

U.S.S. Ohio, Shanghai, China

March 31, 1906.

My dear Grandfather:-

We arrived at Shanghai on March 29, from Olongapo, P.I. where we had been for small arm target practice for about one week. I went ashore for one week and lived in camp and it nearly spoiled me for living aboard the ship when we had to come back. We had to work hard that week at the target range – to keep careless people from shooting each other and also from shooting us. Our camp was about four miles from the landing and we had all the comforts needed, running fresh water, nice cool Nipa shacks for quarters and excellent food. Our crew enjoyed it immensely and so did our goat and dog “Togo,” a Japanese pug that we captured in Pekin last summer. Then we came up here to Shanghai leaving a temperature of about 98° to come to one of 50° and you can imagine how we feel

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the change. The Wisconsin + the Concord came up with us. I would like to stay at Olongapo for about six months. It is a fine place for a big ship like this to conduct all sorts of drills with nothing to bother her. And all this time everybody would be saving money. There is fine deer and wild hog hunting about ten miles inland and about two weeks of that would suit me just about right. The country is mountainous and very rough. If the government intends to make a navy yard out of this place, it will require lots of money to fix it up. The floating dry dock when it comes out here, will be kept at Olongapo. This dry dock is on its way out here now.

According to the Service Journals about twenty five midshipmen are ordered to this station and we expect about nineteen of them to join us either here or at Kobe, Japan. We leave here on April 6, for Kobe. This new crowd will be divided between the Wisconsin and the Ohio, the only two battleships out here and that will necessitate the “Clearing out” of our class in order to make room. Our captain wants to keep us on here and told the admiral so. The admiral told him

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that unless we were made watch and division officers, we would have to go as such to some of the smaller ships around here. So now, it is up to the skipper. If he wants us to remain, he must put us on watch (I have a division already) and take his chances of piling his ship up on the rocks. As it is now, everything is upside down and nobody knows where he is going. As for me, I am going to sit tight and take what they give me. the latest rumor is that Dowell and myself are going to remain as watch officers and that Canaga and Kays will leave the ship. Carter left us at Hong Kong to go to the Callao and Lawton left at Manila to go to the Paragua. Stewart is still on the Wisconsin and he is following my example of sitting tight in hopes that he will be overlooked in the shuffle and left aboard that ship. Two more of my class, Orr and Austin are coming out here on the Chattanooga and Galveston but I don't know when they will get out here.

Things will be pretty much mixed up here for

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a month or so. A year ago tomorrow (Apr 1) we steamed out of San Francisco and it doesn't seem but about three months. Our ensign exams will be on us before we know it. I am going to

start my preparations for them in about one month or so. They will come off early this next November.

Is everybody well at home? I haven't heard from anyone in a long while and I think that our mail is chasing up and down the coast somewhere.

Well, I will close now with my best love to all –

You grandson

[signed]

C.W. Nimitz

U.S.S. Ohio (for a few days longer at any rate).

c/o American Consulate Yokohama