



CORPORAL WILLIAM R. JOHNSON, MANILA (ABOUT 1901)

Three Years in the Orient:
The Diary of William R. Johnson, 1898-1902

*Edited by Donald F. Carmony and Karen Tannenbaum
Contributed by Bess Sellers Johnson*

“Three Years in the Orient” is the diary of William (Will) R. Johnson, Franklin, Indiana, a volunteer in the United States Army during the Philippine insurrection of 1899 to 1901. Though not a polished literary account, the youthful Johnson’s views and reactions are probably quite representative of the majority of unsophisticated Americans who served in this conflict. His belief in the justice of the American position and the backwardness and even inferiority of the Philippine people is strong and unquestioned. “The Filipino is a heathen looking thing half-nude and so lazy he can hardly walk,” Johnson wrote on his second day on the island. Also evident is the matter-of-fact and patriotic devotion which marked Johnson’s performance of his military duties. His uncomplaining descriptions of the hardships, dangers, and sacrifices of soldiering reveal the great contrast between his life as a young soldier in the field and the life he might have enjoyed in the distant—and particularly to Johnson—glorious U.S.A. It was not long after his arrival in the Philippines, on March 27, 1899, that Johnson laconically observed, “Have had lots of hardships etc and I have come to the conclusion that Gen Sherman was right when he said ‘War is hell.’”

Will Johnson was born on a farm near Whiteland, Indiana, on December 5, 1880. His mother died when he was about ten years old. The family later moved to Franklin after his father had remarried. Johnson was a sophomore at Franklin High School when the Spanish-American War began in April, 1898. At the end of the school year, Will quit school and volunteered for military duty. He was mustered into service as a private in Company E of the 158th Indiana Infantry on May 10 at Indianapolis. Although then only seventeen, he apparently told the military authorities that he had been born on December 5, 1878, thus advancing his actual age by two years. Hostilities in the Spanish-American War ended, however, before his unit ever left the mainland

of the United States and Johnson was honorably discharged on November 4, 1898, when his company was mustered out at Indianapolis.

The desire to partake of military life and adventure had not been dimmed. A little over a month later, on December 5, 1898 (his eighteenth birthday), Johnson volunteered at Seymour, Indiana, as a private for three more years of military service. His father, hoping to see the boy finish his schooling, had objected initially to this plan but eventually consented and accompanied his son to the enlistment center.

Johnson was assigned to Company K of the Twenty-Second Regiment of the United States Infantry and was at once sent to Camp Crook, Nebraska. On January 3, 1899, he was appointed the rank of corporal. After brief training at Camp Crook, he arrived in the Philippine Islands on March 4, 1899, a month after the simmering Philippine discontent toward the United States had flared into open insurrection under the leadership of Aguinaldo. Less than a year before, in May, 1898, when the Americans were actively engaged in war against the Spanish, Aguinaldo had been returned to his homeland from exile in Hong Kong to lead his followers, in conjunction with American forces, against their common enemy. The Spanish had held the Philippines as a colony since the sixteenth century. Although the Philippine soldiers fought well, the harmony of the relationship was short lived. Aguinaldo had well-known and deeply entrenched ambitions for the independence of his country. When, in the months following the capture of Manila Bay and of Manila itself, it appeared to him that the United States was not willing to grant independence, relations between his forces and the United States occupying forces became increasingly strained. In September, 1898, the rebel group set up a government with a capital at Malolos and Aguinaldo as president. Unwilling to accept President McKinley's doctrine of "benevolent assimilation," the rebel forces finally came into open conflict with the American troops on February 4, 1899.¹

Company K and the main thrust of the American forces began fighting in the Manila area and fought their way

¹ W. Cameron Forbes, *The Philippine Islands* (rev. ed., Cambridge, Mass., 1945), 36-51.

generally northeastward across the island of Luzon despite delays and detours resulting from enemy resistance and barriers such as mountains, rivers, monsoons, and mud. At various times the men were compelled to go without adequate rations; indeed, at the end of the "Great Northern Campaign," in the fall of 1899, they were even without shoes. "Well we are completely on the bum," Johnson wrote, "lots of sickness from fever." Although Johnson's company was involved in several active campaigns which took them great distances across the island, they spent the greatest amount of time at Candaba, doing garrison duty interspersed with night raids. In July, 1899, while at Candaba, Johnson resigned his rank of corporal, for reasons unexplained in the diary. One year later, however, he was reappointed to that rank.

In the spring of 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and the insurrection practically terminated. During that summer, Johnson was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of a mounted detachment. In July, he was ordered to Manila where he remained until his discharge on December 21, 1901. During these last few months on the islands, Johnson did garrison duty, assumed the duties of company clerk, and, in October, 1901, was made quartermaster sergeant in charge of the kitchen and rations. "Land at last," he wrote on January 9, 1902, upon reaching San Francisco, "thank God that it is the coast of California. I thank heaven for this privilege." On January 15, 1902, he arrived at Indianapolis, bought and donned a new suit of civilian clothes and proceeded by interurban railroad to his home at Franklin to become a civilian again at age twenty-one.

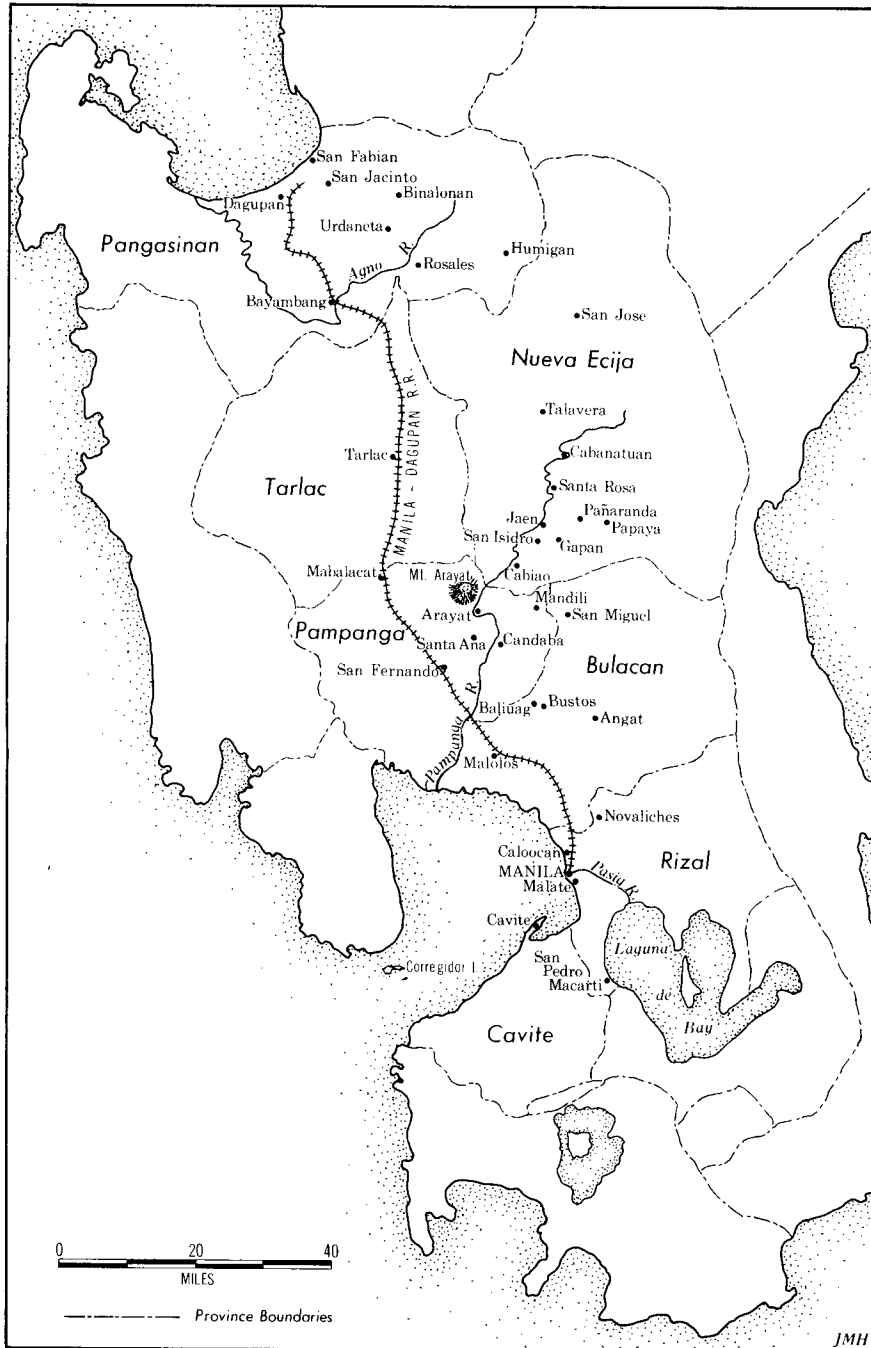
Although "Three Years in the Orient" should be read and evaluated in the context of the widespread imperialistic spirit prevailing at the end of the nineteenth century, Johnson's account has some relevance to the current Vietnamese war. The fighting in the Philippines was mainly the guerilla type, with the attendant hazards of snipers, ambushes, night patrols, and uncertainty in distinguishing between friend and foe. Moreover, mountains, unbridged rivers, and steamy jungles existed in the Philippines as they do in Vietnam. There was even a significant number of Americans at home who had doubts about the intervention in so distant an area, but such doubts were for the most part muffled by

patriotism and expressed without violence. Fortunately for the American soldier, no strong power gave extensive aid to the Philippine insurrectionists or offered a serious threat of possible aid.

Upon his return to Franklin in 1901 Johnson became a clerk in the Franklin post office. In 1918 he joined the Farmer's Trust Company of Franklin, becoming its president in 1937. He held this position until his death on March 18, 1952. (This bank is now known as the Franklin Bank and Trust Company.) Mr. Johnson was a long and active member of the Tabernacle Christian Church in Franklin where he served as deacon and also as treasurer for many years. He was a Mason, a charter member and first secretary of the Franklin Kiwanis Club, a member of the Indianapolis chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and likewise of the Society of Indiana Pioneers. During World War I, he served as local chairman of war bond and Salvation Army drives and helped direct the USO. For more than a quarter of a century he was treasurer of the Johnson County chapter of the American Red Cross. His hobbies included travel and gardening.

The biographical information about Johnson has been gained from Mrs. Johnson, family papers, and the diary itself. Facts regarding his military service have been checked with the Old Military Records Division, National Archives.

Will Johnson was married to Bess Sellers on June 27, 1906. They had two children, William S., who died in 1964, and Philip S., who now resides at Angola, Indiana. The *Indiana Magazine of History* is grateful to Mrs. Johnson for allowing the publication of this diary and for her continued interest in helping preserve valuable historical documents. With her approval a xerox copy of her husband's diary has been made by the Indiana State Library. At the invitation of Governor Roger D. Branigin the diary itself is to be deposited in the David D. Banta Collection at Franklin College for preservation and use. Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Indiana Historical Society and has been a frequent participant in the society's workshops held at McCormick's Creek State Park. She now resides at the Kennedy Memorial Christian Home in Martinsville.



**PLACES VISITED OR MENTIONED BY JOHNSON DURING
HIS MILITARY SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Three Years in the Orient¹

1898

I left home Dec 1st 1898, and inlisted in the U.S. Army for the period of three years, on the 5th of Dec. at the city of Seymour, Ind, and by Lieut. [William Thomas] Johnston, 3rd U.S. Cav.

Dec 6. Left Seymour at 6:50 and proceeded to join my reg. at Fort Crook. Nebr. via Indianapolis and Chicago

Dec 7. Arrived at Ft. Crook at 7:00 A.M. and was assigned to Co. K 22 Infty.

Dec 10 My brother Gid E. paid me a visit today.

Dec 25 Went to Omaha and spent the day with my brother, Had a fine Xmas dinner, and at night a hot time returning to the post at 11:00 P.M.

1899

Jan 3. I was appointed a Corpl. from recruit today, a thing that is seldom done.

¹ In editing this diary an effort has been made to maintain, as closely as possible, the flavor imparted to it by Johnson's own spelling, grammar, punctuation, and style. Thus, lapses in spelling and grammar have been allowed to remain as long as the meaning remains clear. Some abbreviations have been spelled out in brackets for the sake of clarity. Johnson often used commas at the ends of sentences rather than periods, and periods sometimes occur in the middle of sentences. These idiosyncracies have not been corrected. Likewise, parentheses and quotation marks which were incomplete have been left. The occasional use of a capital letter in the middle of a sentence has also been maintained. When no punctuation at all occurs at the end of a sentence, a space has been inserted. In those cases where it has been impossible to determine which mark was intended, modern usage has prevailed. Some decisions regarding punctuation, capitalization, and spacing were necessarily arbitrary.

In its original form, the diary was handwritten in a small, ruled, paperbound notebook. (See photos, pp. 284, 295) No attempt has been made to reproduce the document line for line, although the author's apparent paragraphs have been maintained. Johnson used a variety of formats for dates, times, etc. The following items have been standardized: all raised numbers or letters have been brought down to the line; all flourishes or embellishments have been removed; the spacing of the first line of each entry has been standardized; obvious repetition of words or phrases has been deleted; times are presented in the modern form.

The full names of individuals have been provided when first mentioned wherever possible. The source for enlisted men was the National Archives Old Military Records Division; for officers, Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington, 1903). Those who could not be identified are noted by the

Jan 22 Was at Omaha again today, Had a good time.

27. The Regiment has recd orders to proceed to San Francisco enroute to the Philippine Islands, All are very happy as we start today.

28th. We are somewhere near Topeka, Kansas, It is not so cold here, as it was at Crook.

29—Finds us at Colorado Springs at the base of Pikes Peak— I wrote several letters and mailed them here. We will strike the Rocky Mts tonight

31st—This morning we passed out of the mts. and glided into California, out of the cold and snow, into sunshine. It is so pleasant and the air is so balmy is seems like spring time—everthing green. We passed through Eldorado Co. the great gold mine region, at noon passed through Sacramento [*sic*] the Capitol All along the route the people turned out to see the boys in blue, in great style, We probably will reach Frisco this afternoon

Feb 1st We are now on board the good ship "Senator" and are passing out of the "Golden Gate" into the mighty Pacific leaving behind, home, Country and fond remembrances. We were escorted down the Bay by hundreds of craft amid tremendous cheering and music ashore.

Our band is playing the "Girl I left behind and "Auld Lang Syne"

2nd—Water,Water everwhere no land in sight, the sea is perfectly calm.

letters U.I. in brackets. The correct spelling of place names is also provided the first time a place is mentioned. The *Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippine Islands* (Washington, 1902) was used to check these names. The map which accompanies the article on p. 267 is useful in following Johnson's travels in the Philippines. Place names which could not be identified are indicated by U.I. in brackets. Only figures and items of general historical interest are identified or explained in footnotes.

Thanks are due Herman Viola, formerly assistant editor of the *Indiana Magazine of History*, for doing much of the preliminary editing and research for this document and to Professor John C. Dowling, chairman of the Spanish Department at Indiana University, Bloomington, for his help in translating Spanish words and phrases. Professor Don C. Bennett, chairman of the Geography Department at Indiana University, Bloomington, was extremely helpful in providing the map used in this article.

3rd The sea is rather "choppy" today and I notice that several of the lads are running to the rail quite frequently with a sickly expression on their faces. Last night corp'l [George A.] Abbot Co "D" fell overboard and was lost, the sea was running so high and the night was so dark that rescue was impossible.

9th Land—We can see the outlines of Molaki [Molokai], the island where the lepers are Kept. Passing steadily on we soon can see the Devils Punch Bowl² on the island of Oahu one of the Sandwiches [Hawaiian Islands]

In another hour we are in the harbor of Honolulu. I believe this is the prettiest place I have ever seen, especially the flowers and etc.

The famous battleship "Oregon"³ and the U.S. Crusier "Philidelphia" [*sic*] are lying in the harbor.

11th Today I explored the entire city and "seen all the sights" Had a dilightful time. Went out on the "dinky" railroad to Claus Sprickle [Spreckels]⁴ sugar plantations and refinery about 40 miles in the interior.

12th Was ashore again to-day—Went through Queen Lies⁵ palace. I also mailed several letters today

13th—at 3:30 P.M. we weighed anchor and slowly steamed out of the harbor bound for Manila, We now can barely see land, by night we will be entirely out of sight of land.

22d Today is Washingtons Birthday and in mid-ocean. We are beginning to get tired of the ocean and the want of exercise is beginning to tell upon the men.

March 2—Last night being dark everbody was surprised to see a great light ahead. As we approached it, we seen

² This is probably the extinct volcano known as "Punchbowl," located near Honolulu.

³ The *USS Oregon* sailed thousands of miles from San Francisco to Key West, Florida, around Cape Horn in record time to join the American fleet in defending Florida from possible attack by the Spanish. The voyage increased public awareness of the need for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

⁴ Persons interested in Spreckel's career might enjoy reading the recently published book by Jacob Adler, *Claus Spreckels: The Sugar King in Hawaii* (Honolulu, 1966).

⁵ Queen Liliuokalani, last reigning queen of the Hawaiian Islands, was dethroned in 1893.

that it was an active volcano, standing alone in mid ocean. and sending fire and smoke high in the air. It was a great spectacle. The Capt. of the ship told us we were getting close to our destination.

Mch 4th We sighted land again today It is the northern coast of Luzon, the largest island of the Phil.[ippine] group. Running slowly down the coast we at last approach the entrance to Manila Bay, entering we steam eastward toward Manila, and drop anchor at 4 P.M. Our long journey has come to an end, after a sail of 27 days. Within a stones throw of the "Senator" the "Olympia" ([Admiral George]Dewey's flagship) is at anchor.

I seen Dewey as we came to anchor, He was standing on the bridge. We are about ½ mile away from shore, as the water is too shallow to allow a great ship to come closer. Great excitement prevails aboard as we are told that the Filipinos have turned against the Am[ericans]— and that there has been hard fighting since the outbreak on Feb 4th.

A while ago the monitor "Monterey" came up to the "Olympia" and rec'd orders I persume [*sic*] and now she is bombarding some town on the bay, with her 13 inch guns Whew! but those big shells tear up the ground and send the houses into the air. —We all drew 100 rounds of Ammuation today.

5th—We dis-embarked today and are camped along the beach on the Luneta, The Filipino is a heathen looking thing half-nude and so lazy he can hardly walk

I have not been in the town proper yet. The sudden change from cold to extreme heat is the most noticeable.

6th We broke camp and marched down the Luneta (the fashionable driveway) to Malate, a suberb of the city, and were assigned to barracks, which are built of bamboo and covered with *nipa*, a Kind of palm-leaf. they are very cool and comfortable

7th Was up in the city today and also seen the sights in the old Walled city. which is surrounded by a thick wall and was many years ago one of the best fortified cities of the world.

Manila is very queer and quaint looking, with its narrow streets and low buildings—Ever nationality is represented here

10th Today I went over to Cavite and seen the ships of the Spaniards that Dewey had sunk.⁶

12th We marched out of Manila amid the playing of bands, to a place called San Pedro Macarti about 4 miles east. The insurgents are only ½ mile away, their outpost and ours can almost speak to each other

13th The line advanced today and here was the place I had my baptism of fire We fought all day, driving the rebels before us and across the Pasig Riv.⁷

Corp'l [Wayne P.] Munson Co. K. was killed instantly, We were complimented by Gen [Loyd] Wheaton for our coolness, and it being the first time that many of us were under fire

20th Returned to Manila after a weeks hard campaigning
Pvt. [August] Schmidt was shot in the arm during the last engagement.

24th Started on the expedition against Mololos [Malolos], the capitol of the insurgents It is situated 30 miles up the Manila and Dagupan R.R. the only one in the islands.

We marched out to Caloocan and relieved the Montana Vols who were entrenched and holding the rebels off from the city

They took another position on the right flank with the artillery

25th At Daybreak the lines advanced toward the rebel's position who were well entrenched, after about an hours fighting they retreated in disorder across the River to another set of trenches.

The Utah Battery shelled them all afternoon but did not dislodge them

⁶ On May 1, 1898, Admiral George Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. Cavite, the central city of the province of the same name, is located on the east shore of Manila Bay. See map on p. 267.

⁷ As the map indicates, the Pasig River divides Manila into two parts.

26th Mr Rebel is still across the river at day light.

The 22 Infty went down the river and crossed it about a mile below, and then came up the river again. It was a fine flank movement which completely routed the enemy for the time being. As later on in the day we encountered him at Malinta hill. They were in an old stone wall which was on a high hill, They opened up on us before we were aware of their whereabouts, We could not dislodge them so it became necessary for a charge which Co K and A gave them, they held their ground well untill we ran almost over them, when they broke and ran up the R.R. toward Polo leaving about 250 dead upon the field. We lost our gallant Colonel [Harry C.] Egbert at this fight

27th Have driven the insurgents steadily forward almost to their Cap.[ital] which we expect to enter soon. Have had lots of hardship etc and I have come to the conclusion that Gen [William Tecumseh] Sherman was right when he said "War is hell."^s

29th Mololos has fallen. We entered the place with but slight resistance. the rebels went out as we came in. and by the looks of things they went in a hurry. They set fire to the place before they left though. We came near capturing the train that was bearing Agunaldo [Aguinaldo] out.

Apl 1st—Returned to Manila by rail as the Engineer Corp had repaired the road as we had advanced. The regiments that had participated in the campaign of Mololos were the 22nd U.S. Infty, 3rd U.S. Infty. 3rd U.S. Art, 4 troops 4th U.S. Cav. 1st Nebr. Vols., 20th Kan. Vols. Montana Vols, 2nd Oregon Vols, and the 10th Penn. Vols, and Utah Battery

Apl 5th Today we went out to Pasay trenches to relieve the 14th Infty which is going up on the Laguna de Bay (lake) to take a rebel stronghold Santa Cruz.

19th Return to Manila after 14 days of vigilance—We were attacked most ever night by the rebs We are under

^s General William Tecumseh Sherman is reputed to have made this famous remark in an address to the graduating class at the Michigan Military Academy, June 19, 1879.

orders to prepare for a long Campaign through the center of Luzon.

21st—We left Manila (for good) with a force comprising the 22 Infty, 3rd U.S. Infty. 4th U.S. Cav. 1st Oregon Vol. 2nd Ore. Vol., 13th Minn. Vol. 1st N. Da. Vol. part of the 6th U.S. Art. and two Bats of Utahs, Maj. Gen [Henry Ware] Lawton is in command of the expedition

22nd We had an engagement at Novelitche [Novaliches] 15 miles Northeast of Manila.

28.th—After hard marching we arrived at Angot [Angat] about 40 miles from Manila. We are without rations and it is raining most all the time. I am in charge of the kitchen such as it is We have one Boiler and two kettles and a large pan— the rest has been lost. A native guide lost us on purpose yesterday, but he lost his life for it. Foraging is in order now too, but the country has been pretty well cleaned by the insurgents.

May 4. An amnesty has been declared so we are still waiting for the result while the “rebs” are building more trenches

5th The treaty is off and today we advanced toward Bustos a stronghold of insurrectos Will take it tomorrow perhaps with a sharp “scrap.”⁹

6th Bustos is taken after a hard fight, the day was so hot and sultry that several men were exhausted and are in a pitiful condition.

7th We crossed the Ipo River today and entered Baliway [Baliuag] with but slight resistance We found lots of fine *old* wine at this place.

15th After a weeks good rest and with full supplies we left Baliway today and struck out farther into the wilds. Most all the villages are deserted a sure sign of the enemy

16. We passed through the city of San Miguel de Mayuma [Mayumo] today, the Division Scouts took the town which shows that the enemy is somewhat demoralized

San Miguel is a beautiful town at the base of a mountain range

⁹ No information has been found concerning an amnesty during the insurrection.

17th We pressed rapidly onward in the hopes of reaching San Isidro in time to rescue about 20 Americans among them is Lieut. [J. C.] Gilmore off the "Yorktown", but we were too late for the insurgents had moved them and barely stopped long enough to fight. This (San Isidro) has been the Capitol since Malolos fell, I wonder where they moved it to this time, We are about 100 miles from Manila now.

19th Still we advance; leaving San Isidro we had but gone about 5 miles untill we ran into an ambushade

They (rebels) killed 7 of our men before they ran away but leaving a few dead themselves. We made Cabio [Cabiao] tonight we are traveling westward now toward the railroad where Gen. [Arthur] Macarthur is operating.¹⁰ The object of our expedition is to keep the insurgents from retreating east to the mts. While Mearthur is pounding them along the R.R.

20th. Are in Arayat tonight here we met the 9th and 17th Inftry who have not been on the islands long

We are in the Pampanga Province now which is not so hostile.

21.st Still marching down the Rio Grande [de la Pampanga] river. we arrive at the town of Candaba of perhaps 20,000 inhabitants

The main town is on the opposite side of the river

27th Hdqrs Co K. F. I and G. "A" and "E" are assigned to garrison Candaba, so here ends our long campaign in which we had so many hardships to endure such as hunger, exposure to the elements and fatigue

We traversed over 200 miles in 36 days through an unknown and hostile country, part of the time flooded, crossing swollen rivers etc. We were not allowed to sleep in the deserted houses at night for fear of disease

June 1st The people are coming back rapidly to their homes they had left, upon the approach of the Americanos and are surprised to find us like ordinary human beings, they were told by the rebels that we were horrible look-

¹⁰ Brigadeer General Arthur MacArthur served as military governor of the Philippines, 1900-1901. He was the father of General Douglas MacArthur.

ing *things*, that we ravished the women, killed the children and put to death all the men. and that we lived upon dead Filipinos

July 4 Everthing is peaceful here. we have nothing but garrison duty. The natives are very friendly and delight in comparing us with the hated Spaniard that treated them so cruelly. It is very disagreeable at this time on account of the excessive rainfall, It rains all the time and has been for a month, all the country is a lake, the streets are knee deep in mud, no sidewalks, Everthing goes to make one sigh for the U.S. We had a kind of a celebration today but it was rather slim.¹¹

10th Last night I was in command of outpost #15 along the river and was attacked just at taps (9). There were only four of us but we gave them magazine fire untill assistance arrived. Nobody was hurt, we learned this morning that we hit a few of the foe.

We learn that Arayat and San Isidro are full of "Gugus",¹² We captured those towns in May but did not garrison them

12 The same routine of duty, Pvt. Hauck [U. I.] died in Manila of Dysentary

20.th I resigned today—Slight difficulty the cause. Four Corporals resigned together [Warren S.] Day, [William H.] Thomas, [William R.] Johnson and [Clemens] Newbaner.¹³

30.th No excitement, regular duty rather monotonous. We envy the Volunteers as they are all going home.

Sept 20 Today we reconitered in the direction of Santa Ana It was reported that a band of rebels were there, but after wading four miles through water up to our armpits, we found it was all a fake.

¹¹ For a description of various Fourth of July celebrations by Americans in foreign countries, see Robert Pettus Hay, "Thank God We Are Americans': Yankees Abroad On The Fourth of July," *Indiana Magazine of History*, LXIII (June, 1967), 115-23.

¹² "Gugus" is a slang term meaning a Filipino soldier or insurrector.

¹³ Despite references to this incident in the diary, here and on p. 283, further details concerning Johnson's resignation of his rank have not been found.

Oct 5 It has ceased raining, and today we managed to get up the river about 5 miles and drive out a gang of rebels that were in an old sugar mill. Had quite an engagement for a few minutes. The river gunboats "Florida" and Oeste did some great bombarding with their one-inch and rapid fire guns. One man of "F" Co. was slightly wounded in the arm.

Oct 12. Today Co's "F," "A," "I," and "K," left station in full marching order, and proceeded up the river to join Gen. [Samuel Baldwin M.] Young's Brigade, and assist in the attack upon Arayat

We arrived there at 11 A.M. but we were too late as the town had been taken at 10 A.M. by the 24th Infty (colored)

Troops are congregating here, so I guess there is another vigorous campaign on foot.

Oct 15 We were "bombarded" last night by the rebels with an old smooth-bore cannon. They fired 11 shots with it, without effect.

Today a troop of the 4th Cav. went out and captured it.

17th At 5 P.M. we left Arayat accompanied by the 3rd and 4th U.S. Cavalry, the 24th Infty, and about 200 Macabees [Macabebes]¹⁴

Went into camp at dusk I know we are into it again

18th We broke camp at daylight and advanced toward Cabias with the Macabees ahead who engaged the enemy about a mile from Cabias, but the rebels were soon on the "hike" leaving about 20 dead, besides we captured several officers and 25 "bucks"

Oct 19 Today has been the hardest and most trying day I have ever experienced shortly after we left Cabias, we encountered the enemy, and from there until we reached San Isidro, It was a running fight all the way

¹⁴ The Macabees (or Makabees) were a tribe of natives in Pampanga Province who had been loyal to the Spanish and who later allied themselves with the Americans during the insurrection. See James Le Roy, *The Americans in the Philippines* (2 vols., Boston and N.Y., 1914), I, 95, 200; II, 123.

the niggers were firing from houses, treetops and in fact from everywhere.¹⁵

We done the same thing and of course we kept them going, but it was hard work "K," Co. lost 1 man killed and 1 man wounded. Cpl. [Ephraim S.] Yoder was killed by a misplaced shell from one of our mountain guns.

This is the town we took last May but did not garrison. Gen Lawton is in command of the expedition now. He is alright especially for the 22nd.

Oct 27 After waiting several days for rations etc, to come up, the entire command left San Isidro this morning and started northward.

About 6 miles marching from Isidro we found the rebels again, this time they were entrenched across a small stream, which kept us from giving them a charge. "K" Co, under [John Watts] Hannay, creeped up as close as we could get in the high grass, and succeeded in surprising them, After about 1 hrs hard fighting they left their trenches running for their lives.

We went into Santa Rosa about an hours afterward.

This days fight cost K. Co the life of Pvt. [Axwell B.] Stone, and the wounding of Corpl [Charles F.] Sparger, from which he probably will not recover. The rest of the outfit did not have a man hurt.

Oct 30. We left Santa Rosa today Was advance guard again the same as usual. the Cav. always takes the rear Arrived at Cabanatuan about 10 A.M. without resistance. This is the place where Gen [Antonio] Luna was stabbed by Aguinaldo a few months ago.¹⁶

Nov 2. Today the scouts captured a powder mill and arsenal It was a rude affair. We are waiting here on account

¹⁵ Some of the native tribes encountered by American forces were very dark skinned but it is unlikely that they were actually Negroes.

¹⁶ General Antonio Luna, leading military strategist in the early stages of the revolution, was Aguinaldo's secretary of war at the time of his death. His sharp temper and violent nature earned him many enemies among the other revolutionary leaders. Although his death is still a controversial matter in Philippine history, it is known that Aguinaldo received a telegram at Cabanatuan from Luna on June 3, requesting an interview but he left the next day for San Isidro without replying. When Luna arrived, he was stabbed and then shot by Aguinaldo's guards. For further details see Gregorio F. Zaide, *The Philippine Revolution* (Manila, 1954), 320-21.

of the heavy rains, which have made the country impassable.

Nov 5 Several men have been drowned at the river, in building a ferry for the expedition to cross on. They have it almost completed.

Nov. 8 Left Cabanatuan today after dinner. We had hard work getting across the river which is still high. Lt Hannay is left behind to operate ferry. Sgt. [Robert] Maney is in command of Company. We reached the small town of Talavera at sundown. The Cavalry had taken it, as they are ahead, We are "hiking" the legs off us, try to keep up.

10 Today we lost the trail and now are off our course at a place called Noonah [U. I.], Have been traveling for two days through long high grass, It is very sloppy too, The mts are not so very far away as we can see them plainly, We know by that, that we are getting pretty far north.

Nov. 11. Today we reached San Jose (Hoza) after considerable work in finding our right road. Our Battalion is all alone now. As the Cavalry, under Gen Young is far ahead, and pressing Aggie [Aguinaldo] hard.

13th After two days marching we have reached Humingan [Humigan], are out of rations, so we have to live off the country.

15th The rest of the Batt. has gone ahead toward Rosales to "head off" Aggie "K." Co is here alone waiting for Lt. Hannay and the supple train to come up.

We are on the lookout for the insurgents as they are surrounded and no doubt desparate If they strike us it may go hard with us too.

We are about starved as there is nothing to eat but rice and "de mulog" no hard tack or coffee Havent even salt.¹⁷

18. Today Lt Hannay came up with the bull-train with plenty of rations and tobacco. What a treat:

¹⁷ "De mulog" is probably mule meat.

- 19th. We left today going toward Rosales arriving there at dark. The 34th Vols are here, but our outfit has gone ahead.
- 20 We crossed the Big Agno river with the train and started on in the hopes of catching the Battalion, K. Co. bull-train and all are liable to get captured. I hope not
 After traveling all day we arrived at Urdnenata [Urdaneta] with out seeing the Batt, but the natives said they had passed through there two days before. going toward Binalonan
- 21st We pulled out at daybreak and had gone probably 6 miles when we met Maj [John Green] Ballance and the Battalion. They were out of rations too and had come back to look for us. They were under orders also to go back to Urdeneta and then go westward and try to find the R.R. and join Macarthur.
- 22d We found the country, off the road, so flooded that we had to abandon that idea of getting to the R.R. and again proceeded toward the north coast our original destination
- 23.rd Arrived in Binolonan today after a *forced* march F. Co. has the train now. We hear that Gen Young has played havoc with Guinaldo and his contingent
 Several men have broke down and are unable to go any farther. I am allright yet. We are only 20 miles from the coast.
24. Arrived at San Jacinto today. Seen 300 dead niggers that Gen Wheaton had killed We Met the 33rd Vols. here They had the nerve to ask us when we landed etc. They have only been on the island two weeks Aguin- aldo's Mother, Wife, and Child are here, they were captured close by.¹⁸
- 25 Leaving San Jacinto we proceed toward the coast town of San Fabian, we seen the smoke of the transports long before we arrived there—We reached San Fabian about 12 oclock and the first thing we done was to take a bath in the surf of the China Sea.

¹⁸ Aguinaldo himself was not captured until March 23, 1901, when he was taken by General Frederick Funston at Cabanatuan.

We are a ragged lot of men, no shoes Well we are completely on the bum. Lots of sickness from fever.

Nov 31. [30] Today is Thanksgiving We had hard tack and boiled beans for dinner, 3 men have died in the hospital and all the Co. is more or less sick. Not a hell of a lot to be thankful for.

Dec 3. Those that could walk started for Dagupan. 8 miles down the coast, and the terminal of the R.R.

Those that could not walk were hauled in ambulances and bull carts It was a sorrowful looking outfit but as the ladies say, heros

Dec 4. We reached Dagupan last night. I had a slight attack of fever but am alright today. This morning we got on the train (flat cars) that had been collected out of the differents wrecks, and started down the railway toward Manila 165 miles away. Had to walk 5 miles from Byombang [Bayambang] to Tarloe [Tarlac]. over a washout. Will stay in Tarloe tonight

Dec 5 Today is my 19th birthday, Have only made a few miles today as the track is torn up, so we have to walk. I believe today is the hottest I have ever seen

Dec 6th A fine train met us at Mabalacat and took us to San Fernando Here we received orders to return overland to Candaba, old Candaba—We are rather disappointed for we were in hopes we would go to Manila and have a good rest.

The company left this afternoon for Candaba, I am left at San Fernando. Have a sore foot and can hardly walk.

Dec 15 I joined my company today, so here ends the hardest campaign that ever has been made upon the island, having been out 60 days and marched about 360 miles.

During that time, we were on half ration several times and for 4 days did not have any. Excessive rain to contend with and terrific heat.

The Co. lost 13 men killed and died. About half of the Co. is in the hospitals.

The people of Candaba are very glad to have us back with them, they gave us a grand welcome in their own "bloomin" way of course.

Dec 25 This is Christmas, but it does not seem like Xmas at all. I guess it is because the snow and cold is lacking. We had a pretty fair dinner of Roast Beef (Australian) Baked Chicken, Cabbage, Tomatoes, Corn, Peas[,] Cranberry Sause, Pies and Cake, and washed it all down with two barrells of Schlitz's beer. Everbody is getting rested now, and the company is looking more like it did before the Great Northern Campaign

1900

Feb 19. Last night 50 men of the company including myself, got up and left the town silently and went to a town, about 11 miles east called Mondeli [Mandili], We reached there about four oclock in the morning and surrounded the place capturing 50 insurgents and two American horses, We wounded two of the rebels but there were few shots fires as they were surprised and surrounded, and knew if they made any resistance we would kill them all.

Feb 26, Last night the Co. made a secret night march southward to several small towns but did not find any "gugus".

Mch 4. Today we have been upon the island one Year.

Apl 10. My comrade Paul Fox [U. I.] was drowned in the river last night It seems strange that he should drown for he was the most expert swimmer in the company We are doing ordinary garrison duty and taking things easy

May 20 I have returned from Manila on pass, I had a glorious time and did in fact recuperate

Manila is quite Americanized now—I purchased some flowers to decorate Fox's grave

May 30 This is Memorial day— During the afternoon the town caught fire, the wind was rather strong therefore the eastern part of the town is in ruins and about \$20,000 worth of property has been destroyed

The houses of the natives are so dry, and built of bamboo, grass and palmleaves, that they catch fire easily. One house (common) is valued at about \$10.00

Three drunken soldiers of "M" Co. are said to have set the first house on fire, because the occupants refused to give them "beno" [a type of wine] the native drink

June 8 Company went to Arayat today to relieve Co "E" which is going to the mountains with Gen. [Frederick] Funston, they probably will be gone several days

14th Returned to Candaba today through a blinding rain-storm which is very likely to be the beginning of the rainy season— Had a good time at Arayat, It broke the monotony at least.

July 4th This is our second Fourth in the Philippines but as there are only two companies here now, everthing is about quiet as usual.

July 20 I was appointed corp'l again, just a year since I resigned—I have been clerking in the office but now I expect I will do straight duty

Aug 8. A party of 25 including myself embarked last night in small boats, with native boatmen and paddled across country to Mondeli, We did not wear shoes—When we arrived there the party divided and scoured the country in different directions 1st Sergt. Maney, Pots [Albert C. Potter], [Gillis] Green, [Joseph Kolal] Kalal and [Lindon] Herberg came across some of the insurgents, and had to retreat to us, they barely escaped capture.

Sept 5th The rainy season is on now in full blast.

Last night a typhoon struck the town, and the wind blew so hard that all our quarters were blown down—We had time to get out of them, but all our clothes were damaged by the rain and mud.

We took refuge in the convent untill morning, when we moved our property to the convent in with "M." Co.

The country is nothing but a huge lake, We go through the streets in boats and on rafts.

Sept 12 Three days ago "M" and "K" Co were relieved by "B" Co 41st Vols. We went to San Miguel in cascos across the country, S. M. is about 14 miles southeast, We came back to Candaba today.

It was a hard trip as we were so cramped in the cascos (barges)

We had natives to pole us over the water.

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 them, but all our
 clothes were damaged
 by the rain and mud.
 We took refuge in
 the Convent building.

Sept 25—"M" Co. has left Candaba leaving us all alone.

I would not be surprised if we moved up the river farther very soon.

Oct 4. After being here in Candaba for over one year and a half, we have been ordered to move up in the province of Nueva Excija [Ecija].

We are all sorry to leave, and the people are trying their best to get the order revoked.

The Alcalde [mayor] has wired Gen. Macarthur

5th We left old Candaba this morning for the last time. We arrived at Arayat about noon, and were paid soon after Everbody is pretty well tooted up.

Oct 6. Arrived at Cabias today Will stop here over night with "H" Co. Everbody is still tanked.

Oct 7. Arrived at San Isidro about noon, and were assigned to the post of Jaen, two miles north.

We stopped in San I. for a couple of hours.

Here I met James Willis from Franklin

He inlisted in June and is in Co B, 22 Inf.

He is the first man I have seen from Johnson Co.¹⁹

13th We are doing scouting duty—no guard "A" Co. does that—The roads are still knee deep with mud. Last night the Co. went out and re-captured two men of the 24th Inf. that had been held prisoners for a long while

We marched all night in mud and water above our knees. In the little scrap that followed one of the American Negros were killed, the other we brought in, along with a few rifles.

27. A detachment of Co K captured 27 rifles last night—considerable ammuration was also found.

Nov 1. More scouting for the deserter and traitor Fagan [U. I.], I think he has left this parts, for we are making things very uncomfortable for the rebels in this vicinity. But it takes lots of hard "hiking" to keep them scattered.

Nov. 23 I went to Manila on pass, Had a fine time. Manila is still the same old place.

¹⁹ No specific biographical information about Willis has come to light.

I returned the 27 in time for a good Thanksgiving dinner.²⁰

Dec 5 This is my 20th Birthday and a big celebration—a *dark* brown taste in the morning. I am in my last year of Service now.

25. Christmas again, I rec'd a few presents, but did not send any as they probably would never reach Manila, let alone the United States

Had an excellent Xmas dinner.

1901

Jany 1st Last night as the Old Year went out and the New came in, I was out with a detachment of 25 searching for a noted outlaw and Lt. Col. of the guerillas. Part of us were dressed in Filipino clothes, We searched all the houses between Jaen and San Antonio, but failed to get him.

Several recruits have just joined the Co.

I feel for them if they have to stay here three years.

5th Our new Captian has taken command of the company. He has just arrived from the U.S.

Lt. Hannay, who has been in command of "K" troop for about 18 months, has taken command of the river Gunboat "Napindan"—We are sorry to see him go.

19. 50 men of Co. left station today and went to the mountains—I suppose it is purely a scouting expedition.

22 The town of Jaen was threatened today by the gugus. they swore they would burn it down, I guess it was another big bluff.

29 The 50 men returned today—they look as if they had had a hard time of it and I think they did by what they say. Gen Funston "buscowed" [searched] the mts. but did not find but few insurrectos.

Feby 8— The Company moved from Jaen to Gapan Nueva Ecija. We are much pleased as it is a much better location

²⁰ This entry obviously was not written on the date given for it. No other definite instance of this practice has been found, however.

- 10th Are nicely located in the convent at Gapan Everything is mucha beuno" [very good]
- 12 Today I turned over to the Military Prison nine native prisoners
Was in charge of one escort wagon and 15 men—
Coming back we had a fine time—
- 20 The company has received 20 American horses for scouting purposes. I am detailed as a Scout. Sergt [William H.] Thomas is in charge
- 23 Today myself and 5 men rode about two miles and arrested 12 hombres [men] for running a "whitting" game.²¹
- 25 Last night the scouts were up the entire night, We made two trips to the barrio²² of San Lazaro, midway between Gapan and Panaranda [Pañaranda]. We searched all the shacks but did not find any thing
- 26 We are orgainzing [*sic*] the Good Time Club I suppose there will be about 50 members
- 28 Today is Muster and Monthly inspection I wish it was over with There is plenty of "trabajor" [work] about this scouting business.
- March 1st Myself and five men, Pvts [Kelly] Lawson, [Robert J.] Reed, [Thomas F.] Wirth, [Grant] Hokomb and Potter captured one insurgent officer and one pvt. also 3 rifles and some ammuation. We had Jose, a native guide with us.
- 2nd Was out today with 14 native prisoners cutting "nipa" to cover the stable.
- 5th I and 5 men escorted the Captian to San Isidro last night— He came home with his usual jag on.
- 7 All the M. D's. were out last night searching of Jose, he robbed Lieut [David Porter] Wheeler at Jaen and was supposed to be trying to connect with "Gen" [Urbano] Lacuna, we did not catch him.²³

²¹ A "Whitting game" and "3 and a butte" (mentioned on p. 290) are probably gambling games.

²² A barrio is the smallest unit of population center in the Philippines. It is usually an agricultural village or mining community.

²³ General Lacuna was a member of Aguinaldo's forces.

- 10th I have been "under the weather" for the last three days but am feeling better at the present writing.
- 17 I was over to Manieling [Manichin] to day with 6 men to escort a pack-train down to San Isidro.
- 21 The entire Mounted Detachment was called out today to escort two ambulances to a place in the mts which were to convey 13 wounded men down to a dressing station. From all appearances the Maccabebens received a severe drubbing at the hands of Gen Lacuna's outfit.
- 24 Myself and 6 men were up the entire night, patrolling the town as it was reported to the C.O. that an attack would be made. But—"no got"
- 27 Pay day.—I escorted the paymaster to Panaranda and return trip.
- 29 A few scattering shots were fired into the Capt's qr's last night that meant hike out and "buscow."
- 31st The Cap't did not feel disposed to inspect the company today, it being the regular monthly inspection.
- April 7th Today is Easter but it was spent far differant that [*sic*] those are in the U.S.
- 9th Myself and 9 men were ordered to Cabiao today to escort Gen. Funston and wife into San Isidro his Hdqr's. He is looking well after his grand-stand play of capturing "Aggie"
- My horse threw me twice yesterday and the result is that I am some what stiff and sore today—I have not had such a hard fall in a long while.
- 16 Today 15 men of the Mtd. [Mounted] Detach escorted a Capt. Doctor over to San Miguel de Mayuma. distance 15 miles.
- It was a pleasant trip because it took us over some places that we had fought on over two years ago.
20. Today I took a Rebel Lieut down to San Isidro to be tried Returned at 3:00 P.M. today
- May 19 Today was pay day and "Gen." Lacuna surrendered here today with 200 soldiers and arms this ends all armed resistance in Northern Luzon—They all took the oath and were given their liberty.

May 30 Memorial Day—but it does not seem like it.

June 3— The entire Detach. left on a two days scouting trip—A band of thieves (ladrones) are reported to be operating in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, Manicling, and Peneranda.

7— The entire Detachment was called out quickly last night. We went to Papia [Papaya] in hopes of capturing Fagan the negro traitor, deserter and renegade.

We were accompanied by 12 of Lacunas ex-soldiers— We were in the saddle the entire night and when we arrived at Papia we found the [that] Fagan had left early in the evening for the mountains.

Seguro poco tiempo [for sure in a short time]

12th— The rainy season seems to be fairly started, as it has been raining steadily for several days.

All the rivers are rapidly rising and the rice fields are becoming flooded.

25 I was promoted to a Sergeant today.

26 Sergt. Thomas was relieved today, and I was placed in command of the Mounted Scouts.

30. Today was muster.

July 1st Signed the Pay-rolls today. Will be paid soon.

4th Today was the 3rd Fourth of July I have spent in the Phil. Isles. and in some respects it was the dullest of them all.

6th It is still raining very heavily but this “pueblo esse muy bueno, para mucha yubia” [this town is very good; it gets alot of rain]

8th I took two disabled and worn out horses to San Isidro today and exchanged them for two others in much better condition

It was rumored there that the 22nd was to return soon to the U.S.

11th Private [William S.] Sparks and myself rode out on the San Miguel trail to the Eg'n. [Engineers] Camp— They are constructing a bridge across a stream—An American bridge is a new item of civilization to the natives—We also took out some mail for them.

- 19 I was sent to the Hospital today to be treated for a slight attack of fever etc.
- 21 Am improving and getting along nicely.
- 25 Returned for duty today—We were also paid for the months May & June.
- 27 Prisoners Reynolds and Randell [U. I.] deserted last night, breaking out of the guard-house.
28. The above men were apprehended at San Miguel today.
- 30 Myself and four men are ordered to proceed to San M.[iguel] tomorrow and bring back Randell and Reynolds.
- Aug 1st We returned from San Miguel today with the prisoners. It was an awefull trip as it was so muddy.
Several times our horses floundered and barely escaped miring
I hope we will not have another hike like that one.
- 4th, "3 and a butte" but I wish the time would pass more rapidly.
- 12 I killed one of our horses today that had been condemned for glanders.²⁴ It was an aweful job as I had to shoot him 8 times before he fell.
17. Private [Carney C.] Ryker gave an oyster supper in honor of his 31st birthday. At night I gave a dance. Everthing went along smoothly untill about 2 A.M. when we had a bit of a row but I soon quieted things down.
- 20th I was admitted to the Hospital again today Diarrhoea but not alarming
- 22 Am much better today
- 25 The company has (after 2½ years service on the line) rec'd orders to pack up and proceed to Manila to do garrison duty there. Everone seems to be pleased as it is only the beginning of the end as we will no doubt be ordered to the United States soon.
26. The Co. marched to Cabio today; the sick (including myself and by the way the first ambulance ride for me)

²⁴ Glanders is a highly contagious disease affecting the glands of horses and mules.

were transported in an ambulance. Will embark on cascos tomorrow morning.

- 27 We left Cabio this morning at 8:00 A.M. on the Gunboat "Charleston" arriving at Calumpit at 4 P.M. after an uneventful but pleasant ride down the picturesque river Rio Grande la Pampanga

About mid-day we passed Candaba our old stamping ground

- 28 I slept last night on board the Charleston and at 8 A.M. a special train was in waiting which [*sic*] conveyed the Battalion to Manila arriving there about noon. We immediately marched through the city to the superb Malate going into barracks, which are built on the beach of Manila Bay

- 29 This morning I attended sick call at the Engineers qr.'s across the street and was sent to the 1st Reserve Hospital in an ambulance. I am informed that I am going out to Corregidor Island.²⁵

30. Yes I am booked for Corregidor, I left the 1st Res. at 7 A.M. and was taken to the Capt's of the Ports office and placed aboard of the U. S. Launch "New Orleans"

Pvts [James H.] Hanks and [John B.] Showen Co K 22 Inf are also going along We left the docks at 8 A.M. and steamed down the Pasig River out into the Bay to Corregidor at the entrance of the bay. arriving there at 11:30 A.M. On the boat I met a Johnson Co. man Dr. Phipps. He is connected with the Y.M.C.A. of Manila.²⁶

The Bay was in a good humor so to speak so we had a pleasant voyage

Hanks and myself we[re] assigned to "A" Building while Showen was sent to "C" Building

²⁵ Corregidor is an island fortress at the entrance to Manila Bay. During World War II it was the last Allied stronghold in the Philippines to fall to the Japanese.

²⁶ Dr. John M. Phipps, born near Bedford, Indiana, in 1865, was both a medical doctor and an ordained minister of the Baptist church. During the Spanish-American War he served as Y.M.C.A. secretary and volunteer chaplain both on board the U.S. transport *Meade* and in the Philippines. He died in 1935. Franklin *Evening Star*, April 12, 1935.

31 I took a walk up to the Light-House which is situated upon the highest part of the island. The view from this point is elegant Manila can be seen across the bay to the east Caviti [Cavite] (Aguinaldo's home and the scene of Dewey's victory to the south—to the north Bataan Province is seen and looking westward nothing can be seen but the mighty Pacific

Corregidor is a pretty little island at the entrance of the bay. From it all the ships that pass in or out can be seen.

The Government has a magnificent convalescent Hosp. Am feeling much better already and on the good wholesome chow I will soon be myself again

Sept 13 I was marked duty today and left Corregidor on the Launch "Guy Howard" arriving at Manila about sundown. and reporting to my Co. immediately afterward.

14 The news of the President's death came to the people like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky—²⁷

It was though[t] that he would recover. The city is in deep mourning and Filipinos, Spaniards Germans and English alike share with the Americans in their grief.

15 I done my first Guard for 8 mo, today at "Aguinaldos house. He is securely guarded with no possible chance of escape

19 Very impressive Memorial ceremonies were held today on the Luneta in honor of our noble Chieftan.

All the troops in Manila participated in the event.

I was on guard at Camp Wallace just east of the Luneta.

26 Twenty seven (27) members of Co. K. were transferred to the Artillery today and will sail for the U.S. Monday.

Was detailed on S. D. today as Co. Clerk.

30 The company moved from Malati Barracks to Cuartel di Mesie [de Masig] today in Tondo district

Oct 1 We are settled down in our new qrs. Am very much pleased with the surroundings

²⁷ President William McKinley was shot by an anarchist on September 6, 1901. He died eight days later.

Oct 7. I was appointed Quartermaster Serg't today being relieved as Co. Clerk by Cpl [Ira M.] Roberts. Am kept rather busy chasing around looking after the rations, kitchen etc.

Oct 28— The Comd'g. Officer of Manila reviewed the entire garrison today after a practice march of 10 miles which was done I believe partly to awe and impress the natives of the power and strength of the U. S. Army, which is very opportune at this times as the people in general are very restless and sullen since the disaster on Samar, and dark rumors and forebodings of another outbreak and rebellion are to be heard on every corner.²⁸

Oct 3rd²⁹ The beginning of the end is in sight, as I have been ordered to turn in all of my equipments and report to Camp Wallace for transportation to the United States of America

Will probably leave the Co. Wednesday or Thursday—never to return. Alac no mas pero y.

Oct 6 Have lost sight of the end entirely as I was greatly disappointed in not getting away

All the transports seem to be under a spell of some kind. Will not start home untill discharged

Nov 1. Still at Cuartel de Meisic Dull

" 16. Am playing Nick Carter in recovering stolen revolvers.³⁰ Success.

" 21. Witness against Randall and Reynolds and am "buscowing" Thanksgiving dinner. Mucha colar [very hot]

Nov. 28th This is my third Thanksgiving Day I have passed in the Phil. Isles and the last one. I imagine the conditions are in great contrast to that at home.

Had a fine dinner today composed of the following articles.

²⁸ On September 28, 1901, in the town of Balangiga, the island of Samar, Company C, 9th Infantry, was attacked by a mob which killed some seventy of the men and officers. See Joseph L. Schott, *The Ordeal of Samar* (Indianapolis and New York, 1964).

²⁹ Although this entry and the one which follows appear to be out of sequence or misdated, they have not been moved because they do make sense in this, the original order.

³⁰ Nick Carter was a popular fictional detective in dime novels of the 1880's.

Roast Chicken.
 Oyster Dressing Gravy a la Army.
 Green Peas
 Green Corn.
 Cold Slaw.
 Mashed Spuds
 Pickles.
 Pumpkin Pie.
 Cake a la Army
 Butter and Bread
 Coffee Tea
 Cranberry Sauce and several other articles too numerous to mention.

Dec 3rd In view of the fact that I will be discharged [from] the service tomorrow I turned over the mess and all property etc pertaining to Co. K. to my successor Corpl. [Lee O'Hara] O'Harra.

Dec 4th All things come to an end some day, so today I have honorably completed my three year enlistment in the U. S. Army, and in such a manner that in years to come I can point with pride to the services I rendered to my country, upholding and fighting for the honor of Old Glory.

Today is probably an important event in my career. (Who can say.

Dec 6. Am well situated in Camp Wallace, as comfortable as circum[s]tances will permitt

Have cashed all my finals and all is ready to go on board the ship that is to carry me back [to] the United States

The camp is very dissagreeable at present owing to the recent heavy rains and typhoons that have been raging for the last few days.

Dec 9. Was up to Cuartel Meisic this morning, and bid all my old comrades that are left, a last "adios" In one respect it is hard to leave the boys after fighting shoulder to shoulder, and enduring so many hardships to gether—of all the friendly ties there are none, like those that exist between soldiers who have drank from the same old canteen

78

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as circumstances will permit
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shoulder, and enduring

May God's richest blessing rest upon those brave and nobles defenders of our country

Dec 10. I shook the last dust of the Phillipines off my feet at 8 A.M. and stepped aboard the lorca #9 and was towed out to the United States Army Transport Kilpatrick which lies two miles out in the bay

It is an elegant and will no doubt land us safe and sound in San Francisco, U.S.A. The British Crusier "Endymoin" is lying at anchor about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away, This will be the last night in Manila Bay as we sail at 1 P.M. tomorrow. "Mañana"

Dec 11 At 12M the last mail came aboard and at 1:07 P.M. we weighed anchor and stood slowly out to sea passing out of the gates of Corregidor Island about 4 oclock into the open sea We passed the Hospital Ship "Relief" just off Corregidor and later hailed the "Grant" from San Francisco, Cal.

12 I had a fine nights rest but after coming on deck I became a trifle dizzy which soon passed away, but several are not so fortunate, as they are feeding the fishes frequently.

We are passing the Northern coast of Luzon which will be left far behind by morning

Towards evening the sea became very rough and the deck was swept by the seas several times. I for one got a good wetting.

13 No land in sight! Was sick as a horse all day especialy towards evening as the sea became very much rougher.

14 Sighted the Formosa group today This is the island that China & Japan had trouble over, a few years ago.³¹

15 Smooth sea and the weather is getting cooler 'tis hard too keep warm heretofore it has always been the question how to keep cool

17 We sighted the coast of Japan this morning and at 9:05 A.M. droped anchor in the snug harbor of Nagasaki. There is a Russian, a French, and a German warship in port also

³¹ This is a reference to the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95 in which the Japanese took possession of Formosa.

Myself and Sergt. Maj. Lyons 22nd Infty. went ashore about noon, and came back about midnight. Seen all the queer sights which were a change at least from Manila.

Japan is a great little nation.

- 18 Was ashore again about 3 hours. We are taking coal and provisions aboard to last to San Francisco Cal.
19. At 9:25 A.M. We left Nagasaki, Oahu, bound for San F. Passed the U. S. Cruiser "Brooklyn" as we left the harbor
I understand six men are left behind, The sea is pretty rough and I am going to turn in—Goodbye Japan.
20. No Japan this day we are far out into the mighty Pacific
- 23 Passed five Whales today. All were on the surface and spouting
25. Christmas, and the fourth one I have spent in foreign lands and in one respect this is the worst of all We are N. Latitude 38°26' and 135°56' Long.
Sea pleasant.

1902

January 9th Land at last, and thank God it is the coast of California

At 10:30 the Good old ship Kilpatrick entered the Golden Gate and dropped her anchor in Francisco Bay

After some delay with the quarantine officials we steamed across the bay to Angel Island where the soldiers disembarked

Later we came over to the docks and with a grip in each hand, stood once more upon my native land.

I thank Heaven for this privilege

- 10 Thomas, Lutz, Baily, Shack [U. I.], and myself "put up" at the Royal House, and to pass the time away, we all went to the theater last night.

This evening bought a ticket to Indianapolis over the Santa Fe R.R. at 8 this evening took the Ferry boat and went across the bay to Point Richmond and took the Overland Limited which left at 8:30 for Chicago. The "Warren" also came in today. Johnson H. B. [Handy B.]

Meyers G. E. [U. I.] and several more of the boys were on her.

11. Have been traveling all day through Southern California, Had dinner at Barstow, Cal, a branch of the Santa Fe goes from here to Los Angles Will probably cross over into Arizona this evening
12. This morning we passed into New Mexico at the Needles, Such a barren and waste land I never seen before
about 2 P.M. we passed through the Navajo Indian Res.
- 14 Arrived at Kansas City this morning but left immediately for Chicago which we hope to reach tonight
Am very tired and wished I were at home. Baily & Lutz left us here—
- 15 Reached Chicago last night at 9:30 P.M. and missed connection. so we had to stay over night at Chicago
This morning we left Chi- over the Big four R.R. Had dinner at La Fayette, Ind. And at 2:15 pulled into the Union Station at Indianapolis Ind.
Thomas, Johnson H. B. went over to the Sherman House Johnson left for Seymour this evening.
Thomas and I went up to the Progress bought a whole outfit, came back to the hotel, had bath, shave, etc and came forth different looking men from what we were.
Citizens clothing seemed awkward at first. Goodbye old uniform I put you away with reluctance and feel that I have always worn you with honor & dignity to myself—and credit to you and our country.
Once more farewell old blues.
Thomas and I went to the theater and seen a good play.
16. [Left] At 9 A.M. this morning and got on an electric car and reached home about 11:15
Home
Sweet
Home
Finis