


Tampa, Fla.

June 12, 1898

Dear Mamma:

This is Sunday, - hot, hotter, hottest. I am lying under a live-oak, from whose massive branches hang the famous "Hanging Moss". A slight breeze is our only salvation here. I go swimming morning and evening in Tampa Bay; the water is fine and refreshing but does not clean you. I swam 3 miles this A.M., the bottom is like this  lots of chance to rest in shallow

in water, if you get tired. I did not get tired.

I just rec'd your card. I guess I have received all letters from home, but I don't have the time to answer. I wish someone would write each day.

The days seem so long when I don't get one letter.

Here is my program for the day.

Get up at 5.00 A.M., wake up the boys at First Call 5.10, get them into line at 5.25, ~~has~~ Perrell have them uncover while the band plays "The Star Spangled Banner". Call the roll at 5.30, make my report to the commanding officer, give the company "Settling-up-exercises" for 10 minutes. Have the Sick Report made out and sent to the Hospital.

March the company back
to quarters, dismiss them. Fall
them in again at 6.00 for
Breakfast, march them to the
kitchen, have them fed, then
try to eat my own breakfast
and at the same time make
out and deliver to head-quarters
my morning-report, and mess-
report for breakfast. This has
to be done by 6.50, because
at that time First Call for Drill
sounds and I have to get the
boys ready for assembly at
7.00 when I form the company
and we drill until 9.00.
then I have to dismiss the
company and get my bath

before 10 a.m. when the
 bathing is ordered stopped
 till 6 P.M. Then the streets
 and tents are cleaned under
 my direction, and presently
 it is 11.30 and I have to
 answer First Sergeants Call
 at headquarters. Then at
 12. comes mess, and ^{it means the weather} ~~it~~ is
 so hot that you feel
 flattened to the ground. at
 1.30 comes Non-commissioned
 officers school. At 3.30 P.M.
 drill with the same per-
 formance till 5.00. Mess at
 5.30. Same work, including
 mess-report to head-qrs.
 Then at 6.00 comes 1st call
 for Retreat and inspection.
 Get the boys ready; at 6.10
 form company, inspection and
 Roll call, dismissal. Noth-
 ing more until 9.00 when the

company is formed over
 more for roll-call, then
 at 9.30 Taps, and I must
 see that all lights go out,

Mixed in with all that
 I am supposed to wash
 myself, clothes, dishes, make
 details and passes and answer
 the thousand-and-one worry-
 ing questions of 75 men.

Well I suppose that I
 ought to be satisfied, since
 Uncle Sam pays me ~~\$8~~.40 extra
 for the extra work. per mo.

Well, my stomach is
 getting much better thanks
 to my being able to procure

something better than
Bacon. X.

This is quite a nice camp
 ground, good bathing 10 rods
 from our tents - "Tampa Bay"

Drinking water at the
 company street, and a breeze.
 The boys are a great deal
 happier than they were, and
 every thing seems much bright-
 er than it did. Did you
 get the M.O. Papa?

The rainy season started
 in yesterday evening, came
 down by bath tubs full.

Our "Pup Tents" make ex-
 cellent shower baths, sprays
 the water all over you.

All this will have to
 stop here. to be continued
 to night. Love to all
 your Son

Henry A. Dobson.