

Our cameraman covering the last evacuation of British troops from Egypt shows the arrival at Port Said of Suez Canal civilian workers, after being freed from their internment. They came by train to Abbas Quay --- happy to see friendly faces giving a welcome to themselves and ^{to} the assortment of pets they had brought with them. They were taken out to the ships, which would be carrying them to Cyprus; --- from whence they were to complete their journey to Britain by air. A last view of Egypt included the Suez Canal Headquarters Building.

Guns of the Royal Navy were at ~~the~~ ready in case of interference as the last of the troops and equipment went on board the waiting craft, at Casino Hard.

The last of the British Army to leave were the Royal Scots and the West Yorkshire Regiment.

As a final gesture from the men who had performed a difficult task so well --- a Union Jack was hoisted. The ropes were cut and the pole was greased to make sure it stayed up as long as possible after their departure.

One of the very last to leave Port Said was General Stockwell, who took the salute as the rearguard embarked. The whole ~~operation~~ operation was carried out with unhurried precision --- and the statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps was left with souvenir flags of the Allies.

The next chapter in the story was the taking over of guard duties, by United Nations troops, in the salvage ships which were left behind to complete the work of clearing the Suez Canal.

They were welcomed on board by the crews; and the men of the Royal Navy began the strange business of discarding their uniforms, while the flag of the United Nations was hoisted.

The streets of Port Said were deserted as the last barricades were removed.

And so the last troopship ^{WAS READY TO SAIL} ~~sailed~~ away from Egypt; --- ending an episode from which only one fact emerges clearly and undeniably; that the men of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force who had the job to do --- could not have done it better.

After the British and French departure, Egyptian crowds swarmed out and set about the business of removing all signs of the brief Allied occupation. They even ^{began} ~~tried~~ to remove the statue itself --- the statue of the man who arrived to build the Suez Canal nearly a century ago. 