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Troops Wipe Out Pro-Red Town; 1,500 Detained

Standard Staff Correspondent

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs:—A battalion of troops and three companies of Police began an operation at dawn today that aims at rubbing Kampong Jenderam off the map of Malaya.

The British Adviser, Selangor, Mr. A. N. Ross, the G.O.C. South Malaya, Major General R.C.O. Hedley, the Commander, 18th Infantry Brigade, Brigadier R.T.K. Pyke were among senior officials who witnessed the destruction of Jenderam, and the round-up of its 1,500 inhabitants, mostly Malays and Chinese

with a few Indians.

The troops and Police were divided into 11 sections, each augmented with a team of six officials and a Jungle Company.

At 5 a.m. they struck, at what has officially been described as—a wasp's nest of banditry—one of the main centres of Malay Communists and Malay Communist propaganda.

The inhabitants were awakened, told they were to be removed from their homes and ordered to pack what they could reasonably carry. A list of their remaining goods were made and a receipt handed to them.

A convoy of 50 army lorries transported them to a reception centre at Kajang where they re-

mained until evening when they were put aboard two special trains that are taking them to a detention camp in Kluang, Johore, a distance of a little over 100 miles.

The sick and old were taken in ambulances to a casualty reception station and later transported to Kajang where serious cases were hospitalised.

TREMENDOUS TASK

Officials from the Supplies and Veterinary Departments made a census of goods in shops and of livestock and PWD officials appraised buildings.

The complete destruction of Jenderam and its surrounding areas has been a tremendous task, but the operation was carried out with more speed than had been anticipated, no doubt due to the unexpectedly acquiescent behaviour of the inhabitants who were taken by complete surprise.

Some seemed delighted that they were to be moved and packed their belongings with smiling faces.

The cattle, pigs and poultry will be auctioned tomorrow.

Until the name of Jenderam is finally scrubbed from the map, until it consists only of empty, deserted buildings, a cordon of troops and police will remain round it to prevent looting by any bandits who dare to try to help themselves of the former inhabitants' possessions", states a communique.

An official release giving reasons for the operation states that

bandit influence has been exerted in Kampong Jenderam long before the emergency began.

The entire area has been dominated by political organisations like the API who have been hostile to Government.

During the past two years Communist bandits received active support from the inhabitants who not only sheltered, fed and spied for the bandits, but also cooked food for them and mended their clothes. It has also been an important food supply centre for the terrorists.

The majority of Malays in the Independent Bandit Platoon that has operated for the past

two years on the borders of Selangor and Negri Sembilan originally, came from this kampong.

When the Malay bandit leader Abdul Manan was killed last month, it was found that he had organised a network of informers and spies in the village.

and courses in the village. A great deal of the information regarding troop movements and other matters obtained by Communists has been from this kampong.

In the last two years the police have arrested a number of agents from Kampong Jenderam, but it is now clear that these men were simply replaced by others from the same area.

It was one of the main centres in the country for issuing Malay Communist propaganda, in which it was stated that Abdul Manan could be easily contacted through any person living in the village.

60 DETAINED

To date over 60 inhabitants of Jenderam have been detained for assisting the bandits, and there have been five bandit-inspired incidents in the area. The Malay guru at Jenderam school was recently murdered by Abdul Manan, when staying in the kampong.

People detained include Chinese, Indonesians and Malays. They will be screened as soon as possible with a view to the early release of those who can prove that they have taken no part in the assistance given by the area to bandits.

Others will be transferred to rehabilitation camps, after which they will be re-settled in one of the many areas in Selangor where padi planters are badly needed.

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