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# DAS ISLAND



**ADMA-OPCO**



ABU DHABI MARINE OPERATING COMPANY  
(ADMA-OPCO)



H.H. Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, arriving at Das Island





Aerial view of Das Island



The south westerly part of Das with its accommodation complex



# DAS YESTERDAY



Work went on day and night to lay the foundations for the modern industrial complex



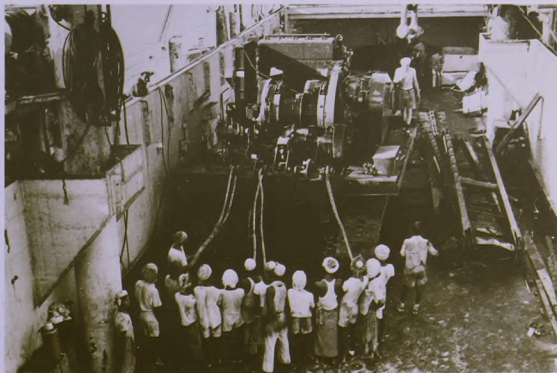
Tankage under construction



Early accommodation



Heavy equipment being unloaded at Das from the Company's first supply vessel, ADMA ONE, a converted landing craft which ran a shuttle service between Das and Bahrain





The 'British Signal' sailing away after loading the country's first crude oil shipment from the Das terminal.



The 'Dash-7': A new concept in air travel.

Das Island today bears practically no resemblance to the mid-'50s when an advance party landed on the desert island to work in blistering sun and map every uninviting feature of its rough terrain. In those bygone days, every single item in demand towards creating an industrial settlement, from bread to bulldozers, had to be shipped there. Even drinking water had to be imported by dhow from Bahrain, a distance of 170 miles.

But soon scores of engineers and craftsmen, builders and plumbers, electricians and labourers arrived on the Island bringing with them their skills and long years of experience to help create a modern industrial complex.

Work went on day and night, and gradually a harbour, an airstrip and modest living quarters were built. Oil plant installations and a complex of oil/gas separation, piping, storage and terminal facilities were also installed to organise the flow of oil to world markets.

Where once it was a shelter for seabirds and scorpions, the Island — operational base for Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (ADMA-OPCO) and Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (ADGC) — is today a burgeoning industrial complex and a modern dwelling place for the all-male 'community of nations' manning it. They enjoy a wide range of contemporary conveniences, but without the more intimate pleasures of personal family life, an impediment dictated by space

limitations and the nature of the work itself.

The passage in time from the diminutive, slow motion 'Dove' of the early pioneering days to the faster and far more comfortable 50-seat 'Dash 7' aircraft now serving the 100-mile route between Abu Dhabi and Das has added yet another dimension to the process of building for progress. This has dramatically altered the physical and social fabric of life on the Island since the first oil 'strike' was made some 20 years ago.

Today, the 'Dash 7', on her half-hour flight from Abu Dhabi, comes in to land over a vista of surging energy and steel — massive installations and towering columns, enormous tanks and a maze of pipelines stretching out in every direction.

In miniature, Das reflects the country's past and future in more ways than one. From its first rough facilities, the Island's operations grew rapidly as oil exports surged ahead beginning with that momentous event in the history of Abu Dhabi when the country's first shipment of offshore crude oil was exported from the Das terminal on 4th July 1962. And to cope with the steadily rising buildup of manpower, the scope of utilities and other back-up services also advanced at a corresponding pace.

The tents and 'barastis' of the early days were phased out to make room for better dwellings, and the first simple plant which once produced the Island's early water supply, drop by drop, as it were, gave way to a set of modern distillation

plants which can produce a total of 375,000 gallons per day. And there was no letup in the momentum.

Early in the '70s, a decision was made by ADMA-OPCO to improve the quality of life and create the basis for more comfortable living on the Island. The idea was to nourish and consolidate a more cohesive sense of community, and the transition from the old 'camp' idea to the new concept was based on some of the most modern living accommodation one can find anywhere in the region.



The three restaurants cater to national tastes, from the local 'Makboos' Special - fish and rice - to the spicy curry of the Orient and the juicy steaks and fried chickens of the Deep South.



Despite space limitations, open air sports form an integral part of life on Das.



The multi-million dollar housing scheme is made up of single and double occupancy 'mini-flats' built around three club complexes and restaurants complete with recreational amenities, including swimming pools and cinemas/theatres. The air-conditioned living quarters permit privacy and individuality.

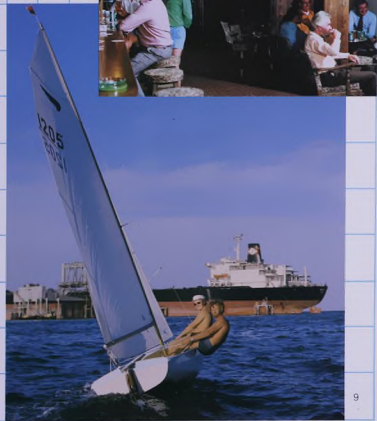
The Das menu has won renown for its excellence and variety of Continental, Arab and Oriental dishes. The Thursday night outdoor barbecue and Saturday's 'Candlelight Special' are something to ponder, while the 'International Night' on Tuesday is an occasion to sample gourmet dishes of different nations.

Life on Das can be hot and exhausting, but hardly boring. If the 'Dasites' are not working or resting, they can be found relaxing in one of the three clubs discussing such topics as sailing, tennis, snooker, badminton, football and other sports. Small as it is - less than two miles long and one mile wide - Das even has its own golf course - fairways outlined in tar and oiled-sand 'browns'. Snorkeling on a day off at a nearby reef is another form of relaxation. For some, the serenity of the living quarters creates the right atmosphere for reading, writing letters or listening to music. Others may walk over to the Club lounge for their favourite TV programme.



A swimming contest in one of the pools attached to the three clubs on the Island

The famous Tavern of the Oasis Club maintains the spirit - and the spirits - of the original Tavern in the old Club complex where lasting bonds of friendship and brotherhood were fostered.





Modern 'mini-flats' combine comfort and privacy, while the three club/restaurant complexes — the 'Oasis' for staff and 'Al Jazera' and 'Umm Shaif' for employees — feature swimming pools, cinemas/theatres and other amenities



The tropospheric scatter system provides communications with any part of the world



A modern communication network makes it possible for the Islanders to make and to receive telephone calls to and from any part of the world, while the airport terminal and the runway, designed to international standards and equipped with night-flying facilities, keep the Company's fixed wing chartered air service going day and night to provide a convenient linkup with scheduled international flights from Abu Dhabi.

On the medical side, Das Island has its own 22-bed hospital with the appropriate complement of physicians and qualified male nurses. The hospital, due to move to more spacious and better premises within the next couple of years, has a casualty theatre, a recompression chamber, an X-ray unit and a medical and public health laboratory.



The doctor and his patients



Umm Shaif Supercomplex

Further expansion and new additions were later dictated by the rapid increase in production in the last decade or so, from the daily rate of less than 30,000 barrels to the present level which stands in excess of 500,000 bpd produced from the Company's two fields – Umm Shaif and Zakum – and from a smaller one called Bunduq which is also operated by ADMA-OPCO on behalf of the Bunduq Company Limited.

About 50 kms northeast of Das lies the Umm Shaif Supercomplex, the first visible sign of the production process. From there, the flow of oil and gas from the production wells is controlled, separated and fed to Das in submarine pipelines. Simultaneously, treated water is re-injected to maintain reservoir pressure.

A similar structure carries out the same functions in Zakum field.



Das serves as a major base for offshore rescue and fire-fighting operations in this part of the Gulf. Company vessels, including Al-Zabbou, a modern tug with sophisticated equipment, stand ready at all times to answer any distress calls in the vicinity

With so much at stake on Das, strict safety measures are in force throughout the island. Below: Das firemen are engaged in a fire-fighting exercise. The area in the background has since been developed for more sophisticated fire-fighting training exercises for the Das Fire Fighting Brigade who are kept fit and alert for any eventuality. Right: A gas leak exercise at the LNG Plant





The LNG plant (photo courtesy of Don Fraser F.I.L.P.)



... and the "Gimi", one of a fleet of modern gas carriers loading at the gas jetty (photo courtesy of ADGLC)



In 1977, 15 years after the first shipment of Abu Dhabi's crude oil was exported from Das, the Island once again became the focus of world attention when a liquefied gas carrier lifted the first LNG cargo from ADGLC's gas plant on Das. The plant, processing up to ten different streams of gas, has an annual capacity of three million tonnes of liquefied gas and it is the only plant of its kind in the world which feeds almost entirely on gas associated with the production of crude oil. The fields from which the gas is drawn are Umm Shaif, Zakum and Bunduq.

The decision to build the LNG plant on Das has imposed a premium on space that could not have been originally foreseen. But careful redeployment of existing oil facilities, including a new concept in tankage design, has resolved the problem without impinging unduly on the welfare of the Island's inhabitants.

Oil is loaded for export to world markets by means of a Single Buoy Mooring (smb) and two fixed tanker berths



With so much happening on barely two square miles of land, the Das inhabitants pose a case-study in human relations. Despite the lack of normal family life, a cohesive community spirit prevails. The Islanders – a permanent workforce numbering some 2,000 men supplemented by an average of 1,500 contractors' personnel – have bonded themselves into a happy working community.

The Das contentment syndrome could be ascribed to the absence of women, as some people would like to think. But in reality, rich pay rewards and a generous leave scheme with round-trip air tickets home, and above all, an inherent sense of achievement have made Das what it is – a tradition and a legend.



Thanks to the oil money, Abu Dhabi has flourished into a cosmopolitan city.  
Picture shows ADMA-OPCO's Main Office Building

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ADMA-OPCOCURRENT PROJECT WORKS ON DAS ISLANDRoad System

Construction of new roads has commenced, and will be continuing through until the third quarter of 1978.

Sahil Accommodation Phase III

Nine further accommodation blocks (including one for Government staff) are scheduled to be started in July 1978.

New Office Building

Construction of the new office building is anticipated to commence in mid-January 1978.

Crude Oil Storage Tanks

Three new COS Tanks, Nos. 19, 20 and 21, (for either Umm Shaif or Zakum service) are being constructed. The first is due to be commissioned in the second quarter and the other two in the third quarter of 1978. These will each have a capacity of 650,000 bbls.

Water Distillation Units

One new 75,000 b/d water distillation unit will be installed by April 1978, and a further two units are due to be installed in the second half of the year.

17.5 MW Gas Turbine Generator

The new gas turbine generator located in the LNG area has been installed and is currently being commissioned.

Facilities for Desalting and Dehydration

Construction of the additional API Separator is proceeding towards April 1978 completion. Work on the total desalting and dehydration facilities is expected to continue until the end of 1979.

Runway Lighting

Work on this project is due to start in February 1978.

(1977)