

Homeward Bound



FAMILYGRAM VI

Dear Members of the OUELLET Family,

Since the last Familygram, OUELLET has been kept busy. Upon leaving Sasebo, Japan on June 25 we acted as rescue destroyer for the USS SARATOGA for a short while and then devoted our energies to Naval Gunfire Support up and down the coast of Vietnam. Finally on August 4th we entered Hong Kong for six days of rest and relaxation. For OUELLET this was the first liberty port of her seven month West-pac deployment.

Change of Command ceremonies were held August 7 and CDR A. L. HENRY was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR J. F. BAUMGARDNER. CDR Henry is going to the Naval Recruiting Command, Washington, D. C.

Hong Kong is a photographer's and shopper's paradise. Goods from all over the world are sold duty free which makes possible the acquisition of many things for as little as half price. Stereos, tailor made clothes, photographic equipment and jewelry are just a few of the many bargains available in Hong Kong. For the photographer there are trips to Victoria Peak for a beautiful view of the Harbor, Repulse Bay, Kowloon and the New Territories all the way to the Red Chinese border. There are tours to the New Territories, Kowloon, Tiger Balm Gardens and Hong Kong itself. For late evening enjoyment Hong Kong boasts a myriad of good restaurants and night clubs with top flight entertainment.

Hong Kong is a British Crown Colony located in the South China Sea and consisting of 236 islands and the area of mainland China south of Kwangtung Province. In the 398 square miles comprising Hong Kong there are about 4,000,000 people. Many are refugees from Red China who have escaped on foot and in junks to the British held territories. This has created a considerable housing shortage and accounts for the many new buildings observed by the "old-timers".

QUELLET is now in Subic Bay preparing for her trip home. It has been a long and exhausting seven months and a trying time for the Wives and families of the Crew. Your support has been a big help and you have my most sincere appreciation.

An advancement ceremony was held aboard on 3 August. Advanced to PO3 were BM3 Robert M. TRIBBLE and EM3 Francis J. STRZELECKI. CSI F. P. FLANVIGAN and SH2 Albert D. EPPERSON were awarded third and first Good Conduct Awards respectively.

J. F. Baumgardner
J. F. BAUMGARDNER

As the cruise ends and we turn QUELLET's to East, you can feel the excitement and anticipation of our homecoming on 26 August. Leave and liberty will be the new order of the day. I hope to meet all of you and if there is anything that I or my wife Helen can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Quellet wishes the very best for CDR. Henry and his family during their tour of duty in Washington D.C.

Sincerely,
John Baumgardner
12 Aug 72.