

# THE CAPTAIN OF THE USS MULLINNIX

Commander William Harvey Shaw was born July 10, 1916 at Winterhave, Florida. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Shaw of Gainesville, Florida.

Commander Shaw attended the University of Miami prior to enlisting in the Navy in 1936. His first shipboard assignment was aboard the USS MARYLAND. After three years aboard the MARYLAND he served aboard the four piper destroyer USS DALLAS (DD-199) in the North Atlantic. His next assignment was a short tour aboard the cruiser ST. LOUIS to await the completion of the USS LANSDALE (DD-426). Commander Shaw served aboard the LANSDALE which convoyed allied shipping in the early days of World War II. The LANSDALE took part in the occupation of Iceland and the invasion of North Africa. Commander Shaw was commissioned Ensign from ranks October 15, 1943. He was assigned to the commissioning crew of the USS LAFFEY (DD-724) as Assistant Engineering Officer and later served as Chief Engineer. The LAFFEY took part in the invasion of France and then operated in the Pacific Theater where she took part in many major engagements and landings. The LAFFEY was severely damaged during the Okinawa Campaign as a result of 8 suicide plane hits and 4 bomb hits.

The LAFFEY is known as the ship that came back from the valley of death.

In 1946 Commander Shaw reported for duty on the Staff of Commander Destroyers Atlantic Fleet. In 1947 he was ordered to report to the University of South Carolina as a student. From 1949-1950 he was an instructor at the Fleet Sonar School, Key West, Florida. From 1950-1952 he served as Operations Officer and Executive Officer of the USS SPROSTON (DDE-577). In 1952 Commander Shaw went to the General Line, Monterey, California as a student. From 1953-1956 he was an ASW Instructor at the Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In July 1956 he reported as Commanding Officer of the USS SELLSTROM (DER-255). In 1958 he went to the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island as a student.

In June 1959, he reported for duty on the War College Staff where he served until 1 June 1961. He assumed command of the destroyer USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) in July 1961.

Commander Shaw is married to the former Marie M. Smith of Roosevelt, New York. The Shaw's have six children.