

Ref. Post # 1985

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section,
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that
the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting
of 1 page^s and entitled "Statement of the Navy
Department of the Imperial General Headquarters
concerning the Panay Incident, December 24, 1937.
is an exact and true copy of an official document of the
Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo.

on this 5th day of December, 1946.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness : Nagaharu Odo

By M Nishi,

Statement of the Navy Dept. of the Imperial
General Headquarters concerning the Panay Incident

24th ~~day~~ in December, 15th year of Showa
(1937)

in which our

Regarding the incident ~~that~~ ~~(the)~~ many airplanes bombed

the American river gunboat "Panay" and ~~other~~ ~~small~~ ~~boats~~ ^{the vessels of other}

~~vessels~~ ^{nations}

on 12th December, the Navy Dept. of Imperial General

Headquarters, ~~for the time being, (at once)~~ ~~published~~ ^{published an interim general report}

~~a general~~

~~report~~

~~(the outline)~~

The following facts have been ^{made} ~~clear~~

since then, and the Vice Minister of Navy, at six o'clock

yesterday, ^{i.e.} Dec. 23rd, explained the ^{real circumstances} ~~(truth)~~ of that

incident

~~(case)~~ to the American Ambassador ^{to} Japan.

7 Circumstances ^{up till} ~~until~~ the occurrence of the incident

For instance, on 27th, December, ^{on the occasion} our Navy ^{Chinkiang,} ~~air~~ flying corps, ^(in case of attacking) ~~air~~ ^{force} discovering a ~~finding out~~ (the) large Chinese army, retreating on ~~them~~ board ships, immediately started to attack, but the enemy instantly swarmed around the ~~third power's merchant ships~~ ^{our planes} ~~so~~ ^{finally} ~~we~~ were obliged to give up the attack, ~~at last~~.

In view of the situation ~~as~~ mentioned above, on 9th, ~~in~~ December, the Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, ^{to the consuls-general of other Powers} made a representation ^{that}, under ^{to the effect} the present situation when the ~~battle lines were expanding~~ ^{battle is beginning to rage} along the whole coast of the Yangtze River, ^{although} the Japanese

of course, would ⁵⁰ ~~the~~ best
 army, ~~(on one hand, intended to)~~ do ~~the~~ best
 to protect the third powers' interests, ~~(but)~~ ^{also} ~~for the other hand,~~
 were requested to ~~(use)~~ ^{for their part,}
~~hope~~ ⁱⁿ ~~their~~ ^{their} cooperation with ~~the~~ efforts to set
~~their~~ ^{vessels and} ~~ships~~ ^{forces} and vehicles apart from the Chinese army,
 or Chinese military equipment, ~~and,~~ if possible, to
 withdraw from the fighting areas completely.

The American gunboat "Panay" was lying at
 anchor two miles up the river from Nanking, but, as the
 battle in that district was getting serious, ~~she~~ ^{she} was
 removing to the upper ^{reaches} ~~part~~ of the river, ^{of} protecting three American
 merchant ships. ~~And~~ ^{On} ~~that~~ ^{the} day of the occurrence

of the incident she was taking refuge at ^a ~~(the)~~ place
^{the river}
 26 miles up from Nanking, taking steps to inform
~~the Japanese authorities of~~
~~her position, (on our side)~~ Although we ~~(can)~~
 recognize that ^{it} ~~was conforming to~~ ^{in conformity with} our above-mentioned
 notice, unfortunately ~~the last position~~ of her ^{last}
^{position} ^{also}
 refuge ^{was} involved in the midst of ~~(the)~~ complicated
 a zone in which our forces and the enemy were exchanging fire:
~~of~~ ^{battle} ~~forces between (us) and the enemy.~~ ~~And~~ To make
 the matter worse, the information of the last position
 of her refuge was ~~(also)~~ delayed as will
 be referred ^{to} later. It can not be regretted
 too much that the efforts of the captain of the Panay

could not previously prevent the occurrence of
that incident.

II The Information received by the Commander of the Navy Air ~~Corp~~ ^{unit} since the 11th

The commander of the navy air ~~corp~~ ^{unit} assigned ~~the~~ task of cooperating with ~~the~~ army operations ~~since the 11th~~

~~since the 11th~~ had received the information that

the Chinese soldiers in Nanking ~~district~~ ^{the area} were retreating

toward the upper part of the river on board ships and

that the ships were going back and forth between

Nanking and that part. But at noon (Tokyo time

~~henceforth the same~~ ^{the} ~~some in the following~~ ^{the} on 12, receiving the news that (big) ~~of various sized~~

(and small) ships with many junks were going up ~~together~~

the river between 12 and 25 miles from Nanking, loaded

with the retreating enemies, he instantly gave order to annihilate these ships. ~~(unfortunately)~~ But the information from the American consul-general in Shanghai

that the Panay and three American merchant ships were staying about 27 miles up

the river from Hanking reached the Headquarters of the Japanese Fleet in China at 5 p.m. ~~(by way of)~~ through the

Japanese consul-general and it was ~~(after)~~ 5.30 p.m. ~~(not until)~~

that the news was ~~(informed to)~~ received by the commander

of the air ~~unit~~ ^{unit} ~~corps~~. ~~(Thence)~~ the above mentioned ~~(about the fact that)~~

~~air unit~~ ^{air unit} flying ~~corps~~ knew nothing at all ~~(of what)~~ American

ships were about 27 miles up the river from Nanking,
so it was owing to ~~the~~ unavoidable circumstances
that they mistook the ships in that area for Chinese
ones.

Circumstances

III The ~~(conditions)~~ of bombing

The bombing by our navy ^{air unit} ~~flying corps~~ was
carried out by from two to six planes at ^a ~~one~~ time,
repeated
(~~reaching~~) six times in all, from 2.25 pm. to 5.30 pm.

The four ships all got bombed and two
(including the American gunboat 'Panay') of them
were ^{finally} ~~at last~~ sunk. The ~~scraping~~ ^{strafing} fire of the machine-guns

of the plane was made only by ^{one} ~~the~~ ^{of them} one in the second ~~and that~~ bombing, for a short time.

The aviators of the planes knew nothing at all about the fact that American vessels were lying at anchor in that ~~district~~ ^{area}, and they, carried away by the ^{desire} ~~aspiration~~ to co-operate with the friendly forces ~~and encourage~~ ^{at} attacking the enemy's capital, Nanking, ~~with~~ ^{at} the news that there were ships loaded with ~~the~~ retreating ~~at~~ ^{base} forces of the enemy, left for the front in high ~~of the river~~ spirits. Moreover ~~by~~ the bad visibility, from the upper air due to smoke and ^{mist} ~~mist~~ which,

circumstances surrounding
IV The ~~condition about~~ the rescue of the
sufferers

The commander of ^{the} Japanese Fleet in China received
~~the~~ information from the Commander of ^{the} Asiatic Fleet
in ~~Asia~~ at 9 a.m. on 13th ~~day~~ December, that the
communication with the Panay had been
interrupted since the afternoon ^{of the} 12th. After investigation, we
came, at last, to find out the fact that the ships which
~~had~~ ~~we~~ attacked with the firm belief ~~of~~ Chinese ones
~~ships in reality~~ were ^{our} American, so we resolved to make ~~the~~ utmost
efforts to relieve the sufferers. We at once
dispatched the HOZU with ~~the~~ ^a ~~rescue~~ ~~rescuing~~ flying-boat,

and, ^{means of} wireless telegraph and leaflets, informed ~~them~~ of the out line of the incident and that the sufferers were staying in Hohsien, and asked ^{our} ~~the~~ army forces stationed there about ~~them~~ to relieve these sufferers.

Due to the interference ^{with} ~~of~~ our ^{relief} relieving activities by ~~the~~ Chinese soldiers ashore, ~~it~~ ^{the work} was prolonged ^{till} ~~to~~ 15 th day, ^{a member of the crew} ~~of~~ picking up the corpses of the captain and ~~another~~ on board one ^{which had} of the American ships ~~run~~ ashore on the left bank of the Yangtze River.

We at last succeeded in picking them up ^{aboard} ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~ship~~ ~~PO 20~~, ~~dominating~~ the enemy by ~~the~~ bombardment ^{from} of our war vessels.

The fact that the Chinese soldiers were firing ^{violently} ~~from~~ from the banks of the river without distinguishing Anglo-Americans from Japanese can not be ignored in the investigation of this incident.

In brief, the Panay incident happened in ^a ~~the~~ district of fierce ^{and} ~~fighting~~ ^{complicated} ~~(with mutual)~~ ^{between} ~~the~~ ^{of the two Powers} ~~forces~~, and it had relation to both the navy and the army, and was caused ^(partly) by the bad conditions of ~~the~~ communications. It took ~~(us)~~ ^a ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~long~~ ^{long} ~~to~~ ^{for us} ~~investigate~~ ^{the matter}, and we are very sorry that some foreign nations, ⁱⁿ ~~during~~ ^{The meantime} ~~the~~ ~~whole~~, misunderstood

the real facts or made distorted ^{reports} ~~information~~
(or distorted the truth to communicate) and

to make the matter worse; amongst them were

~~the~~ nations that, on purpose, made bad propoganda

so as to trap Japan. We firmly believe that you

judging from the real circumstances of the case
will recognize ~~(according to the truth of the facts) already~~

mentioned above, that this unhappy incident was

entirely due to ^a mistake and was not ~~the~~ ^a planned action

malice. ~~(premeditated)~~
based upon our ~~(intentional ill will.)~~

Jap. Doc. No. 251

Subject 「心本」号事件大本营海軍部公表
(昭和12.12.24)

Defence Counsel 宗宮芝芝

Defendant

Phase

Priority II

(A) ~~Need not translate~~

As the official translation is attached to this,
it has only to be copied.

(B) Need translated and copy.

①) No translation is attached to this.

2) Translation is attached to for reference.

Date 1946.12.9

Sign

J. D. C. *J. D. C.*

Acc. Doc. No.

(41)

「ハネー」號事件大本營海軍部公表

(昭和十三年十二月二十四日)

十二月十二日我海軍飛行機カ米國河用砲艦「ハネー」及ヒ各
國船舶ヲ爆轟セル事件ニ関シテハ暴ニ不取敢大本營海軍部ヨリ
其ノ概要ヲ發表セルカ其ノ後判明セル事実は、通ニシテ昨午十二月
二十三日午後六時海軍次官ヨリ駐日米國大使ニ対シ右事實ノ
真相ヲ説明セリ。

一、事件發生ニ至ル迄ノ事情

今次事變勃發~~ル~~帝國海軍ハ第三國ノ權益並ニ人命保護ニ
對シ有ユル努カヲ致シ殊ニ艦船ニ對スル攻轟ニ際シテハ支那艦
艇及直接作戰行動ニ參加セル支那船舶以外絶対ニ攻轟セサル
如ク爲シ来レル處支那ハ屢第三國ノ國旗ヲ詐用シ或ハ第三
國權益ヲ作戰ニ利用スル等ノコトアリタル爲我軍事行動ニ至大ノ

不利ヲ蒙リタルコト少ナカラズ現ニ十一月二十七日鎮江攻襲ノ
際支那兵大部隊カ船舟ニ塔架シテ退却シツツアルヲ發見
シタル我海軍航空隊ハ直ニコレカ攻襲ニ向ヒタルニ敵ハ忽ケ
附近ニ碇泊セシ第三國商船周圍ニ蟻集シタルヲ遂ニコレカ
攻襲ヲ中止スルニ至リタル如キハソノ一例ナリ。
右ノ如キ事情ニ鑑ミ十二月九日上海在勤帝國總領事ハ各國
總領事ニ對シ戰術カ揚子江沿岸全部ニ波及シツツアル情況ニ
於テ日本軍ハ勿論第三國權益保護ニハ最善ヲ盡スヘキ
モ第三國モ亦我カノ努力ニ協カシ其ノ船舶車輛ヲ支那軍
及ヒ支那軍事施設ヨリ離隔セシメ出來得ヘクンハ戰術
地域ヨリ完全ニ離脱センコトヲ希望スル旨申入レタリ。
米艦ハ十一月二十日南京上流ニ湮ニ碇泊セシカ同
地方面戰術激烈トナルメ米國商船ニ隻ヲ保護シツツ漸

外
務
省

次上流ニ移転シ事件發生當日ニ於テハ南京上流ニ十六
哩附近ニ避難シ且其ノ位置ヲ我方ニ通告スルノ手續ヲ
執レリ、右ハ前記我方通告ノ趣旨ニ忝ヘルモノト認メラル
ルモ不幸ニシテ右最終避難位置モ亦彼我勢力錯綜ノ中
ハトナリ且ソノ最終避難位置通知モ後段述フル如キ事情ニ
依リ通達遲延シ結局ハ、ハネノ艦長ノ努力モ本事件
ヲ未然ニ防止シ得サリレハ返ス返スモ遺憾トスルトコロナリ

二、海軍航空部隊指揮官カ接受セル情報

陸軍ノ作戰ニ協カスヘキ任務ヲ課セラレタル海軍航空部隊
參謀指揮官ハ十一日以來「南京方面ノ支那兵カ船舶ニ依リ
上流方面ニ逃走シツアリ」又「此等船舶ハ屢南京ト其ノ上流
トノ間ヲ往復シツアリ」等ノ情報ヲ受領シ居タル處、十二日
正午（東京時間以下同様）「大小汽船十隻及ヒ我克多數ハ

敵退却兵ヲ塔載シ南京上流十二哩乃至二十五哩附近ヲ
湘江中トノ情報ヲ得ルニ及ヒ直ニ該船舶ヲ襲滅スヘ
キ旨下~~令~~セルカ同日「パネール」及ヒ米國商船三隻カ南京上
流二十七哩附近ニ在リトノ通知ハ上海米國總領事ヨリ帝
國總領事ヲ經テ午後五時我支那方面艦團司令部ニ到着
シ之カ航空部隊司令官指揮官ニ通達セルハ午後五時三十分以
リキ、從テ右~~艦~~航空部隊ハ南京上流二十七哩附近ニ米
國艦船アル如キハ全然知ル所ナカリシ為該方面ニ在リタル
之等艦船ヲ支那船舶ナリト確信スルニ至リシハ蓋シ已ム
ヲ得ハル次第ナリ。

三、爆轟ノ情況

我海軍航空隊ノ爆轟ハ午後二時三十分ヨリ同五時三十分
間ニ於テ前後六回、毎回ニ機乃至六機ノ飛行機ヲ以テ

行動監視艦船ニ悉ク命中シテ一隻（米國河用砲艦「ハネー」
ヲ含む）ヲ沈没セシムルに至ラシメタル際尚飛行機ニヨル機銃
掃射ハ第三回爆撃中ハ一機ヲ非短時間行ヒ死シタリ
右取巻ヲ參加セシ飛行機塔架員ハ概テ面ニ米國艦船在泊セシ
軍兵ハ何等知ルトコトナク敵首都南京攻略中ハ友軍ニ協力セシ
確ク感激ニ駆ラレテ敵退却部隊ハ塔架セル船舶ヲ空トシテ情報
ヲ得テ勇躍飛進セルモハナリ加之當時附近各所ヲ火災ハ
影無言ヲ受用「ハネー」在泊セル開源碼頭附近揚子江上ハ煙
霧伴為中空ヨリ視認情況不良ナリシト前記如キ先入主ト
相俟キテ遂ニ米國艦船タルコトヲ識別スルコト能ハスシテ之
尚爆撃スルニ至リ更ニ此等商船難ク多數ハ支那人ガ上陸
避浪スルヲ認メタル飛行機塔架員ハ之ヲ支那兵ト誤認シ
遂ニ當時現場附近ニ於テ被害米人ヲ救護中ナリシ我陸軍

發動艇隊組ノ將兵ニ迄モ危害ヲ及ホスニ至レリ。

四、遭難者救助ニ関スル事情

十二月十三日午前九時米國東洋艦隊司令官ヨリ我支那方面艦隊司令長官ニ十二日午後以來「ハネー」トノ通信連絡杜絶セル旨ノ通告ニ接シ調査ノ結果、茲ニ初メテ前日支那船ト確信シテ攻撃セシム米國艦船ナルコト判明スルニ至リ遭難者救助ニ全カヲ盡スニ決シ、直ニ保津ヲ現場ニ湘江セシムト共ニ救助用飛行艇ヲ派遣シ且無線電信及ヒ「ピラ」ヲ以テ事件ノ概要ト遭難者カ和縣ニ在ル旨ヲ通知シ現地附近陸軍部隊ニ救護ヲ依頼セリ。

尚當時陸上ニアリシ支那兵カ遭難者救上作業ヲ妨害スルコト甚シク揚子江左岸ニ擱坐セル米船一隻ノ船長外一名ノ死體收容モ之カタメ遷延シ十五日ニ至リ我艦艇ノ砲臺

敵ヲ制壓シツツ漸ク保津ニ收容スルニ成功セル次第ニ
シテ支那兵カ江岸ヨリ英米人及ヒ日本人ノ見境ナク盛ニ
射撃セルノ事實ハ本事件審査上見通スヘカラサル事項ナリ。
之ヲ要スルニ今次「パネ」號事件ハ彼我勢力錯綜セル激戦
地域ニ於テ生起シ而モ海陸軍ニ関係アリ通信連絡意ノ如ク
ナラサル等ニモ基^因ニ調査ニ時日ヲ費シ此ノ間諸外國ニ於テ
事實ヲ誤解又ハ^{歪曲}報道セラレ中ニハ故意ニ帝國ヲ陥レン
トスルカ如キ悪宣伝行ハルルニ至リタルハ甚タ遺憾トスル所ニシテ
コノ不幸ナル出来事カ全然錯誤ニ基クモノニシテ我方ノ故意
或ハ悪意ニ基ク計畫的行爲ニ非ラサルコトハ前記諸項ノ如
ク事實ノ真相ニヨリ自ラ諒解セラルヘキヲ信シテ疑ハス。

444
priority I.

TRANSLATION BY HORI, Masatake COMPLETED Jan. 6

CHECKED BY MUTO, Tomio COMPLETED Jan. 7
~~_____~~

TYPED BY _____ COMPLETED _____