

711 3 2 1 Under the general maritime law, shipowners are not required to exercise care for the safety of stowaways who may trespass on board; however, civil and criminal laws prohibit intentional harm to stowaways. Consider this sampling from the past few years:

According to the complaint in a Louisiana wrongful death case, the tug ADELE CANDIES was towing a barge on the high seas when the crew discovered 3 stowaways hiding aboard the barge. The Master, Captain Kiffe, forced the stowaways, Trenton Scipio, Prince Horne, and Aubrey Bowen, into the sea where they perished.

1996. Associated Press. New York. Three stowaways on the M/V OSTFRIESLAND, a 496 foot bulk carrier, bound from Abidjan, Ivory Coast to the United States are poisoned and die when the crew fumigates the hold in which the stowaways were hiding.

1997. Royal Canadian Mounted Police storm aboard the M/V MAERSK DUBAI at anchor in Halifax Harbor and arrest the captain and 6 Tiawanese crewmembers for murder. 3 Romanian stowaways had been discovered on the vessel as the ship sailed from Spain to Canada and had been cast overboard in the Atlantic. The Canadian government's \$7,000 fine on ships found to be carrying stowaways was intended to encourage ship captains to prevent stowaways, but some say the fine is an incentive to throw stowaways overboard.

1995. Kingsley Ofusu, a 25 year old Ghanaian stowaway aboard the cargo ship MC RUBY, tells a French Court of the killings and how he hid as the Ukrainian crew scoured the vessel to find him after executing his 8 companions and dumping their bodies in the Atlantic during a voyage from Takoradi, Ghana to Hamburg, Germany.

October, 1996. London. Heathrow Airport. Pardeep Saini, 22, was found wandering on the tarmac, after he survived a 10 hour flight from India to Britain at temperatures dipping to minus 76 degrees Fahrenheit in the wheel hold of a British Airways jet. Pardeep's younger brother, Vijay, 19, froze to death during the same flight and his body fell from the plane as the wheels were lowered on landing approach.

Truly, sadness upon tragedy. Life of a stowaway - just another throw away.

More next week on The Admiralty Docket. Until then, remember your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing. 711