

ALAN KENNETH WILLIAMS

Upon graduation, Al was assigned a destroyer stationed in Newport, Rhode Island. Initially, this was somewhat of a disappointment because Al had always planned for a career in aviation. He became interested in flying while growing up in Illinois and had received his civilian pilot's license in high school. Unfortunately, he discovered that he could not pass the eye examination during his last semester at the Academy. But typical of Al's personality, he took the assignment in stride and looked at the two very positive benefits - his family had moved to New Jersey so he would be closer to them and his girlfriend was still in nurse's training in a hospital in Boston. His near term goals were to put two years at sea and become qualified; then re-apply to flight school, after all he had only missed the qualifying requirements by a small margin. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Al was tragically killed in an automobile accident one fall weekend while returning to his ship in Newport. Al was the first fatality of our class and the news of this untimely accident was a very painful reminder of the fragility of life and relationships. His contribution to us was his easy going style and cheerful attitude. He would never have run out of friends for he was constantly making new ones. We will surely miss him at the thirtieth "roll call" but we will share his memory for the rest of our lives.

Anonymous
30th Year Book

Pending a definite confirmation, we failed, up to this time, to announce our class' first loss, that of AL WILLIAMS, who fell victim to an automobile accident on 31 Oct. 1960 at Fall River, Mass. Al's loss was a great one to the entire class and especially to those who knew him well, for he was a wonderful person and a great guy. We ask that every member of the class observe a minute of silence in remembrance of our classmate.

SHIPMATE, February 1961

Alan was born 24 Jan. 1938 in the Bronx, N. Y. Most of Alan's years were spent in the midwest, as his family moved away from New York when he was 4 years old. His family moved back to the east during his 2nd class year.

At the age of 7 he traveled to Mexico and lived with his aunt for about a year. He went to school in Mexico and gained a speaking acquaintance with that country.

Alan received his JV letter in football while he was attending Farmington High School in Farmington, Mich., but his first love was flying. When he was 15 he hung around a local private airport until they finally hired him and put him to work as a handyman and grease .monkey. He arranged to take part of his pay in flying lessons.

At the end of his sophomore year his family moved from Michigan to Illinois where he attended Arlington Heights High School. He graduated in 1955. Once again Alan sought out the neighborhood airport. He soloed on his 16th birthday and attained a private pilot's license shortly after his 17th birthday.

He took the competitive examinations for the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy. Although he did not qualify for either one the first time he did not become discouraged but tried once again for the Naval Academy after completing one year at Lewis College of

Science and Technology in Lockport, Ill. This time he was successful in receiving an appointment to USNA.

Parents of Alan Williams
Shipmate, March 1961