

Family Gram
Fall 1962

In the past six weeks of our deployment many new and varied experiences have befallen the sailors of the USS MASSEY. We wish to share a few of them with you.

Our crossing of the Atlantic was made pleasant by the beautiful weather encountered. To keep us busy many drills and training sessions were carried out both within our own ship and in conjunction with the other ships accompanying us. These successfully helped us to “knock off the rough edges” in our practice of good seamanship and our combat readiness. One feat worthy of mention: The MASSEY had the fastest rigging (preparing) for fueling of all the ships accompanying us during the transit of the Atlantic.

Finally Gibraltar was sighted and we passed into the beautiful blue Mediterranean. Most of the “first timers” spent the morning taking pictures of the Rock, listening to tales of the fabled monkeys that live on Gibraltar, and looking for the nonexistent red neon Prudential Life Insurance sign on the Rock of Gibraltar.

Shortly after entering the Med, we rendezvoused with destroyers whose place we would be assuming in the Sixth Fleet. Notes were exchanged on such things as operations that we would soon be involved in, the best liberty ports and what to do and see in them, and of course, the usual Navy hazing on how much better the MASSEY is than their ship.

To date our ports of call have been Cagliari, Sardinia, Souda Bay and Iraklion, Crete, Rhodes, Greece and Naples Italy. Cagliari is the capitol and the largest city of the Italian island of Sardinia. Those of us who went ashore during our two day stay were impressed by the friendliness and the customs of the Sardinians. Souda Bay and Iraklion are on the Greek isle of Crete. Souda itself is a large base of the Hellenic (Greek) Navy. Near Souda is the old city of Canea where most of our liberty was spent bargaining in the local markets, swimming, photographing, and mountain climbing. Iraklion is the largest city of Crete. Near here was located Knossos, the ancient center of the Minoan civilization that flourished from 2000 B.C. To 1200 B.C. Extensive excavation has been carried out around what was once the ruler's palace. Many of us visited this extremely interesting area. Iraklion is also the home of the U.S. Air Force 6930th Mobile Radio Group whose personnel acted as our hosts while we visited in the area. Their hospitality was returned when several of them visited the MASSEY. The Air Force base's girl scout troop also visited the MASSEY bringing cakes and cookies “like Mother used to bake”.

Rhodes is an island belonging to Greece only about 15 miles off the coast of Turkey. Translated, Rhodes means Isle of Roses and was thought by the Ancient Greeks to be the home of the Sun God, Apollo. It is a popular European resort combining its beautiful beaches with the medieval Crusader's Palace of the Grand Masters of the Order of St. John, possibly the best preserved medieval castle in the world. Also nearby on the Isle of Rhodes is located a city in which can be found ancient ruins of Phoenician, Greek and Roman civilizations, one on top of the other.

No trip to the Med is complete without a visit to Naples, Italy. Naples has been the port of call for all the major navies for centuries and thus has developed an atmosphere of its own. It features probably one of the most beautiful harbor in all of Europe with its Mt. Vesuvius in the background. At the foot of Mt. Vesuvius is the Roman city of Pompei which was covered when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D. Having been excavated it now offers one of the best insights into Roman life in the first century A.D. While in Naples three day week end tours to Rome were available.

While in Cagliari and Souda Bay, the MASSEY was host to Rear Admirals of the Italian and Royal Hellenic (Greek) Navies respectively, and in Iraklion we were host to the Nome (Governor) of Crete and the Mayor of Iraklion. The MASSEY is pleased with our record ashore in the People to People Program and we feel that we accomplished much toward furthering better understanding between the peoples of the Mediterranean countries and America.

Operationally speaking, we have managed to keep busy enough these days in port are very welcome respites. We have acted as plane guard for aircraft carriers, conducted antisubmarine exercises against American submarines, been through a major underway replenishment where we took on all the food, supplies, and ammunition needed for a month, and had an upkeep period along side a destroyer tender. Also since deployment, the MASSEY has welcomed aboard Ensign John Bertram who will serve as Main Propulsion Assistant to the Engineering Officer and Smyth, R.E. SKSR (sic).

The following members of the crew have been promoted since our deployment:

ANDERSON, W.K. SM3 to SM2	KADEY, M.C. RSDN to RD3
BLAIR, G.A. MM2 to MM1	LATOURE, R.J. FTGSN to FTG3
BRUGGEMAN, H.C. FN to EM3	MATHEWS, W.R. EM3 to EM2
BRUNDRETT, J.J. RMSN to RM3	MACDONALD, J.R. MMFN to MM3
COGDAL, R.A. SOGSN to SOG3	MCGOWAN, H.J. FTGSN to FTG3
CRAWLEY, W.H. BT3 to BT2	MISIAK, J.A. FN to MM3
CRAWLEY, L.B. BTFN to BT3	PATTON, R.R. FTGSN to FTG3
DAFONSECA, R.J. RMSN to RM3	QUINLAN, J.W. SOGSN to SOG3
DENMAN, R.E. CS3 to CS2	RAGAS, I. MMFN to MM3
EDNEY, E.L. ICFN to IC3	RAMEY, R.W. SN to YN3
FECHTNER, E.E. EMFN to EM3	SCHRADER, J.T. RD3 to RD2
FRANCIS, L.L. ICFN to IC3	SINGLEY, i.e. BT3 to BT2
GETTYS, D.E. SOGSN to SOG3	WILSON, R.D. RSDN to RD3
GOODSON, E.G. FTG2 to FTG1	ZANESKI, R.A. ICFN to IC3
GREEN, J.H. SD2 to SD1	ZEIGLER, L.H. EMFN to EM3
HARDY, J.T. FN to MM3	BENSCHINE, B.G. FTGSN to FTG3
HOWELL, D.L. SOG3 to SOG2	ARBY, P.R. SA to SN
JORDAN, S.A. RSDN to RD3	BECKWITH, R.R. SA to SN
HALL, L.E. SA to SN	PACKER, M.H. SA to SN
SLEIGER, T.C. SA to SN	SCLAFANI, P.S. SA to SN
STARR, R.R. RMSA to RMSN	SCHER, R.A. FA to FN
ALLAIRE, R.L. RDSA to RSDN	BARRETT, D.C. SA to SN

Looking forward to the coming Holiday Season: Because of the mail rush at this time of year and the slow movement of second class mail overseas, the U.S. Postal Department recommends that all packages to the U.S. Armed Forces personnel overseas should be mailed between November 10 and 20 and that all air parcel post packages should be mailed no later than December 10.

We're looking forward to the time when we can join all of you and relate those personal tales of our operations and foreign liberty that are too lengthy to write. But until then we say "It is sure good to get a letter from home, so keep us informed.

The Cuban quarantine has just been announced. Obviously none of us knows what may happen next. However, thanks to the training we have now done together and to the spirit of the men of the MASSEY, this ship is ready to take care of herself and to carry out whatever duties may be assigned, for the sake of our country and the things in which we believe.

Very Sincerely yours
R.H. Cook CDR US Navy
Commanding