

We had more dancing at Thomasville, Ga., where we stopped for supper. The town turned out in full force and the talent gave free exhibitions at the station in order to cheer us if we needed it. The next morning we arrived at Port Tampa, where we spent the day, and a little spare change, in earnest endeavors to keep cool. We went in swimming twice during the afternoon, and loafed most of the remaining time in the barber shop of the only hotel that kept ice-water on tap. I shall recommend Tampa as a summer resort to some of my friends.

That night we embarked on one of the government transports for Key West, and a lot of the floating population of Tampa, army men and such like, came to see the last of us. We sang "On the Banks of the Wabash," and "Just Break the News to Mother," for them; after that I suppose they were reconciled to the idea of losing us forever.

The next day we arrived at Key West,

The foregoing is a true and accurate account.

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## First Experiences on Board a War Ship



AFTER landing in Key West we were quickly divided up into divisions for the different ships. Sixty of us were assigned to the Oregon, and were hurried along the docks to a tug which carried us out to the ship, lying some miles out to sea. When we arrived we found the ship coaling, and the scene presented far from resembled what most of us had pictured as a modern battleship. The men, as well as the whole ship, were covered with a thick layer of grimy coal dust. We spent the evening in looking around and peering into the many dark and mysterious passages which compose such a ship. That evening we slept on the forward thirteen-inch turret, with a single blanket separating us from the hard steel, and used our shoes for a pillow.

The next morning we were put to work and given a chance to investigate the hold of the ship, which most of us found to be exceedingly hot. Even our