

MULLINNIX UNITAS-GRAM

25 July 1962

As I write this letter, the MULLINNIX is preparing to depart on our long-awaited UNITAS III cruise to South America. This cruise as I know you have been told, will be spent visiting ports in every country on the coast of South America, with the exception of the Guianas. Needless to say, we have been looking forward to the day when we have the opportunity to show off the MULLINNIX to our neighbors to the south. This cruise is to begin on 15 August, and the ship is scheduled to return home early in December.

The past year has been ^{A BUSY} one for MULLINNIX. After our return from the Mediterranean last August, we were first sent to Key West, Florida, where we carried out some experimental test and evaluation work dealing with anti-submarine warfare. Upon our return to Norfolk, Virginia, the ship went into the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a period of overhaul and repair. After a refresher cruise in mid-December and Christmas in port, the ship got underway late in December for its first operation with Task Group ALFA, the Navy's force of ships devoted to experimentation, testing, and training in means to detect and destroy high-speed nuclear submarines. In the past six months with Task Group ALFA, we have operated with everything from old twenty-year-old World War II vintage submarines to the latest Polaris-type nuclear submarine. Much experience, hard work, and ingenuity gradually made MULLINNIX a most effective member of the Task Group.

While in South American waters, we will carry out extensive training exercises in Anti-submarine Warfare for the various South American Navies. This should prove to be most interesting and educational, both for them and for us. In port, of course, we will be busy with ceremonies, parties, and general sight-seeing. And there will be much inclination for that, for we are slated to hit some excellent ports.

Now, dust off the old atlas, find the map of South America, and you are all set to trace out our route on the cruise. Here, in the order in which we will visit them, is a list of the ports we will visit: PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad; RECIFE, Brazil; RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil; MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay; PUERTO BELGRANO, Argentina; PUNTA ARENAS, Chile; CALLAO, Peru; RODMAN, Canal Zone; CARTAGENA, Colombia and LA GUIARA, Venezuela. A few one-day stops and anchorages have been omitted from the very impressive listing above. All in all, we will spend about seven weeks in port, the remainder being sea operations with the various South American Navies.

Mail service to South America will be most unpredictable. Strenuous efforts and much consideration have been given to the solution of this problem, but no great reliance should be placed on prompt mail service.

First class mail, although at times very good, often is slow due to the ship's movements. Our address is; U.S.S. MULLINNIX (DD-944), c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, New York. If you should find it necessary to wire, the procedure is to wire by name, rate, and ship; addressing the wire to the Naval Communications Station, Washington 25, D. C.. From there it goes via wire to the appropriate teletype system to the ship.

Because of stringent budgetary limitations on armed forces travel funds, the present policy of the Navy Department in authorizing emergency leave from forces deployed over seas is limited to the following cases;

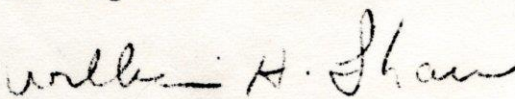
- a. Upon the death of a serviceman's wife or unmarried minor child.
- b. When the return of a serviceman will contribute to the welfare of a dying member of his immediate family; i.e., father, mother, person standing in loco parentis, spouse, children, brother, sister or only living relative.
- c. When, due to the death or serious illness of, or accident to a member of the immediate family (paragraph 8 above), important responsibilities which must be met immediately, which cannot be accomplished from his duty station, and which cannot be performed by anyone else or by other means, are placed upon the serviceman.
- d. When failure of the service man to return home would create a severe and unusual hardship on either himself or his family.

We sincerely hope that none of our shipmates have such misfortune to require emergency leave. If such problems do exist, however, contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross, who will assist in processing and expediting the request. We will do our part at this end in getting your man home as fast as possible.

If unexpected but temporary personal difficulties of a serious nature should arise which require immediate assistance, may I remind you of the Navy Relief Society. The society is designed for "aid in times of need."

The next few months are going to be exciting ones on the MULLINNIX. I will be writing you occasionally to fill you in on the high-spots. So, until the next time.....

Best regards


William H. SHAW
Commanding Officer