

## **Synopsis**

The accident occurred at 0930, 9 May 1997, and was notified to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) by the General Manager of The Port of Sunderland at 1200. An investigation began at 1230 that day MAIB Inspector, Mr J Lee, carried out the investigation

Two large gantry cranes, each weighing 460t. had been loaded as cargo onto the deck of mv LOVE LETTER by the floating crane ENAK in Sunderland Docks during 8 May 1997 These operations were completed without incident

A 40 5t lifting frame was in place on each gantry, and these were required to be removed before the departure of mv LOVE LETTER On 9 May removal of the lifting frame from one of the gantries on the deck of LOVE LETTER started. using both the ENAK and a quayside crane.

During this operation, a pair of brackets, to which lifting shackles and slings had been attached, tore free from the frame allowing it to fall, first to the deck of LOVE LETTER and then partly into the water in the dock. Several of ENAK's crewmen were on the frame at this time. One lost his life and another was injured.

The fundamental cause of the accident was the failure of the brackets on the aft gantry's lifting frame because, although not designed or designated as lifting points, they were used for lifting purposes.