

OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM (1954-55)

Operation Passage to Freedom, October 1954

Washington Navy Yard (Jun. 30, 2003) -- Vietnamese refugees board LST 516 for their journey from Haiphong, North Vietnam, to Saigon, South Vietnam during Operation Passage to Freedom, October 1954. This operation evacuated thousands of Vietnamese refugees from the then newly created Communist North Vietnam to the Democratic South Vietnam. By the end of the operation, the Navy had carried to freedom more than 293,000 immigrants, vehicles, and other cargo. The Naval Historical Center and Surface Navy Association are seeking Navy veterans and former Vietnamese refugees who witnessed and participated in this little known rescue. U.S. Navy photo. RELEASED).







Tiến người thân di cư vào Nam tại Hải Phòng, trong số họ có bao nhiêu người còn gặp lại được người thân, sau một cuộc chia lìa nam bắc kéo dài suốt 21 năm tiếp theo?



Haiphong, Indo-China --- 8/21/54-Haiphong, Indo-China: There is no sign of abatement in the steady stream of evacuees who have abandoned their homes in northern Vietnam, to flee areas that will fall under Communist domination according to the Geneva Agreement on Indo-China. Almost 2,500 refugees pour into Hanoi and Haiphong daily to beat the deadline. In this photo, a French social worker is shown helping one of the fleeing families to board a transport bound for Saigon in the south. --- Image by © Bettmann/CORBIS



Vietnam refugees. USS Montague lowers a ladder over the side to French LSM to take refugees aboard. Haiphong, August 1954. PH1 H.S. Hemphill. (Navy). EXACT DATE SHOT UNKNOWN.

Photo # 80-G-709240 Sailor helps refugee on USS Bayfield, 1954



Sailor assists a heavily burdened Vietnamese refugee boarding USS Bayfield (APA-33) for passage to Saigon, Indochina, from Haiphong, 3 September 1954.

Photo # 80-G-652318 Vietnamese refugees receive food on board USS Bayfield, Sept. 1954



Vietnamese refugees receive food on board USS Bayfield (APA-33) while en route to Saigon, Indochina, from Haiphong, circa September 1954.

Photo # 80-G-709244 Crewman rations out water to Vietnamese refugees on USS Bayfield, 1954



A crewmen rations out water for Vietnamese refugees on board USS Bayfield (APA-33) during their journey to Saigon, Indochina, from Haiphong, circa September 1954

Photo # 80-G-639980 Serving Vietnamese refugees on board USS Bayfield, Aug. 1954



Vietnamese refugee in a topsides food service line on board USS Bayfield (APA-33), while en route from to Saigon, Indochina, August 1954.

Photo # 80-G-644529 Vietnamese children coax for candy on USS Bayfield, 1954



Vietnamese refugee children coax for candy, while en route from Haiphong to Saigon, Indochina, on board USS Bayfield (APA-33), circa September 1954.

Photo # 80-G-644524 Medical treatment for Vietnamese refugee on USS Bayfield, 1954



Photo # 80-G-644521 Corpsman treats a Vietnamese refugee on USS Bayfield, 1954



Photo # 80-G-709243 Chaplain assists Vietnamese refugees on USS Bayfield, 1954



Photo # 80-G-709242 Vietnamese refugees investigate drink machine on USS Bayfield



Vietnamese refugees investigate a beverage dispensing machine on board USS Bayfield (APA-33), while en route to Saigon, Indochina, from Haiphong, 3 September 1954.

Photo # 80-G-644528 Sailor & Vietnamese boy chip paint on USS Bayfield, 1954



Photo # 80-G-646776 Vietnamese refugees leave USS Bayfield at Saigon, Sept. 1954



Each holding a package of rice and fish, Vietnamese refugees leave USS Bayfield (APA-33) at Saigon, Indochina, after a trip from Haiphong, September 1954

Photo # 80-G-646775 USS Bayfield docks at Saigon, during Operation "Passage to Freedom", Sept. 1954



USS Bayfield (APA-33) docks at Saigon, Indochina, to offload refugees following a trip from Haiphong, September 1954.



Vietnamese Travelers Goods Being Unloaded from Ship



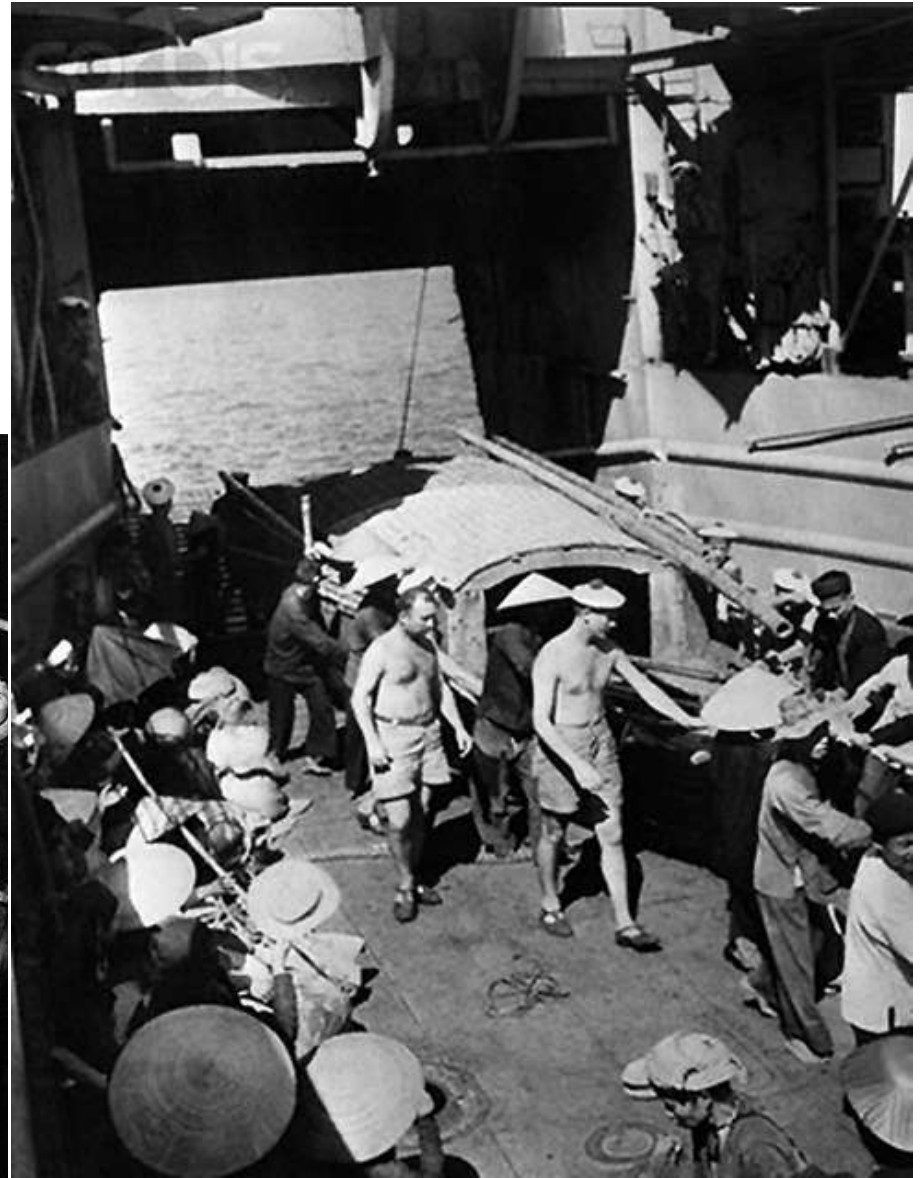
Photo # 80-G-647026 Vietnamese refugees landing from USS Estes, 1954

A Vietnamese mother and baby are helped down the gangway of USS Estes (AGC-12), as refugees arrive at Saigon after being evacuated from the North.



Catholics escaping communist territory in the dead of night smile as they pull alongside French landing craft that will take them to freedom. Ca. 1954.
(USIA)

View of Sailors with Vietnamese - November 11, 1954



French sailors help Vietnamese natives drag their sampan into a Navy landing craft at Van Ly. Despite warnings and restrictions by Red Viet Minh police, thousands of Roman Catholics in the Communist-dominated area are streaming southward to be resettled in non-Red regions