

U.S.S. Indiana,
New York Bay,
June 22, 1902.

Dear Father:-

The rumor about going to New York City to coal turned out to be true. Thursday morning at 8 am we left Newport News and by 11am we were outside of the Capes. The difference between Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean was very noticeable. In the Bay, the Indiana is as steady as a church and did not rock or sway the least bit. Out on the ocean, it is different, calm as it was during our trip up here, some of the people got seasick. It is that long, sickening swell of the ocean

[Page 2]

that causes this. From the time we left the Capes (11am Thursday) until we dropped anchor in New York Bay (4pm Friday) you could see a pale faced crowd hanging around the lee rail of the ship. I was luck [sic] this time and did not feel sick. Thursday night, we had to stand regular sea watch, my time was from 8 to 12 o'clock that night. We passed all sorts of ships on the way up here and as we approached New York, the number of them increased. We passed the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, here is where all sorts of guns, powders, etc are tested. As we went by, they were testing some rifles or powder and we could see the shell strike the water. 4 pm Friday we dropped anchor in New York Bay, off Tompkinsville, a suburb of the City. Here the government keeps all kinds of naval supplies, etc.

On Saturday, the captain gave us

[Page 3]

liberty to visit the city. (1pm until 10pm) I went ashore and, as I remembered Aunt Josie's address, went to her house. There I found that she had moved to another part of the city so I gave it up. The rest of the evening I spent in going around to interesting places, Eden Musee, and others. I got back to the boat landing just in time to hail the last boat. That was luck, because if anyone is late in returning

[Page 4]

from liberty, it means quite a number of demerits.

From where we are anchored we can see every ship that comes in and goes out of the Bay.

We have just finished coaling and everything is being fixed so as to start Tuesday morning. We took on twelve hundred tons of coal and this will do for about two weeks. About 75 tons are burnt in one day when we are under way.

Sunday afternoon we had visitors, and they were glad enough to get off because

[Page 5]

the ship was all dirty and black from the coal.

Well father, the last mail leaves the ship in a few minutes, so I will close.

My best love to Mother and the children and all the rest.

Your loving son,

[signed]

Chester W. Nimitz