

# SURVIVOR TELLS OF NANKING FALL

(The following description of the siege and capture of Nanking by the Japanese was wirelessly to the Associated Press from the United States gunboat Oahu by Arthur Menken, Paramount News-reel camera man.)

By ARTHUR MENKEN

NANKING, by Radio from Gunboat Oahu, Thursday, Dec. 16.—(AP)

—The once-proud capital of ancient China was strewn today with the corpses of its soldier defenders and civilians killed in the bombing, shelling and fierce fighting to which the city was subjected.

Scattered through the city were hundreds of uniforms discarded by fleeing Chinese soldiers, who had tried to escape death at the hands of the Japanese by substituting civilian garb.

During the Chinese retreat from Nanking after their defense had been smashed by the terrific Japanese onslaughts, I saw some disorganized looting by fleeing Chinese soldiers and, when they had gone, some Japanese carried on the looting.

## Seek Foreign Zone Refuge

The Japanese refrained from shelling and bombing the safety zone set aside under sponsorship of American and German residents of Nanking. More than 100,000 Chinese sought refuge in the zone.

Despite the fact that Chinese troops were slow in withdrawing from the zone and planted guns along its edges, the Japanese did not attack there. Only a few stray shells fell in the zone and only a few were killed in it.

C. Yates McDaniel, the Associated Press correspondent in Nanking, and I saw many policemen shedding their outer clothing and walking around in underwear searching for old civilian clothes.

To make sure that the watchman at the American embassy was not executed for having arms, McDaniel took away his pistol and made him stay inside. This probably saved his life.

We first learned of the Panay's sinking from a young Japanese navy lieutenant. After Nanking's fall we had gone to the river side to request the Japanese to radio the Panay and ask it to return to Nanking.

The lieutenant answered: "Oh, so sorry; Panay sunk!"

Unbelieving, we heard him repeat that the gunboat had gone down. He could give no details.

We advised other Americans and foreigners of the Panay sinking but did not tell the embassy's Chinese staff, not wanting to terrify them.

## Antiaircraft Ineffective

During the final days of the siege we saw no Chinese planes in the air, and Chinese antiaircraft weapons were hopelessly ineffective in keeping off Japanese bombers, although one Japanese plane was believed shot down.

The American-supported University of Nanking, a haven for thousands of terrified refugees, was not hit or disturbed.