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The Outrages at Nanking

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G. A. KENNEDY, a Chinese-speaking American, formerly a student at the Columbia School of Journalism, went to Nanking and made a two-day observation of the effects and occurrences of March 24. This is a digest of his statement: "By April 1, 27,000 interned Shantung prisoners had been registered in Nanking by the victorious Nationalists. All these, and more, were in the city when the first Nationalist soldiers entered at 3 a. m. on the twenty-fourth. The attacks on foreigners in the morning and afternoon of that day, resulting in the deaths of one American, two British, and one Japanese, and the looting of the consulates of those countries, therefore, cannot be conclusively fixed upon the Nationalist soldiers.

"The first of the four foreign deaths, that of J. E. Williams, vice-president of Nanking University, occurred at 8 a. m. on the twenty-fourth. It has been proved that four other Americans were with Williams at the time the soldiers threatened. Williams drew his revolver and was immediately shot dead. The others were not hurt. The three other foreign deaths occurred in the late afternoon before the bombardment, which was at 4.30 p. m. The Nationalist general entered the city at 5.30.

"The foreign houses burned or looted were all on the route taken by the Northerners in their efforts to escape from the city. Foreign houses were not the only houses looted. Hundreds of Chinese were robbed and many killed by the soldiers, presumably, again, Northerners running amuck.

"The physical effects of the bombardment by the British and American war vessels are comparatively slight. About fifty Chinese houses were wrecked, and one foreign-inhabited home was demolished. The number of Chinese casualties was probably under one hundred. But this is uncertain, as they have not yet been recorded."

Despite the uncertainty regarding the affiliations of the soldiers participating in the outrages, the Nationalist military officials concede the possibility that some of the first Southerners entering the city were among the culprits, but they doubt the probability. The previous record of the Nationalist soldiery is unblemished by any such attacks. This is considered strong circumstantial evidence in their favor.

Shanghai itself is thick with the atmosphere of anti-Nationalist propaganda generated by the local British press. The correspondents are working in and affected by this atmosphere.

The bombardment by the British cruiser of Nanking is not changing the Chinese attitude. They are accustomed to such action by the British. But participation by the United States gunboat was a profound shock to the Chinese. The impression that an American gets in talking with the Chinese is that they are profoundly disappointed. They had hoped that the United States would be definitely friendly in all circumstances. Their feeling is that the United States policy is now completely dominated by the British. It is to be noted that the Japanese gunboat at Nanking did not participate in the bombardment, although Japanese nationals and the Japanese Consulate suffered equally with the others.

(By cable to *The Nation*)