



FAMILYGRAM IV

Dear Members of the OUELLET Family,

OUELLET is well into the fourth month of her first deployment to the Western Pacific. When we sent you our last Familygram we had been detached from the Task Unit supporting the USS CONSTELLATION. Since that time we have worked with practically every ship attached to the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet and have served in almost all the various operational Task Units.

Since the North Vietnamese invaded South Vietnam on 31 March we have served several tours of duty attached to the Naval Gun Fire Support Unit providing gunnery support to the South Vietnamese Army in the defense of QUANG TRI City as well as escorting each Carrier on Yankee Station at various times.

Upon detachment to proceed to Subic Bay on 3 May 1972, the following was received from the Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet: "Well done. The officers and men of USS OUELLET have distinguished themselves time and time again during the past seven weeks of Combat Operations. You richly deserve the respite for which you are now heading. The hazardous and arduous duty you have performed has inflicted heavy damage on the enemy and has saved friendly lives. You can take deep satisfaction in the job you have done so well." Admiral B. A. Clarey

OUELLET is currently at the Naval Base, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines taking a well earned rest and conducting routine maintenance on her

equipment. After fifty-five days at sea the crew is also enjoying well deserved rest and liberty, and seeing the sights and places that we missed during our last stop in Subic.

While at sea, we received the results of the advancement in rating exams given in February. I'm sure you are as proud of your OUELLETMAN as I am. The following crew members are scheduled to be advanced to the next higher rating as indicated:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT RATE</u>	<u>NEW RATE</u>
J. FOLKNER	STC	STCS
J. E. ETHRIDGE	IC3	IC2
T. W. FEDORCHAK	RD3	RD2
D. G. NEUMANN	RD3	RD2
E. L. QUALKENBUSH	RD3	RD2
J. D. SHEA	BM3	BM2
R. C. DUNCAN	STG3	STG2
J. S. MORGAN	QMSN	QM3
C. E. QUALLS	SH3	SH2
E. R. SMITH	RD3	RD2
W. R. TRUEBLOOD	GMG3	GMG2
S. A. VOSSBURG	SN	SH3
R. D. WALTON	FN	BT3
M. M. WARNER	RMSN	RM3
C. J. HART	SN	YN3
D. D. LUJAN	MM2	MM1
F. J. STRZELECKI	EMFN	EM3
R. R. TRIBBLE	SN	BM3
D. C. WHITBY	STG3	STG2
B. R. COMPTON	GMGSN	GMG3
R. D. MOLE	ETR3	ETR2
S. I. RILEY	GMGSN	GMG3
T. B. RUCKERT	MMFN	MM3
T. L. SELBE	FTGSN	FTG3
S. E. SMITH	MMFN	MM3
J. M. SUBLETT	MMFN	MM3
M. J. TANK	MMFN	MM3

On 3 April an Awards Ceremony was held on board. Three crew members received recognition for their outstanding performance since the ship was commissioned. STC J. FOLKNER received the Navy Achievement Medal for his outstanding efforts in behalf of OUELLET's Anti-Submarine Warfare Training. ST1 C. DILMORE received a Letter of Commendation from Commander First Fleet for his accomplishment while filling the billet of Leading Petty Officer in Charge of Sonar equipment on board. SM2 R. WELLE was presented with the "Sailor of the Quarter" Award for his outstanding leadership, devotion to duty and Military Bearing.

The morale of all hands has been outstanding, even during the extremely long hours and hard work, attesting to the high quality crew which mans OUELLET. In this time of increased Air and Sea activity in South East Asia it is heartening indeed to see the excellent job being done by the men of our forces afloat, who are answering every call to put a timely end to this latest North Vietnamese offensive.

Sincerely,

AR Henry

"Mail Call" continues to be the high point of each day we receive mail at sea. It means a great deal to each of us to hear from home regularly. Additionally, I wish to thank those who have written me after receipt of our Familygrams.

Words cannot express the admiration I hold for the fine crew of OUELLET. The perfect teamwork with which our operations were performed during the last at sea period and the camaraderie that has developed amongst the crew during this deployment has made the long hours worthwhile for me. The true meaning of the word "shipmate" has been realized by all and I am proud indeed to be a shipmate with everyone of these fine men.

With best regards to you all,

AR Henry
3 10 May 1972