

BANDITS FACE NEW TACTICS

Re-inforcements arrive at Singapore from Hongkong as Britain promises full aid in the war against the bandits - because that's what it is, now - war. Gurkhas to strengthen those long in action, and tough Camerons ... hillmen, both, and hardy fighters, now marching to perhaps their toughest assignment.

Up North, men like the Devonshires maintain ceaseless patrols, hunting the bandits, who never come out from their jungle fastness except to hit and run.

Making a tour of Malaya with the War Minister, Jim Griffiths, Minister for the Colonies, talks with the Commander of a Kampong or village guard. With Mr. Strachey he learns of new measures to help the villages to defend themselves until help can come. The men, armed with shot-guns to defend their homes, are Malays, the bandits almost entirely Chinese and are trained and disciplined. Shot-guns don't carry far, so now the villagers are to get rifles, too ... Britain has promised full help - and they're counting on us.

The very jungle is on the bandits' side.

The thick undergrowth, tall lalang grass that cuts like a knife; damp, oppressive heat that saps a man's strength, and an enemy who can go a hundred miles without breaking cover. It's a tough job our boys tackle.