



## A Word from Captain Duff

In a cordial letter in response to a request for data on the early days of the ship, Captain Duff, the NEVADA'S first Chaplain, wrote in part as follows:

"I helped to put the 'Cheer-Up' ship into commission under Captain Sims. The Captain gave her the 'Cheer-Up' name. He always finished his letter with the phrase, and it was his pet salutation on all occasions. Soon the crew began to take it up and make it a real thing. The NEVADA went in to win everything that was open to contest and succeeded admirably; for instance in gunnery, engineering, sports, amusements, etc. The finest minstrel show that was ever given aboard any ship was given by the crew of the NEVADA. Of course, there was talent galore. The first weekly ship's paper, 'The Nevadan,' was published by her. The idea afterwards spread to other ships. The first 'Magazine Mess' for the crew was started on the NEVADA. Being the first super-dreadnaught, she

set a merry pace for the other supers following, but none ever quite reached her heights.

"Officers and crew were like one big family. They worked and played together.

"As for myself, I was just a green 'boot,' willing to try anything and everything. Some were good, others not so good; but good or not so good, I always received encouragement to try things out. I think one of the things that helped the ship most was the many, many things we were always trying to do. Everybody was kept busy, and I think as a result, were happy.

"It was always a good Church-going ship, by the way. Beginning with the Commanding Officer there was always a fine representation at Church on Sundays. Officers and men from other ships liked to come to the NEVADA for Church, not so much because of the Chaplain as the fine hearty 'welcome aboard' they always received at the gangway.

"My greetings to my 'first love,' the NEVADA."