

LAST BRITONS LEAVE

SHANGHAI ENCIROLED

Shanghai harbour is jammed with small craft as refugees desperately grasp at any form of transportation to flee the West's biggest outpost in Asia. These first pictures of the great exodus from Shanghai arrive simultaneously with the news that the Red armies have now completely encircled the city and cut off the last road of escape. As the retreating Nationalist troops pour into the huge metropolis, confusion increases.

While a number of the city's British colony is still determined to stay on, others now hurry to leave. Some join the American nuns aboard the "President Wilson" - one of the official evacuation ships. Plans are ready for the Navy to evacuate the others. Aboard the liner, every available inch is pressed into service. As the ship pulls out, there closes one of the last gates to freedom. Those Britons who remain flock with others to Hankjao cemetery, to pay a last tribute to 23 sailors killed on the Yangtse. Shipmates from the cruiser London and the sloop Black Swan carry them to their last resting place. The London's Captain, Peter Casalet, wounded in the battle, limps along with other mourners.

The nation's sympathy goes out to the families so tragically bereaved. Their menfolk died gallantly, defending to the last the proud name of the Royal Navy.