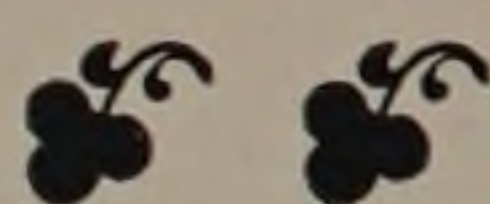


the river. It was the grandest, most enthusiastic scene I ever saw. The ships all came to anchor off Tompkinsville, New Jersey, and for the next few days each of them was surrounded by crowds of tugs and steamers. Excursions were run from the city "to the war ships."

On shore we could spend no money, we could do no wrong. If we stopped on the street a crowd gathered. They stopped us, they looked after us, they followed us. It was a reception indeed.

BERT W. EDWARDS,
U. S. S. Oregon.



To Cuba with the Infantry



IT IS hard to describe the sensation experienced as we pulled out of sight of our native country on a mission which we knew might end our lives in a foreign land, but we had the satisfaction that arises from a duty being performed, and we knew that whatever the result might be, it was ordered by a heavenly power, and we tried to be cheerful and make the best of what was.

On Tuesday, July 19th, we passed under the guns of Morro Castle, past the sunken "Merrimac" and "Reina Mercedes" into Santiago Harbor. There we remained about two hours and then left for Guantanamo Bay, where we stayed until the morning of July 22d, when we slipped anchor and started for Puerto Rico.

At Guantanamo we found our programs pretty well filled in handling and building a pontoon bridge and unloading and loading stock.

From Guantanamo we went with General Miles' invading expedition. The course was up through the Windward Passage, along the northern coast of Haiti, down through Mona Passage, into the Carribean Sea.

On Monday, July 25th, we passed into the harbor of Guánica, Puerto Rico. The "Gloucester" went ahead and took a position opposite the main street of the town, which extended from the water's edge through the town and verged into a country road farther out. A few shells were thrown up the street and then the launches were lowered and sent to tow the engineers ashore in ships' boats. We were the first to land and immediately upon reaching shore, formed a skirmish line and pushed on into the hills meeting with no resistance.

