

May 29, 1903.

Dear Father:-

We have finished all of our annual examinations and the results have been posted. My mark for the year's work, counting everything, was 3.42, so you see I starred. There were seven stars in our class and I stood seven. Frankenberger stood 1, Smith R.C., -2, Cox -3, Leary -4, Ingersoll -5, Border -6, Nimitz -7, Church 8, etc. was the order of the standing. Church missed starring by just a few

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hundredths – he had about 3.38 and a mark of 4.40 is necessary to star. Both of us, however, pulled up our wooden roommates and coached them up so that they would have satisfactory marks. My roommate, Sumpter, is so happy at the thought of going home that he hardly knows how to take it. He was held over here last September and it has been nearly three years since he has seen his family. Only a few people will be held over this Sept. from our class. Rees will be held over in drawing, Glover in mathematics,

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Strassburger in mathematics and languages, Steele in Physics and Chemistry and Norris in languages. There are a number of people in our class who have run over the limit of demerits, but I don't know whether they will be held over or not. Stewart came all right. He stood somewhere between forty and fifty. No one will be "bilged" from our class but I think about six will be dropped from the plebe class.

I certainly cannot realize that it has been two years since I entered the Academy. Why, we will be graduated and out in the Service before long.

It has been rumored here that in September the midshipmen will be ordered home instead of drawing on their accounts available as has been the case heretofore. This will be done to make up for that foolish mistake in the Navy Appropriation Bill. If this rumor proves true I will certainly come home because in this case all of our travelling expenses will be paid by the government. You see, when an officer is ordered anywhere, he is allowed eight

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cents a mile for travelling expense. Now this would give me more than enough to come. At any rate, I do not want you send me any money unless I write for it, because I hope to gain enough during the cruise to be able to get along with all right. The cruise will begin on June sixth, - the three training ships, the Indiana, the Chesapeake, and the Hartford are all waiting out in the harbor for us now. Our cruise will be divided into three parts of about twenty-seven days on each ship.

From June sixth, until July 3d, I will be on the Chesapeake, - from July 3d until July 30th, I will be on the Indiana, and from July 30th, until Aug 28th, on the Hartford. We will visit about the same ports this cruise that we visited last cruise and besides, we'll go to Boston and New York. If you see Mrs. Weston, tell her that I will be in Boston on July 3d. Church does not go on the same ship with me because he is in the fourth division and I am in the third. We go on this cruise by divisions.

Next week our regular June week drills

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for the board of visitors will begin. Do you remember a Prof. Ellis of the University of Texas, who came to Kerrville one year and delivered a lecture before the school? You will remember that he told us that once upon a time he had an appointment to this place but that he gave it up for some reason or other. Well, he is one of the board of visitors. One whole week of drills will be held for their benefit. Drills in seamanship, battle drills, infantry and artillery, fencing, machine shop, boiler shop, blacksmith shop, and gymnasium drills, will be held for them. Just think of two hours of hauling a heavy field piece around under a broiling sun. I don't wish the board of visitors any bad luck, but I hope it rains all next week. And we have been having dress parades every evening this week and will continue to have them next week. They are pretty to look at, but when it comes to taking part in them, excuse me.

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The battleship "Texas," with Rear Admiral Sands of the North Atlantic Squadron, aboard her, is lying out in the harbor now. And during June week a French warship with an admiral aboard, will visit us.

I sent you a picture of Sumter the other day. I sent it during our exams and therefore didn't take much time to wrap it up good. Hope that it gets there all right. Our exams were something fierce, especially the math and skinny 9 (Physics and Chemistry). Think of sitting down at 8am and working steadily on a math exam until 1pm. Why, when we finished that, I didn't "know enough to wad a shotgun" as Sumpter would put it. Our drawing and skinny exams were just as long. The new functions are coming in now. They have my full sympathy. Beauregard will take his exams in the 2d week in June and according to his present progress in the prep school, I

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think that he will pull through all right. I had my re-exam on my hearing and although it was pretty much on the bum, they decided to pass me over. One of the doctors, Dr. Bogart, takes a great interest in the crew and he did what he could for me. He is certainly a fine man. He was with us that day of our "breaking training dinner," – in fact he paid for all the champagne.

When does public school close? Did Otto and Dora get along all right on their examinations? Is everyone well at home? Well my next letter will be from the Chesapeake or just as we embark. My best love to Mother, the children, Aunt Augusta the baby and all the rest.

Your son,

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

I will write to Grandfather just before we embark; so you can send him this letter.