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NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON.

December 28, 1918.

My dear Admiral:

It is very nice to hear from you again. Although I have not written to you, you can feel assured that I have thought of you constantly in your work on the Pacific Coast.

I know how very hard it must have been for you to stay out there during this past year and a half, and even though it is perfectly true, it is small consolation to tell you that somebody had to do the work there, and more than that, that it was important work, and had to be done by one of our best men. I can appreciate it myself, for it has been exceedingly difficult for me to stay on in this position and not go into active service. People like you and Knapp, for instance, down in Haiti and Santo Domingo, have been in very much the same kind of a box. Naturally, Knapp has begged for more active duty, but his work down there was so important that the President felt he should stay.

Some day, I suppose, the country will recognize that all this work in the inactive areas had to be performed, and also that it was very well done. We know the splendid record made by all of you on the Pacific Coast. It must have been somewhat trying to have had twelve flagships in three years. I have about come to the conclusion that there is an awful lot of luck in this game, anyway. The officers of distinct mediocrity may, by good fortune, happen to be at the exact point where something big is happening at the psychological moment, and it sometimes makes Field Marshals or Presidents out of them. We have all had our share of that kind of luck.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Fullam, and I shall hope to see you when I get back from Europe, early in March.

Always sincerely yours,

Rear Admiral William P. Fullam, U.S.N.,  
Commander, Division 2,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet.

