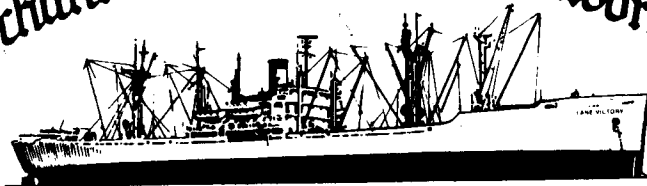


# U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans World War II



S.S. Lane Victory

JANUARY 13, 1993

United States Department of Transportation  
U.S. Maritime Administrator  
Captain Warren G. Leback  
400 7th Street S.W. MAR 100-Rm 7206  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: The Gallant Ship Citation

Dear Mr. Leback,

The S.S. Lane Victory served with distinction during World War II, Korean and Vietnam.

During the Korean conflict the S.S. Lane Victory was actively involved in the battles at Wonsan and Pusan.

We strongly feel that the S.S. Lane Victory should be awarded The Gallant Ship Citation. The Meredith Victory was awarded The Gallant Ship Citation for the similar action during the Chosin operation in Korea.

Proof substantiating this ship's service during this time include; (1) The Dept. of Interior Study Maritime Heritage Study. (2) Personal accounts of two officers aboard the S.S. Lane Victory, as published in "The Last Victory" by Captain Walter W Jaffee (3) The official records of the S.S. Lane Victory logs.

"During the Korean conflict the Lane Victory's moment of glory came during the evacuation of Korean civilians and United Nations personnel from Wonsan in December, 1950. As the cruiser St. Paul and the destroyers Charles S. Sperry and Zellars laid down a covering fire, the Lane Victory disembarked 3,834 troops, 1,146 vehicles, and 10,013 bulk tons of cargo, and then on December 7, 1950 embarked 7,009 Korean civilians, many of them women and children." Taken from Department of Interior, Maritime Heritage of the United States National Historical Landmarks theme study--large vessels. Quoted from Commander Malcolm W. Cagle and Commander Frank A. Manson, The Sea War in Korea (Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1957) p. 184.

*A non-profit tax exempt corporation*

Serving Merchant Marine Veterans from W.W.II, Korea, Vietnam.

P.O. Box 629, San Pedro, California 90733 • (213) 519-9545

December 7, 1950, at Wonsan, they loaded 7,000 refugees. Ray Fullbright, Purser on the Lane Victory, was quoted as saying, "We were trying to get the refugees aboard and we were being shelled from shore side. Landing crafts were used to get refugees to the ships. With tens of thousands of people wanting to get on the few ships available the situation was chaotic. Being under attack added to the confusion". On December 8, 1950, the Lane Victory embarked 7,009 refugees but she arrived in Pusan with 7,010 refugees, one baby had been born. Quotation taken from "The Last Victory"

On December 10, 1950, they arrived at Hungnam. According to Ray Fullbright, the purser on the Lane Victory, they evacuated what was left of a Marine outfit. "We're at the dock and those ships are standing off. We take our turns coming in and combat loading. It wasn't like a planned invasion where you have all the LST boats and so on. This is an emergency, where they were moving fast to get these troops out of there."

Attached please find a copy of the study from the Dept. of Interior, pages copied from "The Last Victory" and a copy of "The News Digest" page 4 and 5, November/December 1992, an article by Captain LaRue about the Meredith Victory.

We are requesting that you investigate the S.S. Lane Victory's service during this time and advise us of the further action necessary for us to receive The Gallant Ship Citation.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Sheila McIntyre  
Publicity Chairman

SM:cls

encl