

Received: from
Date: Sat, 16 May 1998 22:31:00 EDT
To: 103737.1466@compuserve.com
Subject: Captain's List

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Dear Admiral,

Greetings on this now beautiful Armed Forces Day ! Son Mark just called to tell us that the 0-6 Selection List msg came out today and we are pleased to give you the GOOD NEWS that your NUMERICAL RELIEF in the US Navy is on that list !!!

Kurt & Eileen & Katy are actually up here staying with us for the weekend, but when Mark called they had just gone into the District for a visit and dinner with Eileen's sister, Sharon Scanland, who is down from New York for the honors associated with Sharon's being admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

We have the champagne chilled, Congratulation signs posted, and await their return here for a proper celebration tonight.

We know you share our pride in this signal point in his career, and for Eileen's staunch support. Admiral, you set a hard pace for Kurt --- he is striving to meet all expectations, but with due recognition of your requirement for Fun & Zest along the way !!

He emulates several of your traits: he has personally worked both the chain of command and the back channel to arrange an interesting op-schedule, since they are not due to deploy before his relief in early November. After two weeks as the Orange Force against a USN Carrier Battle Group up north, two port visits in Halifax with his Canadian Navy friends, then to the North Atlantic for combined special ops with the Royal Navy (special equipment jointly developed, to be tested), then in port Plymouth 1-7 July (USS Arthur W. Radford will host a glorious July 4th celebration onboard) --- then ops with French Navy (which he also engineered through friends made while an Olmstead Scholar at Univ of Bordeaux), to be in port Brest 10-14 July, and celebration of Bastiel Day !!

The squadron staff said months ago that such a schedule could not be worked out and approved in less than a year, if at all. The message is now verbally approved up the tape, and due out next week !!

Oh yes, and since they had that distinctive main mast installed, instead of it being accepted as a thing of derision, he has made it a point of pride among the crew because of combat capabilities it gives them superior to other ships. Taking a clue from you, Sir, he even has achieve getting their voice call sign changed to "Obelisk". They are testing this enclosed mast, and the special equipment, for new construction. There will probably not be a retrofit for the aging Spruance class. But he's making the most of it for ship and crew.

This is over 5 months since the 0-6 board convened, and the long suspense has been hard on many people. They must really be scrubbing ever name on each list! As my old Marine friend used to say, "Clean living --- and not getting caught, REALLY pays off ! "

Muggs and I send our love and best wishes to you and Mouza.

Very respectfully ---- and very proud,

Emmett

EoM

Received: from
Date: Tue, 23 Jun 1998 01:10:58 EDT
To: 103737.1466@compuserve.com
Subject: Orders for Kurt

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Houston, TX

Dear Admiral,
Speculation can now end. Your "Numerical Relief in the Navy" has advised us that he has now received orders as follows, and promulgated the information to all hands in USS Arthur W Radford (DD-968) on 6/21:

QUOTE" Copy of my orders to 5th Flt follow. I am being ordered in to the 5th Fleet N3A (assistant ops) billet, working toward a change of command from A W RADFORD of about 23 October, assume duties in Bahrain about 13 November. Exact dates will be confirmed.
UNQUOTE

For brevity, his orders are not copied here.

Adm Fargo plans for Kurt to relieve as N3, Deputy CoS for Ops, with sked departure of incumbent N3 within the year.

Accompanying orders for spouse do not at this time appear to be a problem.

Radford's actions as Orange Force against Blue Force this past week proved highly successful, evading detection by Blue CV Battle Group, making full use of foul weather, fog and new gear, while inflicting significant losses on Blue.

Thought you'd like to know !

Very respectfully,
Emmett

EoM



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

July 15, 1998

Commander Kurt W. Tidd
Commanding Officer
USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968)
FPO, AE 09586-1206

Dear Kurt:

Just to make sure that the communication chain doesn't break with my numerical relief, I wanted to send you my personal congratulations on your forthcoming assignment. It certainly sounds to me as though the Navy continues to have you on "fast track."

I know it is going to be a wonderful and challenging tour.

Mouza joins me in sending love and best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

Tel: (703) 527-5380
Fax: (703) 528-5795

BEGIN QUOTE OF LETTER:

From: Tidd, Kurt W., CDR, CO, USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968)
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 1998 2:22 PM
To: Eileen/Mark/Mom & Dad
Subject: Enroute Home from EastLant

Dear Family:

Thanks so much for your many email notes. We are now heading west, with the last of our training exercises successfully behind us. Our major training project with the Royal Navy was a resounding success; we got a taste of some of the most realistic, operational sea training I have ever seen. My after-action-report back to the Commodore ran to over nine pages, and it only hit the high spots.

Brest provided a chance to rest, relax, and enjoy a re-emersion in French language and culture. We hosted a reception aboard for about fifty senior French officers and civil officials. As I was about the only person aboard speaking any French, I had my hands full keeping conversations going and entertainment moving along.

Still, my young junior officers have made significant strides developing their social graces, thanks to some focused training by the XO after an earlier reception down in Puerto Rico ('no, Ensign, the reception is for our GUESTS; you are expected to entertain them, talk to them, ensure they always have a full glass, plenty of food, and polite conversation! If you also happen to enjoy yourself in the process that is a purely incidental by-product of the main effort!").

I was invited over to dinner and watch the soccer world cup match between France and Brazil at the home of one of our French Navy hosts, and thoroughly enjoyed watching France win the championship. The celebrations which followed covered all of France; even Brest was completely engulfed in the frenzy of joyful, friendly celebration. The city-wide street-party continued until well past sunrise the next day!

Also had the chance to see a stage of the Tour De France as it passed about forty miles east of Brest. Was amazed to see over thirty thousand spectators along the sides of a road that climbed the one significant "mountain" on that stage (only about a five thousand foot climb).

Took an hour and a half to drive to the vicinity, another hour to walk up from where we parked the car, an hour and a half wait for the racers to pass by, about thirty seconds for all 150 or so riders to scream by (going uphill!), then the long walk back to the car and traffic to get out of there. We then stopped off in a café in the next town and watched the last half hour of the race on television, enjoying far more bicycle racing than we were able to see in person, but happy to have been able to participate in a once in a lifetime event actually being there.

We got underway from Brest bright and early Wednesday morning, heading out to participate in about eighteen hours of mutual training with French helicopters and a submarine. Great training for our crew, which wrapped up about 0500 this morning [Thursday 08/16].

We have now detached and are heading west for home. We will have a brief stop for fuel in the Azores Saturday (for just a couple of hours), then continue on our way. Keep your fingers

crossed and prayers coming to ensure we have good weather the rest of the way home. If all goes according to plans we will be pierside Norfolk by noon Friday, 24 July.

So just about another week to go; a week full of all the final training we need to do to finish off qualifications of a bunch of young officers closing in on their Surface Warfare Pins, as well as other junior people about to step up to positions of greater responsibility.

I have been very pleased with how this cruise has brought us together as a crew. We started as three hundred well trained individuals, but thanks to the time underway and the superb training opportunities we enjoyed, we return home a tightly knit team of surface warriors.

I guess I am beginning to take the long view of what we have accomplished over the last nineteen months, and the transformation has been very satisfying. I feel like I can comfortably turn this command over to someone else now, knowing that he will inherit a pretty good operation. Not perfect, not by a long shot, but pretty good all the same. Still have a couple of months left to get a little closer to that perfection, and we will work on a few more ideas during our August underway period. But for all intents and purposes I've just about used up my turn to try to make something happen here, and most things have worked pretty well. Can't ask for more than that.

Okay, will keep you all informed as we continue our trek across the pond. Again, keep those prayers coming. The angel sitting on our yardarm has had to work overtime to keep up with the challenges we've faced, and we still have a couple of thousand miles of open ocean to safely negotiate, which I take very seriously. So all help is appreciated. Know that I love you all very much and look forward to sharing more of the details of the trip when we can visit in person.

Dad, I would be delighted and honored to have ADM Z, as well as all of our family friends at the change of command if they are able to join us. Would appreciate very much if you can give them a heads up, and then I will follow up with a formal invite if you let me know who all you spoke to. Don't want to inadvertently leave anyone out!

Afraid our surroundings won't be quite as glamorous as when I took command. We will be several weeks into a six week maintenance availability, so the ceremony will take place at the main naval base.

Feel free to share this and any other emails I have sent you, edited as you see appropriate. Would also love to offer any help I can with your comments on Bob Ancell's work. Tell him to feel free to email me if he has any specific questions that need an answer right away. I'm going to be taking a week's leave at the Outer Banks as soon as we get back, and plan to be completely out of touch if at all possible. Otherwise I'll talk to him after Aug 3rd. Lots of love and hugs to you all,

-- Kurt.

END OF QUOTATION OF LETTER FROM KURT TIDD.

EOM

Received: from
Date: Fri, 17 Jul 1998 11:52:14 EDT
To: 103737.1466@compuserve.com
Subject: Sitrep from Your Numerical Relief

Arlington, VA

Good morning, Priscilla,

Please pass the following to Admiral Zumwalt, and pencil on his October schedule a reminder that the tentative date for Kurt Tidd's Change of Command is Friday 23 October, at NOB Norfolk, time TBD.

cannot do in future

The Admiral had to regret unable to attend the ceremony when Kurt assumed command of Arthur W. Radford (DD-968), but vowed to be there "for the closing act" [or words to that effect.]

In the following, he will be able to relive some of Kurt's experiences (akin to his own in another era and other places) as Kurt finishes these operations with European Navies and port visits to Plymouth and Brest. Thank you, Priscilla,

Emmett.

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Just received the following SitRep from Kurt this morning. You will note that he offered for me to make it available to you. He has now completed his special fleet operations and tests with European Navies, plus port visits to Plymouth and Brest.

The tests of their new equipment (one of a kind) appears successful, and the fleet ops even more so for realistic crew training. He has worked very hard to develop the close knit fighting team that he set as his objective at the very beginning of the major overhaul period in February 1997.

This will bring back for you a few memories of your own bold younger days -- but they were no bolder than your older days !

We have always appreciated and were honored that you shared with us son Jim's fascinating diaries from the Desert Storm era. I now reflect that same feeling of another proud father.

In my note to Priscilla, I requested that she pencil on your October schedule a reminder that the tentative date for Kurt's Change of Command is Friday 23 October, at NOB Norfolk, time TBD.

You had to regret unable to attend the ceremony when Kurt assumed command of, but vowed to be there "for the closing act" [or words to that effect.]

Muggs and I send best wishes and love to Mouza and you.

Very respectfully.

Emmett



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

July 20, 1998

VADM Emmett H. Tidd, USN (Ret.)

Dear Emmett:

I am really devastated to learn that Kurt's change of command is on October 23 since I am committed to be in Tulare, California, for the purpose of dedicating a school for my childhood mentor, Dr. Alice Mulchahy, an event to which I have been committed for some time.

Because of this event, my high school reunion is being held at the same time. I would certainly miss that if it were not for the other commitment.

Please give Kurt my deep sense of sadness, but tell him since we are both in good health, we plan to come to his flag ceremony.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

Tel: (703) 527-5380
Fax: (703) 528-5795

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