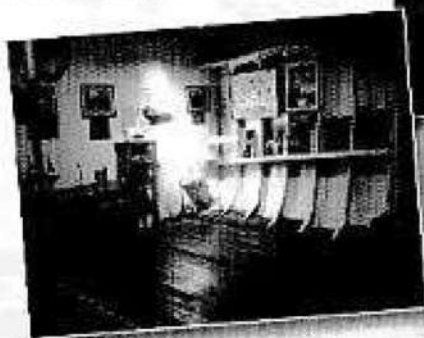


R.A.M: Remolcador Alta Mar:
High Seas Tug

SAILING THROUGH HISTORY

96 years since she was built, the high seas tugboat "Poderoso" still continues to be a living proof of Chile's seafaring history. At present, she has been transformed into a floating maritime museum lying at anchor in the tranquil waters of Talcahuano Bay in South Central Chile.

This mighty tugboat set out to sea from Liverpool back in 1911 where she was built by the H & C Grayson Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd., at the request from the Pacific Steam Navigation Company intended for commercial use.



Poderoso is a high seas tug equipped with a Yarrow-type three-furnace, coal burning water-tube boiler to generate saturated steam to 180 PSI. The capstan or bow-end winch is used for lifting anchors or heavy objects from the sea floor by means of a cathead with a 46 MT direct lifting power and a 15 MT stern side winch. She used to have a 120 MT fresh water storage capacity to supply fresh water to long-haul coaling vessels as well as to steam-powered ships at sea.

Thus equipped, Poderoso was owned and managed by the Kentick Company and intensively used in some major events in Chile's maritime history such as the installation and subsequent maintenance of Quintero's single floating beacon in 1971, the freeing of the stranded Cabo Tamar oil tanker in San Vicente Bay in 1978, the berthing of the Valparaíso III floating dock in Valparaíso Port in 1985, the overcoasting of the beacon berthing maneuver at Guardia Island in Southernmost Chile and as support ship for the only offshore oil exploration work in Punta Arenas.

In 1988 this true symbol of Chile's coastal waters is relieved from service and declared a Historic Memorial on August 6, 1990. By 1994 when Poderoso's hull had weakened with the passage of time and was slated for an offshore scuttling fate, a group of sailors in conjunction with the Compañía Portuaria Talcahuano agreed to move the tug to a Talcahuano Port berth site on June 19th, 1994.



Over the period, The R.A.M. Poderoso Memorial to Maritime Work Corporation was founded to administer, oversee the tug's preservation and thus to honour the work of so many on board ships as well as those associated to them. Likewise, they do their best to offer Chileans the possibility to look back on our seafaring history and to create an awareness over maritime issues. In this way, among other things, over the past ten years the Corporation has sponsored exhibits, lectures and conferences on sea-related topics and has awarded scholarships for young people from low-income families who want to develop a career in the maritime business.

At present, the Corporation strives to develop activities intended to propagate maritime activities and is concerned with raising funds to uphold this Historic Memorial, a job that gets harder every day. In the meantime, Poderoso is patiently waiting for visitors to arrive as she seems to whisper to them "come and get on my decks and walk on them. Touch my iron sides, breathe in my memories". This brings back the recollections of the hundreds of crewmen

