



RECORDS

Fort Omaha.

Panama Park. (Camp Cuba Libre)

Jacksonville, Florida.

Savannah (Camp Inward).

Georgia

Marianao (Camp Columbia) ~~December~~ 25

(8 miles from Havana)

1898

Cuba.

Apr 29. - 1899

Discharged the 24 of April at  
Quemados Cuba.

Spent the first 28 hours back in  
the U. S. on Hoffmans Island in  
quarantine, and long hours they  
were.

F. E. Kraft, M.D.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Div Hosp. 7<sup>th</sup> A. C.

Savannah Georgia Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1898

2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Hosp. T. A. C. Camp Onward

On this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1898. I commenced to keep account of travel and events of the day. The 12<sup>th</sup> of this month come on Monday. So far this has been quite a busy day, getting patients ready to go on the hospital train and receiving patients from other wards. The ward I am in is ward F, and section II. The report is we are to leave, on the hospital ship Missouri, tomorrow. It is being loaded with supplies. There has been so many reports one does not pay much attention to them any more. We have been going for the last week and we still camp on Georgia soil, we may get the final orders today, and we may not. I must not forget to put down what we had for breakfast, a kind of a stew, made up of a few onions, potatoes and a very little meat and a whole lot of water, baked beans, potatoes, boiled without jackets, molasses, bread and coffee, the last one I did not indulge in. At 2:58 P.M. the wagon train started with their first loads of hospital goods to load on the vessel. & every one is busy doing something. The report now afloat is we will not leave until Wednesday, one report follows another, so we are in a mist

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1918

1:25 P.M

Received a pass this morning in order to go to Savannah. As soon as I got into the business portion of the city I went to a policeman to find out in which <sup>direction</sup> I should go in order to get to the corner of Lincoln and Liberty. He said go that way (south) till you come to the second paved street, then go that way (east) three blocks. The reason I wanted to find that corner was this. I wanted to get my ration money. On the way to the corner I passed through an old cemetery. There was a great many brick vaults some of them were tumbling over, all of them had a greenish hue. On some of the tombstones I noticed the dates were quite old 1807-1813 & 1824. The tombstones looked weather beaten. The cemetery was real nice and quite large. When we got out of the cemetery we come to the building I was hunting for. Told the officer in charge of the office what I was there for. He said "you go to the commissary department." Go to the end of Lincoln street turn to the right and go a block and a half and on the left hand side of the street you will find the office. I done as was told they would not cash it. I asked for my furlough, saying I would tend to it when I got to Cuba. Went back to the business part of town to see what could see. Passed by the Dr. Sots

Hotel, it is one of the best in the city. The building is very nice. There is a great many nice buildings in the city. Passed through the city market. This building is built on the street. The street car line passes through it. It was a real nice place. The first stand we come to was a fish stand. There was a number of nice fish. one could get all kinds of fruit and vegetable. at one corner it looked as if it was filled with small butcher shops. While passing down the street could see a number of vessels. The street car lines of this city are single ones mostly with switches. these switches are handled like those of a rail road. In the center of a number of the streets are lanons which look quite nice. Received a letter from Mollie today. The trouble in camp today is how can we take any thing to Cuba. They say we can not have a trunk. thank fortune I have got a telescope grip if they only allow me take that I will be pleased. The rumor at present is we will not get away till friday. (what is next) also a certain number has to stay behind - to take care of the sick in the hospital. Word come to camp last night that Col Bryan had resigned and would return to his home. This morning we found out that he had

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>  
2:25 PM  
"147"

made his farewell speech to the regiment. He spoke in the U. M. C. A. hall. One of the boys said the Col made the remark he would try and have the regiment mustered out. Today is quite cool with a real sharp wind from the north. Last night was cold enough to make ice, and two blankets was not enough to permit one to fall in the hands of Morpheus and have sweet dreams.

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

4:25

This forenoon was quite cloudy. Three patients were taken from this section of the ward leaving us only four patients and three of us to wait on them. About 10:30 A.M. we had some cocoa, (only a quart) this is an every day occurrence. Our Royal Vibs. Jessie Talbot is chief cook, and after he makes it I must help him out. Henry Carlev always come in when it is ready and wants to know where his share is. He is most always late there for he does not get as much as Talbot and I. It snowed a little this afternoon, not enough to go sleigh riding or to snow ball. This afternoon every one was quiet and doing nicely so I had a real nice time writing. This morning I wrote to father and Charley. Yesterday afternoon I was one of the number to volunteer to stay and

help take care of the patients. They say we  
 will join the Corps in Cuba in about two  
 weeks. By staying here I will miss the  
 pleasure of helping to clean up the grounds  
 of the hospital. I hate that very much, what I  
 hate is doing the work not missing it. The  
 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia regiment broke camp this  
 morning and this afternoon they marched  
 to the City to board the transport Chester.  
 Before they left their old camp ground their  
 band played, Annie Laurie, Swanee River, and  
 Auld Lang Syne. I did not hear them play  
 Home Sweet Home. I suppose the band master  
 thought life so sweet to be assassinated.  
 The report come this evening that the  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Hosp. would be broke up tomorrow  
 and the patients would be sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div.  
 The orders change as rapidly as the wind.  
 we are ready for the next report. At noon  
 today I put on a pair of shoes I got the  
 first of the week. they are dandys both in  
 size and appearance. and when I walk  
 they peel forth such silvery music, music  
 that once heard will never be forgotten. You  
 can hear the sweet squeak, excuse me I  
 should of said sweet voice above every  
 thing else. short may the squeak live, but



long wear the shoes. There is several camp fires ablaze this eve; and the boys get as close to the fire as possible in order to get warm. This evening is not as cold as the last couple eves, although there is a low wind from the north. The nights ever since pay day has been quite blue not the natural blue, but that kind caused by the oaths from the mouths of those who have been to the city and come home with more booze than sense.

Dec 16<sup>th</sup>

11:11 A.M.  
1917

This forenoon is quite warm. There was a very heavy mist this morning about 9:30 it lasted for about an hour and a half. It was not what one could truly say was a mist but a fine rain. One can hear the whistle of the transports quite often. Understand the boys that go on the Chester are crowded, the boys are put on the ship first then the mules are loaded. The latter no doubt fare the best. At 2 P.M. today three ambulances arrived and took three of the patients from our section to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Hosp. leaving one patient in our section with three of us to take care of him. This patient will leave tomorrow for his home in Mo. He is a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant in Co. G, 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri

His name is Pourie. The report today is we will sail Sunday morning, also we will have our last meal here tomorrow at 3:30 PM and leave camp Sunday morning at 6 AM and have our breakfast aboard the ship. It is hard to tell what the next report will be, we are waiting patiently for it. The Jatique gang is busy packing up the office furniture.

Dec 17<sup>th</sup>  
1:51 P.M.  
"147"

The first thing that would meet ones eyes this morning was a heavy fog. At roll call we found out who was to go to Cuba. If the ones that go now are the luck or unlucky ones the future is to decide. I am one of the number that is to go. Our baggage was taken to the ship about 10 o'clock. I have wished several times that we were in Cuba and this moor was to go home. This morning three of us started to go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Reg. went about a mile and found out the regiment was going to town to take part in the parade. So we stood on the corner and watched the different regiments pass by, at last the 3<sup>rd</sup> passed by and then we returned to camp. The president is to be in the city today and there is to be a grand review of the remains of the 7<sup>th</sup> A. C. I wanted to go and see it

but I was told that the orders were, not  
 to issue any passes today, so I did not  
 go. did not have any desire to run any  
 risk. It is real quiet around the camp  
 this afternoon. The boys have gone some where  
 pass or no pass. This afternoon has turned  
 out to be real nice, about as nice as any  
 day I have seen since I have been here. The  
 6<sup>th</sup> Mo is having guard mount. do not know  
 if it is regular or not. if it is regular they  
 are quite late or have changed time. Still it  
 does not make any difference with their  
 band. 7:17 P.M. Very likely this will be our  
 last night in Camp Anward. The last orders  
 were we would leave here at 6 A.M. in the  
 morning (sunday) we had our last supper  
 at 4 o'clock. it consisted of potatoes, hard  
 boiled eggs, apple sauce bread and coffee. I  
 left the last for some one who enjoyed  
 the slop better than I do. Still I enjoy a cup  
 of coffee but not what we get here. the amount  
 of supper they give us would not give any one  
 gout, at the least over load his stomach. It  
 may be a good thing on account of us sailing  
 tomorrow. They say we are liable to have roll  
 call at any time tonight. They best hurry up or  
 I will be in bed and be hard to awaken, Good-Night

Dec 18<sup>th</sup>  
5:55 P.M.

On board the hospital ship Missouri on the broad Atlantic Ocean. Got up this morning at 4:45. helped to take down several tents, then went to roll call. We were billed to leave camp at 6 but did not get away till 7. Marched to the city, it took a little over an hour. Did not have any breakfast. When we got to the dock had to unload several wagons, then our baggage was inspected to see if we had any liquor. The major that inspected us said we had enough baggage for a bride and all we were was a set of lousy tramps, a very nice remark indeed for a man who claimed to be a gentleman. A great many of the boys could learn him some manners. After inspection we boarded the ship, about 10 a.m. the tug Jacob Paulsen steamed along side the Missouri and attached their cable to us, in order to pilot us out. The Mimewaski was at the dock close to us taking on supplies. We did not get away till 12:30 P.M. When we steamed down the river, the boats saluted us by either blowing their whistle or dipping their flag. This boat saluted by giving three blasts.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>  
1:58 P.M.

This morning I got up at 5:45, it was very warm in the ward, just as soon as I washed I went on deck, there was a nice breeze blowing. At 6:30 the different Co were ordered to fall in for breakfast. I fell out in short order but soon got in line for mess. after washing my dishes I got sick as a horse, went on deck and soon heaved it up again. About 10 they had fire call and all were sent to their ward and I have not been on deck since, am going now. It is rather windy this-afternoon. It rained some for awhile. The lady nurses stay close to their ward today, may be they have the same reason I have, a mighty good one to.

Dec 20  
3. P.M.

Felt some better this morning, although did not eat much for breakfast same at dinner time. Past two steamers and a sailer today. Seen Miami at a distance also, two light houses. Have been off the banks of Florida since morning, could see the trees and inlets quite plainly. So far the day has been real nice with the exception of a strong wind

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:40 P.M.

Havanna Harbor Cuba. Arrived in this port about 6:30 P.M. Passed by old Fort Moors and the wreck of the Main. Sighted Cuba for the first about 1 o'clock. The mountains showed up at the distance and looked real nice. The hills close to the coast looks as if they were covered with trees or shrubbery. Several miles east of this city is a town. it looked as if it was a real nice place. East of Moors Castle is several forts. In the harbor is a number of ships at anchor. The sea was real quiet today. One could see a great many flying fish today. They are silver color and can fly 15 or 20 feet. I had one meal today and that was supper. also bought a sandwich for 5 cents. Since Sunday I have also two meals. Every thing is quiet this eve and a nice sea breeze is a stir making it quiet pleasant on deck. still it has no sympathy on the boys in the ward. sighted a vessel today also seen a light house this morning. The pilot boarded the vessel a couple miles out from the entrance to the harbor. he was greeted with a hearty applaud from every one on deck.

Dec 22

6:13 P.M.

"147"

Marianso Cuba. 8 miles S.W. from Havana.  
 We left the ship about 10 A.M. and marched to the depot. On our march up the street we passed a company or two of Spanish soldiers. The streets of Havana are very narrow and dusty. The houses and store look picturesque. so many of the houses have nice big courts. We passed through a park. it was nice. with its tropical trees and plants. On our journey to the depot we had a couple rests and seen a number of odd sights. The depot is very small. The first room is occupied by a stand. then there is three waiting room and three places to buy tickets 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class. The 1<sup>st</sup> class calls for a coach with rattan seats and back. 2<sup>nd</sup> class rattan back and board seat 3<sup>rd</sup> class board seat and no back. The coaches are not overly clean. and are not so very good. The engines are peculiar looking. small and the tender holds about a ton of coal. The road bed is very good. At 1 P.M. we left for Quemados which is the nearest station to camp. We had to lounge around the street for a couple hours. There is a number of nice residents in the town. mostly one

story and plastered on the outside. The  
 front is painted so as to represent marble  
 or granite. Each one has a large piazza in  
 front and large pillars. The doors and windows  
 are about the same size. The windows are  
 barred with iron. In the day time the windows  
 are thrown open, so one can see in the  
 house very nicely. The rooms are fixed up  
 real nice. Some of the rooms have marble  
 floor and no carpet. Every thing is made  
 for coolness. A number of houses have real  
 nice flower gardens, and orange trees, some  
 have banana trees. About 4 P.M. we marched to  
 the engineers camp where we got supper, and  
 when time come for to retire we bunked in  
 their mess house. At Havana I got a bottle  
 of soda pop, it was warm and oh how it did  
 taste. Then I purchased a couple of fried cakes  
 they were real good. That was the extent of my  
 dinner with the exception of a couple of hard  
 licks. The day was quite warm, and marching  
 was tiresome and oh so dusty.

Dec 23

Went to Havana on detail. The Missouri  
 was out in the bay and would not pull  
 up to the wharf so we could get any  
 supplies. So we remained around the dock  
 till nearly supper time. Going to and from



the city we passed a number of nice places  
 and some were quite interesting. There is a  
 great many royal palms along the road  
 some are 40 and 50 feet high, and straight  
 as can be. on the top is a large cluster  
 of leaves. At one place we passed a banana  
 farm. there was very little fruit on them.  
 Around some of the farms and residents  
 are stone wall on top of some of them  
 are broken glass bottles set in cement,  
 making it real unhandy to climb or  
 walk on the wall. Some of the plantations  
 have real nice buildings while the buildings  
 on others are in ruins. The country is real  
 nice and the land looks rich. the only  
 draw back is the stones. the are very  
 plentiful and of all sizes. The chief way  
 of locomotion is by mules or oxen. Two  
 wheel carts are all the go. the wheels are  
 quite large. The carts are drawn by 2 or 3 oxen  
 and from 1 to 5 mules. The mules are hitched  
 up in tandem fashion. One mule can draw  
 a large load. A common way of hauling  
 hay is to strap it on the back of a  
 horse or pony, and muzzling them so  
 they can not eat it. Milk is peddled  
 a horse back. the saddle is made with

large pockets on each side to hold the  
 cans. Coke is used a great deal, it is packed  
 in sacks. The store fronts are open and it  
 is a common occurrence to see a man  
 drive his pony in a store. The poorer class  
 believe in the over head system, they carry  
 quite large loads on their head. There is  
 a number of Spanish forts to be seen on  
 the way to town. at one place we pass a  
 Spanish rifle pit. It is circular with  
 sand bags around the edge, and around  
 the pit is a wire fence with the wire  
 woven together so as to make it very  
 dangerous to make a rush on the persons  
 in the pit without being badly mangled  
 by the wire if not shot before reaching  
 the fence. Every mile is a block house, the  
 houses are not very large about 12 feet  
 square, some are made of brick other of  
 wood but both are well cemented on the  
 out side. There is openings close to the  
 roof to look through and shoot at the  
 advancing force. There is a number of  
 old bridges over the streams, some are of  
 iron others of stone. To say it was dusty  
 makes it seem quite mild. Nebraska is  
 not in it when the wind does not blow.

Dec 24

Went to Havana again. Had a more successful trip this time, managed to get some of our supplies. On the way to the city we passed the British consular place. He was in front and applauded as we passed by. His daughters were at the windows and also cheered and waved the flag. Along the road at different places I noticed old canons sunk in the ground, muzzle down. They are used as hitching posts and defenders to keep the carts from going too close to the walls. Other places use rail road iron. Some of the houses are built up aways from the street and the banks are walled up and the walls are cemented on then painted. some have nice scenery painted very nicely, giving the surrounding place a nice appearance. The houses are all shuffled together this house may belong to a rich person and the next one is inhabited by a negro or chinaman. The drug stores are not very large but are nice and most of them are kept clean. The road is very good and small towns are quite numerous. The fruit vender also cookie vender are numerous. since the soldiers have come they have advanced in price and find a very good market for every thing.

Dec 25

Xmas Day in Cuba and not a Merry Xmas at that. In the forenoon we were kept busy putting up tents. at first we had a very good crowd but the longer we worked the smaller the gang got to be if had worked much longer would not of had a corporale guard. For Xmas Dinner we had a very poor meal. In the afternoon we had 2 1/2 hours given to us to use or do as we please. most of the boys went over to the little town on a hill. Quemados is a town of about 2000 inhabitants. there is one principal street that is used for business and private. I had the pleasure or bad luck to see a cock fight. It was a very tame affair and I soon got enough of it. The Cubians seemed to enjoy it and when one bird happened to get a feather in its mouth oh! how the Cubians chuckled with joy. Going down the street one could see a little of every thing. Some of the better class was out for a drive and seemed very happy. A number of Cuban women were out for a walk. and oh how fond they are of powder they get it on in a very uneven manner and it looks tough. The negroes and cubians mingle together. In front of some houses you

can see three colors. I noticed a dead wagon go by. it is a two wheeled cart with a heavy box built on the running gears. painted black with a white stripe around the edge and a cross on top. The wagon is drawn by either a mule or oxen. We passed by a large residence with a lovely flower garden. Two of us went in the other young man was afraid to go. He said we were quite cheeky. The garden was beautiful all kinds of tropical flowers. a great many of them were in bloom and looked nice. we had to be back at 5:30 P.M. For supper we had canned beef, potatoe salad hard tack and coffee. A number of the boys come back feeling just a little to much of Cubas favorite drinks for their own good. This Xmas is one I will never forget and I hope I will never have to pass another one like it. It is one I will never forget all though I said at the time I hope I could end would try to. I went to bed quite early. Went to the city again. Befor I went I got good and wet. It commenced raining some time during the night and the mess hall where we slept was not completed. the tin paper had not been put on the roof

Dec 26<sup>th</sup>  
"1947"

so when it rained it was bound to go  
 through the cracks between the boards. as  
 good luck had it my bunk mate and my  
 self were sleeping under the table so  
 we managed to keep dry although our  
 blankets got wet. We got up quite early and  
 had to keep moving about in order to  
 find a place to keep out of the rain.  
 about 8 o'clock I went to the majors tent  
 to mail a letter and oh how it did rain  
 when I started back and I got wet to the  
 skin. about 11 o'clock 20 of us volunteered to  
 go to the city it had quit raining and we  
 wished to take a ride for the benefit of  
 our health. There was quite a number on  
 the street even if it were cool. when one  
 goes to the city it is not an uncommon  
 thing to see little children running around  
 in front of the house naked as the day they  
 were born. This day while going down the  
 street I noticed a colored lady and from  
 the appearance of her face I should judge  
 she had leprosy. she was a horrid object to  
 look at. I got to see a devil go to his work  
 he placed an iron mask on his shoulder  
 and wore a thin shirt and an old pair  
 of pants. Then he went to work. to the market

is attached a rubber tube and to the other end is attached a machine which forces air to the mask. This machine is run by two men at a time they work very hard and after awhile two others take their place. one can tell where the diver is at work by the air bubbles. After loading our wagons we started for camp getting here about 9 o'clock. then we went to mess then retired.

Dec 27<sup>th</sup>  
X

This day is cloudy and has been raining some, especially in the forenoon. About 10 A.M. I and four others were sent for a load of wood. Had to go about 3 miles. went over a road I had never been over before. a part of the road was real good and the other part was rough. passed by 161<sup>st</sup> Ind Reg. also a U.C. reg and a couple others. seen a number of trees with large nuts on them but could not learn the name of them. also seen a number of tropical plants. Passed by a place where they had three tobacco fields the fields differed in size. The plants looked nice and green. the owner had a couple of natives hoeing and they kept the fields nice and clean. Before we got to the place where we were to get our

wood we passed a lime kiln. It was made of brick and at a distance one would take it for a fort. a little east of the kiln is the place where they get water. When we got to the cars there was 7 or 8 teams ahead of us and only enough wood for the teams that were loading. so we had to wait an hour or so until they got 3 cars more. when they did come it did not take us long to load our wagon and return to camp. 3 of the boys walked while the other 2 rode and when we got to camp every one was eating and us 2 that rode had the pleasure of unloading the wood. we said the next time we would walk. In the afternoon we had to do most any old thing

Dec 2 8<sup>th</sup>  
"147"  
2 X

Had a very poor night's sleep. Thought I would freeze even if I did have 2 blankets over me and when I got up my head felt as big as a barrel and helped out by a dull head ache. About 8 o'clock started for the city after some more supplies. Packed a man selling chickens he had several of them tied to his saddle with their head downwards it looked cruel to carry them that way. It is quite a common thing to see goats on the porch in front of houses and some



time when the folks open the doors a goat will jump out of the house and go out for a walk. We got to the dock about 10:30 A.M. and ate corn beef and hard tack then loaded our wagons. While we were eating the Missouri started for the states. We got back to camp about 3 o'clock and unloaded the wagons and I spent the remainder of the time writing home to Charley and Nettie and retired for the night about 9 P.M. Oh yes this is the day we drew our cots and I slept my last time on the floor, or table of the mess hall unless some one steal or takes my cot away from me.

Dec 29<sup>th</sup>  
3:30 P.M.  
x

Got up this morning just as the bugle told me to. Had a good nights rest on my new cot. after fixing up my blankets I placed my cot on the rafters and went to roll call and mess. after mess I put my dishes away and then we had another roll call and drilled up to the captains tent to make out requisition for new clothing got through in time for dinner. Had the pleasure of helping to carry some trunks for the lady nurses one of them treated a couple of us to some pickles which tasted very good and invited us back

For some more, we accepted with thanks.  
 For dinner I had 2 biscuits, 1 piece of pork,  
 spoonful of beans and rice, and some soup.  
 Have no use for their coffee. I am told that  
 cows are taxed \$4.00 if you wish to keep them  
 or \$1.00 if you wish to kill them. Chickens  
 sell for \$1.00 a piece, eggs 8¢ a piece, flour 10¢ per  
 pound, apples 5¢ a piece, oranges from 3 to 7  
 for 5¢ cents according to the distance from  
 camp. This camp is in a lovely location  
 2 miles from sea, we are located on ~~the~~ a  
 hill and can see the ocean and it is  
 a common thing to see a vessel go  
 sailing away to the sea. One of the boys  
 from the engineers corps shot him self this  
 forenoon. I do not know how bad, some say  
 he can not live and most all the reports  
 are different. Today one of our boys received  
 his discharge, it was without honor. He was  
 transferred from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska.

Dec 30

Went to the city on detail. Seen a couple  
 Spanish gun boats and transports. Very few  
 Spanish soldiers were to be seen upon the  
 street. U. S. soldiers were doing provost duty.  
 For dinner we had cheese, crackers and old  
 ginger ale, we ate heartily. The quartermaster  
 in charge reported that some of our detail

had stolen half a box of chewing tobacco. our quartermaster had us to line up and then told us "you who have taken any of it step on pace forward" no one responded. then he searched us and found none and reported us to the complaining quartermaster. We started for home about 1:30 P.M or 2 and got to camp about 4:30. the road was rough and awful dusty. The city is being decorated with flags both the United States and the Cuban. It looks real nice. The engineers moved to their new camp and left us in charge of their old one. we will soon have a home of our own. it will take some work to get every thing in shape. At present they are using the mess halls for wards. do not know if it is temporary or not. they make very nice wards also nice mess halls. there is four of them.

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>  
9:15 A.M  
"147"  
X

The last day of the year. what a change from last year. a year ago today I was in Vehr. today way down in Cuba. This morning I got up at 6 o'clock washed at the well. then went to roll call after roll call went to mess. For mess I had 2 very solid biscuits. spoonful of potatoes. without salt or pepper. two spoonfuls of rice and some condensed milk on it.

and a mouthful of meat. (pork) I tried  
 to make my self think I had a large  
 piece by cutting it in three pieces. After  
 breakfast we had to fall in for another  
 roll call counted numbers and marched  
 up to the Capt's tent and were vaccinated  
 and now I am sitting around with my  
 sleeve rolled up waiting for my arm to dry  
 so I can put my sleeves down. This is a  
 lovely day and a nice cool breeze coming  
 from the east. The sound of the hammers  
 can be heard plainly. The cuban carpenters  
 are busy putting tar paper on a couple of  
 the old mess halls, now wards. Since the  
 hospital has come to Havana the guard  
 house has been doing a land office business.  
 a number of the boys are in it. one for allowing  
 some champagne to be missed while he was on  
 guard. another it is said is in for theft. In  
 the morning I got permission to go to the  
 division headquarters to have my furlough  
 cashed. the major was not in, so I come back  
 to camp and ate dinner and went back about  
 1:30 P.M. and had the pleasure of coming back at 3. P.M.  
 without seeing the major. had a 6 mile walk  
 for nothing. At or nearly 4:30 P.M. we were lined  
 up for inspection and passed in review.

Jan 1 1899

A happy New Year to all and especially to those who may be unlucky as to see between the covers of this book. At 12 o'clock this morning I happened to be awake and heard a bugle blow and when it ceased a band at one of the regiments struck up the favorite tune My country 'Tis of Thee. How nice it did sound. To make it sound nice one has to be away from his home and in a foreign land and then when you hear a national air it sounds far more sweeter than they ever did with me they make me wish to be back home. To continue on when the band had played a while from the noise of guns and fire crackers one would at the first thoughts think of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July instead of a New Year. About 3 o'clock I was awakened by the pattering of rain on the tent so I got up and closed the end of the tent and went back to slumber land. I suppose you see that on this New Year morning I turned over a new leaf. The first thing this morning was a bugle calling the boys of some regiment up at 5:30. I stayed in bed till 5:45 then got up, washed and went to roll call then to breakfast. For breakfast we had cold tough biscuits, potatoes without seasoning, rice, fat pork and coffee if you wished. I

did not wish any. This New Year day in Cuba, perhaps I should of said New Year morning, as this is morning only 8:30 and I can not say what the day will bring forth. This morning is nice the clouds are clearing away a half hour ago a real nice rainbow could be seen in the south west. Every thing indicates a nice day, only hope it will be so. A few minutes ago a hearse passed by, it was not one that indicates a death in a rich family but one for the poor people. It looked more like a box to throw garbage in than the body of a person. I commenced one very good habit this morning that was a bath also shaved. it was the first time since I left Savannah. So far are leisure moments have been scarce or in other words few and far between. The order for today is, no one to leave camp, from major down to private. A great many of us would like to go to Havana this afternoon and witness the flag raising over Fort Morris. The Cubians or rather a certain set of them expect to see the Cuban flag raised and float to the four winds. Trouble is expected in the city today, so the hospital corps has to stay in camp and if trouble should arrive we will be at our post and ready for duty.

I helped to put up one tent and take one down and then I done as a great many more done. That was, walk away from work, not that I was afraid to work but if one is willing to work he can work for a number of persons that do not want to and always get out if they have the least chance. As this is New Years and Sunday I shiked it may of been decidedly wrong but never the less I am guilty of that trick. Today I and five others are in our own tent. am sorry to say two of them are a sleep, not a natural sleep but one brought on by liquor. It is any thing but pleasant to have them around. They are a very fair sample of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division hospital 7<sup>th</sup> army corps. we will have to put up with such undesirable things as long as we are in the army. We hope this will not be very long. At present (11 a.m) it is raining. have had several small showers this forenoon. It is a good thing I did not say this is a lovely day when I first started this days memorandum. It is quite cloudy at present, who can tell what it will be in an hour from now. The wind this evening is quite cool making a blouse quite comfortable. The guards around the hospital have received orders to halt a person three times and

if they do not respond then to shoot  
and shoot to kill. I spent a majority  
of the afternoon helping to move floors,  
tables, benches, pulling tent stakes  
and carrying some chairs over to  
the lady nurses tent.

Jan 2  
"147"

Got up this morning at 4 o'clock, not that  
it was my choice but the choice of an  
unknown power. The bible says a wise man  
builds his house upon a rock while the fool  
builds his upon the sand. It may not be  
worded as I have it above. In the army a  
fool builds his house upon a rock. excuse me  
I should of said a tent instead of a house  
and the wise man builds his on the ground  
or sand. the wooden pins we use are not  
hard enough to penetrate the rocks. and  
this morning I was made to believe it  
stronger than ever. The tent I was in tried  
to come down while I was in it. The wind  
blew and the rain fell and at 4 o'clock AM  
I got up and went out and tried to  
put the pegs in. then I called the other  
boys they come out and I tried to drive  
the pine through the rock but give up  
completely disgusted. It stood for awhile I do  
not know how long as I left camp at 5 AM



At 5 or a little after I went to the city on  
 detail duty. Bfore going I had what they  
 called breakfast. When I boarded the  
 ambulance it was raining some, not so  
 very hard any how I had my poncho with  
 me. at last we started and the road proved  
 to be muddy and slippery. when we went  
 down the hill aways and turned to get on  
 the main road the ambulance slipped and  
 I thought we would go down the embank-  
 ment. we did not and I was mighty glad  
 of it, and yet I was looking for a soft  
 place to allow my mortal frame come in  
 contact with mother earth. It would of  
 been much easier to pick out rocks instead  
 of the cubian soil. When we got on the  
 main road away we went as fast as four  
 mules could take us on a trot. If there  
 was any rough place in the road we  
 surely found them we went bumped bump  
 I was surprised at not going out on  
 my nose and plowing up the cobble stones.  
 of course if I should of went I would of  
 went on <sup>my feet or</sup> landed on my nose. and 99 chances  
 out of 100 on my nose. The road was  
 quite muddy. We got to the city bfore  
 all the stores were open. at last we got

to the wharf and waited till nearly 9 before the wagons arrived when they did come we worked hard till 10. when they shut the doors to allow the men go to their meals which I understand is called their breakfast. They opened the doors at 11. then we went in and ate our dinner, crackers and cheese. after dinner we worked till after 2 then we started for camp. Between 10 and 11 I went down to the transport that just arrived and found out the first Battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Neb. V.I. was on and my Co was in the battalion. seen a number of boys I knew while in the regiment. When we started for camp we got caught by the rain several times. we got to camp at mess time and I noticed the tent I was in was down. The boys covered up my cot and things so they would be dry then I got new quarters. Today I seen three funerals. the coffin in each case was carried by three men and about a dozen men followed on behind. They say they do not bury the coffin but take the body out. they rent the coffin for the occasion. The meat wagons are two wheeled carts but are closed with grating on the end and side

to allow ventilation, also allow the dust in. When we got ready for to retire one of the doctors come in and wanted to know if any of us would give our coats up to the lady nurses, none of us was so kind hearted as to respond to the request. we had no desire to sleep upon the ground and use a rock for our pillow.

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

This morning was real nice. Spent a half hour or so writing. About 8 or 8:30 I was detailed to help clean the operating room, about 9 I was taken away from that duty and sent to the city on another detail. The road was rough and muddy, and the mud would spatter all over ones clothes and when it would dry it would be nice and white, but not white as snow. When we got to the dock I was detailed to help load baggage. While we were waiting for a wagon one of the boys come running down to where we were standing. he was scared half to death and he said "There is a big fight out side of the gate, the officers are drawing swords on each other and privatis are clubbing with their guns". we remained where we were after awhile a corporal came after the whole relief, then they started to the

seat of trouble in a few minutes they  
 brought one man in he was wild with  
 fight, they could hardly manage him, in  
 a couple minutes they brought in the  
 second one his face head and neck was  
 all covered with blood. they brought him  
 down to the ware house and washed his  
 head and face, and then took him to the  
 boat. after awhile no 1 got mad again  
 and started after a sergeant it took 5  
 or 6 men to hold him. finally they got  
 him on the ground and conquered him.  
 We went to work and loaded a couple  
 wagons and we noticed another crowd  
 and we seen they were having trouble  
 with no 1 again at last they got him on  
 a wagon and several boys had to hold him  
 down. no 3 was on the wagon also but  
 come back and they sent him out on  
 another wagon. six boys were holding him  
 and he kept trying to put his foot upon  
 one of the boys rifle. the bandage around  
 his head was saturated with blood. From  
 the way he acted he should of had the  
 but end of a rifle used upon his head, at  
 a place where there was no injury and used  
 with force enough to make him remain

quiet till they reached their camp. These boys belonged to the artillery and were out for a time and by the looks of a couple of them they got it in first class shape. They spilled blood but not that of the Spanish soldiers but that of their own number. It was all caused by drink. They say a drunk caused by the Cuban drinks will make one fight his grand mother. The devil is in it sure. The U.S. soldiers are very fond of it and get full quite often therefore they make a very good army of occupation. They set a very nice example for the Cubans to follow. To continue on one of our number spoke to the lieutenant asking him about some thing to eat. his answer was I have nothing my self. hurry up and load the wagons and we will get some at camp. it was after 1 when the young man asked and we had not loaded any wagon at that time. about 2:30 we went into the ware house where the remainder of the detail were at work and one of the boys was kind enough to give us some crackers and cheese we went back to work and finished up about 4 and started for home and got caught in several small showers. as luck had it I

took my pouches along with me, so I did not get very wet. Coming to camp we overtook a Burman with a heavy load on his one horse-cart. He had a rope attached from his cart to a meat wagon in front of him. This meat wagon was drawn by 2 oxen. The poor native's horse slipped and fell and the oxen pulled him on his side over the rough road for 50 or 60 feet. I was looking for the poor animal to be killed. Another place a horse was down and the man unhitched it and the poor animal looked as if it were dead. He kicked it and at last twisted its tail and then it got up. Another place we passed a native driving oxen. He kept prodding them till the blood was running down their legs. Their lips were all scared by the continuous prodding. We got to camp between 6 and 7 and unloaded the baggage some of the lady's trunks weighed 200 and 300 pounds. Still I declared the weighed a half ton. After finishing this job I washed my hands and went to supper. For mess we got rice, beef, mostly (at) potatoes and bread. The first bread we have tasted for 10 days or more. The first we have had since we have had our own provisions

Jan 4<sup>th</sup>  
7.30 P.M.

This morning was real nice. While we were at mess we noticed the buzzards flying around the dead tent. They would perch on it and try to get in at the dead bodies. The guards were kept busy throwing stones at them to keep them away. After breakfast I was detailed to go to the city again. Oh! how rough the roads were. we passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Neb marching to camp. They looked tired. To help them along the road was nice and muddy. We got to the warehouse between 10 and 11 and the doors were closed so as to allow the workmen go home for breakfast. As soon as the door was open we went in and got a lunch loaded our wagons and was on our way home about 2.30. The sights around the city are comical. one man peddles fruit. this one fried cakes. another fried fish, another dress goods, another one lace. he has the lace and ribbons attached to a long stick and goes from house to house. Now and then we come ~~across~~ a man on a cart peddling water. he has a big barrel and a few water bowls. now and then we find a man with a patten with a roasted hog cut in halves on it, along the street

here and there is found men and boys  
 in groups with sweet potatoes, fruit, or  
 pumpkins in front of them to sell to  
 any one who wishes to buy. a meat  
 piddle goes from house to house, the meat  
 does not look any to clean. We got  
 home from the city about 3:45 unloaded  
 the wagons and was just in time to  
 go to the funeral of the young man  
 who shot him self last week and a  
 colored man who died of spinal meningitis.  
 We marched to the cemetery a mile and  
 a half west of camp. a salute was fired  
 over them. Before the salute Father Craft  
 offered up a prayer. a bottle of holy water  
 was placed on each one of the coffins.  
 The coffins were made from lumber found  
 around camp and looked like rough  
 coffins. After the salute was fired, taps  
 was sounded and we marched back to  
 camp. and had supper. after supper I  
 managed to get a box and use it for a  
 stand and also got a paste board box and  
 put a candle in it so it would not blow  
 out. took of my shoes, placed a paper  
 on the ground for a rug so not to get  
 my stockings dirty. Then I got out this



book and pen, and started to write about this and that, and what does it amount to. I just heard a noise on the paper, excuse me. I should of said my rug, and looked down expecting to see a snake or scorpion and all it was was a very small cricket. My knee does not make a very good writing desk. I will close for this eve. Oh! you by gosh the place where I was vaccinated has commenced to itch may be it is going to take.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 P.M.

This morning I got up at 6 o'clock and went to the pump about a quarter of a mile north east of my tent and washed, then I returned and attended roll call at 6:30, and went to mess at 6:45. After breakfast I was sent to the city on a detail, arrived at the warehouse at 10:30. The doors was closed so we lounged around in the shade. As we were getting out of the wagons we heard a noise coming from the rear of our train, on looking around we noticed a runaway team of government mules. I was astonished to see four government mules run away. They made a great deal of noise and I was only to willing to allow them have the right of way. one of the boys climbed

into the rear of the wagon and stopped them. if he was as green a hand as I am when it comes to handling mules they would of went on their wild trip unmolested. When the door of the ware house opened we went in and ate our sumptuous dinner of cheese and crackers. After finishing loading the wagons we started for camp about 2 P.M. along the road we seen plenty of goats. The Cubians must depend a great deal on goat milk. some of them are cute looking. When a man has more than a couple horses to lead he ties the halter of one to the tail of another and so on untill the last one is tied then away they go. and it is a comical looking sight. Some of the little boys ride and drive their goats. my opinion is they take their time for it and if it was my self doing the driving I would want plenty of time in order to pick out good roads to travel over. For the road we travel is rough. making one very sore by the time he has made the round trip. When we got half way to camp we had to stop and wait for one of the teams. we waited half an hour and when they caught up we found out they lost

their load of tent poles, we started on and went about a half mile and noticed a dead wagon in front of a house. The man in charge of the wagon opened the doors and two men took out a trough like box. The wagon had six of them in it. they are very gloomy looking boxes. did not have any lids to them. We arrived at camp about 4 o'clock unloaded. took a nice cool wash. attended roll call then went to mess. This was our "hot stuff" bread, potatoes and meat boiled together and tomato soup with plenty of sugar in it. After mess I fixed up the tent. Oh! yes this morning while we were waiting for the word to go ahead a cuban funeral passed us. The coffin had black cloth tacked on it. and was carried by four men, one of them kept going over a sentence. I do not know if he was singing or what. may be he was the one that was so unfortunate to lose one of his family. A cuban funeral is a sad looking scene. 8:10 P.M just had the great pleasure of signing the pay roll. bring forth the pay and all will be well. This evening is quite dark making walking quite uncertain as to whether you will be standing on your ear or feet next

Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
12:25 P.M.  
X

This morning I found my self awake and lying on my cot at 4 o'clock A.M. what makes it seem odd to me is this. as a rule I am asleep at that hour. Well the cubian roosters were crowing and the loud mouth guards were yelling at the top of their voice "4 o'clock and all is well." so I turned over and went to sleep and did no wake up untill after 5 o'clock then the detail that was going to the city made them selves heard even if they were not seen. At 6 o'clock I got up and went to the well and washed. returned to my tent and then attended roll call. then I went to mess. This is what we had to mess upon. cold fried potatoes, cold beans, fried side meat, tapioca, bread and coffee. the latter I did not try. after eating this grand old breakfast I washed my dishes and returned to my tent and wrote a letter to father. Then I went out to fatigue call and helped to police our company street and in a half hour or so the whistle told us to fall in, we did so and was sent to help move some floors into a couple officers tent. while helping to do this another man and my self were picked out to help unload

a couple wagon loads of lumber. we got through this in time to help with the last floor and to carry the tents to the quarter masters tent. Then we fell out without being told to. I washed and got ready for dinner. This is what we had for dinner. Boiled beef, potatoes, cold beans, Tapioca onion soup, and bread. nothing had any seasoning in it. and the salt and pepper was very scarce and vinegar for the beans we had none. So far this is all I can say any thing about so will have to wait and see what will happen this afternoon. One more thing I can say and it is. This forenoon has been hot. This afternoon I spent a couple hours writing. did not do any work at all. At 4:45 P.M. I attended roll call and after that I went to mess, after mess. I helped to put up four tents carry cots, tables, and dishes. then I made 6 beds and come to my tent. Oh! yes early this morning I seen a large steamship away off at sea and a small raider close to the coast. This afternoon I seen a small steamer making enough smoke for a dozen. Every thing has went off lovely today even the heat of today is passing away to allow the coolness of tonight have a chance

Sept  
7 P.M.  
"147"

Today has been what one might call an all around day for me. After I had my breakfast I got a rake and raked out my tent. (I want it distinctly understood there is no such a thing as a floor in my tent, with the grand exception of the earth which has a most beautiful carpet of weeds and rocks.) as I was saying I raked out my tent and around it and put the weeds and rocks in a nice pile. I also brushed my suit, the only one I have, and fixed my bed, (all I had to do was to spread out my blankets) the reason I done all this was on account of receiving orders that the surgeon general would be here and we would have inspection. He did not come, understand he will be here tomorrow. When I finished cleaning house our company was called out and I was detailed to help get wood. We had to go to the little town on the sea shore for it. We had a lovely wagon ride of about 5 miles for the round trip. We passed a couple block houses, a cemetery, with its high stone wall, two tanneries also their nice sweet odor, several tobacco fields and a great many fields that was not farmed. The town where we got our wood has only one street and that

faces the sea. On the outskirts of this town  
 is a number of little cottages. They are  
 built of wood, one story high, roofs of grass  
 or palm leaves, and painted with white  
wash. most of the houses of this town had  
 the appearance of poverty and looked very dirty.  
 One of the largest houses was occupied by  
 Cuban soldiers. The street was very filthy.  
 In a heavy storm it seems as if the  
 breakers of the sea would go in some of the  
 houses. Back from the main street a couple  
 hundred feet is a little catholic church  
 which shows its age. When our wagons turned  
 to the pier where we got our wood the whulv  
 sunk deeply in the sand. I got out and  
 walked and my small no 9 also went  
 deeply in the sand. The pier is made of  
 heavy material and oh how nice the water  
 was the bottom was sandy, and we could  
 see bottom several feet and a nice school  
 of fish was playing about till one of the  
 boys threw a rock at them. At last we got  
 to work and loaded one of our wagons, when  
 a corporal come out and wanted an order  
 I sent him to the man in charge. he had  
 none. so Mr corporal arrested the wagon, finally  
 the head "Gay" of the wood pile come around

and said it was all right and for us to load our other wagon. we did so and it did not take us very long either and then we started for camp. I noticed on our way back that most of the little houses had a number of banana trees planted around their yards. and along the sea shore was a number of small houses without floors and built several feet from the sand. perhaps they are for boats. there was a number of row boats tied along the shore and several native boys were wading in the water. This place without a doubt is a quiet sea side town. while we were there there was not even a dog fight I can not say for certain I even saw a dog. coming back we passed over the same rocky road we went over going down. There was no end to the buzzards. they say there is a heavy fine for killing one of them. they are the scavengers of the island. When we had our wagons unloaded we got two large water casks and went a couple miles north of camp for water. I got to go over some new country again. Passed by one large plantation which had a nice house on it and a lovely flower garden. and the road



leading to the depot had banana trees  
 on both sides. I did not notice any  
 fruit upon them, or under them. After  
 getting our load of water we started for  
 camp getting here at noon time. we  
 ate dinner then unloaded our wagons  
 some of the water went up my sleeve instead  
 of staying in the east. after finishing this  
 job. three of us had to load the garbage  
 and take it away. so we done so and  
 when it was loaded the main guy got  
 some cheese and roast beef at the lady  
 nurses mess and some bread at our own  
 mess and we went in the tent and had  
 an afternoon lunch. after our fancy lunch  
 we went to the place where they throw the  
 garbage. (It was on the same road I went  
 over this morning to get wood.) we got back  
 to camp in time for supper our supper  
 was rotten. bread, dirty tapioca, beef soup  
 the beef was spoiled. that was all and a  
 very little went a long ways. after supper  
 we were called out to help unload a wagon  
 train and while we were working it commenced  
 to rain and it continues to yet. and from all  
 appearances it is coming in around the  
 edges of the tent.

Jan 8  
2:55 P.M.

This morning I got up at 5:30 to go to the city on detail duty, went to the cook shack after washing my self and found the cook just getting our breakfast and the tent was down. Oh! we had a nice storm last night. it commenced to rain befor I went to bed and as I was thinking of turning in for the night I noticed the west side of our tent was on to much of a slant to be in good condition. I called up one of the boys that was asleep and told him to get up and help me fix it. he did so and complained about not being well. I put on an old pair of shoes and my poncho and started out to hunt an ax and the other fellow got a lantern. it was dark and I found every puddle of water and got my feet soaking wet. We got what we went after so I drove in the stakes and helped to fasten the ropes and from my knees down I was soaking wet. What surprised me was the tent did not go down. The fly of the tent kept flapping all night long and every once in a while it rained hard. in other words it just poured down. I pity folks who have

to live in tents in this country in the rainy season. if this is what they call a dry season. After getting up at 5:30 we did not get our breakfast till 7 o'clock and started for town between 8 and 9. When the sun first made its appearance in the east I could not help thinking of spring time in the states. it put me in mind of a spring morning. the only thing that was missing was the chirping of a bird here and there. Now and then I could hear a bell of some church calling the people to worship. On our way to town we passed by the Catholic church in the village of Quemados. The doors were open and I could see some of the interior. it was fixed up in grand style. every thing was polished up nicely and the lights were burning. some of the congregation were kneeling down the street a half mile or so we passed a man in a cart drawn by a goat. the man looked as if he was a cripple. On the outskirts of Havana we passed by another Catholic church. a couple goats were playing and went up the steps one started in but changed his mind and went down the steps. Very likely he

thought it was not the proper time to make a scattering of the members, or may be he did not think his appearance on the stage would be very highly appreciated by the priest or his followers. In the city none of the stores were closed. Sunday is just the same as any other day. The streets were washed by the rain last night. When we got to the warehouse we found out they would not open today. we had a Sunday morning ride. So we come to the conclusion the proper thing for us to do would be to drive over in the shade and eat our dinner, salmon, cold tomatoes, bread and hard bread. After eating we started for home. (can I ever be forgiven for calling this camp home?) On our way home the boys had to get something to drink. I refused the offer to join in their merry making sport and felt very much disgusted with them and at my self for being in their society at the time. Not that I felt better than them, but I do not approve drinking while going through the streets of any city or town either here or at home in the states. It seems to be customary for women to smoke

in this country, especially the women of the poorer class, have not seen any of the higher class do so, although they may indulge in the pleasure of blowing the smoke behind closed doors. What seems very odd is most every store has a small bar at one end of the counter, especially the stores in the smaller towns and on the border of Havana. It is not odd to see very small boys go up to the bar, some can not more than see the top of the counter. May be they do not have any license to pay. Most of the boys know how to smoke and improve the time. When we were near Quemados on our way to camp we seen a very nice specimen of an American soldier, he was so drunk he could not walk and it took several guards to keep him up some times they would take him by the collar and drag him as they would a dead dog, and make him sweep the road. Still farther on we found two guards with a civilian in their charge he was drunk and could hardly walk, one of the soldiers carried his bottle. The man held his head up as if he was trying to count the stars. It was day time and he could see them just the same. The last I seen of him

he was sitting in the middle of the road. a couple hundred yards from this man was a crowd of boys around a couple other men who had more drink than sense. We passed a number of drunken men today. After getting back to camp I drank some water then I got my cup and went down to the kitchen and got a half cup of coffee. then I come to my tent and started to write and got tired of using my knee for a desk and went out and got a large box and am using it.

Jan 9  
6:45 P.M.  
"187"

This morning I got up at 8 o'clock took my self to the well and gave my self a treat to a wash. got back to my tent just in time to attend roll call I even had to lace my shoes in line while the steward went to one of the tents to call one of the boys down for being to free with his mouth while we were having roll call. of course I was not standing at attention while lacing my shoes. After roll call we went to breakfast. At 8 I with several others were sent over to put up the lady nurses mess tents which were blown down in the gail Saturday night. also put up one of their tents. we put up three tents in

two hours. While we were in line for dinner  
 we were called upon to put up two tents and  
 a fly for a suspected case of yellow fever  
 We got every thing ready and was waiting  
 for the wagon to come and get the supplies  
 but it did not come so we ate dinner in  
 a hurry and got through just in time  
 when the wagon stopped at the place where  
 our material was. It did not take so very  
 long to load. we went about a half mile  
 from camp pitched the tents and come  
 back reported and found orders to put up  
 three tents and a fly at the mumps  
 ward. we took an hour more and then  
 received orders to take down the two tents  
 and fly we put up for the suspected  
 yellow fever case as the man had died. we  
 went to put up the mumps ward and found  
 the guard house gang working we helped  
 them with one tent and then we were told  
 to fall in for pay. which we did in a  
 hurry. after getting my pay I come back to  
 my tent got my dishes and reported at  
 the kitchen for my supper. This is what we  
 had. bread, cold potatoes, cold beans, spring  
 chicken (pork) tomatoes, musty tapioca,  
 and coffee. I did not care for any of the

musty tapioca, most is rich for my blood  
This morning while we were getting our  
breakfast a funeral procession passed by. The  
deceased was a soldier of a Louisiana  
regiment, he was shot by one of his comrades.  
The report is that he upset one of the boys  
dishes and the owner of the dishes turned  
to him and swore at him and said when  
I eat my breakfast I will kill you. So when  
he finished his meal he got a gun and  
carried out his threat. It is said that the  
murderer was to be shot at sun down this  
evening. We are not certain what was the  
true cause of the shooting affair or when  
the murderer is to be killed as the rumors  
travel fast and grow as they travel. Every  
thing has to be taken with a certain amount  
of salt. This morning I had the pleasure  
of handing in my application for my  
discharge. The major read it and said all  
of you volunteers will be mustered out  
befor your applications will be acted upon.  
He said you will all be mustered out  
in 30 or 60 days. What good news that  
was to me. I thanked him and started  
for my tent. It was such good news to  
me I hardly knew how I got to my tent



While we were eating <sup>dinner</sup> the dead wagon passed by. it also passed by while we were at supper. Do not know if it had the dead in it at the time or not, as there was no one along but the driver. This morning I seen a small sailing boat on the ocean it was headed to the south west. this afternoon seen two large steamers headed to the north west. they looked as if they might have been two man of wars. There is plenty of ants around this camp. they get into ones haversack and a person has to be very careful when he goes for his meals or he will have a number of ants in his food.

Jan 10  
8:15 PM.  
"147"

This morning I got up after having what one would call a first class night's sleep. that is after I got to sleep. I must surely of looked innocent while I lay sleeping for that is about the only time I would. This morning after having my breakfast and was waiting for fatigue call I noticed a company from one of the regiments come over to do fatigue duty and every one was glad of it. So I returned to my tent and wrote till 10 o'clock and the idea struck me to go to the ocean. that is if could get some one to

go with me and could get a pass, so I struck out to find some Nebraska boy who would go. I found one then I went for a pass and got it. Then we started for the ocean. we passed by the tree where the Spaniards hung the Cubans. It was quite a warm walk, but it did not take long to go. We stuck our heads in two tanneries not because the odor was so sweet but we wanted to know what they were doing. In the first one they had a mule dragging a large stone wheel around in a circular vat. the vat had either leaves or bark in it. do not know if there was any thing else in it or not. the mule had a blind over its eyes, am not certain if its nose was plugged up or not. at least it should of been. it must of been working hard as it was sweating. There was 3 or 4 men busy scraping old hides. they had no shoes on and their pants were rolled up above their knees. they were working quite hard. In the second one 4 men were busy putting hides in a vat. in one corner they had a small kitchen. the men must of had very good appetites to eat in such a place. they can I will not. after reaching the beach we commenced to

hunt for shells. Some parts of the beach is  
 nice and sandy, others look like coral  
 formation, and another place it looks as  
 if it was caused by a volcano, very ragged  
 and hard not like the coral. The coral had  
 a vegetation growing on it, while the other  
 had none. There was a great many small  
 shells but most of them were alike. There  
 was hardly any large ones. There was a great  
 many small fish in the pools which were  
 left as the tide went out. I worked for near  
 a half hour to get an eel out from under  
 a rock when it seen it had to move it  
 started for deep water in a hurry and I  
 left it go as I did not care to have any  
 thing more to do with it. Passed quite a  
 number of boys who were hunting shells.  
 When we were on our way back up toward  
 the point where we started from we noticed  
 that the tide was coming in. I had the  
 pleasure of walking over the breastworks the  
 Spanish threw up to keep the Americans  
 from landing their troops at that point.  
 it is only a pile of sand a couple hundred  
 feet from the shore. To say I got tired by the  
 time I got back to camp, does not quite  
 mean as much as I wish for it to mean

but will have to do in this case and I was beginning to get awful hungry. Still I enjoyed the walk very much and would be willing to take another trip like it. At supper time I done justice to the food not because it was so good but I was as hungry as a wolf. After supper I spent most of the time writing.

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:45 P.M.  
X

This morning I was going to help put up some tents, in fact had put my muscle to work in helping on one when I was put on duty with a sick nurse. I spent most of the time reading. This afternoon I took a letter up to the division head quarters. it was an awful hot afternoon and oh how I did sweat. I went up the rail road and seen where there was a wreck and a couple cars were still in the ditch. on the side opposite one of the camps was 40 or 50 boys gambling. Since the lady nurses have been in the hospital us boys are expected to do all kinds of work and we have it to do. In a day or two we will have a mess hall to eat in. will not have to stay out in the rain and pabulate. This forenoon was rather damp. it would sprinkle every time a cloud would appear in the sky.

Jan 12

This has been a real nice day. I passed through it real well. I was not kept very busy. The most of my work was to keep in the shade and read a magazine. Of course I have not the least kick coming against sitting in the shade in a good invalid chair. Of course I am not an invalid. In the afternoon the remainder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division hospital boys walked to camp a distance of 9 miles. They arrived yesterday on the steamship Missouri but did not go ashore till today noon. There is not much excitement around camp. The report today was one of the guards shot at a person who was fooling around the dead house. They say when he shot they heard him moan but when the guard got to the dead tent he could not find any one. The guard tried to get me leave my post but I finally convinced him I would have to remain till about 7 P.M. so the corporal of the guard said to let it go. We had another small shower today. plenty of moisture in Cuba - even if this is the dry season. This is enough for a day like this so will say Good bye

Jan 13

Got up bright and early this morning, about 6 o'clock and got all fixed up in time for roll call but did not have very much time to spare. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month, oh my, that unlucky number. when ever I see the number 13 I always think of it standing for unlucky it makes me shudder. if I had the poor luck of wearing a wig no doubt when I would take one of them shuddering spells I would shudder the wig off and that would be very unlucky also as it would expose a bald head. Taking the numbers through and through the number 13 is just as innocent as the others. After eating my dinner and returning to my work I went to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Hosp. and oh what a warm walk it was I thought I would roast before I got there. now if I would of and I had of been a pig. I would of been a roast pig. no doubt a tough one at that. The roads were hard and dusty and there was very little shade. I was nearly an hour making the round trip of a little over 4 miles when I nearly to camp it commenced to sprinkle and when I got to camp it started to rain and I got permission to come to my tent till it quit raining. This evening

the report is that the major told the lady nurses that with the exception of 25 of them they would all be sent back to the states and those 25 could go if they wished to. What is next!

Jan 14  
8:30 P.M.  
"147"

This morning I got up before breakfast, as usual. Today has been quite warm, making one hunt the shade, nothing out of the ordinary happened. This forenoon I commenced reading "Pan Michael" by Henryk Sienkiewicz. I have not read very much but what I have read I enjoyed very much. This afternoon I read some home papers. Things about camp is very quiet, most every one has some thing to do. Very few idle hands around this hospital corps. A number of the officers amuse them selves by sending up a kite poor little boys must have some thing to pass away the time.

Sunday. A lovely day this has been. In the afternoon it was quite warm. I got up about 8 a.m. got ready for roll call and then I went to mess. After mess I went to my work and about 9 o'clock I went to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Hosp to deliver a message. it was quite a warm walk although I took my stick for it. I passed by the Catholic Church in Quezonados

as the people were leaving the doors were  
 open and the interior looked nice, and  
 most every one was dressed nicely. The first  
 to come out were several catholic sisters.  
 The stores of Quimados were open as though  
 it were a week day. The soldiers boys were  
 just coming into town, about a mile from  
 town I passed, boys who looked and no doubt  
 felt as if they had been in town at least  
 a week. they were sitting on a rock pile  
 and shaking hands. perhaps they belonged  
 to the same order and were serving if they  
 still knew the grip. Very likely they took  
 the rock pile for a cushion chair and  
 were going to sit in the shade awhile.  
 I kept on my journey and did not molest  
 them, and soon got to the place where I  
 started for. I did not remain long on my  
 way back the two organized soldiers of  
 Uncle Sams beautiful army of occupation  
 were sleeping on a bed of rocks. The Cuban  
 fruit sellers are a very peculiar set of  
 animals. when they go along the road and  
 happen to meet a couple persons standing  
 together and talking they put their sack  
 on the ground and are ready for sale great  
 or small. if they do not sell any thing



they pick up their stand and hunt other  
 quarters. About a quarter of a mile from  
 camp an ambulance overtook me and the  
 driver invited me to get in which I  
 accepted. and I was not long returning  
 to my post. About 11 A.M. the doctor of the  
 patient I am helping to look after presented  
 me with a pass to be absent from camp  
 till 6 P.M. I accepted it with thanks. It was  
 very highly appreciated by me. I had not the  
 slightest idea of leaving camp. While at  
 dinner one of the Nebraska boys asked me  
 if I would like to go over to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Neb.  
 I said yes so we started and walked a  
 little over a mile and then we got on a  
 water wagon and rode a little over a half  
 mile and then walked a half mile to the  
 3<sup>rd</sup>'s camp. We passed by several Spanish forts  
 and a house that is said to be a hundred  
 years old. that is nothing new in this  
 country. some of the houses look several  
 hundred years old. On our way we passed  
 by a number of banana trees some had  
 nice bunches of green fruit. I have not had  
 an opportunity to see a bunch of ripe ones.  
 it is either too early or too late very likely  
 both. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Neb. has a real nice camp

It is situated on a hill about a mile and a half from the ocean. They are cleaning the grounds up nicely. We went around to the hospital kitchen. The first thing and got something to eat. After staying there an hour or so we went to our companies. (the one we use to belong to) and saw the boys. At or about 4:30 P.M. they had dress parade and then we started for home (camp) in order to get here in time for mess. We were in plenty of time. Our meals today were slim. They could not of been much worse unless they would of sent a pack full of wind in front of us. This is what I had for supper. a little stuff called soup. a small spoonful of salmon and some bread. I ate it without offering any complaints. After washing my dishes I went to the commissary and bought a small peach pie for 10 cents. I was thankful I called for a peach pie if it had of been given to me without having the name presented with it I would not of known what kind of a pie it was. It had the usual two crusts and they were close together they must surely had a brotherly affection for each other. I could not taste peach. Only crust could I taste

One thing for certain I did not dream of  
 pie after eating it and am quite sure I  
 will not have the goat, especially pie goat.  
 I spent most of my evening writing  
 My but I got up early this morning 5:30 but  
 I could not stand it so I laid down and  
 pulled my blanket over me and did not  
 get up till 6:15. Today has been real nice. in  
 the sun it was quite warm. Today noon we  
 had a change from common beans to  
 lima beans. They tasted real nice. This afternoon  
 I got some new clothing can put on heap  
 much style now. for supper we had bread,  
 spoiled meat hash, and beans. This evening I  
 heard my first thunder in Cuba. perhaps  
 it will rain tonight. let it come. just so  
 it don't blow and pull the ropes of our  
 tent up. This afternoon while after a pail of  
 water at the nurses kitchen the cook asked  
 me if I would come in I said "yes" when  
 I went in he was filling a bowl with oyster  
 soup and asked me if I liked oysters I said  
 "yes sir" he said "eat them" I done so and  
 it was fine. and I found the bowl nearly  
 half full of oysters. It was quite a surprise to  
 my stomach but I have not felt any bad  
 symptoms arising from it. He also gave me

Jan 18  
 8: P M  
 "147"

some cod fish ball a few days ago. I am afraid if he gives me any more surprises I will suffer from the gout. It is quite hard for me to resist some thing good to eat.

Jan 17  
6:40 P.M.

This morning I got out just in time for roll call, did not have the time to comb my hair, let it go till I got back. I rushed out like a mad man, not that I was mad but I was in a hurry. we lined up then they did not call the roll, but told us to roll up the ends our tent and put our cots and blankets out in the sun at least from 8 to 10 P.M. I went a little better from 7:30 to 12:30, good enough for 2 days. After being dismissed I come to the tent got my dishes and went to mess. At 8 I went to the tent where I am at work. got every thing that was needed also a pass good till 6 P.M. at 10 I went over to Quendados to get some eggs for our patient I got 6 for 50¢. The man said they were Cuban eggs. The American eggs were 3¢ a piece and they rattled in the shell. After dinner I done a little work and then the lady nurse said I could have the afternoon off. I come to my tent shaved and went over to Quendados and bought

a Cuban water jug for 25¢ and returned to camp and received visitors till 4:35 P.M. When I was about ready to return from my daily toil I was presented with some cherries by the nurse. They were real nice. Oh! this army diet will be the ruin of me. The extras are entirely too rich in comparison with our regular diet. There has been a large white vessel laying off the coast most all day. There has been a number of small sailers going to and from the city. They look nice with all their sails flying. This is a beautiful moonlight evening, although the moon is not full, as it has been. It will be several days before it is completely full. The report now is that 6 regiments of the 7<sup>th</sup> army corps will be mustered out. I hope they will not overlook the I.D. Hosp. I am ready to go any time in the near future.

Jan 18  
6:50 P.M.

This morning the weather looked kind of threatening. It looked as if it would be unsafe to go very far from camp without taking a poncho. We was called out to roll call in a hurry this morning, had to give my face and hands a quick wash, and pulled out on a double quick.

Then I went to mess. after mess I put my  
 cot and blankets out for an airing, then  
 I went over to my work for awhile. At 7:30  
 every one had to fall in and march over  
 to the majors tent. He wanted to find  
 out how many available men he could  
 get. He had a calling down and had to  
 pass it down the line. This forenoon I  
 went over to the 1<sup>st</sup> division hospital. Oh  
 my how my feet did hurt and the road  
 seemed to be twice as long as usual. and  
 every team on the road, with the exception  
 of the ox carts, were going in the opposite  
 direction. when I got to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Hosp  
 I had hard work to get through the line.  
 The guards had orders to allow only those  
 on duty inside to pass through. finally  
 the sargent told me to go through but  
 not to say any thing about it. Then I  
 go, after he was good enough to allow me  
 through his line and asked me to  
 not give him away I had to blab it  
 I will have to get a padlock for my  
 mouth. After returning I went to my  
 dinner. and we had a new kind of  
 sugar. it looked more like salt and  
 pepper. after mess I returned to my post

of duty and had several nice little naps. That shows I am worked to death, after awhile there will be a change and the time for my naps will be few and far between. This evening the captain surgeon said "Kraft are you a doctor?" I said "yes sir" he said "I seen your application for a discharge, do you want it to go through?" I said "yes sir." He said "You are to good a man to get a discharge, but if you wish it I think it will go through all right?" I said "I hope so." and I meant every word I said. Our supper consisted of bread, (very good), potatoes, (not cooked as much as the civilized tribes wish there, but good enough for us heathens) meat, (tough enough for a policeman, would of made an everlasting shoe sole for any kind of a shoe you wish), beans (very good they might of been washed a little more in order to prevent us from eating any more dirt than the natural law requires), salmon, (very good but small in quantity) coffee (not to be compared with that one gets at home) after supper I went back to work but was relieved in a few minutes so I said good night and come to the tent got a cup of water, and got back in time

to fall in line and hear the latest report that come over the wire, it was this. "Dewey blew up a German war ship?" we are to take it for what it is worth, it may be worth a great deal and still it may not. I did not get scared at the report as we live mostly on reports of all kinds, we would not know what to do if we heard the truth once. The question mark is placed after most every thing and it is very seldom raised. Today I noticed quite a number of vessels going toward the city, one vessel was cutting quite a hickory. This eve I noticed a heavy smoke at sea and I kept looking and finally noticed a very small steam-boat or a tug, it made enough smoke for the largest boat a float.

Jan 19  
8.40 P.M.

The first thing I heard on awakening this morning was rain drops on the tent, it rained quite hard so roll call was called off, every one marked present. Of course it did not rain hard enough to prevent us from going to breakfast, we did not get very wet, while eating it quit raining. I started to work with my poncho on and it commenced to rain while I was after a pail of water. I come to my tent and wrote till about 9:15 A.M.



it had quit raining so I went back. done my  
 morning work and took it easy till noon.  
 Then I went to dinner. After dinner I went to  
 the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Hosp. I rode over on the water tank  
 and was way up in the air. I was kinder  
 afraid of the old tank turning over and getting  
 a good jar. at every rut I held on to the  
 seat for all I was worth. and that was a  
 great deal. The road was quite muddy. On my  
 way back I got a ride half way and oh how  
 I appreciated it. I managed to get back at  
 3 P.M. I spent a couple hours looking at the  
 ocean. it looked very rough. quite a large  
 sailing vessel was going toward the city. The  
 white caps could be seen quite aways out  
 at sea. they looked real nice. After supper  
 I finished my daly duty and come to my  
 tent and wrote till 7:30 when we were called  
 out to attend a lecture. we have to go. At noon  
 today I heard the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska was going to  
 be mustered out. hope it is true. This afternoon  
 the 161 Indiana boys yelled as if they were  
 going crazy. I understand they are to be  
 mustered out next tuesday. Who is next to  
 be mustered out. we are ready for any  
 thing so let it come. even my discharge  
 I am willing to accept it tonight

Jan 20  
6:45 P.M.  
"147"

Last night was a surprise to me. it was very cool. I woke up about 5 and put a double blanket over me and then I was not any so warm. At 6:15 I rolled out of my bunk and got ready for roll call. One nice thing the officers have to get up early and report in front of the majors - Capt. "Whisery loves company" very likely it hurts some of the officers just as well as it does his boys. After roll call I made a quick move to the mess hall. not because we were going to have any thing better than common. I wanted to be one of the first to wash my dishes while the water is some what clean. To be one of the last, when nearly 200 boys use the same water it begins to get quite thick and can nearly speak for its self. As to the breakfast I will not say any thing about it. only it was a relative to the many army meals I have had in front of me and let on as if I tried to enjoy them and made an awful poor out of it. After breakfast I went to work. As I did not I done a little washing first and then went. My duties as usual were not tiresome and I occupied a chair

most all forenoon. Just befor going to my  
 dinner the lady nurse give me a bowl  
 of tomator soup, it was very nice and I  
 enjoyed it. after eating the soup I went  
 to my mess. We had bread, meat, (beef) soup,  
 potatoes and coffee. they had beans but I  
 was to late. was very sorry. I think beans  
 are the best part of our meals. After dinner  
 I fooled around awhile befor going back.  
 when I did go I sat in my easy chair and  
 took a nice nap. about 3:30 PM I had a  
 conversation with one of the guards. he  
 said he heard that the Texas regiment  
 started for home today. as usual we have to  
 place a great deal of doubt in that  
 remark and wait till the regiment is  
 home befor we are sure of it going. Other  
 reports are as follow the Indiana and Ill.  
 regiments have got orders to get ready  
 to move. From the way they yell in that  
 corner of the camp they must have good  
 news of some kind or are trying their  
 lungs and vocal cords. Also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska  
 is going home. still another that all the  
 doctors and nurses were going to leave  
 this camp and this hospital would be  
 broke up. After supper I went to the lecture.

Jan 31  
6:30 P.M.

This morning I got up about the usual time. For breakfast we had quite a change, we got mush and a least bit of sugar to put on it. cold boiled potatoes, meat boiled in an infernal way so it is not fit for a civilized person to eat, a stand off for all heathen race. but good enough for us soldier boys. the coffee would do if you could not get any thing better. the bread was badly sun burned. After eating the above named slop I reported for duty. there was not very much duty to perform so I made my self as comfortable as I possibly could in the shade. By being on duty this morning I missed inspection. was glad of it. By the time the hour hand of my watch pointed to the hour of noon I was ready for dinner. For dinner we had bread, more of the inferna meat, potatoes, beans, soup, rice, and coffee, plenty if it had of been cooked properly. oh yes I forgot to mention raw canned tomatoes. The beans and tomatoes were the best part of the dinner. after dinner I loafed around awhile before returning to my work. when I did go back I took my afternoon nap, which

is essential to my well fare. This afternoon the nurses, whose contracts were annulled yesterday, started for their homes in various parts of the states. some were happy others were not. About 4 o'clock a dark cloud come from the north and we had quite a mist. It has been quite cool all afternoon. This forenoon it was quite warm. This evening it is rather chilly and cloudy. it looks as if there might be some rain before morning. The ocean looked quite black this afternoon. There was two sailers and one steamship going westward. At 5 P.M. I went to supper. We had quite a supper bread, still more of the infernal stuff called meat. (when will they prepare it in some other way for a change?) salmon, rice, and coffee. Well some time last night I was awakened by a bell. it was a fire alarm, and oh! what a mournful one it was. it was an old time bell with the rope attached to the bottom of the clapper and the man kept it busy going. bang-bang-bang. I listened 5 or 10 minutes thinking what it was for. finally I looked out and seen a big blaze over in Marsano. I watched it for awhile then returned to

my most humble cot and listened to the  
 clanging of the bell I have no idea how  
 long it kept up that mousful noise  
 befor I was aroused. I was awake for over  
 an hour and it was a continious ring.  
 Finally the catholic bell of Duemados  
 took up the alarm and between the two  
 bells there was plenty of alarm. what  
 alarmed me was this I was afraid I  
 could not go to sleep again but the  
 alarm I was worrying about was not  
 necessary for I returned to the land  
 of slumber and had a number of very  
 terisome dreams. In this country, where  
 every thing is way behind the times it  
 must be the custom to keep the fire  
 alarm going from the beginning of the  
 fire till it is put out or burns the  
 building down. The natives must of been  
 excited to a very high pitch as I could  
 hear them chattering over hear and the  
 fire must of been a mile and a half  
 from hear. I think a fire in this country  
 would be a blessing instead of doing  
 harm. it is a good way to clean up  
 some of the dirty houses which are  
 quite numerous around this place.

If all the houses that are dirty were to  
 be burned, there would be very few houses on  
 this island, some are more like a hog  
 pen than a place where human beings  
 should live. And if every thing that is  
 dirty was to be burned a great many  
 of the Cubans would make for water in  
 a double quick. A great many of them  
 look like a pile of dirt walking around.  
 That nice little spot above was not put  
 there to call ones particular attention to  
 that part of my beautiful thoughts but  
 was placed at that point by a sudden  
 flooding of the pen, which is not a very  
 rare occurrence but is most always sure  
 to make its appearance when you do  
 not want it to. I attended the lecture  
 this evening so am some what late.  
 The thing that blows the bugle just  
 give us "tato." if he was in some foreign  
 country where the natives never heard  
 any thing as music he might try  
 and convince them he was a musician  
 but he cant us he is a humbug and  
 makes an awful noise, and disturbs  
 the dogs and every thing else no doubt  
 he stunts the growth of the trees by his noise.

Jan 22.  
3:40 P.M.

This morning I got up at 6:15 there was no bugle call or roll call so we went to breakfast and after breakfast went to work. Was kept quite busy doing one thing then another till nearly noon. After dinner I went back to work but had nothing to do so have this afternoon to my self. This morning was quite cloudy and dark, the clouds kept getting thicker and thicker but it did not rain so they finally began to break and now and then the sun would come out and it would be quite warm. The greater part of this forenoon was quite cool and one could wear his blouse without making any complaint as to it being too warm. I understand that there was some misunderstanding as to the place where the lady nurses was to go. they thought that they were to go to Savannah but when they got aboard the vessel they found out they were to go to New York. It is real quiet around camp today. the place seems to be deserted or every one is asleep. This would not be a bad afternoon to pass away a few hours in the land of rest although I will not have that pleasure this afternoon. ~~This~~



morning the cook in the nurses kitchen called me in and told me to help my self to some ham bone. The ham tasted real nice. This evening nothing would do but I should have a bowl of soup, of course I had to take it and I enjoyed the soup very much. This evening befor I quit work I was presented with a glass of raspberry jelly. No much good eating for one day, especially in the army. What will be next. I hope it is a discharge. This eve is a beautiful moonlight one, although it is real cool.

Jan 23  
4:10 P.M.  
2X

This morning I was up befor the sun. The sky looked beautiful. in the east it was tinted with red and a dainty red at that. Our breakfast consisted of slum (spoiled meat and potatoes boiled together), beans, boiled mush, coffee and a limited amount of brown sugar. After breakfast I put my cot and blankets out in the sun. Then I went to work. was kept quite busy till 11 o'clock. Just befor I went to my dinner I was treated to a bowl of nice pea soup. For dinner we had, bread, roast beef. (I did not partake there of)

boiled potatoes dirt and all (ditto) cold  
canned tomatoes, beans, and coffee. After  
dinner I was presented with a pass good  
until 6 P.M. I went over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Dis Hosp  
on business, a friend of mine went along  
on our way back we stopped in to the  
2. S. C. regiment, the regiment from which  
he was transferred to the hospital corps.  
I was in a hurry to get back so left  
him at the regiment. The roads are very  
dusty. About 2 P.M. it got quite cloudy  
I thought it might rain before I got back  
but it did not. When I got to the guard  
line around the hospital the guard  
stopped me and yelled corporal of the  
guard a couple of times before the  
corporal came he let me pass in  
and said my pass was signed wrong.  
I did not care just so I got in. Coming  
along the road I passed a Cuban driving  
a mule cart with a good sized animal  
sitting on the uprights of his cart. he  
had a string around its neck so it  
would not get away. it was fat and  
nice. I guessed the thing to be a cow  
one thing sure I know it is not a bear  
or elephant. but am not sure of it being a

coon. I know it is not a crow that walks upright and has curly hair. what I am referring to is the animal crow. The Florida Times Union and Citizen says it is official that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska is to be mustered out. It will be a happy surprise to a good many boys. We are having a little dampness tonight. one can hear the rain drops on the tent. they sound quite familiar, as they are heard quite often in this "bloomin' country".

Jan 24.

This morning was very nice and every thing has gone in apple pie order. Spent most of the forenoon in going from our place to another. About 11 I went over to Duemados to get some ice cream and eggs for our sick patient. when I started I had no idea where I could get them. I finally found a place where I could get the ice cream then I went up the street to find a store. I found one but the door was shut then I went to another one but they did not have any. they sent me to the one where I first went to. I went back the doors were still closed. a cuban sitting in front of a blacksmith shop pointed in. I could not get in. a little boy standing in front motioned inside and

then to his mouth. Then I knew what they  
 were doing. The little boy meant they were  
 eating. I went into a blacksmith shop  
 adjoining the store and watched the man  
 pump the bellows finally the little boy  
 come running to me and pointed toward  
 the store. I went around and the men  
 were opening the doors. I went to a boy  
 who could talk a little English and  
 asked him if they had eggs. he said they  
 had so I got 6 for 5 cents a piece. Then I  
 went after the ice cream. he put it in  
 a small freezer so I could carry it to  
 camp. I got to camp at noon. ate my  
 dinner and went back to work. and  
 one of the first things I done was to  
 return the freezer. The man said it cost him  
 \$5 in Cuba. it could be bought for .50<sup>00</sup> in the  
 states. I did not do any thing in the  
 afternoon but sit in the shade and take  
 life easy. After supper I went over to the  
 corral for an ambulance. When I got back  
 it commenced to sprinkle and finally  
 the wind blew and it rained in first  
 class shape. the ropes of our tent commenced  
 to shrink and finally 2 corner pegs were  
 pulled. when it stopped raining we had

to drive them in. I happened to be out in the rain awful and got slightly damp. Last night our genuine case of yellow fever died and today they held a post-mortem and buried him. This was the first case in the hospital. hope it will be the last one. I noticed several vessels going to and from the city.

Jan 25  
2:5 P.M.  
"147"  
X

This morning was real nice after the shower we had last night. it soon commenced to get cloudy and every now and then it looked as if it would surely rain. After eating my sumptuous breakfast of slum, mush, bread and a slop they called coffee I went to work after getting a supply for dinner I went over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. As resp. the roads were very muddy and awful hard walking but I managed to go and come. on my way back I come a part of the way with Co C of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ill. they were walking to suit them selves and to keep out of the mud as much as they possibly could. At one place a number of Cubans were working on the roads. along the road is a long pile of crushed rock, and these men were

shoveling this crushed rock in the road and filling up all holes. The rocks are crushed by the arm-strong-power. a man sits on a box, ground or sack and takes a rock and pounds it into pieces the size of a hens egg. They do not work very fast I do not know if they ever work hard enough to cause them to sweat or not. I can say one thing for certain I have seen one man wheel a wheelbarrow with at least three shovelful of rocks in it. of course the shovels were not heaping full. As I was going over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Hosp I got to the railroad as the train was coming in. on the rear platform of the rear coach was a nice basket. it was wrapped in paper, just like a bundle of dry goods. a portion of the paper was torn off, so I had an opportunity to see what it was. I got to camp just as mess call was sounded. The lady nurse had a bowl of lobster soup ready for me. after I had finished that I went to dinner. after dinner I went back to work and they said I could have the afternoon off. The doctor offered me a pass but I refused with thanks. Am not sure

if he has recovered from the blow or not.  
 This morning I heard from my application  
 for discharge, it was sent back for the  
 dates of my enlistment and transfer to the  
 hospital corps. Also received an order on the  
 paymaster at Quemados for 52 cents. They  
 underpaid me last november. I do not  
 know what to do with so much money  
 I think I will start in some kind of  
 business or invest all of it in Cuban  
 land. This afternoon I made out another  
 application for discharge and put in all  
 the dates, hope it will go through this time,  
 and have my request granted. then I will  
 thank Uncle Sam from the bottom of my  
 gizzard. there I go again and say some thing  
 I should not what will I say? well I will  
 just thank him if I would not be over run  
 with joy. I have had my supper. there I go  
 slandering the word supper. I should of  
 said I have had my swill. it consisted  
 of bread, hash. (it had no more taste than  
 dry bread, rice (half cooked) and a fluid  
 to drink which they call coffee. After supper  
 I returned to my post. and done about 15  
 minutes work and they said that was  
 all for tonight. so I said good night

and come to my tent got my water bottle full of water and then I started to write and here I am

Jan 26  
8:20 P.M.

This morning was a beautiful one. every thing looked fresh and nice. and it was nice and cool. but it soon got quite warm and by noon it was awful hot. I spent most of my forenoon sitting in the shade of a tent reading a couple Epworth Herald's. At noon I went to my dinner and tried to enjoy my meal the best I could. after washing my dishes I went back to work and spent a couple hours reading a couple more Epworth Herald's. I read till I got sleepy then I closed my eyes and was soon gone to the land of nod. I had a very nice sleep after awaking I made a short visit to my chum and give him a couple E. Herald's. he said he would like to read them. after visitng with him a half hour or so I went back to my work and tried to take it easy sitting in the shade. com pleased to say I did take it quite easy and have not the least objection to raise. Befor going to supper I ate a bowl half full of jamuk. and after that I went to supper. while eating my supper my chum come



to me and told me to come around as he had some prunes for me. and I went around and got them I did not have the heart to leave a chance of getting some prunes pass by so with the extras I had before and after mess I done very well and I think I can manage to pull through till morning. although it might be a very hard tug of war. I did not have very much work to do after mess. so I returned to my tent. got some water and then started to writing.

A new report today is the 7<sup>th</sup> A. C. will not be mustered out till June. The officers of the Missouri regiment are betting they will not be here in 60 days. Another report is we will be in Washington the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Oh! what kind of a report will strike camp next. Let any old thing come we are ready for any thing from a case of yellow fever to a report of being mustered out of service. After having such a hot day the night is lovely. a nice moonlight one. and every thing is quite still. except now and then a bird flies around chirping and a dog is barking in the Spanish tongue and last but not least a mosquito is singing in my ear.

Jan 27  
7 P.M.  
"147"

About 3 o'clock this morning we had quite a rain, it lasted quite awhile. The corner peg, the corner where I sleep, pulled out and the corner come in and I had to get up and move my cot or get damp, and so how I hated to get up. After moving I went to sleep listening to the rain pattering on the tent, not on the roof. About 6:45 A.M. I decided to get up and prepare for roll call and I got out just in time, after going through that ordeal I went to breakfast and after trying to do justice to the food we had to partake of I went to my daily duty. Did not have very much to do so I sit down in my easy chair and took life easy. About 9:30 it commenced to rain and I moved my chair also myself in an empty tent and enjoyed my own company as much as I possibly could. The wind blew a hurricane all day and made the tents and flys crack like a whip. At noon I went to dinner as usual and this is what we had. bread, beef (roast), boiled beans (not done) hash (the meat was surely spoiled)

sweet potatoes, rice with a few raisins in  
 it, and coffee. I tried to do justice to  
 the rice as that was the best part of  
 the meal. After dinner I went back to  
 my post and enjoyed the shade very  
 much. I also struck a copper mine, I  
 found a one cent piece and a Spanish  
 cinco centimos (equal to about one cent in  
 our money) when I found three two coins  
 I commenced to think I had found my  
 fortune. About 3 o'clock the Cubans com-  
 menced to come in in company to be  
 vaccinated. It was as good as going to  
 a side show to watch their actions, some  
 were quite anxious and others were not.  
 a number pulled of their shirts in  
 order to allow the doctor get at their  
 arms, while others cleaned their arms  
 with a very dirty handkerchief. It was  
 quite amusing from beginning to end.  
 The Cubans have to be vaccinated in  
 order to work for Uncle Sam. This evening  
 while taking my rest after my weary  
 days labor was drawing to a close I  
 felt some thing crawl or move or jump  
 in my stocking I grabbed it and tried  
 to kill it and I got left, finally out

jumped a flea and he got a waterbury  
 jump. The fleas do not trouble me very  
 much and I am glad of it. This evening  
 for supper we had bread, roast beef, beans  
 sweet potatoes and prunes. Oh yes I  
 forgot to put in coffee. After supper I  
 returned to my work and the doctor  
 came a riding over the parade ground  
 and asked me if I would take his  
 horse and another one over to the  
 corral. I said certainly. They give me  
 instructions how to get on a horse. I  
 done as they told and got through  
 nicely. I am a lovely rider, in my  
 dreams. After returning I went to go  
 over the line to finish my daily toil  
 and the guard said "halt! who comes  
 there?" I tried my best to make him  
 understand who comes there but he  
 could not so finally he said "get a  
 pass from the Major or Capt." I said "they  
 are at supper" The head nurse tried to  
 help me out but she could do us good. So  
 I said "call the corporal" he did so and  
 the officer of the guards come and give  
 him instructions to allow me go and  
 come as I pleased. So much for this day

Jan 28  
6:50 P.M.  
X

This morning the sun came a gleaming over the horizon and set every thing aglow. This was one morning we did not have a very heavy dew still every thing looked fresh and nice. It was just like a nice still spring morning in the north. After attending roll call I made some very quick steps for mess. and then there was nothing to rush for out of the ordinary. The best part of the meal was "quits" after washing my dishes and putting them away I went to my daily toil. I done a few odd jobs then picked up the "Tennessee Judge" and commenced reading. about 10 o'clock I went over to Quemados to buy some eggs. Before going we had a nice storm. about 5 o'clock it commenced to get dark in the west, by half past 5 it was terrible dark and the storm was moving in our direction and it did not take very long for it to reach. we did not get the main part of it, only one side and was very thankful for it. the wind blew quite hard and the rain come in very good shape. it did not last very long and after the storm it got quite warm. Then I went

to Duemados for the eggs. the road was quite muddy. when I got to the provs line I had to show my pass before I was admitted to the show. after passing the line I had hardly gone a couple hundred feet before the second provs stepped up and said "Old man you will have to button your blouse." I said "alright" and kept on going. I climbed the muddy hill and purchased 8 eggs for 36¢ then I made tracks for camp and on my way I bought a dozen oranges for 15¢. About noon another dark cloud made its appearance in the west and moved very slowly. About a mile at sea I could see it was raining or there was a very heavy mist. finally it started to move toward the shore. it moved very slowly and by the time it struck us it was a small shower and did not last very long. The shower did not prevent me from going to my dinner. For dinner we had bread, roast beef, potatoes, tomato beans, rice and raisins boiled together, and coffee. After feeding my face I washed my dishes and went to my daily work and read till 9 o'clock when

the sick nurse said I could go to my  
 tent till 4:30 or 5, this I did and spent  
 the time reading and the time went by  
 quite rapidly. at 4:30 I went back and  
 at 5 I went to supper. our supper was  
 a very tame affair. if it had of been  
 much tamer it would of been out of  
 sight. bread, old beef, potatoes and coffee.  
 after supper I went back to finish up  
 my daily toil, and a little after 6. I  
 was relieved and I was very glad of it.  
 I returned to my tent, went after a  
 jug of water and looked over a couple  
 papers I received from home this after-  
 noon and then I started to write. This  
 morning the Capt. of my company said  
 "Kraft why wasn't you at inspection?" I said  
 "I was over here" he said "that does not  
 make any difference" I said "I did not  
 know that." then he said "that is alright,  
 you be at your tent at 8 o'clock tonight  
 and it will be alright" He has fined a  
 couple of the boys \$2 for not being at  
 inspection. I thought perhaps he might  
 set it to place the same penalty on me,  
 but he did not say any thing about a  
 fine or seem to be the least bit angry

Most every day one of the boys receives a discharge, the majority of them belong to some regiment that has had the good luck of being mustered out. I am waiting anxiously for the day to come when I can receive my discharge from the army. I can get along without the army do not see why it can't get along without me. At 6:45 this morning reveille sounded but I was up. I mistook some other company's call for ours and I got up at least 15 min. earlier than I should of. Although I did not have to pass through that awful dread again. I went to roll call, mess, and work the same as I have always done and did not even think very much of it. At least of our mess. The labor I done this morning was not very tiresome I spent an hour or two reading "A Tennessee Judge." I finished it and spent a number of minutes looking at a picture on the cover of the book. The picture represented Mr. Jackline watching a cock fight. This forenoon I noticed quite a large steam ship going toward Havana and a couple of small sail vessels

Jan 29.  
3:20 P.M.



going from the city, at a distance I noticed two black objects against the sky. I did not watch them long enough to see in what direction they were going. The sea looks rather quiet and the white caps looked nice breaking on the shore. Before going to dinner I had a bowl of nice pea soup. Our dinner was very slim, bread, roast beef and soup, oh yes potatoes and coffee. After dinner I was passing by the lady nurses kitchen and the cook called me in and asked me if I was hungry. I said sure always that way so he got a plate and gave me some potatoes, meat and beans on it and said don't say any thing about it and go in and sit down and eat. The beans were nice and the butter was quite a surprise to my stomach I enjoyed it very much. This has been a cloudy day and about 2 P.M. it started to mist and has just quit for the first time. There is no telling for how long. It may last for an hour or in a few minutes there may be a great down pouring of the elements from above. One nice thing today has not been hot, and one could not complain of being cold. It is a northern fall day, a kind that makes one

home sick and wish he was out of this  
 country and back in the states. For mess  
 this evening we had, bread, salmon, soup,  
 boiled potatoes, rice and raisins mixed,  
 and coffee. after eating muchly of  
 what we had I said good enough, the  
 reason was we could not get any thing  
 better. I washed my dishes in water  
 that was thick enough for soup. I  
 did not have any thing to do after  
 mess. A few minutes ago there was a  
 couple or two of young calves, two-legged  
 ones I am referring, back of my tent  
 making a heinous noise. I am not  
 quite certain if they were in pain or  
 was trying to sing, if it was pain  
 they surely must of been in a critical  
 condition or if they called it singing  
 it was awful. Sherman's definition of war  
 would hold true to their singing. It is  
 hell. perhaps I should of used capital  
 letters. I hope they will not break loose  
 again while we are in Cuba, as it makes  
 a poor showing for an army of occupation  
 or even a standing army in time of peace  
 They have remained silent quite awhile  
 perhaps they have choked to death

Jan 30.

4:10 P.M.

"147"

This morning about 5 o'clock one of the boys came into our tent with a lantern and looked around. I asked him what he wanted he said, "am looking for one of the boys going on duty in the ward". It was an early hour to go around to find the boys, he must of been out of his head or I misunderstood him. After he went out I turned over and went to sleep to be aroused an hour later by the bugles sounding reveille and some sounded mess. I did not get up till our bugles made his noise. It is rather doubtful if he can make any music, if so I never had the pleasure of hearing him. I know he can make noise for that is all he has done since I have known him with his bugle and mouth. Our mess consisted of pork, cold potatoes, half done tomatoes bread and very weak coffee. My labor this morning did not amount to very much. This was my last day at the old stand. At 12 I went to mess. our noon mess was much better than the morning mess, we had bread, roast beef, potatoes, soup, rice and coffee.

after dinner I went back to duty and returned all the borrowed dishes etc., loaded baggage and the sick nurse and every thing was done. I brought two begonias to my tent, they were taken from the graves of the Spaniards dead. I only hope I can make them live. After the sick nurse had gone my snap job had come to the end. I am wondering what my next job will be. This forenoon the engineers were blasting and the rocks were sent a couple hundred feet in the air, it could be heard coming down on boards and made quite a noise. This has not been a very warm day, what might be called a pleasant one. Noticed a couple quite large steamers going toward the City of Havana. The ocean seems to be very quiet and behaving its self in the proper way. Several of the boys from the Mississippi regiment received their discharges this morning, still they come I would be pleased to a very high pitch if mine would come in one of these nice days, the sooner the better I will be satisfied. General Lee and his staff was out to camp today. I did not

get to see him. This evening after mess several of the head guy of the main push were riding around a horse back looking wise and trying to see some thing so they could hand in a favorable report from their side. I did not notice if they viewed the anchor and star or the nice pile of rocks placed around the mahogany tree. if they did not notice them they missed some thing grand. stones gathered up from all over the camp and a seven pointed star and an anchor made out of them. and then white washed so it would attract the passer by.

Jan 31  
1:15 P.M.  
x

This morning was nice and quiet, but before very long the wind started to blow and raised every thing that was not fastened down. At roll call we found out we would have muster some time today. After mess I got a rake and tried my best to sweep out our tent. I give it up as a bad job. and decided a shovel would be much better. although I did not get one. We finally found out that we would have inspection at 11 o'clock. at 10 I dressed up in my best and even

went so far as to blacken my shoes. I felt greatly surprised to see the change it made on them. At 11 the bugle blared forth a blast to let us know it was time to fall in for muster, we did so. It was a tiresome old job to stand at attention while they were calling the roll. I know I did not stand at attention after roll call we were told to be ready to fall in at any time, as the inspector-general was on his way over. At last we were dismissed and went to mess. Our mess consisted of bread, steak, tomatoes, potatoes, doughnuts and coffee, every thing tasted very good. Now I am waiting for assembly to sound then I will jump up put on my blouse and go out for inspection. It is real nice in the shade, if it was not for the wind it would be terrible warm. The way the wind makes the tents pop it puts one in mind of wash day. It is beginning to get cloudy - This afternoon I had the pleasure of seeing the grand review of the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Corps. It was real nice. The prettiest sight was to witness the light artillery and cavalry

wheel into line. The hospital corps was not reviewed today and we were real glad of it. may be they will forget us or they may push us through tomorrow. Just heard a new report it is the very latest. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska has orders to return to the states. This evening is quite warm, perhaps I have a fever caused by the above report.

Febr 1<sup>st</sup>  
10:55 a.m.  
"177"

This morning I arose about 6:40 and got ready for roll call. after roll call I went to mess, our sumptuous meal consisted of musty bread, pork (side meat) a limited amount of so called mashed potatoes, burnt boiled beans, grits and horrible coffee. after feeding my face with the above stuff I washed my dishes and got ready for what might fall upon me to do. so far all I have done in the line of work was help clean up our company street. The remainder of the time I have spent reading. This forenoon is very warm, still there is a nice cool breeze at str. An hour or two ago I seen a real nice sight. it is not an uncommon one by the sea, but this one I admired. it was a small sailing vessel, with all sails out, it was sailing

westward, the sea looked as if it was very smooth. At a distance a couple of small vessels could be seen. The buzzards are floating through the air looking for some thing to eat. they seem to be swarming around the slaughter house. The first thing that met ones eyes when they looked out of the tent this morning was a very heavy mist. it did not take very long for it to come down. A number of company marched to the sea this forenoon, probably they went down for a bath. a bath is some thing all of us need. I spent about 20 minutes trying to catch some chameleons, they were more active than I was so it was quite easy for them to give me the slip. I tryed my luck climbing the tree after them, but that was all the good it done. At last I give it up - as a bad job. After dinner I helped to white wash a pile of rocks around a tree. Then I signed the pay roll and clothing roll, then I was through for the afternoon. Our evening mess consisted of bread, beef, potatoes, beans, and coffee. From the appearance of the sky we might have some moisture tonight.



Feb 2

12:55 P.M. This morning I was out of my cot about 8:40. got ready for roll call and mess. After mess I helped to police our company street then went to Buena Vista to get lumber. it took quite awhile to get the wagons ready. Finally we got started. Passed by a tobacco field I had seen once before. this time they had cut some of the tobacco and had it placed over sticks to dry. it looked quite nice. Passing by the 161 Ind U.S. I saw the monument they were building. it is made of stones and plastered. it will look real nice when completed. We got back in time for dinner. we would not of missed very much if we were late. Yesterday some more of the lady nurses were fired and will be sent back to the states. This afternoon I helped to rake the parade ground and about 4 o'clock I was taken of the fatigue gang and placed in the ward. do not know how long they intend to keep me there. This morning we were told. from now on all of us were expected to attend the lectures. and there would be roll call. This is another case of compulsory. we are not expected

to have any time to our selves, and it is quite essential for the boys to attend the lectures and know all about what the doctors may see necessary to talk about, they need to know all about the nervous system in order to handle a rake or spade or to work on the garbage wagon, they can not get along without it. This afternoon was quite warm and for a while it had the appearance of rain, This ev. it is real cloudy and dark.

Febr 3  
X

This morning I got up at the usual time attended roll call, went to mess, then reported for duty at the ward, was kept busy most of the forenoon, in the afternoon I did not have very much to do only sit around and kill time and wait for some body to ask for some thing, after supper I done my evening work and was relieved about 8:30 I come to my tent wrote till 7:30 then went to a lecture which lasted an hour, then I come back wrote till taps, then I went to the water barrel for a dipper of water Today has been quite warm, but there was a real nice breeze a blowing, Taps sounded and it is time for lights out.

Febr 4

8. P.M.

"147"

X.

This morning I got up about 6:20. wrote a while before going to roll call and breakfast. When we got in line for our mess the cook told us he had orders not to dish out until the bugle sounded mess. it seemed as if the bugler had no idea of blowing his horn and the cook got tired waiting. so he said let it go and then the line commenced to move up and each one got his allowance of bread, bacon, cold potatoes and burned beans and coffee to those who enjoyed it. After mess I went to my ward and got a move on my self fixing up for inspection put on clean sheets, made the beds, swept out. one floor is a lasting one, made from mother earth. After getting every thing fixed up we had no inspection of course I did not care very much, only I wanted inspection after getting things in shape. At noon I helped to get the dinner up and dish it out. then I helped my self. there was not so very much to help ones self to. After dinner there was not very much to be done only wait for some thing to turn up. and

this I done, and it seemed as if the afternoon would never go by. The afternoon was quite warm. After supper I was kept busy till my days work was ended. Then I come to my tent and started to read and then the whistle blew for us to go to lecture, we went but there was no one there to lecture to us so we were dismissed and I was glad of it. I come to my tent and here I am and that is enough.

John 5

Sunday morning, and a real nice one too. After mess I went to my ward and went to work giving medicine after finishing that I helped with the dishes, it did not take long to get them put in their proper place then I got to work putting clean sheets on the beds and give several of the boys a bath and by the time I got through with that job it was time to get their dinner, after feeding them and giving them medicine and washing the dishes I was through with most of my work. In the afternoon I had to take one of the patients temperature every 2 hours and give him a couple baths, my afternoon work was not hard only it kept me close to my ward. About 4 o'clock I com-

menced taking the evening temperature and when I had that completed it was time to get supper for them. In the afternoon when I was not taking temperature or giving a bath I was busy making out temperature charts. After supper I heard bugles and a muffled drum, so I went over to the road and seen a funeral procession. One of the 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri boys died. After coming to my tent I spent my time reading and writing and before I knew it the bugle sounded taps. So I had to end my days work.

Feb 6  
7:35 P.M.  
"147"

This morning I was up before the sun, but I happened to think that is nothing to brag about as the sun does not rise very early now-a-days. One has to keep a moving in the morning or he will be absent to roll call. Very few are absent from mess. As a rule mess call and pay day every one is present. This forenoon I was quite busy cleaning up my end of the ward and time went by real rapidly. Company A was called up this forenoon to be vaccinated, when they passed under the colors they did not salute and the major noticed it so

he called them down, made them march  
 back and salute the colors, he said "if they  
 did not he would send them to the guard  
 house." We do not make a practice of  
 saluting the colors, and very few of our  
 officers do so they have no room to  
 brag. After dinner I worked at one thing  
 and another finally it was time to get  
 supper for the boys. Oh! yes I almost for  
 got one very important event this morning  
 my application for discharge was returned  
 not approved, on account of my regiment  
 not being mustered out. I could if I told  
 them that if they wanted me too, my  
 chums application was turned down also,  
 so we had a good laugh together. I told  
 him we would go home together. This has  
 been a real nice day. One has to take  
 advantage of every minute now or they  
 will not get any thing done at all. Time  
 is precious and one minute is used to  
 the very best use one can find. There is  
 very little time to play. This evening  
 there is a nice cool breeze blowing.

Feb 7 This has been quite a busy day for me...  
 8:45 had very little chance to rest. Even the  
 sun made it hot for me. Oh! my how the

the wind did blow and the dust went with it. The report today is the 7<sup>th</sup> A. C. is to be moved to Manila. The evening paper says that the treaty of peace was signed. Perhaps that will help us to get home, hopes it does. Another report said the paymaster paying the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina regiment received a cablegram giving him orders to quit paying. Some of the boys from that regiment thought it was a sure sign of going home, and was highly elated over it. It is quite amusing to hear the different rumors. They manage to keep the boys guessing most of the time. The principal question is, what is the latest news, and there is most always some answer which leaves the meaning we are to go home shortly. A great many always take the wild rumors as the truth. My allowance is made for the untruthfulness of the liar who started the wild report on its way through the camp, all rumors are welcomed with an open hand and dealt with accordingly.

Feb 5

7:25 P.M.

This morning I got up at my usual time washed, attended roll call and went to mess. our mess was rotten, bread, bacon, gristle, boiled potatoes, and coffee. I did not

try any of the latter, it had the name of being very weak. There was no sugar so I went over to the ward and ate my breakfast and had some butter, condensed milk and coffee, and I had no tick a coming, after washing my dishes and putting them away I went to work I was not on duty very long until it commenced to rain, it kept it up for a couple of hours, after it quit I went out and fixed up my ward some, and done the best I could. I cleaned up inside and changed the beds while it was raining. The forenoon passed by so swiftly it was time to get dinner before I knew it. This afternoon was not quite so busy so I come to my tent and shaved my self for a change. Today has been awful windy, the ocean looks very rough, it looks as if it might be able to make one quite sea sick in a very short time. This evening we managed to get two pies for our ward, there was 18 men in the ward so we cut the pies in 30 pieces so us two nurses would get a piece. There was also 4 men who could not eat pie and that helped us out very



nicely, of course when we cut the pies we were figuring on them not getting their shape. The pies were very nice even if the crusts were so tough the knife would hardly cut them. The only event I can say worthy of mention today is that this the eight day of February eighteen hundred and ninety nine A. D. has been very disagreeable I have been hoping for our ward to come down but it has not and I am very thankful.

Febr 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:15 P.M.

Last night was very cool, and I was not any to warm with a double and single blanket over me. when I got up this morning I thought of an April morning in the states. The wind last night made our tent sway and the fly kept flopping against the tent and the sweet music it made put me to sleep. The old saying "music hath charm" is true. but last night I wished for silence. I got up and when I looked out the tent every one was going around with their hands in their pocket, and still the wind continued to blow. When I went to mess the cooks had a bowl of rice and one of gats out on the table and there was a layer of dirt over it, and the

wind kept blowing dirt into it, and when they brought the sacow out it was well covered over with pieces of dead grass and dirt. taking the mess from one end to the other it was a real dirty one. After mess I went to work. the forenoon I put in getting every thing in shape, and after dinner I fixed up the ropes on the tents at the ward. several of them were broke yesterday. About 4 o'clock the wind fell and it was very nice with the grand exception of the cold. The ocean looked very rough and I had no very big desire to be upon it. The report of today is 3 regiments are to be mustered out, and it is said to come from a very good source and true. I hope the 3rd Regt is one of the lucky numbers. By Gosh. I just felt a flea crawling around the ankle of my right foot. I tried to head him off but he is making him self home, to his own comfort and very much against mine. Gee whiz I will have to stop and try and catch the varmint. Now after going to all that trouble I did not even get to see the blame idiot. any

how I feel much easier. perhaps I scared the cheeky thief away. Well there is a great many of them around camp and I am not bothered very much by them. so I have not got very much room to be complaining. but when they do visit me they drive me nearly crazy. yet they do not need to drive me so very far. The Cubans have been going around today with their ears tied up and coats on. some went so far as to wear a duster.

Febr 10  
8.30 P.M.

This morning was quite a change from yesterday morning. everything was still not a leaf moved. and everything had the indication of a nice day. After mass I went to work and as usual worked quite hard till noon. after dinner was my time to take things quite easy. The report this afternoon was six regiments were to be taken back to the states and the remainder of the corps would be taken back as soon as the regulars would be sent here to take their place. This is said to be a true report. Also tomorrow would be the last review of the 7. A. C. in Cuba. I only hope it is true. and I am in hopes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nebv will be one of the six to be

sent back to the states. Today was pay day and on going down the company street I could hear the boys throwing dice. no doubt in the morning some of the boys will be broke and wish for next pay day to come so they could pay off their debts. Today a new company was put on guard around our camp. now we have two companies guarding us. a soldier for each nurse. we are the next thing to a convict and no doubt the officers despise us nearly as much as they would a convict. may be more. who can tell. Every dog has a day. they are having theirs now. we shall have ours some time in the near future.

Febr 11.  
7 P.M.  
1874

This morning I was too sleepy to get up in a hurry and when the officers call was sounded I got up in a very slow and lazy manner. After mess I went to work and got a swift motion to me. I was getting my end of the ward in shape for inspection. after getting it fixed up they did not come around. We was heating water on our new oil stove and I was in watching the doctor dress a

wound I went out for some thing, and the first thing I noticed was the stove on fire. there was a leak some place and the oil got a fire and made quite a smoke and blaze. I dragged it out into the street away from the tent and let it go. and I went back to the ward and when the oil had all passed up in smoke and the stove cooled off I returned it to the commissary and I considered <sup>the question</sup> if I had to run an oil stove if I had best get some one to run it for me or if it would be best to get one that was much easier to handle. so far we have not got a new one. This afternoon I bought a Cuban machete for \$2.00. They are selling for \$2.75 the one I bought cost that much but the man said he did not have a way to carry it and I had a great big notion I would like it. I had my mind "set" on buying one before going to the states. Today has been quite warm. Confound it there is another flea bothering me. now it has gone. Have not heard any wild reports so far today. it is not too late to hear them yet. The grand review that I heard was to come off today did not show up. they say it will appear on the Cuban soil,

before suffering humanity and those that  
are not suffering, if there is any next  
monday.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

8:35 PM

Early this morning we had a small shower  
it sounded quite nice pattering on the tent.  
I was mighty glad there was no place for  
it to come in and pat on my bed, so I  
turned over and went to sleep, could not  
afford to miss any sleep for I am young  
and growing and need all the sleep I  
can get. I would enjoy sleeping more but  
I am afraid of having to pay a nice little  
fine. I got up about 6:45 and got my  
self ready for my days work. This forenoon  
I was kept on the move. It sprinkled some  
this morning but not enough to amount  
to any thing. After dinner when I had  
every thing in my end of the ward in  
shape I come to my tent and shaved my  
neck. It was no very large or heavy job. They  
say a short horse is easy curried the same  
way when I shave my self. not saying my  
head. I should of said my face, is short but  
the crop of whiskers are short, few and very  
far between. We had a couple small sprinkles  
this afternoon. This evening I was beginning to  
think the relief would not come. Finally I

got away from my ward at 7:50 P.M. in the evening. This evening I heard quite a number of shots fired. I could not figure out what it meant. Finally some one told me there was a show at Quemados, so I felt much better. I thought at first there might be some kind of a celebration going on and the healthy Cubans were having a-a-a good time all by themselves. A while ago some poor case, not having any respect for the rest of us poor suffering forms in the army of occupation in Cuba, got out his violin and sawed of some old tune and he sawed it off quite poorly. It would give a well person the chills. He should of been fired out of camp or made to put up his music box and not take it out any more till the remainder of us are dead or are back in the states. His noise might of been music for the Cubans but it was noise of the most horrible type for me. It looks as if we might have some rain tonight, the wind is blowing quite strong and making our candles flicker in good shape. The ocean looked very peculiar today, it looked kind of yellowish and still. I could not notice a wave from camp. Oh this will do for tonight. Our bugle is making a noise.

Feb 13  
7:15 P.M.  
"147"

Last night about 11 o'clock there was a terrible storm broke forth in this vicinity, it rained very hard and the wind blew at a terrible rate, tearing down quite a number tents. In this storm providence did not see fit to tear down my tent. The corner gaffs were held in place by a heavy gas or rather a small water pipe. I got up a couple times and went out to view the situation but found now encouragement as to the storm ceasing. I inspected my tent and it stood the storm as well as could be expected. The only fault I could find was to the flopping of the bottom of the tent and splashing water on my couch, so I moved some and put my poncho over my blanket, and the extra piece at the corners come against the side of the tent with a pop, well every thing was against me sleeping. I only had a couple hours of sleep all night, my mind when awake was either in the state or was thinking of the tent coming down. I got up about 6.30 this morning and went out to view the situation quite a number of tents were down in the company street, officers row, detention ward, and the mess halls, (tents) I was up only a very short



time when the bugle sounded fire alarm. The officers run as if they were going to a fire. The boys were not quite as easy getting as some thought. Finally we fell in line and those not at work were sent down the ~~to~~ cooks place to put up tents so the cook could get breakfast for us. I went to the ward got a little oat meal, bread and sauce full of cocoa then went to work. I did not clean up very much. every thing was scattered about. I fixed up the tents the best I could, and tryed to make the boys comfortable. After breakfast this morning a Chinese cook took charge of the diet kitchen. He does not serve as much as the other cook. After dinner I come to my tent and helped to fix it up by putting in new stakes and cleaning up inside. Today has been quite cool and very windy. it was hard work for one to keep warm. so great many wore heavy overcoats. The sea looked very rough. The large white caps could be seen miles out to sea. the waves were very angry. I have no desire to ride the waves when they are angry. I am fond of quiet waters. This evening I

got 20 new blankets for the boys in the ward, they would of put in a very chilly night if I had not of got them. I was beginning to think that the wind would not be very strong this evening and I could get a good nights rest. but the wind seems to be coming up and the tent fly is making quite a noise on the tent. A fire would be a very congenial friend this evening although the thermometer registers  $55^{\circ}$  above. The wind is very cool.

Febr 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:45 P.M

Last night was quite windy but there was no racket loud enough to keep me awake. This morning it was quite cloudy and cool but not as bad as yesterday. In the ward it was quite damp. about noon it seemed as if the sun would come out. This forenoon about 35 of the boys were called up for trial. they were arrested for gambling. they were fined all the way from \$5 to \$2.00. This evening the whole hospital corps was called out to hear the verdict of the court. we marched out in a heavy mist formed a hollow square with one end out and heard the fines read off and one acting steward lost his stripes. it was not very

nice to stand in the rain and listen  
 to the guns. It was certainly a disgrace  
 to the corps. I hope it will not occur  
 again. This afternoon I bought a Kodak  
 now I will take some fine pictures. This  
 evening I had a blanket given to me so  
 I could keep warm. I did not refuse such  
 an elegant chance of keeping warm.  
 Our bill of fare of late has been quite  
 slack most to slack to satisfy my  
 stomach. I am greatly in hopes it will  
 pick up. I mean the food. The mail  
 did not come today. That makes two  
 days it has missed wish it had of come  
 I am looking for a letter or two, perhaps  
 it will come tomorrow. "Live in hopes and  
 die in despair."

Febr 15  
 9 P.M.  
 24

Last night was very quiet no wind to  
 keep the tents a flopping. This morning  
 the sun came up without the dark clouds  
 to prevent it from shining. and it was  
 nice to see it. also to feel it. The report  
 this morning was all regimental  
 hospitals were to be broke up and the  
 sick were to be taken to the division  
 hospital also no sick one would be  
 permitted to stay in their quarters.

it may be. Today one of the sick boys give me a couple Krabg. Jorgensen cartridges. They are a cali looking thing but are quite a dangerous thing when they talk. I spent the evening with my chum and he made some cocoa so we had a real nice time drinking cocoa and talking. The cocoa was nice and our chief topic was to take a trip into the interior of Cuba for a couple weeks. we come to the conclusion that it would be the proper thing for us to do. After finishing the cocoa it was time for us to break up our meeting and go to our bunks for the night and think the question over. So ends this day.

Feb 16

This morning was a real nice morning cool and pleasant. when the sun come up it commenced to get quite warm and make one wish for a fan. After dinner it got quite cloudy and about 2 o'clock it commenced to rain and for awhile it simply come down in sheets and the water run through our ward in streams in places it was a couple of inches deep. in a short time it was hard work to find a dry

spot in the ward, with the exception of the ends, it was simply awful. A drunken carpenter brought us some boards and put down for us to walk on, it was quite an improvement over wading through the mud. This forenoon I noticed a slip in the P. O. stating that all volunteers could be mustered out by making a personal application, I am waiting for a more definite order before I ask for my discharge. I want some thing more sure when I make my request. After finishing my days work I came to my tent and spent the remainder of my day writing. So this is the way I spent this day and now it is gone.

Feb 17  
7:35 P.M.  
"147"

This morning our corps bugler did not wake us up by his noise. he is sick and I am not surprised for the noise he makes is enough to make any one sick. but I did not have the least idea it would do him any harm. So this morning our steward blowed his whistle to wake us up and tell us to fall in for roll call. This forenoon I was kept on a jump. After dinner things went off very smoothly most of the boys went out to

see the review of the 7 Army Corps. it is  
 said to be the last one in Cuba I am in  
 hopes it is. I went out and watched the  
 regiments pass in review. it was nice that  
 was plenty of good music. The nicest part  
 was to see the artillery and cavalry pass  
 in review, the first time they passed they  
 went through on a walk, the second time  
 they went by on a trot, it was nice,  
 especially when they turned the corner.  
 I had no desire to belong to the artillery  
 and sit on the ammunition cart with my  
 arms folded and have them turn the  
 corners on a jump. I prefer more smooth  
 riding than that a slow walk is good  
 enough for me on turning corners. The  
 review was simply grand. I wished quite  
 often to be closer to it or even be back in  
 my company for a while. Before the review  
 come off there was quite a heavy rain  
 I thought the program would certainly  
 be spoiled but after the rain things  
 turned out quite nicely and it was a  
 grand day for the review. I understand  
 the 161 Ind. regiment is going to leave  
 for the states in a couple of weeks.  
 Hopes it is true.

Feb 18  
8:26 P.M.

This morning I got up early and after breakfast I went to work and worked hard to get my ward in shape before inspection. Carried out the boards we carried in day before yesterday while it was raining. I was sprinkling chloride of lime on the ground when the inspectors come in. After they passed through I went up to the doctor of the ward and got him to sign a pass to let me off of duty for today. After my relief come three of us went up to the adjutant's office to get a pass to Havana. we got it then walked to Buena Vista to have it signed by the Major of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the 7 A.C. he said the passes were not quite right but he signed them just the same and we were glad of it. We took the train at Buena Vista and got to the city at 11:30 A.M. We had to pay 10¢ for our tickets. The conductor did not take my ticket so I am one ahead. After reaching the city we started down street to hunt a place to change our money also a place to eat. we found both. Our dinner consisted of 3 eggs, 3 batter cakes, 3 cups of cocoa, bread butter and a small mince pie. The eggs cost 15¢, pancakes 10¢, cocoa 10¢, and pie 10¢ it tasted good and was quite a change from army rations. After dinner

was over we started for the wharf to get a boat to take us to Morris Castle. The street we went down was quite narrow, but there seemed to be a great deal of business going on. I wanted to buy a pocket book and had to go in several before I found what I wanted. The stores were quite small but looked real nice. The street was only wide enough to allow two wagons pass, and the side walks were intended for one. We stopped in a jewelry store it is said to be the oldest American store in the city. we kept on going and finally found our selves at the dock. we found a number of Cubans ready to take us to Morris Castle. So we got aboard one who said he would take us to the Castle for \$1 in American money. so he pulled out we noticed the Battle ship Brooklyn and went over to it and boarded it. We examined the large 5 inch guns and a number of 3 inch ones. it had 3-3 inch field pieces aboard. The sailors were busily doing one thing and another. some were at work painting the life boats. others were sewing, playing cards and sleeping. One of the marines said there was 600 men aboard. There was



a big washing flying from one of the  
 lines. One of the nicest things aboard was  
 a Billy goat. his name was "Billy Boy" it  
 had a nice collar around its neck and  
 the boys played with it and Mr Goat seemed  
 to enjoy the fun very much. After looking  
 about we come to the conclusion the Brooklyn  
 was a very nice boat but not nice enough  
 for us to want to stay on. We got in the  
 small boat and told the infernal Cuban  
 to take us to Moro Castle he pulled at  
 the oars and kept grumbling to him self  
 finally he looked at his hands and said  
 "Much a mallow" meaning very bad then he  
 started for the docks. nothing could make  
 him change his mind so we left him go.  
 we paid him 20 cents in Spanish money and  
 went up the dock and got a nother Cuban  
 to take us over to the castle. This man was  
 not afraid of work like the first one. he  
 pulled hard at the oars till he landed  
 us. We passed a number of fish boats. they  
 were anchored on the opposite side of the  
 harbor from the market. Befor we landed  
 at the landing we passed by Cabanas  
 Castle. it is a dismal looking place.  
 As soon as we landed we started for

Mour Castle. Going along the road we passed by several piles of canon balls and a number of guns. when we got to the incline leading into the castle we were halted by a guard. he wanted to know if we had a pass. on hearing the negative he wanted to know what time it was, on being told he said go ahead and come back before 4 o'clock. We were delighted and started up. The road way is made up of little stones placed in cement. on each side is mason work built from the ground to about three feet above the road way. on reaching the first landing we went to the edge and looked down and seen a number of guns and piles of canon balls. we looked at different things then started up to the next landing and went inside and went into a couple of cells. then went into the court. the cells looking toward the harbor were quite gloomy looking things they were quite large 12x12 the windows were very small and about 9 feet from the floor. The cells facing the court were larger than those facing the harbor. the windows were well barred also the doors. after seeing these

cells we went out into the courts, and went up another incline to the top of the castle. There was a number of guns on top also plenty of canon balls. There was a number of small doors leading to cells below. Every thing had the appearance that being confined to the castle would be an awful punishment. The work on the castle showed skilful workman ship. no pains were lost in making it an awful place for punishment. Being afraid of getting the guard into trouble we did not remain as long as we would of liked to. There was a number of Cubans at work inside. On reaching the guard we thanked him for his kindness and he told us where we could get a couple boxes of mause shells that were gotten out of the castle. He saw the Cuban and called him to us, so each one of us made a purchase. The Cuban workmen in the castle has a brass check pinned to his blouse. The check is numbered. We would of liked to go to Cabanas but the guard says it was a store house for ammunition and a very important place. I thought so when I heard it was an

arsenal. After getting a drink of water  
 at a small dirty saloon we went aboard  
 our boat and started on our return. The  
 boatman took us close to the Brooklyn  
 and around the wreck of the Main. we  
 could not go up to it on account of the  
 guard. after seeing the wreck we gave him  
 orders to pull ashore. after landing we  
 paid him bid him good bys and started  
 up town the same way we come. thus  
 making a round trip. We stoped in  
 a number of stores befor starting to the  
 depot. After we returned from our trip to  
 the castle we run accros a barber shop  
 two of us got our hair cut the other  
 took a shave. A shave and hair cut costs  
 the same price 20.<sup>o</sup> in Spanish money.  
 We went into a Spanish store and had quite  
 a talk with a young man that was in  
 the Spanish Vol. army. We passed quite a  
 number stores and they were very nice  
 We kept on taking in sights till we found  
 our selves at the depot. we got tickets and  
 went to the cars and we all said we had  
 an awful nice trip and wished we were  
 on a trip to the interior. we got a Quemados  
 at 8 P.M. After going to my tent I went to

the tanks for a drink and I noticed my ward was dark so I went over and found no one in. I got a drink and went to my tent. about 5:45 it commenced to rain and blow. the water come in and I found out it was quite muddy where I had my feet so I hunted a dry place for them our bugle has not blowed so I will rip and shoot awhile on account of the rain and water running in my tent before going to bed.

Feb 19

3:36 P.M.  
x

Another Sunday in Cuba. After getting mess I had to hunt a place to work I had a few words with the man in charge of the wards but neither one of us got mad enough to use any profane language. I did not want him to think he could drive me like a Cuban does an ox. I soon found out where I was to work and the would be main guy has treated me nicely. give me a knife and fork for my own use told me to go to an empty ward and get what medicine I wished to. Every thing is running nice and no hard work to do. Today is real nice. the wind is not very warm. A storm passed south of us it looked as if it was going to give us a call. was very glad when it passed around. Our dinner today was quite

a change from the one we had yesterday. There is lots of yelling going on in the direction of the 161<sup>st</sup> Ind. very likely they are having a game of ball. All days are alike in the army, there is no Sunday. This afternoon a military funeral procession passed camp. The regimental band was at the head of the column while the company followed in the rear, a few minutes after this passed the Cuban dead wagon passed by. This evening I noticed a four oxen <sup>team</sup> pulling a heavy load of wood, it was load enough for six horses.

Feb 20

8:20 P.M.

"147"

X

Last night as I was getting ready to go to bed one of the officers came to our tent and opened the flap and said put out that candle he did not wait for taps to blow he said it was after 9. he had his order obeyed I blew out the candle so as to satisfy him. This morning the sun come up bright and nice after roll call I had to go to the steward and let him know if I ever had or was exposed to yellow fever I said No to both and did not lie either I am no immune and never said I was. We had a glorious old

wait for mess this morning and when we did get up it did not amount to so very much. The Florida Times Union and Citizen of today said that a half or two thirds of the 7 A.C. would be mustered out as there was no use of the whole corps being here as there was no trouble on the island, hope the report will be a true one. This evening the 9 South Carolina buried one of their men. A 49 Iowa man died last night. This evening we had a small shower not enough to make it muddy. These are real nice moon light evenings. Today has been real nice, there has been a nice breeze most of the time. This morning I heard that each one of the hospital corps would have a half day off tomorrow, on account of it being Washington's birthday. Today there was two military funerals passed by, one was infantry the other cavalry. There was also two Cuban one was that of a poor person the other was a rich one. This forenoon the light artillery was practicing over in the review ground they shot quite a number blanks and made quite a noise. The report now is

Febr 21

8:40 P.M.  
"147"

Feb  
8:

the 202 N.Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia and 1 Main heavy  
 artillery is to go back to the states  
 to be mustered out. The 1 Main H. A. belongs  
 to the 7A. Co. they say these regiments  
 will go just as soon as transports  
 arrive. There is a rumor afloat that one  
 division of the 7A. Co. will be taken back  
 to the states and set free. This evening the  
 fliers are having quite a nice time  
 playing hide and go seek around the  
 ankle of my right and left ~~toes~~<sup>feet</sup>.  
 they had best be careful or I might  
 try and catch them. Tonight is an  
 ideal evening for a walk. I had a couple  
 cup fulls of nice cocoa this evening at  
 my churns tent.

Febr 22

8:35 P.M.

George Washington's birthday in Cuba. This  
 morning was lovely. As soon as the sun  
 come up it commenced to get quite warm.  
 After eating my morning mess I made  
 out a pass to be absent from camp  
 from 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. All of us had a half  
 day off so I took the afternoon. I spent  
 part of the forenoon cleaning up in the  
 ward and the other part I spent writing,  
 and the time went by quite fast. After  
 eating dinner we were off for our half day



I got my pass and a couple of friends and went to the beach, we got a ride to Playa. At Playa I got to see the remains of an old Light House. It is built of rock and looks quite picturesque. We went down the beach a couple of miles to hunt shells also to take a bath. There was not many shells to be found. In all the walk only got a handful of small shells. After we got some shells we went in for a bath. The water was nice and clear and warm. Got to see a good sized fish, some said it was a shark. There was a number of Cubans at work putting in the sewerage pipes for the U. S. government. There was quite a number of Cubans at work gathering leaves, and putting them in a sack, could not find out what they were doing with them. At Playa lemonade is strictly 10¢ a glass. Playa is not a very large town, only a couple hundred. It is the terminus of one branch of the Marianas rail road. It is quite a little town. There is an odor peculiar to Playa. We got aboard the train at Playa for Buena Vista. The engine simply switched from one end of the train to the other.

We got to camp in time for supper, which consisted of mashed potatoes, beef steak, lettuce and radishes, sliced fine apples, coffee, and bread, some what of a change, most to big a variety for our stomach, more than we are use to. After dinner, I should of said our evening mess I visited with a friend of mine for an hour.

Febr 23

9. P. M.  
2X

Today has been very nice. I got up this morning just in time to get every thing in order for roll call. Then I went to mess. There was not much doing in the forenoon. Moved two patients from our ward to another one. They made to much noise in the night and kept the other patients awake, and in the day time it was the opposite. About 11 o'clock a man and 3 women went by carrying a coffin to the cemetery. they were singing some mournful song and carrying on as if they were drunk. when they returned they did not act much better if any thing they acted worse. The afternoon I spent writing about 4 o'clock there was quite an excitement in Marianas and Quemados. Gomez and his men were in town. I seen some of his cavalry at a distance. It is said

it is the first time some of his men have been in the city for 5 and 10 years. They have been in the adjoining mountains. The church bells rang and they fired off fireworks and had a big time, especially for the Cubans. They are not used to having celebrations. About six o'clock we had quite a rain. it did not last very long and the clouds cleared away. There was a great deal of lightning north west of here.

Feb 24  
3:30 P.M.

This morning I got up bright and early so as not to be rushed. After mess I swept out our tent so it would look more like a fit place for man to live and not like a hog pen. After sweeping out I come to the ward and started on my days duty. First I washed dishes. and the remainder of the forenoon I done first one thing then another. Bought a pair of Cuban slippers for 25¢ a Cuban purse for 50. Then I went to the quartermasters and got a new pair of pants and a new shirt. After dinner we scrubbed out so as to have our ward in good shape for inspection in the morning. The breeze this afternoon is quite cool and is coming from the north. Quite a number of boys are being discharged. wish I could be so

lucky as to get one, have an idea it would be a good thing for me to try it once more and see if I can make it count this time. I am just as anxious to get out of this army as the next one. This evening there was another military funeral procession passed by. The government cemetery must be very well populated by this time. There is some one buried most every day.

Feb 23

6:15 P.M.  
"147"

This morning I got up quite early and got my corner of the <sup>tent</sup> in order for inspection. After morning mess I fixed out a pass for afternoon then I went to the ward and helped get ready for inspection. After inspection there was nothing to do till noon. This forenoon another military funeral passed by. After dinner I had a half day off. A friend and my self went out for the afternoon. we went about a mile and a half north of Quemados and then struck out through the country I had not went over a couple hundred yards befo I had to take off my shoe and pull a nail out of it. Then I resumed my journey we climbed quite a hill and come to a large well whic was walled up with rocks and then dirt was

thrown up so the top of the well was several feet from the ground. This well was built on the side of a hill. In the valley below was corn and a number of palm trees making a very beautiful landscape. The hill was covered with a heavy growth of grass. That is where there was no rocks and there was plenty of them, small and great. After looking at the valley below us we started down the hill to the valley to our right. We had to climb a stone wall and jump several feet to the ground. We soon got into the valley and started up it. We got into a pasture and on either side us was a high hill with an under brush. The valley was very narrow and a small stream was flowing. There was several head of cattle in the pasture. From all indications the valley was a swamp in the wet season. We followed the valley for a half mile or so and come to an old well. Then we climbed a hill and had a nice view of the country. We noticed a tree with a climbing cactus we went to it and I broke off a piece and got a number of thorns in my finger but got them out in a hurry. We went down the hill and noticed an opening

into the hill. we pitched a couple of stones into it and heard the splash of water. we were satisfied and went up the valley a short distance and climbed a hill to a road and followed the road a short distance and struck out over the hills again trying to see what there was to be seen. On the highest point of the hill we climbed was a house which looked as if it was a very old place. On the slope of the hill was three good sized guineas. at the foot of the hill was a road we climbed through the bars on our right and left was large fields of sugar cane. On one side of the road was a rail road. this rail road belonged to the Toledo plantation and was used to carry sugar cane to the mill. We had not gone very far till we come across three goats. They did not have any desire to elevate us into the air. The sugar cane was planted very thick and was several feet high. On examining the railroad we found out it was not used very much and a number of rails had been taken up. The majority of the ties were mahogany. When we had walked about a quarter of a mile we come to a switch and standing on

the switch was a car with some kind of  
 a derricks on it. We kept on going and come  
 across a cow and a short distance was a small  
 mule they looked at us and let us go by  
 without trying to make us take a short cut  
 for a fence or tree. We finally come to an opening  
 where the cane had been removed and noticed  
 some natives at a distance were piling up  
 some cane. their cart had upset. we went  
 through a sugar cane field for a distance of  
 nearly two miles. Then we come to a house. In  
 front of the house was a large cane field.  
 Around the house was a number of banana  
 trees with some green fruit on them. There  
 was a dog in front of the house and  
 when we come within a short distance it  
 commenced to bark. We went to the house and  
 asked a young lady for some aqua. meaning  
 water. After getting it we went on our way  
 to the sugar mill. We were not permitted to  
 go in but could look in. there was some  
 very powerful machinery. The elevator that  
 carried the cane to the press went very slow  
 and the juice come out in quite a large  
 stream. The cane was carried to the mill on ox  
 carts and railroad cars. They had an engine  
 of their own to do the switching. the ox carts

were pulled by 4 and 8 oxen. Opposite the sugar mill was an *aguardiente* distillery where they made rum and *aguardiente*. There was a number of large vats full of the liquor and a very large vat under the floor where the liquor run from the smaller vats. There was a number of Cubans down in this vat with their pants rolled up to their knees and barefooted they were stirring it. After seeing plenty of this we started for home. About 3 miles from the sugar mill we come to a Cuban barracks made of palm leaves placed on a frame work. About a quarter from this barracks was another one made of stone. A couple batallions were in front of it waiting for the order march. We waited till they started. They were a mixed set in color and age. They had a couple very nice flags. Some of the officers were very smart looking. After seeing them start we followed them for a distance and then started for camp so as to be on time for supper. After supper I wrote a while then went down to my chums for some cocoa. On this trip I found a very nice love letter to some man, and I tore up my pass by mistake but the guard let me in just the same.



Feb 26

1:45 P.M.  
x

Sunday in Cuba. This has been a lovely day. There has been an ocean breeze ever since morning. It puts one in mind of a spring day in the states. Every thing is quiet no noise. The report in the Savannah paper is one division will go to that place and be mustered out then the second division will follow. It is said some of the sick is to be taken back to the states on the hospital ship Missouri. There is a case of yellow fever in the isolated ward. The boys are still being discharged from this division.

Feb 27

3 P.M.  
"147"

Today has been cloudy and several times it threatened rain but put it off to this afternoon. This forenoon I had quite an easy time of it. After dinner we scrubbed out the ward. The rumor today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Troop will be sent to Savannah before long and one company from the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. C will go with us to be our guards and all we keep quiet and walk the chalk mark. Beings the rumor has it that one company is to go with us I have a little confidence in the report. as a rule they try every thing to make us know we are prisoners instead of citizens.

Feb 28

8.35 P.M.

x

This morning I got up about 6 o'clock and did some sewing. While busy at work one of the hospital boys come in and told me one of the corps men died last night or rather this morning. He said the young man had an awful hard night of it. He had no peace until about 10 minutes before his death. All night long he kept crying for the Lord to have mercy on him. This morning we had muster and at 11 o'clock I signed the pay roll. After muster I fixed up a box for my trunk. All I need now is a couple of hinges. After dinner I potted a couple of flowers. This afternoon I had off so a friend and my self went to the ocean for a bath. We had a good one even if the tide was going out. On our way back when we got close to the cemetery we noticed a funeral. It was that of the young man that died this morning. The company he was from was present also their regimental band and some of the hospital corps men. The music sounded very solemn. We got back to camp just in time for our evening mess. I heard this morning that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Neb was going to start in the morning on a 10 day march. The report today is that some of the convalescent are going to be sent back to the states.

Mar 1<sup>st</sup>7:15 P.M.  
"147"

This morning every thing was shining with dew. indications of spring beamed forth and making one wish he was home. After morning mess I went to work on a new ward, taking the place of one of the boys that was not feeling well. The day passed by very quietly and no news of leaving this island was drifting through the air. Quite a number of boys were taken out of the different departments and put on the fatigues gang and in wards.

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:40 P.M.

This morning was another nice one. I got up about 6 o'clock and spent a half hour or so in reading the New Testament. After roll call I went to mess. our mess was rather slim, so I did not eat very much a piece of bread and a few beans. Then I went to my ward. The boys had every thing cleaned up so I had a snap today. The report today is the First Maine Heavy Artillery is to leave for the states next saturday. This morning the 161<sup>st</sup> Inf went by for a march some where. they returned this evening. about 6 P.M. there was quite a dark cloud made its appearance on the stage but did not do any thing for us and we are glad of it. Coming from the

ward this evening it was quite dark and I was in a hurry and the first thing I knew I was stumbling over a guy rope and the earth flew up and oh how I did hit it was a caution. I did not hurt my self but I did my feelings. I am still on deck. if have time will examine the earth in the morning and see if I hurt it.

Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8.5 P.M.

I thought I would get up good and early this morning and have some time to read. I hardly got out of bed till the first call sounded. it sounded half an hour ahead of time. I had to read after roll call instead of before. I went to the ward for breakfast for a change. the change was not much of success. After dinner I scrubbed. This forenoon there was a water faucet placed in the fly of the ward. it leaked and by afternoon it flooded and I had to make a report of it and get it fixed. I am all ready for inspection in the morning. Last night one of the N.C boys died. he was buried this afternoon. There is a rumor that the N.C boys are to go back to the states. Gen Lu inspected the hospital today. he did not come around my ward.

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>

7:25 P.M.

"147"

X.

I went to get my book in shape, a few minutes ago, to write and I sent my candle to flying to the ground. I was glad it did not have the power to explode, or my body may be scattered through the air. This morning I got up before six o'clock and spent some time reading and writing at seven o'clock I was at the ward getting things ready for inspection, and then they did not inspect my ward. I spent quite awhile watching the famous 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry drilling. After dinner I was off for half a day. I got my kodak and went out for a stroll. The first place of any importance was a Cuban slaughter house. it was nice and clean. the floor was made of rock and slanted to the center. the roof was made of tiling. there was no sides. every thing was nice and clean. After seeing all we cared to of the slaughter house we went to a small creek and followed it for quite a distance. the water was nice and clear and a couple feet deep. the bottom of the creek was made of rocks and there was a great many small fish in it. We passed through a couple banana groves I had the

pleasure of picking some bananas even if they  
 were green. We noticed a Cuban plowing with  
 two oxen so we went up. he was plowing  
 out sweet potatoes. what he could not plow  
 out he dug out with a small piece of iron  
 fastened to the probe he had to probe the  
 oxen with. He stopped and with the assistance  
 of a small boy killed a field mouse. I took  
 advantage of the opportunity and took hold of  
 one handle of the plow. (there is only one handle  
 to a Cuban plow or I would of grabbed hold of  
 the other handle) and I spoke Cuban to the Oxen  
 and away they went. I said *vamos* which  
 meant get up. I plowed out some sweet potatoes  
 and the boys thought I was quite a driver. when  
 I come to the end of the row I was puzzled as to  
 how to stop them. I finally noticed a couple  
 of ropes and pulled on them and they stopped  
 short. I turned them over to the driver and felt  
 satisfied with plowing in Cuban style. On  
 the way home we passed through a tobacco  
 field. the tobacco looked real nice. some was  
 quite large other was very small. Today has  
 been quite pleasant. and ~~not~~ new news  
 broke out. only the N.C. boys are wild over  
 the news they are going home and I do not  
 blame them so very much.

Mar 5  
8. P.M.

This has been quite a moist day, every now and then we had a small shower. It rained quite often last night and it looks as if it would rain some more this evening. It is reported the D. Ill. is to go to Savannah to do provs duty, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Hosp is to go over and take charge of the field hospital, and another report is a number of patients are to be taken to Savannah this week on the hospital ship. There is beginning to be quite a number of typhoid cases in the hospital. Every thing has gone off quite today.

Mar 6  
7:30 P.M.  
"147"

The first impression I had this morning when I awoke was, it was cloudy and cool, and it has been so all day and it is no better this evening. This afternoon there was inspection but the inspectors did not see fit to come to my ward. About fifty convalescent patients were taken from this division hospital and sent to Savannah, to the general hosp. The chaplain of the 1<sup>st</sup> N. C. said the 7<sup>th</sup> A. C. would be mustered out between the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month and the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Hope he got his information from a good source. The sooner the better, says I.

Mar 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 P.M.

Another windy and cool day in Cuba, cool enough to make one wish for a fire and to be in some house instead of an old tent where the ventilation is most to free, and the flopping of the fly keeps one awake. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Heavy Artillery left for Savannah today where they are to be mustered out. A number of the Hosp. Corps men received their discharges today. Today has been most to cool and windy for much news. most of it blowaway. The report of today is we will go to Savannah before long and take charge of the general hospital. Next

Mar 8<sup>th</sup>7 P.M.  
"147"

The first thing I heard this morning when I awoke was the wind. When the sun come up it looked nice, there was no clouds to prevent it from sending a beam of light across this isle. I slept under a sheet and three plys of heavy blankets last night and did not feel any to warm only comfortable. Now who says it can not get cold in Cuba. This noon we had a little excitement in my ward. I heard a couple of the boys calling each other damn liars and the first thing I knew there was cups a flying through the air at each others heads. Cups instead of razors. This afternoon the 1<sup>st</sup> N. C. had another



funeral. Some of the boys from the 1<sup>st</sup> N.C. were to, their regiment today and brought over the news that six regiments from this island were to be sent to Magula. No startling reports of this division hospital moving before long has come to my ears this day.

Was 9<sup>th</sup>  
9 P.M

Had a change of diet this morning, stewed tomatoes, sweet potatoes, farina, coffee, beef and bread. some said the meat was tough. I did not care to handle any of it. After eating I went to the ward, about 10 o'clock the Dr. came and he told me to separate the boys. I had to disinfect the front section of the ward, it was used for measles and had just been vacated. it was a sweet old job. I had to use carbolic acid. I got the boys separated in the afternoon and they were well pleased with the change. The boys got tired of the train whistling just below our ward so they tried to play a joke on the engineer. they soaped the track. it was all they brains could do to get over the soap and the engineer did not have time to whistle. they tried the same thing the night before. they will keep on till they stop the train.

Mar 10

6:40 P.M.

This morning there was a beautiful sun rise, and every thing was quiet. After roll call I got ready for breakfast. After mess I went to the ward to report for duty. I had not been at work long when I was called to the receiving tent and was told to report to the surgeon to assist him from now on. I done so, helped with a couple of dressings and a operation in the forenoon. After dinner I helped to clean up the operating room. at 3 o'clock the doctor let me go for the remainder of the day. about 9:30 I heard some heavy firing and went out to see what it meant and found out the light artillery was firing a salute to the "white squadron", there was three man of wars and one monitor passing by. The flag ship returned the salute. they done some rapid firing it took a minute or two for the sound to reach us. It was quite a nice sight to seem them plow there way through the water. Went to Quemados this afternoon and bought a trunk for \$3. sewed the boy down. Had quite a nice supper this eve bread, hash, beans salad, tomatoes, rice and coffee. The report is the 17 Main heavy artillery was taken off the transport

and put on Bross in the City of Havana, and the Hospital ship Missouri is under going 10 days quarantine in Savannah. There is quite a large fire in the mountain, south west of here, for close to them the reflection on the sky is quite nice.

Mar 11

6:15 P.M.  
"147"  
X

Got up bright and early this morning. went to the ward at 8 o'clock after cleaning up my tent for inspection. I placed my plants where they would get some sun shine and was admiring them, was going to get a stick to make a prop for one of them and the wind broke it off while I was looking at them, hated it very much. My work this forenoon was very light, after dinner I helped to get the operating room in shape for a couple of operations. The Florida-Times-Union and Citizen says 23 regiments are to be mustered out, among that number is the 3rd Nebraska. I heard this evening the 2nd Div Headquarters are to go back to the states by the 30th of this month. hope both reports are true. I thought I was going to some excitement this evening, a Cuban mule running with a heavy cart loaded with furniture. the man stopped it before it ran for

Mar 12

6:15 P.M.

Another Sunday in Cuba. This morning was nice and quiet and not a cloud to be seen. After breakfast I shaved and got ready to go to work. This forenoon I assisted in dressing several wounds. After dinner did not have much to do. Helped to blow up an air mattress. Now why can say I and not a blow hard. This afternoon was awful hot just like a July day in the states. About 4 o'clock it became very cloudy and it looked as if we might have some rain. The 16<sup>th</sup> Ind is playing The Star Spangle banner. They have finished

Mar 13

9 P.M.

"147"

2X.

Another hot day. I did not have much to do in the forenoon. In the afternoon I helped to get the operating room in shape for some operations. I got to see two very nice operations. There is a great deal of talk about us going home, and where they will take us. I do not care much where they take me just so they allow me to go home. Gomez was deposed yesterday. Some more of our boys received their discharge yesterday. 100 patients were discharged from the hospital today so now there is about 150 left. The camp will soon be fixed up nicely and then we will have to go.

Mar 14<sup>th</sup>12:40 Noon  
"147"

Got up bright and early this morning. (5:45 AM). This morning was rather cool, but soon commenced to warm up. For breakfast we had boiled dough. The cook, must of expected a windy day and wished to feed us on some very solid food so we would not blow away. This forenoon was kept quite busy assisting the surgeon dressing wounds. In the afternoon I helped with an operation. In the midst of it one of the lady nurses come over and told the doctor one of the corps men was raising a fuss in the ward. The doctor said 'Kraft go over and throw the man out. I went over and asked the man to go and he went. Had a small shower this eve. There was a beautiful sunset this eve.

Mar 15<sup>th</sup>5:55 P.M.  
"147"

X

Today has been quite pleasant, although about noon it was quite warm. This forenoon was not very busy this afternoon had to do a couple of dressings and take care of ward 7 while the lady nurse took a couple of hour recess. This evening is nice and cool and there is a lovely golden sunset. For evening mess we had bread, hash, potato salad, gravy, a peach cobbler and coffee. Farewell

Mar 16  
7.56 P.M.

Another pleasant day in Cuba, not so very hot, just about right. Had quite a busy forenoon also afternoon. This afternoon the surgeon told me to wash up and help him I done so and got to get plenty of red blood on my hands and to get my finger in the wound. This evening's paper says 1<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> La. regiments are to go to Savannah to be mustered out. The 2<sup>nd</sup> La is to go Saturday. The beginning of the movements of the 7 A.C. back to the states. Let the good work go on is the wish of the majority. This afternoon the elements above looked as if they would give us a great down pouring of wet rain but it passed to the south and east of us. Was afraid we would have a heavy storm. No mail today. This is an off day, very quiet around camp. Every one is waiting patiently for pay day. Hope it will soon be time for Mr. Pay-Master to come and cough over last months pay. Had quite a treat for supper this eve. some so called ginger bread am afraid the name is throwing a very bad name upon ginger some tasted of ginger others I am positive never met ginger in any crowd or dress parade. It was a very thankful change and I hope they play some more jokes on our stomachs

Mar 17.  
8:30 P.M.

Saint Patrick's day in the morning, and a lovely day it has been. This forenoon I did not have much to do. This afternoon I had to give chloroform to a couple of patients. This evening we had our February pay day. Heard the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska received orders to get ready to go to the states. Green was quite a common color in camp today, even I wore a green tie which a friend of mine put on me this morning. Plenty of music in the regiment this evening. This is a lovely moon-light night. The bugles are beginning to sound taps so think I had best get ready to go to the land of slumber. One of our 5<sup>th</sup> Nebraska boys was ordered back to the regiment today.

Mar 18  
147

Got up bright and early this morning should of said yesterday morning for I am writing this on Sunday morning instead of Saturday eve. Did not have an opportunity last night as I did not get back from my daily toil till 10 P.M. In the morning I captured a couple of chameleons and placed them in a small sack till I could fix a box to put them in. Then I got my tent ready for inspection, after that I went to see what all I had to do for the day. In the forenoon I helped with several dressings and done a couple my self. after

dinner I helped to get the operating room in order for an operation about 3:30 the surgeon come in and said one of the lady nurses had symptoms of appendicitis and had to be operated on. so they put off the first one for the lady and got started about 5. I got to see a very nice operation for appendicitis. well they finished about 7:30 and the doctor said I should go to my supper before I do any thing more. I done so. after supper I cleaned up the room and went to the surgical ward and done a couple of dressings. talked awhile and got to my tent about 10 P.M. tired and sleepy and I was not long going to sleep either.

Mar 19  
8 P.M.

This morning I got up at 6 A.M. after washing and making my bed I fixed a small box for my chamelions and put some sugar in for them so they would be sweet and nice. This forenoon I went with the doctor to another ward to see a suspected case of appendicitis. and after returning got ready for an operation. after dinner we had two and a great many dressings to do. Heard this eve that the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Hoop corps was going to come over here. and help us out then there will be a merry crowd to do the work.



May 30  
6:45 AM  
"147"

a nice cool morning this is. The Cubans are going by on their way to work. After breakfast I made out a pass to the city, a friend of mine and my self took them to the adjutant's office to have them signed. The adjutant said "What you must be fond of the city." I said "Have not been there for six weeks" He told us to get a note from our doctor and the doctor in charge of nurses. we done so and he signed the passes. my friend handed them to a mounted orderly who took them to the Brig. Gen. to sign them. he did not get them signed so brought them back and handed them in to the adjutant. I went to my ward and told the doctor he said "you want go to town then," he promised me a pass out of the lines. I said "doctor to tell the truth I would go if I got out of the lines" he said "dont do that. there is no pleasure in running the risk, in a couple of days they will sign them. while eating my dinner my friend come in with new passes the adjutant signed for us. so I got ready and we went to headquarters and got them signed our selves and took the 2 o'clock train for Concha station. when we got to the city proper we went to a new part of the city. the policeman have charge of the city now. They are

dressed like those in America. big club. large revolver and a whistle. Went into quite a number of stores which were nice, although small. A number of blocks are built up solid with a number of stalls facing the street and others facing the court. The street we were on today were very narrow. Obispo street is the main one. it is narrow, although there is quite a business going on on it. some very handsome stores can be found on it. At 7:30 I was tired of the city so we pulled for the depot. and took the 8:15 clock train for home, getting in camp at 8:45. One of the attractions today was taking down the statue of the queen in one of the parks of the city. there was quite a crowd watching the work. understood the figure would be returned to Spain. There is a number of small parks in the city and they are kept nice and clean.

Mar 21

8:45 P.M.  
3X.

Last night was an awful cold one just too much for pleasure. a double blanket was hardly enough for the best of comfort. still I managed to get through the night. Had plenty of work today dressing wounds and looking after the ward while the lady nurse was out. Some one told me the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska would be sent home as soon as it moderated in the north. Understood the

161<sup>st</sup> Inf received orders to get ready to go back to the states to be mustered out. This corps will soon be on the other side of the watery deep. Let the good work go on and help me go back to the states

Mar 22  
8. P.M.  
2x.

This has been quite a warm day. This morning was nice. The sun had not been up very long before it got quite warm. I tried my activity catching chameleons. caught one so now I have three. Was kept quite busy this afternoon. had a couple of operations. and we dedicated our new surgery. and we done so in fine shape. Just received news that all whose regiments are to be mustered out shall hand in their names tomorrow saying they wish to be discharged. I will be glad of the grand opportunity and if I can hand mine in I will do so with the greatest of pleasure.

Mar 23  
5:50 P.M.

At roll call this morning we received the startling news. all wishing their discharge from the hospital corps should hand in their name. if not they would have to remain for three years. I handed mine in right after breakfast so I would not be left out. Today has been quite warm. This forenoon I was kept busy helping dress wounds.

after dinner I took charge of ward 7 while the lady nurse went out for a drive. when she returned she brought me a bottle of ginger ale and I accepted it with thanks and soon disposed of the ale.

Mar 24

12:45 Noon  
"147"  
X

One more hot day in Cuba. This morning I caught a small chameleon and had to throw out one of my begonias as it was to dead to live. This forenoon I did not have much to do. helped to apply a couple of plaster paris casts then I went to dinner. There is quite a nice breeze coming from the north. - This afternoon I had charge of the ward for a couple hours while the lady nurse was away. when she returned I took my turn. The 1<sup>st</sup> M. C. and one battalion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Va leaves in the morning. Under stand 250 regular hospital corps men arrived in Havana a couple days ago.

Mar 26

8:45 P.M.  
X

Got up bright and early this morning after putting in an awful poor night's rest. Went on duty at 8 A.M. and was kept on a jump till about 7 o'clock. For dinner and supper I got what the others did not wish. and that was not very much. signed an application for discharge this eve. it was approved. before I signed it. Today has been awful hot. hot. hotter.

Mar 26  
8:45 P.M.

Another Sunday in Cuba, and it has been, a warm and windy one at that. The sun had not been up very long till it commenced sending its hot beams up on us poor creatures here below. Was quite busy this forenoon helping to dress wounds. After dinner I went for a walk, it was too dusty and warm to walk very far, went about a mile or two and turned around and come back and spent the remainder of the afternoon printing pictures. The time went by quite rapidly. Our Sunday meals have been very poor affairs. For breakfast we had dough suet. The report this evening is a hundred patients are to be taken back to the states on the hospital ship Missouri; also the same number of nurses, and the regular army nurses are to take charge of the hospital. Let them come they can not come to quick to suit the boys.

Mar 27

7:50 P.M.  
"147"  
X

I put in a horrible night last night, got nearly two and a half hours sleep, and got up with a head like a ballow. Today was quite warm. My forenoon was very easy, this afternoon attended a couple of operations. Alger was visiting the corps today. The remains of the 7th Army Corps passed in review. The artillery paid him

the respects by firing a salute. he was expected to pay the hospital a visit, but he did not have the time, and we were not disappointed. The doctor turned a case over to me today to practice on. Got me a case to remember Cuba by. The natural gallows tree is a thing of the past, it is to be made up into cases, it is a shame to cut the tree down I was in it as much as others, have got quite a good sized chip from it.

Mar 28

8:55 P.M.  
x

Today has been hot, windy and dusty. Before going to the ward I printed some pictures. Was kept quite busy this forenoon, got a couple patients ready for an operation also dressed a couple of wounds, and got through in time for dinner. This afternoon got to see a couple of nice operations. The 161<sup>st</sup> Regt regiment was moving some of their things to the transport, they will leave tomorrow, so it is said. There has been no very startling reports today, and it seems strange. Every one is on the anxious seat for our applications to be approved and for all of us to receive our discharges. I hope my discharge will hurry up and come. Our meals today have been rant, most any thing would be ahead of them, articles were very scarce and not done or burnt, talking them on the whole it was tough.

Mar 29  
8:45 P.M.  
"147."  
X

about 3 o'clock this morning I awoke and the 1st 2nd Band was playing the national air. it was their last morning in this camp. The music sounded nice. It was moonlight and still and nature helped the music out. I got home sick and wished I was going home. They broke camp at 6 A.M. The 2nd Ill is having fires this eve and they are to go in the morning. The new report is the 8th Neb is to stay in service for awhile longer. I am in hopes it is only "hot air." About noon it looked as if we were going to have a heavy storm. it passed south of us. about 3 o'clock it sprinkled some. Our diet today was the same as ever nothing to brag on or to encourage one to remain in the service of Uncle Sam. The fleas are pestering me in good shape this eve. Had a couple of very nice operations this afternoon.

Mar 30  
12:40 Noon.

One more hot day in Cuba. The 2nd Ill Reg had their fires burning all night. This forenoon I did not have very much to do. About 10 A.M. a team ran away with a load of pipe there was some Cuban workman on it and one of them got hurt and two of his comrades had to take him to the ward. The list of patients to go on the hospital ship Missouri is being made out. A couple of the

Boys have received their discharge today. The Cuban papers say all the volunteers will be off the island before the 25 of April. wish they would of made it some earlier and also be official. Things around here look as if some thing will occur before very long. The officers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska say the regiment will be back in the states in 10 days or 2 weeks. It is very quiet without so many bugles and the band concert at night. The T.A.C. is reduced from 12 regiments to 5. 2 are in the 2 Div. 3 in the 1 Div.

May 31  
6:58 P.M.  
"147"

Good Friday. The 3 Div H. headquarters were broke up yesterday so the major surgeon from there said. Today was quite warm. This morning I moved my desk (box) and was hoping to find some mice but my hopes soon faded away. Found a nest but no mouse. but plenty of bugs. Had muster and signing of the pay roll this forenoon I did not go to muster but could not afford to miss signing the pay roll. The 49 Iowa received orders to go back to the states, so some rumour says. The Fleas are making things quite interesting for me this eve: wish they would crawl off and die or do some thing to give me a rest and a peaceful nights rest. They are too friendly to suit me. Caught a scorpion in my tent this evening.



Apr 1.  
7 P.M.  
X.

April fools day in Cuba. Heard the 3<sup>rd</sup> had rec'd orders to go home. The tents occupied by the 161 Ind. 2 2ll. and 1 N.C. were taken down this afternoon. Some patients from the 1<sup>st</sup> Dis Hosp. were transferred to this one this evening. This has been quite a warm day.

Apr 2.  
5:15 P.M.

Easter Sunday in Cuba, and a hot one it is. This forenoon did not have much to do. This afternoon went over to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska. They have got orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice. every one is getting ready. most of the boys seem to be well pleased. they expect to move about Tuesday. Our Easter meals have been very poor, the beef was rotten.

Apr 3.  
7:30  
"147"

Today has not been so very hot. there has been a nice breeze most of the day. Had charge of the ward today. Understand a portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> is to start for home tomorrow.

Apr 4.  
7:30 P.M.  
X

Did not have much to do today. the surgeon went to the city. This forenoon I developed some pictures. Understand all regiments are to be away from here by Saturday. The 3<sup>rd</sup> did not get away today will go in a couple of days. Made out a list of patients to go away on the hospital ship Messoni. Those that are well will be sent on some transport. Today has not been so very warm.

Apr 5

6:15  
"147"

It was quite cloudy this morning and it looked as if we would certainly have some rain, it finally cleared up, after giving us a slight sprinkle. This afternoon a number of patients were sent to the hospital ship, others will follow in the morning. This evening a Cuban funeral passed by, 3 men carrying a coffin. For supper we had bread, cold meat, lettuce, cold slaw, radishes, and ice tea, a reenlistment meal, we call a change of diet a reenlistment meal. Today has been quite warm.

Apr 6

8:15 P.M.

Got up bright and early this morning and went to the ward, at 6:30 A.M. to get dressing ready as we had to have our patients who were to leave on the hospital ship Missouri ready by 8 o'clock, we had them ready on time. I was sent from our ward, I had a glorious old breakfast of oat-meal and toast. Today has been quite windy at times, it was cloudy and looked as if we might have rain, have not had any rain for quite a long time. Had a very easy time this afternoon, had nothing to do, and I must confess I enjoyed doing nothing quite well. One of our main gyps says we will be out of here in 10 days. Our evening meal was sour bread, burned hash, coffee & potatoes.

Apr 7<sup>th</sup>

Am not writing this on the 7 but on the 8<sup>th</sup> and oh how the fleas are bothering me. Today was a very nice day. They say on the 12 that there will be a change in biz. by that time they expect most of the corp men to have their discharge and be on their way rejoicing all supplies are being turned in with the exception of what is absolutely necessary to have in the wards. There is only 3 or 4 doctors on the ground. This afternoon I had charge of the ward this afternoon. About 4 P.M. I heard a noise and a little later I heard another on looking to sea I noticed quite a storm. It passed around us. After supper I was fixing up my tent and was called to the surgery to get ready for an operation. Went down about 7 P.M. and got every thing ready they commenced at 12 and I got to bed at 3 A.M. After the operation I had an invitation to drink some beer with our surgeon but refused with thanks.

Apr 8.

8:50 P.M.

"147"

X.

Got up this morning quite early even if did not get over 3 hours sleep and I felt very lough. Today has been cloudy and threatened rain. It has also been windy and quite cool. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Mts left for the states yesterday. The 6<sup>th</sup> Mts left today. There is which was on guard duty left at noon. and 24 of the corp men are doing

guard duty instead. understanding the Major asked the 8<sup>th</sup> regular infantry and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry for a company to do guard duty and they refused saying it was not according to regulations to put guards around hospitals.

Apr 9.  
9. P.M.

Today has been windy and quite cool. This afternoon I had to my self so went to the ocean. it was running quite high. Gathered quite a number of shells. they were very small but quite nice. coming back tired my self in walking over a half mile trail work on a 4x4 and I got good and plenty of it. will not try it again. Our mess this morning was very rank. breakfast some kind of a soup and coffee. our supper was very good. Passed by the Spanish and the U.S. Military Cemetery. the U.S. cemetery is very well populated. the Spanish one has a 10 foot mason wall around it. and the gate is locked. we peeped in the gate also climbed up at one corner. it did not amount to very much. at several places on the wall was a cross. Expected to see a nice cemetery but was greatly mistaken. the reports about it were false. Our taps are fast sounding so guess had best quit for the night if I take the book from in front of the candle the wind will blow it out. Good Night

Apr 10

8 P.M.

"147"

Today has been quite cool, but not as cool as yesterday the wind has been quite strong. The hospital corp guards were armed with revolvers today. Had some very nice biscuits for supper this evening. No startling reports have come to our ears today. Every one is wondering how long it will be before we are sent to the states.

Apr 11

9 P.M.

2 X

Today has been windy, dusty and quite cool. The head lady nurse was taking the names of those (the lady nurses) wishing to stay and those who wish to go home. The report going the rounds now is all volunteers must be in the states or on their way by the 25 of this month. The officers are giving a banquet to some of their brother officers this evening. They expect quite a nice time.

Apr 12

9 P.M.

"147"

Nothing much happened today. There was several discharges today. It has been quite windy, dusty and cool today. Had an operation this afternoon and I missed my supper, so had to buy a jelly roll and mince pie. Was called back to the ward after eating my grand old mess. One of the surgeons told me there would be 50 discharges here this week and I hope it is true.

Apr 13.  
6:40 PM

The wind and dust continued to pester us today the same as it has done for the last week or so. For awhile this forenoon it looked as if we were going to have a storm. No startling news came to our ears today only the report that the salary of us poor unfortunate soldiers being reduced 30%. If such is the case it is a very dirty trick and should be corrected, I hope it is not true, but if it is it is a disgrace to the government and it should be looked down upon.

Apr 14.  
9 P.M

Today has been quite pleasant not so very windy or warm. Understand the 1<sup>st</sup> Div Hosp. corp. boys who are entitled to their discharges will receive them tomorrow. The engineers leave for Savannah tomorrow. There was a fire alarm last night. The fire was out side the guard line so I did not bother my head about it. Was kept quite busy this afternoon had 2 operations and did not get through till after 6 P.M. about one hour and a half after supper so had to buy some pie and jelly pole for my supper or I would of went hungry as the water we have here does not feed the least bit.

Apr 15  
4:45 P.M.  
"147"

So far this has been a real nice day. Not very warm and a very nice sea breeze. It is reported that some of the female nurses are to go to Alfonso XIII hospital and on Monday next 40 regular nurses are to take charge of this division. The engineers left this afternoon. No first class mail come today many a heart went away disappointed I know mine did and badly disappointed at that. There was a picture of the hospital taken today. The major ordered a tall scaffold built several days ago and he has it moved around so he might get a good picture of the camp. The rumor is he ordered 30 men to move yesterday, take them from guard, wards or wherever they can be found in order to move the little house in order to have a picture taken to satisfy him. It is also reported a regular army major is to take charge of this camp next week. any thing for improvement there can be no harm done as there is no room unless they feed us on wind soup. When this major goes there will be no tears drop fall on this Cuban soil from sorrow but praises of joy will come from every mouth.

Apr 16. Sunday in Cuba. Arose this morning at 6 AM.  
 4:45 P.M. washed and got ready for roll call. After  
 roll call went to mess. This is what we  
 had to be thankful for. poor bread, potatoes,  
 stewed tomatoes, musty bacon and so called  
 coffee. After eating that sumptuous meal I  
 proceeded to wash my dishes and then come  
 to my tent and dried them on an old  
 dish towel which would look much  
 cleaner if I would be more liberal with  
 soap, water and muscle. After I dried my  
 dishes wrote awhile then went to the  
 ward, dressed a couple soars then got  
 ready for a couple of operations, in which  
 I was assistant, got through just in time  
 to get dinner, before it was all gone. For  
 dinner we had, more poor bread, roast beef  
 (algiers kind, embalmed) some kind of soup, did  
 not test it. lettuce, mashed potatoes, and  
 sweetened coffee. After indulging in some of  
 the above named articles I went to the  
 surgery cleaned it up and then got permission  
 to leave camp till 7 P.M. but got back at 4.  
 Went to the government cemetery, then to the  
 Spanish the wall were too high for me to  
 see over so I climbed up at our corner and  
 got to see the bone yard. In the corner was a



small place walled up and the bones of the poor, whose relatives could not pay grave rent, were placed, they were quite well bleached and a good number of them were piled up. in the opposite side was a place like the one I was at no doubt it was well populated also. After seeing the bone yard we wended our way to a banana grove. Between the banana rows were planted pome apples they were the size of apples but looked nice. The bananas were quite small after going through the banana grove. we went to Playa got a couple bottles of pop and come back to camp. The road is awful dusty. It was quite warm walking today. The ocean was very calm. Understand the 9<sup>th</sup> Ill left for the state today. It is getting cloudy in the west it looks as if it might rain.

Apr 17.  
9:10 P.M.  
"147"  
x

Today has been quite warm. A colored *tiaristia* was shot at the 49 Iowa corral and was brought to camp. the bullet could not be located. No very startling news was brought to camp today and the regular hospital men that was said were coming to take charge of this camp did not turn up on the stage of action. one discharge was granted today. Give us some more "hot air."

Apr 18  
5 P.M.

There was quite a storm at sea this morning and it finally struck land and gave us a good old rain not very much wind accompanied it and we were glad of it. Had no very big desire to put up tents in the rain. as a rule the rains we have here are quite damp. They are wet rains. It is reported we might get out of here by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had the pleasure of eating in our new mess hall today noon.

Apr 19  
7:35 P.M.  
"147"  
X.

Today has been quite hot. The sun came out nice and bright this morning and soon made us wish for a shade. The regular hospital corp men were notified this morning they would soon be discharged and the major said all who desired to re-enlist, step to the left none stepped. as soon as the regulars are taken care of us poor unfortunate volunteers who were transferred from regiments will be taken care of. we have always had the good luck of being at the rear end of every thing. A number of boys received their discharges today. The 9<sup>th</sup> Ill. went aboard the ship today so I understand. Let the good work go on. Some day we might receive our discharge when every one else has got theirs. The mosquitoes and flies are beginning to get in their work so I will stop and begin fighting them. La. sa. fong

Apr 20<sup>th</sup>  
9 P.M.

This has been what might be called an uncertain day, one minute it looked like rain the next minute it was hot. A number of boys received their discharges today. None of us transferred boys getting out. This evening we had quite a shower.

Apr 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:5 P.M.

Today has been quite hot. Last night we had quite a heavy shower. Today was quite an easy one and we done several dressings this forenoon. The report this afternoon is we are to be discharged tomorrow and leave the first of the coming week for home. hope the report is a true one. Several boys received their discharges today.

Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5:20 P.M.  
"147"  
X

This has been quite a pleasant day. The orders were given this morning for officers and nurses to get ready to move in the vacant wards, and this we done. all the tents with the exception of the executive tents is down this ev. The lady nurses who annulled their contracts left this noon. understand the sick ladies were refused transportation on the regular line and are to be sent home on transports in a day or two. The clerks in the office are busy making out finals. Every one seems to be quite happy at the thought of going home in three or four days.

Apr 23

7:55 P.M.

This has been quite a nice day. This morning was examined previous to being discharged. am greatly in hopes this will be my last night in the service of Uncle Sams army. It is reported we might be shipped to New Orleans tomorrow. I doubt it very much, although it may be true. We had a man brought to the ward at noon who received a shot in the back. Was kept quite busy today and after all did not do so very much. The topic of the day is going home, and I hope we shall soon be on our way.

Apr 24.

7:56 P.M.

"147"

This has been quite an anxious day for us and then nothing developed. we are just as much of a soldier as ever. It has been quite a pleasant day. After dinner we had a nice operation. a gun shot wound. the bullet was taken from the spinal column. the cord was injured one half was torn away. and the bones were badly broken. the dura-mater and pia-mater could be seen and looked nice. The bullet looped awful nice in the spinal canal. the bullet was badly shattered. All the discharges are made out all that is necessary is to hand them out. hope it will be done in the morning. This is a lovely moonlight night. hope it will be the same when we start on our voyage towards home and the land of the free and the brave.

Apr 25  
8:15 P.M.  
X  
"747"

A little after 8 this morning I received my discharge, and went away from the adjutants tent as free man. After receiving my discharge I assisted the surgeon with an operation, a gun shot wound. The bullet entered above and external to the nipple and passed downward and to the spinal column. The surgeon chiseled out the spinous process of the 7<sup>th</sup> dorsal vertebra and found a portion of one rib shattered and discovered the bullet embedded in the spinal cord. The cord was nearly severed. The one we operated on yesterday died about 10 A.M. today. A couple of my friends and myself took the 12 noon train for ~~the morning~~ and handed our initials into the quartermaster. Then we started to hunt a place to feed. went into one and waited nearly 10 minutes and seen they were in no great rush we got up and hunted one where they were more willing to serve their customers. Finally we come to a Spanish restaurant and went in by making signs we let them understand we wanted some thing to eat. and they give us <sup>a very</sup> good meal. About 3 o'clock we got our papers back and come to Lumbadoe to get our cash. there was no many

Apr 25  
7:45

Apr 25  
8 P.M.

ahead of me, so we are on the list to wait. Spent the evening walking around Quemados and Marianas and become quite tired. Now am ready to turn in and take a good night's rest.

Apr 26  
7:45 P.M.

Got up bright and early this morning. After getting breakfast went to the government cemetery and took a snap shot. Then come back and went over to the paymaster's to get my final. Hung around the door till nearly noon before I got an opportunity to sign the papers then I went to dinner. I should of said lunch pie and soda pop. Then I went back and about 3:00 got my cash \$18.42 and started for Havana to get my transportation to New York City. but got left. will not get it till tomorrow morning. Took in a part of the city got supper then returned to camp. Today has been quite warm and dusty.

Apr 27  
8 P.M.

After shaving, eating breakfast, shining my shoes I started for the City of Havana to get my order for transportation. Got there just in time to get it. Then went to the steam ship office. Then to the Board of Health. After attending to my transportation I went around to the dock. From there went to the old Spanish arsenal which is

said to be over 300 years old the government is fixing it up. passed by the Governor's palace where the Spanish officers turned the rule of Cuba over to the U.S. They now went to the Cathedral of Havana. or Christopher Colon cemetery. went inside. it was simply grand. it is said by some that Columbus's remains were kept in this cathedral for awhile. Soon the place where they had is statue before. they were taken back to Spain. From the Cathedral went to O'Reilly street got dinner then went down the Prado and took the dunny for Colon Cemetery. The cemetery was grand. There was quite a number of tombs. The Germans monument was the nicest one of all. Seen the graves of the victims of the Malaria. after going through the cemetery we went to the city passed through Chumá town and then started for camp for supper we had coffee bread and bacon (one piece.) for dinner we had water (agua) soup, beans, potatoe, roast beef & fried eggs, fruit of chicken, bread, and piece of pie. all for 50 cents. The restaurant was run by a Chiramanian and every thing was nice and clean and I did not get up from the table with an empty stomach. I was full. Today has been quite warm and dusty. Will start for N.Y. City next Saturday at 4 P.M. if nothing happens.

Apr 28.  
8 P.M.  
"147"

Got up quite early and took the 7 o'clock train for this city in order to avoid the rush at the health office also the ticket office and I got at both places in time for the grand rush. I come nearly being cut in to at the ticket counter a dozen boys crowded on top of me and held me there for an hour or so. and I was thankful when I got my ticket. After getting my affairs fixed up I went out for sight seeing till I got my dinner. and then I started out again and took in the sights along the wharf. My feet hurt me and I did not walk very fast and soon got tired and then I went back to the ticket office and found out how I was to get my baggage to the steamer. Then I started for camp and was thankful when I got here. Today has been quite hot and dusty.

Apr 29.

A day of rejoicing and excitement. Left Havana for New York at 7 P.M. The P.M. was kind enough to furnish a wagon to haul our baggage to the wharf for us. Got up bright and early got my things ready to pack. then went to the mess hall and got breakfast. after breakfast packed my trunk and bid some of the nurses and doctors good bye and help load



our baggage and took the 9.0'clock train for Havana. At Concha station we took a hack for the wharf. at the wharf we found quite a number of boys waiting for the time to come to go aboard the "City of Washington" all the small boats in the harbor were at the wharf and their owners were soliciting trade. they charged 25¢ for taking a person out and 10¢ for a trunk. American money at 1030 A.M. a friend and my self went up town to get drinks and we ate our last dinner in Cuba at a John Churramans restaurant and he give us a very good meal for 50¢ after dinner we went to a City club room. it was a lovely building in side. the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was occupied by stands. the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was a large billiard room. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. reading room and dance hall. every thing was simply grand. and they had some very nice painting and sculptor work. after seeing this we started for the wharf and waited around till 1:30 P.M. we started for the ship in a small boat when we got to the City of Washington the one we were to come home on we found the boys scrambling up on deck as fast as their feet would allow them. all anxious to say good byes to Cuba. We got aboard and had to stand around like bumps on a log waiting to find out if we were to sleep standing up or lying

down. We had to amuse our selves watching  
 the long showmen loading the ship with  
 pine apples. This was the only amusement  
 for 5 or 6 hours. Finally we were told to go  
 down and pick out a bunk. we done so. they  
 had hammocks for over 300 in a space about  
 40 X 60 feet two hammocks deep. it was simply  
 awful. one was nearly compelled to crawl  
 on his hands and knees. I got a lower  
 with a couple friends on each side and  
 one above me. After picking out our hammocks  
 we went on deck. The mess sounded about  
 7 and we got coffee & hard tack. About 7:30 P.M.  
 we started for home and oh what a happy  
 crowd. how they yelled. and bid good bye to  
 the wreck of the Main & Havana. the majority  
 bid good bye for the first and last time.  
 When we passed by Moro Castle it was quite  
 dark so we amused our selves watching the  
 flash light on its tower. We all went to bed  
 early on account of rough water thinking  
 it would be much nicer in our hammocks  
 than being on deck. The City of Washington  
 was laying close to the Battleship Main  
 when it was blown up and was the  
 first one to give assistance to the men.  
 it is a plant line plying between Mexico Cuba & N.Y.

Apr 30<sup>th</sup>

This is a day I shall never forget. I was busy most all day, trying to retain my stomach. Oh! my wasn't I sick and oh how that infernal ship did roll and plunge. I stayed in my hammock as only a person suffering with sea sickness could. A person who is suffering from sea sickness knows how to appreciate quietude. In my case the only remedy would be death and it would of been met with out stretched hands and welcome words. One does not respect a friend say nothing of an enemy. Kind words aggravate the disease. His appetite is gone, the most palatable dish makes one hear Jonah. Being sea sick is the only time I can vomit with pleasure and I can do so easily. I didn't care for any thing to eat. We all had it in good shape and the jolly old tars had trouble with their stomach. Had to take off my shoes, they were the only ones I had and I wanted to keep them, was afraid I would vomit them up. Every now and then the waves would sweep the deck and come in the port holes and some unfortunate fellow would get it in good shape and the air would be black and blue from the words of piss he bestowed on Uncle Sam and the City of Washington and the boys who made fun of him. The ocean was

rough all day. I had no desire to go on deck. my chief pleasure was to remain quiet in my hammock and only move when my stomach rebelled and every thing I ate while in service come. Misery had plenty of company. I talked very little and had no desire to joke. Oh what a long day it was finally evening come I tried to sleep.

May 1<sup>st</sup>

I till cutting the deep blue sea and she was a rough one at that. The storm was quieting down but the waves run high. I had no desire for food, some did. I remained quietly in my hammock, (it was soft as a 2x4 plank) tending to my own affairs and wishing I were in N. Y. City when a friend of mine come down and said Or put on your shoes and go on deck and started to work putting them on for me. I begged him to allow me remain below. Oh no nothing would do but I must go on top. and he had to hold me or I would of went over board. My tent mate give me his blanket to lay on and I made use of it I felt better after being on top a couple of hours but had no desire to run around or respond to mess call. I just watched the waves and tried to sight land. Behaved my self nicely all day and extended my heart felt sympathy

to all who was sea sick or was troubled with dyspepsia. The afternoon was very nice, the breeze was rather chilly, the waves were not so strong and I was beginning to feel at home although my appetite did not return. I took life easy and imagined I was enjoying my trip very much. They say there is a great deal in imagination. If there is it don't work in sea sickness. I could not imagine my self well when I was sea sick it wouldn't work for a cent.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

I still on the salty sea. Very smooth today. Sun shone nice and bright. The wind was very cool. I felt even so much better. had no desire to eat and if I had would not care to eat hard tack or corned beef. Every one appeared to be enjoying life while a great number seemed to enjoy gambling more than any thing else. Today I commenced to notice some of the pleasures of a sea trip, still I would just as soon had my sea trip aboard a passenger train. We were speculating as to the time we would reach N. Y. City. it could not come any to quick to suit me. The scenery we were passing through was becoming very tiresome. all there was was water, water, water nothing but water. We managed to pass the day by and night finally come on we had

to go to our hammocks below, and we done so, simply because we had to or sleep on deck and it was to damp for that

May 3  
1849

Got up bright and early, and looked for land, but could not see any. It was a lovely morning, still it was some cooler than it was in Cuba, about 9 AM we got the first glimpse of land, how nice it looked, every one appeared to be very happy, it was the New Jersey shore and looked like sand, at a distance could be seen sails and smoke of steamers. While we were busy taking in these sights a heavy wind came up and it was a cold one, and made us shiver in good shape, still we remained on deck and watched the shore and vessels. Finally a sandy hook pilot vessel was sighted (No 19) and an old grey headed pilot was rowed out and come aboard our vessel and took charge of the vessel and piloted us in to the outer harbor and anchored us, where we remained till the health officers could come aboard, that little launch with its yellow flag was very busy darting from one vessel to another to see if all was well or not. We were busy looking at Staten and Long

Island. They looked so nice and green, at a distance could be seen the Statue of Liberty and Brooklyn Bridge and a number of Battle ships. every thing looked nice regardless of the cold wind which was chilling us through and through. About 11 the health officer come aboard examined the crew and said there would be some tugs along and take the boys and their baggage to Quarantine. That made us sick. It looked as if we would never be given our liberty. It was not very long before a tug come up and took some of the boys away and then returned and took the remainder of us and away we went to Hoffmans Island. When we got there some of the boys were busy cooking beef, soup and coffee for us and we were all gaining a first class appetite, gaining what we lost at sea. we got dinner at 5 and how good it tasted. The first thing I done after getting on the Island was to hunt a place to wash, then I took a trip around the island and into the different buildings. At 6 o'clock we had supper and we remained where it was warm and went to bed early. every one was tired and sleepy, and anxious for a good night's rest and was glad they were off the "City of Washington" and so close to sweet liberty.

May 4<sup>th</sup>

Every one got up bright and early as we were told the officers would begin fumigating about 8 A.M. I got up with a head on me like a balloon. The room was so close and the steam was turned on all night, after breakfast several of us investigated the island, it was a sand island with a heavy stone wall built around it to keep it from washing away, and there was also heavy rocks thrown against the wall to break the force of the heavy sea. The island was small but had several large buildings on it for the accommodation of all that were quarantined, one building was used by the persons who has charge of the island. There is one long building used for mess hall and kitchen for the storage passengers. The buildings are built of brick and each one is separated in four large rooms, about a mile below Hoffmanns Island is Swineboon island another quarantine station. Hoffmanns island is a mile or so off Staten Island, about 9 o'clock the health officers come and all going south of the Mason & Dixon line had to have their baggage disinfected, it took a couple hours to do this. They did not get a very early start so we got to eat dinner (our last government meal with Uncle Sam) on this island. They got through about



3 P.M. and about 4 a launch was after us. so we  
 loaded our baggage and away we went with  
 loud shouts of joy. They stopped at Staten Island  
 to leave off the health officer and then they  
 took us to N.Y. City, passed by Liberty, and  
 the Battle ships. they landed us at the dock where  
 the custom officer met us he said the boys  
 could go but officers had to wait till he got  
 through with them. The boys got ashore as  
 rapidly as their legs could carry them. Some  
 went directly to the depot. I went to the Milk  
 house where I stayed all night. Took my  
 supper at the restaurant and oh how good  
 every thing tasted the meat was so tender  
 I could hardly think it was real. After supper  
 a friend and I went up 9<sup>th</sup> avenue to the  
 Grand Central Depot. took the city in by lamp  
 light. Every thing seemed strange. the natives  
 talked in a tongue we could understand. It was  
 more like a dream. We returned about 10 P.M. and  
 went to bed. Our rooms only cost 20 cents a night  
 and were single. Every thing was nice and clean.  
 The partitions did not extend to the ceiling but there  
 was a wire grating fixed to keep one from crawling  
 out. and the light from the hall shone over  
 so it was not necessary to have lights in  
 the rooms. I was not long going to sleep

May 8<sup>th</sup>  
1877

Got up bright and early got breakfast then went out to hunt a barber shop and had my hair trimmed. I purchased a pair of suspenders to hold my pants up in a more respectable manner than my belt would. Then I went back to the hotel got every thing ready to go visiting on Staten Island. Caught a Broadway car to Lower Broadway on the way down I took in the sights just like the farmer that came to town. The only exciting thing was a fire and to hear some of the firemen swear because they did not make proper connections and missed the fire entirely. At Lower Broadway was transferred to a horse car which took me to the ferry landing and I got there just in time to get my tickets and get aboard the ferry and away we went for the Island, got a good view of the harbor and Miss Liberty, it took about half an hour to go to the Island. Then I had to take the Staten Island Rapid Transit for Tompkinsville. When I got there I asked a man if he was acquainted there he said no but took me to a saloon where he knew the man and there I found a man who knew my aunt and took me to her house

she was up stairs and the girl called her, she knew me and I had a glorious visit with her and met a number of her neighbors. The day was quite chilly so I remained in the house and visited. My Aunt's house is on main street and right back of her place is the railroad the harbor is only a hundred yards or so from her house, and from her back porch one can get a good view of the harbor and see all uncoming and out going vessels and tugs also the pilot boats and the sassy health officer's boat. Then one could get a good view of the man of wars from her place, there was several of them at anchor and looked quite nice with their white dress on. Was not very long making my self at home at my aunt's especially when she called me to dinner.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Got up early this morning and had breakfast at 6 A.M. spent the forenoon visiting with my aunt at 9 A.M. my cousin came in for his lunch and I had to go and have one with him. In the afternoon went around with him to his work and took in some of the sights around Tompkinsville. It was not a very warm day. Also watched an experiment of signaling by flags from one of the man of wars, which was done by flying a kite and attaching flags to the string it might of been more interesting to some than it was to me. The day passed by quite rapidly and the first thing I knew it was bed time and the pocket game on the watch ship told us

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marines it was time for them to turn in and I thought it was late enough for me to do so. Sunday in Tompkinsville. The sun beamed forth and every thing looked bright and happy, at 8 o'clock started with one of my cousins, to go down the island to a club for a load of tin etc, for some contractor passed by some awful nice residents and a couple of large breweries. It seems like Staten Island is quite well supplied with saloons so it is not necessary for one to go thirsty or very long between drinks. The club was 4 or 5 miles from Tompkinsville and as we got farther southward the hills seemed to get higher, and the club grounds was on top of the hills, and about a mile from the harbor. This was the only place where I saw any level ground on the island and it looked nice from the summit of the hills. The horse had a good long pull to get us on top of the hills, when we got to the club could not get what was after so went back with an empty wagon, and on our way back passed a number of bicyclists going for a spin, some to New Jersey others around the island while others were going to their club room. There is a great many club rooms on the island and it is a lovely place for them. We got back home in time for dinner and I was hungry as could be and did justice to every thing that was placed with in reaching distance and what could not reach was not bashful in asking for. After

dinner my other cousin took me out for a drive  
 and to show me a portion of the island and  
 considering the time we had am quite sure we  
 seen it. he has a fast horse, he is a fast driver and  
 consequently we went fast, passed by a paper factory  
 and got on top of the hills and got a view of New York  
 City, Brooklyn, Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Coney  
 Island and some other islands on Long Island also some  
 places in New Jersey, also a lovely view of N.Y. Harbor and  
 could see Sandy Hook at a distance, where pilots take  
 charge of all incoming vessels and get off all outgoing vessels.  
 It was a beautiful place for views, after taking in these  
 sights we went on and passed by the oldest house on  
 the island, it was small and made of logs then  
 that would it was building a hotel and the old house  
 was to form a portion of it, New west is what is  
 called the Tom corner. It is nothing more than  
 a crossing with a tavern or club house on 3 corners  
 where bicycle riders and sightseers halt and take a glass  
 of water or any thing stronger if they wish and noticed  
 quite a number doing so, beer seems to be the favorite  
 drink I took pop, we sat in the shade for awhile and  
 then started southward every now and then would  
 come across a street car line, the island seems to be  
 a net work of electric car lines while along the shore  
 is the railroad, every road has a telephone line on one  
 side and electric light wires on the other and every

other pole has an electric light attached to it, so  
 it must be easy work to find where one is going  
 at night time. Finally we come to Richmond  
 court house which is the county seat of the Island  
 It is a nice place lots of nice big trees around the  
 court house and jail a mile or so further we come  
 to the town of Richmond it is quite a nice place  
 a mile or so from Richmond we come to a beautiful  
 cemetery where Vanderbilt is buried, can not recall the  
 name of it. noticed quite a number of nice monuments  
 By the time we drove through it it was getting late  
 so we started for home, passed by a fire works plant  
 and South Beach, some of the places were getting  
 ready for summer. North from South Beach we  
 come to Port Wadsworth and from where we were got  
 to see a number of disappearing, the fort was a nice  
 place. Got home in time for supper and was chilled  
 through and glad to get back and was glad had  
 the good fortune to see so much of Station Island  
 a place I fell in love with the first time seen it  
 and still am in love with it and think it would be  
 an awful nice place to live. After supper spent the  
 evening visiting and had an awful pleasant  
 evening, and talking about my trip home words  
 which was to begin the next day, so went to bed  
 early so would get a good night's rest and not be  
 tired out for my journey.

May 8<sup>th</sup>

After getting up and eating breakfast did not  
 loose any time getting my things packed up and  
 ready to start for New York City proper. Went over  
 with my cousin he went over to get a load of some  
 thing for some firm. we missed the ferry so had  
 to wait for the next one. they run every 30 minutes  
 we was on time for the first one but went through  
 the gates without getting our tickets, so had to go  
 back after them. It was quite chilly crossing the  
 harbor. after arriving in the City we drove up street  
 to where my trunk was in store so left my other  
 traps there and started out to get a ticket for the  
 far away state of Nebraska. went in every ticket  
 office could see that had a branch going in to our  
 state and they all asked the same price so took in  
 some of the City and there got my ticket and  
 then went for my trunk. had quite a time  
 finding the man who had it. they sent me to a  
 saloon to find him. he was not there, some good  
 accomodating whiskey blot wanted me to go in his  
 private office and talk with him. told him did not  
 want to see him wanted the man that had my  
 trunk. so went out and by chance found him. we went  
 to his place and got my things and he said "thought  
 you was going to stay a day here you staid four?" told  
 him that I asked if he would keep them 3 or 4 days and  
 he said yes so did not intend to pay him any extra

storage, went up to the wharf and checked my ticket  
 through, My ticket was over the B & O from N. Y. City to  
 St. Louis, then over the M & P. to Elmwood. At the  
 South Ferry wharf took the ferry for Jersey City stayed  
 in the depot till 5:35 P.M. then went out to the train  
 and got on the "Royal Blue Express" at 5:45 P.M. we  
 started and away we went stops were few and  
 far between, the part of New Jersey passed through  
 was level and nice and I liked it. Passed a great  
 many coal trains with small coal cars some were  
 loaded going to the city others were empty going  
 back to the mines. The first thing I knew it was dark  
 and I went to sleep, did not wake up when we passed  
 through Philadelphia or Baltimore. in fact did not  
 wake up till was going in Washington D. C. when  
 got into the depot got out and several of us started  
 across the street for a lunch room and got some  
 sandwiches. the street had nice trees on it and  
 looked nice even if it was 11:45 P.M. It was also  
 starting to rain. after getting my midnight lunch  
 in a sack started back for my train and before  
 long was quite busy partaking of it and oh how  
 nice they were and they soon were things of the past.  
 At 12:30 A.M. the train pulled out and had to say good  
 bye to Washington D.C. and the rocking of the train  
 and the sleepy condition of my self was soon in  
 the hands of Morphine.



May 9

When I awoke this morning from a good night's rest found my self in Cumberland Maryland it was between the hours of 4 and 5 am and a nice morning it was. The sun was just coming up and how nice every thing looked. Did not remain very long when the train started was beginning to think about some thing to eat, it was too late as had to wait until we made a stop. It was an awful nice trip coming down the mountains some places going through cuts other places going over high bridges & little ways west of Oakland Md. we crossed into West Virginia and it was just like Maryland going down mountain sides. Some places we would come to nice streams, the water would be nice and clear and look cool, not very deep, some places the wagon road would be a long side the stream other places it would be right in the stream. the road bed and river bed would use it jointly. some places on one side would look down several hundred feet and on the opposite side would have to look up the side of the mountains. a number of places we needed the assistance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> engine. In the Oil region we passed by hundreds of derricks and one derrick and every thing smelled of oil. the derricks were not in use. West Virginia is quite rolling. The mountain streams are nice and clear and the hills were nice and green. At Parkersburg W. Va. we would be in the river. Oh the river at that point is not very wide and the

is very slow. From Parkersburg to Cincinnati there is  
 no very great change. it is hilly and nice, that is  
 I thought it nice. Some places we saw a number of  
 ruins. we got into Cincinnati about 6 P.M. and had to  
 wait till 8 for our train west. So went up town and looked  
 around got some Kodak supplies and then went out  
 and admired Fountain square, after meandering  
 around the city for awhile got a bunch and started for  
 the depot. at 8:30 P.M. started for St. Louis. got located in  
 a car and was not long turning in for the night. ~~and~~  
~~was~~ ~~very~~ ~~comfortable~~ ~~one~~ ~~awoke~~ ~~at~~ ~~5~~ ~~A.M.~~ and  
 it was misting and it kept getting darker and finally  
 rained at 7:30 A.M. arrived in St. Louis. talk about it  
 being dark and misty, one could not see the water, they  
 say it had not been so dark since they had the  
 cyclone. every thing was lighted. In St. Louis got breakfast  
 at the Union depot and had to wait till 9 A.M. for the  
 M.P. west. the time went by slowly, at last it was time  
 to go and away we went. There is some real nice scenery  
 coming out of St. Louis. till you come to the Missouri River  
 then you see river and bluffs till you reach Jefferson  
 City. some places you look down in the river very seldom  
 over a 100 feet from the river. passed a number of  
 steam boats. Before entering Jefferson City you pass  
 the Missouri Penitentiary on a high bluff. at Jefferson  
 City got dinner. here you leave the M.R. and for Kansas  
 City pass through a real nice farming country. it is

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rolling and nice. Passed through Harris. Before entering Kansas City got another view of the Mo River. Got into Kansas City 6:15 P.M. and had to wait till 9:15 P.M. for my train. Got a lunch and walked around a while about 7:15 noticed the fire department coming down street so went in search of the fire and found it a couple blocks from the depot so watched it for a while in order to pass away some of my leisure time. After seeing plenty of it went back to the depot and finally the train I was to leave on arrived so got my things and got aboard and before very long was on our way. When on the train found out there was a trough car so transferred to it and made my self comfortable and turned in for a night's rest.

May 11

First thing I knew this morning was a heavy jolt and realized was in Nebraska City and the Lincoln train was coupling on and in a few minutes would be on the home stretch. It was quite a cool morning, some cooler than was use to still did not complain any. Finally the train started and away we went, in a few minutes Neb City was left behind then come Wyoming, Union, Nebraska, Weeping Water, Wabash and then come Edmund back to the spot where I enlisted and in a few short hours I was dressed in a citizens suit and said good bye to Uncle Sam's uniform. Good bye  
(The end)