

WESTMINSTER

CORONATION STONE MYSTERY

Westminster Abbey, spiritual heart of the Commonwealth, lost one of its most precious relics when persons so far unknown forced the door of the King Edward 7th Chapel to reach the Coronation Chair and take away the Stone of Scone, which for more than 650 years rested here. Prising apart the old oak of the chair - which Edward I originally meant to be bronze - the vandals signed their workmanship with the initials J.F.S. In the dark of night just behind the High Altar they worked, but its rich vessels they left untouched. They came only for the stone. Dragging the ancient Stone of destiny upon which Scottish Kings were crowned at Scone till Edward I brought it to England in 1296, they vanished into the night through this door. Now as the greatest search in years is on in England and Scotland, concern switches to Kingston, Surrey, and another ancient Coronation Stone where 7 Saxon Kings of England took their oaths before ever the Stone of Scone came to England. To rob a church is sacrilege, especially in these days when force attempts to overthrow order.

Now even the perimeter defences are called in, their work taken over by guns of the Fleet and planes. This was no Dunkirk. That was an epic of bravery and improvisation in the face of overwhelming odds. This, the result of skilled planning and brilliant organisation. The Chinese counted the 10th Corps trapped and out of the war. Hungnam foiled their plan and puts 100-thousand armed and equipped men back into line as the United Nations face up to an imminent Chinese onslaught.