

THIS WAS

~~the tragic plight of~~ the British freighter, "Seistan" - which sank off Bahrein Island, following a disastrous explosion and fire.

The vessel was carrying 175 tons of commercial explosives for the Persian oilfields, when fire broke out at sea. Taking refuge/ nearly half of the deadly cargo had been unloaded when the explosion occurred.

~~Rescue launches~~ ^{COME} ashore after picking up survivors...

The terrific explosion was heard some twenty-five miles away.

The "Seistan" (described as "one of the most modern ships in Britain's merchant fleet") sailed from London for the Persian Gulf - with sixty-eight people on board.

To-day, she lies a smouldering hulk - and fifty of her crew are still missing.