

Mullinnix MED NEWS



They ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND
AND WAIT.....!!

U.S.S. MULLINNIX (DD-944)
FPO, New York 09501

Dear Mullinnix Families,

Almost two months have passed since the last News and Views went to press; so we feel it is time the homefront be informed of our activities in the Mediterranean with the SIXTH FLEET.

The first three weeks of cruise activities were typical Task Group ALFA Operations. We participated in numerous ASW exercises as well as underway replenishments and gunnery shoots.

Our first visit in Rapallo, Italy provided an opportunity for much needed rest and relaxation from a busy Atlantic crossing. Many of us took advantage of the tours to Piza, Genoa and Milan.

We departed Rapallo on the 5th of July for five days of at-sea exercises before entering Genoa, Italy, our second port of call. During that at sea period we participated in a gunnery shoot in which the ship qualified for an "E" on mount 51 and "E" hash marks on mounts 52 and 53. The hash marks are awarded for two consecutive years of outstanding gunnery by a particular mount. While in Genoa the ship hosted two childrens parties for local orphanages. The children were delighted with the ice cream, cake, movies and gifts. It was hard to distinguish who was having the better time, the orphans or the men of MULLINNIX.

The 14th of July saw us enroute to Marseille, France, our third port of the cruise. The beaches in the area received quite a workout, and in addition the tours of the city and surrounding areas were well received by the men.

Again putting to sea from the 19th to the 23rd of July, the ship took part in a major SIXTH FLEET exercise called Poopdeck VI. The exercise consisted of large scale anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, and afforded the ship and men much valuable training and experience.

On the 23rd of July we anchored in Pollensa Bay, Spain for two days with a major portion of the SIXTH FLEET. It was quite a thrill to see such a large number of ships in one place at one time. Seeing such a group of ships makes one realize the importance of our job in ensuring freedom in this area of the world.

We departed Pollensa Bay for a five day cruise jam packed with more exercises and followed by a visit to Tarragona, Spain. While in Tarragona the ship was open for general visiting and many of our Spanish friends as well as numerous American tourists took the opportunity to visit on board. Sunday the 1st of August was a particularly heavy visiting day with over one thousand people touring the ship.

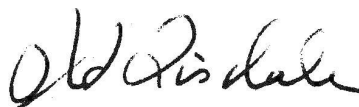
We have been most graciously received in each port we have visited and you should be truly proud of the outstanding impression left in each port by the men of the MULLINNIX.

The cruise has been most interesting to date, and I feel that it has been very profitable. The people we met continually make us remember that people the world over are about the same as we in their ardent desire for peace and a good way of life; only the language and customs may differ.

At this moment we are again at sea practicing our trade in order to improve our proficiency and thereby deter those who might seek to disturb the peace in this area. We arrive in Naples, Italy for a four day visit on 9 August and Tangier, Morocco on 16 August for another four days. On 20 August we leave the Med. for a busy Atlantic transit, arriving in Norfolk on 2 September.

As always, our thoughts have been and will be with our families and friends at home; so keep the letters coming. It is your support and encouragement that makes our life easier and enables us to give our best efforts to the missions assigned in the protection of our country.

Best Regards,



Robert S. TISDALE
Commanding Officer

P.S. Before going to press, I want to pass along some terrific information just received from Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Force Atlantic. MULLINNIX has been awarded the Battle Efficiency "E". This award is made once a year to the ship in each squadron which excels in all areas of battle training. Additionally the Operations Department has received the Departmental Excellence Award. When we arrive Norfolk you will see a small red pennant with a black ball in the center go up when we moor. This "meat ball" pennant is flown by the ship awarded the Battle Efficiency "E". You will observe two other things too; the big white "E" on both sides of the bridge and a gleam of pride in the eyes of your sailor!