

2 MALAYAN VILLAGE MOVE DOWNSTREAM ON 93 RAFTS

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Exodus unique in Malaya - perhaps anywhere else for that matter - was undertaken by 350 villagers

bordering the River Lebir. They dismantled their jungle-

~~houses and moved them to the new site on the river bank.~~

25 ~~and the houses were reassembled on the new site.~~

houses while the Headman and the District Officer fixed on a

26 new site for the uprooted campongs. They, with the ~~houses~~ huts

reassembled on 93 rafts, the strange procession began

a six-day journey downstream - to safety. They'd been living

a nightmare existence in the heart of bandit-country, and

45 the only choice seemed to be to get out while they could.

RAF fighters patrolled the river, on the lookout for Reds

who might attack the convoy. A mile of rapids proved a

60 greater danger, but ^{all the rafts} ~~they~~ got by without mishap.

(AV) The proposed site looked as good as ^{the map and the}

District Officer had led the headman to expect. Here, he and his people could live in peace, so they lost no time in moving ashore to start life more or less afresh.

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There are advantages in being a primitive community. If you like a change you take the town with you. Pity we all can't float ~~London~~ downstream, out of the fog belt.

incidentally within reach of government schools and medical service.