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DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF OF
NAVAL INFORMATION,
ADMIRALTY, S.W.I.

20th September, 1954.

A length of film (approximately 750 feet), has been received from H.M.S. WARRIOR, the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier which was temporarily released from duties in Korean waters to assist in the evacuation of refugees from North to South Vietnam. In its first "lift" H.M.S. WARRIOR carried 1,455 people from Haiphong to Saigon.

Two French L.C.Ts. from Haiphong brought the refugees to H.M.S. WARRIOR anchored at the Passe Henriette. Two-thirds of them were women and children. They carried their own heavy and cumbersome luggage, which, more often than not, included the kitchen stove, and were quite undeterred by the intermittent heavy rain which fell during the three hours of the embarkation.

After being dusted fore and aft with D.D.T. and searched for hand grenades and other weapons, the refugees quickly established themselves on their rush mats in the hangar.

Two meals a day were given, mainly of rice and fish, or meat, which was cooked in the ship's galley and sent up to the distribution point in the hangar, via the bomb lift. Few knew the meaning of 'queue', but after the first day the only difficulty experienced was to ensure the correct consistency of rice, about which they were inclined to be fussy.

Four Catholic priests accompanied the refugees on board and at 7 a.m. there was a daily celebration of Mass in the centre of the hangar, which was well attended. The flight deck of the aircraft carrier looked and sounded just like any school playground, except that the children are Vietnamese and very ragged.

The negative of this material, under our reference C.N.I. 136, is with Kay (West End) Laboratories Ltd., 22, Soho Square, London, W.1., who are authorised to accept your order for the supply of duping material should you require it. A print is available for screening in the Admiralty cinema.

With the Compliments
of the
CHIEF OF NAVAL INFORMATION.

For any further information please ring
Whitehall 9,000, Ext 789 (Reg Holmes).

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Copy of cutting attached to hand-out.

SALMON OF SAIGON.

After assisting in the evacuation of Viet-namese refugees from the Red River Delta in Tonking, H.M.S. Warrior has returned to Singapore with the record of what the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Jim Thomas, described as her "obstetrical triumphs" proudly displayed. This is a banner hanging below the bridge. It shows three storks in full flight with bundles attached. Three babies were born on the two trips between Haiphong and Saigon. They were delivered by Surgeon Cdr. J.K. Salmon. According to the latest reports mothers, babies and Cdr. Salmon are all doing well.