

# CRASH BLOCKS SUEZ CANAL

*Worst accident in its  
history—ships told  
to go by the Cape*

**SUEZ, Friday.**—The Suez Canal was blocked today when a tanker crashed into a railway bridge and brought it down. The Canal will stay blocked for at least eight days, and ships are being diverted round the Cape of Good Hope.



The bridge, an all-steel structure carrying a railway, is at El Ferdan, 45 miles south of Port Said and 20 miles north of Ismailia.

It was struck by the 10,892-ton tanker World Peace and collapsed on to the ship. The accident was the worst in the 85-year history of the canal. Although there are no casualties, the damage is described by the Suez Canal Company as "very serious."

The World Peace had a full load of oil. Fire brigades hurried to the scene with orders to be ready to face the risk of an explosion.

The tanker was the second in a convoy passing through the canal from the south. The crash caused an immediate hold-up for 18 more ships.

Three hundred more ships are on their way to the canal. They have been warned by radio that they must go round the Cape of Good Hope or face delays while the wreckage is cleared.

#### Canal to be widened

El Ferdan bridge is at a section of the canal which is to be widened and deepened. The work was to have started early in the New Year, and with other improvements, was estimated to cost £7,500,000.

The World Peace is registered at Monrovia, Liberia. Her owners are the World Tankers Corporation, an organisation formed in 1950 by Mr. Stavros Niarchos, brother in law of the shipping magnate, Mr. Aristotie Onassis. — Agency messages.

*Mr.  
Stagg*

*E. Standard*

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