

VFF:WL

16th October 1918.

My dear Laning:

I have been compelled to change some of the officers attached to the Bay Ocean and to order others to fill their places.

The officers detached are of course being ordered to report to the Commandant of the 12th Naval District, and will be available for other duty.

They all belong to Class Three.

The Bureau will realize that all of my small ships may be detailed to duty in Mexican waters, where they may be on independent service.

It is of the utmost importance that the officers of these vessels shall be reliable and efficient, otherwise they might precipitate trouble in Mexico.

The officers on the Bay Ocean were totally unfit for their job.

Several officers of the Hanshan will also be detached at San Francisco, and will be available for other duty, their places will be filled by officers trained on the Hanshan and who have had other military instruction.

This change in the Hanshan will also make her more efficient as a ship, and give her officers better qualified to train gun crews and petty officers for the Navy.

Please assure the Bureau that I will make no change whatever, except in the direction of efficiency, and to enable me to better perform the work that the Bureau itself has outlined for me.

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The Class 3 officers, whom I have set free, will be available for the duty for which they are better fitted than their military work.

I have this far kept Influenza out of my ships, and I am trying to prevent infection.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

Captain Harris Laning, U.S.N.
Bureau of Navigation,
Washington, D. C.