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Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

P. O. BOX 99

BASRAH

TH 0117

C. A. DAVIES

SHIP & ENGINEER SURVEYOR

A. T. MITCHELL

ENGINEER SURVEYOR

Ref. 58/691

Basrah, 3rd April, 1958.

Acc. 19/5/
HNP

Mr. Pemberton,
Chief Engineer Surveyor,
Lloyd's Register of Shipping,
71 Fenchurch, street,
London, E.C.3.

Dear Mr. Pemberton,

Enclosed are the promised photographs which were taken of the M.V. "SEISTAN", after the explosion and fire at Sitra anchorage Bahrain on the 19th February 1958.

The large photograph which was taken two days after the accident and before the vessel finally settled on the bottom is of exceptional interest, as it clearly shows the after deck and No.4 hatch coaming, which are wrapped over the after end of the boat deck.

The wreckage to the right of the photograph is parts of aluminium prefab houses, which were stowed in No.4 hatch (the explosion was in No.5 tween deck explosive magazine), while the remains of the Port fibreglass lifeboat can be seen hanging from the davits.

The small photographs which were taken by the salvage people, who are at present attempting to discharge No.1 hold show the fore deck almost awash while it can be seen on the large one that the deck cargo was almost undamaged and the hatches intact.

The stern position of the vessel has been located by divers, 350ft away from the accommodation while a trail of cargo lies along the sea bed between the two halves.

One interesting point which was noted, was the manner in which the welded seams of the superstructure had remained intact, although the plates were badly torn and twisted, while riveted seams had simply parted leaving the rivet holes clean and undamaged.

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Trusting the enclosed photographs and comments are of
some interest.

Yours faithfully,

A.T. Mitchell

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