

3.

I suppose that when the canteen is adopted again in the Army, the Navy will follow suit, in spite of the many protests and howls of the [????].

Today we dressed ship and fired a 21 gun salute at noon in honor of the Empress Dowager's birthday. The British, German and Chinese men-of-war in the Harbor following suit. This old lady celebrates her birthday about once every two weeks, it seems.

Manila, P.I. Aug 7

We arrived here on the night of August 5, after a very warm and uncomfortable passage down. We ran into the Bay just in time to avoid

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a storm and as it was I thought we were extremely lucky. The next morning we moved over to Manila and anchored just in time to receive the Taft Party which came at 9am Aug 6 on the SS Manchuria. He was certainly received with open arms by the people out here, and instead of describing the affair I'll send a paper which will give a more detailed account. We will be in Manila about one month and then we will go back north.

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Talk about hot weather in Texas – why it can't compare with the ordinary every day weather we have here, and this is the rainy season, too.

I am gathering much experience in handling high explosives as I keep my torpedo and mine divisions busy every day, instructing them, etc. Some days I fire several torpedoes and other days I go out in the ship boat and plant mines. I like the work very much, especially as I've got a division of real young sailors who are willing to learn. Also the chief gunner takes delight in running me about my gang of "kids" and tells me that young children should not be allowed to handle gun cotton, etc. And he challenged me to a race in mine laying. He said that his gunner's gang of petty officers, all red and experienced men, could plant two mines to my

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one and just to show him how mistaken he was, my gang of "kids" had a mine up out of the hold, assembled and ready to drop just 8 minutes before his gang was ready. The mine itself weighs 200 lbs and contains 134 lbs of gun cotton – the anchor weighs 500 lbs – so you see that it can be handled without tackle. I'm having great success with my torpedoes, and haven't lost a one yet. They run true and I expect good results from our target practice.

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I believe in being ready at all times, and am doing my best to keep my end of things so that if the occasion required, things would be ready for business all the time.

I received a letter from Mr. Galbraith in which he told me of Rev. Mercer Johnston, rector of St. Stephen's Church in Manila, and he asked me to call on him. I will go sometime in the next few days.

The Russian warships are still here.

Just hear a few days ago of the boiler explosion on the U.S.S. Bennington at San Diego, Cal. As far as I can find out, there

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were about fifty people killed and a lot more injured. She had the old locomotive type of boilers in her and they were old in every sense of the word. Well, it is through such accidents that we must learn. That's the way the British are learning. Look at their many accidents with submarines, etc. yet they are going to have the most perfect submarine boat in the long run. When it comes to our target practice our crew will be brand new and I expect many accidents in connection with our guns. Some careless sailor will get a lung kicked out of him by the recoil of some gun, then he will know better, and listen to what the divisional officer cautions.

With my division target practice will not be any different from what we are doing now and there will be no accidents whatever.

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Is everyone well at home? Grandfather's letter from Kerrville just reached me the other day and I was glad to hear from you all again. I got mail from you about once every six weeks. He said that Hugo Henke had been very sick – is he well now?

Well, I will close now with my best love to Mama, the children, all of Aunt Augusta's

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family, Mrs. Mason, and yourself and all the rest.

Your son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

There was an ensign killed on the Bennington but I don't know what his name is.

Lacey is an ensign now and he was on the Bennington.