

USS WILLIAM R. RUSH (DD 714)  
Fleet Post Office  
New York, N. Y. 09501

30 March 1967

Dear Families and Friends,

On March 1st, we left Newport to begin our Mediterranean deployment. We transited the Atlantic in 11 days in company with the Cruiser USS GALVESTON, which carried Rear Admiral PAINE, Commander Cruiser/Destroyer Flotilla TEN, our flotilla commander. One of the highlights of our transit was a "Well Done" from the Admiral to the RUSH'S ROADRUNNERS. This is the ship's band which entertains on various occasions, including refueling. The ROADRUNNERS are composed of GMG3 J.C. BRUSH - drums, SA H. YORKE - trumpet and vocalist, FTG3 L. BLY - trombone, ETR3 W. PLUMMER - saxophone; FTGSN H.J. MAHOSKY - guitar, SN M.L. BROWN - guitar and vocalist, and FTGSN L.R. LINDLEY - clarinet.

We arrived in Gibraltar on March 11, where we relieved Squadron 24 for Mediterranean duty. We stayed in Gibraltar for only a few hours and then joined the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The next few days were spent on special operations where our anti-submarine warfare teams got quite a workout and the ship merited another "Well Done" on completion of assigned duties.

On March 20, a Sixth Fleet Commanders Conference was held at Aranci Bay which is on the Northeast coast of Sardinia. The "READY RUSH" was assigned the duty of patrolling the harbor entrance for the day. This is a duty normally assigned to a "red hot" anti-submarine destroyer and we all were quite proud of the fact that we were selected.

Following the conference, we headed toward our first liberty port, Athens, Greece. After being delayed by bad weather, we arrived in Athens on March 24 for a seven day visit.

The men have been taking maximum advantage of their liberty to see this fine city. The all-day tours of ancient and modern Athens and of the surrounding countryside have been well attended with 160 men having gone to date. Athens, a city of about two million people, has many varied activities with a wide range of appeal. The USO has been well attended and our own ROADRUNNERS have been asked to play for a dance there.

Prior to leaving Newport, the ship purchased a small speed boat for the recreation of the crew. Our first chance to use the boat was here in Athens, and judging from the number of gallons of gas we have already used, I think the boat has been well accepted. We also have water skiing equipment which I'm sure will receive plenty of use when we begin operating with Commander Middle East Forces.

Many of the men have volunteered to help do some repair work and painting at one of the local orphanages. I am very proud of their efforts in trying to spread the image and good will of the American flag abroad.

On March 30, we leave Athens for a seven week tour in the Middle East. We will go through the Suez Canal and spend various amounts of time in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

The entertainment activities are beginning to get into full swing aboard the ship. Teams and tournaments are being organized in almost every type of activity. Bingo has become very popular with a few men becoming multiple winners. Leading the winners at the present time is SR R.C. BEUGH who has won five times. Others who have won twice are SNB J.L. JACKSON, SN C.J. SATCHER and SN L.A. TURNER.

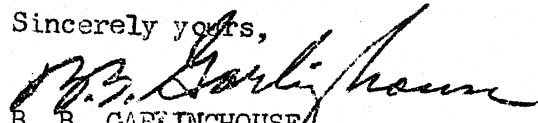
Two of the ports we will visit are Bahrain and Aden. The other ports where we plan to stop are not available for publication at this time. Following our Middle East tour, we will head back and rejoin the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Since medical and spiritual facilities are rather scarce in the Middle East, the squadron commodore has assigned his doctor and chaplain to ride the RUSH during our deployment.

As you all know, this deployment is going to be long and hard on all of us, not only for the men aboard ship, but also you at home. The entertainment on board ship is meant as a morale builder and a diversion from the numerous ship training evaluations which require hard work and long hours; but I have found that the best morale builder is frequent mail from and to home. We have made arrangements to send and receive mail at every opportunity, and I will do everything I can to make sure this is as frequent as possible.

You will be hearing from us again toward the end of our Middle East tour. My sincerest wishes to each of you.

Sincerely yours,

  
B. B. CARLTHOUSE  
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER