

Admiral's File

CABLE AND TELEGRAPH
"FULLAM"
SAN DIEGO, CAL.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
DIVISION TWO
U. S. S. OREGON, FLAGSHIP

MAIL ADDRESS:
MUNICIPAL DOCK,
SAN DIEGO, CAL.

WFF:WH

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

U.S.S. FORWARD, Flagship,
26th November, 1918.

My dear Laning:

Thank you for your letter of the 19th.

I hope you will not leave the Bureau, no matter what happens. You are needed there to prevent a reign of chaos at this time.

We are in some doubt concerning the training of officers, guns crews, petty officers, and men generally, out here, now that the war is over. I am anxious to conform to the Bureau's policy in all these matters.

Just at present I have reduced the complement of ships on account of influenza, and it is important to keep it out of the ships.

Furthermore, a large per centage of the men now on board ships here have signified a desire to be discharged.

Before sending ships to Mexico, I wish to fill their complements, if possible, with men and officers who are to remain in the service.

I suppose all these matters will be cleared up later on, and I will not trouble you, but will try to "carry on" until everything is settled.

I hope that Operations will send back here some of the ships that were transferred to the Atlantic, in case the latter are no longer needed there.

My present force is so small and the ships are so old and unreliable that emergency would find us in a very embarrassing position.

I hope, therefore, that a re-organization of the fleet, partially at least, may soon be made.

Hoping that you will remain in the Bureau for the good of the Navy, and with warm regards, I am
Capt. Harris Laning, USN
Care Bureau of Nav.,
Washington, D.C.
Sincerely yours,

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