



Vin Kneizys (AGR - 13, 1958 - 1960)

While on picket station 11 May 1959, our ship, the Interdictor (AGR - 13) was notified that my mother in Massachusetts had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. The Red Cross requested action on my family's request for Emergency Leave. Shortly after that, I was informed of my mother's subsequent death and funeral arrangements. Immediate action by our CO LCDR Joe Dordahl and others on the ship, working with RADRON One, COMWESTSEAFRONTIER and COMNAVFORWESTCONADRGN led to a transfer plan so that I could return to Massachusetts. A commercial ship, the Matson lines SS Hawaiian Planter enroute from Hawaii to San Francisco, was diverted to a rendezvous point with the Interdictor for the 12th. The Commander Naval Western Continental Air Defense Region authorized a departure from picket station up to 20 miles. Luckily, we were covering a southern picket station, the seas were slight and the weather ideal. A boat transfer was made around 1600 on the 12th. It was accomplished in 30 minutes without a hitch. Accommodations on the Hawaiian Planter were quite nice as they did have occasion to transport a small number of passengers including crew dependents.



SS Hawaiian Merchant, sister ship of the SS Hawaiian Planter.

The ship arrived in San Francisco on the 13th. A Red Cross representative met me at the pier and provided me with airline tickets for the flight to Boston. I arrived there on the 14th allowing me time to grieve with my family. This was an all hands effort and I am grateful to my shipmates and others who made a difficult time more bearable. The Navy did indeed take care of its own!