



THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

June 1959

The First Official Missile Mail

Your receipt of this letter marks an historic milestone in the use of guided missiles for communications between the peoples of the earth.

It represents, too, the close cooperation of Secretary of Defense McElroy, the Department of Defense, and the Post Office Department in utilizing scientific advances for peaceful purposes.

A limited number of letters identical to this one were placed in the Regulus I Training Guided Missile on the guided missile submarine USS BARBERO (SSG-317) in this First Official Missile Mail experiment of the United States Post Office Department.

The missile was then flown at near the speed of sound from international waters of the Atlantic Ocean by the USS BARBERO while on a regular training mission.

After the Regulus I reached its destination, the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Mayport, Florida, near Jacksonville, this letter was cancelled and forwarded to you as a significant philatelic souvenir.

The great progress being made in guided missilery will be utilized in every practical way in the delivery of the United States mail. You can be certain that the Post Office Department will continue to cooperate with the Defense Department to achieve this objective.

Arthur E. Summerfield

The Postmaster General

Destroyer Squadron 14, made up of seven hard hitting destroyers, arrived at Mayport only recently from Newport, Rhode Island.

Flagship of the Squadron is the USS JONAS INGRAM of the Navy's newest and most modern Fletcher Class of destroyers.

The destroyers, affectionately nicknamed "tin-cans," are the swift and power-packed watchdogs of the fleet. In the Naval Service today, hundreds of these gallant little vessels guard our coasts and work with the larger ships on peaceful missions around the world.

Destroyer Squadron Fourteen is composed of the six ships pictured above and another vessel which is not shown in this group. Ships of "DESRON 14" in the first row are the USS JONAS INGRAM (#938); USS POWER (#839); USS WILLIAM C. LAWE (#713) and,

in the second row, from the pier out, are the USS KENNETH D. BAILEY, USS GOODRICH, and USS TURNER. The USS PERRY, also of the Squadron, is not included in this picture. We of Mayport are very proud to have this Squadron in Ribault Bay.



SOUVENIR COMMEMORATING FIRST OFFICIAL
MISSILE MAIL — 8 JUNE, 1959
LAUNCHED FROM SUBMARINE BARBERO, AT SEA
TO THE U. S. NAVAL STATION, MAYPORT, FLORIDA

