

U.S.S. MULLINNIX (DD-944)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, 09501

6 October 1966
At Sea in the South
China Sea

Familygram Number 4

Dear "Folks,"

I am not ~~sure~~ just where the time goes. It seems as if I just wrote a "Familygram," but when I took a look, it was dated 12 August 1966.

We have been kept busy, and I am very proud of the performance of MULLINNIX. From 22 August until 16 September we were assigned to the Naval Gunfire Support Task Group. We carried out assignments to support the U.S. Marines and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam from the Saigon River to the Demilitarized Zone at the Seventeenth parallel. As of now, we have fired over 7,200 rounds of ammunition in support of troops ashore. Many commendations have been received, but there are two messages, one from the Commanding General, First Marine Division, and the other from Commander, Seventh Fleet, that I am especially proud of, as I am sure you will be. (I'll attach a reprint of these messages so you can read them for yourself.)

From the gunline we steamed to Hong Kong where the crew had a much deserved liberty from 18 to 22 September. There is an old saying in Hong Kong that since there are so many good buys that "you go broke saving money." Needless to say, this applied to all of us in MULLINNIX. Also everyone had the opportunity to see the many interesting sights of Hong Kong, and, to a man, agreed that it was one of the most interesting ports we have ever visited.

From Hong Kong we proceeded to Subic Bay for a weeks upkeep period. Whereas Hong Kong was liberty and recreation, Subic Bay was work and more work. Once again, everyone turned-to and accomplished two weeks work in one week. We departed Subic early on the morning of 5 October and are now enroute back to the gunline where we shall arrive tomorrow.

While in Subic Bay, we received two Vietnam naval officers, Ensign Thien and Ensign Tuan, on board for six weeks of orientation and indoctrination on the U. S. Navy. They have already become full fledged shipmates and we anticipate learning as much, if not more, than they do during their time on board.

I would like to inform everyone that All Hands have enjoyed good health and conduct. We have had no serious problems, and in the unlikely event that we do, I shall ensure that the family concerned is immediately notified. I know several of the young men have not written their mothers as often as they should, and

when we learn of this I make sure that they do write more often. Please be assured that I'll keep everyone informed. I also want to thank all of you who have written to me. Where you had a specific question, I made sure that an answer was sent. Due to the large number of well wishes, I have been unable to answer each one individually, but I certainly appreciated your thoughts.

I know you are all interested in our scheduled return. Invariably at this point in any deployment all types of rumors are generated. Please disregard any such rumors you hear. Once again, if there is any change in our schedule, I shall inform the crew immediately and will get off a "Familygram." As you know, we were scheduled to return to Norfolk on 22 December. It definitely will be no later than that, but through the efforts of Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-TWO, we expect to beat that date. At the present time I am estimating arriving at the Destroyer-Submarine Piers, Norfolk, Virginia, at 1400 (2 PM) on 19 December. I shall keep you advised as time progresses as to the firmness of this estimated date and time. Our return will be via the Suez Canal, allowing us to complete an around the world cruise.

I believe that brings us up to date. I shall send along another "Familygram" in November giving you all the summary of our deployment and the details of return trip home.

Best regards,



G. R. NAGLER
Commanding, USS MULLINNIX

CDR G. R. NAGLER
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