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Interim Report of the Military Bureau of the Imperial
Headquarters Concerning the "PANAY" Incident (announced 3.p.m.
December 22, 12th year of Showa (T.N. 1937)

Regarding the matter of a motor-boat of the Japanese army having fired upon the American gunboat "PANAY" at the time she was bombed and that Japanese troops came aboard her, we made every effort to investigate the true circumstances. However, due to the fact -- that our troops were deployed to various areas and since communication and liaison was not what we would have liked it to have been, we regret greatly the delay in the investigation.

Immediately after the outbreak of this incident this bureau dispatched staff officers to the spot where the incident occurred in order to make an investigation in cooperation with the local organizations there. Up to the present, it has been revealed that some Japanese soldiers did go aboard the "PANAY" for a few minutes for the purpose of good will, but the staff officers could not find any evidence of the reported firing at the ship.

The circumstances of the incident are as follows:

- 1) On 12 December, about 2:00 p.m. a certain unit embarked for Pukew from Taiping on several types of motor-boats. During their voyage two of the motor-boats which had been sent ahead for reconnaissance encountered five steam-boats on the river down from Taiping and based the battle situation of the time took these five steam boats as those being used by the Chinese

army. They immediately turned back and reported of this to the main force. At the above report, all personnel of the unit made a landing on the right bank and as they were observing the scene, naval aircraft came and bombed the said convoy. The distance between the unit and the convoy at the time was about 200 meters.

- 2) After the first bombing attack on the convoy, the unit saw the wounded being landed on the right bank, and immediately after the second attack, the platoon leader approached the ships and finding that they were ships of the United States immediately ordered his medical aid men to treat the wounded on the bank.

Then, the company commander and others came to the spot and as he was discussing with the company commander as to how to save the American ships and their crew, a third attack was made in the neighborhood. So, the company commander ordered about ten men to wave a Japanese flag to put a stop to this but it wasn't seen and another bombing followed causing the ships to burst out in flames killing and wounding our own officers and men (2 dead; 3 wounded besides the company commander).

After this, the treatment of the wounded Americans was continued for a while until the sun finally set and the wounded Americans were then brought to a western style house, standing on a hill nearby.

- 3) At this time a steam-ship which was going to the bottom near the left side of the river after the third attack was also ascertained to be American. So, another company commander

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detailed two motor-boats, one officer and ten enlisted men to the spot for rescue.

The said officer and one of the enlisted men hastily boarded the said ship and searched it for a minute or two. But there was not a figure of a man on board and with the danger of the ship ready to sink at any moment they abandoned the ship. (It was learned later that this ship was the "PANAY")

- 4) Just at this time, a small steam-boat with fourteen or fifteen Chinese soldiers on board was making its escape from the neighborhood of the said spot towards the upper waters of the river (It was ascertained afterwards that it was the Li-Tai.)

Discovering this, the Japanese soldiers fired at it from a shore, although the distance was about 1,800 metres, and also had one of our motor-boats chase it and fire at it with machine-guns. Finally another motor-boat was dispatched and the boat was captured finally two or three kilometres up the river. On the side of the said boat bullet holes were recognized.

As mentioned above this firing was aimed at the 'Li-Tai' and not at the American ships. The so-called firing at the "PANAY" may have been due to the fact that they mistook our firing at the 'Li-Tai' for that at the "PANAY". And again the possibility of ricocheting bullets having strayed towards the American boats must be considered not entirely impossible;

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so we are further continuing our investigation to ascertain the true circumstances of the firing.

- 5) In short, the actions of our troops was not based on any feeling of hostility towards the Americans or their ships, nor did we have any plan to attack the American ships or to encroach on their rights knowingly. Far from it, if one will but look at the self-sacrificing devotion of the Japanese troops displayed in saving the American victims, one can easily see of the deeply sympathetic attitude of the Japanese troops at the front for foreign nationals in general and especially for Americans.

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio Kawamote, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the ^{attached} certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Yukio Kawamote

Tokyo, Japan

Date 31 Jan. '47

Interim Report of the Military Bureau of the Imperial
Headquarters Concerning the "Panay" Incident (announced 8
p.m. Dec. 32, 1937)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, MATSUI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 4 pages and entitled "Interim Report of the Military Authorities concerning the Panay Incident, December 22, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 12th day of February, 1947.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: K. Urabe

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio Kawamoto, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Yukio Kawamoto

Tokyo, Japan
Date 31 January 1947

Interim Report of the Military Bureau of the Imperial Headquarters Concerning the "Panay" Incident (announced 6 p.m. December 22, 1937).

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「バーネー」號事件ニ關スル中間報告

(大本營陸軍部昭和十二年十二月二十二日夜八時發表)

「バーネー」號爆撃當時陸軍發勅艇ヨリ射撃ヲ受ケ且日本兵カ同艇ニ乗リ込ミタリトノ件ニ關シテハ銳意真相調査ニ努メタルモ當時部隊各所ニ分散シ通信連絡亦意ノ如クナラサリシ爲之カ調査遷延セシハ遺憾ナリ當局ハ事件發生後直ニ大本營陸軍部參謀ヲ派遣シ現地機關ト協力調査中ニシテ現在迄ニ判明セル所ニ依レハ好意ヲ以テ短時間「バーネー」號ニ乗込ミタル事實アルモ該艇ヲ目標トセシ射撃ノ事實ヲ發見セス。

尙其ノ情況左ノ如シ

一、某部隊ハ十二月十二日午後二時頃各種發勅艇ニ依リ太平ヲ出發シ浦口ニ向ヒ下航中其先遣斥候タル發勅艇二隻ハ太平下流ニ於テ汽船五隻ニ遭遇シ當時ノ戰況上之ヲ支那軍ノ利用セルモノト判斷シ直ニ引返シ本隊ニ報告セリ。

右ノ報告ニ依リ全員右岸ニ上陸シ觀察中海軍艦來リテ該船圖ヲ爆撃ス、當時部隊ト船圖トノ距離約二千米ナリ。

二、我部隊ハ右船團中第一回爆撃ニ依リ被リタル負傷者ヲ右岸ニ上陸セシメツツアルモノアルヲ目撃シ、第二回爆撃直後小隊長ハ之ニ近接シ其米船ナルヲ知ルヲ直ニ上陸シアリシ負傷者ニ對シ看護兵ヲシテ手當セシム、次テ來著セル中隊長等ト共ニ米船員ト米船ノ保護ニ關シ協議中該地附近ニ第三回ノ爆撃ヲ受ケタルヲ以テ中隊長ハ之ヲ中止セシムヘク約十名ノ兵ニ日章旗ヲ振ラシメタルモ遂ニ之ヲ發見セシムルニ至ラス引續キ爆撃ヲ受ケ爲ニ船ハ火ヲ發シ、我將兵モ亦死傷セリ（死者二、負傷中隊長以下三）、其後更ニ米人員傷者ニ手當中日斷ク沒セントシタルヲ以テ之ヲ附近高地上ニアル洋式家屋ニ向ハシメタリ。

三、此頃第三回爆撃ニ依リ別ニ左岸寄りニ於テ沈没シツツアル汽船モ亦米船ナルヲ知り之レカ救助ノ爲他ノ中隊長ハ發動艇二、將校一、兵十ヲ派遣セリ。

該將校及兵一ハ急遽該船ニ乗込ニ一、二分搜索セシモ船上ニハ既ニ人影ナク且沈没ノ急險迫リシヲ以テ退船セリ。（後ニ至リ本船ハ「バネ」號ナリシヲ知ル）

四、當時恰モ十四、五名ノ支那兵ヲ乗セタル小蒸汽船（後ニ至リ立大橋ト判明ス）該地附近ヨリ上流ニ向ヒ逃定スルヲ見テ之ニ對シ距離約千八百米ナルモ陸上ヨリ射撃ヲ加ヘ又一發動艇ヲシテ機關ニテ射撃シツツ追撃セシメ更ニ他ノ發動艇ヲ派遣シ上流ニ、三千ニテ之ヲ捕獲セリ該船ノ舷側ニハ彈痕ヲ認ム。

前記ノ如ク、此射撃ハ立大橋ニ對シ行ハレタルモノニシテ決シテ米艦船ヲ目標トセルモノニ非ス、所謂「パネー」編ニ對シ射撃セリトイフハ恐ラク本射撃ヲ誤認セシモノナリト推察セラレ又米艦ニ對シテモ跳飛彈アリシニ非スヤトモ思惟セラル射撃ノ真相ハ同引續キ調査中ナリ。

五、之ヲ要スルニ陸軍部隊ノ行動ハ米艦及米人ニ對シ何等敵意ヲ有セザリシハ勿論米艦ト知リツツ計畫的ニ之ヲ攻撃又ハ侵犯スルカ如キハ全クアリ得ス即テ第一線部隊ノ一般外人特ニ米人ニ對スル深キ同情ハ彼等遭難者ニ對スル獻身的救護ニ之ヲ見ルヲ得ヘシ。