

TACHENS EVACUATION: (FIRST PICTURES)

To the Formosan port of Keelung came the first of the 18,000 refugees from the Tachen islands. 15,000 Chinese Nationalist troops are to follow them. Perhaps the peasants understood very little of the reasons why they were suddenly taken from their ~~islands~~<sup>homes</sup>, but had they been left there after the soldiers went they might have got short shrift from the Communist government on the mainland. A spray with DDT made life easier at the camps and huts prepared on the outskirts of Taipei. Washington decided that to leave the Tachen islands under the control of Chiang Kai Shek would provoke trouble, but <sup>to</sup> Formosa itself Uncle Sam holds tight.

Chiang Kai Shek told his army the re-deployment of his troops by the evacuation of the Tachens was not a defensive move, but paved the way for his invasion of the Chinese mainland. Meanwhile the American Task Force 77, including five aircraft carriers, covered the evacuation.

(3 x GV) [And now, what of the island of Quemoy? Only five miles from the mainland and 120 from Formosa it is held by the Nationalists - no evacuation planned as we receive these pictures. A well-trained garrison watches day and night for any sign of attack.

Feb. 8, 1955

Music: Panmunjom (Cease Fire) PN921  
Prelude (Gen. Died At Dawn) CL 27  
Dangerous Mission PNL20  
Commando Raid PNL52

Main  
Abstract  
Non  
Issue #51

FORMOSA AND THE TACHENS

A GRAPHIC REPORT

FORMOSA

QUEMOY

First reports from correspondents with the United States Seventh Fleet off the Tachen Islands indicate the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist forces is proceeding according to plan. These are the types of warships and aircraft covering the withdrawal, under orders to shoot back if fired upon. 41-thousand troops and civilians will be evacuated. Meanwhile, on Formosa itself, 210 miles south of the Tachens, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek declares that the move is aimed to hasten the Nationalist return to the mainland. He says that the troops withdrawn from the Tachens are to be redeployed; some will go to the other strategic, Nationalist-held off-shore islands, Quemoy and Matsu. At Keelung, Formosa, latest on-the-spot films of refugees taken off the Tachen Islands. From freighters that have been on the high seas for days come the women and children. The menfolk, troops and civilians, are to follow in the big withdrawal. The plan is to reunite the families as soon as possible.

These are the faces of the innocent, who already know flight from terror.

Spraying with DDT is a necessary precaution before the refugees are removed to temporary quarters in schoolhouses on the outskirts of Taipei.

They do not say much, but those who speak to newsmen tell of the desperate situation on the Communist-threatened Tachens as the hour for the evacuation arrived.

Next, the Paramount News cameraman flies to Quemoy, Nationalist outpost close to the China mainland. The defense of Quemoy and Matsu has been the subject of

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(Formosa)

debate in free world capitals. Arriving at Quemoy with other correspondents, our .  
photographer makes this first picture record on the island ... a lonely spot .  
surrounded on three sides by the Communist mainland!

Here, 120 miles west of Formosa, the garrison is held in alertness. It is reported  
the artillery emplacements are not overly impressive when compared with the  
Communist strength on the mainland only five miles away.

But these are rugged troops who could put up a stubborn defense. So come the  
accounts, even as the silent watch continues, and diplomats ponder new steps toward  
ending the trigger-tense crisis.

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Major The Hay