

PRESS RELEASE: Sea of Japan 6 Jul 1952, Carrier Task Force 77, noted for its ability to meet out punishment to enemy forces in north Korea today had an opportunity to exhibit another facet—its humanitarian side, and now are in the torpedo room of the Destroyer TAYLOR on hastily improvised cots five Korean boys sleep the sleep of the exhausted after ten days adrift in a rowboat. The full story of their ordeal will have to wait until soft diet and rest bring the hardy little men back to strength. The TAYLOR is a unit of Admiral Apollo Soucek's Task Force 77 and was engaged in an aircraft rescue mission when the boat was discovered. As Commander Sheldon H. Kinney of Pasadena California made the approach all binoculars focused in amazement on the tiny craft adrift more than 150 miles from the Korean coast. The boys in the boat were crying pitifully scooping up sea water from a bailing tin and drinking it. The men of the TAYLOR broke with a rush from their first amazed stares down to assist these little mariners. Seamen tumbled down a jacob's ladder each to reappear on deck with a frail body clinging to him. Hospital Corpsmen carefully bathed salt crusted skin chaffed by days of sun and water. Cooks brought warm broth to start the lads on their way back to normal food, others broke out cots and bedding to provide temporary quarters in the torpedo room. The boys owe their lives to a chance decision of the Destroyer to make one last sweep to the north before working south on a search plan. The sharp eyes of seaman William G. Malloy of Steinhatchee Florida one of the many lookouts stationed in the superstructure detected the boat first as a mere speck on the horizon. Will follow up with story today.

Five Korean boys found far at sea yesterday by Destroyer TAYLOR of Task Force 77 started the day at four AM by holding Reveille on their new shipmates. The lads who had been in such pitiful condition when rescued yesterday after ten days adrift open boat amazed all hands by quick recovery after rest nourishment. Hospitalman Joseph J. Sedlock of Columbus, Ohio who had made it clear that he would insure the boys were not disturbed from their rest by the crew all anxious to see and help the lads found that the tables were turned and the crew's rest needed protection. After a breakfast that brought first polite smiles and then broad grins of delight to faces they were ready to tell of their ordeal. Boiler Technician third class George Kim, Parlier California who is of Korean descent translated listeners faces sobered as the oldest related their hardships. Emaciated bodies made them appear younger than are. Kim Mun Kyu, Lee Doo Il and Soong Ho are fifteen. Lim Koung Su and Chun Soong Duk are sixteen. All were members of same church. Attended bible meetings together. During one of these meetings months ago town was severely blasted with explosives. Church untouched but parents except father and Soong Ho killed. Begged and stole enough food to keep alive, and went to Pusan. While looking place to sleep found small fishing boat needing repairs, made it their home, fished in day time slept in it at night, gradually worked up coast from Pusan to Pohang. Here Narrator stopped for replenishment, two sticks of gum and apple. In Pohang time spent trawling and repairing their boat. About 26 June decided to experiment deep water fishing. Rigged single sail ventured off shore. No concept currents in Straights and Sea of Japan, wind and current took over. Encountered storm fourth day hopeless lost, existed on fish, sucked rain water from wet clothes, several days of hot calm weather brought despair. Some started to drink sea water. They prayed every night and before any token of water or food. Chun Soong Duk strongest kept boat from sinking by bailing with half tin can, had given up hope and prepared to die when TAYLOR seen passing miles away. Prayed their thanks and broke down in tears as she altered course and headed for them. No softer heart than that of a man of warman confronted by youngsters like these. Ship is theirs from truck to keelson, every man aboard has smile and helping hand for them, of their many presents from white sailor hats to food. The boys still hold close to them the only personal objects they had in the boat pocket editions of Saint James version new testament printed in their language. Each has a copy. Say their president Syngman Rhee requested for the people and United Nations provided, men of TAYLOR will not soon forget sight of the exhausted parched and starved boys who knelt to pray before touching first food after rescue. Executive Officer LT. Edward A. Williams of Coronado, California told they intend make the TAYLOR their home. They see no reason why they must be set ashore but say if must they desire to go Pusan. Amazement filled their eyes today as the Destroyer joined TF77. They gazed in awe at aircraft carriers etc. tonight all except one who is not fully recovered from exposure and drinking salt water seeing movies below decks despite the darkening ship and war conditions above. Men of TAYLOR reluctant to part with these small brave men claimed from the sea. Respectfully suggest TAYLOR be routed via Pusan when detached 9 July and deliver survivors to cognizant authority. Transferred at 502 to OE 536 TO COAST TO COAST