

DYNAMITE USED TO FREE ANTARCTIC SHIP

Blasted her way out of the ice

CAPE TOWN, Friday.—A ship whose way out of Antarctic pack ice was blasted by dynamite arrived in Cape Town to-day.

The Royal Society's expedition ship, Tottan, was a week overdue.

On board were 20 members of the society's International Geophysical Year expedition, 16 of whom have spent two years at the Halley Bay base in Antarctica.

Shortly after leaving Halley

Bay the Tottan was trapped in pack ice in the Weddel Sea.

For five days she lay surrounded by huge floes. Forty miles away an American ice-breaker was also trapped. Then the wind shifted and for the next 48 hours Tottan's crew struggled to get the tough little vessel out into open sea.

"We had to use dynamite to blast a passage through the ice," said the master, Captain Lief Jakobsen, to-day. "In two days'

hard work we made only ten miles."

The leader of the expedition, Mr. J. MacDowall, said: "Captain Jakobsen and his crew were magnificent. They are absolute experts when it comes to ice."

Mr. MacDowall is one of the 16 scientists who spent two years at Halley Bay.

He said: "I am flying to Australia next Thursday for an international Antarctic meteorological symposium,

"We have brought back with us several tons of meteorological records which will take a year to correlate."

Tottan was due to sail from Table Bay to Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the sealing season. But Captain Jakobsen wants to put her in dry dock to survey the hull for possible damage in the ice.

He has cabled to Norway for instructions.—SAPA.