

USS MULLINNIX (DD-944)
FPO, New York 09501

27 November 1968
At Sea Enroute
Norfolk, Virginia

FAMILYGRAM NUMBER 2

Dear "Folks, Friends and Mullinnix Family",

This will be just a short note to bring you up to date since my last Familygram of 30 October 1968.

We are enroute home to Norfolk, Virginia and will arrive at 10:00 A.M., 27 November 1968. The first glimpse of Norfolk, I know, will be a welcome one to us all, after a long absence, most of which has been at sea.

The work and daily training days were long, hard and exciting. We have learned a lot that will help us considerably during our forthcoming trip to the Pacific Ocean early next year. We completed all of the refresher training requirements with successful grades.

On 21 October 1968 our training consisted of having another ship tow us and we in turn towed them. It was an extremely interesting drill for some who have never witnessed a ship being taken under tow. At the time, none of us realized that we would use this valuable training and very soon.

We were at sea conducting training drills on 31 October, when we received a message from Commander, Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to cease all drills, proceed to port to off-load the instructors and observers, then proceed at best possible speed on a Search and Rescue Mission, about 150 miles from Gtmo to take under tow the USNS TULLULAH, then adrift in the seas. We arrived just before dark, hooked up and took it under tow back to Gtmo, arriving the evening of 1 November. I am quoting two messages received upon completion of the towing.

R 021427Z NOV 68
FM COMFLETRAGRU GTMO
TO USS MULLINNIX
BT

UNCLAS EFTO

3130 USNS TALLULAH TOW

1. YOUR SPLENDID PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN ASSISTING TALLULAH AGAIN SHOWS THAT IT TAKES TRAINED PROFESSIONALS TO KEEP AHEAD IN THE STRUGGLE OF MEN AGAINST THE SEA. WELL DONE.

01/2300Z NOV 68
FM COMNAVBASE GTMO
TO USS MULLINNIX
BT

UNCLAS

1. RAPID REACTION AND QUICK RESPONSE TO COMFLTRAGRU GTMO ASSIGNMENT TO ASSIST USNS TULLULAH DISABLED AND ADRIFT ARE NOTED WITH PRIDE AND GREAT PLEASURE.

2. YOUR PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE OF SAFELY BRINGING TULLULAH UNDER TOW TO GTMO IS A POSITIVE DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR READINESS AND HOW WELL MULLINNIX IS LEARNING HER REFTRA LESSONS. WELL DONE TO A FINE SHIP CAPTAIN AND CREW.

This was possible only through the closely coordinated teamwork which has become a trademark of the men of this command.

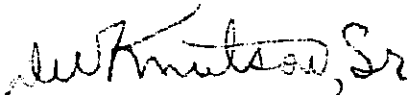
We spent 9, 10 and 11 November in Port Au Prince, Haiti and 23 November in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. St. Thomas was fresh, green and such a welcome port after dusty Port Au Prince. They were both a welcome break in our full training schedule. I believe that a part of the Navy tradition is to "see the world" as much as we can. This has been a good cruise, and many of the younger men of MULLINNIX are wiser, and much better trained.

I have personally enjoyed this cruise because I too have been trained a lot better. The Captain and crew are a well trained crew now who work hard, and take care of this ship.

We will be in port on 27 November and remain there through the holiday season. Please visit us here in MULLINNIX - our coffee is the best (and strongest), and we will provide any of you, the MULLINNIX family, with a special personal tour, because we have a fine ship and we are proud of her, every inch and every man aboard.

In this holiday season we have planned that each man get at least ten days Christmas leave. Also, we plan that those who have the "guard" on the two holidays, may invite their families on board to share in the message of God and the bright promise of the new year, and also, one of those special 10,000 calory meals for which the new supply officer father, PAPA JOHN NEALE's personnel are famous. I wish you all a fine, happy and sacred Christmas holiday, and a bright promising new year. May God go with you, always!

Best regards,



D. W. KNUTSON, Sr.
Commanding, USS MULLINNIX

CDR D. W. KNUTSON, Sr., USN
USS MULLINNIX (DD-944)
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P.S. There will be a special "Familygram" early in January about our next trip to the Pacific. We will work hard to keep everyone safe until we return!