

U.S. Flagship Ohio

Manila, P.I. Dec. 3, 1905

My dear father:-

I hope that by now you will have been successfully operated upon, and that you will recover very quickly from the effects of it. I only wish that I could be there to be of some help to Mama and yourself during your sickness. News comes out to us so slowly that by the time you get this letter you will be nearly well again. I received a letter from Grandfather, one from Iago and one from Elsie. Grandfather tells me that he is going to San Antonio with you. Iago tells me that his wife is now well again, which I am very glad to hear. We are working hard for our coming target practice in January and I fire torpedoes every day to keep them in good running order and to make them run straight. One of my torpedoes sank and we had to dive for it in seven fathoms of water – we recovered it all right and found the trouble to be with the engine. We fixed her up again and fired it. This time she sank

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again and when we recovered it you ought to have seen the inside of that engine; the engine is a small delicate affair and you couldn't have damaged a watch more by hitting it with an axe, than that engine was damaged. I was in no way responsible for it so the torpedo was condemned. It had never run while on the ship.

The target range is on the other side of Manila Bay from Cavite and it is a good one. Being in the Bay it is never too rough as open sea rough weather – and it does get rough enough to give our gun-pointers practice at firing with the ship rolling a bit. Last year the Oregon won the battleship's trophy of all the US battleships and the Wisconsin was third on the list. The Monadnock was second – she was out on this station also. The Raleigh on this station won the cruiser trophy, and the Frolic, also out here, won the gunboat trophy. Wasn't this a fine victory for the Asiatic Station. And think of all of those fine ships on the

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Atlantic coast at this time.

Several of us went to a little dinner at the Sweeney's in Manila. John Sweeney is one of my classmates, and his father is a judge in one of the courts out here. Carter, one of our class aboard here, is dead in love with Miss Sweeney, who is about 14 years old. Carter does not look much older than that although he is about one month older than myself. Now during the winter, it is really bearable and pleasant in the evenings. The afternoons are still as hot as ever. The only difference between summer and winter here is on the calendar and the amount of rain. The League baseball season has opened and a person can really see some

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good baseball. The League contains teams from the Army, Marines, Civil Government, and Quartermaster department.

All of the midshipmen in our mess ate our Thanksgiving dinner with the Captain and we really enjoyed ourselves despite the fact that there was so much rank present. We are going to invite the

Captain to come up to the steerage mess, either Christmas or New Year's Day, and perhaps we will ask the Admiral, too.

One day, the Admiral invited two of us down to a luncheon to which he had invited several members of the Taft Party. We went alright but he didn't let us know in time to keep us from eating up in the steerage. So here we were down there – and trying to look hungry – and you can imagine our surprise when we saw exactly the same menu that we had just finished in the steerage.

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It was too late then to back down so we had to fill up again, to please the Admiral.

The Wisconsin has gone to Hong Kong to get her new captain (Drake). On their way down from Japan, they mixed up with a typhoon and lost some of their boats, and had quite an exciting time. We have just received news that the result of the Army navy football game this fall at Princeton was 6-6. Well I think that the tide is just turning and that the Army will lose from now on. There are many Army and navy people out here so you see there is a great deal of interest taken in the Army Navy game.

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Well Father, I will close with my best love to Mother, the children, yourself, all of Aunt Augusta's family, and all the rest – and may you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your son,

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz