

Sunday May 23

Dear "Doc":

I regret my neglect in answering but I've been assigned to a new duty and it has almost completely absorbed me soul & body -

After putting 2 ships to sea I was assigned Unit Commander assistant, as Adjutant, to a unit schooling 8 ships at a time and when full has a draft of 1200 men - We have some 400 today & will receive 800 on Saturday -

The chore of housing, disciplining and schooling that group of men just prior to sea duty makes the fading hair of my topmast turn gray pretty fast.

So far things have gone along without much trouble & I hope it will continue so but it has made my mind pretty tired these past few weeks -

However, everytime a ship of men puts out a little triangle goes up my