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MC200: Folder 10: Mother [Francis Carr Fowler], July 10, 1898

This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.

On board Transport "Gate City"
8 ½ Miles East of Santiago

Saturday July 10, 98

Dear Mother

We arrived here this morning after a pleasant journey of 9 days on the water. Most of the boys however were seasick but fortunately it did not effect me and I enjoyed every minute of the trip.

We received our first accurate news of the war this morning from dispatch boat. The Spanish General Cevera [Cervera] is on Board the New York as is also Hobson . The Spanish flag is in the bottom of the sea.

We did not have such good luck on land. We lost eighteen hundred men on account of not having a strong enough force to take the town. We gained our position however and at present have the principal points of advantage around Santiago. They have an armistice in effect and their [sic] is no fighting at present, but it will be up at 4 P.M. this afternoon and then the fight for possession may begin again, but it looks as if the Town would surrender. Loss on American man of wars 2 wounded about 10. Spanish losses very heavy we passed five bodies this morning floating in the bay.

The boys are all worked up over the slaughter of the Americans on land as it was uncalled for. Had we 30,000 instead of 15,000 we would have not lossed [sic] more than 100 or 200 at the most.

The watch word with us is not Remember the Main but Remember the Volunteers at Santiago and every man on this expedition will fight to a finish.

I will have to close for this time will write at every chance. Love to all

Your loving Son,
Herb