

17 July 1969
At Sea,
Enroute South Vietnam
to Buckner Bay, Okinawa

MUXFACGRAM NUMBER 7

Dear Folks, Friends and Family,

Our final gunline patrol is completed and we are headed home. We have done our job, the job we were sent to do, the job we now do well - the defense of our country, democracy and our national objectives.

One of our accomplishments stands out above the rest and it attests to the job we have done. MULLINNIX was voted by the officers and men of all the Naval Gunfire Support Spotters in the Republic of Vietnam as "TOP GUN" - outstanding gunline destroyer for the period 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969. Needless to say we are quite proud of this achievement. A press release to home town newspapers is attached.

MULLINNIX is now enroute from the gunline to Buckner Bay, Okinawa where we will briefly stop to refuel. Our homeward bound transit will include port calls at Kobe and Yokosuka, Japan, Midway Island in the wide Mid-Pacific, Pearl Harbor, San Francisco, San Diego, Acapulco, Mexico, Panama Canal and home to Norfolk. When our arrival time and date in Norfolk is firm, I will notify you.

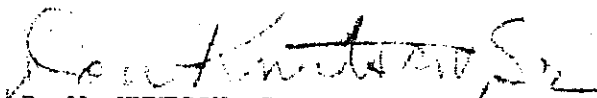
I would like to pass on to you an excerpt from a shipmate's daily log.

"14 May 1969. The MULLINNIX rides silently at anchor in the dark of Danang Harbor, not a light showing of any kind, not even the glow of a cigarette butt. In contrast, the Hospital Ship, USS SANCTUARY (AH-17) lies close by all ablaze with white lights that illuminate the entire ship and the two red crosses that are illustrated on all the white sides of the all white ship. MULLINNIX un-anchors from time to time and steals through the darkness to a new anchorage, to keep her position unknown to the V.C. that lurk in the mountains above Danang. Suddenly the V.C. know where we are as our 5"/54 guns fire and break the silence and serene calm of harbor, city and mountain. We on MULLINNIX know that a Marine ashore may then say "Thank You MUX."

"26 May 1969. It doesn't look like a battleground. with it's majestic peaks rising to touch the sky. This is Heaven Pass on the Coast of South Vietnam. The peaks appear to be a back drop to a mountain-sea resort. They look unreal and one glances to right or left to see if you can see the frame that surrounds this beautiful oil painting of mountains and sea; mountains that join the sea in a haze; mountains that rise to the billowing white-black thunderclouds above mountains and sea that are a battleground, but you think its not possible - it is too beautiful, it's an oil painting."

In my next Familygram, to be mailed from Midway Island - the island of the Navy's Battle of Midway fame in World War II: we plan to send you a photograph of "TOP GUN MUX", a Vietnam Battle Man showing MUX's areas of Naval Gunfire Support, a track chart of our travels since departure Norfolk, some dependent information cards, and details of our Homecoming.

With warm personal regards, Your friend,



D. W. KNUTSON, Sr.
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding, "TOP GUN"

P.S. a. We're Coming Home.

"HOME IS BEST!"

b. Press releases attached may be used in your hometown newspapers, if desired.

I 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 10 May 1969.

A. "Station the Blue Gunfire Support Team!" Like a shot of adrenalin, this call sends men racing through the arteries of this Norfolk based Destroyer to its brain, or nerve center, known as Combat Information Center (CIC). Here in CIC they collect, record, and transmit throughout this ship all tactical information concerning pertinent tactical information, target data, and the ships weapons systems readiness status.

B. As eleven members of the "Blue" Gunfire Support Team crowd into CIC, the tension and activity of this "Brain" heightens. Target information is relayed to the Main Battery Plotting Room, concerning the ship's speed and course, target locations, and volume of shells to be fired. Through the "eyes" of the radar and the "ears" of the radiotelephones, CIC receives a constant flow of information which it redirects to the proper organs of the ship.

C. The men who form this complex team in CIC are headed by LCDR Jack Sutton, USN, of Shelbyville, Tenn., who is the Executive Officer aboard this Seventh Fleet Gunship. Assisting him, as Gunnery Liaison Officer, is LTJG Frank Kerrigan, of Nashville, Tenn., Seaman David Parsons, Boise, Idaho; Larry Baker, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Third Class Radarman Thomas Dunegan, Loraine, Ohio; "Luke" Daulton, Somerset, Ky.; David Jones, Wallace, N.C.; Lester Bortz, Pardeeville, Wisc.; Second Class James Erwin, Portsmouth, Va.; and Robert Brown, New Orleans, La.; the supervisor, First Class William G. Castle of Security, Colorado, completes this professional Navy team. These men spend approximately one half of each day on duty in CIC, being relieved by the "Gold" team for the other twelve hours.

D. As the human brain is dependent on the blood flowing through it, so too is CIC dependent upon these teams to operate its equipment. But they do more than just receive and record. They provide that most essential function of analyzing and evaluating the data received in the light of human logic.

E. This "Blue Naval Gunfire Team, like its counterpart, the Gold team, is responsible for each projectile which is fired in support of Free World Forces. That they do their job well was affirmed recently by an aerial observer who remarked after three enemy machine gun sites firing at him were destroyed, "You hit them on the first salvo of shells and the rest of the shells on each target was for plenty of effect."

II. 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 18 May 1969, Flagship of GTU 70.8.9.

a. "Join the Navy and see the world," "The Navy wants men, proclaim the posters and advertisements in every Post Office throughout the United States. Some people may not stop to think what this means to them, but Seaman Apprentice Robert J. Tingle, of Atlanta, Ga., is one who did.

b. Quote: "I attended college for a semester, but decided to look into the Navy for a different type of education", recalls Tingle. "I joined the U.S. Navy on 5 Feb. this year, and I took my nine weeks Basic Training at Orlando, Fla. To me, this was nine weeks of my life that I'll never forget. Our Chief took us raw recruits and turned us into a company of sharp sailors. We were all boys of about eighteen or nineteen from different states, and different backgrounds, but we worked together until we graduated as Honor Company."

c. "When I graduated from basic training camp, my orders were to report to the USS MULLINNIX. I flew to San Francisco and then on to Subic Bay, where I came aboard. In just my first three months in the Navy I had traveled halfway around the world.

d. When I came aboard the "Mighty MUX" I was totally lost; I knew only the five shipmates who came aboard with me. But it took only a short time, with the help of a fine crew, to learn my way around.

e. I am very proud to serve aboard the MULLINNIX. On board are a lot of guys my age who are treated as men because they are doing a man's job. To me, the Navy plays a big part in a man's life. He learns to respect his country, his freedom, and his fellow man."

f. Seaman Tingle, who is the youngest sailor aboard the MULLINNIX, has some special duties. In addition to the assignment of maintaining the ship's brass nameplate, he is the "Youth Advisor" to CDR Don Knutson, USN, the Commanding Officer. In this honorary capacity, he is charged with advising the C.O. on the problems and adjustments faced by the "Boots" during their indoctrination aboard this warship. One day "Youth Advisor" Tingle will be replaced by a younger sailor. The training cycle goes on in the "Mighty MUX", and the United States Navy.

III. 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 20 May 1969.

a. "Robby's Roost" sets high above the waterline of this Seventh Fleet Destroyer. Situated up here, above the clamor of the maindecks and the firing of the MULLINNIX's rapid-fire 5"/54 caliber guns, is the Signal Bridge, home of the Signalmen. From this vantage point, the seven signalmen of the Communications Division have handled in excess of 2500 messages, consisting of a total of more than 75,000 words since this CRUDESANT destroyer left her homeport of Norfolk, Va., last January 16.

b. They are responsible for transmitting and receiving all visual messages concerning pertinent tactical and administrative data. Their visual communication equipment consists of flags and pennants, flashing light, and semaphore. Despite the highly complex radiotelephone and radioteletype circuits aboard ship, visual communications are used almost exclusively in tactical formations. In addition to handling messages, the Signalmen also are responsible for visual identification of all ships in sight.

c. "Robby's Roost" was named after First Class Signalman Glen (Robby) Robinson, of Tanner, West Virginia. "Robby" supervises the Signal Gang comprised of; Second Class Lloyd J Clark, Pampano Beach, Florida; Third Class Signalman Patrick J. Sharland, Ishpeming, Mich; Michael J. Davis, La Crosse, Wisc; and Seaman Edward R. Jones, Mount Holly, N.J.; Stanley Krajkowski, Jr. Niagara Falls, N.Y. and Joseph J Mars, off Coptland, Ohio. This is a hardworking, experienced team (SM2 Clark is on his third cruise to Vietnam) enthusiasm and whose esprit de corps is like that of the entire crew. One of this ship's mottoes "First and Fastest" is particularly applicable to this fine group. They are "First" to answer a flag hoist and "Fastest" on the signal light.

IV. 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 23 May 1969.

a. The destroyer MULLINNIX is a highly modern, deadly foe for any hostile submarine. With her submarine detection equipment she can detect and track submerged "subs" from miles away. Armed with torpedoes and "hedgehogs" (small depth charges projected in clusters off either side of the ship), the Mighty MUX can neutralize any undersea enemy.

b. The control center for her Anti-submarine Warfare System is located in the Sonar Control Room in the interior of this gunship. The ship toward the target, then, at close range, takes full control and fires the weapons.

c. However, during her present assignment on the gunline, this Seventh Fleet destroyer spends her time in coastal waters normally too shallow for submarine operations. What is the job the Sonarmen and Torpedomen do here?

d. Like the rest of the sailors on this Norfolk-based destroyer the men of the "Sonar Division" have a sound background in modern Naval Seamanship. A fine example of this is how the Sonarmen have taken charge of the "Midship's Highline Detail", during underway replenishments. This well-trained Navy team is responsible for the transfer of stores, ammunition and powder, and mail via the block, tackle, and wire rigging known as the "highline".

e. Under the knowledgeable direction of their Division Officer, ENS George Breeden II, USN, of Baltimore, Md., this crew has expertly transferred tons of beans, bullets, and bags of mail without injury. In one replenishment during heavy seas, these men performed with professional poise. First Class Sonar Technician Roger Bocek, of St. Louis, Mo., is the Petty Officer in charge of this detail.

His crew includes Petty Officers Second Class Paul Montoney, Columbus, Ohio; John Weatherred, Arlington, Texas; and Arthur Clyburn, Pampa, Texas, who perform the dangerous job of attaching and removing the loads from the rig. Two big men, Third Class Michael Farinnella, St. Paul, Minn., and Second Class Loren Simmons, Norfolk, Va., hand pull the heavy 3500 lb. ammo dollies from the rigs to the cargo hatch. Second Class Randall Bobbs, Belle Vernon, Pa., is the "Safety Man" in charge of the temporary lifelines around the transfer station. While Second Class Marc Adams, Ames, Iowa, communicates with the replenishment ship via sound-powered telephones, Third Class Richard Cox, Helicong, Pa., handles the inhaul line making sure no knots or snarls form in it. Third Class Sonarman Willard George, Moscow, Idaho, and Stephen Honyok, Greenbelt, Md., are the men who pass each piece of ammunition and powder down the hatch. First Class Sonar Technician and Leading Petty Officer of A/S Division Jim Scott, of Somerville, Mass., maintains the Sonar Watch, and is the Leader of the group.

F. In addition to their replenishment stations, each member of the Sonar Gang stands watches throughout the ship. Their efficiency and versatility are characteristic of the entire crew aboard the MULLINNIX.

V. 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 25 May 1969.

A. The six flags flying from the MULLINNIX Signal Halyards were unlike any flags the replenishing ship has ever seen. These were not the neatly striped and quartered U. S. Navy flags of red, blue, yellow, white and black that spell out the Signalman's alphabet or tactical signals.

B. These flags are special; and are treated with special care aboard the MULLINNIX. Every Ship in the Fleet has a single "What the Heck" Flag which it occasionally flies. These handmade flags are the flags for each of the four departments aboard, and the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer Flag. They represent the "Esprit De Corps" of each department. Also, unlike the usual "Nonsense" Flag, these flags are flown not only when the ship made a "Boner", but also whenever a Department exhibits a particularly good performance. It flies rightside up for good work, and upsidedown for mistakes; either to the pride or chagrin of the men of that Department, and of the whole ship.

C. The white and gold flag of the Supply Department is the newest of the Ship's Flags. Originated by LTJG Bob Priddy, of Richmond, Va., the gold oakleaf with three acorns and the words "Ready for Sea" stand for the motto of the Naval

Supply Corps, and has flown proudly on each of the forty replenishments made to date by the "MIGHT MUX" while on the gunline. LTJG William Spadafora, USN, Indiana, Penn., the Supply Officer, typifies the pride of this Department when he states, "Our flag can be seen flying rightside up, one hundred percent of the time."

d. The quartered Weapons Department Flag, whose design was a collective effort, has been the most heavily flown flag. The crossed anchors represent the Deck Division; while the optical range finder and crossed cannons are the emblems of the Gunner's Mates and Firecontrolmen of Gun Division. The Torpedomen and Sonarmen of the Anti-submarine (AS) Division are represented by the black torpedo and head phones.

e. The Operations Department Flag, with black footprints trailing across a white background comes the closest to the traditional "What the Heck" flag. According to Operations Boss LT John C. Danner, USN, of Norfolk, Va., the flag's design has a message: We just do our job, and steam away. There is a rumor, though, that it was so designated that it would be impossible to tell whether it was upside down or not.

f. The most colorful of the department flags belongs to the Engineering Department. The hand painted "Road Runner" was the creation of Third Class Machinist Mate Dennis Houg, of Pomona, Cal. Perhaps because it is the most colorful, or maybe it's the pride of the Engineers, but this is the most enthusiastically received flag when run up. It also typifies another of this commands mottoes, "First and Fastest." With her highly modern propulsion system, and top-watch Engineers, she is indeed fast on the throttle when required in the combat area, off the coast of South Vietnam.

g. The Executive Officer, LCDR Jack Sutton, USN, of Shelbyville, Tenn, has adopted the ships motto, "Everywhere, all the time" for his personal flag, which shows a Naval officer, rank of LCDR, ready for any eventuality. CDR Don Knutson, USN of Norfolk, Va., the Commanding Officer, reveals his pride in the ship and crew by flying a full sized red flag with the following words emblazoned on it: "MUX - NUMERO UNO!!."

VI. 1. Aboard USS MULLINNIX (DD944) off the coast of South Vietnam, 31 MAY 1969.

a. From "Little Swifty" to "Middle Swifty" the news spreads on the radio-telephone system: "Big Swifty" is flying the ice cream flag today."

b. "Little Swifty, PCF - 61, a 45-foot fast patrol craft commonly called a "Swift Boat", was commanded by ENS John Cole, of Lemon Falls, Oregon. Riding with him was LTJG Don Kowklsky, USN, of Latrobe, Penna., who will assume command after a brief orientation. Aboard the 82-foot Coast Guard Patrol Boat, "Pt. Welcome", commanded by LTJG. A.R. Melis, of Fallon, Nevada, where ENS Ngo Tuc Tuu, Vnn, Vietnamese training officer and Second Class Petty Officer Nguyen Van Vinh, the Vietnamese Naval Liaison member aboard. "Big Swifty", the 418-foot DD931 class destroyer MULLINNIX, was standing several miles off the coast just south of the Demilitarized Zone on her assigned Naval Gunfire Support station.

c. The MULLINNIX was flying her blue, white, and gold Supply Department flag from the signal halyard, to the Sailors of the.....(cont)

"River Fleet" this meant some ice cream as well as any other needed supplies such as Diesel Oil, and repair parts. It is the policy of CDR Don Knutson, USN, of Norfolk, Va., the Commanding Officer, to offer a three gallon carton of ice cream to each patrol craft which comes alongside. We started this policy to assist these boats during their coastal patrols, sometimes away from a ready source of help. Only one invitation was needed to get the "Swifties" as enthusiastic and regular customers.

D. In addition to ice cream, Third Class Commissarymen Jeff Monroe, of Circleville, Ohio, and Seaman Bill Haray of Babylon, N.Y., under the supervision of Chief J. C. "Candyman" Oiler, of Norfolk, Virginia, have daily "Broken Out" of the refrigeration storerooms small quantities of fresh fruit, vegetables, steak, and pork for the "Swifties" when needed.

E. This Norfolk-based Destroyer may be the MULLINNIX Hilton to some of the Marines of the Third Marine Division and Sailors of the "Riverline Fleet", but her powerful 5"/54 calibre guns provide a different welcome for the enemy. While her "Ice Cream Flag" flies from one halyard, her Weapons Department "Gunnery Flag" proudly flies from the other, and her main battery guns furnish Naval Gunfire Support for the allied forces-ashore.

VII 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) off the coast of South Vietnam 3 July 1969.

A. Returning to combat off the coast of South Vietnam for her third Gunline Patrol of this deployment, this Norfolk-based Destroyer received the following message from First Anglico Saigon, Officer in Charge of Naval Gunfire Support Spotters in the Republic of Vietnam.

1. "Congratulations upon being voted the outstanding Gunline Destroyer for the period 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969 by the Officers and Enlisted Spotters of Sub Unit One, First Anglico.

2. Your rapid response, cooperativeness, accuracy and reliability were key factors in selecting you for this honor. Your accurate and timely fires employed in support of ground forces have proved to be an effective weapon against hostile forces in RVN and have rightly earned you the title "TOP GUN".

3. From the Officers and men of Sub Unit One a sincere Well Done."

B. Each Sailor aboard, whether he be a Gunner's Mate, Boilerman, or Cook, feels justifiably proud of this honor. As CDR Don Knutson, USN, of Norfolk Virginia, the Commanding Officer told it, "This award is the result of professional Navy teamwork by each man of this Command and the Navy-Marine spotter teams ashore."

C. On the morning of July Fourth the "MIGHTY MUX" will return to action in support of Free World Forces Ashore in the Republic of Vietnam. One hundred and ninety-three years after

the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the men of the MULLINNIX continue to support the Allied Forces fighting for Democracy and Liberty. Spurred on by the same ideals inherent in that Document, the Captain and Crew of this Destroyer are determined to continue to provide efficient Naval Gunfire Support. Operating against different enemy targets in new sectors of the Republic will prove a strong challenge to the Navy-Marine team of shore based spotters and the "MIGHTY MUX".

VIII 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam.

A. On Independence Day, the Destroyer MULLINNIX returned to action on the Gunline of the Republic of Vietnam in the vicinity of Phu Yen Province, 40 miles North of Nha Trang. Her first target was an enemy Communications Link which was quickly destroyed. She then proceeded to take other enemy targets under fire with her powerful 5"/54 Calibre Guns

B. The men of the MULLINNIX provide the capability and energy to do the many jobs required of a solid professional team. Hailing from Various backgrounds and areas, the crew of this Seventh Fleet Destroyer come prepared to do equally diverse jobs aboard ship. During this ship's deployment with the Allied Forces off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, the eight members of the Florida Contingent to the "MIGHTY MUX" family are each hard at work.

C. Larry P. Bachle, Second Class Electronics Technician, from Cross City, Florida is busy providing continued maintenance and upkeep on the ship's highly sophisticated electronics gear. Petty Officer Bachle states "I think that as far as doing our job over here on the gunline is concerned we're having a very worthwhile cruise - although it takes a lot of hard work."

D. Third Class Machinist Mate Wayne G. Ellerman, of St. Petersburg is charged with the maintenance and constant checking of all auxiliary pumps in the ship's after engine room. Third Class Petty Officer Ellerman, the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Ellerman, 300 36th Ave., N. E. said "This cruise sure has been a lot of hard work and I've also learned an awful lot."

E. Seaman Douglas D. Houston, of Miami, is a member of the Deck Division, assigned to maintaining the rigging and topside bridge. Douglas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Houston, 1241 N. W. 202nd Street observed, "The people in the countries over here are very friendly, and they certainly seem to respect us".

F. "I would like to come back here again. We've done some very interesting jobs and we're visiting a lot of interesting ports", replied Third Class Radioman, Jimmy L. Nelson, of New Port Richey. Petty Officer Nelson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Nelson, 1285 Cedar Street, has been standing twelve hours of watch a day in Radio Central, the Communications Center of this ship. His duties include sending, receiving and internal routing of messages and upkeep on equipment.

g. Utilizing the MULLINNIX as his flagship for this deployment is native Floridian Capt. S. L. Rusk, USN, Commander Destroyer Squadron 14 homeported at Mayport Fla., and his staff. Commodore Rusk whose wife Jane Ellen lives at 516 Oakhill Street, Mayport, had served as embarked Gunline Commander during the first two gunline patrols. His staff includes fellow Floridians LCDR John J. Kristof, Chief Staff Officer, whose wife Barbara lives at 635A Oriskany St. Mayport, Fla., native Floridian LT Bruce McDaniels whose parental home is 1570 48th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, Fla, and LTJG Thomas Clark, the Electronics Material Officer, who resides at 1266 Cape Charles Ave., Atlantic Beach, Fla., with his wife Linda.

- IX. 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD944) off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 5 July 1969.
- a. Like the Navy as a whole, the destroyer MULLINNIX draws its crew from a multitude of backgrounds and locales. By blending together the unique capabilities of each man, this group of strangers has formed itself into a well-knit professional Navy team. During this ship's deployment with the Seventh Fleet off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, the Missourians aboard have contributed their abilities to the success of the "Mighty MUX".
- b. Loren C. Simmons, Second Class Sonarman, from Slater, Missouri, is busy standing anti-swimmer detection watches in Sonar Control. Petty Officer Simmons, whose wife Penny is presently residing in Portsmouth, Va., declared, "We're giving them the required fire support, and its helping", when asked about this ship's mission.
- c. Second Class Electronics Technician, Jay D. Strain, of Springfield, Missouri, provides continuing maintenance and upkeep on the ship's highly sophisticated electronics gear. "I think that as far as doing our job over here on the gunline is concerned, we're having a good cruise - although it takes a lot of hard work", States Second Classman Strain, whose wife Carolyn lives at 2554 W. High Street in Springfield.
- d. "If I hadn't volunteered for this I never would have gotten to see this part of the world, it is very worthwhile" explains Third Class Boatswain's Mate Ronnie E. Gann, also of Springfield. Boatswain's Mate Gann, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gann, of Route 3, is part of the ship's maindeck armed security patrol at night, in addition to supervising the upkeep of maindeck areas during the day.
- e. First Class Sonarman Roger D. Bocek, of St. Louis, Missouri, noted that "this cruise is going along pretty well, really not much different than my first tour on the MULLINNIX over here. We've seemed to improve on our gunfire support though." Petty Officer Bocek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bocek of 9145 Villa Ridge Courts, is the Supervising Petty Officer in Sonar Control, running the anti-swimmer watches and equipment maintenance.

F. Another native of St. Louis is Third Class Radarman Richard L. Kuebler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Kuebler of 8912 Goodfellow Blvd. Petty Officer Kuebler, a member of the "Gold" Gunfire Support Team in CIC, handles the Radarscopes, Dead Reckoning Tracer, and Radio Telephones during his watches.

X. 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) Flagship of COMDESRON 14 off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 8 July 1969.

A. During the past two days the "MIGHTY MUX" has provided Naval Gunfire Support in four different locations in the II Corps Area, Republic of Vietnam. She landed a dozen direct hits into enemy caves 40 miles North of Nha Trang in Phu Yen Province before moving 70 miles south and firing against further enemy storage cave areas 8 miles South of Cam Rann Bay in Ninh Thuan Province. Her accurate fire partially blocked one cave and destroyed four others. One of which was blown wide open by a single direct hit from her 5"/54 Calibre Projectiles. Further ground damage assessment by her airborne spotters was precluded by the dense triple foliage of the surrounding jungles.

B. In carrying out her mission of Naval Gunfire Support, the Destroyer MULLINNIX depends on all members of the crew, whether he be a lookout, ammunition loader, or cook. Each man contributes to the overall effectiveness of this gunship. The men from Pennsylvania are hard at work doing their jobs aboard the "MIGHTY MUX".

C. James P. Stojs, Second Class Gunner's Mate, age 26, hails from Normaville, Penn. Petty Officer Stojs, whose wife Lillian resides on Route 1, Normaville, is the Gun Captain of one of the three Main Battery 5"/54 Calibre Gun Mounts aboard the MULLINNIX. As Gun Captain he controls the loading and firing of this rapid-firing mount. "I've got a responsible job to do, and I feel that I'm doing it. I enjoy my work on the Gun Mounts," declares Petty Officer Stojs.

D. Third Class Electrician, John F. Taylor III, age 23, of Coatesville Penn, stands his watches at the master electrical switchboard in the Forward Engine Room. Petty Officer Taylor, whose wife Linda is living at 379 Charles St., Coatesville, states, "I consider myself lucky that I've gotten to see all of these interesting places."

E. Quoting a favorite Boilerman saying, "We make the steam, they take the steam," Third Class Boilerman Charles Finocchiaro, of Philadelphia, Penn, age 20, sums up his job aboard ship. Petty Officer Finocchiaro, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Finocchiaro of 2822 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, stands his daily watches in the Boiler rooms checking water levels and answering speed changes.

f. Second Class Sonarman Randall K. Bobbs, age 21, is a member of the gunfire support team in the Main Battery Plotting Room (MBP). Petty Officer Bobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bobbs of 804 Washington Rd., Belle Vernon, Penna., is the sound-powered phone talker between Main Battery Plot and the gun mounts during firing of the fire missions.

XI. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD944) flagship of COMDESRON FOURTEEN, off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 8 July 1969.

a. During the past two days, the "Mighty MUX" has provided Naval Gunfire Support in four different locations in II Corps, Republic of Vietnam. She landed a dozen direct hits into enemy caves 40 miles north of Nha Trang in Phu Yen Province before moving 70 miles south and firing against further enemy storage cave areas 8 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay in Ninh Thuan Province. Her accurate fire partially blocked one cave and destroyed four others, one of which was blown wide open by a single direct hit from a high performance 5"/54 caliber projectile. Further ground damage assessment by airborne spotters was precluded by the dense triple foliage of the jungles in this area.

b. In order to accomplish her mission of providing Naval Gunfire Support to Free World Forces ashore in the Republic of Viet Nam, the MULLINNIX crew must act as a professional Navy team. This team includes each man, his talents and efforts, aboard ship. The men from Alabama are kept busy each day applying their individual capabilities to their jobs aboard ship.

c. Seaman Carl Ambrose, age 20, son of Mrs. Joseph Ambrose of 811 15th Street, Ensley Alabama, is a member of the deck force assigned to maintaining the rigging and topside deck areas. Seaman Ambrose noted that while "the work is pretty tough, the liberty ports are very interesting."

d. Second Class Firecontrolman Ronald J. Finley, age 24, of Boylston, Alabama, is a member of the "Gold" gunfire support team in the Main Battery Plotting Room, where he is the computer operator for the ship's firecontrol radar system. Petty Officer Finley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Finley of 644 7th Street, states, "The cruise is very interesting, seeing all these countries over here, but I'm glad we're finishing up our job."

e. The senior man aboard ship from 'Bama is Chief Boilerman Arthur M. Ennis, of Montgomery, Ala. Chief Ennis stands his watches as Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW), which makes him responsible for the Engineering spaces and all main propulsion machinery - a real "Top Watchman". When asked how he felt about this deployment, Chief Ennis replied, "This cruise had been about the same as my two previous tours over here; except we haven't been shot at yet this time, however the pace has been much faster."

XII 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD-944), Flagship of COMDESRON 14, off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 9 July 1969.

A. The "MIGHTY MUX" had a busy day today as she turned her 5"/54 Calibre Gunfire enemy targets 12/3 miles South of Phan Rang in Ninh Province. Her accurate firing ignited a secondary fire 50/5 meters wide, destroyed 150/6 meters of tunnels and 100/1 meters of trails, collapsed two storage caves and destroyed three other caves and five wooden military structures. At one point, her airborne spotter CPL P.J. O'Connor, Arlington, Mass., reported "You just put two shells into one six by ten foot cave and blew it apart".

B. This accurate Naval Gunfire Support by the MULLINNIX is achieved through the professional teamwork of her Captain and Crew. By combining each individuals unique abilities into a well-oiled fighting Gunship the crew of the "MIGHTY MUX" has been able to accomplish her mission here in the Republic of Vietnam smoothly and effectively. The men of New York are busy carrying out their jobs as part of the overall MULLINNIX team.

C. Third Class Firecontrolman Eugen H. Kreeft, age 20, is a member of the "Blue" Gunfire Support Team in the Main Battery Plotting Room where he operates the elevation controls in the Firecontrol Computer. Petty Officer Kreeft, whose wife Patricia is living on Mangin RD., Monroe, N.Y. states "I am glad to be making this cruise, otherwise I never would have been able to see these countries and meet the people."

D. Seaman Sal M. Oliva, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Oliva, of 18 Rutherford Street, Binghamton N.Y., is one of the "MUX MESSMEN" who run the crew's mess decks. The 21 year old Oliva notes that, "The ports we've gotten to see are very interesting."

E. "We've had a pretty tough job to do, but I consider it worthwhile," explains Third Class Radarman Mark D. Marvin, age 22, Petty Officer Marvin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Marvin of Route 39, Gowanda N.Y., is a member of the "Gold" Gunfire Support Team in CIC. While on duty Marvin operates the Radarscopes, Dead Reckoning Tracer, and Radiotelephones. He is also in charge of the Office for Operations Department.

F. John J. Wojcik, Third Class Radioman, stands his watches in Radio Central, the Communications Center of this ship. His duties include sending, receiving, and internal routing of messages and upkeep of equipment. Petty Officer Wojcik, the 19 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wojcik, Lakeview Ave., Port Henry, N.Y., states, "I really enjoy visiting all of these ports. I particularly like Hong Kong."

G. Standing "Top Watch" in the ship's after Engine Room keeps Brad H. Peck, Second Class Machinist Mate busy. The 22 year old Petty Officer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Peck, 111 Green St., Hudson, N.Y. states, "This has been a long-hard trip but it's worth it".

XIII 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD-944), Flagship of COMDESRON 14, off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 10 July 1969.

A. The powerful 5"/54 Calibre Guns of the MULLINNIX were kept busy throughout the night and day firing in support of the Third and Forty-Fourth Arvn Regiment, the Thirtieth ROK Regiment, and the Territorial Forces of Ninh Thuan Province. Just after midnight, ---(con't)

the "Mighty MUX" fired "starshells", bright white illumination flares, over the ARVN troops, to maintain contact with a VC unit, assisting their medics to care for wounded still on the field and to allow helicopters to evacuate them. This illumination firing also allowed the ARVN to kill four Viet Cong and capture three AX-47 automatic weapons during the hour long firefight.

b. It's a long way from the state of Texas to the Republic of Viet Nam. Yet, even over here there are Texans hard at work accomplishing a tough job. Aboard the "Mighty MUX", the men of Texas are busy each day contributing their efforts and abilities to the overall MULLINNIX team.

c. Second Class Sonarman Arthur L. Clyburn is a member of the "Gold" gunfire support team in the Main Battery Plotting Room. During his watches twenty-two year old Clyburn is a sound powered phone talker between the plotting room and the gun mounts. Petty Officer Clyburn, son of Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Clyburn of 1819 N. Hamilton St., Pampa Texas, notes "I am enjoying this cruise, we're seeing some very interesting countries."

d. Another Second Class Sonarman from Texas is 25 year old John W. Weatherred, of Arlington, Texas. Petty Officer Weatherred, whose wife Jan is living in Norfolk, Virginia, stands anti-swimmer detection watches in Sonar Control. "I think our time over here in Vietnam is worthwhile, but am glad we're finishing up", explains Weatherred.

e. Bill G. Newkirk, First Class Radioman, is the Leading Petty Officer in Radio Central, the Communications Center of the ship. Petty Officer Newkirk, whose wife Nelda is presently residing in Virginia Beach, Virginia, originally from Alamo, Texas, supervises the handling all message traffic and the personnel in Radio Central. The thirty-five year old Newkirk, states, "It's a long hard cruise, but we're going to finish up still going strong."

f. Seaman Thomas Diaz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Diaz of 182 Alhavan Street, San Antonio Texas, is a member of the deck force charged with the upkeep of the ship's rigging and topside deck areas. Twenty-year old Diaz thinks that, "this cruise is plenty of work, but it all seems very worthwhile."

XIV. 1. Aboard the USS MULLINNIX (DD944), flagship of COMDESRON 14, off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 10 July 1969.

a. The destroyer MULLINNIX is a combatant ship, made of steel and painted haze grey. It is the fighting men who sail her that give her the spirit and proficiency. These men, who contribute their abilities and efforts, form the professional Navy team which is responsible for the "Mighty MUX's" accurate and effective Naval Gunfire Support. The men of Ohio are part of this team, carrying out their individual tasks each day.

b. Third Class Internal Communications Technician Fred Steiger, age 21, maintains all internal communications circuits in addition to standing watches at the ship's master gyro. "This cruise is a lifetime experience", reports Petty Officer Steiger, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Steiger of 829 Ohio Ave., Fremont, Ohio.

of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Steiger of 829 Ohio Ave., Fremont, Ohio:

c. 21 year old Paul D. Montoney, Torpedoman Second Class, stands watches manning the ship's 50 calibre machine guns in addition to daily maintenance on the ship's anti-submarine torpedo tubes. Petty Officer Montoney, whose wife Connie resides at 1548 Oak St., Columbus, Ohio states, "It's an interesting part of the world to visit, but I'd rather live in Ohio."

d. "I'm here in Vietnam doing a job the best I can", explains Second Class Quartermaster Kenneth E. Lewis, age 24. Petty Officer Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Lewis of 32 Juergens Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, as a member of the "Blue" Gunfire Support Team on the bridge assists in the navigation of the ship in plotting her position and the position of enemy targets.

e. Third Class Boilerman Richard B. Hackett, 24, stands his watches in the ship's after boiler room where he constantly checks the water level in the boiler. Petty Officer Hackett, whose wife Judy resides on Route 1, Masury, Ohio states, "I appreciate seeing all of the countries over here. It is too bad everyone couldn't see these places at least once."

f. As Mount Captain in one of the "Mighty MUX's" 5"/54 caliber gunmounts, First Class Gunner's Mate Samuel Johnson, 33 is maintaining and upkeeping his mount whenever he is not busy firing it against enemy targets. Petty Officer Johnson, son of Mr. Charles Johnson of 1695 E. 85th St. Cleveland, Ohio, reports that "This is a pretty good cruise for visiting ports."

g. "This is my second tour over here, and I hope I get a chance to come back again", stated third class Radarman Thomas P. Dunegan, 20. Petty Officer Dunegan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Dunegan of 1202 Brownell ave., Lorain, Ohio, is a member of the "Gold" Gunfire Support Team in CIC. While on duty, he handles the radarscopes, dead reckoning tracer, and radio-telephones.

"We'll see you
soon", Captain and
Crew!!!