

1043301

Subject:- Abadan Evacuation.
Place:- Abadan, Iran.
Cameraman:- Hecox.
Date:- 28th August.
Opposition:- Exclusive
Length:- 500 ft.

The enclosed material was filmed at the beginning of the evacuation of oilfield personnel appertaining to the Anglo Iranian Oil Company operating in S. Iran. Following the breakdown of the oil talks between the mission of Mr. Stokes, British Lord Privy Seal, his delegation and that of the Iranian Government, the Anglo Iranian Oil Company immediately decided to evacuate from the country all their British and Indian and Pakistanian personnel in the oilfields themselves, leaving a cadre of British staff in the refinery at Abadan itself. This evacuation, which had been planned even before the close down of the refinery, 31st July '51, was begun on Saturday, 24th of August, '51 and was scheduled to be finished on the 28th August. Along with 268 British and 130 Indian and Pakistanian personnel from the oilfields also went a handful of redundant personnel from the refinery. The cadre which is left in the refinery totals about 600 more or less, no exact figure available at present. What the next step is as yet unknown, but the British will stay in the refinery area at Abadan to maintain some £350,000,000's worth of refinery machinery now idle except for light and power plants. (Pounds in the preceding sentence

refers to British currency). The personnel which came in from the oilfields from 100-130 out of Abadan were taken almost immediately by bus to Khorrans Hahr. Here they went by launch across the Shatt-el-Arab river, picked up their passports at the AIOC Office, then went by bus across the border into Iraq and thence to Basra. From Basra they will be taken by plane back to England sometime this week. They left with only their personal baggage. It is hoped that other property of bulk may be shipped out later. The oilfields are now completely in the hands of the Persians and reports state that the machinery in the fields which have previously been turned over have already started to break down in locations where Britons were evacuated sometime ago, at the close of the refinery and the resulting closing of certain of the field areas.

Roll 1

Includes shots of bags and field personnel being loaded into bus in front of AIOC-owned guest houses, ready to depart for Basra, Iraq.

Shot of buses arriving at Shatt-el-Arab, crossing to Khorramshahr. (See roll 5 for shot of launch loading).

Roll 2

Opening shots are of personnel coming up steps from launch on Khorramshahr side of Shatt-el-Arab.

Scenes of getting passports at Transport Office of AIOC at Khorramshahr and then boarding buses for trip to Basra.

Roll 3

Buses coming over bridge near Iran/Iraq border through row of date-palm trees to stop for Iranian customs check.

Scenes of baggage being perfunctorily checked by director of customs of this Iranian border post.

Roll 4

Last bag is put aboard baggage truck and British oilfield driller comes towards bus. Last Britons board bus to make trip out across desert to Iraq border and thence to Basra where they will emplane for England. Buses depart with few Britons waving out windows.

Long shot of buses and baggage truck going out across desert towards Iraq.

Final scenes are flash-back to taking bags out of buses before taking launch across river to Khorramshahr.

Roll 5

Carrying bags down jetty to waiting launch which will take men across river to Khorramshahr.

Getting into launch.

Launch takes off to Khorramshahr which can be seen across Shatt-el-Arab River.