



PANAMA CANAL COMPANY  
BALBOA HEIGHTS, CANAL ZONE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 17, 1970

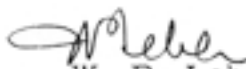
To : Members of the Board of Directors

Subject: Report on Sinking of SS SIAN YUNG in Gaillard Cut

As you probably saw in the press, we were threatened with a partial blockage of the Canal on December 6th when the SS SIAN YUNG (a World War II Victory ship, 455 x 62, Chinese Nationalist flag) struck the West Bank of Gaillard Cut and sank while still in the Cut about three quarters of a mile northwest of Pedro Miguel Locks. The accident happened as the vessel was transiting southbound and while she was preparing for her approach to the Locks. Fortunately, the pilot succeeded in bringing the damaged vessel alongside the West Bank near the junction of Cucaracha and Paraiso Reaches where she was held by tugs until she settled.

At present, she is resting near the bank with her port side extending about 130 feet into the channel and her main decks under approximately 16 feet of water. We have not yet been able to precisely determine the extent of damage sustained as the vessel is resting in several feet of mud and silt. Indications are, however, that the vessel's hull is ruptured at or near its bottom by Holds No. 2, 3, 4, and the engine room.

Enclosed is a picture showing the ship and the rigged oil boom. Traffic is proceeding normally except ships are not allowed to meet in this location. The situation is under control and I will present a full report at the Board Meeting in January. At that time, you will have an opportunity to see the salvage work in progress.

  
W. P. Leber  
President

Enclosure

FOR BOARD MEMBERS ONLY