



U.S.S. MULLINNIX DD-944

Dear Steve,

Aug 28, 1962

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. We were in Port au Spain, Trinidad a few days last week. Just long enough to pick up the Admiral and his Staff. Right now we're on our way to Recife, Brazil where we'll spend 4 days. Today was a day I hope I'll never have to go thru again. We crossed the equator and had to be initiated into the Royal Order of the Shellbacks. They make you crawl thru a garbage chute, shock hell out of you with electric pitchforks, put paint in your hair, shaved off the left half of my mustache and ran the clippers like an X across the top of my head. On top of that there were 58 guys beating your ass with leather straps and pieces of 2" rubber fire hose. They put a layer of grease on the deck and you have to go thru the beating line on your hands and knees, you don't make much headway but as hard as they hit, one guy could slow near drive you (over)

the length of the line. This is has been
a custom for many years, its not a game.
I have about 8 places on my ass where
they drew blood among about 2 dozen other
welts. Im all black and blue and probably
wont be able to sit for a week or so. ~~It~~
Everyone considered (pollywogs, (ones who havent
crossed the line) are isolated by the Shellbacks
(thats the ones who have been across) officers
and chiefs are all treated the same.

a few days from now it will feel better
but wont be forgotten. HA HA

The weather here is hot, I got sunburned
about a week ago and its still a little
sore. I forgot that the sun is closer
to the earth, thus hotter. This time of year
is their rainy season but so far no rain.

Hows the weather up there? Tell Don K.
if you see him he should have come on this
cruise with me. HA.

Well Steve, hows everything with you?

Been spending much time at the shop?

I heard Bill Jensen may be able to get
me in Mathews. Sure hope I can get work
when I get out. The family is growing pretty
fast so we have to land something quick.

Im been waiting for word from Faith
on the baby. Right now I dont know
if she had it or not.

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I heard Donny is getting a new Volks-
wagon. He had better watch his step, he
may bite off more than he can chew.

Did my dad give up on his Volks yet?
He keeps talking about it but never
takes any action. Hows his Chevy holding
up? Ive been so long without a car
I dont know what kind I want.

~~Maybe I'd be better off walking, no repair
bills ect.~~

Well Steve mail is going to close out
soon and I have a few more letters
to write so I'll close for this time.

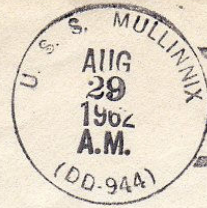
Will write again soon to compare these
countries with the ones in the med.

Until then take good care of yourself
and I'll see you soon. (4 months)

Tell all I send my love. Write when
you can.

Love
Bob.

CROSSED THE EQUATOR
AUG 28 1962



Mr. Stephen Luffy

air mail

Pitts (26) Pa