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## HAVOC IN HARBOR

### 2 hurt as ship breaks loose, mangles cranes

By TED SHERMAN  
and AL FRANK

A 740-foot cargo ship broke loose from its mooring lines yesterday, pivoted across the Elizabeth Channel and smashed into two cargo cranes, injuring two longshoremen.

The afternoon collision may have been caused by a gust of wind, according to officials of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal complex where the accident occurred.

The National Weather Service at nearby Newark International Airport recorded a 40 mph wind gust at 2:30 p.m., about the time of the accident.

With its bow still moored to the wharf, the stern of the Saudi Qassim rotated clockwise across the 800-foot channel where its

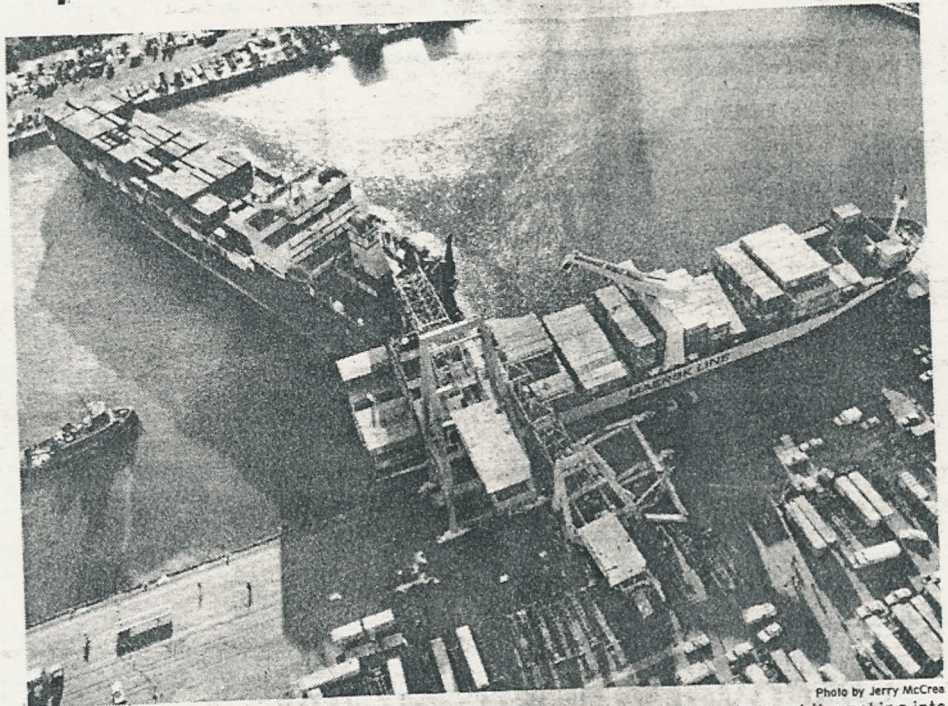


Photo by Jerry McCrea

The Saudi Qassim straddles Elizabeth Channel after its stern line parted and wind sent it crashing into cargo cranes, below, that had been working the Clifford Maersk. The boom of one of the cranes is shown draped over the Maersk vessel.

"This is like a one-in-1,000 phenomenon."

— Frank Caggiano,  
Port Authority

huge stern ramp swiped the horizontal boom of one gantry crane, toppling it toward another working nearby.

The two cranes were transferring containers to and from the Clifford Maersk, a 532-foot ship that was docked on the north side of the channel and due to sail last night.

Owen Holloway, 34, the operator of the first crane, remained in his cab and rode the steel tower as it crumpled 290 feet to the wharf.

The East Orange longshoreman, who suffered head injuries, was undergoing surgery last night at University Hospital in Newark.

Joseph Montesinos, 52, of Woodbridge, the operator of the other crane, was admitted to Saint James Hospital in Newark for observation. Dina Matos, a hospital spokeswoman, said Montesinos suffered no broken bones after leaping 30 feet to the roof of the Clifford Maersk's wheelhouse.

Albert Cernadas, executive vice president of the International Longshoremen's Association, said about 45 men were working on the ship at the time of the accident.

"It's just a miracle nobody was killed," Cernadas



Photo by John O'Boyle

Longshoreman Joseph Montesinos of Woodbridge is comforted by sister-in-law Carmen Mosquera at St. James Hospital in Newark.

The Saudi ship came to rest just forward of the Clifford Maersk's wheelhouse, but the two ships never touched, said Frank Caggiano, an assistant port department director at the Port Authority.

He said the Saudi was moved back to its Maher Terminals berth last night after engineers determined the second crane, which was resting in part on the

### Worker 'bails out' for his life

By BILL GANNON

Trapped in the swaying cab of a crane perched over Port Newark-Elizabeth, Joseph Montesinos heard the sickening snap of steel and watched terrified as a 50-ton-capacity crane only feet away was sent plummeting to the concrete pier.

Moments later, the 52-year-old longshoreman opened a window in the cab of his crane, 100 feet high, and leaped for his life into the frigid wind. Montesinos recalled from a hospital bed at Saint James Hospital in Newark yesterday.

The Iselin resident barely remembers falling some 30 feet to the steel deck of the Clifford Maersk container ship beneath him, where crewmen reached him and carried him from the ship to