

FILJI TROOPS FOR MALAYA

In Suva, Fijian volunteers parade before leaving for Malaya where soon they will be helping to fight the Communist bandits. To help Britain the chiefs offered a battalion to go anywhere, and 800 were accepted and trained.

From quiet seaside villages, as well as towns, men answered the call, leaving their peaceful life to fight in a strange and difficult land: with old time ceremony their elders sped them on their way. Eighty years of British rule has given them peace. Now with the blessing of their chief and his wife, the young men feel the call to make some return.

Now at Suva it's time of departure and the great ship embarks the men, leaving behind the wives and mothers to their grief. There is perhaps some sense of intrusion in these pictures of private sorrow, except that they make real to us these unknown fellow-members of our Commonwealth.

In New Guinea and other islands Fijian soldiers won great renown. To one of them went the only V.C. awarded in the Pacific. Now comes the hour of sailing and to the people of Fiji Britain offers her gratitude for a very real help at a time of need.