

The Panay Incident

THE POLISHED BRONZE plaque in the tiny wardroom said simply:

USS PANAY

Mission

For the protection of American life and property in the Yangtze River Valley and its tributaries, and the furtherance of American good will in China.

*Support document - 17K
"The Panay Incident"
Hamilton Darby Perry*



Support Document - ISK

USS Panay (PR-5)

*Gunners fire back at attacking Japanese planes,
December 12, 1937, on the Yangtze River between
Nanking and Wuhu, China. Gunner at right is CBM
F.R. Mahlmann, USN, who went to his battle station
minus his pants. NH 50815*



Support Document - 19K

USS Panay (PR-5)

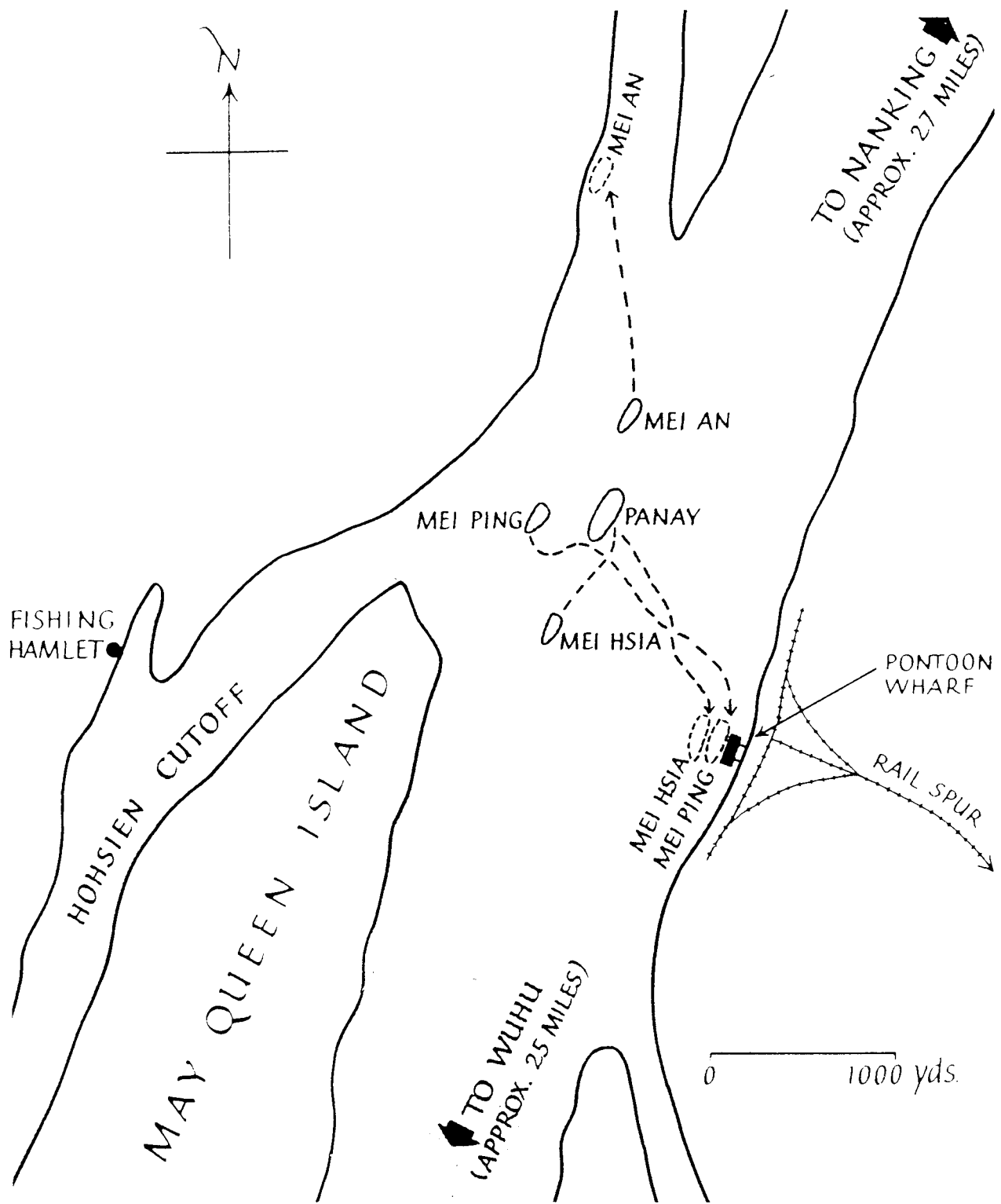
View of the ship with her main deck awash, as she sinks in the Yangtze between Nanking and Wuhu, China, December 12, 1932, after being bombed by Japanese planes. NH 50807



Support Document - 20K

USS Pamay (PR-5)

*View of survivors in the bamboo thickets along
the Yangtze River, where they had fled after the
Pamay was sunk by Japanese planes on December
12, 1937. NH 50818*



Support Document - 21K
 Map displaying position of the USS Panay
 when bombed by Japanese planes.
 Taken from The Panay Incident by H.D. Perry

FROM: COMMANDER IN CHIEF ASIATIC FLEET
TO: COMMANDER YANGTZE PATROL 12 DECEMBER 4:33 PM
PANAY UNHEARD SINCE 1342. WHAT IS NATURE OF CASUALTY.
ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH PANAY VIA BRITISH.

FROM: COMMANDER YANGTZE PATROL
TO: COMMANDER IN CHIEF ASIATIC FLEET 12 DECEMBER 5:05 PM
NO COMMUNICATION SINCE 1335 WHEN DURING PANAY TRANSMISSION NITE DISPATCH SIGNAL CEASED. BRITISH ENDEAVORING DETERMINE NATURE CASUALTY. BUT BELIEVE NO BRITISH SHIP NOW WITHIN SIGHT.

Supporting Document - 22K (a)
Radio Signals
State/War Department
National Archives

FROM: U.S.S. LUZON
TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON, AMERICAN EMBASSY PEKING
12 DECEMBER 10 PM
COMMANDER YANGTZE PATROL HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT PANAY SINCE 1335 TODAY. AM INFORMED THAT JAPANESE ARMY FORCES HAVE ORDERS TO FIRE UPON ALL SHIPS ON RIVER. IN VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED TO BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS NEAR NAN-KING AND AT WUHU TODAY, PLEASE ASK TOKYO TO MAKE URGENT REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND TO NOTIFY IT OF WHEREABOUTS OF PANAY AND STANDARD OIL COMPANY SHIPS LOADED WITH AMERICAN REFUGEES, LAST REPORTED ANCHORED AT MILEAGE TWO TWENTY ONE ABOVE WOOSUNG. PEKING REPEAT URGENT TO TOKYO. SENT TO DEPARTMENT PEKING AND INFORMATION COMMANDER IN CHIEF ASIATIC FLEET.
NELSON T. JOHNSON
U.S. AMBASSADOR

Supporting Document - 22K (b)
Radio Signals
State/War Department
National Archives

U-R-G-E-N-T

FROM: COMMANDER YANGTZE PATROL

TO: COMMANDER IN CHIEF ASIATIC FLEET

INFORMATION: U.S.S. OAHU

13 DECEMBER 10:03 AM

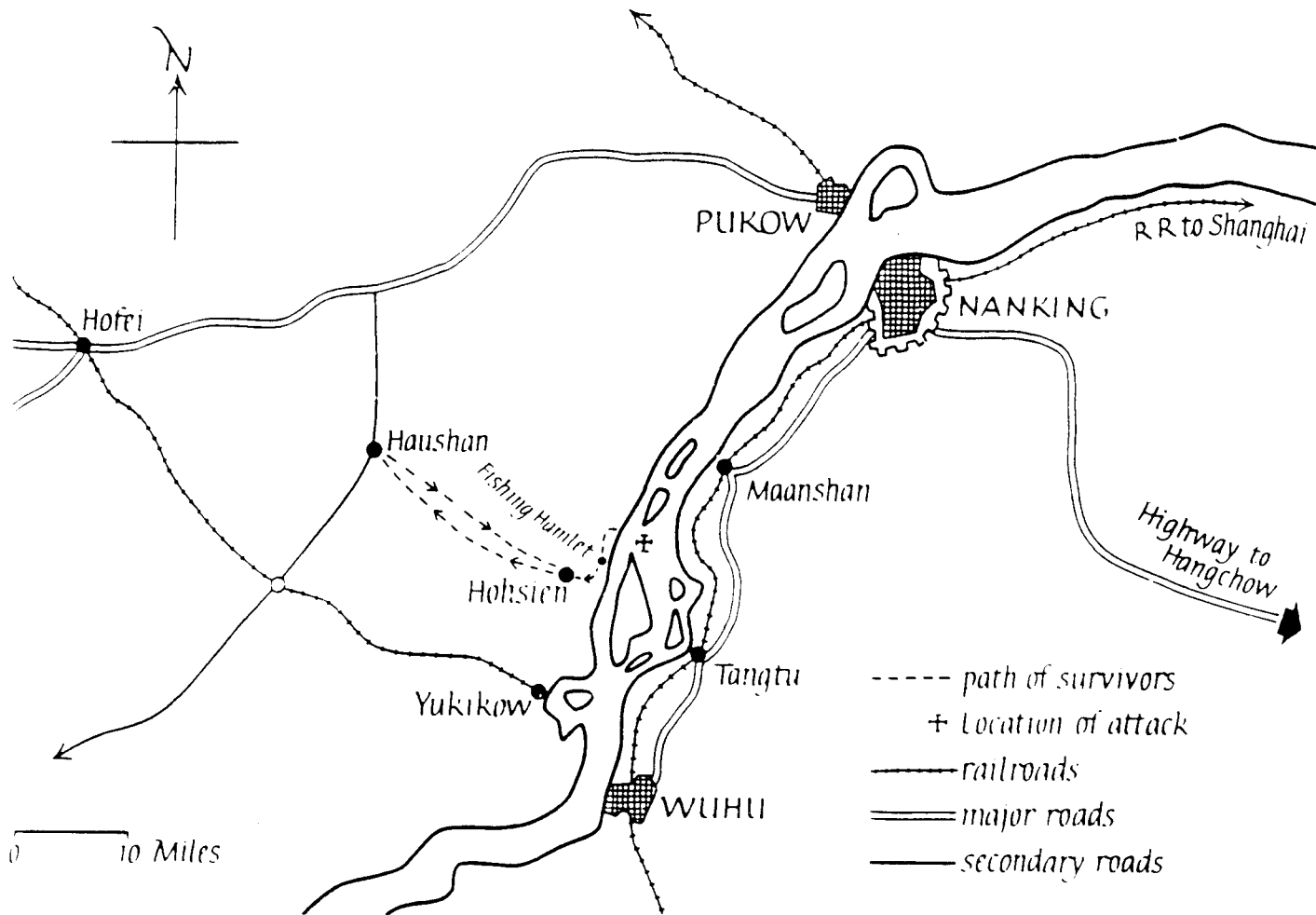
MESSAGE RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE FROM NANKING. PANAY BOMBED AND SUNK AT MILEAGE 221 ABOVE WOOSUNG. FIFTY FOUR SURVIVORS, MANY BADLY WOUNDED, NOW ASHORE AT HOH-SIEN ANHWEI. HMS BEE WILL PROCEED THIS POINT TO ASSIST AND BRING SURVIVORS TO WUHU. USS OAHU FUELING KIUKIANG PREPARATORY DEPARTING WUHU. NAMES OF PERSONNEL LOST NOT KNOWN. ATCHESON SAFE. CAPTAIN HAS BROKEN LEG. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN RECEIVED.

Supporting Document - 22K (c)

Radio Signals

State/War Department

National Archives



Support Document - 23K

Map displaying path the survivors of the USS Panay took after their ship was bombed by Japanese planes.
 Taken from The Panay Incident by H.D. Perry

Perhaps one other radio signal should be added that might properly be part of this sequence of events. On another Sunday, almost four years to the day after *Panay* went down, this message would be dispatched to all U.S. Navy ships and stations around the world from the radio room of the commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet at the Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

0800 AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR. THIS IS NO DRILL.

Support Document - 24K
Radio Signal: Pearl Harbor
State/War Department