

USS Baltimore,

Cavite P.I.

November 26, 1906.

My dear Father:-

Our exams for commission are over now and I am sure of having passed the mental exams all right and as they did not find anything wrong with my ears I am also sure of having passed the physical exam O.K. I think that nearly everyone out here passed allright [sic], and as our two years sea duty expires on January 30, I have only about two months to wait for my commission.

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I will send it home after it has been through all the customary ceremonies of "wetting down." I have not received any answer from my application to command the US gunboat Panay, but I am reasonably sure that I will get it, as I am the senior one of my class out here and if anyone commands her, it will be one of my class.

Our cruiser squadron under Rea Admiral Bronson Rear Admiral Willard Brownson arrived last Sunday and they certainly make a fine showing. I'll bet that many a man of the various countries through which it passed, felt envious.

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A number of my classmates came out, making a total of 35 of us on the station. The Baltimore's boilers have been inspected and it has been decided to make just enough repairs to get her back to the States. This repair work will take about two months and she will start back on about January 20, 1907. She will probably go to New York, or some other place on the Atlantic Coast and be put out of commission for good. Canaga, who has been on the same ship with me ever since I met him on the train in San Antonio on Feb 19, 1905, has put in his application for the U.S.S.

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Paragua, a gunboat similar to "mine??", so we will cruise together for several years more, in the southern islands of the Philippine group. If we do not get what we ask for, we will both be transferred to one of the new cruisers. He is certainly a fine shipmate. Just read his little spiel in the Lucky Bag and look at his picture and you will see what a good natural fellow he must be. While we were up in Japan we bought (ordered) our new gold lace and finery that is required for an ensign, fore and aft hat, gaff topsail cut coat, etc. and as soon as I get my commission, I'll

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have my photo made and send a bunch of them home.

The British cruiser squadron is expected here tomorrow morning and I guess that it will mean big doings in the line of entertainments etc. for the visitors.

I haven't hear a single word from you all since August. I suppose my mail must be following the Ohio around to the States.

I will close now with my best love to mama, the children, yourself and all the rest – and I hope that

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you all will spend a most Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your son,

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz

C/O U.S. Asiatic Fleet