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SINKING OF THE PANAY.

On the turgid waters of the Yangtse River British and American gunboats went about their lawful occasions. . . . neutral ships in the zone of the Sino-Japanese ~~war~~ conflict. Ladybird and Bee were there --- Bee carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Crabbe, senior naval officer of the Yangtse. ~~Here~~ Here is the American gunboat Panay, flying prominently the flag of the United States and with stars and stripes painted on her awning, visible to planes flying overhead. But presently the drone of Japanese bombers was heard in the sky. / Action stations! The Panay crew leapt into life --- but her guns were built for encounter with ~~high~~ casual pirates --- ~~useless~~ useless against the high speed bomber. Twenty-four direct hits rocked the little gunboat --- wounded crashed into the scuppers. / ~~The first bomb severely wounded the Panay skipper --- Lt. Commander I. J. Hughes. Second in command Lt. Anders was wounded but able to carry on in intense pain. British correspondents newspapermen were also dying. . . . .~~

American oil tankers evacuating wounded and escorted by the Panay, burst into flame.

The Panay is sinking. Her armament was never intended to withstand such bombardment, and the order is given to abandon ship. The small boats accommodation is inadequate, but relays take the crew ashore. / ~~The Japanese command issued orders that no shipping was to move on the Yangtse for three days. British gunboat Ladybird~~ ~~decided the end of the Panay survivors.~~

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As the last boatload left the Panay, one sailor was found ~~swim~~ swimming --- blown from the gunboat's deck. And so they reached the banks of the Yangtse River --- but the Japanese planes were still zooming overhead, and taking no risks they sought cover. In the tangled groths on the river bank the wounded lay --- receiving first aid from their ~~leas~~-seriously injured comrades. This is Lt. Commander Hughes, the Panay's Captain.

*End*  
The Panay was sinking fast. Two and a half hours after the Japanese bombers were first sighted she went to the bottom of the Yangtse. ~~The rescue ships which she had been escorting were screened with a rolling cloud.~~

Then began the long trek through the difficult country --- over the bullock tracks with the wounded --- the five-mile march to Hohsien where medical supplies were to be obtained. The local hospital was placed at the disposal of the Panay's wounded and Chinese doctors and nurses worked to relieve their suffering. This is Lt. Anders, who carried on though badly wounded, when his ~~superior~~ senior officer was incapacitated. After temporary dressing at Hohsien, junks took the battered crew down river to Hanshan, where the Ladybird was <sup>defying the Japanese orders not to move,</sup> making all speed to help, Ladybird herself had been shelled the day before --- her torn decks and pock-marked superstructure bear the evidence of Japan-made war. The wounded were transferred aboard Ladybird and taken down to Shanghai.

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PANAY (3)

Standing by to receive the wounded is the American gunboat Oahu. In the background is a Japanese warship, which offered escort. Survivors refused to go aboard, preferring the security of the stars and stripes.

And so the Shanghai --- last stage of an adventure that should never have occurred. Japan sent her apologies.

On to the United States cruiser Augusta swings the coffin of one of the dead --- the Panay storekeeper. In the fading light, the survivors came ashore as the curtain fell on what is known as an international incident. This is the plain, unvarnished story of the bombing of the Panay, as recorded by the Gaumont British News camera. It is a story of death and mutilation and outrage -- a story of war.