

Headquarters Department of Cuba.

Hospital Las Animas.

Calzada de la Infanta

Havana, Cuba October 24th 1901.

To the

Adjutant General,

Headquarters Dept. of Cuba,

Havana, Cuba,

Through the Chief Surgeon, Dept. of Cuba.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of letter dated October 23rd 1901 prohibiting any further experimentation among United States troops or civilian employees with yellow fever serum, and conveying the censure of the Department Commander for practicing such experiments upon Privates Harmann and Covington and permitting them to remain with their command "under no restrictions," and beg to submit the following statement:

Through the courtesy of the Chief Surgeon, Major Valery Havard, I have been permitted to read the report dated October 21st 1901, of Lieut. Col. B.K. Roberts, Artillery Corps, and the accompanying sub-report of 1st Lieut. Fred. H. Gallup, Army Corps, Comdg. 23rd Company, Coast Artillery, dated October 20th 1901.

On the Sunday night referred to by Lieut. Gallup I spoke to him about obtaining subjects for inoculation, after being referred to him by Capt --- Harmon, Artillery Corps, to whom I first addressed myself, believing that he, Capt. Harmon, was in command of the post at Santa Clara Battery. I spoke to Capt. Harmon a second time, on the morning of his departure, and after explaining to him the extreme improbability of infecting men with serum that had been passed through a Berkefeld filter (which is known to hold back all bacteria with which we are familiar) he expressed a desire to see me get the men and asked me to write and let him know the results because, as he expressed it, he felt as though the men belonged to him. I make this statement, not for the purpose of incriminating Capt. Harmon, but to show that I asked in good faith, consulting as I believed, the post and battery commanders and fulfilling the requirements of military courtesy. It was my impression that the "Post Commander" as referred to in the report of Colonel Roberts, was the senior officer present at the post and exercising Command, viz: Capt. Harmon. Later, I believed that Lieut. Gallup was in temporary command until the arrival of Captain Harmon's successor. It was at no time suggested to me, by any person, that it would be proper or necessary to consult Col. Roberts. I met Colonel Roberts, by appointment, at his office, at 2 o'clock p.m. on the 20th instant and explained to him that I consulted Capt. Harmon as well as Lieut. Gallup, and that I did not know that he was interested in the matter. His reply, "That is all right for you, but I am going to get after Lieut. Gallup, " or words to that effect, made in the presence of his Adjutant, led me to infer that my explanation was satisfactory and sufficient.

The statements made in Lieut. Gallups' report are all substantially correct. It was my desire and expectation to have the men transferred to the camp at Columbia Barracks but the Chief Surgeon under whose supervision I was working, "did not see upon what ground the transfer could well be made," so it was agreed that they should remain at their post under the observation of Capt. R. P. Ames, Ass't Surgeon U.S.V., a yellow fever expert, until the manifestation of the earliest symptoms when they were to be transferred to the hospital which, at the time the arrangement was made, was under the charge of Capt. Summerall.

As yellow fever is not a contagious disease, or infectious in the ordinary sense any more than is malaria, and as it has been shown experimentally that a number of insects (mosquitoes) biting a patient nine hours after the onset of an attack were incapable of infecting a person who was afterwards proven to be susceptible, there is no reason to believe that the command was subjected to any risk by the retention of these men until they displayed the earliest symptoms. It was understood with Capt. Ames that the 3 men were experimented upon and he was requested later to look out for them.

I am glad to be able to report that my work is completed and I have no desire to make any further inoculations. The results are of inestimable value.

Of thirteen persons experimented upon, Harmann and Covington are the only ones in the service of the government.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

James Carroll

Contract Surgeon U.S. Army.

[On reverse]

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Letter to Dept. Comd.