

TANKER AGROUND ON BAHAMAS REEF

One Lost as Crew Abandons
Ship — Oil Hits Beaches

NASSAU, The Bahamas, March 8 (UPI)—A Greek tanker carrying 18,478 gallons of oil ran aground and ruptured her holds near the eastern shore of Eleuthera Island tonight. Oil from the tanker washed onto a three-mile stretch of the island's pink and white beaches.

The ship, the General Colocotronis, had been contracted by the Humble Oil Company of Jacksonville, Fla. She ran aground about one-and-a-half miles off James Point on the east side of the slender island.

Twenty-eight crew members abandoned the ship and made it to the shore in life boats. One of the crewmen, identified as Stratos Mastroitianis, was washed away when a boat that had rescued him overturned. He was reported missing.

A spokesman said detergents would be flown in from Florida tomorrow to begin efforts to clean up the beautiful beaches that attract tourists and spear fishermen.

The captain and a radio operator stayed aboard the 550-foot ship, the General Colocotronis, which was awash in heavy seas but hard aground and in no danger of sinking.

The missing seaman had been picked up by three men in a small boat sailing out of Hatchet Harbor, Eleuthera. The boat capsized in heavy seas, spilling the four occupants into the water, but a Coast Guard helicopter dropped a liferaft and the three residents of Eleuthera were able to get to it.

The tanker crewman disappeared.

The 11,900-ton tanker crunched aground on a reef about one and one-half miles off Eleuthera at James Point. Towering waves split the ship at the seam and the cargo of oil began bubbling through the splits and sweeping toward Eleuthera on a two-mile front.

By nightfall the oil slick was lapping at the beaches on the ocean side of Eleuthera but Bahamian officials said it should have little effect on the tropical area's tourist economy.

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