

U.S.S. Indiana,

At anchor, Bar Harbor, ME.

July 19, 1903.

Dear Father:-

I received your letter of July 10th, and thank you very much for the money that you sent me. Yes, I received the money you sent me before the cruise and I wrote to you at the time. The letter may have been misplaced. I was very sorry to hear of Eugene Williams' death, because I allways [sic] thought a great deal of him.

The other midshipman on the picture with Charley and myself is A.F. Carter, a classmate of mine. No I didn't see Ohnie there, Aunt Josie didn't know whether he was in the city or not. He hadn't been to the house in quite a while.

We have been in Frenchman's Bay now since Thursday and we will be here until Aug. 3d. The address will be Bar Harbor, ME, in care of Indiana until Aug. 30. Then we transfer to the Hartford.

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At present the following vessels are in the harbor: Texas, Indiana, and the five torpedo boat destroyers of which I wrote you. The Hartford will be here on the 22d, and sometime this week, we expect the entire North Atlantic Squadron. There will be the Alabama, the Kearsarge, Illinois and some others. Then we will stay with the fleet until the maneuvers are over with.

This is a small but very deep harbor, and well protected from the sea. There are a number of islands which form a complete landlock. It is a beautiful place, the high hills, and pretty islands – but it all looks too cold and bleak for me. Today we are wearing reefers and then it is not any too warm. I would hate to live here during the winter season.

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There is absolutely nothing in the town of Bar Harbor. It is a fashionable summer resort and that is all. There are fine residences to look at but one feels lost ashore here because he knows no one.

One thing, we see the yacht races here nearly every day and there is good fishing right over the ship's side. The other morning, about five of my classmates went out in a boat for an hour's fishing. They caught over eighty fish, all big ones and different kinds. One of the codfish they caught weighed more than fifteen pounds. They caught flounders, Pollock, and codfish enough to supply our whole mess at dinner. They went near one of the islands. They also caught some fish that looked like our bass. They

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call them cunners.

We have certainly been doing lots of practical work and studying on this ship. In Marine Engineering we have been sketching and writing up in notebooks all the main engines, etc. on the ship. We had to make a big write-up about the Brooklyn Yard. In Navigation we have been

taking time sights for longitude, and meridian altitudes for latitudes nearly every day and we have to work them out for the instructor. In short, we are doing nearly as much work here as we do at the Academy. I like the navigation work, though.

Received a letter from Beauregard today and he says that there are over 315 in his class. What a mob of plebes there will be. We will room by divisions next year and I will room with Stewart.

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Church is in the fourth and Sumpter in the 2d division. We will have two battalions instead of one. There will not be enough members in the present first class to supply all the officers, so that about thirty of the petty officers, (buzzards, we call them, because they wear a gold eagle on the arm) will come from our class.

It is amusing to see how some of the people in our class are “greasing” for a buzzard. This is the way I look at things. I go on the cruise to get a practical view of things, and I leave all books behind. I am going to take a rest on the cruise and study at the Academy. Last cruise I stood 92 for the work and for the year I stood 7 so you can see how much the cruise

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counts. If they want me to wear a buzzard – all right, if not, all right, because I know that if I study at the Academy, I will have a high standing by graduation time.

Has mama come back from Fredericksburg yet? Grandfather wrote me the other day.

I am glad to hear that the hotel is doing such a good business. How long will the Wahrmond girls be in Kerrville? Who all are there? Are Aunt Augusta and all of her family well? My best love to Mama, the children and all the rest.

Your son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz