

56-99

2-FH4F01

BRITISH TROOPS LEAVE PORT SAID.

British units march to Port Said harbour to go aboard the landing craft which will ferry them to the waiting troopships - for their task has been handed over to the United Nations Emergency Forces, and the great evacuation of British and French forces from the Canal Zone has begun. The Royal Fusiliers are among the first 2,000 to embark, and the whole Allied withdrawal, is only expected to take two or three weeks.

United Nations soldiers watch as the landing craft draw away from the quay and make for the troopship Dilwata. She is the first of the homebound ships; two Cunard liners are on their way to Port Said to take part in the evacuation. Allied G.-in-C. General Knightley has given the news thousands of families were waiting to hear - that the majority of British troops leaving Egypt are going directly to Britain.

By the time the Allied withdrawal is complete, the United Nations force in Egypt will have been built up to full strength, so Britain's demand that there should be no military vacuum is being met. These British troops have carried out their difficult task with efficiency and restraint. Now they're on their way - and if anyone has earned a Christmas at home, these boys have!