

U.S.S. Hartford

Newport News, VA,

June 26, 1904.

My dear father; -

We are nearly ready to leave Newport News now and I am glad of it because it has been unbearably hot ever since we've been here. The past week we spent in visiting the ship yards, etc. The first two days we went through the various shops and saw the very same things that

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we've seen at other ship yards that we have visited. The remainder of the week we spent in going aboard the ships under construction. In the stocks are two large battleships, the Minnesota and the Louisiana – these ships are of the same type as the Idaho, Connecticut and California. These are 16000 ton battleships and when launched, will be the largest

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and most heavily armed and armored ship in our Navy. Of these, the Connecticut is being built at Brooklyn Navy Yard by the Government and the others by private plants. This is, in a way, an experiment and the people at New York are racing with the other plants. The battleship Virginia, the armored cruisers, Charleston, West Virginia, + Maryland are launched and will soon be completed. They are all beautiful ships and I hope it may be my luck to be assigned to one of them when I graduate. They are building five submarine boats for the Lake Torpedo boat Company. There are still two German men-of-war here and it is surprising to me that our Government should allow it;

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because of the information they can easily get. Here they are anchored right along side of our battleships under construction. They are free to see every piece of material as it goes on the ship. No doubt every government can find out everything about every other government's business but we should at least

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make them hustle for their information. I only went ashore once on liberty and then only to get a good fresh water bath and a good dinner. It was too hot to get into a blue uniform to go ashore. Now if they would give us a similar white uniform it would be nice. We have a white service uniform but it is not good enough to wear ashore on liberty.

About seven of our

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class are restricted to the ship for the remainder of the cruise on account of being reported for various neglects of duty. So far they've neglected me in the way of reports and I hope it will keep up. Today our captain, who had been ashore on liberty for a week or more, came aboard and he seemed to be in a bad humor for he immediately began jumping on the midshipmen on duty as officer of the deck. He has one of the sharpest tongues and can jump on a person more in

one minute than anyone I've ever seen. I am on detail as officer of deck this week and he hasn't neglected me either. But by now I'm used to it and do as Stewart does; grin at him when he gets real excited at the way you set a sail or run the ship when you have the deck.

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Is everyone well at home? Did you receive that picture of our crew? I sent it from Annapolis the day we left.

Newport News, R.I. July 1st

We arrived here last night after an easy run up from the Capes. The weather was fine and it was

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not at all rough. Quite number were seasick though, and life was miserable for them.

I have been writing this letter for about a week and I had better get it off now or we will leave port again.

My best love to Mother, the children

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and to all the rest of the family.

Your affectionate son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz

We were taken through the torpedo stations here and saw everything in that line, also the manufacture of smokeless powder. We go to New London on Wednesday.

Whenever you are in doubt as to my address, send letter care of Postmaster, New York City.