

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
NAVY YARD, MARE ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

HC-B1

Sept. 25, 1918

My dear Fullam:

In reply to your letter of Sept. 20th. I am very sorry that work has not been progressing more rapidly on the BRUTUS, but it was delayed on account of very urgent work in practically a rebuilding of the BEAVER as a parent ship for a flotilla of submarines, which has required an enormous amount of work and which the Department has directed be expedited to the utmost. I hope that I shall now be able to place night shifts on the BRUTUS and rush the work through as early as possible.

In regard to fumigation; the most practical way to do this, if you will approve it, is to send the vessel down to Angel Island to be thoroughly fumigated by the health authorities. Let me know if you wish this done before she rejoins the Flag.

I wrote you a day or two ago as to the BAY OCEAN.

The BROADBILL met with an accident; damaged one of her screws and strained her shaft by striking a submerged log, and will have to be docked to ascertain the extent of the injury. I shall send an expert from this Yard all the way to San Diego on that vessel, in order to satisfy myself that the machinery work is properly done at this Yard, as I have little confidence in the personnel of the various ships, especially as far as gas engines are concerned.

The awnings for the BRUTUS have been approved and the manufacture has been taken up.

There are no indications of influenza as yet on this station. I understand that two or three cases have occurred in San Francisco. We are making all necessary preparations to segregate the men, and for their medical treatment, in case the disease reaches us in epidemic form.

Very truly yours,

Rear Admiral W.F. Fullam, U.S.N.,
Commander Division Two,
Pacific Fleet.