

UC Davis Archives and Special Collections

MC200: Folder 9: Mother [Francis Carr Fowler], June 22, 1898

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

Picnic Island
June 22, 1898

Dear Mother:

I received the box of cigars sent by Pa in perfect condition today and am very much obliged for same. It is the kind I smoked when I was home and was just the thing I wanted most.

The transports that we are to go on are here now. Came this morning and unless something happens to change present plans, I think we will get on board Friday or Saturday.

No one knows where we will go, as we will sail under sealed orders, but my opinion is that it will be Cuba. Every man is issued five hundred rounds of cartridges and if we get into a fight we ought to make things pretty lively for the Spanish for a while.

Some of the new men that were enlisted in Chicago last week, arrived last night and we are busy breaking them in. The weather is hot and it is pretty hard on them as they are green and need a lot of drilling. I know several of the new boys and one of them is Paul Harris who used to live on Groveland Court. I guess that Gordon knows him.

We received a lot of Chicago Records today and see by it that the navy is doing good work. According to report there is nothing left of Santiago Da Cuba but Morro Castle, a few more victories like that and the Spaniards will begin to think that they are up against a hard proposition.

We are beginning to train to go without water and it was hard to go without it for a few days but I am getting used to it now and don't mind it at all.

I don't suppose I will be able to get letters to you very often after we leave here, but will write as often as possible.

Give my regards to everyone at home!

Your loving son,
Herb.

Dear Mama –

Do you think if I wrote to the same place he would get it – tell me when you answer it so I will know when to write.

M