

I would like to dedicate this cruise book to the hardworking professionals that comprise the crew of the First Team Frigate - **USS JULIUS A. FURER**.

The Mediterranean-Indian Ocean Cruise of 1984 can be characterized as the running of a 7½ month marathon through numerous unknown and unforeseen wickets in a hostile meteorological environment and amidst constantly changing rules, regulations and procedures. The Marines have often said "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." That is how **JAF** sailors have approached this marathon cruise.

A successful cruise is not luck but rather months of hard work, thought, and training, preservation and preparation that is designed to peak on one day in early April and remain at a high or higher level until late November of the same year. You, the crew of the **JULIUS A. FURER** and those who were recently transferred made proper decisions, learned lessons the hard way, managed resources and made many sacrifices to prepare for this deployment. You suffered post overhaul during a week of hell during **READEX - 84** when every major system suffered at least one casualty. You stood tall however, looked adversity straight in the eye and licked the problems.

The cruise has been highlighted by equipment reliability, a high level of training and readiness, being on time and ready to react to any order or contingency. You are the crew who performed the unheard of feat of challenging state six seas to pluck the Battle Group Commander and four other men who had ditched their malfunctioning **LAMPS** helicopter from the raging Atlantic Ocean. In the Mediterranean you set high levels of performance and innovation during the NATO exercises **OPENGATE** and **DISTANT HAMMER**. Your performance received specific praise from **CINCUSNAVEUR**, **COMSIXTHFLT**, **CTF SIX ZERO**, **COMGIBMED**, **CINCEBLANT** and **COMSUBGRU SIX**. By virtue of your accomplishment you alone were chosen to represent the numerous NATO surface units in the **DISTANT HAMMER** post exercise hot wash up. Your offering to this high level forum will add a high degree of realism to future major NATO exercises.

Your efforts in both **USS SARATOGA (CV 60)** and **USS AMERICA (CV 66)** Battle Groups set high standards and high challenges in exercises between ship watch sections. Both carriers trusted your shiphandling and therefore kept you close at hand to assist their many operations. You passed thru the Suez Canal in June 1984 slightly over a year after transiting the Panama Canal. You followed **AMERICA** into the North Arabian Sea and became part of a deterrent to protect the American interests and insure the unhampered flow of the majority of the Free World's oil from the Persian Gulf.

The end of August you left the America Battle Group to proceed to the Persian Gulf. You were sent there to ensure the freedom of safe passage thru International water ways.

Moreover, you were chosen as the first crew to visit Al Hoceima, Morocco in many years. Your report will bring many ships to this lovely city. You were the first U.S. ship to anchor at Ras Al Hadd, Oman and opened the anchorage as a relief valve for the **AMERICA** Battle Group. You were personally nominated by **COMSIXTHFLT** to reopen the politically sensitive port of Athens, Greece. Unfortunately, a high level operational change precluded this.

In summary your cruise was notable for professionalism, reliability, superb seamanship, and toughness like no cruise in recent memory. Your eight months of preparation paid great dividends and earned you a reputation that the First Team Frigate can proudly carry the standard for any Battle Group and any Fleet. Your at sea period for 74 days in the Indian Ocean will be a record unbroken when the **JULIUS A. FURER** is decommissioned. You did it right, you had fun and were ready for any contingency.

This seven and a half months in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf has fused a team that is unbeatable. Furthermore, this cruise has created a kinship that the rest of the world finds hard to understand. This kinship can be summed up in one word - Shipmate. You have been shipmates that I will never forget and hope that I can serve with you again.

HISTORY OF THE JULIUS A. FURER (FFG-6)

JULIUS A. FURER is assigned to Commander Naval Surface Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, as a unit of Destroyer Squadron FOUR, with Charleston, South Carolina as homeport.

USS JULIUS A. FURER is the first ship of the fleet to bear this name. She was built by Bath Iron Works, and was commissioned on 11 November 1967. Her overall length is 414 feet, and she displaces 3500 tons.

The wherewithal to carry out her mission stems from highly effective and complex weapons systems. Her anti-submarine warfare capabilities are enhanced by a most modern and sophisticated sonar system which is able to detect enemy submarines at previously considered impossible distances. The detection is supported by efficient kill capabilities inherent in the Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) system and modern torpedo systems. Her air search radar is capable of detecting enemy aircraft long before they would be considered a threat. This radar, coupled with the sophisticated and complex Tartar missile system, and single 5"/38 gun, give **JULIUS A. FURER** one of the most versatile and well rounded weapons systems in the fleet.

The power and platform maneuverability is provided by two modern pressure-fired boilers capable of developing 35,000 shaft horsepower ahead and 4,500 shaft horsepower astern. This power drives a single 5-bladed screw which will propel **JULIUS A. FURER** through the water in excess of 27 knots. **JULIUS A. FURER** is extremely maneuverable, a necessity for the type of operations that she is required to carry out.

JULIUS A. FURER and her crew have visited many varied and interesting ports over the last few years.

Adu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Antwerp, Belgium
↓ Al Hoceima, Morocco	Banjul, Gambia
Araba, Jordan	Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.
Calais, France	Djibouti, Djibouti
↓ St. Croix, U.S.V.I.	Freetown, Sierra Leone
↓ Cartagena, Spain	↓ Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
↓ Toulon, France	Hamilton, France
Dakar, Senegal	Kristiansand, Norway
Dublin, Ireland	↓ Manama, Bahrain
Jidda, Saudi Arabia	Monrovia, Liberia
Georgetown, Grand Cayman Island	↓ Naples, Italy
↓ Malaga, Spain	Plymouth, England
Hamburg, Germany	↓ Montego Bay, Jamaica
Mombasa, Kenya	↓ Rijeka, Yugoslavia
Nassau, Bahamas	Portsmouth, England
↓ St. Martin, Netherland Antilles	↓ Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
↓ Palma de Mallorca	Rotterdam, England
Ponta del Gada, Azores	↓ Theoule, France
Port Sudan, Sudan	Liverpool, England
Victoria, Seychelles Island	Rodman, Panama
↓ Tangier, Morocco	↓ San Juan, Puerto Rico
↓ Rota, Spain	↓ Muscat, Oman

Among the waters that we have been in are the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Mediterranean, Caribbean, North, Red, and Arabian Seas; Gulfs of Aden, Agada, and Persia; and such odds and ends as the English Channel, Suez and Panama Canals.

Although we have been separated a great deal from our families and friends, we have been extremely fortunate to be able to visit these and other sights and localities at a time when our nation has been at peace with the world. We have seen that Americans as a people are not always well received around the globe, but have done what we could do as individuals and the crew of a sleek frigate to help improve this image. The crew of **JULIUS A. FURER** can be proud of its conduct record ashore. There are special cases that could be spotlighted such as the open sea rescue of **COMCRUDESGRU TWELVE** and four crewmen from a downed **LAMPS** helicopter in state six seas, the work done in Kenya for local children, and then there was the ship's band that played for a charity benefit in the Seychelles Islands which drew over 3,000 people in a community of only 10,000. These are the signs of the vitality and good will spread by the whole crew in each and every port of call. America should be proud of her sea-going diplomats.