

**Rescued 14,000 Refugees**

**Ex-Ship Captain, Now in Monastery,  
To Be Honored for War Heroism**

By Willard Clinton  
*Staff Reporter*

A Benedictine brother who formerly was a merchant marine skipper will be honored Wednesday for ferrying more than 14,000 civilians to safety during the Korean War after the Communists had threatened to behead them.

The Maritime Administration had to persuade Brother Marinus LaRue, 46, to leave the cloistered walls of St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, N. J., to come here for the ceremony. It also had to obtain special permission from his Order for him to leave.

The Korean rescue occurred four days before Christmas, 1950, after the brother, then Capt. Leonard P. LaRue, steamed into the beleaguered port of Hangnam to deliver

supplies to United Nations troops.

LaRue was told that North Korean and Chinese Communist armies were converging on the city and had threatened to decapitate its entire civilian population for aiding the Allied forces. LaRue put his 455-foot vessel, the Meredith Victory, at the civilians' service.

Small crash boats shuttled loads of refugees to LaRue's ship, which had accommodations for just 12 passengers.

Not until thousands of evacuees filled the holds and spaces between decks, covered the main and boat decks, and even hung from the rigging did LaRue give the order to haul anchor.

With little food and water and no doctor the Meredith Victory sailed through a 30-

mile enemy mine field and down the Korean coast. Three days later, on Christmas Eve, the boat discharged its human cargo at the defended island of Koji-Do. Five infants were born during the journey.

LaRue, a Philadelphian and veteran of 22 years at sea, decided in 1937 to enter religious life.

Last year Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) introduced a bill to give the action public recognition. It was signed March 31 by President Eisenhower.

On Wednesday at the National Press Club Brother Marinus LaRue will be presented a Meritorious Service Medal by Commerce Secretary Frederick H. Mueller. A Gallant Ship Plaque will be awarded to his vessel and its officers and crew will receive unit citations and ribbons.

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10:00 NOON