

Ammunition ship aground off channel

The freighter Beaver Victory, loaded with "thousands of tons of ammunition," went aground on a reef one mile west of the Kalihi channel in Honolulu Harbor last night.

The 7,000-ton ship, sailing from Pearl Harbor to the explosives anchorage outside Honolulu Harbor, was reported to be traveling "at extremely slow speed" when she eased onto the reef at 10:30 p.m.

Navy spokesmen said there was "no danger, unless an unusual set of circumstances develops."

The ship's bow went on the reef in about 30 feet of water, in an area where the ocean bottom is sand and coral, and the seas were calm.

The ship, with about 40

men aboard, was only 500 yards from the shoreline of Rainbow Island.

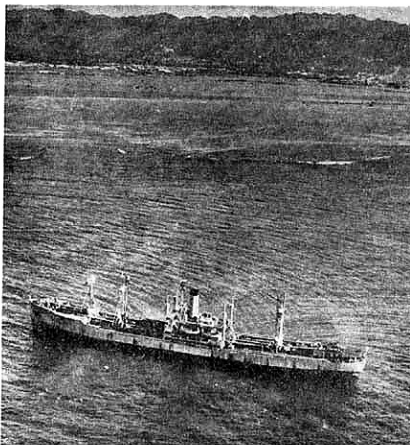
The Navy sent in its top salvage officer, Cmdr. John B. Orem, to direct salvage operations after Castle and Cooke, agents for the ship, called for help.

The Navy salvage ship Current worked from 12:30 a.m. to 4 a.m. with harbor tugs in a futile attempt to free the ship.

Orem, who directed salvage operations for the R. C. Stoner when she went aground off Wake Island in September, had beach gear laid this morning, setting anchors in a position to increase the pull on the ship.

Salvage operations continued today. Should they be unsuccessful, a major effort will be made to pull the vessel off during the 3 a.m. high tide tomorrow.

No flooding was reported, and damage was said to be minor.



EXPLOSIVES AGROUND—The Beaver Victory eased onto a reef one mile west of the Kalihi Channel last night. Salvage operations were underway today.—Photo by Terry Luke.