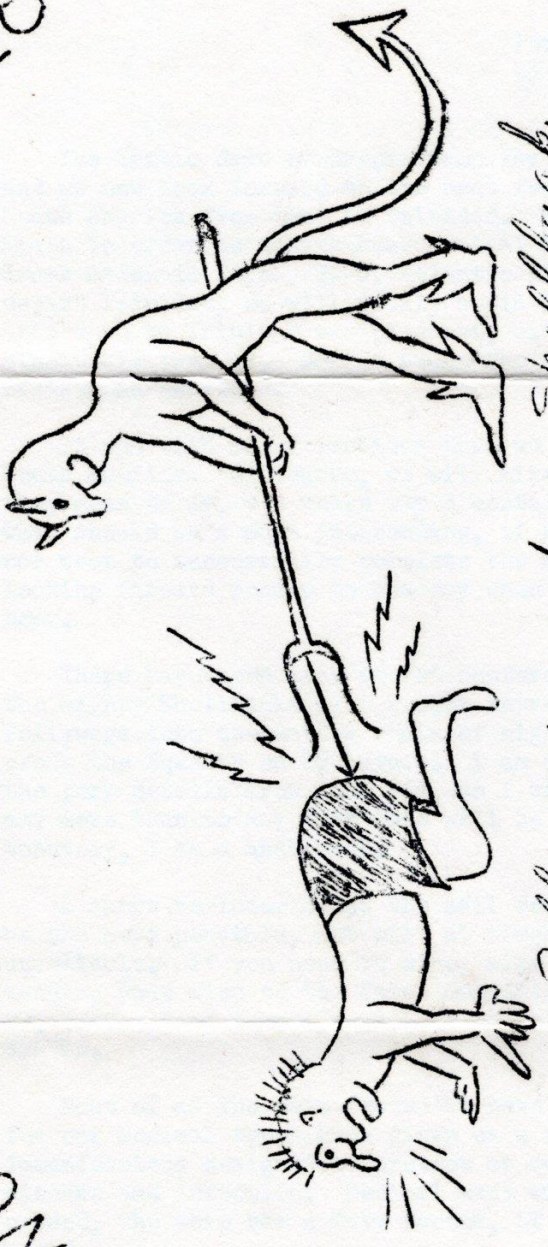


THE LINE CEREMONY

28 AUG

CROSSING



Pollywoy

Shillack

U.S.S.

X

MULTIPLIX

1962

ighbors.

MULLINNIX UNITAS-GRAM Number II

Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I.
23 August 1962

The hectic days of preparation for UNITAS III are behind us, and we now look forward to the next few months of operations around South America from here in Trinidad. We've stopped here in Port of Spain in order to embark Rear Admiral John A. TYREE, USN, Commander, South Atlantic Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, and his Staff. When we depart Trinidad, we will really begin UNITAS III in earnest. Our trip down to Trinidad was pleasant, with beautiful, sunny weather almost all the way. Now we start the operations for which this cruise was designed.

It was with mixed emotions that we sailed from Norfolk for South America. Of course, we will miss our loved ones and all they mean to us, yet there was a certain deal of anticipation for what should be a most interesting, if hectic, cruise. We shall do our best to successfully complete the mission assigned to us, while looking forward fondly to the day when we will once again return home.

There have been many secret conferences the past few days, as the mighty Shellbacks plot proper introductions for the lowly Pollywogs into the watery realm of mighty Neptunus Rex. We should cross the Equator on 28 August. I am certain you will receive all the gory details from your man, so I will not belabor the point any more than to say that this will be a most memorable day. Fortunately, I am a Shellback.

A short reminder about the mail service down South. It will be the best possible, but will at times be quite unpredictable and unreliable. If you need to wire, wire by name, rate, and ship, sending your wire to the Naval Communications Station, Washington 25, D. C. From there it will be relayed to MULLINNIX wherever she be.

Most of us the past few weeks have been favoring sore arms, for our medical types have given us a whole battery of shots and immunizations designed to protect as much as possible against disease and infection. Medical care will be no problem, for, if needed, the ship has a Navy Doctor, LT James W. THOMPSON, Jr., on board.

You can feel proud of the effort put forth by all hands concerned to prepare the ship for this cruise. It called for a great deal of special, extra work, and the eagerness and thoroughness with which all hands responded is self-evident in the splendid appearance of the MULLINNIX. She's quite the "Show Boat", and should make a tremendous impression on our southern neighbors.

We are not alone on this cruise. There is one other surface ship, the USS LESTER (DE-1022), and we will operate with the submarine PICUDA (SS-382). Two P2V "Neptune" aircraft will also follow us around South America, so that we have a sampling of all the elements required for successful antisubmarine warfare.

The following weeks promise to be busy, interesting ones, and you will occasionally hear from me with some of the high-lights. So, until then (or, as the South American would put it, "Hasta luego"). . . .

Best regards.

William H. Shaw

WILLIAM H. SHAW
Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer