

TANKER ALBAZE.

Fire raged through the 12,000 ton tanker, Amoco Virginia. From bow to stern, flames roared uncontrollably. Eight terrific explosions, just after midnight, swept alarm throughout Houston, Texas oil port. People feared disaster on the Texas City scale, 12 years ago, when more than 500 lives were lost. When it was light and the fire crews seemed to be getting control, another explosion hit the air. They used 10-million gallons of foamite, battling to contain the inferno. Had it enveloped nearby storage tanks, whole acres would have been devastated.

The tanker's captain, six sailors and one fireman died in the blaze. Even after 19 hours of suspense the fire was not out and still endangered 20 tankers waiting to sail past to the Gulf of Mexico. Houston escaped by the skin of its teeth.