

Edgar Filing: ARES CAPITAL CORP - Form SC 13G

ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form SC 13G
February 15, 2008

OMB APPROVAL

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB Number: 3235-0145
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SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

04010L103

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2007

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this
Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting
person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class
of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information
which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not
be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that
section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the

Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 04010L103

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. (MERRILL LYNCH)

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

(a)
(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| SHARES | | Disclaimed (See #9 below) |

| | | |
|--------------|----|---------------------------|
| BENEFICIALLY | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| OWNED BY | | Disclaimed (See #9 below) |

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------|
| EACH | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| REPORTING | | Disclaimed (See #9 below) |

| | | |
|--------|----|---------------------------|
| PERSON | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| WITH | | Disclaimed (See #9 below) |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. disclaims beneficial ownership in all shares of Ares Capital Corporation held by Merrill Lynch International, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. and Merrill Lynch Financial Markets, Inc.

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

Disclaimed (See #9 above)

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 04010L103 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

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Merrill Lynch International

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

(a)
(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

England

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 49,224

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 0

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 49,224

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 0

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

49,224

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

.06%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

BD

CUSIP NO. 04010L103

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Merrill Lynch Financial Markets, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

(a)
(b)

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3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 115,900

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 0

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 115,900

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 0

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

115,900

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

.15%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

BD

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

(a)

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

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Delaware

| | | |
|---|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| SHARES | | 4,485,095 |
| BENEFICIALLY | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| OWNED BY | | 0 |
| EACH | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| REPORTING | | 4,485,095 |
| PERSON | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| WITH | | 0 |
| 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON | | |
| 4,485,095 | | |
| 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES* | | |
| [] | | |
| 11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) | | |
| 6.17% | | |
| 12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON* | | |
| BD, IA | | |

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:
Ares Capital Corporation.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:
280 Park Avenue, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10017

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:
Merrill Lynch & CO., Inc. (ML&CO)
Merrill Lynch International (MLI)
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S)
Merrill Lynch Financial Markets, Inc (MLFM)

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office, or if None, Residence:

| | |
|---|---|
| MERRILL LYNCH & CO. INC. 4 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER 250 VESEY ST. NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10080 | MERRILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL 2 KING EDWARD STREET LONDON EC1A 1HQ, ENGLAND |
|---|---|

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Merrill Lynch Financial Markets, Inc

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4 World Financial Center,
250 VESEY ST.
New York, New York 10080

4 World Financial Center
250 VESEY ST.
New York, New York 10080

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

SEE ITEM 4 OF COVER PAGES

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

04010L103

Item 3. If This Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

ML & Co. is a parent holding company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).

MLI, a London-based broker-dealer in securities, is a member of the International Securities Markets Association and its activities are regulated by the U.K. Securities and Futures Authority Limited and the London Stock Exchange. MLI is eligible to file this statement of beneficial ownership on Schedule 13G pursuant to a November 24, 1993 no-action letter from the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Corporation Finance (1993 SEC No-Act. LEXIS 1121 (November 24, 1993)).

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith is a:

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.
(e) An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (E)

Merrill Lynch Financial Markets, Inc, a wholly owned subsidiary of ML&Co., Inc., is registered with the U.S. SEC as an OTC Derivatives Dealer.
CUSIP No. 04010L103 13G

Item 4. Ownership.

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

4,650,219.

(b) Percent of class:

6.39%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

SEE ITEM 5 OF COVER PAGES

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

SEE ITEM 6 OF COVER PAGES

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

SEE ITEM 7 OF COVER PAGES

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

SEE ITEM 8 OF COVER PAGE

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

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If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the class of securities, check the following []

Item 6. Ownership of More Than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

MLI is a London-based broker-dealer in securities which provides its customers with general investment banking, advisory, dealing and corporate finance services, organized under the laws of England and Wales. MLI, is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of ML & Co., Inc. MLPF&S and MLFM are wholly owned subsidiaries of ML&Co., Inc.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

NOT APPLICABLE

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Item 10. Certifications.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 14, 2008

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

MERRILL LYNCH INTERNATIONAL

By: /s/ Pia Thompson

By: /s/ Andrew Briski

Name: Pia Thompson
Title: Assistant Secretary

Name: Andrew Briski
Title: Managing Director

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MERRILL LYNCH FINANCIAL MARKETS, INC.

By: /s/ Jonathan Beebe

Name: Jonathan Beebe
Title: Senior Vice President

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED

By: /s/ Pia Thompson

Name: Pia Thompson
Title: Assistant Secretary

* Executed pursuant to a Power of Attorney, dated November 17, 1995, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Schedule 13G
Exhibit A

Power of Attorney

The undersigned, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Corporation"), a corporation duly organized under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10281 does hereby make, constitute and appoint Richard B. Alsop, Richard D. Kreuder, Andrea Lowenthal, Gregory T. Russo, or any individual from time to time elected or appointed as secretary or an assistant secretary of the Corporation, acting severally, each of whose address is Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10281, as its true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, for it and in its name, place and stead (i) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, as required under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the regulations thereunder, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies, or electronic filings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G Beneficial Ownership Reports (together with any amendments and joint filing agreements under Rule 13d-1(f)(1) of the Act, as may be required thereto) to be filed and/or delivered with respect to any equity security (as defined in Rule 13d-1(d) under the Act) beneficially owned by the undersigned and which must be reported by the undersigned pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, (ii) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies or electronic filings of any forms (including without limitation), Securities and Exchange Commission Forms 3, 4 and 5) required to be filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, and (iii) generally to take such other actions and perform such other things necessary to effectuate the foregoing as fully in a all respects as if the undersigned could do if personally present.

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This Power of Attorney shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney, this 17th day of November 1995.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

By: /s/ David H. Komansky

Name: David H. Komansky
Title: President and Chief Operating Officer