



Coast Guard craft are dwarfed by huge Navy auxiliary fireboat



Generator that exploded

#### FRONT ROYAL FIRE

Fire Division men had more than fire to combat on board the tanker FRONT ROYAL lying three miles off the harbor entrance on June 7, 1944. A generator explosion had set the whole engine room roaring with flames and against its aft bulkhead was an ammunition magazine loaded with fixed five-inch shells. When Fox Dogs #1, #2, and #3 arrived by speedboat, panic had broken out among the crew. The order to abandon ship had already been given. Lt. Pifer took command of the situation. He ordered the magazine flooded immediately, whipped the Navy gun crew into an emergency crew of firemen and had fire fighting operations underway when a Navy fireboat, the CG 64014-F and the CG 65018-F arrived at the scene. After hours of battle, the fire was at last under control, but not without several casualties among Coast Guard firemen who were overcome by smoke and exhaustion. (See History, pages 7 & 8.)