The port of Cartagena, Columbia, is situated only 285-miles from the Panama Canal, and has been an important port city for more than 800-years. On the list of the top 100 container ports in the world, Cartagena ranks 81st, and is the gateway to the northern hemisphere, as well as the shipping routes to Europe and Asia for many South American nations. The port serves 25 shipping lines and is connected to 750 ports in 140 nations around the world. More than 80% of Columbia’s trade with the United States passes through this Caribbean Sea port.

Each year more than 1600 ships call at the Port of Cartagena, comprising 975 container ships, 250 cruise ships, 350 breakbulk carriers, and eleven bulk carriers. The port’s cranes can handle the New Panamax, also known as NeoPanamax-class of ships which have maximum length of 1901-feet, a beam of 161-feet, and a 56-foot draft.

We visit Cartagena, Columbia, to offer a brainteaser for the readers of Sea Classics

BY NICHOLAS A. VERONICO

IDENTIFY THE PORT TRAFFIC

The statue of the Virgin of Mount Carmel (Virgen del Carmen) greets mariners arriving in Cartagena Bay. The Virgin of Mount Carmel is the patron saint of drivers and navigators and sits atop a 60-foot pedestal. In August 2015, a bolt of lightning struck the statue, splitting it in two, with the upper half falling into the harbor. Navy divers recovered the broken pieces and it was subsequently repaired. The Colombian Navy (Armada de la República de Colombia — ARC) base at Bocagrande can be seen at the upper left. The lead ship of the four Almirante Padilla-class of frigates, ARC Almirante Padilla (FM-51) is moored alongside the logistics ship ARC Buenaventura (BL-162) with ARC Independiente (FM-54) visible at left. A pair of Landing Craft Utility sit forward of the frigates, identifiable is ARC Golfo de Urabá (pennant number 241). In December 2018, ARC Golfo de Urabá made a humanitarian voyage down the Magdalena River bringing medical care, education and supplies to the people in the departments (equivalent to a state) of Bolívar and Magdalena.