

Destroy A U. S. Gunboat

The United States gunboat Panay was bombed and sunk in the Yangtze River at a point about 25 miles upstream from Nanking late Sunday, according to official reports radioed to Shanghai.

One or more ships belonging to the Standard Oil Company of New York were sunk at the same time.

From 15 to 20 persons were wounded, and it was feared that a number of persons on the American gunboat were killed. About 100 persons were aboard, including 11 American citizens.

The Panay, a vessel of the U. S. Yangtze River patrol, was steaming up river from Nanking in an effort to escape from the spreading war zone around the Chinese central capital.

Details Meager

Up to noon today only meager details of the disaster had arrived. It was known that at least 11 American civilians, three or four Italians, a number of Chinese employees of the U. S. embassy in Nanking, and other non-combatants were aboard. The crew was reported to number 56.

The messages said the ship was sunk as the result of a 'bombing' but did not indicate whether the bombs came from Japanese or Chinese airplanes.

The ship carried two secretaries of the United States embassy, George Atcheson Jr., and J. Paxton Hall, as well as a large group of foreign refugees.

Other Americans known to have been aboard included Weldon James of Greenville, S. C., manager of the United Press office in Nanking; Norman Alley of the Universal News Reel; Eric Mayell of the Fox Movietone News Reel, and Roy Squires of Seattle, Wash.

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Among the civilians rescued was a South Carolinian, Weldon James, of Greenville, S. C.

Many were wounded seriously. It is feared several were killed.

From Shanghai, The Associated Press reports that the Japanese navy has accepted responsibility for bombing and sinking the Panay.

Shanghai, Dec. 13. (Monday)

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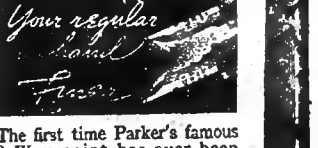
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Carl W. Steele

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