

# Tiny Guam Crowded by Another 8000 Refugees

## Orote Point, Guam

The South Vietnamese refugee population on Guam continued to grow rapidly today as more than 8000 new refugees arrived here on three merchant ships, including one vessel that left downtown Saigon after the capital had fallen to the Communists.

The refugees straggled down the wooden gangplanks on into the early morning hours.

They were doctors and fishermen, priests and farmers, importers and soldiers.

They were not all from

professional occupations as earlier arrivals seemed to be. But neither were they all simple country folk as some reports had indicated.

The newest additions brought Guam's present refugee population to nearly 48,000, or almost one-third of this tropical island's total civilian population. Another 38,000 already have departed for the continental United States.

The list of refugees here is expected to peak Monday with the arrival of an estimated 20,000 more South Vietnamese on the last six refugee ships enroute here

from the Philippines.

For Guam, a narrow 30-mile-long strip of resort hotels and military bases, it was the largest influx of people since the U.S. Army and Marines stormed ashore in 1944 to retake the island from the Japanese.

Meanwhile, Orote Point, this two-week-old, mushrooming mile square city of tents housing about 30,000 refugees, began to develop some typical urban ailments — namely traffic congestion and crime problems.

So far, these difficulties still do not include serious problems of health, which remains at a remarkably high level, according to doctors.

Today's latest arrivals rode on three merchant ships, the Transcolorado and the American Racer, which are under contract with the Military Sealift Command, and the Thuong Tin No. 1, a 476-foot cargo craft operated by the South Vietnamese Government.

This morning the Thuong Tin stood at anchor in the harbor while the military authorities debated to whom she belonged now.

The ships, which took the evacuees on from refugee camps in the Philippines, began unloading their human cargo in mid-afternoon yesterday.

In a process that has become routine here in recent days, the refugees were gently shepherded into long lines, served cool drinks by volunteers and offered supplies for their children. Many took dockside showers.

## Five to 10 Days on Ship

The refugees, about half of whom were children, had been aboard ship at least five days and many for 10. The decks and holds were littered with lost or abandoned possessions — motorbikes, crushed straw

hats, empty food packages, sandals, jackets and even a sewing machine.

Merchant sailors had reconstructed the ship's pipes to carry fresh water to the refugees huddled against the Asian sun under impromptu canvas awnings. Sanitary conditions were primitive, consisting of slatted wooden cubicles built to hang out over the ship's railing.

The Transcolorado docked here with one more passenger than when she sailed from Subic Bay, according to Ed del Rosario, a public Health Service officer. The addition, John Colorado Than, was born on the United States flagship in international waters. This would likely earn the infant American citizenship and so considerably ease the immigration of his South Vietnam parents.

Others, however, died on the way. They included a 2-year-old baby and a 67-year-old man, both of whom were said to have been injured in a Communist rocket attack as the Thuong Tin hurriedly left Saigon.

"It was awful," said Nguyen Cao, a Saigon importer who fled his home at the last minute. "You could see the Vietcong flag over the Presidential Palace when we pulled up the gangplank. There were so many left behind. But the V.C. were coming."

As the vessel moved slowly away from her berth in Saigon, she came under rocket and

she came under rocket and recoilless fire, refugees said. Two shells damaged one hatch and one explosion killed five persons, including Chu Tu, said to be a prominent Saigon journalist.

## More Time Expected

Like many recent refugees, Mr. Cao had thought there was ample time to flee because Saigon would hold out for weeks "like Phnom Penh." He said he now hoped to open a Vietnamese restaurant in California.

After their arrival here the long dockside lines of refugees are led to a cavernous Naval Depot where dozens of volunteers complete initial refugee registration forms. Buses then carry them the one mile to a sprawling tent city where they are assigned bunks and where they wait in other long lines for food, dental and health care and further immigration processing. Then comes another line to board other buses and further lines for the planes at nearby Andersen Air Force Base.

However, the outbound airlift of refugees has noticeably slowed in recent days, reportedly because stateside facilities are overtaxed. Today only about 1,400 people left here, most of them bound for Fort Smith, Ark.

A few of those waiting to leave apparently were getting into trouble. There were reports of numerous thefts in this camp. One officer estimated that \$2,000 a day was being stolen, largely by roving bands of youths or former soldiers.

American soldiers in white helmets cruised some of the camp's darker streets this morning trying to deter such incidents. But even when caught, one officer admitted, the youths were subjected only to a severe

scolding. The scolding, however, might include threats of repatriation to South Vietnam.

## Warning on Bribery

A notice in Chan Troi Moi (New Horizons), the refugees' weekday newspaper, also warned of prosecution for offering or paying bribes for favorable treatment by immigration officers.

Elsewhere in this camp, life seemed to be settling into a routine, albeit a congested routine. Soft drink vending machines were in business as were refugee message boards and United States mailboxes and mobile canteens.

The camp's two main streets, which are actually the old runways of a Japanese fighter plane base, were clogged by scores of vehicles inching and honking their way through thousands of refugees on their

thousands of refugees on their way to a meal at the six field kitchens or simply for an early morning stroll.

Just yesterday the tent city's first stop sign was erected. But so far no one has paid it any attention.

### **Camp Pendleton Jammed**

*By United Press International*

The nation's largest refugee camp had no more vacancies yesterday.

The tent cities at Camp Pendleton, the huge Marine base stretching along the Pacific south of Los Angeles were jammed with more than 18,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Thousands of other exiles of war—out of a total that could exceed 120,000—were backed up in camps across the Pacific or still straggling out of Oriental ports of call.

Flights of the homeless were being shunted to Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where facilities scraped together after last week's fall of Saigon were becoming strained to capacity.

At Pendleton, about 18,403 men, women and children were crammed into hundreds of quonset huts, and the overflow shared 1,000 large squad tents. Of these, 928 were Cambodians.

At Eglin base in the Florida panhandle, the first two flights carrying an expected two-day total of 2,680 Vietnamese arrived yesterday. In all, the tent city was scheduled to have a population of 3,295—795 more than its intended capacity of 2,500.

At Chaffee, about 10,000 refugees were being housed and 2,341 more were expected. The authorities said that with some rearrangement of existing facilities the camp could house 20,000.

### **750 Unexpected Cambodians**

SUBIC BAY, Philippines, May 9 (Reuters) — Three former Cambodian Navy ships arrived unexpectedly today at this American naval base, carrying a group of 750 Cambodian refugees.