

MALAYA

53/7

VILLAGE FLOATS TO SAFETY

Villagers from Laka and Laka Bharu, in the Malayan jungle, set out on a great venture: to move their entire village by river to a new site, away from Communist intimidation. Their houses and all that they possess are aboard the rafts they have built. Now, through a district where Red terrorists are known to be, the slow procession makes its way.

Each of the ninety-three rafts making the hazardous journey carries a part of the harvest that has just been reaped. Overhead, aircraft keep watch for any sign of a terrorist attack; and below, armed patrols accompany the rafts on their twenty-five mile voyage. Yet the threat of Red attacks is but one of the dangers - mudbanks, rocks and rapids have to be navigated before their journey is over.

At last the voyage is done and the Ulu's new home is in sight: a place within easy reach of Government administration, able to give them the assets of education and medical care.

An aircraft looks down on the new village where fires (to clear the site) still burn. Nineteen acres in area, it lies high on the bank of a tributary of the Kelantan River.

Food prepared by the Red Cross, awaits them on arrival. Government officers, who see to the Ulu's welfare on the site, have arranged the distribution of clothes so that all may start afresh in their new homes. For, to these people, the village will mean more than another place to live - it will bring a new and better way of life.