



USS CORPORAL (SS 346)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

At Sea
1 October 1969

Dear Families and Friends of CORPORAL,

This is the first in a series of "familygrams" that I will write you, the wives, parents, and close friends of my men, in order to keep you informed of what we have been doing and will be doing.

As you fully realize, CORPORAL has been "on the go" during the past year. She has spent a little less than five months away from New London on deployments of six or more weeks:

On 1 October last year we departed for a six week operation in the Caribbean, visiting St. Thomas and St. Croix, Virgin Islands and San Juan and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, returning to New London on 11 November after a brief stop in Norfolk, Virginia;

On 13 January (breaking ice as we proceeded down river) we departed for a second six weeks in the Caribbean, again visiting St. Thomas and San Juan, returning to New London on 21 February;

On 31 March we departed for an eight week operation in the Norwegian Sea and visited Portsmouth, England, and Londonderry, Northern Ireland, returning to New London on 23 May. We crossed the Arctic Circle twice on this operation so all on board were officially designated "Bluenoses".

The remainder of CORPORAL's underway time has been spent on "local ops", usually Monday through Friday, with the exception of a three week operation in July and this current operation of two weeks duration.

You might ask how she manages to get around so much. It's relatively simple. All that is needed is a crew of skilled, intelligent, dedicated and persevering men willing to work around the clock until a job is done.

On the "bright side" of our schedule we have had some fairly lengthy uninterrupted stays alongside the pier in New London: Six weeks during the Holiday Season last year; four weeks in March; four weeks in May and June; and six weeks during August and September. All in all, a total of 170 days out of the past year have been spent pierside in New London.

This figure, of course, doesn't present a "true" picture because duty days must be considered, as you know better than I. Every third day was a duty day until March: It is somewhat better now, with a duty day coming up every fourth day.

What, then, has CORPORAL accomplished during the past year? I should like to tell you as I see it.

First, and most important, CORPORAL has been fully ready throughout the past 12 months to put to sea and fight a war. The majority of our time has been directed to this one objective. The value of this objective is directly proportional to the value you, as an individual, place on preserving the American way of life. Thus, only you can evaluate the importance of this objective.

Other objectives met: We have assisted Navy anti-submarine forces (submarines, surface ships and aircraft) train by playing the role of an enemy submarine. In other words, we helped them prepare themselves to fight a war at sea.

In the Norwegian Sea exercise we operated with Swedish, Dutch and British submarines to test the effectiveness of a NATO effort in that ocean area.

In July we operated in a submarine versus submarine controlled exercise to provide the entire submarine force with data which will allow formulation of the best possible tactics for our submarines to use against enemy submarines.

On three separate occasions CORPORAL embarked submarine school officer students for training. Twice, we were commended for providing outstanding training opportunities for them. As stated in a letter to me from the Commanding Officer of the Submarine School:

"Outstanding services such as those rendered by CORPORAL contribute beyond measure to the successful education of the student".

Family separation is, to my mind, the dearest price paid for those accomplishments. I recognize what these separations entail for you and have always believed it is more difficult for you at home than for us at sea. We learn of most of the problems you have encountered after you have solved them. This resourcefulness of yours enables us to operate CORPORAL safely and efficiently. I have gained a high regard for CORPORAL wives and am proud of you. You are appreciated.

As you are aware, CORPORAL is scheduled to again deploy in a few weeks. Each man on board is aware of our schedule

for the remainder of the year. Because I feel that you have a definite need to know for your own personal planning, I have authorized him to advise you of that schedule. Please remember that our schedule is classified and is not for general discussion or for publication. I know you will cooperate.

Some men have indicated they are interested in having their family join us for the Christmas Holidays. Naturally, a primary concern of all is the expense involved. We are investigating air fares and will provide this information to all interested as soon as we can. We will also outline the procedure to be followed in obtaining passports.

Before we deploy, the Executive Officer will provide you with a list of phone numbers and individuals to contact should a problem arise which requires assistance while we are gone. Please do not hesitate to ask for help. You will be pleasantly surprised at their interest in your welfare and assistance willingly offered you.

In closing I would like to tell you that CORPORAL made her 5000th dive on 20 September with the "old timers" in charge: ST1(SS) RIGGS on the stern planes, STS2(SS) BROWN on the bow planes, TM3(SS) EAGAN at the helm, EMCS(SS) MICHAUD on the vents, MM2(SS) PELKEY blowing the tanks, and EM1(SS) GREGOIRE as diving officer. It was one of the smoothest dives we have made.

Respectfully,

