

4 November 1982

Captain Richard A. Stratton U.S.N., Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Captain Stratton:

I desire to express my sincere thanks to the midshipmen candidates of the Naval Academy Preparatory School for the beautiful plaque, with the Naval Academy Preparatory School seal, which the midshipmen candidates presented to me at my home in Newport the afternoon of 22 October.

I deeply appreciate the inscription on the brass plate at the bottom of the seal which reads as follows:

"RAdm Joseph H. Wellings
From the Midshipmen Candidates
of the
Naval Academy Preparatory School
To their Admiral
October 1982."

The thoughtfulness and respect for older officers like myself which motivated the midshipmen candidates to present this plaque indicates to me that the future officers of our great navy will continue to serve their country with distinction.

I also desire to call to your attention and commend Major James N. Mattis, U.S. Marine Corps, a member of your Naval Academy Preparatory School faculty, for his efficiency, thoughtfulness, and courtesy to me and Mrs. Wellings when he planned and executed all the many details in connection with my speech entitled, "An Eye Witness Account of the Search and Sinking of the German Battleship Bismarck", which I delivered to the midshipmen candidates on 7 October 1982. The many special details were required because of my handicapped physical condition.

Major Mattis, in my judgement, has all the necessary characteristics of a very superior marine officer. I predict a bright future for him in the Marine Corps.

I suggest that my comments concerning Major Mattis be included in his official fitness report to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Wellings
Rear Admiral U.S. Navy (Retired)

Typed by Daryl Kolator 846-8224

88 Kay St - rgt off R I Ave (or left)

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