Paper W Keel Lifting Stirrup Improvement

(Protecting the keel boxes)

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The lifting stirrup that rides the traveller on the worm drive of the keel lifting mechanism is attached to the keel by slipping the arms over the pins attached to the top of the keel. To prevent the pins coming out of the holes, the stirrup is kept together by a nut and bolt. As the keel is lowered and lifted the protruding head of the bolt and the nut frequently scores the inside of the keel box.

Provided that the wooden plank sometimes fitted to this bolt to prevent water surging is not present, the following suggestion is made.

A spacing bar is welded to each side of the stirrups in the same location as the holding bolt. A hole is drilled through both of them to receive a stainless bolt or pin. When the stirrup has been located on the keel pins, the bolt or pin is dropped through them and a split pin will secure it in position.

This method has been fitted to HIRAN for the past ten years and it has proved much easier to remove the pin, than undoing the nut in its fairly inaccessible position when taking the keels out for inspection or renovation,

There has not been any damage to the inside of the keel box since I fitted these spacing bars. Previously the damage had been considerable.

I hope that the illustration is self explanatory.