

USS MULLINNIX (DD-944)
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

30 October 1968
At Sea Off Guantanamo Bay,
Cuba

FAMILYGRAM NUMBER 1

Dear "Folks",

It is my policy to keep MULLINNIX dependents informed about the ship through these informal "Familygrams." Please excuse my tardiness in writing this first one; but, like my new billet as Commanding Officer, the first month flew by before I realized it.

This will be just a short note to bring you up to date on our schedule and happenings.

On our departure from Norfolk, 4 October, we made a fast run arriving in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba the afternoon of 7 October. The first few days were spent in various inspections by the Fleet Training Group, Gtmo. We commenced our training schedule at sea 10 October and the pace has been extremely rapid ever since. Needless to say we all are more than willing to turn in after a long-full-day of training.

I am extremely proud of all of my officers and men for the efforts they have put forth in getting the ship ready for underway training and their efforts since commencing training. Many of our men are new additions to the "MUX Family" and they are already full fledged "MUX Sailors".

I would like to inform every one that the Captain and crew have all enjoyed good health and hard work. We are learning a lot here. Some of it comes hard. 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, and yes, some of the older ones too, have not written the mothers and wives as often as they should.

We spent a restful weekend in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 25-26 October. It was a welcome chance to just "stop" and get some sack time. For many it was the first glimpse of a foreign port. It was particularly clean, neat and extremely welcome after such a constant grind.

All of us were informed by a return telegram from COMCRUDESFLT FOUR that hurricane Gladys went by Norfolk, Va. without causing any harm or danger. This helped a lot to quiet ours fears about that storm.

All wives are invited on board with their husbands for Thanksgiving dinner, particularly if your "boss" has the duty on Thanksgiving.

Please feel free to write, if you have any questions, or problems which we here can provide answers.

We plan to arrive at Pier 20, D&S Piers on the day before Thanksgiving. If this schedule should change I will notify you.

Best regards,

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

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