

Annapolis Md.

September 14, 1901.

Dear Grandfather,-

We are hard at work learning to drill, row boats and tie knots. Every night after supper we have an hour and a half's exercise in the gymnasium and may be you think we don't sleep after such day's work. Our drilling instructor is a native of Belgium and he certainly

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knows how to teach the drilling. At first the new cadets could not understand him one bit, he spoke with such a strong foreign accent. He will also be our fencing instructor. It will be several weeks before we are put on the practice ship because we have to take a final examination in tying knots and tell how each is used. Today the alternate's entrance examination begins

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and that will end the examinations for the year.

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Sept. 18

Today we were ordered to the training ship "Chesapeake." We were exercised in climbing the ratlines and for the first time it was far from pleasant way up there. Some of the boys were too nervous to try it so the officer in command

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let them off. I received a letter from Mr. Mason the other day and he said that he might come back by way of Washington and if he did, he would come by to see me.

Tomorrow we will be excused from all drills but we will have to attend services in the chapel. It was ordered that cannon be

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fired from sunrise until sunset in of McKinley.

How is little Charlie? Is everyone well in Fredericksburg?

Well as I know of nothing else, I will close.

My best love to everyone.

Your affectionate grandson

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz