

RM2 THOMAS JAMES RODMAN 10 December 1964



After completing RM "A" school in November 1964, I was received for duty on board USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) where I served as a radioman in the OC Division until December 1967.

MAMA BEAR & BABY BEAR...

We were running a port & starboard watch. I had showered, shaved, and was ready to head for the chow line. I chose to go out the fantail scuttle and take a picture or two. It was another beautiful day, not a cloud in the sky, not much goin' on. Naw, got plenty of photos of the wake, so I left my camera below. Mistake!

Half way up the ladder, I heard a loud, gettin' louder, jet engine sound. We weren't operating with a carrier. I hurried up the ladder to see what's the matter. Much to my surprise I saw, not 200 feet from me, mama bear and baby bear, 50 feet above sea level, starboard. WOW! If I only had a camera, what a great photo op. It's as clear in my mind, as if it happened yesterday. I could see the pilot, the huge red star, the guy in the side observation bubble in his flight helmet. He was grinning and waving as if to say, "Gotcha!"



Needless to say I next heard, "General Quarters," (twice) "All hands man your battle stations.....This is not a drill....."

APPOINTMENT OF UNIT MAIL CLERK OR MAIL ORDERLY		1. DATE EFFECTIVE 10 MAY, 1966
2. NAME OF APPOINTEE (Last, first, middle initial) RODMAN, Thomas J.		3. GRADE OR RATE OC
4. SERVICE NUMBER		5. GRADE OR RATE RM2
6. TITLE OF APPOINTEE (Last, first, middle initial) MAIL ORDERLY		7. TYPE OF MAIL AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE XXI ALL MAIL EXCEPT PERSONAL REGISTERED, CERTIFIED AND NUMBERED INSURED MAIL
I HAVE APPOINTED AND AUTHORIZED THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL TO HANDLE MAIL (as indicated in item 7) ADDRESS TO THE UNIT (SPECIFIED IN ITEM 8) WHEN THIS APPOINTMENT IS TERMINATED, I WILL BE NOTIFIED THE AGENCY THROUGH WHICH MAIL IS RECEIVED, TO DESTROY THE DD FORM 885 RETURNED BY THE INDIVIDUAL, AND TO COMPLETE ITEM 8 FOR THE UNIT FILE COPY AND RETAIN IT FOR THE PERIOD SPECIFIED BY APPLICABLE REGULATIONS.		
SIGNATURE OF APPOINTING OFFICER <i>R. M. Williams</i>		
DD FORM 285		

ARMED FORCES LIBERTY PASS	SERVICE USN	DATE ISSUED 16 NOV 65
LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL RODMAN, Thomas J.		CARD NO. 553
SERVICE NO. 779 11 20	GRADE—RATE RM3	
ORGANIZATION—INSTALLATION—BASE U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)		
TIME LIMITS REGULAR LIBERTY HOURS		
SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF ISSUING OFFICER <i>P. J. Williams, Lt. JG, exec. officer</i>		
DD FORM 136 1 SEP 60		

In The Armed Forces

Local Man Assists in Two Sea Rescues in Far East

A Lakewood navy serviceman recently assisted in two sea rescues in the Far East.

He is Radioman Third Class Thomas Rodman, son of Mrs. Maud V. Rodman, 2105 Lincoln Ave.

Rodman's ship, nicknamed "Lucky Evans" during the Korean war because of sea rescue operations, still holds the name. During a two month period her newest crew accomplished two rescue missions.

The destroyer came to the aid of a fishing craft from Taiwan that had been adrift for two days because of engine failure. The fishing boat, with a crew of nine, was taken into tow and brought to safety.

The second rescue involved a downed pilot in the Gulf of Tonkin, who was brought aboard the ship minutes after the search had begun.



Commanding Officer
USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California (96601)

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DEVINE INTERVENTION...

The year 1966; location Taiwan Straits; area between mainland China and the island of Taiwan. We'd been on the Taiwan patrol for almost two weeks. The captain is "upset" to put it mildly, because the ORESTES broadcast is garbled. (Unable to read teletype messages sent to the USS FRANK E. EVANS.) We are the only ship on patrol so, we're running in the blind.

Mid-watch 24 September 1966, I'm called to the teletype to witness an amazing happening. "Look at this Rodman," it's a message from the Red Cross informing me of the birth of our first baby, a healthy girl. Every number and letter is in its proper lo-cation, a perfect receipt of "Traffic."

Well! Damn! The "old man" wants to see immediately all messages that are decipherable. I call the bridge, reluctantly, to let Capt. Hanson know I'm coming up with "A" just received perfect unclassified message. He says, "Bring-R-up son." Boy, am I proud and I'm also aware of one glaring fact, this is the only message we've received and it's perfect.....

I put the message on the routing board and I'm off to the bridge. It's a beautiful night, calm sea, clear, lots of stars. He's waiting for me and says, "Let's see what you've got there Rodman." I hand him the board, he reads the message, smiles and says, "You know what this is Rodman?! This is divine intervention. Congratulations!"

Guys I remember: Ron Koppang, Neil Burnside, Gary Catron, and Robert Shultz.

Tom and his wife Sandy celebrated 42 years of marriage and currently reside at 10849 Prescott Road in Licking, Missouri 65542. That's in the Ozarks where Tom built a log home from trees cut on the property using the Scandinavian scribe method. You can reach him at tjsjrodman@yahoo.com or 573-674-4449.

