

WFF/F

26 October, 1918

My dear Mr. Driggs:-

Thanks for your letter of the 24th. The Brutus did splendidly on the Liberty Loan.

Use your own judgment about the final preparations for sailing.

Fill to capacity with coal, but I will not require you to unload any coal at San Diego for the present.

My plans have been changed by necessity and this will modify your next cruise.

I shall wish you to leave San Diego as soon as practicable to relieve the Vicksburg in the Gulf for a short time, and then to proceed down the coast, calling at all the islands, including Clipperton, and going as far as Corinto; then you will return North, stopping at all ports en route.

This cruise will doubtless occupy about three months and, for this reason, I would like you to take enough meat and provisions of all kinds in cold storage to supply all vessels, Consuls, etc., with what they may need.

It is important, however, that the cold storage should be reliable, so that meats, etc., may not spoil. I hope, therefore, that Ware Island will see to it that the plant may be thoroughly dependable before you start. Please inform the Commandant of this matter.

I suppose that meats, etc., will keep a long time, if the cold storage plant is efficient. I must leave that to the judgment of yourself and the Commandant.

In your absence on this projected cruise, I will use the Wanshan to replenish the coal pile at San Diego, and she will be ready to relieve you upon your return from the patrol of the coast.

I fear the Department may not be able to furnish the sextants you want. They are very short.

I hope the ship will leave the yard in good condition as to material and personnel.

Let me know your needs in this respect.

I will wish to send as many officers for training as possible.

I wrote to the Commandant and to the Commanding Officer of the Receiving Ship, asking if they could find me a competent Japanese steward. Of course, a Philippino might do, if he is efficient, but I want a man who would be worthy of the rate of "Steward to Commander-in-Chief". If you can help me in this matter, I shall be greatly obliged.

I am anxious that there may be no infection of Influenza or of serious illness on board when you sail. Please have your Medical Officer supply his department very thoroughly with everything that might be needed for such a cruise.

Please keep me informed of conditions.

The marine detachment may be compelled to remain on board for a considerable time, and I wish the detachment might be sent by Pacific mail for this reason.

Very sincerely yours,

Lieut-Comdr. Jas. R. Driggs, USNRP,
Commanding U.S.S. HAGIUS,
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.