

MULLINNIX FAMILYGRAM

USS MULLINNIX DD-944 FPO NEW YORK 09501



26 August 1970

Familygram Number 3

Dear Mullinnix Families,

The last MULLINNIX Familygram found us in Beaulieu on the French Riviera. Those seem like early days to us now, but time has passed quickly and it hardly seems possible that the half way point in our Mediterranean deployment is now behind us.

Let me offer a brief review of just what we have been doing since our visit to Beaulieu. During our visit to France we moved from our anchorage at Beaulieu to a more sheltered position in Villefranche bay, the other side of the Capferrat peninsula. This not only gave us a change of scenery but meant that the boat trip to and from shore was little more than 400 yards as opposed to the often windy mile ride that we had been used to in Beaulieu. Nestling at the head of a narrow creek, Villefranche, once the home of the Sixth Fleet flagship, still retains the charm and character of the small fishing community it originally was. Despite being early in the season, there was still much to do and see and we were within easy reach of all the major Riviera resort ports.

Sailing from Villefranche on 8 June we joined the remainder of our Task Group off the northwest coast of Corsica. For the next seven days we operated in that area eventually working our way around the northern side of Corsica, through the Tyrrhenian Sea and on through the straits of Messina between Italy and Sicily. We were then detached from our parent Task Group and proceeded to Malta, a British dependency lying between Sicily and the North African coast. Berthing alongside the Sixth Fleet destroyer tender USS SHENANDOAH in Grand Harbour, Valletta, the island's capital, we spent the next two weeks caught up in what was to be our only maintenance period during our entire deployment. Much good work was done during this all too short time, especially in view of the fact that it was very hot, being berthed as we were between two ships and out of any sea breeze there might have been present.

Many took the opportunity to get ashore and see something of this rugged little island, invaded and inhabited by many peoples, the Phoenicians and Syrians to the Arabs and French, during its long history as a strategic point in the defense of the Mediterranean, a part that its peoples played so well during World War II when their spirit

was recognized by King George VI of England by the award of the George Cross to its inhabitants in 1942, the highest award for valor that can be bestowed on civilians. It is hard to believe that this small island was the most heavily bombed area of the world during the war and that 1200 air raids failed to daunt its peoples spirit.

As our maintenance period drew to a close it became more and more apparent that some of our major engineering tasks were not going to be finished on time despite round the clock work by a great number of people, many of whom were working in temperatures of 120° or more. This meant that our proposed visit to Rhodes had to be cancelled and, great pity though it was, it was equally important that we leave Malta as well prepared as possible. We sailed from Malta on 4 July and again joined our Task Group between Cyprus and Crete on the morning of 6 July. For the next week we operated mainly as rescue destroyer for the aircraft carrier while she conducted flying operations north of Crete and eventually in the Ionian Sea as we moved west.

Days at sea with the Task Group are busy ones and it means long hours for everybody and that little extra vigilance that can be the difference between a satisfactory performance and that above average performance that we have come to expect from the MULLINNIX.

Our engineering problems, so it transpired, were not yet over and we were forced to forgo our visit to Naples in favor of another week in Malta where there were better facilities available - it seemed as though Malta was destined to become our "home port" in the Mediterranean, the sight of DD944 moored in Grand Harbor was becoming a familiar sight!

Back to sea once again on 18 July we headed for the island of Majorca and an early morning rendezvous off Palensa Bay with the remainder of the Task Group; there followed a busy twenty-four hours during part of which we carried out a major replenishment, embarking stores, ammunition, and fuel from four fleet support ships, an impressive sight with an aircraft carrier, a cruiser, and seven destroyers all replenishing at the same time. We detached at midday on 21 July, transited the straits of Bonifacio that afternoon and we were on our way once again to Athens where we arrived on 24 July. The next ten days were spent preparing for our forthcoming visit to the Black Sea, but also the time allowed us to visit many more places than we had been able to see on our previous short visit. The weather was perfect, perhaps even too hot, but rain seems to be out of style this year and apart from the odd isolated shower, I don't think that we have seen any rain since May. Upon leaving Athens on 3 August, MULLINNIX crew received the following message from the Commander, Sixth Fleet. "I take great pride in your spirit in effecting essential repairs and wish you good luck for a successful Black Sea operation and smooth sailing for the balance of your Med deployment." Signed Vice Admiral Richardson.

We entered the Dardanelles at first light on 4 August and later that day passed through the Bosphorus and into the Black Sea for our second visit. Following very much the same procedures as last time, we arrived back at the northern entrance to the Bosphorus on the morning of 8 August and passed out of the Dardanelles at the sunset that evening. Fueling

the next morning in the Aegean Sea south of Athens we sailed on to Malta.

As I write this we are now moored once again in Grand Harbor preparing for our trip to the Island of Pantelleria, an Italian possession some 150 miles west of Malta in the Straits of Sicily. This will be the first time a U.S. Naval warship has visited this six by four mile island in almost 7 years and the first time ever for the MULLINIX.

We have had a number of changes in personnel since I last wrote and we say welcome to:

RD3 WITSEP	FTG3 SMITH	SKC CARRIGAN	STG3 MILLS
SC33 ZIMMERMAN	SEFN ENAM	CSN SIGMON	GM1 STAPLETON
ETN3 WELCH	HTFA QUINN	YM2 KIDD	SH3 ESTES
E3 R.A. BENHAM	HTFA LEE	CSNA KRAIZ	SA ARNOLD
BM3 R. E. DELIAHM	MIFA SINGENTAL	BTOS SMITH	SA KIDD
IC3 JACKSON	HTFA SINGOY	GM2 STOLS	SA PLUMB
MM3 SYLVE	ICPA HOFFE	GM3 HOLLER	TNS FOUREMAN
ENS GOOLRICH	LTJG BURKE	ENS COUNSELMAN	

and farewell and thank you to the following, wishing them well in their new assignments be they inside or outside the Navy:

MM2 SPENCER	FN CRUEN	SKC RAMIREZ	BM3 ROSS
GM3 COOPERIDER	SN FOSTER	FTG2 APPLE	SN SCHAUB
MM3 ROBINSON	SN HOLETON	EM1 EVANS	FN KALDENBACH
YN3 RABINDAU	SE3 STONE	SP1 WHITE	SN BERTRAM
SM2 DEGUHAN	SE3 WASHINGTON	MB3 SYKES	STG3 FARINELLA
SD3 MYERS	SA IRACE	EM4 VOLANSKY	LTJG BATES
ETN2 BACHIE	EM3 IRACE	GM3 DINGER	LTJG PRIDDY
ETN3 LAMMECHT	ETCS MOSENIEL	IC3 HAMPEL	
BM3 WADDELL	SEMC SMITH	IC3 DAVIS	

I am enclosing an item of information on family assistance as a reminder for use during deployment which I hope may be of some help.

The COMCRUDESFLT FOGG Chaplain is the focal point of contact to whom the families of deployed personnel may turn for assistance either in person or by telephone. The place of contact is the Chaplain's Office, located building CEP-10 on the Destroyer and Submarine Piers, telephone number: 444-2514.

The Chaplain will provide assistance to dependents of personnel assigned to CRUDESFLT units in Norfolk by way of:


- a. Referral to the proper Medical/Dental/Chaplain Corps representatives, or other agencies for aid and/or consultations.
- b. Serving as a media for promulgating information to designated family representatives of each deployed unit at regular intervals. This information may include accomplishments of the unit, unclassified port visits, scheduled return dates and welcoming plans, etc.

As you have seen much has been happening to us here and we are working as hard as ever, with success I'm pleased to say, having

received high grades in two recent inspections. This all helps the time to pass quickly.

Remember a photograph in those ever welcome letters of yours means a great deal to your men so keep them coming. They are great morale boosters.

Best regards,


J. L. KRUMWIEDE
Commander, U.S. Navy

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