

Sea fire survivor arrives in Honolulu

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still not sure what happened to the ship, which was outwaded bound from Kahului, Maui, to search for fish.

On the night of June 9, a fire broke out in the engine room of the 100-foot vessel. Because of oxygen, oil and other materials aboard a ship, Capt. Hidenosuke Kikuchi ordered all hands overboard. Onodera, Kikuchi and two others were the last to jump.

At night, with high waves and only the light of the blazing ship to see by, the four men quickly became separated. Onodera said. At first, they were able to keep track of each other by calling. Within an hour, Onodera found himself alone as the burning ship sailed away — still under power.

Onodera swam toward the light from the burning ship. At dawn he spotted a 15-man raft off the ship and climbed aboard.

"FOR THE FIRST two or three days, he was so anxious to find his friends, he didn't even think about thirst or hunger," an interpreter said.

"He has lost so many friends. He still can't talk

nesses it, he weeps.

Onodera, who is 22, was the first mate aboard the Japanese fishing vessel Kaigata Maru No. 10 which caught fire some 500 miles west of Honolulu. The fire, which was so intense it melted and fused glass, killed the 21 crewmembers aboard the ship. Onodera is the only one to survive.

Search for Lost Crew Abandoned

Hope that any of the 20 missing fishermen from the burned-out vessel Kaigata Maru No. 10 may have survived has been abandoned and the search terminated.

Only one of the 21 crewmen on board June 9 when the fishing boat caught fire was located and rescued. A Coast Guard cutter, a Liberian ship and a number of Japanese fishing boats, as well as Air Force and Coast Guard aircraft, participated in the nine-day search for survivors.

It is still not clear he is still deeply troubled by the loss of his ship and his 20 comrades.

about it." Then the interpreter quoted him as saying:

"I didn't have any idea I'd be saved. I was just worried about my fellow crew members."

There was plenty of food and water as well as signal flares aboard the raft. When Air Force pararescuemen dropped alongside Onodera's raft about 50 miles from where the ship was abandoned, he was in excellent condition.

"He was in fine shape — didn't need any help at all," said Air Force Sgt. James Sargent, one of the two pararescuemen who dropped to Onodera's aid.

SARGENT and Sgt. Roger O'Gorman, the other rescuer, spent about three hours sharing the hospitality of Onodera's raft before they were taken by helicopter to the Jarvis.

Onodera is a national hero in Japan, where the story of his survival is big news. Most of the major Japanese news agencies were represented yesterday as the Jarvis docked at Pearl Harbor.

He was asked if he will go at sea again.

"I don't know," he said, "I'm waiting for a pair of binoculars, said the ship's skipper, Capt. Fredrick O. Wooley.

"HE WAS UP there even when he was weak. We had to drag him down for food," Wooley said.

The Coast Guard had to sink the gutted hulk of the fishing sampan as a navigational hazard, Wooley said. Onodera watched.

"When the ship sank, he stood in an attitude of prayer. I put my arm around him and he was sobbing," Wooley said.

A video tape was made of the sinking and Wooley said Onodera has seen it many times — almost always with the same reaction.

He viewed the scene again yesterday as it was replayed on the bridge of the Jarvis. He ignored the jostling of newsmen around him and stared grimly as the tape played through to the end.

ONODERA SAID through an interpreter that he is See SEA FIRE on A-4, Col. 1

Sea Search Continues for Crewmen

The intensive air-sea search continued today for 20 missing crewmen from the Japanese fishing vessel Kaigata Maru No. 10.

Coast Guard and Air Force C-130 aircraft, the Coast Guard cutter Jarvis and its amphibious helicopter, the Liberian freighter Serafin Topic, and 13 Japanese fishing vessels are pressing the search.

A lone survivor was rescued Monday, and a life jacket from the ship was found Tuesday by one of the Japanese fishing vessels.

The search area is about 250 miles northeast of Johnston Island.

Kiyoshi Onodera, 22, the first mate rescued from a raft, said the boat caught fire and all the men jumped overboard on the night of June 9.

Helicopter Too Late to Save Sailor

HONOLULU, Maui — Kamahale, 44, of Wailuku, Oahu, died yesterday in an emergency flight to save a Coast Guard helicopter.

Police said Kamahale chief engineer aboard Hawaiian Tug and Boat Company's tugboat Malama was dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital.

The cause of Kamahale's death has not been determined, and police have asked for an autopsy.

Kamahale had taken on board the Coast Guard cutter Jarvis at 11:30 a.m. at the request of the tug skipper while the Malama was en route from Honolulu to Hilo.

The transfer took place in waters between Maui and Hilo.

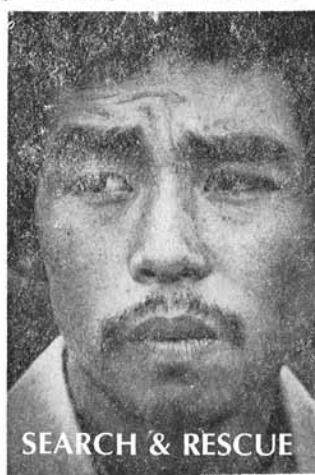
Har-Bulletin



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Survivor arrives here

his four days aboard Jarvis as it searched for survivors, Onodera stayed "every waking hour" on the bridge of the ship's skipper, Capt. Fredrick O. Wooley.



SEARCH & RESCUE

Onodera's eyes reflect the pain he feels.

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