

Dear Father:-

I'm at last on board and about half settled down. It will take a month or so to get good straightened out and until then we will have lots of work to do. I'm writing this between midnight and 4am, during my watch as junior officer of the deck. Lt. Jones (the one we dedicated our Lucky Bag to) is the senior off. of the deck and you can see that I'm lucky indeed to get my watch with

[Page 2]

such a fine fellow. He told me that during our night watch in port, we were not expected to be on our feet all the time and that we could read etc. during the watch, just so we keep wide awake. Canaga and I landed in Frisco Thursday morning and went to the Occidental Hotel where all Army and Navy people all ways hang out. There we ran into three of our classmates and shipmates on the Ohio, and another of our classmates, Eklund – who was on his way to San Diego to join the Chicago.

[Page 3]

The other three people were Dowell, Lawton and Carter. We all reported to Admiral Glass and went out to our ship that afternoon, not before seeing part of the city though. Dowell and Lawton, having come to Frisco the day before, had already been aboard, unofficially, and had met nearly all the officers.

We came aboard – reported – and were assigned immediately to our quarters and duties. There was just one stateroom left, and I being the senior midshipman in that bunch, drew that room – Lucky Dog. It is fixed up fine with every convenience, the other fellows will have to swing in hammocks for a few weeks, until Metcalf and Robinson, two mid'n of 1903 class, leave to take their exams for commission.

The following is the list of officers:

Captain Logan;

Lt. Comd'r Buchanan; Executive Officer

“ “ McDonald; Navigator

“ “ Hudson; Chief Engineering Officer

Lt. Stone; Ass't “ “

[Page 4]

Lts. Jones, MacArthur, Kempf, Simm, and some others whom I haven't seen yet are watch and division officers. There are several ensigns: Vanderberg, Whitten and Barker.

Midshipmen Robinson and Metcalf of '03 class, Haywood and Claude of '04 class and six midshipmen of our class. There are a lot of the officers I haven't seen yet, some on leave, but in all there are 18

[Page 5]

commissioned officers and 10 mid'n. We mid'n have a separate mess in the steerage while the senior officers have the wardroom. As a whole we have a fine list of officers and I think all hands will get along fine.

We are lying out in the Bay off the Iron Works now but March 1st we go further in towards the Navy Yard to complete our repairs. Then the program is about as follows: Leave Apr 1 for Honolulu to remain a week there.

[Page 6]

Then go to Guam and stay a week, then to Manila to pick up Admiral Folger (this will be flagship of Asiatic Fleet). Then go up China Coast touching at various ports. Then (very probably) after a year or so over there, we go back to the Atlantic coast of the US via Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Suez Canal, etc. This will be O.K. I think the plan is to keep all of our fast battleships together in the Atlantic.

We have funny weather out here. Half the time we have a dense fog on the Bay and in the city it may be perfectly clear. Boats dare not venture from the ship without a compass. Our principal duties so far have been as boat officers, and as junior watch and division officers. I have been assigned to the 5th division, the largest on the ship and it is called the powder division because its duty is to provide all the

[Page 7]

ammunition in time of a battle or target practice. In my next letters I will go more into detail about our various duties etc. and will send the next one to Grandfather. Kays hasn't come yet, he must have gotten mixed up in a wreck somewhere.

Have those clothes come from that Annapolis tailor yet? I need them bad, as I don't want to wear out my best service uniforms before they come. I was very sorry that I forgot the overcoat but just

[Page 8]

so it gets here by Apr. 1 or before, it will be all right. It is not cold enough even at night for an overcoat. Even now about 330am I standing out in the open air with just a blue sweater on. It is hot in our staterooms and during the day it gets very warm. I imagine by now that all the cold weather is over in Kerrville. They certainly don't know what cold weather is here.

Well Father, my watch is nearly over so I will close

[Page 9]

with my best love to Mama, the children, all of Aunt Augusta's family, Mrs. Mason, yourself and all the rest.

Your son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz, USN

When we finally get settled down, we will have lots more leisure, and then I will be able to write long letters.

Give my regards to Kerns, Weston and the rest.