



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96371

IN REPLY REFER TO

May 1, 1981

Dear REEVES' Family,

As I write this Familygram to you, our ship is moving southeast in the Indian Ocean toward Australia. After eighteen days in the Persian Gulf, we were relieved by the USS TOWERS on April 11th. We transited the Strait of Hormuz and rejoined the MIDWAY Battle Group on April 13th.

We spent five busy days, April 14 - 18, participating in a major fleet exercise named "GONZO EXERCISE 81-3" involving two carrier task groups in a simulated war in the Indian Ocean. REEVES survived the "war" as a member of the Orange Navy; and together with other ships, scored a decisive victory over the Blue Navy. It was hectic, but nonetheless, a rewarding exercise. This type of activity keeps us trained and ready to do our job.

April ushered in a number of special activities and events. Chaplain Teske held an Easter Sunrise Service on the fantail. A welcomed addition to the Sunday morning services has been the REEVES HARMONIZERS (a sixteen voice gospel choir with electric organ and guitars) directed by MSCS Toms. On several occasions, the Catholic Chaplain has come over from MIDWAY by helicopter to say Mass.

Among other April activities to boost morale is our REEVES TV-QUIZ Show. This program features crewmembers competing for their respective divisions and is televised over our closed-circuit TV system.

On April 24th REEVES crossed the equator en route to Diego Garcia. As we crossed the equator, Day Jones and King Neptune visited the ship in order to initiate the "pollywogs" (those crewmembers who had never crossed the equator) into the "Royal Order of Shellbacks." The senior "pollywog," LCDR Kevin Sherry, led his faithful two hundred plus "pollywogs" on their hands and knees past the Royal Court of King Neptune. The festivities also included a mock beauty pageant and a cookout on the fantail.

A special word of thanks goes out to our cryptologists who volunteered to cook at the cookout and gave the mess specialists a welcomed break. They are: CTR1 Tom Ladoux, CTR1 Bob Abbott, CTM3 Les Wicker, CTM3 Marlow Osborne, CTI3 Rick Jones, CTI3 John Odell, CTR2 "Mac" McNeal, CTR2 Alex Faymonville, CTO1 Richard Piscopo, and CTO3 Carl Vaughn.

We also extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the following men who have joined the ship this past month: OSSR Clay Holmes, MM3 David Lindholm, OSSR Christopher Lochman, OS3 Edward Grucza, MS1 Reynaldo Almazan, DS1 George Baillargeon, TMSN Richard Scott, MM2 Larry Jewell, YNSA Jamie Harris, OSSA Scott Walker, OS3 James Holter, OSSN Samuel Booth, BM1 Joseph Kane and ET3 Kevin Iria.

For those with aches and pains after a hard day's work, we are fortunate to have on board our "Docs," HM1 William Toelkes, and HM3 Willie Blanding, Jr. For serious medical problems, we have ready access to the three physicians on board the USS MIDWAY..

By the time you receive this familygram, we will be resting and relaxing in Perth, Australia. Even though we occasionally enjoy "liberty call," our hearts and thoughts are with you. Until next month, God Bless.

Sincerely,


J. W. EGERTON