

RED TERROR IN CHINA

MENACE TO HANKOW

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

SHANGHAI, MAY 18

The Hankow Correspondent of the *North China Daily News* states that the growing menace of the Communists in the Han River valley is causing serious anxiety. The Hankow area has been so denuded of troops for the Government campaign against the North that the Communists have become increasingly bold, and are gradually drawing in towards Hankow.

Since the sacking of Sientaochen, where they carried off Father Lafian and Father Linehan, the Communists have looted Simakow, the centre of a prosperous pottery industry, and burned the Guildhall and the Roman Catholic Cathedral. They have now established themselves at



Hanchwan, less than 30 miles from Hankow, and are levying tribute on the surrounding country. Thus merchants at Tsaitien, midway between Hanchwan and Hankow, have been ordered to pay \$20,000 [£2,000] on pain of having the town looted. The anxieties of Hankow have not been lessened by the arrival of crowds of refugees, many of them utterly destitute, and by the spectacle of numbers of corpses floating down the River Han:

At the same time Communists recently driven from Pingkiang by the Hunanese authorities have invaded south-eastern Hupeh and sacked Tungcheng. Their ascendancy in this area appears to be quite unchallenged. Martial law is in force in Hankow and all arrivals are closely scrutinized and hotels are daily searched.