

Our first stop was Mobile, where a great crowd greeted us; and most everybody got off the train and bought about everything in sight. We telegraphed a combination message, Teddy and I, to Orange, and I sent one to father? Saw Garrison there for first time, and hardly recognized him with his shaven head. This was late in the afternoon, and after leaving, we soon began to fix for bed. Some of the men, Guy Murphy and Hollister, were on guard; so Bob Wrenn and I sat up until eleven, with our feet hanging out of the door. Singing and talking helped along the time, and we felt "out of sight" to have at last become even connected with the Regiment. Soon we turned in, and I found a bunk on the top of a lot of saddles, close to the top of the car, which place, comfortable enough at first, became more and more rocky and bumpy as the night advanced and the novelty wore off.

We stopped at Pensacola that night, but could see nothing of the city. Our next long stop was at Tallahassee, where they watered their horses; we stopped from noon until about five o'clock. Our Troop cooked dinner under a tree, and two of the men caught a chicken, and later, a man named Stewart caught a rooster. They picked them, and all I saw of the result was some chicken broth for the hospital patients in our car. Troop A caught a small pig, and another Troop had a goose. Holt and I purchased some very good milk, and that, with the army rations of hard tack, tomatoes and potato apiece, made a good meal. We had our first good wash in a brook near the track, and it did certainly feel good. The coons were thick, and we made them sing and dance for us at the station. We later raided a bottling shop, and had some fine ginger ale with Col. Wood and another officer. The Mayor of the town was very anxious to have the Regiment stop off there for camp, and offered all sorts of inducements; but after the horses were watered and fed, and all was ready we pushed on.

PLANS FOR ENLISTING.

We decided this day (after the arrival at Tampa) to enlist as follows: Teddy and I in Troop D and Bob Wrenn and Bill Larned in Troop A. Friends had a good deal to do with the decision. We looked on D for the horses, too, as they had several extra. D has splendid officers. Teddy and I wanted to be "bunkers," and we knew that by enlisting at the same time, we would be likely to be so. We returned to camp to find things more or less arranged; some tents up and the picket line out and the horses attached. We had a supper, not quite so luxurious as our dinner, but we managed to make a meal out of it. That night I slept out in the open between C's horses and our line of fence, on some borrowed blankets. Wright helped me out. Teddy had a cold and headache, so returned to town.

The next pages tell of the enlistment and the few first days and nights in camp.

On our return to camp after the last trip to town, I found that orders had just been issued to break up camp, preparatory to marching any minute. I did nothing but wait in expectation all the afternoon. Packing occupied all our time next day, and Dade hustled around to get Teddy and me equipped, but reported at four o'clock very little show; but I got everything together possible and was about equipped. There were to be only seventy men from our Troop, and this cut out Teddy and me, for we were not equipped and others had to stay with us to keep horses in readiness to follow. The order had been issued that the men were to go dismounted. When we learned that we were to be left behind, we were badly disappointed—Teddy not so much as I. We talked it over and decided that if only one could go, that I should take the place. At five the men were lined up to see just what men were equipped. It was found that 69 answered, so the Captain said to us at the side: "If any man can find a gun, he may go." I happened to notice where one had been placed by a man told to stay with the horses (— the saddler), so hustled right over to get it, and presented myself to the Captain. I previously had equipped myself with the exception of a gun. But as I came

up ——— claimed the gun and I gave it to him; but Captain said I could go. I did not know the reason, and told ——— to understand I was not taking his place by any pull; for he was dead anxious to go. He reported to Captain and Captain said he could go. He jumped in the air and yelled for joy at the news, while I almost broke down with disappointment, and did cry. I thought my goose was cooked, but kept at it and hoped for something to turn up. Everybody was excited, and we heard the cheers from the different troops as they received orders.

CHOSEN AT THE LAST MINUTE.

Next morning, as I was standing about talking, and bemoaning my fate, the Captain came up and handed me a gun and cartridge belt. I asked no questions, but simply leaped inwardly at my good fortune. I learned afterwards, that a man named Vandersleve had been found asleep on guard the night before, and that they had taken his gun and given it to me.

Now we had to fix up Teddy, and we hustled about to get him equipped, in hope something would turn up for him. After dinner, as we were lying about under the trees. Holt, Simpson, Teddy, et al., Lieut. Carr came along with a paper asking for subscriptions from the men to send a man named Crosby home, on account of the expected death of his wife. This misfortune proved the great fortune of Teddy, for it gave him a place. So finally we were all fixed, Wrenn and Larned had worked into Troop A, by pull or otherwise. Roosevelt gave Bob Wrenn his own gun,—such was the scarcity in that essential part of the equipment. Troop C was left behind; also H, L and M. This was very hard luck for Garrie and Jerry Edmund and Lieut. Lares from Harvard, all of whom were in Troop C.

At about twelve o'clock the order came to march. We lined up, and by the light of the moon, which had been a beauty during our whole stay, advanced to the railroad. After many "fake" alarms and wakings from sleep around a bonfire, we were marched to another railroad. There seemed to have been some mistake about trains. I never spent such a night in my life. We sponged some breakfast from another Regiment nearby and Bill Larned and I foraged the neighboring private houses, waking up everybody, in search of food. At about five o'clock a coal train pulled up, and we were ordered aboard. The cars were of the roughest type—dump cars—and we sat on the edges and stood in the bottom, just being able to peer over the top, but were so delighted at leaving that we put up with anything.

Arrived at Port Tampa about ten o'clock, and marched about a half mile to our steamer, the Yucatan. There was a terrible delay in putting up the gangway, and we had to stand out in the burning sun. I went aboard but was soon detailed to carry stuff. Almost died under weight of a bag of coffee. Never worked so hard in my life. We were assigned deck quarters, and our squad, under Sergt. Hill, fixed themselves about ten times before settling down. We have a splendid squad—Sergt. Hill, Teddy, Rhodes, McClure, Newcomb, Beal, Russell, Smutts, Wolf, McMillan, Knox. Certainly a peach crowd. The ship was terribly crowded. We returned to dock the next day and took on more provisions and supplies, and spent the night moored in the dock channel, and the next morning passed out again into the harbor, where we lay until Monday afternoon. The accommodations on the boat, while the extra men were there, were something frightful. I have often wondered how steerage passengers live. I found out by experiencing a much worse life.

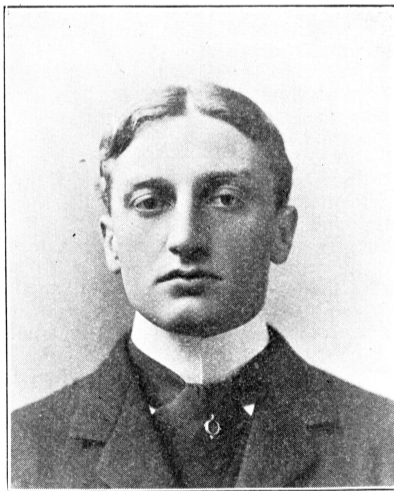
THE STRUGGLE FOR FOOD.

Our food grew worse and worse every day, and we would surely have starved had it not been for our friends in the kitchen. I got our squad to join another and have a beef hash, which relieved the monotony some. We had to pay enormous prices for everything in the kitchen, and the cooks imposed upon the men terribly. It is said that the baker made \$200 the first day for tips, and selling bread and ordinary stuff. He charged 50 cents for pies, and men paid anything between that

and \$1 for pies. The New York men simply poured money into the kitchen, and, at first, were allowed to board in the dining room after the officers, but later were forbidden this very great luxury. One can hardly realize how we begged for food, and even stole a cracker or piece of bread from passing waiters.

Saturday, the 12th, I had my hair cut, in fact shingled, and indulged in a most excellent shave also. We sighted land Friday, and from all indications it was Cuban soil. We later passed a sailing boat that carried mail from Cuban points to Nassau. Saturday passed with land in sight most of the day. At night I saw an incident which but indicates our point of desperation in search of food. A K man of New York sat upon the side of the cook's dining-room door, and when he thought no one was looking, reached in stealthily, grabbed a plate that had some gravy left from a meal, and drank it from the dish. Men offered any price for food, or even a scrap of bread from the kitchen.

I had felt "bum" all day and could eat nothing. The coffee was "rotten," and I took just a sip in the morning with two bites of hard tack, for breakfast; a sardine for dinner, which Bill Larned gave me, and had nothing for supper, hoping to work a pull I had arranged in the kitchen; but the fool cook went back on me. I had spoken to Bob Wrenn, Bill Larned, Teddy, Holt and Hill, so we were all disappointed. Holt, Bob and I went in search of anything we could get from the kitchen, and Teddy went with Doc. I never so craved even a crust of bread. The steward had ordered no one to sell anything, so the cooks did it on the sly only, and charged enormously and made tremendous money. They soon became terribly independent and domineering. We waited from seven until nearly ten down in a dark old alley, driven about by the guard and cooks like cattle. Holt thought he had a pull on some food, but it, too, failed. Finally Teddy and Doc bought a loaf of fresh bread for a quarter. They called me and I "did not do a thing" to that bread. I never had bread taste so good. We saved some for the others, so I did not get half enough. We used all means of persuasion, and had a plot to break into the cook's mess, but could not accomplish it. Bob Wrenn, unbeknown to us, had succeeded in buying from one of the crew, his supper of dry bread, bacon



GERARD MERRICK IVES, '96
DIED OF TYPHOID FEVER CONTRACTED AT TAMPA.

and a little bologna. We were leaving and had the most dejected spirits, when, suddenly, Bob produced this plate of stuff. I almost fell on his neck. This certainly braced me up, for I felt much better the next day. * *

ANSWERING THE BANCROFT.

To-day (Sunday, the 19th) we were ordered by the Flagship to drop back and accompany the City of Washington, the transport that was near the Maine when she was blown up. The City of Washington is towing an ammunition supply schooner, so goes more slowly than the rest. We made a large circle and rounded up alongside. While doing so, the Bancroft fired a shot signal for us to stop, and immediately ran alongside, and inquired why we had dropped back. There was some difficulty in understanding at the distance, as we had

no megaphone aboard. The commander of the Bancroft, after getting the desired information, and calling down" our Captain for not reporting change of orders, asked what troops were aboard, and upon reply from the Capt. that they were the Rough Riders with Roosevelt and Wood, there went up a great shout from the marines aboard the Bancroft, answered by a cheer for the Navy from our boat. It was tremendously inspiring. Later the Bancroft steamed alongside, and asked how Cols. Wood and Roosevelt were, and our men replied, almost in one voice: "he's all right." * * *

I was posted down in the hold and went on at seven. During my second guard, Lieut. Goodrich came down and we had a little talk. This post I had was to guard dynamite, and I had to keep very strict watch about lights, etc. We had service in the morning, and I sang in the choir next to Col. Roosevelt. Very good sermon on "Respect." We had a very good Chaplain.

Wednesday, 22d. This morning reveille sounded at half past three, and we packed everthing ready for landing. About seven o'clock came the bombardment of the shore in front of our column. The New York and New Orleans, with several gunboats and small yachts, carried on a fierce fire, and cleared the woods at the Spanish American Iron Company's pier. Dupree Hall planted the American flag on top of hill first of all, thus giving the honor to our Regiment. The Cuban forces met our men at the pier. Our Company did not disembark until about six o'clock p. m., and learned from Cubans that 1,000 Spaniards had been driven back.

"TEDDY" GIVES OUT.

Thursday. Had a lot of cocoanuts and rested at this place. Packed up about three o'clock under marching orders. Were among advance and started off on a terrible march. Teddy gave out at end of a mile and almost fainted. I took haversack, and after our first rest, we started on again. There was a great deal of climbing, and the starting and stopping was terribly tiresome. Started out in fours but soon changed to twos, and finally single file, through deep thicket. Teddy was pretty weak, and stopped by the wayside twice, and by orders I had to leave him; but he pluckily caught up again after a rest. His case was not exceptional, for the road was simply lined with regulars and Rough Riders. Our packs were terribly heavy, and a man without a haversack had to carry a shovel or axe or pick. I carried both quite a distance. We arrived at the place the left column had landed, where was quite a settlement. A railroad had been ruined by Spaniards, but was repaired by our forces and kept in working order.

We arrived about eight o'clock, after outstripping all regiments, and became advance guard of our forces. Hundreds of men dropped out and kept coming into camp for some time. It started to rain soon after Teddy arrived, and I fixed him up with his rubber blanket and cooked something for him. He was badly done up. After the shower he got up, while I was away in search of water and port wine, which had been thrown about by barrels before we arrived. On my return Bill Larned was with him, and they were drying their clothes before the fire. I cooked some coffee then and got my bed arranged, but did not get to sleep until nearly twelve, after drying clothes thoroughly, a precaution I always take. The march had been the feat of the day—about eleven miles through terrible sands and mud and thickets, but we made it in shorter time than the regulars. Most of it was made on double quick, and the catching up after helping on Teddy was very trying. We slept well that night, but in the morning at half past four Teddy awoke delirious.

Friday, 24th. Teddy wanted to go terribly, but was out of his head and talked incessantly about Polo match, which he thought he was playing and in which he had been hurt. I reported him and let Bill Larned and Bob know about him. I saw Surgeon Lamont, and offered fifty of Teddy's money to take care of him; no surgeon was to stay, so those left behind had to take care of themselves and each other. I helped Teddy to a house and fixed up his roll and money matters, and did