

29 September 1945

Dear Monsignor Foley,

Since I am not certain that I wrote you after my transfer from Norfolk, I will make sure. I have been on and off the West coast now for about two months. Started at San Pedro, Calif. where our crew was formed and after a course in Fire Fighting and a little organization, we went to Tacoma, Wash. on a troop-train. Our ship, a destroyer tender, was commissioned in the waning hours of the war - on 13 August. And since then, after about three weeks of loading stores and provisions, we have been engaged in shakedown operations. We are almost finished now, the final inspection will be in a few days here at San Diego after which we will return to Bremerton, Wash. Then it is hard to say where, though persistent rumors indicate Pearl Harbor. About that no one is very anxious or enthused now that the war is over.

Duty in connection with the commissioning of a new ship is a unique experience. There is no little confusion before the organization evolves; but starting from scratch, there is plenty of work. As is the way in the Navy, I have a goodly number of additional duties besides those strictly religious. ~~Takes some of the edge off the enthusiasm but guess it's part of the life.~~ Officers and men are a fine bunch - friendly and cooperative. ~~So it's not too bad.~~ The men are certainly toeing the mark for home, some more than anxious and impatient. We lost more than a 100 men via the point-system already. I guess all but the regulars are ready to go, myself included.

Father Noonan sent me last week's issue of the Witness, the first copy I read in a long time. Looks as though the Loras Expansion program is off to a big start, and success of the drive seems assured. It was certainly good to read again about the diocesan and parish doings. I don't believe I ever enjoyed the Witness more.

How have you been Monsignor? Busy as ever? What is the word from the other chaplains? Are many on their way home? So far I haven't heard anything about the plans for the release of chaplains but I presume, length of service will be the big consideration.