

Thursday
July 25, '02

Ron

Here is a copy of the thank you letter written by a Vietnamese official. The name of the official was on the first page. I've looked for this page but I'm sure I won't be able to find it.

I'm also enclosing some pictures that I took. I hope you find them interesting.

I also hope that you enjoyed your visit to Vietnam. Was it your first visit?

Please E-mail me to confirm that you received this. Thanks

Terry

PLAN OF THE DAY

USS MENARD

FRIDAY
20 August 1954

Con't.

Captain Ruff, Commander Dozier, officers and men of the MENARD, In the name of the government and of the people of VietNam, the first thing I would like to address to you is to present to you all of our most sincere thanks.

You have relieved alot of our misfortunes. We can never forget the amical and tender attitude with which Captain Ruff and Commander Dozier have received us, all the facilities accorded by them while we are going for the first time on board the U.S. Navy ship. The care which the doctor and corpsmen have given to our refugees have deeply moved us. The picture of the officers and men of the MENARD who have helped us in carrying our babies, our baggages up to the ship, in cooking our food, remain vivid in our minds. We will retell what we have seen by our own eyes to our fellow country people and our government. This is the striking proof for denying the false propaganda of the Communists against you.

The second thing we would like to say is to present to you our apology. As imperfectness is inherent to human nature, there should be many deficiencies in the first time. We were not informed exactly as to the time of departure, the problem of supply of provisions, the transport on the ship, and thus, we are quite unprepared for this first trip. But taking the invaluable experience out of this first trip, every thing will be much better.

As the Vietnamese, due to the time honored tradition, stick much to their home, now leave all that they have: houses, land, properties in order to escape from the Communist yolk, feel very much consoled thanks to kindness and help. Far away from their dear homes, they need more than ever the moral and material aid from all the peoples of the free world. Vietnam is experiencing now one of the greatest misfortunes throughout all its history. If we can rebuild our country and regain our unity, all that the Free World has done to help us in overcoming all obstacles shall be written in gold letters in our History.

Being a part of the largest and strongest Navy in the world, with your fighting experience and spirit, you have made sacrifices to defend victoriously the free world in wartime, you are now making greater sacrifices in helping our people to choose Liberty.

Captain Ruff, Commander Dozier, Officers and Men of the Menard, you could be very proud of being the first U.S. Navy ship to ~~embark~~ our refugees in great humanitarian effort.

To conclude this small speech, we do sincerely pray god that we shall fight to the final triumph of our noble cause: to safeguard the Freedom and the Dignity of Mankind.

Long live the Free World and the American Vietnamese Friendship,
Long live the U.S. Navy and the MENARD.

L. E. Carpenter
L. E. CARPENTER
LCDR, USN
Command Duty Officer