

MULLINIX FAMILYGRAM

USS MULLINIX DD-944 FPO NEW YORK 09501



Familygram Number 1

22 April 1970

Dear Mullinnix families,

This is the first in a series of Familygrams which I will address to you during our forthcoming cruise to the Mediterranean, for the purpose of keeping you all personally informed of what the men of the MULLINIX are doing. I hope to become better acquainted with you through these familygrams and, if possible, through family cruises and open house at a later date.

As I write this letter, the MULLINIX is preparing to depart on the summer cruise to the Mediterranean. The cruise will be of about six months duration and, although we all find it hard to say good-bye to our families and friends for such a length of time, I think that we are looking forward to the day when we have the opportunity to take our place in the SIXTH Fleet and show off the 'MUX' to our NATO allies and friends in Europe.

The SIXTH Fleet is the 'Ready' force in the European area and upon joining, the MULLINIX and other ships of Destroyer Squadron TWC deploying will become a part of that fleet. Additionally we will have the opportunity to extend our nation's 'people to people' program by becoming acquainted with the peoples of many countries that border on the Mediterranean Sea.

While the ship is away from Norfolk there is some information that I feel you should know:

Important phone numbers to remember are:

Navy Relief	423-8830
Red Cross - Norfolk	423-4610
Portsmouth	397-6541-2263-2264
Nights/Holidays	423-6410
Little Creek	464-6219
Oceana	428-0300
Fort Storey	428-1111
Travelers Aid	444-3182
Family Assistance Center	444-2479
CRUDESFLOT 4 Staff Duty Officer	444-7081
Cruiser-Destroyer Movements	444-7081

Because of the limitations on armed forces travel funds, the policy of the Navy Department in authorizing emergency leave from forces deployed overseas is restricted to the following causes:

- a. Upon the death of a serviceman's immediate family.

- b. When failure of the serviceman to return home would create a severe and unusual hardship on either himself or his family.
- c. When the return of a serviceman will contribute to the welfare of a dying member of his immediate family.
- d. When, due to death or serious illness of, or accident to a member of the immediate family, responsibilities which must be met immediately and cannot be performed by anyone else or by other means, are placed upon the serviceman.

Of course we sincerely hope that none of the emergencies listed above occur. If, however, such problems do exist it is of utmost importance in order to save time that you notify your local chapter of the American Red Cross. If you should find it necessary to wire, the procedure is to wire by name, rate and ship; addressing the wire to Naval Communications Station, Washington D.C.. From there it goes via wire to the appropriate teletype system to the ship. Be sure to give full information in order to avoid any anxiety which arises when only part of the situation at home is known.


On occasions mail service may well be sporadic and unreliable. However every effort will be made to provide for a regular reliable service, so do not be disturbed if at times you do not hear from us on board as often as you would like. In any event I urge each of you to write as often as possible, for mail received from home is still the greatest boost to our morale! We do not know our schedule in detail yet but I can tell you that during the first six weeks we expect to be visiting Pollensa Bay, Majorca, Athens, Greece; Soudha Bay, Crete; Villefranche, France and Genoa, Italy.

For those of you who are new to the MULLINNIX, I will briefly describe the ship. MULLINNIX is a Forrest-Sherman Class Destroyer, the last class of all-gun destroyers built for the Navy. She is a 3850 ton ship, 418 feet long and has a 45 foot beam. The first ship ever to bear the name, she is meant to be a lasting tribute to the memory of Rear Admiral Henry Mullinnix, who died in action during World War II.

As you might expect, I am extremely proud to command MULLINNIX. She has a fine group of officers and men who know their job and do it with dispatch and willingness. I feel that the cruise which we are about to embark on is a very important one and I have no doubt that, with your support, it will be a complete success.

If any of you have any questions that I might be able to answer, please feel free to write to me. In order to keep you all fully informed I shall be sending out another familygram towards the end of May.

Best regards,


J. L. KRUMWIEDE
CDR, U.S. Navy
Commanding, USS MULLINNIX

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