

7 Feb 2012
Glenshaw, PA

MAIL CALL!

The USS FRED T. BERRY (DDE 858) was participating in a five month cruise in the Med in the spring of 1954 and was going to Istanbul, Turkey the first week of March. We went through the Dardanelles late in the day and spent the night circling around the Sea of Marmara rather than trying to anchor in the middle of the night in that busy port. About 0800 a man was seen sitting on a piece of plywood out in the water so the motor whaleboat was called away, picked him up and brought him aboard. He had been out there for 25 hours. His ship, a 20 ton coaster, was rammed by a larger ship which did not stop, and 4 shipmates were lost in the accident. We took him into Istanbul where he was transferred to a hospital. A picture of him and a story of his mishap appeared on the front page of the local newspaper VATAN. The Sea of Marmara was quite cold as ice from the Danube river was passing through the Bosphorus into the sea for several days. The crew took up a collection and gave him \$140, which in 1954 and in Turkey was a sizable amount.

John Monsted SK2
USS Fred T. Berry (DDE 858)

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