

U.S.S. GEARING (DD-710)
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

15 January 1961
Bathurst, Gambia

Dear

Dad

Due to a sudden change in schedule, I was transferred from the U.S.S. GRAHAM COUNTY 14 January 1961 to the USS GEARING (DD-710), a destroyer also in our task force. This temporary transfer will probably last about 3 weeks, when I will return to the GRAHAM COUNTY. The purpose of this short note is to advise you to continue sending any mail for me to: "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, USS GRAHAM COUNTY (LST-1176), Detached, Care of Fleet Post Office, New York, N.Y. The Navy will make every effort to see that my mail is transferred from the GRAHAM COUNTY to the GEARING. My outgoing letter should go out regularly to you since the destroyers will be visiting ports in Africa at frequent intervals over the next three weeks.

In the event of an emergency such that you have to reach me by wire send a telegram to the ship. The Naval Communications Station at Washington, D.C. will transmit your message to the ship by radio, you will have to pay the usual telegraphic charges to Washington. A sample form of address is as follows:

MY NAME, RANK AND SERVICE NUMBER
U.S.S. GEARING (DD-710)
C/O COMMUNICATIONS STATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

As is the case in our own Corps, the Navy appreciates Red Cross verification when emergency leave might be involved. The Commanding Officer particularly asked us to please emphasize that in West Africa, there are no military aircraft (MATS) facilities and the Navy Department has no authorization to pay our way back commercially. Cost of travel to a MATS base via commercial air, is very expensive and must be absorbed by a serviceman who goes on emergency leave.

I will keep you posted by letter regularly of our travels and please write often.

Don't have time to write now.

but we write again & explain very soon.

*Love,
Jim*