

Rough Riders Are Near Starvation; 'Red Tape' Blamed

Hospital Mismanagement, In-decent Food, Men in Bare Feet; Roosevelt Com- plains to Lodge.

(Copyright, 1925.)
(The remaining letters written by Roosevelt from the Santiago battlefield will appear today and tomorrow.)
In Camp near Santiago de Cuba, July 19, 1898.

Hon. H. C. Lodge,
Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.,
Dear Cabot:

I was, naturally, deeply touched, old man, by the whole tone of your note and especially by your thinking now that I was justified in coming. Somehow or other I always knew that if I did not go I never would forgive myself; and I read-

have been d- use. I do not want to be vain, but I do not think that anyone else could have handled this regiment quite as I have handled it during the last three weeks, and during these weeks it has done as well as any of the regular regiments and infinitely better than any of the volunteer regiments, and indeed, frankly, I think it has done better than the regulars, with the exception of one or two of the best regular regiments.

We have moved up to the foothills, but fever is making perfect ravages among us. I now have left less than half of the 600 men with whom I landed; but the gallant fellows struggle back to me from the hospital just as soon as their wounds are healed or the fever or dysentery lets up a little.

Well, the fight is over now and we have won a big triumph, so there is no use in washing dirty linen, except that surely we ought to profit by our bitter experiences in the next expeditions. Even now, with Santiago taken and our ships in the bay and with a month in which to have gotten ample transportation, food and medical supplies, our condition is horrible in every respect. I have over 100 men down with fever in my own camp out of my complement of 400, 200 having previously died or having been sent to rear hospitals.

Nothing But Hardtack.
The mismanagement of the hospital service in the rear has been such that my men will not leave the regiment if they can possibly help it; yet

here we have nothing for them but hardtack, bacon and generally coffee without sugar. I cannot get even oatmeal and rice except occasionally by paying for it myself, which seems a little needless in as rich a government as ours. I have to buy the men canned tomatoes and tobacco.

The regiment was moved yesterday and I was given one wagon in which to transport everything, which simply meant a night of exposure for the men and a couple of very scanty meals, while, as General Shafter made us move at midday, we had 50 cases of heat prostration, the tropical sun working its will upon men weakened by poor food, constant exposure and the grinding hardship of labor in the trenches. Curiously enough, the part in which we have broken down has been the administrative and business part, and to a less extent in the mechanical part, while we have been saved by the dogged fighting of the individual regiments. The engineers and artillery have done poorly and the hospital division worse. But the prime difficulty has been lack of transportation, including lack of means to land from the ships.

We should have had a great number of barges, lighters and small steam craft as a matter of course. During the months that have passed, General Shafter should have insisted upon having a sufficiency of wagons, mule trains and small craft of the kind mentioned above. Even now we keep the wagons idle while the ships are in the bay, and our men half-starved and in tatters.

Food Is Frightful.
If only I could get decent food for my men—rice, cornmeal, canned fruit, dried meat. I hope you will not think I grumble too much or am too much worried; it is not in the least for myself; I am more than satisfied even though I die of yellow fever tomorrow; for at least I feel that I have done something which enables me to leave a name to the children of which they can rightly be proud and which will serve in some sense as a substitute for not leaving them more money. But, as any honorable man must, I feel very keenly my share of the responsibility for this army and especially my responsibility for this regiment.

I am deeply touched by the way the men of the regiment trust me and follow me. I think they know I would do anything for them, and when we got into the darkest days I fared precisely as they did. Certainly in battle or in the march or in the trenches I never went anywhere but I found them eager to follow me. I was not reckless; but with this, and indeed I think with most regiments, the man in command must take all the risks which he asks his men to take if he is going to get the best work out of them.

On the day of the big fight I had to ask my men to do a deed that European military writers consider utterly impossible of performance, that is, the attack over open ground unshaken infantry armed with the best modern repeating rifles behind a formidable system of entrenchments. The only way to get them to do it in the way it had to be done was to lead them myself. Now, naturally, I feel terribly for them, suffering for lack of plain food, to see my sick men in high fever lying in the mud on their soggy blankets

without even so cheap a comfort as a little rice or even sugar for their tea or coffee.

Shoes Worn Through.
Lieutenant Day was promoted for conspicuous gallantry. He was sent to the rear wounded with some of our men. They were kept in the hospital 48 hours before they were given a mouthful of food, and as for water they had to depend upon those of their number who could walk. My men's shoes are worn through; two of them went into the last battle barefooted. Their clothes are in tatters. They have not changed their underclothes since they landed a month ago; yet do what I can I cannot get them spare clothing.

However, enough of grumbling. Did I tell you that I killed a Spaniard with my own hand when I led the storm of the first redoubt? Probably I did. For some time, for your sins, you will hear from me a great many "grouse in the gunroom" anecdotes of this war. I am just wild to see you and spend an evening telling you various things.

For the first hour of the last battle we had a very uncomfortable time. We were lying in reserve under orders, where the bullets of the enemy reached us, and man after man was killed or wounded. I lay on the bank by Lieutenant Haskell, talking with him. Finally he did not answer some question of mine; I turned to find that he had been shot through the stomach. I gave an order to one of my men, who stood up and saluted and then fell over my knees with a bullet through his brain. But then came the order to advance, and with it my "crowded hour"; for there followed the day of my active life.

I got my men moving forward, and when the Ninth regiment of regulars halted too long firing I took my men clear through it, and their men and younger officers joined me. At the head of the two commands I rode forward (being much helped because I was the only man on horseback) and we carried the hill (this was the first entrenchment carried by any of our troops; the first break in the Spanish line; and I was the first man in) in gallant shape and then the next and then the third. On the last I was halted, and for 24 hours I was in command, on the extreme front of the line, of the fragments of the six cavalry regiments, I being the highest officer left there.

Two of my men have died of yellow fever, but we hope to keep it out of the camp, and if we succeed we also hope we shall soon be ordered to Porto Rico.

You have done everything where you are. You have been more useful than any general, for you occupy the larger field; it would have been criminal for you to leave your task.

Warm love to Nannie.
Every yours,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

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Stars in "New Lives for Old"



Betty Compson and Theodore Kosloff.

Betty Compson's latest starring vehicle, "New Lives for Old," is the film attraction for the week at the Rialto, Omaha's most popular picture house. Betty has the role of a gay Parisian dancer who sacrifices everything in order to serve her country as a spy. Wallace MacDonald and Theodore Kosloff have prominent roles in the film. Another of the "Van Bibber" comedies is an added feature on the program.

AT THE THEATERS
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"It was severe but effective," says Miss Giersdorf. "When I stopped the tears and took up my little violin I discovered that I could play 'Annie Laurie' and 'Swanee River' and a whole lot of other tunes that I had been struggling with in vain. And I have been playing the violin ever since."
Although in these days Father Giersdorf's methods would be condemned as brutal, they were effective in producing a family of excellent musicians.

Almost every colored act claims to have been with "Shuffle Along," "In Banville" or "Liza." But there is one trio who have won laurels in other shows. They are the Three Browns, speedy youths whose stage work has been confined to the south and where they are as well known as Miller and Lyles or Sissle and Blake. The Browns played all of the big vaudeville time south of the Mason and Dixon line and now are showing the folks "up north" what their brethren really know about synopating "hoofing." They have a routine of steps that is touted to be the swiftest and most extraordinary yet shown in Columbia burlesque. The act is with "Sliding" Billy Watson's "Fun Show" now playing twice daily at the Gayety, this being the closing week of the current season. Such being the case, there is a continuous bombardment of the Gayety's box office by the thousands desirous of accepting this last chance to laugh at and enjoy Columbia burlesque.

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"Taka Chance" Week Film Star at Strand



Here's another in the cast of the feature film playing at the Strand theater this week. Like the others, her name is being withheld because this is "Taka Chance Week" at the Strand. The film is as clever a comedy of home life as we have had the pleasure of reviewing and it will please the most exacting fan.

Art Randall again proves himself capable of an original stage performance and it is with great difficulty he leaves the stage, so enthusiastic are his audiences. Even the orchestra overture is a surprise.

BURIAL TODAY FOR VICTIM OF CRASH

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee.
Grand Island, Neb., March 23.—The body of LeRoy C. Blazier, killed when the motorcycle driven by his brother-in-law collided with a car driven by Willard Ooley, near Wood River Saturday at midnight, was transported to Arapahoe, Neb., his former home, today, where the funeral will take place Tuesday afternoon. Coroner Suhs will await the examination of one further witness before determining whether or not to hold an inquest. Evan Stiles, driver of the motorcycle, whose wrist was broken and whose foot was crushed so badly that amputation was necessary, is recovering at a hospital here.

Gage County Farm Bureau to Meet on Wednesday
Beatrice, March 23.—Members of the Gage County Farm Bureau are called to meet here next Wednesday afternoon to consider appointment of a county agent as successor to L. Boyd Hilt, who resigned some time ago and located at Maryville, Mo. W. H. Brockway, director of extension, will give an address.

Boy Breaks Both Arms in Fall From Swing
Sidney, March 23.—While swinging at the school grounds here, Kenneth Moore lost his balance at the highest point and fell to the ground, about 15 feet below, breaking both arms near the wrists, and dislocating his wrists.

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Massage this sweetly fragrant lemon bleach into the face, neck, arms and hands. It cannot irritate. Famous stage beauties use it to bring that clear, youthful skin and rosy-white complexion; also as a freckle, sunburn and tan bleach. You must mix this remarkable bleach yourself. It cannot be bought ready to use because it acts best immediately after it is prepared.

Slayer Pleads Guilty to Charge of Manslaughter
Bridgeport, March 23.—"Little Joe" Mendoza, who was accused of first degree murder for stabbing to death Juan Gomez, a fellow countryman, on the street here last November, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced by Judge Barron of the District court to from two to 20 years in the penitentiary. His was taken to Lincoln Saturday. Mendoza and Gomez quarreled over a \$1 bet on a pool game, and started a fight in which Gomez was slashed in three places, dying in a few minutes.

Fairbury.—The rural teachers of Jefferson county held a meeting at the courthouse Saturday. Of the 90 in the county, 42 had places on the program.

Church Holds Celebration.
Ponca, Mar. 23.—The Women's Missionary society of the Methodist church here celebrated Founder's day Monday, the 56th anniversary of the founding of the society.

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