

C O P Y

MOVING INTO A NEW VILLAGE IN ULU KELANTAN

MALAYAN FILM UNIT,
Kuala Lumpur.

Cameraman: Lee Meow Seong.
Footage: 600 ft fine grain dupe pos.
Date: End December, 1952.
Location: Ulu Kelantan.

1. Rafts tied up and the people ready to start.
2. Young and old lend a helping hand in rowing.
3. RAF fighter plane giving overhead cover.
4. Mentri Besar of Kelantan making his way on foot to the new site - he is second in column.
5. Rafts negotiating the rapids.
6. Aerial shot of the new cleared site.
7. Food and clothing being supplied.
8. Mentri Besar going round the site.

KELATAN GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

A unique venture in resettlement involving a six-day journey by river through territory in which Communist terrorists are known to have operated has been successfully and safely concluded in the Kuala Krai district of Kelantan.

Last Sunday a total of 340 people - men, women and children - after weeks of preparations - boarded rafts they had made and on which they had rebuilt their dismantled houses and put their worldly possessions and set off from the two kampongs of Laka and Laka Bharu, four days march from the railhead, for their new home on the River Lebir, some 25 miles away.

Before leaving they harvested all the crops they could, beat down the remainder and razed their old kampongs to the ground.

The move was planned to bring the people within easy reach of Government administration, to give them greater protection from Communist terrorists and to give them the assets of education, medical treatment and agricultural advice - in short, a new way of life.

The journey was fraught with difficulties and danger - not only from possible attack by Communist terrorists, who were known to be in the area, but from nature - a rapidly falling river, due to an unusually dry season, from mudbanks, rocks and rapids.

The holding up of but one of the 93 rafts which made the journey could have brought disaster. Security forces travelled on the rafts and covered the slow journey down the river.

Very close support was given by R.A.F. fighter planes every day. Suspected Communist camps were bombed and strafed with rocket and cannon fire, as were areas where new tracks had been found. River banks ahead and astern of the slow moving convoy were also strafed.

The District Officer, Ulu Kelantan, MR. H. E. JOSSELYN, described the R.A.F. support as magnificent.

Mr. Josselyn spent Christmas Day, with other members of his party, some ten miles away from the site of the new kampong watching and assisting the rafts to negotiate a mile-long rapid - the most dangerous of the journey. With the expert help of Home Guards from neighbouring kampongs the rafts got through these in six hours and were then only a few hours from their new site.

On Friday, the rafts reached what will be the new home of these Ulu folk. The site, 19 acres in area, has been carved out of virgin jungle high on the bank of the Lebir River, a tributary of the Kelantan River.

The Mentry Besar, Kelantan, DATO NIK KAMILI, who made a special journey to the site said that he thought that everything possible had been done for the new inhabitants and hoped that they would soon settle and in time cultivate the State land in the vicinity.

An elaborate reception was arranged for the kampong people - a State welfare officer distributed clothes and tobacco; there was a hot meal awaiting them and a British Red Cross team (Miss Barbara Clandillon and Miss Margaret Robinson) became the first Red Cross workers to penetrate so far into the Ulu Kelantan to tend the needs of kampong folk.

The state information department also organised a film show, thus giving many of the kampong folk their first sight of moving pictures - indeed for many of the younger members of the community the day brought their first look at a cow!

The District Officer who welcomed the people to the site of their new home named the kampong at their request Kampong Pemberian - the gift (of Government).