

U.S.S. Hartford,

Aug. 3, 1903.

Bar Harbor, ME.

Dear Father:-

We transferred to the Hartford last Thursday and by now we are used to the ship. I will describe her to you because she is different from the rest of the ships that I've been on. She is a large sailing ship, barque rigged, but she also steams. She is the same old Hartford that Farragut took into Mobile Bay during the Civil War, and on the gun deck is a board having on it in large letters: "Damn the torpedoes, Go ahead." This, you know, is what Farragut said when they told him of the danger from torpedoes in Mobile Bay. She has been patched up and repaired so much that she is almost a new ship. Capt. Reeder, her commander is a "lady killer." In every port, no matter where it is, there are several boat loads of ladies to see him, the minute he drops anchor. In leaving a port he stands on the bridge waving his handkerchief at them; and he has the ship's band play "The Girl I

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Left Behind Me." He has the bugler sound "Attention" and everybody mans the rail. While in port, he has his lady friends on board all the time or he is ashore all the time. The other day he gave a tea to Miss Emory, Capt. Emory's (of the Indiana) daughter. There was a large crowd and everybody had a good time. The captain knows everybody along the coast, and as our old boatswain's mate says, "He certainly [has] his sailor's reputation, of having a sweetheart in every port." Our executive officer is Lieut. Commander Dombaugh. The other officers are, Navigator Biegimeier, watch officers, Lieuts. Evans, Edie, McVeigh and Ensigns Hollweg and Courtney. The Hartford was used as a training ship for apprentices before we got her and her crew now has a large number of apprentices. There are some of the older Jackies who have been in the Navy over forty years. We never sail with the Hartford, always steam. The sails are only used for drills,

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etc. My billet on her is captain of the mainroyal yard. A little war game is about to come off here now. It is a sort of forerunner of the maneuvers. Our fleet was divided into two parts, the enemy and our own forces. The enemy, consisting of the Indiana, Texas, and Massachusetts, and a tender, left the Bay sometime during last night. Now after a certain length of time our fleet consisting of the Alabama, Illinois, Kearsarge, Baltimore, Alliance, Yankee, Prairie, Panther, Olympia, Essex and the two torpedo flotillas will start out in search for the enemy and will also endeavor to keep the enemy from reaching our coast. Just when a vessel is "down and out" is decided by an umpire. These evolutions may extend all the length of the New England coast. All the conditions are supposed to be as in actual warfare. Then on the 23d, we will all assemble at Oyster Bay

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Long Island, and have a Grand Review for the President. Then the maneuvers begin and last until the end of the month. Just heard a rumor today, that the Hartford would leave Portland, ME, for Annapolis on the 29th. This would make us a number of days late in starting on leave. The

Hartford will not be in this first "search problem" but will go to Belfast, a little town on Penobscot River, to take part in their "Old Home Week" celebration. They had written to the Navy Dept. asking that a battleship be sent there, but this battleship could not be spared; so the Hartford will be sent. My address will still be Bar Harbor, though. Then after the 15th send my mail to Annapolis.

Aug 4, 1903

We have just received orders to sail tonight at midnight. Where we are going, I don't know but we have been assigned to guard

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some port against the enemy's fleet. We have been rigging out mines, etc. all day long and we will drop these in the harbor of the port that we are to guard. The other day I sent a small souvenir of Bar Harbor. I hope that it gets there all right.

All this changing of our itinerary has certainly made a "bust" of our wash arrangements. Our last wash was three weeks late, and we had to send our dirty wash ashore at Bar Harbor to be washed. The laundry man must have come out way ahead here because he charged us \$800 for doing it. That was \$8 per man. At the Academy our wash bill for a month is only about two or three dollars. This item and

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the fact that our commuted rations have been cut off until the next Congress can change it, will make it necessary for me to write home for some money to go on leave this September. My account available will give me enough to get up to Stewart's home all right, and some over. Just how much I will need, I will let you know from Annapolis when we get there. I will try and repay it at some time and in some way, in the future by doing my best to graduate as near the head of my class as I can.

Is everyone well at home? Is mama well? And all the children?

As our mail goes ashore now in about ten minutes, I will close with my best love to Mama, the children, and all the rest.

Your son,

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

For Indiana part of cruise, stood 9 with 3.25.

" Chesapeake " " " " 5 " 3.37.