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Mobile Alabama 14th April 1862

In compliance with a standing order from the
Department of the Navy that for the next month my residence
be Galveston Texas.

I would once more respectfully request to be
in active service. Should there be a vacancy on the U.S.
Coast Squadron my antiquity to Pensacola would entitle
me to that post with but little delay.

It has been suggested that
my services might be useful on the Pensacola Station as
Officer of the one other important Naval Station North,
many Officers employed on Ordnance duty, but I believe
Smith is the one. If it meets with Your approbation
I will be glad to be assigned that duty, should You have
for me a post.

I am very respectfully Yrs. S. C.

W. M. Randolph

Commander U.S.N.

S. Gardner

Secretary of the Navy

Washington D.C.

W. S. Llicatur
Harbour of Havanna
May 18th 1851

On the day I left Portsmouth (N.H.) April 22nd 1851 the accompanying forms were mislaid, & I did not find them until after many days out.

A correct return of every person on board was sent to the Department by the master of the ship, except in the case of J. Jackson (Armourer) who did not come on board until the ship was getting underway; I could not succeed in getting an Armourer ship's at the Redegross, Boston, & was compelled to take this one as we had not a man on board, who knew how to beat a piece of iron properly.

The enclosed recommendation was brought on board by him, and he has performed his duties well.

I have the honour to be
Very Respectly
Yr Most Obedt. Servt.
W. S. Llicatur

 Concl

W. S. Llicatur
Secy of the Navy
Washington
(266)

198,

Mount Ridge To Office

Greene County, Alabama

May 30th 1857

I have the honor to inform you that I have
id. to my residence from a point to the State of Texas,
but any communications from the Department will
be as above written

I am very respectfully &c

Wm Randolph

Commander USN

Wm A. Graham

Secretary of the
Navy

Washington
July 8th 1851

Sir

I have the honor to report
a change of residence to The Warrenton
Springs (Virginia),

Very respectfully
Wm. B. L. L.
E. B. Bontwell
Commdr. U.S. Navy

Wm.
W. A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy
Washington

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U. S. Receiving Ship
North Carolina
New York. 29th July 1851.

Sir,

ms. 22157
Comment.
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a Circular from the Department dated 5th June 1851, propounding certain questions in regard to the effect produced by the abolition of flogging in the Navy, and to reply thereto. -

I will premise, that as I have no reliable information in regard to the effect produced on board of other Ships, my answers to the several questions will be confined principally to what has come under my observation in reference to the subject on board of this Ship, which it will be perceived can scarcely be considered a fair test of the question, in as much as the situation of Men here, is very different from what it is on board of Sea-going Ships. -

The Crews of Receiving Ships are enlisted but for one year, and as satisfactory testimonials of Character are usually required of them, an opportunity is afforded of selecting a better class of Men, than when enlisted at the Rendezvous for "General Service" where they are, on most occasions, received without reference to Character. - There are also many inducements for good Conduct, not available on board of Sea-going Ships, to which may be ascribed perhaps, the better

Better Conduct of Men generally on board of Recruiting Ships. The recruits are on board for a short time, and when first joining, being strangers to the crew and to each other, and in many instances to the Officers they are less likely to engage in acts of insubordination, than at a future period of their enlistment.

Will now consider the several questions in the order in which they are proposed.

1st. What has been the effect upon the Recruited Service? Is it found that a better class of Men is now induced to enter the Naval Service?

The Number of recruits daily received for the Rendezvous for the last several Months, has been less in proportion than at former periods, and it does not appear that a better class of Men is now enlisted on the Continent, it is evident that the Men received, some time past, are generally of an inferior Character both in regard to their Physical Condition and Capacity as Seamen. This may be attributed, and perhaps properly to the Scarcity of Seamen which has prevailed for some time, and the higher rate of wages paid for those of a better class in the Merchant Service.

2nd. What has been the effect upon discipline and Subordination among persons Employed Ship Companies?

There has been no overt act of insubordination or gross violation of discipline on board of this Ship except in some cases of desertion. but the effect otherwise has been decidedly unfavorable, as is frequently
Manifest

Manifested by the Manner and bearing of the Men
towards their Officers - Conduct utterly Subversive of
good order and discipline -

3rd = Do the Crew of Ships of War since some or less
alacrity and cheerfulness? - Are the orders of Officers
more or less promptly obeyed?

There is evidently, even on board of this Ship,
less alacrity and prompt obedience to orders than heretofore,
evinced by an indifference and inattention to orders when
called upon, especially by junior or petty Officers to perform
the ordinary duties of the Ship - frequent instances of
this nature occur, being a source of annoyance and
Complaint both to Officers and the better disposed
Men. -

4th = Are there any effectual Means, by which the
badly disposed persons on board Ship may be restrained?

Various Means have been proposed and I
believe resorted to, but with what results on board of Sea-
going Ships I am unable to say - On board of this Ship
partly for the reasons before stated, there is seldom
occasion to resort to more severe punishment than
Confinement, or in the case of any of the Crew proper,
a disreputable discharge, Moreover there is ample
Means and sufficient Space, for securely Confining
delinquents, without injury to health or inconvenience
from loss of Service. - it is not so however on board
of Sea-going Vessels where the Services of all, are
necessary and where they have not the Means of
Confining

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1841

Confining him in such a Manner as to render it
effectual as a punishment, without danger of perhaps
permanently injuring the health of those Confined.

Altho' who are familiar with the Subject, must
agree as to the necessity of some Strenuous Means,
which the evil disposed may be restrained, but none
that I am aware of have been suggested as an
official Substitute for the Mode of punishment now
in use, nor am I prepared to offer one, being satisfied
from long experience in such matters, that none other can
be resorted to on board Ships of War, likely to have
the desired effect, or none more humane and salutary
when administered under wholesome and proper restrictions.

It is well known of what discordant Materials,
Ships Companies are usually composed, many of whom
are only to be controlled and restrained through the
fear of prompt and severe punishment.

3^d - Are the vessels of the Navy, now or less
efficient, since the abolishing of flogging in the Navy?

I am not prepared to answer this question from the
knowledge I have of the effect produced on board of
Sea-going Ships, where only it can be fairly tested, but
it may readily be understood that with less Authority
and power to enforce a strict and prompt obedience to Orders,
that the efficiency of a Ship of War, must of necessity be
seriously impaired.

Wm. A. Graham.
Secretary of the Navy
Washington.

I am respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant.
J. Wilson
Circum

U.S. Ship *Candacia*, Acapulco.

July 24th 1857

Sir,

I have the honor to report
the arrival of the *Candacia* from San Diego
on the 18th inst. By the steamer from Panama
yesterday. I had the pleasure of receiving
your letter of June 23rd approving the course
I have pursued for some months past. I now
enclose a list of the crew of this ship, showing
the expiration of their several periods of service,
almost all within ten months. I also submit
the Bimeneal and other customary returns.
The boy Cochran, for whose discharge I have
received an order from the Department
several months ago.

I have the honor to be,

with high respects,

Your most obedient servant

A. J. Gardner
Commander.

To the Honourable

Wm. A. Graham,

Secretary of the Navy.

U.S. Ship Decatur
Harbour of Pensacola
Augt. 3rd 1857

Sir

The enclosed copy of a letter from the collector of the Port of New Orleans was sent to me this day by Com^{dr} Thurston.

In obedience to the instructions of your orders dated "Norfolk 25th Aug." 1857, I ordered Lt. Com^{dr} Smith to proceed immediately to the Passes of the Mississippi, with the Steamer Vixen under his command, & on his arrival to communicate with the collector & under such assistance as would prevent the departure of vessels destined for the invasion of Cuba, (a copy of my order to him is herewith enclosed.)

The repeated orders received here that the Decatur would remain in this Port until further orders from the Department, has prevented the exercise of any discretion on my part as to leaving the Harbour of Pensacola, otherwise I should have immediately sailed for the Mississippi.

I have the honor to be
Very Resp^{ts}
(W. M. S. S.)

Am. Green
Com^{dr}

Com^{dr}

Joshua A. Parker
Com^{dr} Home Squadron

(14)

Custom House
New Orleans
Collector's office Aug: 30. 1851

Sir

I am instructed by the Treasury Dept: to correspond with you in relation to the difficulties with the Cuban invaders

I now have the honor to inform you that it is more than probable that within the next 2 or 3 days they will dispatch one + perhaps two or three Steamers with men to be landed on the Island.

There should be Armed Steamers at the Balize to intercept them - I am fearful that I have not sufficient force here to stop them, the whole of it ~~consisting of 34 U.S~~ Soldiers at the Barracks and the Cutter with one gun at the head of the passes - If you have any vessels that you could send here they would prove of great service

I have the honor to be
Sir With great respect
Yours Oth H.

(Signed) Wm French
Collector

In the Command: Officer
U. S. Navy
Pensacola
Fla.

Sir

Copy

USS Albatross Pensacola

Sept 3^d 1837

On the 1st inst I rec^d an order from Comm^r.
Parker, and on the 2^d inst - a communication from
the Collector at St Orleans requiring the aid of a
steamer in the waters of the Mississippi - Copies of
which I herewith enclose - You will proceed with
the utmost dispatch to the head of the paper of the
Mississippi; on your arrival you will communi-
cate with the Collector of the port of St Orleans
and render such assistance as will effectually
prevent the departure of any vessel destined for the
invasion of Cuba - You will also report your
arrival at that place to the Hon^{ble} Secretary of the
Army

Very Respy

Your Obedt^{nt}

(Signed) William Green

Commander

Just Comdy

William Smith

Actg. Viewr

Recd & filed on 7. Aug 1851
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White Sulphur Springs -
Greenbrier Co., Virg^a -

Sir,

In obedience to the regulation of the Navy Department, I have the honor to report my arrival at this place, on the 26th ult^o, in the hope of renovating my health by the use of the waters, & the climate of the mountains.

As my health, tho' much improved, is not yet entirely restored, I propose, under medical advice, to remain among the Springs & Mountains of this region, throughout the hot season, if it meet with the approval of the Department; & to return to my home in Lower Virginia, early in November.

Any communication addressed to me at this place will be forwarded to any other of the adjacent Springs, to which I may hereafter remove.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

with great respect,

Wm. A. Graham,

Secretary of the Navy,

Washington,

D. C.

Yr. obed^t. serv^t.

G. P. Upshur

Commander

Sir

St. Louis, and Bridge St. Office
Greene County, Arkansas
22nd August 1857.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order dated 20th instant requiring me to proceed to Memphis by the 1st of October to receive Commander Shields at the Army Ground School, &c.

Till within the past month the above order would have been cheerfully received, but a recent family affliction of an extremely painful nature renders it hard for me to comply at this time. I will explain my meaning in a few words.

My eldest son whom I had hoped to have placed in charge of my affairs has been for several weeks the subject of a melancholy approaching to mental derangement, and consequently requires my constant care and attentions.

~~Should you deem this statement a sufficient reason for revoking the order which you have sent me and can believe that the public service would not suffer by excusing me I would be obliged to you to have me excused; - Otherwise I shall promptly and at all hazards repair to Memphis by the day appointed.~~

I am very respectfully
Yr. Obedt. Servant
Commander U.S.A.

Wm. A. Graham
Secretary of the Army
Washington D.C.