

1. What ship did you serve on during Operation Passage to Freedom? *USS ESTES AHC-12*
2. Do you recall the names/numbers of other ship/craft involved in the operation (I ask to ensure that none are left out of this history) *NO*
3. What were your years of service in the United States Navy? *1951-1955*
4. What rank did you hold during Operation Passage to Freedom? *2nd Lt USN*
5. Where was your ship deployed when you heard about your future participation in Operation Passage to Freedom? *~~Yokosuka~~ YOKOSUKA, JAPAN*
6. How aware were you of the situation in Indochina when your ship received its orders to participate in Operation Passage to Freedom? *THAT THE FRENCH Legion WAS fighting there*
7. What was your primary area of responsibility during Operation Passage to Freedom? (Did it change as the refugees come aboard?) *WE ONLY MOVED ONE FAMILY I THINK they the*
8. What type of preparation did your ship make as it assumed its role in Operation Passage to Freedom? *100,000 Q THE TIME*
9. Once you arrived in North Vietnam, what was the role for your ship?
10. How did those officials on the shore treat your arrival?
11. Did you ever travel ashore in North Vietnam? If so, what were the conditions like?
12. How did the refugees board your ship?
13. Describe the general condition of the refugees when they first entered your ship: Appearance; Health; Wealth; Emotion
14. How did these refugees respond to you?
15. If your ship participated in more than one trip, did the refugees respond any differently in the latter trips?
16. How did you handle the language barrier?
17. Did any refugees communicate in English or another language?
18. If any of the refugees feared being aboard, how did you ease these fears?
19. Were your preparations adequate to the needs of the refugees? (Did you have to improvise?)
20. Did the refugees' attitudes toward you and your shipmates change as the trip neared completion?
21. Where did the refugees disembark?
22. What were the conditions of this place?
23. As your ship made its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. trip back to North Vietnam, did you and your shipmates adjust the way you performed your duties?
24. Were there any births/deaths during the trip(s)? *NO*
25. Were there any Viet Minh attempts to thwart your mission? *NO*
26. What was the general attitude of the crew during Operation Passage to Freedom? *SAME*
27. Were there any crew members who disagree with the majority of the shipmates? *NO*
28. Did any individual(s) stand out during Operation Passage to Freedom? *NO*
29. Did you ever meet Dr. Thomas Dooley during Operation Passage to Freedom? If so, what was your impression of him? *NO*
30. What feelings/emotions did you take away from your participating in the operation?
31. Would you characterize Operation Passage to Freedom as a success or failure? (If you could turn back the clock and were given the chance to do it all over again would you?)
32. Did your participation in Operation Passage to Freedom heighten your awareness of South Vietnam/South Vietnamese politics?
33. Are there any additional memories, stories, or history you would like to include about Operation Passage to Freedom that I have not addressed?
34. Do you know any other participants who would agree to an oral history interview?

As control ship of Operation "Passage to Freedom"
the evacuation of refugees from Communist North
Vietnam, Estes operated from Haiphong 18 Aug to 29 Oct.
Between 6411 Feb 1955 she joined in another
outstanding illustration of Navy's ability to aid
freedom-loving people when she operated in the
evacuation of the Tachen Islands.

Sorry, I couldn't give you any more information
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