



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DARA TRAGEDY MARKED WITH SPECIAL EXHIBITION

London, UK / Dubai, UAE, April 8, 2011:- With the launch of an extensive online exhibition today, P&O Heritage is commemorating the bombing, subsequent fire and sinking of the B.I. (British India) passenger cargo liner, Dara, off Dubai's coast exactly 50 years ago, when 238 lives were tragically lost – the worst maritime disaster in Dubai's history.

The virtual exhibition, hosted on P&O Heritage's website, www.poheritage.com, in Arabic and English, provides a detailed narration and rare photographs and footage of the tragedy that hit the Dara on April 8, 1961 on one of its regular services between India, Pakistan and the Gulf states, calling at 17 ports in as many days.

The exhibition includes an In Memoriam of those recorded as lost in the disaster, a description of the ship, details about the day the disaster happened, and recollections by the passengers and crew of the fire that so rapidly engulfed the ship, the rescue operations, the sinking of the ship as well as the investigation and its findings.

The formal Inquiry into the incident led to extensive reforms to maritime passenger safety regulations over the following years.

Susie Cox, Curator, P&O Heritage Collection, said:

"The tragic story of the Dara is part of maritime history and is still remembered across the Emirates and the Subcontinent as well as in the UK. Marking its 50th anniversary through an online exhibition pays homage to the lives that were lost and allows people around the world access to the important information on the Dara we hold in our archives."

The P&O Heritage website is designed to allow its collections – and the history of P&O – to be more accessible to the public, thereby continuing to keep alive the memory of the enormous contribution P&O has made to numerous people and countries around the world for nearly 175 years.

Today the collection is maintained by Dubai-based global marine terminal operator DP World, which acquired the P&O Group in 2006, and a dedicated in-house team of curators looks after some 25,000 items and archives that make up the P&O Heritage Collection.

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