

U.S.S. MULLINNIX (DD-944)

Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

10 September 1959

MULLINNIX FAMILYGRAM NUMBER EIGHT

The MULLINNIX has now proudly taken her place as part of the great U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic Ocean. We arrived in the Med three weeks ago, and have just completed visits to Marseille, France and the beautiful city of Genoa. We are now visiting Leghorn, Italy.

While in Marseille, and Genoa the ship's tour officer arranged through the American Express Co., a number of very fine tours, both in the cities, and to some of the surrounding villages and nearby points of interest. It is expected that similar tours will be available in all the ports we visit. It has been arranged so that everyone on the ship has an opportunity to go on these trips at a very reasonable price.

MULLINNIX has already made a name for herself in the Sixth Fleet. About two weeks ago West German Defense Minister Strauss came aboard via hi-line sea transfer from the cruiser DES MOINES. Mr. Strauss plus his party of seven were aboard for about an hour, and then MULLINNIX transferred the group to the USS ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). Upon completion of the maneuver, the Commander of the Sixth Fleet gave us a "Well Done," adding that we looked very sharp, and were a real credit to the Sixth Fleet. We can expect to have many other dignitaries tour MULLINNIX in the future, since she is America's newest destroyer in the Mediterranean. In addition, the ship will be opened for visiting in all of the ports we visit.

In our last operation at sea, we were able to conduct an exercise and demonstration with the USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585), the newest nuclear submarine in the U.S. Navy. All hands assembled topside to observe while the SKIPJACK conducted high speed surface and subsurface runs for us.

While I have this opportunity, I would like to tell you something about our library. In it we have a large number of books readily available to everyone on the ship. I have designated an officer to be in charge and to be certain that it is kept up to date and operating efficiently. David A. Klemann, SA, USN, is our librarian. There has been a fine response, and a large number of books are always in circulation for reading during the off-watch hours.

Toward the end of this month, we will have a Destroyer Tender Availability. This will give the ship a chance to replace spare parts and make necessary repairs and improvements. It will also give the MULLINNIX a chance to stock up on items which we are unable to carry. In addition, the Tender has excellent dental and medical facilities which she will make available to us if they should be needed.

ENS Thomas E. Flemming, the ship's Athletic Officer is presently organizing a MULLINIX soccer team. Soccer is a very popular sport in Europe, so we can be sure of plenty of competition.

For all of us, this next few months will be a period of intensive training. When we left Norfolk there were many new faces aboard, and there was much for all of us to learn in order to meet the high standards of the Sixth Fleet. Now, after a month of operating together, the men of the MULLINIX have begun to take on the aspects of a fine team, resulting in increased ship's proficiency during fleet exercises, and a well earned feeling of satisfaction for everyone aboard.

To continue to improve and reach the peak of the high standards of performance which has always been the mark of MULLINIX will take continued hard work. The potential of this ship and the men who crew her has yet to be reached. During this period away from home your letters mean a great deal to us. We hope you will continue to write as often as possible and remember to send your correspondence via air mail. And if I can be of help, please feel free to write me personally. God speed, and smooth sailing.

Sincerely,

John C. Hill II
JOHN C. HILL II
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding