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5 Regiments Start From Galveston Early To-Day

***Troops Will Leave That Port in State of Perfect Preparedness,
Says Richard Harding Davis***

Will Prove Credit To Officers

***Men Leave "Movies" and Billiard Games and Speed Back to Camp When Call Comes—
Embarkation in No Way Resembles Mobilization to Cuba***

Galveston, April 23.—There was a dance announced tonight at the Hotel Galveston, so the officers of the 5th Brigade came to dinner at the big hotel in tropic white uniforms, the women folk in low neck dresses. With red candle shades and palms bending in the breeze from the Gulf and the orchestra playing "Peu d'Amour" the scene was intimately pretty, friendly and one of peace.

Then an aide in khaki bowed to Mrs. Evans, and with his hand on the shoulder of Major Evans, whispered. Evans is the adjutant general of the 5th Brigade, the one listed to be the first to move, and it was thought that whisper had carried to every table in the room.

We all watched him as he left the room, pausing to speak to two brother officers.

"The army goes on board at daybreak," he said. A minute later the tables were empty, automobiles were hooting on their way to camp and around the telegraph office in the rotunda was a mass five rows deep, and the dance was indefinitely postponed.

Those men who will embark at sunrise on the transports for Vera Cruz are in a state of perfect preparedness. They are prepared by months of practice marches in full service kit over many weary miles, by manoeuvres under war conditions, by hours at the rifle ranges, where they have learned to place quickly and with precision a certain number of bullets wherever they will do the most harm.

Their physical condition is splendid. They look hard, fit, clean—like athletes balancing at the scratch, waiting for the period. Tomorrow they will embark in a manner to give credit to the officers and pride to the taxpayers.

The departure in no way will resemble the mobilization and embarking of our army sixteen years ago for Cuba. In this case comparisons are gratifying. Since the war with Spain the army has learned much about transports. Then, thirty-four years had passed since it had gone down to the sea in ships. It lacked practice.

At Tampa the rule for embarkation was first come first served. A transport would be brought to the wharf and the nearest regiment, much like Barbary pirates, would swarm over the side.

For disembarking the rule was the devil take the hindmost. Neither rule worked. In those days transports did not belong to the army. They were coast trade passenger steamers rented by the government. All that is changed. The Philippines changed it.

The transports *Meade*, *Kirkpatrick*, *Sumner* and *McClellan*, which leave here tomorrow, were built for the army and are owned and bossed by the army, and for years, with the regularity of trolley cars, have been dispatched to Manila, China, Cuba and Panama. At sunrise they will leave without a hitch and carry with them 5,000 joyous, jubilant fighting men.

Tonight the provost guard has only to stick his head in a door and shout and the "movies" are deserted, glasses are left untasted, billiard cues fall and the men in khaki, clinging to the trolley cars like drowning men to a life raft, are speeding back to camp.