

Married Frank Hebbe -
 Brother of William C. Hebbe

On Transport Lampasas, Port Tampa, Florida
 Sunday, July 10, 1898

My dear Sarah: I suppose you know by the papers we have not started yet. We expect to get off sure by Wednesday. They are loading now both day and night and although southern niggers can't be beaten for slowness, surely they will be all ready by then. We are fairly comfortable on this boat and since we have had to wait have been doing some nursing in the camp on Picnic Island. I was one of the first two to go. The Camp surgeon came and asked for nurses last Monday afternoon. Another nurse and myself volunteered to go at once so off we started with our bags. It was dark when we got there and it was a big surprise to us when we were halted at the end of a gun two different times before getting into Camp. We thought the Dr. being with us it would be all right for him and us to walk right in, but he had to halt too and wait till the guard gave him permission to advance and give the countersign, then we were allowed to proceed. It all seemed very picturesque and romantic until we came to the hospital tent.

There is was a very matter of fact and the poor men's misery and suffering very real. The Dr. said there were four typhoid cases. When we got there we saw three only for one had died while the Dr. was coming for us. They all had high fever, two of them especially and all they had to lie on was a canvas cot with a thick army blanket, half under and half over them. Their beds were full of sand from getting out and in, the ground is very sandy. You may imagine their surprise when we two women walked in and took possession of them for the time being. I went to work on the sickest one, gave him an alcohol sponge bath, fixed up his bed and made him as comfortable as circumstances would permit. When I got through he took my hand and said "lady you make me feel as if my mother was here." He shed tears too and I did not think them unmanly for he is only a young boy who has always had a nice home; has father, mother and sisters. He came from Davenport, Iowa. He is in the 5th Illinois and has been almost heart broken because his regiment had to go and leave him behind sick. He is still very, very ill and we do not know whether he will get well. He is only one of the five cases we have. The others are just as interesting but I have not time or space to tell you about them. We got sheets, pillowcases, night shirts and lots of other necessaries for the men and now they are much more comfortable. Poor Vincent though is still very sick and his recovery is doubtful. He was delirious all last night and the night before. We feel so interested in and sorry for him that it will be hard to leave when the time comes unless we can leave him in good hands. His mother has been telegraphed for and we are hoping she will get here before we have to go.

I am feeling pretty well although I find the climate trying. It is not that it is so hot, but it is muggy and wet, it rains every day. I saw two transports come in with the wounded last night. There were about four hundred of them, most of them were taken on board the hospital train and taken right on to Atlanta where there is a government hospital. Some went to Tampa Heights hospital. We were not allowed to go near them as they were under quarantine.

How are you, well I hope. Tell me about yourself when you write and if you have done anything about a nurse. Address letter to me c/o American National Red Cross, Santiago, Cuba via Tampa, Florida. Hand this letter to Aunt Jane, I would write her but that I have not too much time for writing at present but will later. My love to the children and you all.

Mary

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba July 20, 1898

My dear Sarah: Here we are still on board S. S. Lampasas, lying right opposite Camp McCalla. The Camp is on a little hill and looks very pretty and picturesque in the sunshine but it must be blistering hot for I cannot see a tree to shade them. There is bathing facilities however and at present there are about a dozen of the boys enjoying "that same". I did not intend to write again until I got settled somewhere but it looks as if we never were going to be, besides we have seen so much since yesterday morning that I knew you would be interested in hearing about. It took us three days from Key West and yesterday morning we sailed right up Santiago Harbor,

It is a most beautiful harbor surrounded by hills. It reminded me of a spot in the Hudson near West Point, except that the hills here have a little different formation and the foliage of course is tropical. Going up the harbor we passed the sunken Merrimack, she is all under water

except that about two feet of her funnel and a little more than that of her two masts, a little way from her. The Spanish warship Rhina Mercedes lies partly on her side all smashed up. There is a hole right through her funnel where a ball struck her. They are at work on both her and the Merrimack. The torpedo boat Ericson was along side with a crew at work. In the harbor are at least a dozen transports but the warships (the Brooklyn and New York) are outside guarding the entrance. There was only two of them.

Col. Black who is in command of this Battalion of Engineers went ashore for orders, found there were three cases of yellow fever in the Marine hospital and got orders to have no communication with Santiago, but to proceed to the (Guantanamo) harbor where Gen. Miles has his headquarters. It is fifty or sixty miles to this place from Santiago and we arrived about six oclock last night. This is a much larger harbor than Santiago, though not so secure or pretty, the ground all around is lower with mountains in the distance. It is made good use of as there are no less than eight warships here at present besides transports and other craft. I have not found out the names of all, but the Oregon, Columbia, Massachusetts, Marblehead, our little ship the Hawk, are amongst the number. This morning we witnessed a pretty sight. The Admiral's flagship (New York) came in to harbor, the Oregon acting flagship fired eleven guns and all the vessels dipped their colors as she passed. Her band was playing and it was really a fine sight. She is very graceful and no one would suppose to look at her that she had engaged in battle so recently but we saw the effect of hers and other battleships work on the fallen fortifications at Santiago, only parts of walls of Morro Castle is left standing.

In regard to ourselves, we know nothing as to where we are to go yet. Gen. Miles and his staff are still on board the Yale so are the two thousand troops. Capt. Brown as the Engineers does not think this Battalion will be landed here either, as for the nurses, we don't seem to count at all. We have just been carried along as so much baggage. It was a wonder we got here at all. There has been a great deal of opposition to the Red Cross by the Army, this in spite of the fact that nurses are so badly needed where the sick and wounded are, but very little thought is taken for the sick and wounded by the Army as far as I can see.

Later News

We are to remain where we are for the present. They will only allow immune persons to land in Santiago. One nurse and one doctor, the only immunes in the party have just started for Santiago to go with this expedition. They are getting ready for Puerto Rico so I may see a battle after all. We may have to wait here some days. It is dreadful when we want to go to work so bad and when there is so much need of it. We have been right opposit Camp McCalla, or the Marine Camp as they call it here and we have seen the first American flag that was raised on Cuban soil, it still waves over the Camp. The engineer Corp has been busy all day building pontoon bridges or rather a pier or landing out from the shore so they can go in and land the horses and mules. It has been very hard on the poor animals, several died on the other transport. It is very interesting to watch them build this thing. They have all the things with them and row back and forth from the transport to the shore with it. The first formed a kind of raft with two pontoon boats and some timbers and loaded the stuff on that. They have quite a pier made now. I wish I could step in instead of writing and tell you all about this.

I have had only a letter from Johnie since I left and that gave me no news of you. I hope you are well and the children too. I am going to send a flower from Camp McCalla which will interest them. I will keep this open too till I know when there is to be a mail for the north. One went this morning but I have no idea when there will be another. I think there will be some quite often though as there are so many war vessels here. They coal in this harbor but there is no knowing how long they may do so. The enemy is only about two and a half miles back from here and they may pounce down here at any time. That is hardly expected however. They ~~gunk~~ got such a licking at Santiago.

Please let Aunt Jane have this letter when you get through as I may not have time to write her all the particulars too. If you should be a good while without hearing from me, do not worry as I will probably be where I can't communicate with you.

July 21st

Have just heard there is a mail going off and hasten to finish so I can send this. Have seen Major Gen. Miles. He came on board the ship yesterday and again was here today. We are to remain with the expedition and go ? to Puerto Rico, maybe. The climate here is delightful, the

nights being particularly pleasant and cool, of course the sun is hot in the day time but there is always a breeze except between 7 and 9 A.M.

I am getting a fine coat of tan. I will be as brown as a Cuban when I come back. Speaking of the Cubans, their Camp is on the beach and they walk around in their undervest (nothing else) quite regardless. They bathe ad lib in Adamite costume. We do not go ashore of course and we need not stay on that side of this boat so our modesty is preserved. You may not hear from me in a long time but do not be concerned as I feel that I am going to come out all right. I will write when there is an opportunity of course and you may be sure I shall often think of you affectionately,

Mary.

S. S. Lampasas near Fortress Monroe, Virginia
August 6th, 1898

My dear Sister: I hope this will find you well and all your family. I have had a varied experience since I wrote you last but have not time at present to tell you it. I may possibly see you before long and tell you all about my trip and if not will write you as good an account as I can when I get more time.

The party is returning with something over one hundred and thirty sick soldiers, most of them suffering from typhoid fever. We have lost seven or eight, four of them buried at sea. We left Ponce, Puerto Rico Monday night and expect to get to Fortress Monroe about eleven today, Saturday. We have ~~experienced~~ had a hard time, plenty to do and hardly anything to do with but our work has been highly appreciated and not one of us has regretted our coming. I have been anxious about you as I have only received one letter at Key West and that from Johnnie. I suppose the others are somewhere on the way. I am very tired so will not write more at present. You will hear from me very soon when we get our patients in the hospital. With lots of love to you all and Aunt Jane's folks,

from "Sister Mary")

While he was a ~~patient~~ patient in a hospital at Fort Myer, Virginia, Frank Hebbe met Mary Carson, who was a Red Cross and Spanish American War nurse from July 4, 1898 to November 15, 1900. They were married November 28, 1900. They lived at Perry, Kansas; Beacon, New York; Kimberly, Idaho; Tampa, Florida and Tonkawa, Oklahoma. Mary died January 8, 1943 at Tonkawa. Frank Hebbe later married Jean Post—Mary Carson Hebbe's niece—at the home of his sister, Mary Stein in Topeka, Kansas on February 16, 1944. They lived in Beacon, New York and San Diego, California before moving to Tonkawa, Oklahoma in January 1950. He died December 23, 1965

Frank T. Hebbe enlisted July 6, 1897 for three years. Honorably discharged July 5, 1900.

Attached is information regarding his military service.

War History Frank T. Hette

Enlisted July 6, 1897 - for 3 yrs.

Honorably discharged July 5, 1900

Military record.

non commissioned Officer. Corp Sgnt. 1st.

Sgt. U.S. Signal Corp.

War Battles of July 1, 2, 3 + 9th. also siege and
surrender of same July 17, 1898. No wounds
received in battle

Remarks: Service honest + Faithful. Rendered
most willing and good service under fire
establishing connections between San Juan Hill
and Sitneg. - a most excellent soldier + trust-
worthy man.

He went first to the Presidio at San Francisco
Then Troop B Signal + Balloon Corps. in camp
at Tampa, Florida before starting for Cuba
June 14, 1898

Made Corporal in U.S. Signal Corp.

Made Sergeant in U.S. Signal Corp. April 26, 1899

Fath signed by H. W. Seely - Chief Signal Officer

Left Cuba about Sept 1, 1898 arrived at
Montauk Point about Sept 10th. while there
had rheumatism; latter in hospital at Ft Myer
Va. where he met Mary Carson, nurse



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON

YOUR FILE REFERENCE.

IN REPLY REFER TO

FRANK T HEBBE
500 N 10TH ST
1571868 MAY 26
TONKAWA OKLA

Under the provisions of Public No. 2, 73d Congress, approved March 20, 1933, veterans of the Spanish-American War, including the Philippine Insurrection and Boxer Rebellion, may be paid a pension only in the event they are suffering from a disability which is permanently and totally disabling, or if they are past the age of 62 years, or if the disability resulted from disease or injury or aggravation of a pre-existing disease or injury incurred in line of duty during active service.

It was realized that veterans of the Spanish American War, the Boxer Rebellion, and the Philippine Insurrection, who are now receiving a pension would be at a decided disadvantage in endeavoring to secure evidence showing that their disability resulted from disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the military or naval service, therefore the President by regulation has provided that the disease or injury causing the disabilities of such veterans will be presumed to have been the result of war service. This is, however, a rebuttable presumption and may be rebutted by any evidence in your case showing that your disability did not result from war service.

In order that your case may be accorded every consideration consistent with the law, it is suggested that you send immediately to the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C., any evidence in your possession tending to show that your disability resulted from war service. If this evidence is not received prior to the review of your case under Public No. 2, 73d Congress, it will be considered in the event you appeal from the decision rendered, provided such evidence is on file when the appeal is considered.

Respectfully,

E. W. MORGAN,
Director of Pensions.

an copy of a document of Public No 2. 13 Congress, pertaining to
my service disability records in the Spanish American
war. Can only state from memory what happened to me.
when the Troops embarked for Cuba I weighed between
185 & 190 lbs. I was on duty every day till after
the surrender of Santiago. was taken sick that
night, did not have any medical attention but
kept on going and in a short time was
taken down with fever and dysentary, was sent
to field hospital in front of Santiago ^{name} there
for a week or ten days, so not know of the
Dr. who was in charge. The Co I was in left Cuba
about Sept 1st, 1898 Arrived at Montauk Point
about Sept 10th While there had my first touch of
rheumatism. My next sickness was at Ft Myers
Va. where I was in the hospital off and on for a
year or more, and had lost weight to 135 lbs and
have not been able to rid myself of the effects
of what I call the Cuban fever and dysentary.
The only other time that I was in the hospital
was at the Presidio of San Francisco, with a fractured
wrist which happened from falling from a window
while washing there.