

USS NOA (DD 841)
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York 09501

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Dear Families and Friends of NOA,

The NOA has visited MASSAWA, ERITREA (ETHIOPIA); ADEN, ADEN PROTECTORATE; and COCHIN and MADRAS, INDIA during the period since 1 August 1966. Tomorrow we will again visit ADEN for fuel and an overnight rest. Then NOA will head north through the RED SEA to PORT SUEZ and transit the SUEZ CANAL. On September 14 we will arrive in ATHENS, GREECE where NOA will rejoin other units of the SIXTH FLEET.

I am pleased to announce that the NOA, through the outstanding efforts of your husbands, sons and friends won the Battle Efficiency Competition and was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award as well as the Operations Department Excellence Award. These awards are based upon a strict evaluation of proven performance during the conduct of evaluated exercises, daily readiness for operations, and smartness throughout the year. Each man and officer in NOA can be justifiably proud of these awards which could not have been won unless everyone in NOA had given of their best.

As a result of these awards a large white "E" and a green "E" was painted on each wing of the bridge adding to those previously painted on the Gun Mounts. We are looking forward to this year's competition and the hoped for addition of a "hash mark" under each of the "E's" to signify a second consecutive award and the addition of Weapons, Engineer and Supply Department Excellence Awards.

The ENGINEER DEPARTMENT, through the continuous efforts of the men with engineer ratings has kept the NOA's engineering plant operating smoothly and efficiently. Since leaving Mayport on 21 June the NOA has logged over 12,400 nautical miles of steaming in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal; consumed over 944,000 gallons of fuel oil and distilled from sea water over 851,500 gallons of fresh water and boiler water. Men in the Engineer Department have maintained and repaired the engineering plant with no outside assistance - an outstanding accomplishment for which they deserve the highest praise.

The OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT has kept the NOA in touch with the outside world; talked with ships of all nationalities; maintained our complex electronics equipment and, with the NAVIGATION DIVISION, kept our position on the trackless seas and oceans pinpointed. All men in the Operations Department are to be congratulated for winning the Departmental Excellence Award, an outstanding achievement.

The WEAPONS DEPARTMENT has been working towards our return to the SIXTH FLEET. All firecontrol systems and guns have been aligned,

tested and made ready for the conduct of gunnery exercise. They are giving the exterior of NOA a face lifting that became necessary after the sand blasting and heat of the RED SEA and the salt water taken aboard while crossing the ARABIAN SEA in the middle of the Monsoon Season. Additionally, the ASW systems have been made ready so that we will be ready to operate with submarines in the SIXTH FLEET.

The SUPPLY DEPARTMENT has done an excellent job of keeping all of us well fed. The laundry has turned out untold loads of wash. Storekeepers have been able to locate or obtain just about everything we have needed to keep the ship functioning. Incidentally the bakers have baked over 2500 loaves of bread.

Our visits to MASSAWA, ADEN, COCHIN and MADRAS were very interesting. I'm sure that you have or will hear about the visits from your husbands, sons and friends in NOA; however, I'll add a few words to theirs.

In MASSAWA we experienced the highest temperature of our deployment. The highest was 125°F in the shade, if there was any shade. Its no wonder that about 150 men braved the torturous mountainous road from hot MASSAWA to visit cool ASMARA high in the mountains of ETHIOPIA where the temperature was more to our liking, in the 70°-80°F range.

At COCHIN about 40 men were guests of the Indian Navy at an Indian Curry dinner. It was good, but H-O-T, and I'm afraid not quite up to the delicate American Tastes. NOA's athletic teams bravely engaged the Indian Navy teams in soccer and basketball, put on a good show, but did in the end admit defeat. We need more practice.

Indian products began to be brought aboard in COCHIN, but it was in MADRAS that they poured aboard NOA. Most lockers and corners are well loaded and stocked with wood and ivory carvings, yards and yards of silk and Madras cloth and items made of brass of all sizes and shapes. Madras was undoubtedly the high point in our port visiting while deployed to MIDEASTFOR, the soft ball team won a game.

ADEN is a free port; however, because of the unsettled conditions ashore no liberty could be granted. We did have merchants set up a bazaar on board and the trade was brisk, especially for cameras, tape recorders, and toys.

The NOA, as we prepare to return to the SIXTH FLEET, is well loaded with souvenirs and gifts from the Middle East. I don't believe a single one of you has been forgotten. All of us are looking forward to the visits to ATHENS, GREECE; CASTELON, SPAIN (near VALENCIA); PALMA, ISLAND OF MALLORCA, SPAIN (visited last year by NOA and enjoyed by everyone) and TANGIER, MOROCCO. Most of all we are looking forward to GIBRALTAR, where, upon turning-over to our reliefs, we will begin the last days of

our deployment and depart the SIXTH FLEET to begin the long voyage to our homeport, MAYPORT, our reunion with each of you, and hopefully a little rest. I have often wondered why the last ten days of a deployment to the SIXTH FLEET seems so long.

The ships duty section list has been published and the leave schedules are fairly well arranged. All men in NOA should be able to let you know when they will have their first liberty in MAYPORT and when any leave that they have requested will commence. Regretfully, and I'm sure that you understand, everyone can't have liberty on the first day in port, nor can everyone have leave at the same time. Our efforts are pointed to seeing that everyone gets as much liberty and leave as is possible throughout the entire year.

Since my last letter I find that congratulations are in order for:

Petty Officer and Mrs. John W. BRIDGE for the birth of a son on 23 July 1966,


Petty Officer and Mrs. Bobbie G. CARTER for the birth of a son on 11 August 1966,

Fireman and Mrs. James E. MCKEE for the birth of a son on 10 August 1966.

Looks as if sons monopolized this period. Congratulations to each of you. I know your husbands are looking forward to seeing you and your sons.

I again take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the deployment. "Mail Call" still remains the most popular activity in NOA. You have no idea how each man looks forward to "Mail Call" and your letters. Your letters to me indicating interest in the Family-Grams makes writing them well worth while. I'm told in one letter that the old saying: "No news is good news" should be changed to: "NOA news is better news". News from you is best! I do hope our letters have been getting through to you. Mail service, once we are back with the SIXTH FLEET will be much improved. It's going to be a most welcome change to hear from you frequently and to be able to send our letters to you with regularity.

Sincerely,



W. W. DOESCHLER
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer