

C O P Y

THE SHELL COMPANY of QATAR LIMITED.

P.O. Box No. 47
DOHA QATAR.
PERSIAN GULF.

File No. 055/8
Letter No. 6230

5th January, 1957.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping,
Post Office Box 99,
BASRAH.

24 JAN 1957

Dear Sir,

PONTOONS - SQ9 AND SQ10.

We wish to amplify our cable No. D661 of today's date relative to the scuttling of the above pontoons.

On the night of the 27th December, 1956, the pontoons having been brought into position, during daylight, under the drilling platform, located in position Latitude 25° 23' N, Longitude 52° 22' E a moderate to heavy beam swell came up which sheered the pontoon interconnecting strutt bolts.

This caused the pontoons to be flung from side to side damaging the spud legs of platform, false-work on pontoons, platform lower beam - and, as was observed later, holing the pontoons.

In an endeavour to save the structure orders were given to sink the pontoons by pumping tanks full. SQ9 sank upright in about 41 feet of water, but still under the platform. SQ10 did not go down at the same time, but at daylight on the 28th, with the pontoon still causing damage, Portside valves Nos. 2 and 6 were opened - Nos. 2 and 6 Starboard having been sheered. This, together with machinery which had fallen from above, caused a part list and the pontoon turned turtle, still floating.

Unsuccessful efforts were then made to hole the pontoon by gun fire, but finally the sinking of the pontoon was achieved by burning and dynamite. The SQ10 is now submerged in about 41 feet of water, under the platform, in the turtle position.

We apologise for the delay in advising and trust that no inconvenience has been caused. Should you require any further details, or deem a visit necessary, we shall be very pleased to assist in any possible way.

Yours faithfully,
for THE SHELL COMPANY OF QATAR LIMITED.



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