

S.S. "J.N.PEW", No. 63258 in R.B., 9074 tons gross,
Classed 100A1 "Shelter Deck with Freeboard", "Carrying
Petroleum in Bulk".

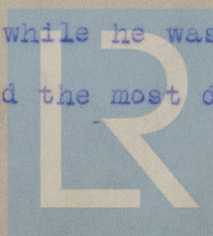
This vessel has been under survey at Philadelphia
for damage stated to have been caused by an explosion of gas
in No. 4 summer tank while on the pontoon of the Sun Shipbuild-
ing Company.

The case is an interesting one, and a set of 12
photographs is forwarded by the Surveyors.

The vessel was undergoing her half-yearly docking,
a few rivets requiring renewal in the shell plating in way of
the summer tanks. The summer tanks were washed out and
certified free from gas. Before docking, the cargo tanks
were pumped out as dry as possible, and the tanks steamed for
ten hours. The main cargo tank hatchways were closed down and
secured and vent pipe cocks closed off, valves in flat of
summer tanks all screwed down and the summer tanks flooded with
about 1" of water, so as to cover the valves and seal any slight
gas leaks in the flat of the summer tanks.

After the ship was placed in dry dock the defective
rivets in the summer tanks were burnt out, and it was while
burning out these rivets that the explosion occurred, with
disastrous results (See photographs).

On examination after the explosion it was found
that the screwdown valve in flat of No. 4 summer tank had been
opened, and it is presumed that the gas rising through this
valve into No.4 tank became ignited, and the series of
explosions followed naturally. The workman had apparently
left his work to eat some lunch and it is probable that, before
leaving, he opened the valve to clear the flat of water and
avoid wetting his feet, and while he was away the diffusion
of gases in the tank produced the most dangerous mixture for
explosion.



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The first explosion was therefore probably in No. 4 tank, and subsequent explosions naturally followed in other tanks.

The vessel has been fully repaired at Philadelphia, and on completion of the repairs has been allowed ^{by the American Committee} to remain as classed.

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Camping Pet in hull