a pair of scissors



Work done – all good. Annette von Rantzau godmother of “Heinrich Essberger”



Post-naming party at the Hamburg Cruise Centre Baakenhoef

(continued from page 1)

Caroline von Rantzau named the ship “Eberhart Essberger” after her father, while Annette von Rantzau named the other new-building “Heinrich Essberger” after her husband. To do this, they cut a silk ribbon with a pair of scissors, the throwing arm with the champagne bottle came off and gravity did the rest. Lots of foam on the stern. All good.

The ships’ horns roared. The “Branddirektor Westphal”, Europe’s largest fireboat at 43 metres in length, threw veils of water from her sides into the sky. A perfect setting for such an important day. It was now open ship on both tankers and many guests took the opportunity to inspect

the ships from the bridge down to the engine room. This new class of ship is particularly popular with the crews as all the rooms are very spacious. The interior decoration selected by Patricia von Rantzau also contributes to the sense of well-being.

Keynote speech at Hamburg town hall

The next event was the official senate reception hosted by Hamburg’s First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher in the magnificent Great Banquet Hall of the town hall, which was completed in 1897. The hall, 720 square metres in size, provided a fitting setting with its monumen-

tal murals depicting motifs from Hamburg’s history. The mayor opened the event with his congratulations for John T. Essberger, and a digression on the challenges of shipping in times of high ecological pressures.

Dr Eberhart von Rantzau gave the keynote speech. He emphasised the close links between the city of Hamburg, the port and the shipping industry, and the contribution made by the three generations of John T. Essberger’s family.

The speech was very well received by the audience. We have printed the full text on the following pages of DAL/JTE News. The senate reception was rounded off with a six-minute film about 100 years of Essberger history, pro-

duced by the director Sebastian Wolf and Paul Hopfen, the former office manager of Liselotte von Rantzau. After the ceremony in the town hall, a post-naming garden party was held in the shipping company’s park on Palmallee for employees, customers and other guests, who were welcomed by the new CEO of the shipping group, Sven Schwarz. We have also printed his speech. The party was only briefly interrupted by a downpour – and only ended after midnight.

The von Rantzau family invited VIPs to a seated dinner at the historic White House on Elbchaussee for the official post-naming dinner. John T. Essberger and his wife Elsa had purchased the estate back in the 1930s and they lived

here happily. The guests of honour Hamburg’s First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher and his wife Eva-Maria attended the dinner.

Happy godmothers and a dinner for the VIPs

Dr von Rantzau welcomed the guests, explained the history of the house, which was built in 1795, and then moved on to the most important part of the evening: The two godmothers not only received much praise, but also a golden bracelet in the style of an anchor chain, as has always been customary as a gift at ship christenings. In a short, witty impromptu speech, Annette von Rantzau

thanked them for the honour of christening the ship. And Patricia expressed her thanks in the name of her daughter Caroline.

The menu then began with the starter, tuna tartare with avocado, prawn, wasabi sauce, baguette and butter. Cream of asparagus soup with cream topping was served for the second course. The main course was saddle of veal with hollandaise sauce, peas, asparagus and parsley potatoes, and strawberries with ice cream for dessert.

This was accompanied by a 2021 Geheimrat J. Riesling Spätlese Trocken, Weingut Wegeler Erbe, Rheingau, a 2021 Bordeaux Rouge Barons de Rothschild Lafite, and a Veuve Cliquot champagne to toast. Between saddles of veal and

strawberries, naval historian Frigate Captain Dr Guntram Schulze-Wegener gave a brilliant talk about John T. Essberger, his professional background as an imperial naval officer and how this experience shaped him as a shipowner and entrepreneur. This speech can also be read on the following pages.

The dinner at the White House ended late in the evening. Each guest was given a copy of the recently published bilingual book “100 John T. Essberger – Tradition and Excellence” to tuck under their arm for the journey home.

So much for the story of the anniversary day. A few days later, on 26 June, a small special exhibition on the history of 100 years of Essberger was opened at the Inter-

national Maritime Museum Hamburg (IMMH) with a number of employees in attendance. The exhibition is open until 11 November.

Patricia von Rantzau has initiated and organised the exhibition. Dr Eberhart von Rantzau was able to welcome a number of employees. He once again emphasised the shared interests and close family ties with his father-in-law and founder of the museum, Peter Tamm (1928-2016). However, his wife Ursula Tamm was present as guest of honour and watched as her grandson Philipp von Rantzau officially opened the exhibition.

The celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of John T. Essberger could not have been more beautiful. Mission accomplished!



Swiss bank holiday: Christian Wieser, Bernd Engelke, Stephan Benecke (JTE) Giamboy Gianrichy of Credit Suisse/UBS AG enjoying the day in the port of Hamburg



C/O Maniecki, Capt Grabowski, C/E Leszczynski, 2/E Lazdowski, C/E van Royen, 2/E Burlaka



Nofretete von Rantzau-Gaillard with her son Vito under the Essberger logo on the LNG tank



C/E Kuzma with Petra Hassan and Jihan Saab



3/O Edwin Jr. Regner waiting for guests to board



Ulrike Peters with Ann-Mari von Rantzau



Norbert Heinig (Charter Haus) and Capt Dan Tocitu



Christian Albrecht von Rantzau and Malte Willer, newly appointed MD of E&S Tankers



Philippine crew members enjoying the day and their new vessel



Francisco J. Pascual (Clarksons), Conchita Garcia Carvajal, Olaf Römer (Aurubis)



Panteleimon Pantelis (RNA), Stephan Priess (John T. Essberger)



Christiane Gräfin zu Rantzau, Susan Elbow, Dagmar Guth and Maximilian Guth



Heiko Zier (Notare an der Palmaille), Frank Brugger and Jan Lecky



Retired: Wilfried Fuhrmann with Hans-Dieter and Sylvia Sohst (JTE)



Nicolai Völckner (Bundesanstalt für Verwaltungsdienstleistungen)



Party time at the new Hamburg Baakenhoft Cruise Terminal in HafenCity



Gunnar Broeker, Christian Wolf, Dietrich Schwarz (Select Energy)



Frank Leonhardt, Annette and Heinrich von Rantzau



André Mölck, Kees Zuidam, Christopher Kage, Sascha Hagemann (JTE)



Caroline von Rantzau on the bridge with Captain Antczak



Christine Voigts and Katarzyna Walentynowicz (Crewing Dep)



John T. Essberger CEO Sven Schwarz, Dr Hanno Brümmer (Covestro AG) with Dr Udo Lange, CEO of E&S Tankers Norwegian partner Stolt-Nielsen



Max von Oekel and Katrien van Itterbeeck (E&S Tankers)



C/E Vitaly Kolesnyk with René Hogrefe (Crewing)



Soenke Koester, Kristof Kueck, Vera Busch, Antje Lohmann, Reda Hamreras, Thomas D Varkey



Hon. Con. Kenia Dr Jens Peter Breitengross, Prof Dr Nicolas and Ute Bogs



C/E Kolesnyk, C/O Bula, Capt Antczak, Orhan Akyildiz with Per-Christian Dettwiler (E&S Tankers)



Susan Elbow, Michael Behrendt (Hapag-Lloyd)



Neil Gill (Clarksons London) and Mechje van Gils (Yara AB)



Georg von Rantzau with Anton von Rantzau and grandpa Michael May



Arthur E Darboven and Karolin Nausch



Looking forward: Johan Isaksen, Dir Essberger Ship Management



Julia Piirala, Sandra Loewe, Ina Schulte, Kirsten Michaelis and Betty Radau

Heinrich's Tale by Mihai Tocitu

The author of the poem on "Heinrich Essberger" is a sea cadet in the Essberger fleet and the son of our Captain Dan Tocitu

Steel-clad glory, with twin souls' fire,
From ages past to futures higher.
With hearts of gold, a crew's brave might,
A century's beacon, shining bright.

From China's shores, their journey starts,
With steely nerves and open hearts.
Through seas unknown, they chart their course,
Determined minds, an unyielding force.

Unbent in the face of peril's hand,
They journey forth, no sight of land.
Through the Indian Ocean's vast expanse,
They sail with grace, a daring dance.

Around Cape of Good Hope, they bravely guide
With Magellan's spirit, they press on with pride.
Facing storms and waves so high,
Beneath the endless, watchful sky.

Heinrich sails forth, a tale to tell,
A testament of human prowess well.
With boots grounded, spirits high,
They face the sea, beneath the sky.

Through storm and calm, they find their way,
Guardians of history, night and day.
In steel-clad glory, their path aligned,
Heinrich sails forth, a legacy defined.



Past Cape of Good Hope, they press ahead,
Where many feared, and many fled.
Saint Helena's grace, they pass it by,
Towards Cape Verde where dreams still lie.

With Njörd's blessing, onward they steer,
In quest for home, they persevere.
Graced from afar by Portugal's shores,
They sail towards the European doors.

To Antwerp's port, their course is set,
A voyage none will soon forget.
Steel and spirit, fused as one,
Beneath the stars, beneath the sun.

With every mile, their story grows,
A saga written in the flows.
Heinrich's name, a beacon bright,
Guiding through the darkest night.

A crew emboldened, hearts of gold,
Their legacy, a tale retold.
From distant shores to home's embrace,
They journey forth, a noble race.

With courage firm and vision clear,
Heinrich sails forth, year after year.
In Hamburg's port, a baptism awaits,
Her maiden voyage, now history's gates.



Welcome on board by Philippine crew member



René Hogrefe and Hans Boers (Boers Crew Services)



Michael and Ulrike May



Three cheers for "Heinrich Essberger" – nice to meet you on this happy day



Christiane Gräfin zu Rantzau and Dr Ulrich Voswinckel



Frank Leonhardt, Consul Bettina Rhensius-Krohn, Dr Bastian Dühmert



Dr Michael Triskatis and Dr Claudiana Triskatis



Philipp Koeke (Aurubis AG)



Anita Hinneberg, Ian Lewis (Tradewinds)



Dr Fritz Hohagen, Maike Kramhoeft, Henning Soldmann (Rohlstorf)



Antoinette Zornig, Dagmar Guth, Birthe Boeckel-Stödter, Susan Elbow (US Consul General ret)



Tim Schäfer (Head Marine Underwriting Allianz)



Hans-Walter Peters, Patricia von Rantzau, Caroline von Rantzau



Graf Bolko von Pfeil, Dr Walter Richtberg, Prof Bernhard Servatius



Silke Steinfurt (Personnel Manager JTE)



Malte Willer with Christian Albrecht and Nofretete von Rantzau



John T. Essberger crew awaiting the guests



Gunnar Broeker, Andrea Hanak, Claudia Holle, Jens Moeller



Arthur E Darboven, Karolin Nausch, Hans-Walter and Ulrike Peters



Bernd Schlarmann Essberger Ship Management, Jens Kämmler (Chemtec)



Essberger 5th generation: Henri and Cuno von Rantzau, sons of Georg and Ann-Mari von Rantzau, with babysitter on their first ship christening party. Hopefully there are many more to come



Francisco J. Pascual (Clarksons Martankers), Felix Izaguirre (Cepsa Quimica), Ludovico Panciera (Nova Chartering), Marc Jarisch (E&S Tankers)



Jordan Macé (TIM Brokerage), Sebastian Schauwecker (TIM Brokerage)



Stefan Eefting, Christian Kamm, Tammo Rütter, Olaf Ginia (MAN)



Klaus Jochens (ex-MD Deutsche Afrika-Linien), Corinna Herforth



Askeel Baardsen (JTE Fleet Manager), Mico Milojevic (B52), Gep Navest (B52), Michiel Somford (B52)



Sandra Loewe and Werner Scharnowski



Dr Arno Mahler, Birte Boeckel-Stoedter, Jens Boekel



Wall murals in the 720 m² Great Banquet Hall illustrate the history of Hamburg, here with a primeval landscape in the background. It is here that the great senate banquets are held



Dr Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Senate reception on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of John T. Essberger

Speech by the First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher / "One of the longest-established companies in our city"

Dear Dr Eberhart von Rantzau, dear Heinrich von Rantzau, Dear Mr Chairman of the SPD Parliamentary Group, dear members of the Consular Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the town hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hamburg shipping company John T. Essberger.

When the company was founded in 1924, there was a spirit of optimism in Hamburg. The First World War was over. For the first time, all citizens had elected a democratic citizenry in free elections. The port and the economy boomed and science flourished

with the newly founded university. John T. Essberger, a native Briton with German citizenship, had served in the Imperial Navy during the First World War and developed an interest in seafaring.

A pioneer of tanker shipping

In 1924, he founded the Atlantik-Tank-Reederei in Hamburg, which has borne his name since 1936. Within a few years, John T. Essberger built up a fleet and made a name for himself as a pioneer of tanker shipping.

At the beginning of the 1940s, he entered the freight transport business with Africa. From the merger of Woermann Line, which had already been established in the 19th century, and German East Africa Line, he founded the Deutsche Afrika-Linien, which was an important pillar of the shipping group for decades.

After the Second World War, the fleet had to be completely rebuilt, but Essberger succeeded in making a fresh start and expanding the tanker business. After his death in 1959, his daughter Liselotte von Rantzau-Essberger took over the management and ran the com-

pany very successfully for 30 years. She was the first woman to head a major shipping company. A square in today's Elbbrücken neighbourhood in HafenCity is named after her.

Dear Dr Eberhart von Rantzau, dear Heinrich von Rantzau, since 1980, the management of the company has been in your hands, the third generation.

The John T. Essberger shipping company is one of the longest-established companies in our city. Today, it has over one hundred employees on land and around 1,000 at sea. With over 30 chemical tankers, it is one of the leading

shipping companies in this sector in Europe. Ladies and Gentlemen, many of you were already at the Cruise Centre Baakenhoeft in HafenCity at midday today, where the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the John T. Essberger shipping company began with a double ship christening.

The two new tankers "Eberhart Essberger" and "Heinrich Essberger" – together with the "Liselotte Essberger", which was christened in Hamburg in December last year – add to the modernisation and gradual decarbonisation of the fleet. With their new design and a dual-fuel LNG propulsion system, the ships can make a significant contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions. Climate friendliness will be a decisive competitive advantage in the future. Those who lead the way here with technical innovations will also be economically successful.

LNG propulsion systems are a bridging technology that can be used to reduce emissions until climate-neutral fuels such as green methanol, ammonia or hydrogen are available for shipping in sufficient quantities and at reasonable cost. The port of Hamburg is also on course for decarbonisation. A few weeks ago, the first shore power system went into operation at a container terminal in Hamburg. By 2025, all cruise terminals and large container terminals in the port of Hamburg will have shore power technology.

A major step towards reducing CO₂ and pollutant emissions

This is unique in Europe and a major step towards reducing CO₂ and pollutant emissions in Hamburg. One of Europe's first

ammonia import terminals is due to go into operation in the port of Hamburg in 2026. This is an important step towards establishing Hamburg as a centre of the European hydrogen economy, because in this field it is no longer a question of making good strategies and plans – many people now have them – but of getting started in practice.

Ladies and Gentlemen, ports and shipping companies can only be successful together in the maritime industry. Both sides must invest in innovative technologies and further develop their business models so that they continue to function economically in the future and become more climate-friendly and sustainable. Hamburg offers a network of scientific institutes, innovative companies and start-ups that are unique in Europe and focuses on progress in maritime logistics. By strengthening and modern-

ising the port of Hamburg, the Hanseatic city is securing Germany's national supply security and independence and connecting what is now the world's third-largest economy to international markets.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Hamburg is the largest shipping centre in Germany. The shipping companies and trading houses based here have always characterised the cosmopolitanism and internationality of our city. In its 100-year history, the John T. Essberger shipping company has made a significant contribution to Hamburg's development into the largest centre of German merchant shipping.

Dear Mr von Rantzau, dear employees on land and at sea, I would like to congratulate the John T. Essberger shipping company on its 100th anniversary and wish you continued success. Thank you very much.

“The history of the port is reflected in the history of our shipping company”

Dr Eberhart von Rantzau addressing 400 guests in his jubilee speech/ John T. Essberger will continue to do its part to keep shipping in our home port alive/ Plans for a new generation of chemical tankers are underway



Under the Hamburg state coat of arms: Managing owner Dr Eberhart von Rantzau gives a widely acclaimed speech in the historic town hall

Hamburg is a city that owes its importance and prosperity primarily to trade and shipping, i.e. merchants and shipowners. Ever since the port of Hamburg was founded 835 years ago. Even in politically and economically difficult times, the free and Hanseatic city has always succeeded in preserving the values on which its community is based.

As can be read in the golden letters above the portal of the town hall: “May posterity honour the freedom that the ancients struggled to achieve.” The maritime heritage is an essential part of this community and has never been called into question. It is part of the identity of this city. Today shows us that this heritage continues to be cherished and valued.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the John T. Essberger shipping company, the Senate of the Hanse-

atic City of Hamburg honoured the management and all employees, and many guests who are on friendly terms with our shipping company, to a reception here in the Town Hall’s Great Banquet Hall. The monumental painting of the river Elbe and the port above us, it dates back to 1909, shows the importance that citizens attach to shipping. The city and the port are inseparable.

Writing maritime history for generations

We appreciate this invitation to the Senate reception and thank you, Mr Mayor, for your participation in the anniversary of a shipping company that was founded as a family business in Hamburg and has been writing maritime history for three generations.

Our family has also set important cultural and social trends in

our hometown. We consider it an honour that you, as First Mayor, are celebrating this ceremony with us today. Over the past one hundred years, the port has repeatedly undergone drastic changes.

The last century began with the rise to a world port which ended with the complete decline of shipping after the lost First World War. The painstaking recovery to its former greatness was followed by

the trauma of National Socialism, until the complete destruction of the port facilities and fleet.

The new beginning after the WW2 was indeed an economic miracle. Reunification in 1989 brought the hinterland back to the port. Hamburg rose to its former greatness. The introduction of the container at the beginning of the 1970s turned the existing port structure upside down and demanded space for ever larger ships.

We had to sell the Africa terminal we built and operated in Baakenhafen because there was not enough space for the ever-growing container vessels. A new waterfront district, HafenCity, was created in the abandoned historic harbour areas. The new millennium brought us the digital revolution and artificial intelligence. As a logistics company Essberger is aware of the great opportunities of digitalisation and AI.

The history of the port is reflected in the history of our shipping company. Daring and foresight, tenacity and confidence and, ultimately, a portion of luck are the basis for surviving in the globalised world. This applies to both the port and the shipping companies.

You have already outlined some key points about the shipping history of John T. Essberger in your speech, Mr Mayor. The family character of the company was also mentioned. Different principles apply in family-run companies than in anonymous corporations. Commercial thinking and behaviour are, of course, also our top priority. But focusing the business purpose solely on short-term returns is not enough for a medium-sized family business in the long term.

Good working conditions, trust, openness and social care are all part of this. The experience

and values that our grandfather John T. Essberger and our mother Liselotte von Rantzau passed on to us in the shipping business are the guidelines we follow.

They are of very Hanseatic nature. In the novel “The Buddenbrooks” by Thomas Mann it says: “Take pleasure in your business during the day, but only do it so that we can sleep peacefully at night!” That also applies to us. We only try to do business so that we can sleep peacefully at night. Of course, we don’t always succeed. Our trees grow slowly, but sustainably. And we don’t plant trees that grow into the sky. Not always carefree, but ultimately successful, we have managed to maintain our independence for over a century. How many family-run shipping companies in Hamburg have been able to retain their independence? How many have survived the last shipping crises? The number is manageable.

No national borders and no prejudices

As managing owners, my brother and I can determine the course of the “shipping company ship”. But it takes a lot of manpower to get the ship and its cargo safely to the next destination. Our employees on land and at sea are the most valuable asset for our company, and their experience and loyalty are irreplaceable. People from many different nations work for us. There are no national borders and no prejudices. For us, only character and ability count, not origin. That’s how we’ve always done well. I expressly include our pensioners in my thanks. Many of them have spent their entire professional lives with us and have achieved great things. We would never have got this far without them.

As a former imperial naval officer and staunch patriot, with a humane Christian background, our grandfather John T. Essberger was one of the outstanding Hanseatic shipowners. Even in dark times, he never lost his inner compass. As a person and as an entrepreneur, he is a role model. His daughter, our mother Liselotte von Rantzau, succeeded in continuing the company in his spirit. With

her leadership qualities and strong personality, she was held in high regard in a male-dominated profession. Her social commitment and dedication to women’s equality set standards. We were naturally delighted that our mother was honoured with the naming of a “Liselotte von Rantzau Square” in HafenCity.

Together with my brother Heinrich, I am the third generation to lead the John T. Essberger shipping company into a new era.

We have succeeded. However, we have also had to make some painful decisions in recent years. The sale of the liner service of Deutsche Afrika-Linen – not the entire shipping company – was the right decision at the right time from a commercial point of view.

In the long term, we would not have been able to compete successfully with the world’s major container shipping companies such as MSC, Maersk and CMA/CGM. There were serious interested parties from abroad. But with the sale to Hapag-Lloyd, we have expressly decided in favour of a Hamburg-based company. It was part of our loyalty to our long-standing employees to enable them to be taken on smoothly by a top address in Hamburg. And it is our loyalty to the city to support the local economy and maintain maritime expertise in Hamburg.

In its anniversary year 2024, the John T. Essberger shipping company is on a firm footing, especially with its chemical tankers. The double christening of the chemical tankers “Eberhart Essberger” and “Heinrich Essberger” in Baakenhoeft harbour today at midday showed that we are prepared to continue investing in the future.

Unfortunately, such events have become rare in the port of Hamburg. John T. Essberger will continue to do its part to keep shipping in our home port of Hamburg alive. The plans for a new generation of chemical tankers for John T. Essberger, including for larger vessels, are underway. Today we celebrated the past with dignity.

From tomorrow, we will once again be looking to the future, which will largely have to be mastered by our management and the fourth generation of our family.



Dr von Rantzau and his wife Patricia with First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher

Hamburg's town hall opened its doors to celebrate the Essberger centennial

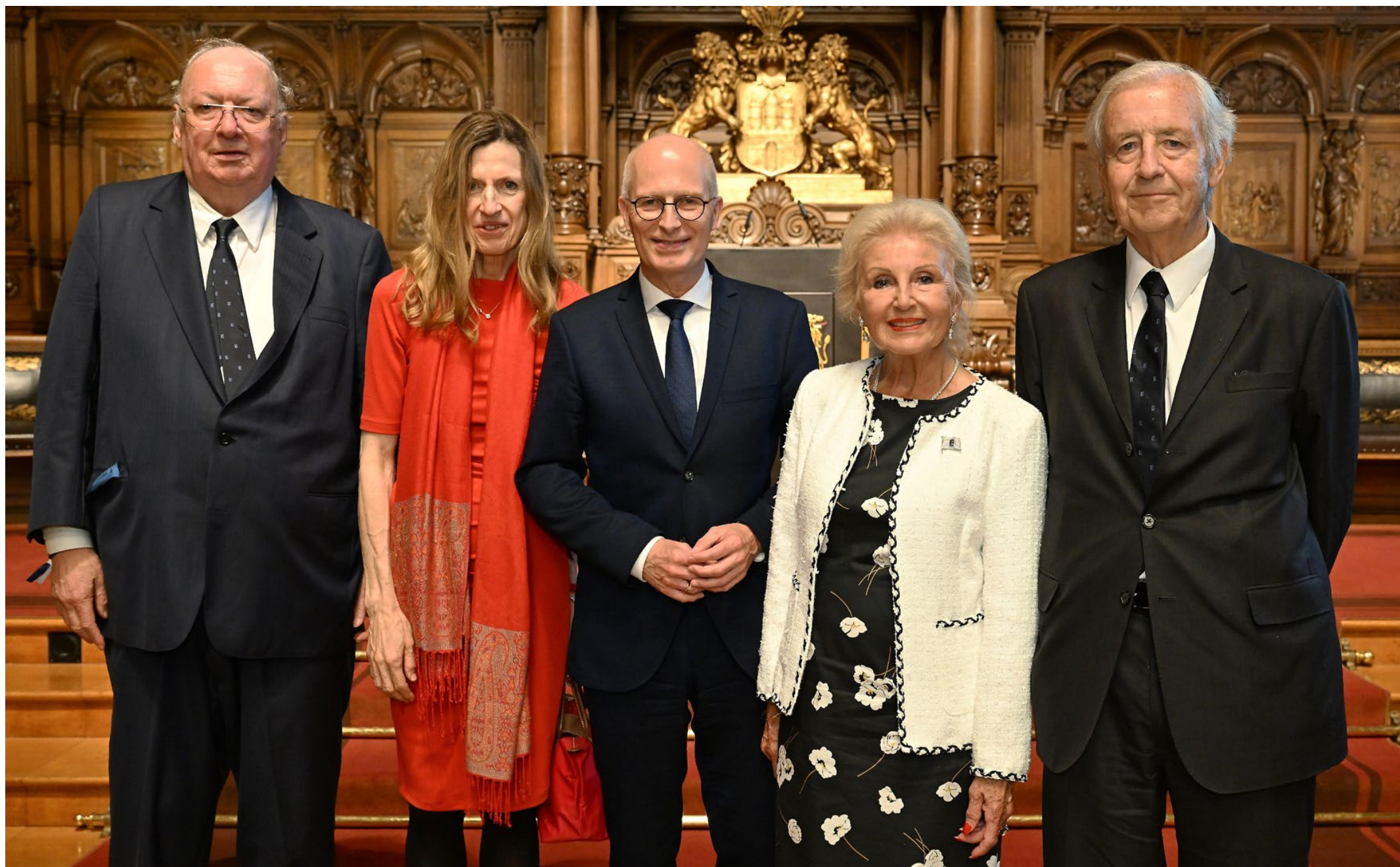
It took 44 years and seven architects until the building was finally finished in 1897. Architecture and furnishings reflect the wealth and importance of the city and its citizens. On the invitation of the senate all guests got a first-hand impression



The town hall's facade is 110 metres wide, its spire rises to a height of 112 metres



Philipp von Rantzau with Ibrahim S Mohd Hussain Sharaf Alhaschmi



The lifetime achievement of the third Essberger generation is honoured by First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher representing the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, independent of the Federal Republic of Germany





Impressed by the magnificent hall Captain Dan Tocitu takes a souvenir photo



Captain Koen Ghysels, 2/E Kaczmarek, C/E Marian A Cornea waiting for something to happen

Core of the new Essberger/E&S Tankers generation: Jonas Neddermann, Timon Spreckels, Peter Willer, Freya Homeyer, Tim Johannsen plus Gerret Grage



Ludwig Daniel Angeli, Annette von Rantzau with Georg von Rantzau



Jan Cuyt and Annemie Bryssinck (Port of Antwerp)



Nicole Smit (Hansa Partner), Birger Basteck with Ines Huemer (Accounting)



Johan Isaksen, Kalle Winter and Jan Eghoej (E&S Tankers)



Dr Ricardo Alvarez (Finances) with Paul Hopfen (ex-Office Manager Liselotte v Rantzau)



Chief Engineer Pavel Kuzma, Essberger CEO Sven Schwarz



Dr Gaby Bornheim (German Shipowners Association)



Ann-Mari von Rantzau with Christian Wieser (Credit Suisse AG)



Malte Willer (John T. Essberger), Heinrich von Rantzau, Friedhelm Moritz and Matthias Osbahr (Gut Rohlfstorf)



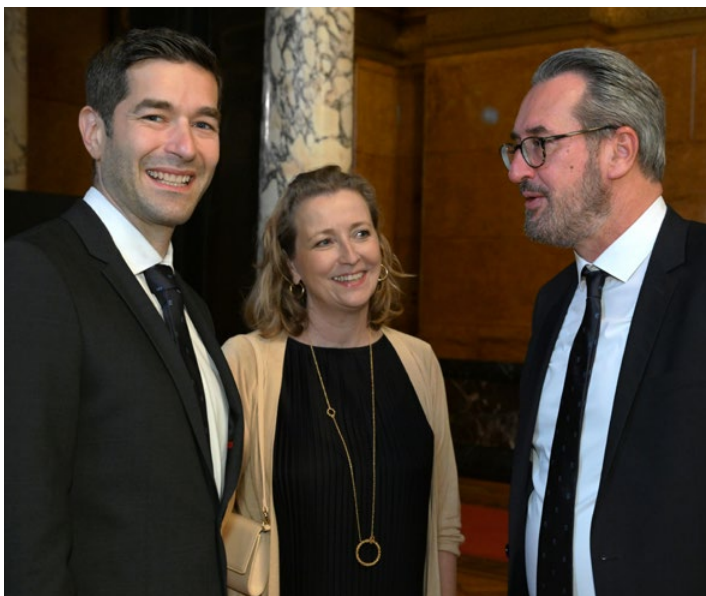
Great Banquet Hall, 720 m², oak wood floors: this is the where Hamburg holds state receptions and traditional gatherings like the Feast of Matthew dating back to the year 1356



Michael Behrendt (Hapag-Lloyd), Peter von Foerster (Berenberg Bank, Übersee-Club)



Ibrahim Sharaf and Peter Tamm Jr. (Int Maritime Museum)



Dr Michael Triskatis, Ina Schulte, Soenke Koester



Frigate Captain Dr Guntram Schulze-Wegener (German Navy) with Gabriele Muehlen



Dr Wolfgang Peiner (ex-Finance Senator Hamburg)



Svante Domizlaff (author), Maria Weber (Clyde & Co), Ralf Krogmann (Museum)



Michael Omland, Anke Piper (Accounting), Malte Willer



Dr Ricardo Alvarez, Paul Hopfen, Michael May



IT smiling: Michael Sass, Lars Krugmann, Kai Nothdurft, Athos Buchheister



C/O Konijn, C/E van Royen, C/E Tichelaar, C/O Bula, C/O Steenberg, C/E Shapovalov, C/E Leszczynski, 3/E Sipiora, C/O Glinkis, 2/E Koltonowski, 2/E Kolesins, Elec Laskowski, C/E Tuca, C/O Kulesza, 2/E Lazdowski, 2/E Frigioiu, Capt. Arneback Moller, Capt. Bjoerkavaag, C/O Maniecki, 2/E Burlaka, Capt. Ghysels, C/O Eriskin, C/O Vlasov, 2/O Vitenchuk, C/E Kuzma, 3/E Szulta, C/O Stalica, C/O Brandalski, C/E Tudorache, 2/E Kaczmarek, C/O Leonov, Capt. Grabowski, C/E Shcherbov, C/E Gzella, C/E Varakin, C/E Topolewski, C/E Zimenkov, Capt. Tkachenko, Capt. Klepacki, C/E Cornea, 2/E Alexe, Capt. Tocitu



All set for the post-naming-party in the Palmaille gardens with the Essberger House in the background



Aerial view of the party grounds with shelter from a storm causing a short break of the festivities



Photos: Jan Mordhorst



Rainwater running down from the tent. But the storm was over in no time. In the park, captains and officers relaxing and enjoying a drink or two

“Each of you is an essential part of our success story”

CEO Sven Schwarz with an opening speech to the staff of John T. Essberger at the post-naming garden party on Palmaille/ Dr Eberhart von Rantzau says goodbye to retired captains and officers

Welcome to our after-show party in this beautiful garden! Winston Churchill once said, “A good speech should exhaust the subject, not the audience.” So, rest assured, I’ll keep it brief!

Today, we celebrated the christening of our two new state-of-the-art chemical tankers and a splendid reception at Hamburg’s town hall, marking the centenary of our long-standing company.

Now it’s time for us to relax

Now it’s time for us to relax and enjoy. As new CEO, I am honoured to be part of this third-generation family business, a market leader in European short-sea shipping, respected globally in the chemical industry. Our recent 4Star Gold Award from Dow Europe for excellence in sustainability, social

responsibility, safety and service is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our team. Thank you all for your hard work.

Thank you for all your hard work

Our new head of E+S Tankers and successor to Jan Eghoej – Malte Willer – has assured me that he and his team want to top this excellent performance in the coming years. By the way, a special thank-you, dear Jan, for your extraordinary achievements and all the best for you and your future journey.

In these times of rapid change, resilience and adaptability are crucial. Resilience means not just withstanding setbacks but emerging stronger. Adaptability requires us to embrace change and learn constantly. These skills are vital both on land and at sea.

An old captain once told me, “A good sailor knows the weather will

change, but a great sailor always has a plan B.” This wisdom has guided me through many storms and reminds us to always be prepared.

Our business is built on stability, innovation, and continuity, helping us to overcome challeng-

es and grow. We are committed to our customers, employees, the environment, and society. Service excellence, safety, and environmental stewardship are our top priorities, and we invest in training and technology to ensure the

best standards. However, regarding our fleet renewal, we are also faced with a very tight market for new buildings – prices and delivery times are challenging today. In addition, the lack of available green technologies and fuels

makes the outlook unclear, so we also need to carefully consider all alternatives for maintaining the fleet.

Finally, I want you to know that each of you is an essential part of our success story. Together, we

can overcome any challenge and remain an industry leader for the next 100 years. Let us stay the course, be resilient and adaptable, and uphold the values that have made us successful. Let’s raise our glasses to a century of stability,

innovation and continuity. May our company remain as resilient as the ships we christened today, and may our unity be as enduring as the port of Hamburg. Your partnership and loyalty are the foundation of our success.



Welcome speech by Essberger CEO Sven Schwarz



Members of the crewing seminar listening to Dr von Rantzau’s speech. Farewell to retired Capt Grabowski, Capt Gajdowski and C/E Topolowski



Post-naming dinner by invitation of the von Rantzau family on Elbchaussee



The Weisses Haus was John T. Essberger's private home. The historic building dates back to the late 18th century and is still kept in excellent condition



Last speech of the day. Dr von Rantzau officially opens the post-naming dinner



Ulrike Peters, Dr Eberhart von Rantzau, Philipp with open arms



Caroline von Rantzau, happy about her christening present



Patricia von Rantzau says thank you in the name of her daughter Caroline



Dr Bernhardt und Astrid Schulte with First Mayor Tschentscher



Rolf Habben Jansen (Hapag-Lloyd) and Hans-Walter Peters (Berenberg)



Dr Jacob Siebert (CMS Hasche Sigle) with Ibrahim Sharafenjoying a welcome drink



Michael and Cornelia Behrendt and Dr Ottmar Gast



Heinrich von Rantzau and Hamburg's First Mayor Dr Peter Tschentscher



Christian Hinneberg with Dr Claus Junge and Heidelies Stiewe

“You either have it or you don’t,” says the frigate captain

Frigate Captain Dr Guntram Schulze-Wegener held an Essberger anniversary speech at the post-naming dinner in the von Rantzau estate Weisses Haus in Hamburg-Blankenese

Having unexpectedly become a jubilee guest, I have a feeling of incompetence on this centenary occasion and at this place of Hanseatic splendour and excellence. How to approach this extraordinary history, this truly maritime dynasty, with the all too limited view of an outsider?

The keyword has been used, sea domination, which we encounter here in its purest form. More precisely: Essberger and sea domination. You, dear von Rantzau family, may not be entirely comfortable with this combination, as you have always been suspicious of any hint of maritime gigantomania.

But the synthesis is understandable and legitimate. After all, naval supremacy is the sum of fleet (i.e. quality and quantity of ships), base (i.e. harbours, bases, partners, people and everything that is called sustainability today) and something else that is not quite tangible but nonetheless important: maritime spirit. You either have it or you don't. If one factor in the equation of fleet, base and maritime spirit approaches zero, the product is zero. All three factors need to work together in equal measure in order to have a dominating effect at sea.

Germans did not understand the sea

I don't know where this could apply better than to the Essberger shipping company, and it's no coincidence that the website adopts the idea of "join the maritime spirit".

The company's roots lie in a decade in which the world formula for naval supremacy was also making its way into history. It was intended to provide an answer to the question of why the naval supremacy of the Imperial Navy, despite its considerable second place behind the Royal Navy, remained a utopian dream.

"The Germans did not understand the sea" was the judgement of the empire's naval architect, retired Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz. And others came to a very similar conclusion, that the Germans, who were powerful on land, lacked that primal, historically derived, if you will,

genetic anchoring in the sea and its secrets.

The absence of a maritime DNA, this deepest and most dominant characteristic, necessarily meant the failure of all Germany's maritime ambitions.

The British were different on their watery continent. The special maritime spirit belonged entirely to them, at least since the Navigation Act of 1651, and their claim to naval supremacy was therefore, as it were, God-given. "Rule, Britannia, Britannia rule the waves".

British blood and seawater flowed through John T. Essberger's veins. Even the loss of his British citizen-



Frigate Captain Schulze-Wegener

ship, which he accepted in order to wear the emperor's blue coat of all things, could not change that. The dramaturgy could not be more flawless.

In intelligent, energetic, open-minded Hamburg, his British-maritime, certainly proud, but at the same time free-spirited core of character combines well with Teutonic virtues: a strict approach to life, a love of order, inner rigour, unsentimentality despite his musical talent merge with forward-looking fearlessness and the great possible commercial talent.

These are the ingredients of the ingenuity that the former naval

officer, skilled in manoeuvres, developed 100 years ago when he founded the "Atlantic-Tank-Rhederei", which he later renamed "John T. Essberger".

Only with a blue E on a white flag, whose captivatingly simple elegance is still superior to any exotic play of colours and ornaments.

This is where the famous red thread that runs through first British and then German ropes begins in a tanker and liner shipping company. Growing steadily, it soon became Germany's most prestigious address and naturally aroused the brazen desires of the new rulers. But Essberger, a

staunch Christian, is able to fend off their advances.

His alliance with naval supremacy is not a fleeting feeling of power but has an inner enduring power that goes beyond the nothingness of 1945. Literally like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a few years after the end of the war, the tanker "Elsa Essberger" emerged as the largest ship in the German merchant fleet and – as I may quote from Svante Domizlaff's magnificent book that has just been published – a "much admired symbol of confidence".

Full of confidence in the future! After the death of John T. Ess-

berger, his daughter, filled with a sensible morality that is passionately emancipated and focused on humanity, sets the course in the midst of a male-dominated maritime world.

Blessed with her father's maritime spirit and every conceivable degree of both determination and care for her employees, Liselotte von Rantzau-Essberger experienced the momentum of the economically miraculous 1960s as well as a drift into the 1970s at the head of the company group.

The ability and dignity of destiny. Perhaps it is this pair of concepts that the great woman passed

on to her two sons, Eberhart and Heinrich, who have retained their grandfather's naval spirit and are now the third generation to master the new challenges facing the company since the 1980s.

Origin is a lot, but being proven in the ancestral cause entrusted to us by our origins is more. Just as modernity is interwoven with tradition and the old extends into the new in many different ways, the Essberger shipping company, the family in its independence and personal responsibility, is charged with being and remaining sea-faring in the best sense of the word.



Guest speaker Dr Guntram Schulze-Wegener emphasized how John T Essberger background as an imperial navy officer has influenced the maritime spirit of his shipping company



Annette von Rantzau getting attention for a humorous speech about her past as a lady sponsor and her latest experience



Eva-Maria Tschentscher, Christian Hinneberg, Georg and Christian von Rantzau



Michael and Cornelia Behrendt with Georg von Rantzau



Dr Anna Brandenburg, Milena Potocki, Carsten Weers (BASF)



Welcome everybody, looking forward to a nice evening



Stephan Gemko with Annette von Rantzau and Dr Peter Tschentscher



Rolf Habben Jansen, Hans-Walter Peters, Michael Behrendt, Christian Hinneberg



Dr Ottmar Gast, Udo Lange, Margot Blume-Gast



Dr Jacob Siebert, Silke Brümmer, Dr Ottmar Gast



Christian Albrecht von Rantzau



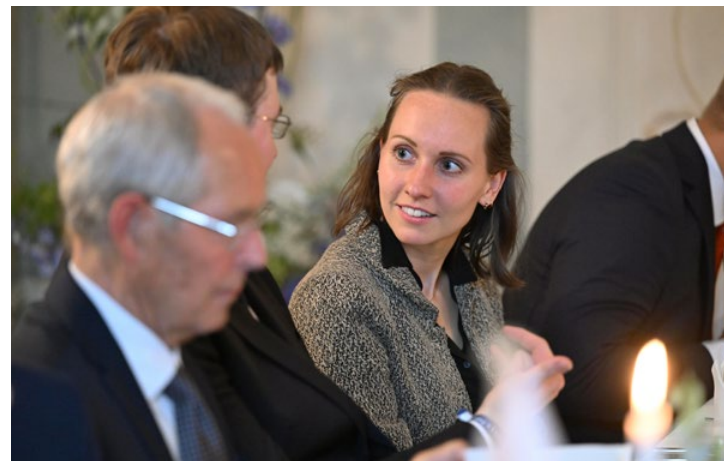
Dr Claudiana Triskatis, Dr Claus Junge



Knut Aanensen and Gunn Aanensen (Hagland BKR)



Arne Aanensen and Berit Aanensen



Dr Claus Junge with Jaqueline Werner



Ferdinand Dedi and Jacqueline Werner signing the guest book



Home-made Essberger birthday cake at the entrance



Waiting for the First Mayor of Hamburg and his security entourage



Dr Ottmar Gast and Margot Blume-Gast with Heinrich von Rantzau



Dr Hanno and Silke Brümmer (Covestro)



Getting to know each other



A bit of fresh air and a drink in the park before the official dinner

Vessel of the year 2023: Wilhelmine Essberger!

In 2023, the vessel “Wilhelmine Essberger” stood out as the best performer. Credit is due to the dedicated officers and ratings, as well as the strong leadership that propelled her to

the forefront. The exceptional collaboration and great working atmosphere significantly contributed to this outstanding performance. Wilhelmine Essberger excelled across all critical aspects:

safety, reliability, vetting, and cost control. Remarkably, there have been no recorded loss time injuries for over five years – a testament to the safety culture. On 3 July 2024, a plaque was presented

to the vessel in Antwerp. Second place was awarded to “Georg Essberger” and “Patricia Essberger” and third place went to “Nordic Sola”. We are looking forward to the winners of the year 2024!



Simply the best! Crew of Wilhelmine Essberger from left to right: H S Virata, Max von Oekel, M R L Ciriaco, P S Perez, J M C Brosas, K Stroomberg, L H M Kanter, M Y Quebec, K Schenk, F G R Antipatia, D Amosov, B T Viera Silva, S M Fajardo, D W A Dumalgan, D A Santiago, E V Estrella

Essberger exhibition at the Maritime Museum Hamburg

The International Maritime Museum Hamburg (IMMH) in HafenCity is honouring the centenary of John T. Essberger's birth with a small special exhibition, which is open until November this year. Several ship models and memorabilia are on

display on Deck 6 of the museum. The museum, also known as the “Tamm Museum”, began with the private collection of the former CEO of Springer-Press Peter Tamm (1928-2016) and is now run by his son Peter Tamm Jr. His sister Patricia von Rantzau (née Tamm)

put together the special exhibition. Her husband Dr Eberhart von Rantzau welcomed the guests to a small reception to mark the opening. He emphasised the long friendship between the two families. Peter Tamm described John T. Essberger, whom he knew well

personally, as one of his great role models. The two shared a keen interest in naval history and corporate management. Ursula Tamm, Dr von Rantzau's mother-in-law, attended the opening as a guest of honour. The tanker “Ursula Essberger” was named after her.



Ursula Tamm and Dr Eberhart von Rantzau welcomed guests to the opening of the special exhibition with interesting exhibits

For more information on the **DAL/JTE Group** please contact Svante Domizlaff, tel: +49 40 38016-611, email: svante.domizlaff@rantzau.de or the German head office **Deutsche Afrika-Linien** Palmalle 45, 22767 Hamburg, tel: +49 40 38016-0, fax: +49 40 38016-663, email: contact-dal@rantzau.de or **Essberger & Stolt Tankers** Palmalle 45, 22767 Hamburg, tel: +49 40 38016-0, email: chartering@es-tankers.com

The new Hamburg Baakenhafen Cruise Centre is located on the grounds of the former Afrika-Terminal built in the late 1960s by Deutsche Afrika-Linien. It was a perfect location for the christening of the chemical tankers "Eberhart Essberger" and "Heinrich Essberger" on 21 June 2024



Whereabouts

July 2024

Ship name	Master	First Mate	Chief Engineer
Agnes Essberger	Yury Shcherbinkin	Jaroslav Kawczynski	Tomasz Wolczek
Amalie Essberger	Jakub Nadaj	Alexander Adodin	Jeremias Cerdenia
Anneliese Essberger	Albertus Linthorst	Slawomir Narloch	Pieter Pasterkamp
Annette Essberger	Waldemar Literski	John Christopher Domingo	Artur Krupa
Birthe Essberger	Cezary Niczyperowicz	Robert Halicki	Alexandru Androne
Caroline Essberger	Chris De Boer	Marcus Klein	Sergey Kokorin
Charlotte Essberger	Robert Waldon	Svajunas Ramanauskas	Lukasz Zeromski
Christian Essberger	Krzysztof Niedzielski	Marison Tabotabo	Miroslaw Jaworski
Coral Essberger	Paulo Santos	Dariusz Podsiadly	Adam Szwajka
Cuno Essberger	Dariusz Swierkosz	Cagla Yavan	Marek Ptasznik
Dutch Aquamarine	Thomas Kijzers	Maciej Maciejuniec	Pieter-Willem Mars
Dutch Emerald	Stephanus Frerichs	Sjoerd Rijndorp	Sipke Steenbergen
Eberhart Essberger	Lukasz Antczak	Waldemar Rzepka	Vitaliy Kolesnyk
Ellen Essberger	Arkady Khramushin	Pawel Czarnacki	Leonid Volkov
Elsa Essberger	Boguslaw Giedzewicz	Jaroslav Krok	Sergey Kononenko
Georg Essberger	Anton Radtsig	Adrian Mariak	Florin Chirpac
Gisela Essberger	Maciej Kaminski	Filip Rajner	Aleksey Plyasukhin
Heinrich Essberger	Enrique Lopez	Rafal Drezno	Volodymyr Yurkevych
Helga Essberger	Daniel Szarzynski	Maksim Naumcik	Olegs Cerepanovs
Johann Essberger	Deniss Tatarinovs	Artem Zatsarnyy	Piotr Trusinski
John Augustus Essberger	Adam Krzyzkowski	Andrejs Kivko	Alexander Konstantinov
John T. Essberger	Maxim Klementevsky	Piotr Adamski	Dmytro Polyavka
Liesel Essberger	Antonio Petinga	Pedro Janeiro Tavares	Miroslaw Szylobryt
Lisa Essberger	Nicolaas Van Den Belt	Paul Gene Galotera	Johan De Jong
Liselotte Essberger	Arkadiusz Duczynski	Blazej Czapiewski	Andrzej Sullik
Nordic Saga	Rogen Calledo	Menard Responde	Zygmunt Dobrzyniewski
Nordic Sira	Harry Reinikka	Richard Calingacion	Mark Angelo Villaronte
Nordic Sola	Magnus Drake Af Hagelsrum	Russel Derequito	Steinar Avloyp
Nordic Sund	Kent Baregg	Marlon Bien Gonzaga	Sergiy Gruby
Patricia Essberger	Daniel Kubacki	Evgeniy Buzyrev	Zoran Zambata
Philipp Essberger	Tomasz Rembisz	Valeriy Dorofeev	Taras Popov
Roland Essberger	Piotr Bes	Adrian Kuzmicz	Piotr Kret
Theodor Essberger	Ali Ayara	Andrei Rosu	Marius Ion
Ubena	Jaroslav Maciuk	Marek Kajdasz	Gleb Kolechkin
Ulanga	Cezary Trzeciakiewicz	Yevgeniy Konstantynov	Piotr Turski
Ursula Essberger	Albert Ten Wolde	Michal Pietryka	Stefan Kluijfhout
Wilhelmine Essberger	Leonardus Kanters	Koen Stroomborg	Koen Schenk

Aus der Reederei-Familie

Jubiläen

40 Jahre

Capt. Jan Ten Wolde,
22.05.1984

25 Jahre

Capt. Paulo Santos,
06.05.1999

Besondere Geburtstage

85 Jahre

Peter Kunig, *Pensionär*,
15.07.1939

75 Jahre

Margot Lühdorff, *Pensionärin*,
27.07.1949

70 Jahre

Holger Reschke, *Pensionär*,
10.06.1954

Felicitas Leonhard, *Pensionärin*,
15.06.1954

65 Jahre

Ken Bloch Sørensen, *Pensionär*,
02.07.1959

C/E Ronald Willem De Bruin,
13.07.1959

60 Jahre

C/O Albertus Konijn Sørensen,
07.05.1964

ETO Bennet Aguirre Benas,
13.05.1964

MTM Eliseo Alota Sarraga,
18.06.1964

CCK Epifanio Ocampo Garillo,
08.07.1964

50 Jahre

ETO Oleg Dzhibalov
31.05.1974

BSN Maximo Ballesteros Bravo
15.06.1974

PMP Jonathan Mallon Talavera
18.06.1974

C/E Valeriy Bashkurov
05.07.1974

Dejan Golub, *Ship Management*,
10.07.1974

2/E Antons Kirillovs
28.07.1974

Neue Mitarbeiter an Land

Jörg Joester-von Samson-
Himmelstjerna, *Treasury*

Susanne Coulibaly,
E&S Tankers Operations

Abteilungswechsel

David Jones,
E&S Tankers Operations

Ausgelernte Auszubildende an Land

Hannes Akkermann,
jetzt E&S Tankers, Operations

Paul Goetzmann,
jetzt E&S Tankers, Post Fixture

Wir gratulieren zur Geburt

Svenja Behnke, Tochter: Leoni,
geb. 21.05.2024