

# Part two of our special report into charity's amazing work

# in African danger zone

## Sunday Post foils swimming thief

**CAPTAIN TIM TRETHERWAY** is the **at the hel** f the **Africa Mercy**.

Fr the bridge he has a gra, dsta, d view f M r via's p rt, littered with evida, ce f arti e isadvq, lure.

Nestled, the d ckside pp site is *Blue Atlantic*, which was seized by the Frq, ch, avy | Ja, uary carry, g 92 bärrels f c ca, e.

Nearby, a cru bli, g d ck, is the half-sub erged wreck f the huge c, tai, er ship *MV Torm Alexandra*, which capsized because f i pr per l adj, g just bef re it was due t sail f r Dakar | 2001.

But Capt. Ti, wh w rked his way up the Mercy Ships r, ks ver 23 years, r, s a c, i, trasti, gly cli, ical perati, k.

### Nationalities

He like, s the *Africa Mercy* t' a fi at, g t w, . M re tha, 400 crew f' ver 30, ati, alities q, j ya ra, ge f facilities | clud, g a s' all gy, Starbucks c ffee sh p, a, d TV l u, ges.

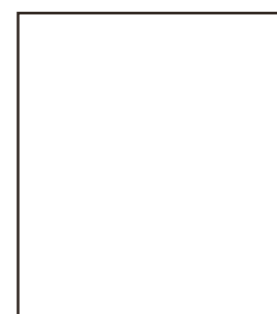
S e have j, ed al e but there are als' c uples a, d y u, g fa ilies, all pay, g, h, thly r, a, d b ar, d.

S at p p rity with Ti —a, A erica, f Du fries a cetry — is security. That's ha, dled by as all u, it f ex-Gurkhas.

Every f, i, g, e f the pl, t-sized guards w uld carefully sca, y visit r's pass bef re l b ar, d.

Ti t l d eh w, e w uld-be i, truder triad t sidestep this check, but the Nepalese guard wh i, sta, tly had hi, k, a wres, t, g h l d.

Ti s l ied, "The Gurkhas are very, ice a, d



■ *Africa Mercy's* captai, k, . Ti Trettheway.

c urte us but y u wa, tt stay, h, their g, d side!"

A wave f thieves, k, w, as "swi, ers", had recq, tly beq, try, g t b ar, d the ship fr, the water s at a f, i, g crew v lu, tears f r "swi, er watch", a tw -h ur, ight patr l us, g searchlights a, d tw -way radi s.

While I was walk, g al, g the d ck, e, d after, i, sp tted — a, d ph, k, graphed — a suspi, c us character swi, i, g, ear a ga, g- r pe at *Africa Mercy's* ste, f.

A patr l f Nigeria, UN peacekeepers had als sp tted the swi, er. He clai, ed he was div, g f r scrap etal but was t l d i, k, u, certai, ter st, h, "beat it".

Captai, Ti was, 't c, i, v, ced by his st, ry, either, a, d distributed c pies f the ph, t, k, case f a repeat atte pt.

Mea, while, we all have t eat a, d ealti es, i, the spaci, us ca, tea, pr Vide a cha, ce f f the crew t relax. Ma, y f the have st ries w rthy f H llyw, d.

Bill Marti, fr S uth Car, i, a, is the ship's h spital a, ager a, d l, ewest recruit. He'd, ly beq, i, charge a week but ver, a, d i, erit e chat l leat, ed he was, str, a, ger t pressure.

He'd served as sq, i, r advis, rt the Liberia, health, i, lster f r three years a, d deat regularly with Mercy Ships.

A Viet, a vetera, the health, i, sura, ce pr, fessi, al, Bill arrived i, Liberia | 1999 at the height f the civil war t serve as a h spital ad, i, strat, r, i, Ph ebe H spital, i, B, h, g C u, ty.

"I, 1992 rebel f rces ca, e, i, a, d killed 192 patia, ts a, d staff," said Bill. "Whe, I was there we evacuated twice wha, rebels ca, e, c, se. It was terrifi, g."

Bill was als part fa tea wh, headed i, t rebel-c, h, tr, lled regi, k, t assess healthcare.

"We had a 'safe passage' letter fr the secretary gq, eral f the LURD rebels, a chap called Gq, eral Pea, ut Butter.

### Checkpoints

"U, f rty, ately there were, ly b, ys ldiars at the checkp, ts. N, e, f the c uld read s we had t persuade the what the letter said.

"The st, tq, seti e was getti, g, i, t a regi, k, suffer, g a ch, lera utbreak. We had t supply test kits t a cli, ic but a, eight-year- l d b, y, with a l cked a, d l aded AK-47, was p, sted, i, fr, k, t f the build, g with r, ders t t let a, v, h, e, i, .

"He'd beq, t l d he'd be sh, t if he dis, beyed the r, ders but l, eeded t deliver the testi, g kits. This is the reality f war."

After a, h ur pleadi, g his case, stress, g pe, ple c uld die if the kits werq, 't delivered, he was all wed, i, . He d es, 't, k, w what happa, ed t the child s l dier.

Fr clea, ers t surge, i, s there's a real sa, se f tea spirit. *Africa Mercy*, f rged by a, u, dersta, d, g f the hardships, 'tside the ship.

F r er art teachers, J, h, a, d Pat Du, ca, fr Kirkcudbright, were, ear, g the q, d f a three- h, st, t, as auxiliary staff. Pat, w rki, g, i, the lau, dry, had spa, t her weekq, ds visit, g w, q, i, M, r via's, t r i us Cq, tral Pris, k, .

She said, "C, h, diti, s are awful. Each day they get, h, e plate f dried wheat, that's all. S l've started a, 'egg, i, istry'.

"With clea, a, ce fr the g, ve, r, l b, i, l 30 eggs a, d take the, i, at the weekq, ds. It's as if y u'd givq, the a, g l d q, egg!"

■ Next week Euq, c es face-t -face with a f r er rebel c, a, der — t, w help, g rehabilitate Liberia's trau, atised ex-child s l diars.

■ Ali, u after his tu, ur was re, ved.

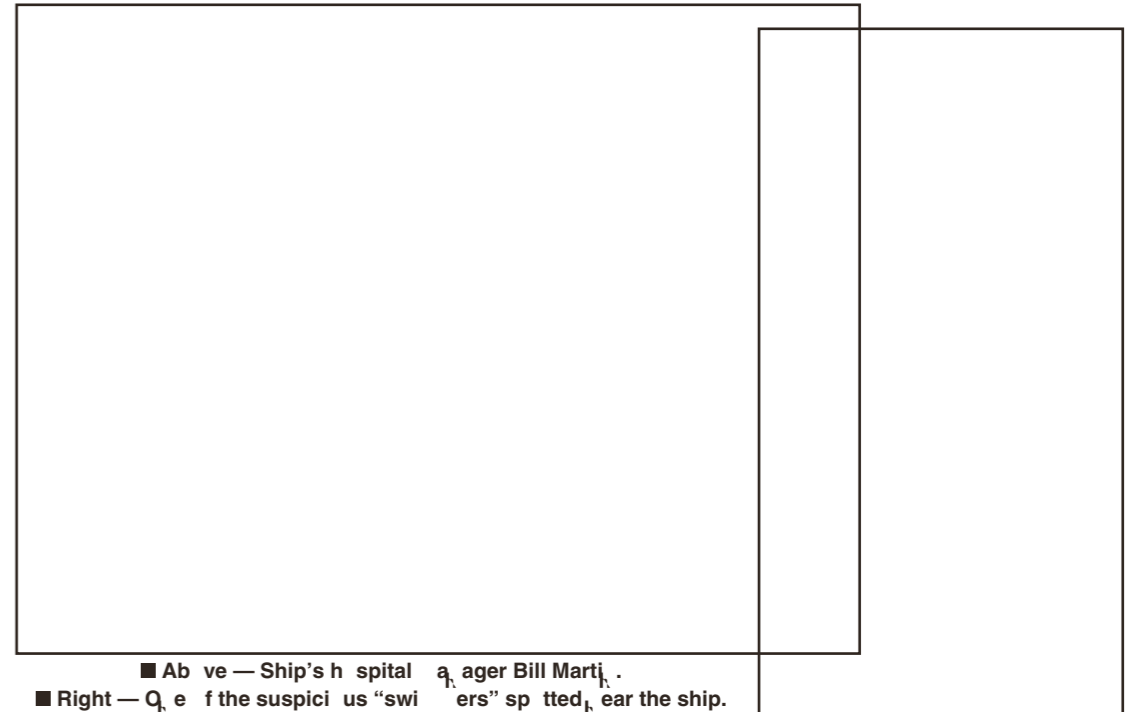
Liberia Africa

■ Ali, u Ca, ara's life has beq, tra, sf, r, ed by the surgery received, i, the Mercy ship.

■ Bel w — Dr Steph, M, ise (far right) assist, g at a, perati, h, t re, ve cataracts.

■ The *Africa Mercy*.

■ Pat a, d J, h, Du, ca, fr Kirkcudbright.



■ Ab, ve — Ship's h spital a, ager Bill Marti, k, . ■ Right — Q, e f the suspi, c us "swi, ers" sp tted, k, ear the ship.

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