



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677
REEVES FAMILY GRAM

IN REPLY REFER TO
1 April 1981

Dear REEVES Family,

Greetings from the Middle East. As you probably know by now, we left the Indian Ocean on March 25th and steamed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf. On March 27th REEVES relieved USS HORNE (CG-30) as the Persian Gulf Cruiser.

Several interesting and unusual events have occurred since the last REEVES Family Gram. On March 10th, two days before we arrived in Singapore, we were involved with the rescue of seventeen men whose helicopter crashed into the South China Sea. The helicopter was flying from an oil installation to the coast when it malfunctioned and went down. The REEVES stayed with the floating helicopter wreckage until USS MIDWAY (CV-41) rescued the seventeen uninjured men and recovered the helicopter.

On March 12th, we arrived in Singapore, where we enjoyed five days of liberty. Several wives flew to Singapore from Japan to join their husbands. The crew had an excellent time shopping and sightseeing, and they look forward to visiting this tropical city in the future. The REEVES departed Singapore on March 17th for the Indian Ocean.

While steaming through the Strait of Malacca, the REEVES once again encountered an emergency. All twenty-seven crewmembers of the Liberian merchant ship, GOLDEN ROD, were safely rescued by the REEVES following the merchant ship's collision at sea with a Singaporean tanker, NICOLA PROSPERITY. The crew of the GOLDEN ROD was preparing to abandon ship because it was beginning to sink. Sighting the GOLDEN ROD's distress signal, the REEVES closed the scene of the collision and immediately dispatched two boats. All of the crewmembers were taken by the REEVES' small boats to the NICOLA PROSPERITY for transfer to Singapore. You may be proud of your men; for once again, they illustrated in graphic terms the reason the United States Navy is a valued and trusted friend throughout the world.

In spite of these unusual episodes, the normal highlight of our days has always been mail call. Mail service has been regular, and letters generally arrive seven to ten days from when you mail them. So continue to write and keep us informed of events around home.

Since REEVES arrived in the Persian Gulf, we have had several activities for the benefit of the crew. LT John Daggett and Senior Chief Andrew Toms sponsored a cookout, with all the trimmings, on the fantail. LTJG Mike Matacz and Petty Officers Connell and Vidal built three "jacuzzies" (hot baths) and placed them on the fantail for the crew's enjoyment. The Welfare and Recreation Committee is sponsoring several tournaments for the "Arm-Chair Olympic" fans. We also hope to have our ship's band playing once again. All these events help to boost morale and to provide recreation and relaxation.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is extended to the following men who have joined the ship since February: RM1 Bradley Gabler; EW2 Raymond Koscielski; FTM1 Richard Nash; OS1 Stephen Lennon; FTMSN Mark Smith; SM3 Richard Saunders; MMC Keith Seward; EW3 Willian Jackson; LT Michael Owens; and LT John Daggett.

A high priority for shipboard life is safety. An important link in a successful effort to ensure safety is REEVES' Electrical Officer, ENS Len LeBlanc. All crewmembers undergo extensive training given by ENS LeBlanc in the area of electrical safety. Electrical Safety Training is conducted in order to avoid accidents, and is just one of the many programs we have on the REEVES to promote safety for the crew.

Based on the latest information available, we should arrive in Yokosuka, Japan, on June 5th. Let me remind you, however, that as always, this is tentative and subject to change. We hope that it will remain firm for obvious reasons.

Please feel free to write me if you have any questions or concerns. Your letters are welcomed. In the meantime, continue to support us with your letters and prayers.

Sincerely,



J. W. EGERTON