

# Cameraman Recalls Japanese Attack on U.S. Gunboat Panay

(Editor's note: On Dec. 12, 1937, just 17 years ago, the Japanese bombed and sank the American gunboat USS Panay in the Yangtze River near Nanking. Three men were killed and more than a dozen were wounded in the incident which is considered by many as the first shot of World War II. United Press-Movietone newsreel cameraman Eric Mayell, of Burlingame, Calif., was one of the survivors of the Panay and his exclusive photos of the attack was one of the newsreel scoops of the century. In the following story, Mayell gives his recollections of that dramatic incident of history.)

By ERIC MAYELL  
As Told to United Press

San Francisco — (U.P.) — I went aboard the USS Panay to escape the rape of Nanking. An American gunboat, plainly marked with the stars and stripes, seemed to be the safest place around. I didn't know how wrong I was until it was too late.

It was Dec. 11 when we went aboard. In all there were about a dozen passengers, including a few American newsmen and embassy officials, a couple of Italian correspondents and a London Times man. We were all dirty and dead for sleep, and as the Panay headed upstream we thought we had left the worst behind us.

**Awakened by Explosion**  
I was napping on the following afternoon when it happened. I recall that I was jarred awake by a hell of an explosion and felt the ship rock and shudder. I grabbed for my camera and ran out on deck.

The first bomb hit the Panay just forward of the bridge and wounded a number of men including the skipper, Lt. Cmdr. James J. Hughes, and the executive officer, Lt. A. F. Anders.

Hughes was hit in the head and legs and was semi-conscious. Anders got shrapnel in his throat, but he took over command anyway. He couldn't speak because of his wound, but he wrote his orders to the crew on paper.

**Hit by Dive Bombers**  
The first bombs were from high altitude planes. But a minute later the dive bombers hit us. They came wave after wave, raising splashes around us with light bombs and sweeping the deck with machinegun fire.

One of the Panay's gunners was caught in the shower and he ran to man his gun wearing only a towel around his middle. I shot pictures of him firing at the attackers until his old Lewis gun jammed. Then I ran to the other side and shot another gunner in action.

All I had with me were bits and scraps of film, so I had to keep running inside to change. I was in the cabin switching film when Sandro Sandri, one of the Italian correspondents, staggered in. He had been hit in the stomach with a machine-

gun bullet and he was holding the wound with his hands and trying to keep his feet. He was very white and he said, "Eric, what shall I do?"

There wasn't much I could tell him. I'd seen men wounded like that before and I knew he'd had it. He died on shore 24 hours later.

The Panay began to settle by the bow and Lt. Sanders gave the order to abandon ship. The dive bombers were still coming down to within 50 or 100 feet of the ship, bombing and strafing, but the men lowered the boats and removed the wounded as calmly as though it were a drill.

Once ashore, we hid in the reeds from the Japanese planes.

We saw a small boat filled with Japanese soldiers approach the Panay and fire at it with rifles. When there was no return fire, some of them went aboard and looked around.

The gunboat sank at 3:54 p.m.—just two hours and 15 minutes after the first bomb hit.

We carried the wounded in blankets and made our way on foot and by barge up a small tributary to the village of Hanshan. It was a cold and frightful night as we expected Japanese patrols to come after us. But if they did, they never found us.

At Hanshan we learned that a British gunboat, the Ladybird, was waiting for us at the river, so we made our way back and went aboard her.

It's a funny thing. I wasn't particularly scared at the time. But just talking about the incident today scares me.

**End in Sight for Sheppard Trial**

Cleveland, O. — (U.P.) — Defense and prosecution attorneys agreed Saturday there was a "strong possibility" the Sheppard murder case may go to the jury by the end of next week.

"We plan to keep Dr. Sheppard under direct examination another half-day," Defense Attorney William J. Corrigan said. "Then we'll have some more witnesses—more than three but less than 10."

John J. Hahon, head of the prosecution team, said he expected to start his cross-examination of the defendant, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Monday afternoon. He would not indicate how long the quizzing would last.

Both Hahon and Corrigan agreed the seven-man, five-woman jury would get the case by Friday, when the trial ends its ninth week.

**Ike Appoints New First Army Chief**

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower has promoted Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Herron to lieutenant general and named him First Army commander.

Maj. Gen. Claude B. Ferenbaugh Friday was promoted to lieutenant general and given the post of deputy commander of Army forces in the Far East.

Both promotions are subject to Senate confirmation next session.

**Rhodes Scholarship Winners To Be Named**

Spokane — (U.P.) — The Northwest Rhodes Scholarships committee met here Saturday to select four college students to receive the two year Rhodes scholarships to Oxford university in England. The nine candidates from the six states included:

Robert S. Summers, Halfway, Ore., and Kenneth Love, Lynden, Wash.



**APPROVED** — Lili Kardell, daughter of a Swedish band leader, shows her happiness after Los Angeles court approved her Universal Studio movie contract. She was given contract when a member of visiting party of Prince Axel of Denmark spotted her on studio lot and commented favorably on her appearance.

## Double Amputee Back at Hospital For Skin Grafting

Charles Blackshear, Bend, was readmitted Friday to Community hospital for skin grafts after being dismissed from the hospital about two weeks ago.

He first was treated for the loss of both legs as the result of a truck-automobile accident on North Pacific highway while he was working on the highway.

His father was working on the same job and his mother arrived soon after the accident from Bend. They have been living at 722 North Riverside ave.

Another patient who has been at Community hospital for some time is Linda Bowen, 11, Gold Hill, who suffered a critical back injury in October.

The girl was injured when she climbed a tree to get a kitten which had been in the tree for about two days after it was scared by a dog. Though no one saw the accident, according to earlier reports Linda is believed to have fallen from near the top of the tree.

## Knowles Held by Hood River Sheriff

Hood River — (U.P.) — Robert C. Knowles was in the custody of the Hood River county sheriff Saturday following his release Friday in Sacramento by Federal Judge Sherill Halbert.

Knowles will face larceny charges here in connection with the theft of a car owned by Albert C. Stuard, Wickenburg, Ariz. Knowles pleaded guilty in Federal Court in Sacramento to stealing Stuard's car and driving it across state lines. He also told authorities in California that he had murdered Stuart and dumped his body in the Yakima river in Washington. He said he buried the body in the Hood River area.

He was questioned by Washington authorities but they did not take custody. Stuart has been missing since last year when his trailer house was destroyed by fire at Mosier, Ore.

The order releasing Knowles to Oregon authorities stated he would be returned to the jurisdiction of the Sacramento court when Oregon authorities had completed action.

## West Coast To Receive Ship Building Pacts

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Approximately \$65,000,000 in ship construction "probably will come to West Coast shipyards this year, Congressman Thor C. Tollefson said Saturday.

The Washington Republican told a news conference the West Coast should be able to secure—in competitive bidding—one sixth of the \$400,000,000 appropriated last year by Congress for shipbuilding.

## Yule Decorations Now at Museum; Displays Planned

Jacksonville — Christmas decorations were placed Friday on the front entrance of the Jacksonville Museum by Chief of Police Frank Carter assisted by Ed Coffman.

A large Christmas tree, trimmed by Museum employees, has been put up at the front window of the quilt exhibit room and several new displays have been added. Mrs. Myrtle P. Lee, curator said Saturday. A doll display will be added shortly before the Christmas holidays, and other exhibits are planned.

**Closed Christmas Day**  
The Museum will be closed Christmas day, but through the week regular hours will be observed, 1 to 5 p.m., on weekdays and 12 noon to 5 p.m., Sundays. The Museum also is scheduled to be open on New Year's day.

The newly arranged displays include photographs of Joseph Lane, territorial governor, Joseph Meek, first territorial sheriff, and William Green TVault, first territorial postmaster.

In the courtroom on the second floor, one showcase is devoted to a display of old dishes and antique glass which includes several pieces recently added to the Museum objects.

**Communion Set**  
Another recent gift to the Museum is a heavy silver communion service which was the first used at the Jacksonville Presbyterian church after it was dedicated Dec. 4, 1881. The service was a gift to the congregation by Squire William Hoffman, who arrived in the Rogue valley in 1852 and was active in forming Jackson county government.

The service includes two goblets, and was discarded after individual services were used.

Also on display is a tea service, a part of the Native Daughters collection.

## Limits on News of Trials Gets Study

Portland — (U.P.) — The Oregon Circuit Judges' association Friday decided to put off until next year a decision whether to adopt a set of rules that would limit news coverage of public trials.

A committee of judges brought out a set of suggested rules which included prohibiting any photographing or broadcasting of trials. However, the majority of judges refused to accept it until their committee on relationship of the press and bench has a chance to discuss conflicts between news media and judges.

Judge Howard K. Zimmerman of Astoria objected to a suggested rule that jurors be polled. He argued it places an unfair burden on jurors in rural communities where they feel influenced in their verdicts if they know they will be publicly announced.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.



**HAPPY COUPLE** — Representative Harold Velde, Illinois Republican, has a hug for his bride, the former Mrs. Dolores Anderson, after their marriage at Baltimore. She has been a staff secretary for the House un-American activities committee, which Velde head during the 83rd Congress.

## 91 Attend CD Rescue Schools

Salem — (U.P.) — Ninety-one persons have attended rescue schools during the past two weeks, State Civil Defense Director Arthur M. Sheets said Saturday.

The schools were conducted in three cities by an engineering and rescue team from the Federal Civil Defense Administration. The course in Eugene was attended by 37 persons; Albany, 32; and the school in Portland ending today had 22.

Purpose of the schools was to train instructors in techniques of heavy and light rescue work, which includes such things as tunnelling, shoring and breaching walls, surveying buildings and handling casualties. Sheets said every county has been requested to organize one mobile rescue unit.

## Accidental Gunshot Kills Portland Boy

Portland — (U.P.) — Carl William Frey, 17, son of Portland fire department Capt. Carl H. Frey, accidentally shot and killed himself early Saturday while duck hunting with two companions at Fairview lake in suburban northeast Portland.

Deputy Sheriff Jack Elliott said Frey was standing in the water when he reached into a boat for his shotgun. The weapon accidentally discharged and pellets from the shell struck him in the neck.

The sugar pine is reported to live more than 600 years.

## State Asks Prompt Accident Roundup

Salem — (U.P.) — The State Traffic Safety division said Saturday it is developing plans to get a prompt roundup of traffic accidents in Oregon next Wednesday — National Safe-Driving Day.

Sheriffs in all the country and chiefs of police throughout the state have been asked to report accidents to the Salem office by the fastest possible means so they can be tabulated and included in the national survey.

Even so, officials said, it may take a bit longer to get all accident reports in. A motorist has 24 hours in which to file an accident report, but for the purposes of the survey, any motorist involved in an accident on S-D day is urged to make his report at once.

The State Traffic Safety division will prepare a running count of the accidents as they are reported.

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GUNFIGHTERS  
BARBARA BRITTON

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YVONNE DeCARLO  
in "Tomahawk"

**Air Force Studying Foreign 'Saucers'**  
Washington — (U.P.) — The Air Force is studying so-called "flying saucer" sightings in foreign countries as well as those reported in the United States.

A spokesman said Friday that a "flying saucer" photograph distributed by the United States is being studied by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air-Force Base, Dayton, O.

The photograph, made at Taormina, Sicily, showed Sicilians looking at two disk shaped objects. It was made by Giuseppe Grasso, a photographer who supplied the picture to the United Press Rome Bureau.



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