

U.S.S. Decatur

April 21, 1908.

My dear Father:-

I have just had my monthly allotment of \$30.00 stopped, that is, you will probably receive the last payment in May. Just at present my general mess is getting me quite a little in the hole and I think I am going to get "stung" for the amount that it's behind when I start home. Also, the Decatur goes to Saigon about May 14th for a ten days' stay, and almost two weeks later will go to Hong Kong where I expect to get some things to bring home. In addition to my other duties I have to act as commissary officer for the ship (we carry no paymaster) and I am having a hard time making both ends meet. The Gov't allows a certain value

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for the ration and with an few number of men it is very difficult to come out even, it's hard luck, but such are the things that come along with the fun of being "Commanding Officer." I have just 15 days to do before my three years in the station are up but, as I said before, I will not get a relief until about the end of August.

The three of us, Stewart, Ogan, and myself are hoping to go home together on a Pacific Mail steamer. We don't care to work our passages home on a man of war or to crowd in on some overcrowded Army transport where a low ranking naval officer gets scant accommodation. I am brushing up what little French I ever knew for my trip to Saigon, we hope to have a good time there. I'm sending my real ensign commission along. Haven't had my

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photo made in full uniform because I haven't bought the new uniform yet. We didn't need it in the Philippines and it is much cheaper to buy it in China.

I hope that everyone is well at home and that it won't be so many hours before I get back there. My best love to Mama, the children, yourself and all the others.

Your loving son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

P.S. I will start my allotment up again after coming home.