

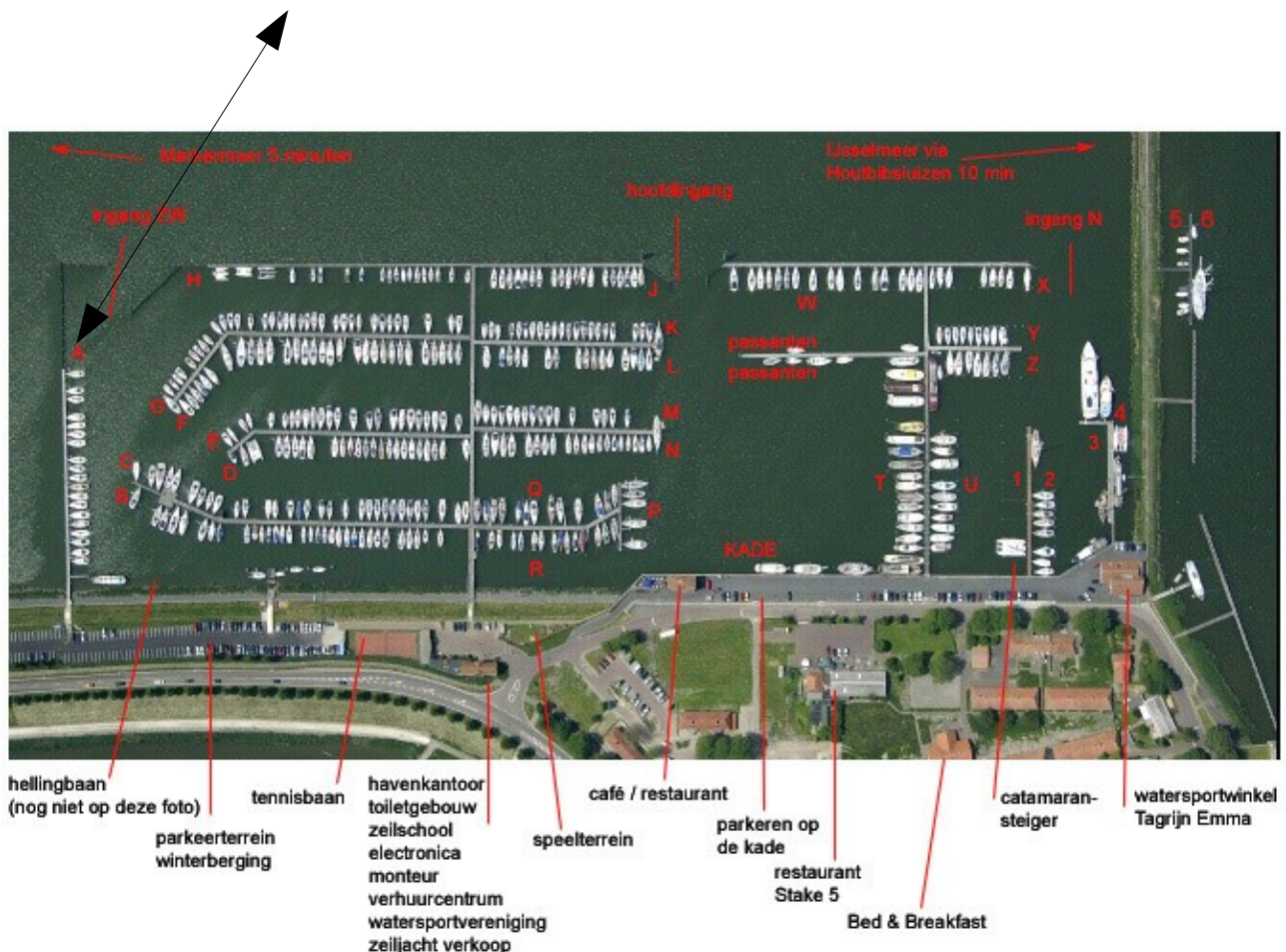
2007 part 1 (30th March - 16th April)

I have described the disaster with the DEKO Marine already in my previous report, written in German, and have published the same also on a Segeln-Forum website. The comments received were as such that some others have had also some not very nice experiences there and meanwhile I understand that most of the other Marinas in that area are fully occupied unless evidently the DEKO Marine.

Finally it was agreed with the DEKO Marine that we should take our boat and "disappear", what we actually did in this way, we have arrived at their place on the 30th of March at about 9am, the boat was put into the water, we started the motor and were gone, all has lasted not more than about 15 minutes. I close now this unpleasant chapter for once and forever.

We were lucky that I could make an arrangement with the LELYSTAD-HAVEN-MARINA, only some miles away, early in advance, in exact the same way as I originally have wanted and they have agreed from the very first moment: We can stay all over the year having the additional choice to leave earlier just in case - but we were not forced to keep a one year contract.

They have further allocated to us as beginners an easy place to maneuver and park the boat in the box, the last box in the A-Finger, for which we are very grateful.



When writing this report in July, we have been in the LELYSTAD-HAVEN-MARINA meanwhile altogether almost two months and we are much more happy and satisfied to be there. The staff people are really very nice, very friendly, over all the atmosphere is 1000 times better for us because of this, but also place as a whole is more likeable for us, there are many traditional Dutch boats in the harbor, there is a cafe that we like, there are many nice people around....., a public supermarket is just

around the corner and not a high priced marina supermarket.



As nothing in life is perfect we also have to comment that there are some things that we are not satisfied with at the LELYSTAD-HAVEN-MARINA (see link at the link list): The toilets and showers are only just "somehow" acceptable in condition and number -but nothing more than only acceptable- there is no warm water in the wash basins, there is no washing machine for clothes. I do not think that people in the marina will accept this situation in the long run, the administration would have to think about the problem.



Well, the transfer of the boat has been done quickly, but what followed was again cleaning and remounting the sails after the winter period. Just as I had some difficulties with the foresail I asked a man who was handling something in his boat some boxes further to us to give me a hand what he did willingly. We did not know who he was, but he was very nice and friendly and we have got a very good connection to each other, originated also that he and me have made some similar experiences in life. It came out only much

later, that he is a well known Dutch yacht designer and regatta sailor and we are getting more and more into close contact with him.



Within these about 14 days on the boat we had all kinds of weather, cold, rain, sunshine and hot, only the wind for a good sailing was missed. I made the best out of it and made myself familiar with all the features of the boat, meanwhile I can handle all of the sails, the reefs, all the sail handling is not anymore a problem (except the spinnaker, which I have never practised in my sailing courses and which I did not have on my former boat), almost all the navigational instruments I made to work, even the autopilot, which is most useful when motoring, is working well and I can handle it.

We have anchored first time and enjoyed to jump into the water from the boat. When hauling the anchor late in the evening I have missed to do it carefully and so I damaged the front position light, resulting in an expensive replacement. (A boat is a never ending hole for money spending).



On a rainy day we have visited the "Aerodrome" in Lelystad. It something like a flight-history museum, the only one of the Netherlands. I have been most impressed by a "Super-Constellation", which was the first passenger long distance plane. The plane is still in a flight capable condition as we have been told, it is not the problem to maintain the plance, it is rather a problem to find pilots able to fly it. I was surprised to learn that the navigation was done with a sextant, a separate navigator was necessary for operation, quite logical, by what else, there was no GPS in the fifties.

Unfortunately we had to go back to Vienna as I had some business appointments.

Another reason was that I was going to make the motor licences in Germany (SFB Binnen und See) which I have passed both mid of May. The radio licence (SRC=short range certificate) I have had already passed of March in Vienna.