

MILLION FLEE PUNJAB RIOTS

No signs of returning order come from the Punjab and the Delhi Province as these sad pictures reach Britain.

~~Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are at each other's throats in communal warfare, bitter and cruel beyond anything known to the western world. On the banks of the monsoon-swollen Ravi~~

The River Ravi, one of the so-called Five Rivers of the Punjab, swollen by the monsoon rains, barred the way to escape for refugees heading south. Dacoits, members of armed robber bands, attack the helpless, murder ~~the~~ women, loot villages from which ~~it is estimated that~~ a million people have fled. Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are at each other's throats in communal warfare, bitter and cruel beyond anything known to the western world. Hindu minorities in ~~Punjab territory now coming under~~ Pakistan, ~~the~~ ~~Muslim dominion~~ / flee in terror. Muslim minorities in Hindustan ~~also~~ fly for their lives. The Sikhs, angered because no separate dominion status is granted them, prey on both parties. Often, isolated bands of Sikhs are themselves in danger. What will happen to the hundreds of thousands in the refugee camps it is too early to say. Both the Muslim and Hindustan Prime Ministers denounce the warfare.

Lady Mountbatten visited the crowded, chaotic area near Amritsar. That city, though the centre of the Sikh religion, has ~~only a minority Sikh population~~ ^{but few Sikh inhabitants}, and much blood has been shed within its bounds. Refugees told harrowing stories of murder, and suffering. All along it has been known that to divide India would cause bloodshed. The aim of ~~both Hindu and Muslim~~ ^{the new} governments is to effect ~~a~~ ^{the} ~~changeover~~ ^{to} at smallest possible cost in human life. Meanwhile, terrible indeed is the lot of women and children swept on the tidal wave of religious hatred.

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(GV pan lorry) In the Punjab more than a million fly for their lives. May they soon reach the destination of peace.