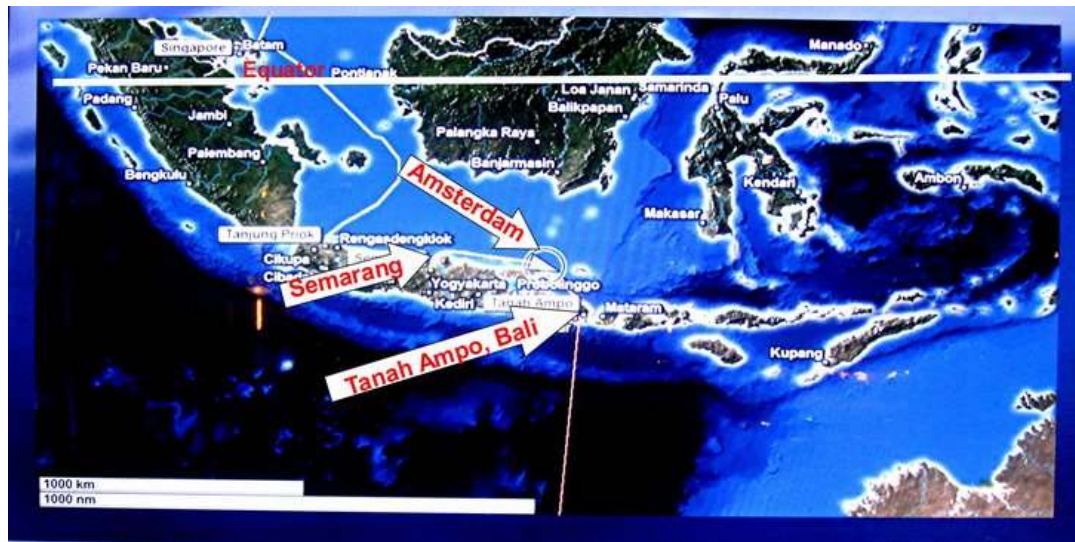


At Sea – Day 37 Nov. 03:

The day started with a flat calm sea as the Amsterdam glided through the water at a speed of less than 10 nautical miles per hour. The sea was so calm it was difficult to detect that the ship was underway. This was making up for some of the uncomfortable high seas we had while passing through the North Pacific in early October. We were on our way from Semarang, on the island of Java to the port of Tanah Ampo on the south coast of the island of Bali, Indonesia, as shown below.



At 9am Barbara went to the Good Morning Amsterdam TV show in the Wajang Theater. This morning Cruise Director, Gene Young and Hostess Adele interviewed the on-board Future Cruise Consultants Michael and Joanne Gardner. They have desks on Deck 5 in the Explorer's Lounge. Every day when we are at sea they are available to answer questions for people regarding future cruises on Holland American ships and help them book cruises after decisions are made. There are various financial incentives and other perks associated with booking a cruise on-board and that information often helps people make their future cruise decisions. The husband and wife team, shown in the picture on the right, explained how they happened to get in to the job they are doing.



The big event of the day was the gala Cruise Critic Luncheon that Ray (JORAY) had arranged in the dining room. We all received invitations in our stateroom mailbox a couple days ago and we were looking forward to another get-together with our Cruise Critic friends. At noon about 60 of us we took our seats at tables that had been reserved

in the dining room. We were surprised when the steward handed us our menus, shown on the right. They had been printed just for this Cruise Critic event.



There were no special speeches or business conducted, it was just a friendly gathering with folks discussing their experiences during the cruise. We enjoyed the conversation with our table mates for the event.



Orlin took a picture that is shown on the left. Going clockwise in the picture left to right are Donna, Charles, Joan, Susan & Ray (PUT ME ON A BOAT), Barbara (TENNCRUISERS).

Since we have been cruising in Indonesian waters and most of the dining room staff

is from Indonesia, the theme for dinner tonight was all Indonesian. The Indonesian flag colors of red and white were displayed on streamers and banners throughout the dining room. Statues and decorations such



as fans and parasols used in this tropical land festooned the dining room.

At dinner a few nights ago, Henk Mensink, the Hotel Manager had said that one item that sets “Grand Cruises” apart from other Holland American cruises is the large number of special theme nights in the dining room and the amount of money spent on the theme night decorations. He said the budget for decorations was typically on the order of \$10,000 per event.

In addition to the decorations lending a special Indonesian touch to the evening; our stewards were dressed in wonderful Indonesian batik shirts as shown in these pictures.



Later, the dining room manager, Tom Grindlay and the Executive Chef, Benigno (Bernie) Rius visited our table to say hello, as shown below.



As we were leaving the dining room there was a cluster of passengers at the dining room

entrance excitedly taking pictures and talking to a little girl dressed in a beautiful traditional Indonesian costume. It turned out that the girl’s father was one of the officers on the Amsterdam staff. She had boarded the ship in Jakarta for the trip to Bali where she would leave the ship. The father had dressed his little daughter for the Indonesian theme night, as shown with her proud father on the right.



Indonesian night was brought to a humorous end when we returned to our stateroom and found that the room steward, Putu, had left us a special towel animal, as shown on the



left. The little hanging monkey, held a note from Putu welcoming us to his homeland in Bali, where we would be visiting tomorrow.