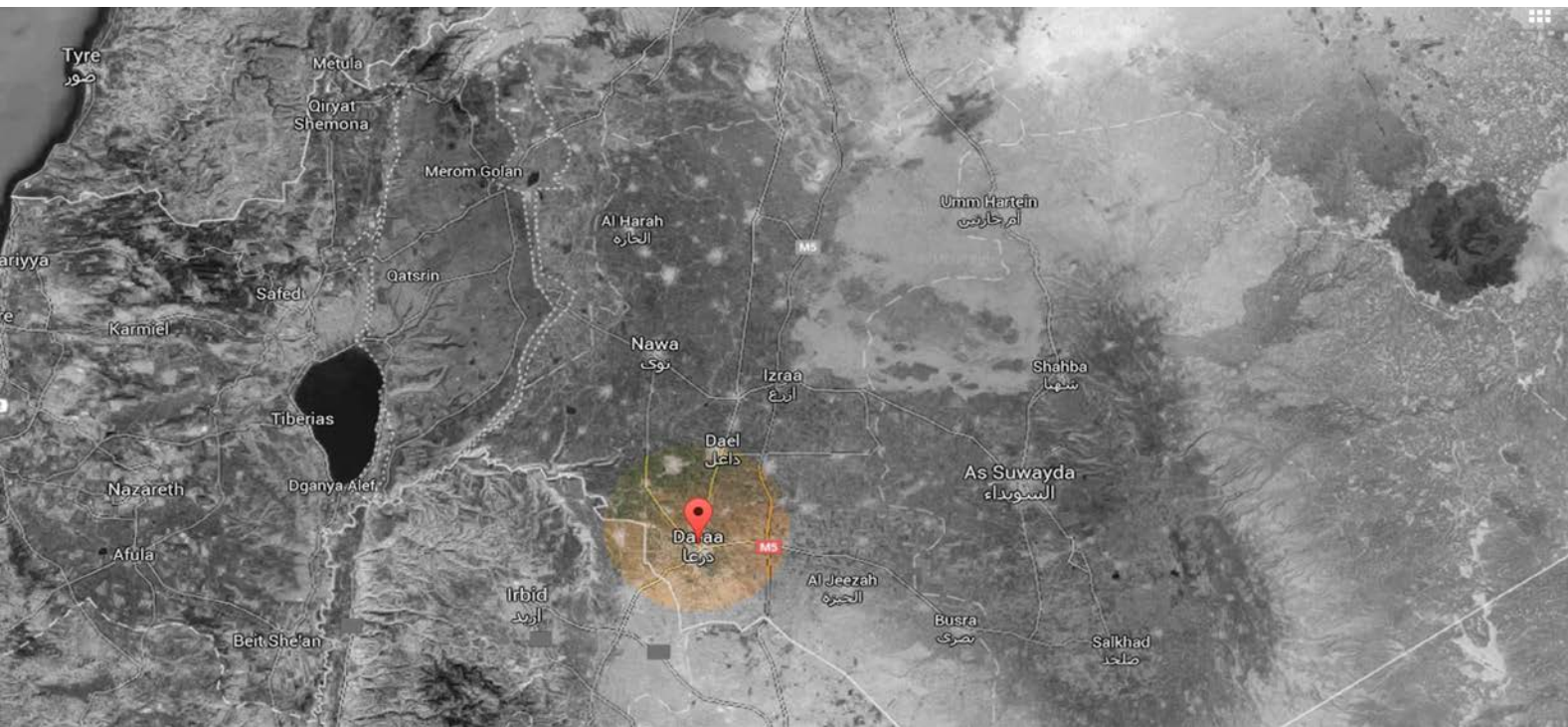


The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Damage Report on

Roman Amphitheater in Bosra Al-Sham - May 2, 2018



On Thursday, 4/26/2018, a severe thunderstorm unleashed an unprecedented downpour on Bosra al Sham that lasted 3 days, flooding the Roman theater and the east and west courtyards either sides of the orchestra. Water quickly accumulated and rose over 3.5m high.

Water seeping into the stadium through cracks and damaged parts of the west courtyard may severely impact the stability of the structure. The cracks and the destruction were due to the barrel bombing on Tuesday 12/22/2015, when a regime helicopter dropped two highly explosive barrels on Bosra al Sham citadel housing the Roman Theater. The bombing caused severe and extensive destruction in the west section of the citadel as follows:

- 1- The wall between the second and fifth towers of the citadel was completely destroyed.
- 2- A large crater was left in front of the entrance to the Museum of Popular Traditions (ethnographic museum) in the fifth tower.
- 3- A barrel bomb penetrated the second level in front of the entrance to the fifth tower causing a large segment to collapse and block walkways.
- 4- The whole arch above the entrance to the Museum of Popular Traditions was destroyed.
- 5- The floor paving stones of the second tower were shattered by the blasts.
- 6- The arches in the walls in front of the second tower cracked and some collapsed while others are at risk of collapse.
- 7- The floor of the hallway between the second and fifth towers suffered severe damage with cracks in the paving stones.
- 8- The columns surrounding the orchestra (the actors' stage) overlooking the historical Roman amphitheater from the west have collapsed.
- 9- The entrance to the orchestra (the actors' stage) from the south, which connects the first and second levels, was destroyed.
- 10- A crater was left in the floor of the orchestra overlooking the amphitheater from the west.

This collectively led to the accumulation of rainwater in the west and east courtyards and the Roman theater, posing a real risk of collapse to the northwest wall of the Roman theatre.



Water covers the orchestra floor, the stage, and a large segment of the first and second-class seats in the Roman stadium.



The west courtyard is under nearly 1.5m of water.



Another view of the west courtyard under water. Note the destruction caused by airstrikes.



The east courtyard is under 1.5m of water.



Water covers the destroyed parts of the west courtyard.



West courtyard after the airstrikes.



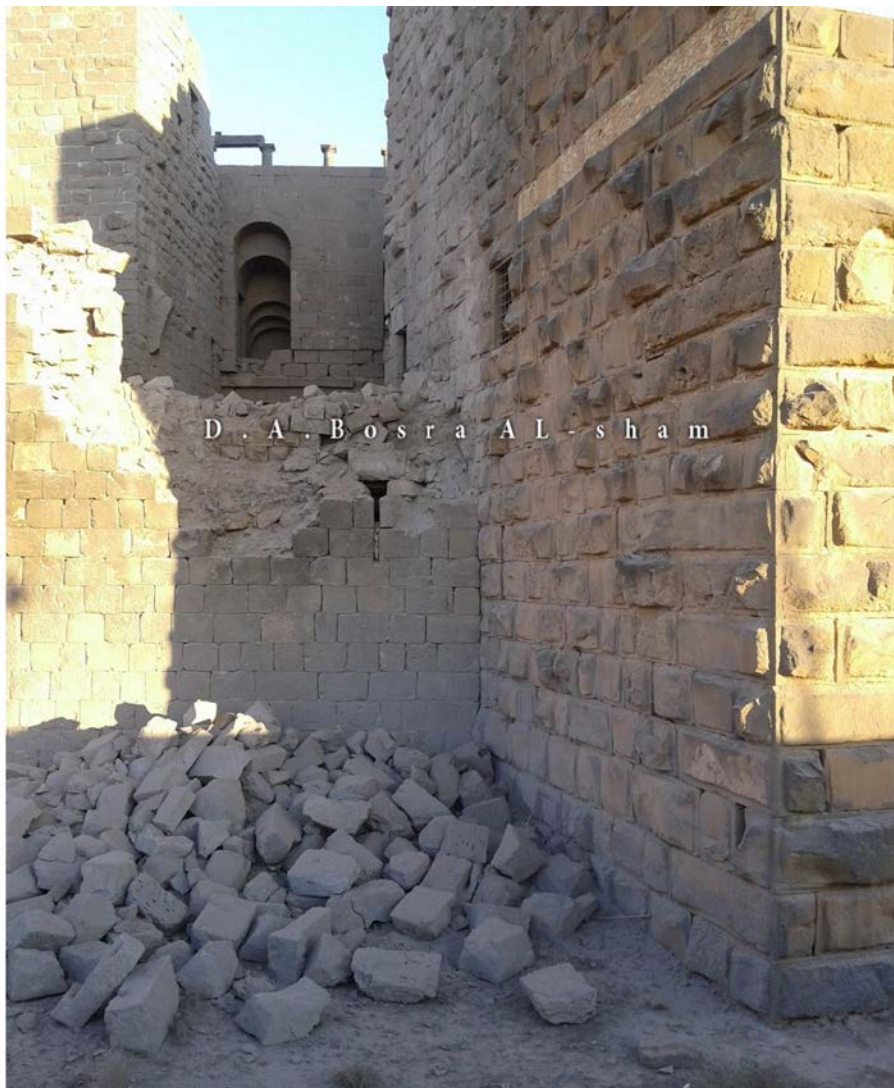
West courtyard after the airstrikes.



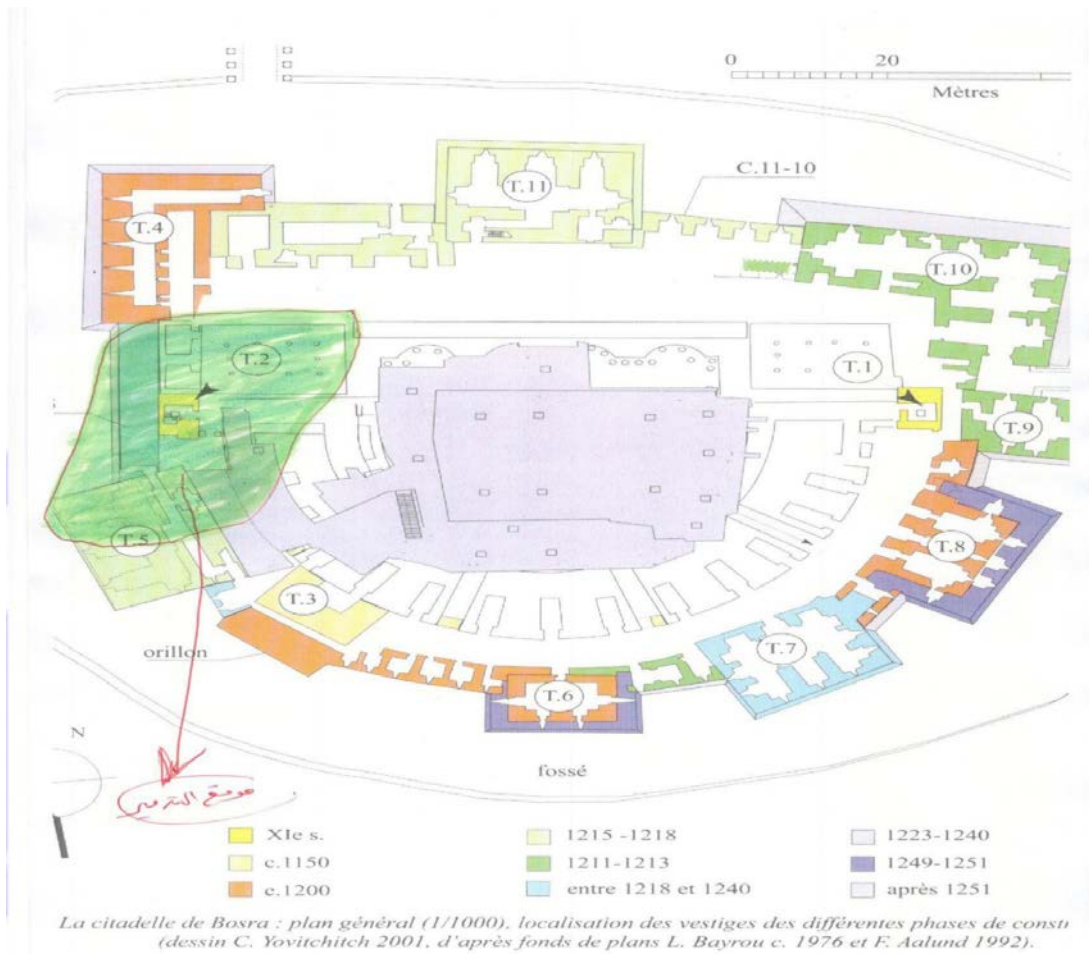
The crater next to the fifth tower left by barrel bombs



The arch connecting the second and fifth towers is destroyed.



The citadel's western wall near the fifth tower is destroyed.



The targeted area is highlighted in green on the citadel's layout map

Images showing collapsed outer walls of the trench surrounding the citadel due to the massive floods







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