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HONG KONGBRITONS STAND TO: REDS REACH CITY GATES

Hong Kong - last remaining Western outpost in China - is threatened. For the second time in eight years, an invader is at the city gates. Yet as these special rush pictures show, the city is calm. There is no panic. Although the victorious Red armies have reached the Crown Colony's border, the 17-mile-long frontier into China is still open. The Kowloon ferry - which connects Hong Kong capital with the mainland - is still operating. The only visible sign that the civil war is only an hour away lies in the newspapers, used by fifth column agents to cover their spreading of the new Chinese Communist flag.

British reinforcements have been streaming into Hong Kong for several months. The garrison is now up to strength. Each man has been put on a war footing. All leave is cancelled and forward troops - among them Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders - are standing to. Like the Army, the R.A.F. too, is on a 24-hour alert. From the colony's only airport, Kai Tak on the mainland, first line Spitfire Squadrons are making two-hourly patrol flights over this small, but vital piece of British territory.

Experienced observers in the colony do not think that the Communists will attempt to cross the frontier. They believe that the Reds need Hong Kong as a trading centre. Nevertheless, British troops take up long prepared positions and are ready for any emergency. The field headquarters of the 40th Division is moving up to the border area. Hong Kong is ready. There will be no repeat of the 1941 surrender this time.