

EUROPEANS FLEE CHINA

As Communist forces threaten to engulf all China, the evacuation of European civilians from the danger zone begins in earnest. The first boatload of refugees is bid a sad farewell by those left behind. There are 900 aboard (Britons among them) all fleeing a troubled land. But, as they leave, others move in. The Ninth American Marine Division from Guam arrives at Tsing-Tao. They are here to enforce the American Garrison, normally stationed at this Yellow Sea port. Tsing-Tao is held by Nationalists, but completely surrounded by Reds. As the Marines' commander steps ashore, the big query is whether his troops would go into action against the Communists, if they should attempt to capture the city.

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Youngsoo
Baruch

With communist forces threatening to overrun all China, with the national government's capital city of Nanking itself in peril -- the evacuation of U.S. civilians has already begun. The second boatload of American refugees is bid a sad farewell by those left behind. Of the nine hundred aboard, seven hundred are the wives and children of ~~U.S.~~ Army personnel. But even as they leave, the Ninth Division of U.S. Marines from Guam moves into Tsing-tao. They're here to reinforce the Marine garrison, already stationed at this port on the Yellow Sea. Tsing-tao is a nationalist-held pocket, completely surrounded by the communists -- but so far the Reds have made no effort to interfere with the city. The Marines' job is to protect American interests and American nationals, who are already evacuating the port in a steady stream. Colonel Hughes, leading the Ninth, is first to step ashore to meet Brigadier General Thomas, marine commander at Tsing-tao. The marines stand guard at a trouble spot in troubled China.

FOREIGN