

TEDDY AT SANTIAGO, DEPLORES ARMY'S BLUNDERS

Rough Rider Hardships Recounted

"Tell the President, for Heaven's Sake, to Send Us Every Regiment Possible," Roosevelt Writes Lodge. Shafter Held Inefficient

(While Roosevelt was away in the Spanish war, Senator Lodge kept him informed of affairs in Washington. Speaker Thomas B. Reed had incurred Lodge's opposition through trying to prevent the annexation of Hawaii. Roosevelt wrote every day, describing the deplorable conditions in the Florida camps prior to the troops' departure for Cuba. "I am a Alger, secretary of war, was the subject of criticism with increasing bitterness, from all over the country. Later the outcry of 'embalmed beef' brought the criticism to a climax, but it was a long time after the war when Alger finally quit the cabinet."

Washington, May 31, 1898. Dear Theodore: The secretary of war told me on Saturday that he had ordered your regiment to Tampa, so that I suppose you will be in a position to go with the first expedition. I do not think they mean to send any men to Cuba until they can get a large army together and sweep up the whole at once. I think this is wise. For various reasons I am in no hurry to see the war jammed through. We will come out better if we take our time.

The administration I believe to be doing very well and to be following out a large policy. The opposition now comes exclusively from Reed, who is straining every nerve to beat Hawaii, which the administration is very eager to get on military grounds.

Always sincerely yours, H. C. L. TAMPA BAY HOTEL. Tampa, Fla., June 6, 1898. Senator H. C. Lodge, Washington, D. C. Dear Cabot: Edith has been down here for the last three days and it has been a perfect treat having her. I think she really enjoyed it. She saw the camp and the mounted back will feel mighty glad to get home no matter what they encounter in Cuba, I guess.

I had an awful morning, for the orders first came out that only four troops out of our 12 were to go, in which case I should have had to stay here with the remaining eight; but they have now sent eight and so I go. The four that are left feel fearful.

They send us dismounted but we should be glad to go on all fours rather than not at all. It will be an outrage, though, if they do not send the horses after we get together with the remainder of our men very soon. If not too much trouble I wish you would see the secretary and have him keep us in mind, and have the horses sent to us very early. It is a little bit rough to make us fight on foot with only two-thirds of our strength.

If I had been left behind, I should have had to telegraph you to use your endeavors to have me put into the front.

Ever faithfully yours, THEODORE ROOSEVELT. FIRST U. S. VOLUNTEER CAVALRY, TROOP A. Fort Tampa, Fla., June 10, 1898. Senator H. C. Lodge, Senate Chamber, Washington.

Dear Cabot: No words could describe to you the confusion and lack of system and the general mismanagements of affairs here; a good deal of it is the inevitable accompaniment of a sudden war where people have resolutely refused to make the needed preparations, but a very great deal could be avoided. For a month the troops have been gathering here in a country where lines of temporary railroad could be laid down for miles in 24 hours, yet to this day, while the troops are at Tampa, there is but a single line connecting them with the point of departure some miles off and there are no switches to speak of and no facilities whatever for unloading freight or troops. There are hundreds of freight cars containing stores of all kinds which nobody knows anything

about, and the single line is so jammed that it is impossible to move over it as fast as the mule trains go alongside.

When we unloaded our regiment at Tampa we had to go 24 hours with food, and not a human being met us to show us our camp or tell us anything about what we were to do. When we were ordered to embark here it took us 12 hours to make the nine miles of railroad, and on the wharf not one shadow of preparation had been made to receive any regiment; no transports had been assigned in advance, and there was actually no office for either the commissary or quartermaster. We had to hunt all over the dock among 10,000 people before, by chance, we ran across first one and then the other, and each regiment had to seize its transport and hold it against all comers; nothing but the most vigorous and rather lawless work got us our transport.

Three Days to Embark. Under these circumstances it, of course, took over three days to embark the troops. No sooner were they embarked than we received word from Washington not to start. We have been here two days now; the troops jammed together under the tropical sun these crowded troop ships. We are in a sewer; a canal which is festering as if it were Havana harbor. The steamer on which we are contains nearly 1,600 men, there being room for about 500 comfortably.

We have given up the entire deck to the men, so that the officers have to sit in the cabin, and even so, several companies are down in the lower hold, which is unpleasantly suggestive of the Black Hole of Calcutta. We are apparently to be kept here three or four days more, for they say we are to start on Monday. The officers' horses were embarked last Sunday with the artillery horses; they have had to disembark them for the simple reason that they began to die. Of course, there was no shadow of reason for putting them aboard until the last moment.

If the people at Washington understood the fearful danger to health that lies in keeping these troops on the transports, and understood further that they cannot be disembarked and re-embarked under five days' time, they would surely make up their minds in advance whether they intended to start or not, and when they did not start they would let us go. Four of five days of this will reduce the efficiency of the landing force just about 10 per cent, and must inevitably shake the morale of the men. Our men are behaving peculiarly well, as they have behaved all along; we have a remarkably fine set; they never complain; but surely they should be put into action as soon as possible before letting some malignant disease break out in the crowd here on shipboard. They won't even let us get out into the bay, where we should all swim in spite of the sharks, and we stay crowded in this fetid ditch, the men not allowed to swim or go ashore, where indeed there is nothing to do in the thick sand.

Do, old man, try to see that the expedition is no longer deferred, because the bad effects of so deferring it are evident to everyone, and do see that our horses are sent after us at the earliest possible moment. But above all, let us get over now, to Cuba, or Porto Rico, and have neither peace nor armistice until the job is thoroughly done. Ever yours, T. R. P. S. One man should be in absolute control here, with autocratic authority, especially over the railroad people, who have behaved very badly.

On board the U. S. transport Yucatan. Fort Tampa, Fla., June 12, 1898. Hon. H. C. Lodge, Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C. Dear Cabot: I wonder if it would be possible for you to tell the administration, that is, the president, and if necessary the secretary of war, just what is going on here and the damage that is being done. Of course, I cannot speak publicly in any way; I should be court-martialed if I did, but this letter I shall write to Wood, my colonel, and it is written after consultation with General Young, my brigade commander.

I shall not show this first paragraph to Wood or to Young, for I want to say that it would be impossible to get a better man for colonel than Wood has shown himself to be, and so far as I am concerned I am entirely content with Young as a brigade general, but otherwise the mismanagement here is frightful. Wood thinks that if Miles could be given absolute control he would straighten things out and I most earnestly wish the experiment could be tried, though personally I cannot

help feeling that Miles might have remedied a great deal that has gone wrong if only he had chosen or had known how. Think of embarking troops by sending their regiments higgledy-piggledy from their camp to the port 10 miles away on a one-line railroad without ever assigning to each regiment its transport and without having a single officer detailed to meet the regiment and show them where to go or what they were to do.

Up All Night. Our experience was that of every other regiment. We were up the entire night standing by the railway track at Tampa, hoping for trains that did not come. At dawn we were shifted to another railway track, and then owing to some energetic work of Wood and myself succeeded in getting the troops on empty coal cars, in which we came down to the wharf.

At the wharf we could find no human being who could tell us what our transport was. General Miles and General Shafter both told us that if we did not find out soon they would not be able to go, and said they knew nothing more about it. The quartermaster general and the commissary general were allotting the boats. Neither had an office nor any place where he was to be found. The wharf was over a mile long, jammed with trains, with boats everywhere along side, 10,000 troops, embarking. Through this crowd Wood and I had to hunt until almost at the same time we both found the quartermaster general. He allotted us a transport and advised us to seize it instantly if we hoped to keep it. The advice was good, for it proved it had been allotted to another regiment—the Seventy-first New York. While Wood went out into the stream in a boat which he had seized for the purpose and got aboard the transport and brought it in, I brought up my 400 men at a double and took possession of the very nick of time to head off the Seventy-first regiment, which was also advancing for the purpose. Meantime they unloaded our stores about a mile off and we had to bring them up by hand. However, all this we could stand, but just as soon as we were all loaded and ready word came that there had been a complete change of plans and that the expedition was indefinitely postponed.

As it had taken three days to load all the troops and would take six to unload them and load them again, it was obviously unwise to do anything but keep them on board until there was definite information from Washington. So, thanks to this vacillation of purpose at Washington this is the fifth day we have spent (and the eighth day some of the troops have spent) packed and sweltering in these troop ships in Tampa Bay under the semi-tropical sun.

Bathers Defy Sharks. In spite of the sharks, we let the men bathe in morning and evening, as it is too hot during the rest of the day. The shore is mere sand, but fortunately we have been moved out of the fetid ditch beside the wharf where we first lay, so that the men can bathe very rarely ashore. We have given them the entire deck and they are packed so close that they can get no exercise and no drill, while the officers, except when inspecting the ship or attending a disembarkation, have to keep to their own cabins.

Now, if this were necessary no one would complain for a moment, and the men are perfectly cheerful as it is; but it is absolutely unnecessary; the five days' great heat and crowded confinement are telling visibly upon the spirits and health of the troops. It seems incredible that a place like Tampa should have been chosen without previous inspection, that no improvements should have been made in the railroad facilities at the place during the last month and that the ordinance and quartermaster departments should have fallen into such inextricable confusion; a confusion partly due to their own dilatory inefficiency and partly due to the utter incompetence of the railway managers here and the inadequacy of their system. Finally, it was inexcusable to get the troops to Tampa unless it was intended to embark them, while it seems literally incredible that they could have been embarked before it was intended to use them.

All this is in the past now, but at least it may be possible to prevent such blunders in the future. I did not feel that I was fit to be colonel of this regiment and I was certainly much less fit than Wood, who has done better with it than I possibly could have done, but I am more fit to command a brigade or a division or attend to this whole matter of embarking and sending the army than many of those whose business it is to do the work. I do not know whether the circumstances at Tampa were exceptional; if not, there is need of an immediate and radical

change or the inefficiency of our government in 1812 will be more than paralleled. Naturally this is not a letter that can be shown to anyone, but I am going to keep you informed as to the facts, and for the credit of the country and administration I wish you would try to straighten things out.

We are already in the yellow fever zone and at the beginning of the yellow fever season, and I only hope that no weakness or vacillation will prevent our being put where we can do some service inasmuch as we are already running the risk. I doubt if Cuba is much more unhealthy than the low coast of Florida now. Give my love to Nannie. Faithfully yours, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Washington, D. C., June 13, 1898. Personal. Dear Theodore: I knew perfectly well what a state of things existed at Tampa, but your description brought it home with a vividness which no other account did. We were entirely unprepared and the disorganization is something frightful. The underlying fact of all is that we never have a sufficient army and are always caught unprepared when we go to war. In some respects it is quite wonderful to me that we get along even as well as we do.

You are likely, I think, to have some sharp fighting at Santiago, but I cannot but believe that the town will soon be in your hands. I will do everything in my power about your horses, but my power is very helpless when I come up against the immobility of the War department. Still there is nothing like trying.

The navy has done splendidly all along. "Allan" you will be glad to hear, is doing extremely well. He is methodical and firm and has got hold of the business with great rapidity. Some very comic incidents happen which I should like to enjoy with you. William Lloyd Garrison has denounced Charles Elliot Norton as a jingo because he said the administration should be furnished with funds to bring the war to a speedy close, although it was an infamous war. Then Gamaliel Bradford and Moorfield Storey are to hold a meeting at Faneuil hall tomorrow to denounce the adoption of an imperial policy by the United States. The drift of public opinion in favor of an imperial policy seems to be absolutely overwhelming, and the democrats here seem to be going to pieces on it.

Always sincerely yours, H. C. L. "Charles Allen of Massachusetts who had succeeded Roosevelt as assistant secretary of the navy." Washington, June 24, 1898. Personal. Dear Theodore: If you ever get my other two letters you will know how much I sympathize with you in all the disorganization from which you suffered at Tampa. It is pretty well known here but people are very snay in making public criticism for fear of hampering the government in any way. I think matters are slowly improving, but the trouble is, as it has been from the beginning, in the War department. I noticed with great interest that when it came to landing the troops under naval management at Santiago, it was most rapidly and perfectly performed.

I have been to the department about your horses, and as I wrote you they told me they would try and send them as soon as possible and hoped you might be able to get some there after you were established, which seems a difficult and wholly vague provision. I will do the very best I can, but I feel very hopeless and helpless at the War department. To you, in the midst of war, the things we are doing here must appear very tame, and it seems hardly worth while to tell you that I am devoting all my strength to securing the annexation of Hawaii. It is humdrum work compared to that in which you are engaged, but not, I think, useless. Always sincerely yours, H. C. Lodge. Camp 5 Miles from Santiago, June 27, '98.

Dear Cabot: Well, whatever comes I shall feel contented with having left the Navy department to go into the army for the war; for our regiment has been in the first fight on land, and has done well. It was nothing more than a brisk skirmish, for Young's brigade, the advance guard of the army, had but 900 men on the ground, of whom over 90 men were killed or wounded

and succeed in living through the war, you can hope for much better things than a seat in congress. All of which is very satisfactory to me. Always sincerely yours, T. R. Trenches Outside Santiago, July 3, '98.

Dear Cabot: Tell the president for heaven's sake to send us every regiment and above all every battery possible. We have won so far, at a very heavy cost; but the Spaniards fight very hard and charging those intrenchments against modern rifles is terrible. We are within measurable distance of a terrible military disaster; we must have help—thousands of men, batteries and food and ammunition. The other volunteers are at a hideous disadvantage owing to their not having smokeless powder. Our general is poor; he is too unwieldy to get to the front.

I commanded my regiment, I think I may say, with honor. We lost a quarter of our men. For three days I have been at the extreme front of the firing line; how I have escaped I know not. I have not blanket or coat; I have not taken off my shoes even; I sleep in the drenching rain, and drink putrid water. Best love to Nannie. Yours ever, T. R. (Washington, D. C.) June 29, 1898. Personal.

Dear Theodore: Perhaps among the alarms and excursions of your active war you may like to turn your thoughts to something frivolous. I have two little stories which I think will amuse you. The first is this: A Madrid paper has given the following description of you: "He was born at Harlaam and immigrated to America at an early age. He was educated at the town of Harvard where there is a commercial school, as there are no colleges or universities in the United States. He then became a policeman in New York and is now commander of the American navy." This is perfectly genuine and is a translation from a Spanish paper.

The second story is this: Whenever I go in to see the governor (Loni) he is very apt to close the doors and call upon me for sympathy in regard to his worthy colleague in the War department. Day before yesterday he had a story which was not serious like most of his complaints, but which had tickled his sense of humor immensely. The secretary of war (Alger) had come over and said that he wanted a convoy at once to take a tug and lighter to Shafter. The governor asked him why he did not send his lighter with the expedition. He said that he did, but that the lighter had been lost. I may say, in parenthesis, nobody knows where that lighter was lost, but it seems to have disappeared somewhere.

Alger then said that Shafter was telegraphing for a lighter and that he must send him one at once. "Very well," Loni said, "I will furnish you with a convoy. You can have the 'Pern,' which will answer your purpose." The secretary said he was very much obliged and then he hesitated and said: "Now that you have given me a convoy, don't you think you could furnish me with a tug and a lighter?" which I am bound to say was what ultimately happened.

It would gratify you very much, I am sure, to hear the expressions of delight and pride from your friends, especially your friends in the senate, at the victory won by the Rough Riders. The newspapers are nominating you for governor of New York, and I have not the least doubt that you can go to congress if you want to, which, I think, you would like by and by, and if you keep on as you have been doing

never came within three miles of the line and never has come; the confusion is incredible. The siege guns have not yet been landed; the mortars have not been started from the landing place. Our artillery has been poorly handled. There is no head; the orders follow one another in rapid succession, and are confused and contradictory to a degree. I have held the extreme front of the fighting line; I shall do all that can be done, whatever comes; but it is bitter to see the misery and suffering, and think that nothing but incompetency in administering the nation's enormous resources caused it.

The fighting has been very hard. I don't know whether people at home know how well this regiment did. I am as proud of it as I can be; and these men would follow me anywhere now. It was great luck for me to get the command of it before this battle. Best love to Nannie. Yours ever, T. R.

(To be continued tomorrow, with more of Roosevelt's letters penciled in the San Juan trenches.) Liberty of Escaped Iowa Prisoners Short Missouri Valley, Ia., March 21. — "Tuck" Long of Missouri Valley and Harry Poe of Woodbine, the two men who dug out of the county jail at Logan early Thursday morning, had only a short season of liberty. Long came here and his relatives immediately took him back, and Sheriff Millman found Poe in bed at a neighbor's at Woodbine. Both men were back in jail by noon Thursday.

Amazing Rise of Farmer Boy Laid to Rum Business

Wilbur H. Allison Amassed Fortune of \$200,000 in Five Years Bootlegging, Charges Samardick.

Wilbur H. Allison, 2471 North Fort-fifth street, is one of those country boys, told about in story books, who go to the great city and make good. His business rivals admit that he came to Omaha five years ago from Corning, Ia., and started his career here as a truck driver for a South Omaha concern. But he soon changed to more profitable lines. So profitable, in fact they say, that he has amassed a fortune of close to \$200,000. The pool boy of five years ago is today the owner of a home worth \$15,000, another dwelling at 915 North Fifty-first street; two duplex apartments and a beauty parlor patronized by many of Omaha's elite. He is said to have wide investments also in Iowa and Kansas farms.

Mr. Allison was arrested St. Patrick's day by agents of Prohibition Agent Robert Samardick, while unloading \$5 gallon cans of alleged alcohol at the garage of the late Jimmie Griffin. With him were Clarence Hanfelt and Earl Straley. This is said to be the business in which he has "made good" in a financial way. This is the first time he has been arrested.

BEDDEO

1415-17 Douglas St.

America's Largest Exclusive Credit Apparel Store

25-Year, 16-Jewel, White Gold, Guaranteed

WRIST WATCH FREE

With a Purchase of \$50.00 or More Made Throughout the Store

A real beauty; something you have yearned to own, and now your wish can come true. With every purchase of \$50 or more made throughout the store, we will give one of these beautiful, high grade watches.

P. L. DIEDRICK
Phone JA. 2422

Our Greatest Showing of Spring COATS

\$24⁵⁰ \$34⁵⁰
\$49⁵⁰

Styles of the moment, fashioned from the richest and most favored fabrics. Every new spring color. Gorgeous Fur Trimmed and Embroidered Coats at prices appealingly low.

Your New Easter FROCK

Beddeo is ready for the Omaha woman in need of a New Easter Frock. Ready with wonderful assortments and with values that are simply irresistible.

\$15⁰⁰ \$24⁵⁰
\$39⁵⁰

All the new silks, in a color array that is like the rainbow. Styles for the miss and matron. Make Monday your dress-buying day.

Beautiful Hats

Smart New Hats for the Spring season. All the new colors and shapes. Hats for the miss or matron.

PRICED AT
\$3.95 and \$6.95

Right Now

is the time to plan and plant for quick results this spring. Our Nurseries are replete with choice stock of shade trees, evergreens, peonies and shrubbery.

Their moderate costs will surprise you no less than will their beauty and vigor delight you.

Every dollar invested in landscape gardening will bring you back \$3 or \$4 in value on your property.

When out driving, stop in at the Byrd House.

A special sale of shade trees at less than cost of growing.

Let Us Beautify Your Home

Write for illustrated catalog, or phone for prices.

Byrd Nurseries

Omaha's Foremost Nurserymen
WA. 3876 6801 Dodge St.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

OMAHA

6 BIG NIGHTS

APRIL 20-21-22-23-24-25

SPASMS OF ROLLICKING JOY CITY AUDITORIUM
DANCING EVERY EVENING Dan Desdune's Band