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36-Craft Convoy Due to Move —Tanker Cut Free From Rail Bridge Wreckage

Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, Monday, Jan. 3—The Suez Canal was cleared for traffic late last night, and the first convoy of thirty-six ships was to start northward through the vital waterway today, according to information received by telephone from Suez, Egypt.

The canal has been closed since Friday, when the tanker World Peace, of Liberian registry, struck a railroad bridge at El Firdan, ten miles north of Ismailia. Preliminary estimates had been that the canal would remain closed a week.

The first indication received here that the canal was clear came in a telegram from Port Said, at the north terminus of the canal, to a passenger of the Iberia, informing her the ship would sail at 5 A. M. today.

An official of a British coaling company at Suez said the first convoy was to start through at 1 A. M. and would be followed at 5 A. M. by a second convoy. He said sixty-five ships were waiting in Suez harbor.

Railroad traffic across the Suez Canal was restored yesterday by a temporary bridge at El Firdan.

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