

BRITISH SOMALILAND EVACUATION.

Focus on Aden --- Gateway to the Red Sea. The eastern theatre where the footlights may soon go up on another drama since the conquest of Britain proved a flop. Light naval forces are pictured here proceeding to Berbera for the evacuation of refugees and the withdrawal of British and Empire troops. Yes -- it was another withdrawal; but the fall of Grande left Britain with this particular strip of Africa too costly to hold --- surrounded by Italian possessions. No tactical advantage could have been gained by hanging on at the cost of much loss of life. Many of the native people who now leave their homes under the protection of the Royal Navy, have already made one move; from Abyssinia, where Mussolini's lust for power first bade him turn his back on humanity. Never in all history has the world seen such an upheaval. ----- never have so many innocent folk of all races been compelled to leave their home and start life afresh; a third of the world has become the camping ground of nomad tribes. Even in Britain there are now many who know what that means; these recurring pictures of refugees have to-day a new --- a more poignant meaning for us.

~~British~~ troops were the last to leave; from the scorching coast of British Somaliland they have now crossed the Gulf of Aden to renew the fight on terms more equal. In this war the turn of the army has been left to last --- but that turn will surely come.

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The Governor too goes with his dog. The representative of British Sovereignty in this possession now lost has joined the throng of those who move on before aggression. But the tide will turn; ~~these~~ these African peoples will watch their own troops march back --- to victory. *a third of the world now cast about will find a new purpose.*

Still, for the time being, it's good-bye to British Somaliland. But the Navy leaves its mark before the last ship sails. Big guns hammer at coastal roads and key buildings; they leave a devastated, barren waste. Italy's Bandit Chief has acquired a new slice of ~~someone else's~~ someone else's property. Let him enjoy it while he can..... we'll be back.