

SYNOPSIS

Saga Rose, a 24,474 gt passenger vessel had been undergoing the second half of an extensive refit in A&P's King George V dry-dock, Southampton. She had been in refit since late October 1997 and at the time of the fire was in the "flooded" dry-dock.

Some 300 shore workers and 350 crew were on board when fire broke out in an electrical locker beneath the master's cabin. The fire was discovered at 1350 on Sunday 14 December 1997. The general alarm was sounded, non-essential persons evacuated and the ship's fire fighting teams mobilised. The shipyard and Hampshire Fire Brigade were informed and their fire teams attended.

Under the general direction of the Hampshire Fire Brigade the fire was eventually extinguished at 2000 and the vessel declared safe.

Fire damage was restricted to cabins and deckhead void spaces on the promenade deck with smoke and heat damage extending up to the officers' deck. Extensive electric cable damage occurred within the locker space, which affected navigational equipment on the bridge.

No injuries were suffered by the crew, although a number of shore personnel suffered from smoke inhalation.

The cause of the fire has not been identified positively, but the most likely cause was a fault on a secondary electric cable connected to one of the transformers in an electrical locker room.