

Kansas Memory



Homer M. Limbird collection

Section 17, Pages 481 - 510

These materials pertaining to Homer Martin Limbird's service in Company L, 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry, during the Philippine American War (1899-1902). The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Limbird to family members in Gardner, Kansas, between June 1898 and October 1899. He describes his experiences in camp in San Francisco and in engagements with insurgents in the Philippines. Two diaries also cover Limbird's experiences in the Philippines in 1899. In addition, the collection contains newspaper articles concurrent with the conflict and later articles pertaining to Limbird's service. Researchers are advised that some of the language in these materials may be considered offensive.

Date: February 12, 1898-October 13, 1964

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Jerusalem, Kansas
Nov, 28th, 1900.

Dearest Martha - As I do not know for sure whether I will be up to choir^{practice} or not, I will write you per agreement.

I will say "Put my name in the 'pot'", for, unless it rains awfully hard, I'll be out there on time, to-morrow evn.

Having heard from my friends yet, so if they come they'll have to entertain themselves.

Hope the cold is better -

As ever yours - Homer

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NORTHWESTERN YEAST CO.

NORTH ASHLAND AVE. BLOOMINGDALE AND NORTH MARSHFIELD AVE.

CHICAGO, ILL.



THE LARGEST, CLEANEST AND BEST EQUIPPED
YEAST FACTORY IN THE WORLD.

GENERAL OFFICES:
889 TO 899 N. ASHLAND AVE.

JULY 28TH, 1902.

MR. E. R. LIMBIRD,

LAWRENCE, KAN.

DEAR SIR:-

Replying to your recent letter in which you ask for permission to spend a day at your home should you not be there for Sunday, will say, that during the hot weather we do not like to give our men permission to stop their work, and unless it is necessary in your case, would prefer to have you continue with the work. Of course, if this matter of business is something you have to attend to, we can spare you for one day's time, and should you find it necessary to take this time off, when you are in that town, you can so notify us, telling us the exact time you stopped work and the time you took it up again. We always want to accomodate our men, if we can in matters of this kind, but as you know, we have shipments of stock on the road where they are liable to spoil in a great many instances. We like to have our men work the samples off as rapidly as they can and avoid all unnecessary delays.

Glad to know we are having good corn weather in Kansas and hope that the crops will be extremely heavy. With best of wishes, we are,

Yours truly,

Northwestern Yeast Co.,

Per W.O. Hill, Adv.Mgr.

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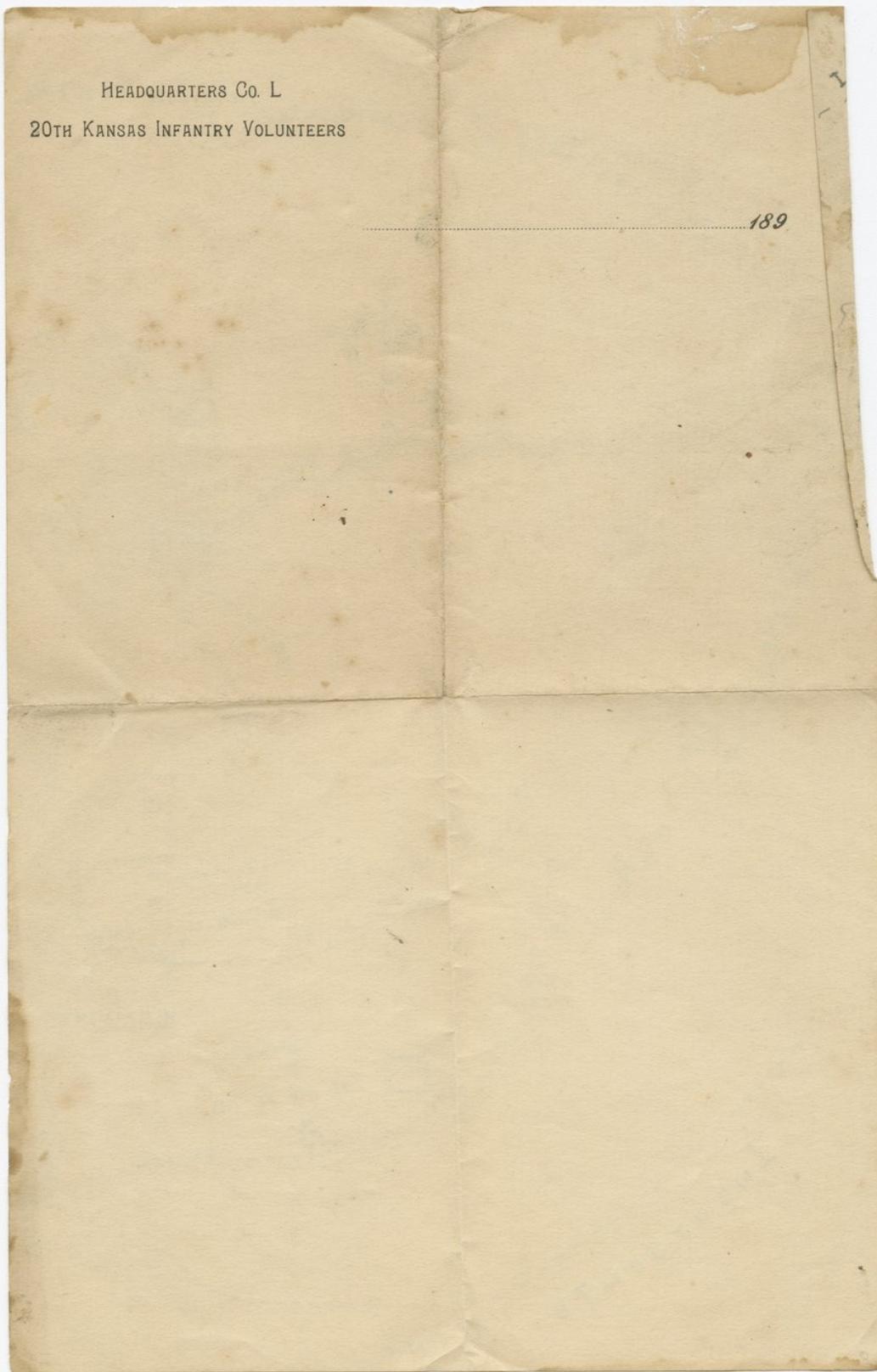


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The Sin of liquor selling - How end it.

We can hardly realize what a great sin it is to sell liquor. He who runs a saloon and deals out liquor is, in my imagination, the greatest sinner on earth. Just to think of the many each year who fall a drunkards grave and then think how quickly the rausos are filled, yes doubly filled. Oh the pain, remorse and suffering caused by a husband or father becoming a slave to the liquor habit.

I have heard that a great many liquor dealers of our large cities give liquor free to the small boys. When asked how he could afford to give so much liquor away - said - "Oh I will make that all back when they get older - yes a thousand fold."

A great many liquor loving parents send their children to get a bucket of beer - and it isn't any more than natural that these innocent children taste this beer just to find out how it tastes and thus lay the foundation of a drunkards career.

The saloons have free lunches, ice water

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ect. - laying a trap for the unsuspecting,
I have heard the argument that Kansas is
as bad to sell liquor and the people drink
as much as in a ~~free~~ licensed state.
Every sane person who has been out of Kansas
knows this to be untrue.

There is one thing - there is the open saloon
to tempt the otherwise sagacious or the boy.

One imagines to be a man he must drink.
To put down the saloon we Christian
people and opposed to liquor sellers must
keep our colors flying. All the reason that
some cities of Kansas have almost open saloons
is because the Christian people are either
too cowardly or weak to come right out
and stand for the right.

When we see the sin and so suffering
caused by liquor all around us. It
seems like we would be stronger
fight the fiend to the end.

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road the land was a regular swamp. The wagon road bridges and part of the railroad bridges are torn up. The bridge across the Boggy bridge, twelve miles back, hasn't been repaired yet and so all of our supplies has to be brought up, chiefly by bull cart. At one river we carried the goods across on the foot bridge and swam the bull - leading him with a long rope on the foot bridge. Then we got a little canoe, about two feet wide and fifteen long, and put our cart a straddle and floated it across - swimming alongside to guide it. The first day after we left Palampit we come through a country that was nothing but swamps and all the water was salty and the sun just boiling down.

Our contents were soon emptied and we couldn't get any more till 4 P. M. Oh how parched our throats were - and nothing to eat either till night. We draw travel rations in the field. These consist of - The famous "Embalmed" beef, beans, tomatoes

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hardtack and coffee. We get a two pound can of beef and a quart of beans or tomatoes for a meal - to a squad of eight men.

That don't seem like a very big meal does it?

Col. Frumston was wounded in the hand also the sergeant major - when we took Santo Tomas. He went to Manila but says "Boys I'll be with you in a few days." I don't feel just right unless he is along with us.

The talk is that we are going to establish general headquarters and have this for the base of supplies. - That we are going to take two small towns ten miles to our left and then we will stay here till the Regulars all arrive and we will be relieved.

I have heard so many reports that I can't believe any of them - In other words they have to cite me. It has been the report every since we left Malolos - The volunteers will take the next town and then they will be relieved. It has been talked about so

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He divided the money, or part of it, among the people who had been elected by the Tax collector. The trouble commenced again and was kept up, with intervals, till our Troops landed. In the year 1896, one Johnson, a Sgt. Major in the Hawaiian army and a well known friend of our 1st Sergeant Schule, who also served in the Hawaiian army, was discharged from the Hawaiian army and came to the Island of Luzon and enlisted with the rebels.

He was a smart man, a good tactic instructor and civil engineer. He soon rose to be a Colonel acting Adjutant General. He helped in all the campaigns against the Spanish with Aguinaldo and finally drew the Spanish into the walled city of Manila, just before the Americans came ashore. Here the insurgents introduced themselves all around the city. Aguinaldo was in Hong Kong, when Dewey sent his Marines ashore at Cavite, and Johnson was the interpreter for the insurgents. He introduced him self to the marines, showing the positions of his army and also the Spanish army. The Americans and the insurgents fought side by side against the Spanish. When the Spanish surrendered, Dewey gave Aguinaldo several thousand stand of arms and he drew back up in the country waiting till the Treaty of Peace should be signed between Spain and the U.S.

When trouble seemed likely to occur between America and the Filipinos, Johnson told Aguinaldo that should trouble occur, he wanted to resign because he wouldn't fight the Americans. About this time (November, 1898) Johnson had bargained with Japan to buy several thousand stand of arms. Dewey sent word to Aggie not to buy any more arms and he would like to have those he had all ready stationed in Cavite arsenal. Aggie didn't like to do this, but promised to keep them in Malabac heavily guarded. A certain fellow who had been living in Johnson overheard some conversation

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between Johnson and Aggie, which he thought was detrimental to the U.S. He threatened to tell Gen. Otis the whole thing unless Johnson should give him several thousand dollars. Johnson politely kicked the fellow down stairs and out of the hotel. The fellow told Otis the whole thing, but Johnson went to Otis explaining the whole thing and giving Otis his word & honor that he would pull off from Aggie should trouble commence. Soon after Aguinaldo declared himself president of the Islands and said he would fight any nation that disputed the fact. Johnson at once asked for his resignation which was granted by Aggie, saying that Johnson was a gentleman of honor and credit. He came to Otis to move his wife and Otis wanted to give him some good position, but he refused saying "I have been with these people several years and I can't fight them". He was given first class travel pay back to Honolulu - His request.

By

Sergt. Schule
Co. L 20th Inf.

P.S. I will send you a couple of papers and my diary up to the last of March. It may get lost but I'll risk it.

This story was told to me by my 1st Sergt and is true. It will give you a little

Idea of Aguinaldo
H.M.L.

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Commencing at the beginning of my ~~to~~
I will endeavor to note some things that
under my observations.

A week after arriving at San Fran-
cisco I quitted to my original compa-
ny and quitted to absent along late in the
evening. There was a crap game
going and several bottles of what
was then easily reached and the fellows "
grades to be" were apparently enjoying
the main ones in the game was our
non commissioned officer and several of
lower rank. Thus setting an example to the
men of the company. These games were
continuing sometimes nearly all night
long to those who had the most money.
Course the lights were kept burning and
it was very hard to get any sleep - ~~as~~ ^{the} ~~you~~
^{can} reported them, but the non commission
officers can ^{get} even with you in drill or any-
thing. I thought as I lay there trying to
get some sleep - A soldier has got to put

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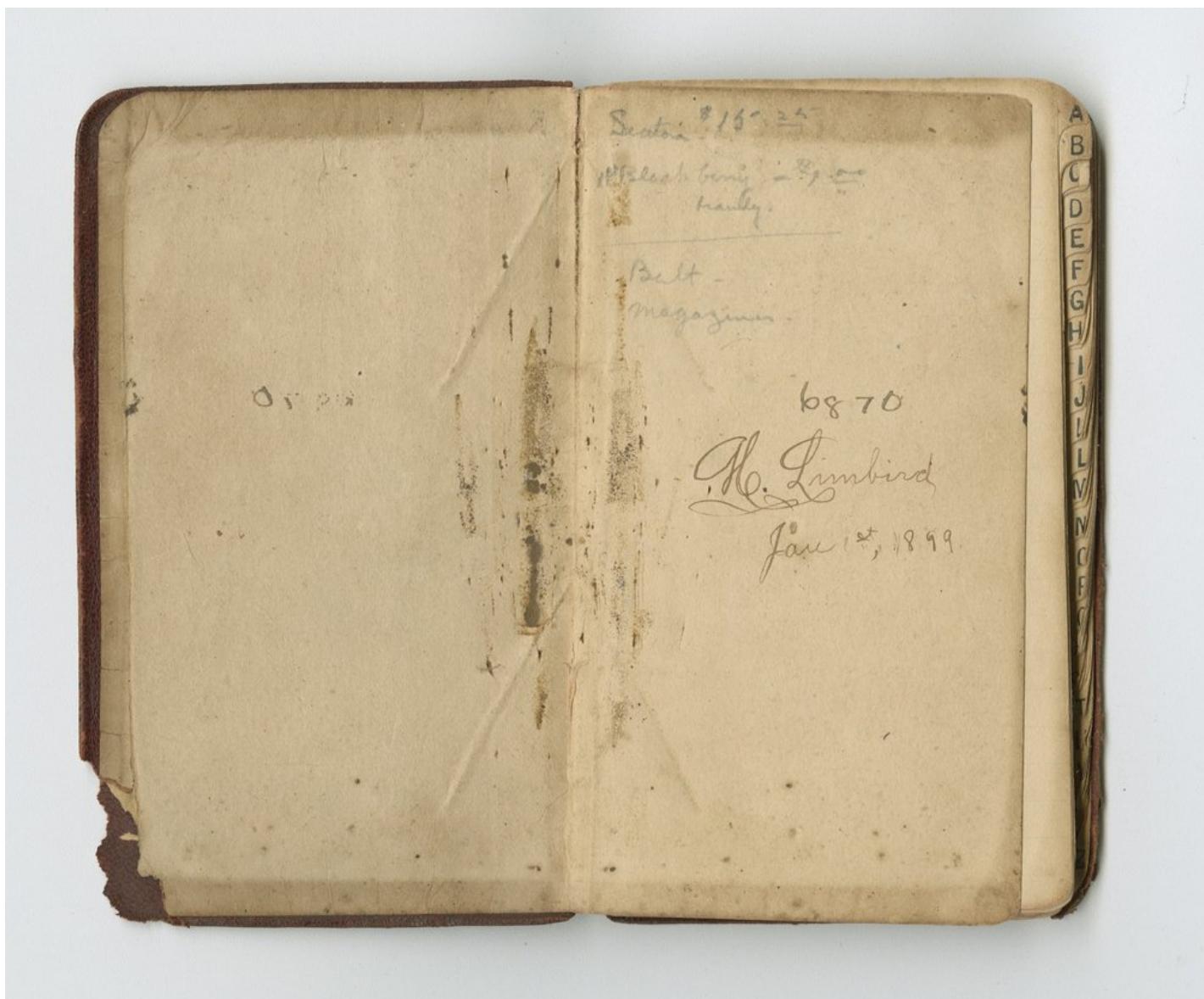


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Stittsville - 41
Dargotham - 45
Miller - 20
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Limbird

	Dr.	Cr.
Bigelow		50
Squires		35
Ricketts		2½
Hagen	1 00	0 87½
Sergeant Craig	50	
Bat. Wash.	15	
Baldie	45	
Banks	12½	
	82	22½
	81	35
	1	35

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
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Box -
Shoes.
Memorandum
Stamps
Loc.
Soap.

Cr.
Staterville - 50
Mayo - 35
Lugenthome - 45
Oregon - 25
Mitter - 20
1.75

Dr.
Baldwin - 15
Chase - 50
Canteen - 2.15
Dr. 1.280
Cy 1.60
8 1.20

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The notebook contains a handwritten list of names and their corresponding prices, likely from a bill or receipt. The list is as follows:

Perry Co L	\$1.50
Barrett Co B	150
Hinkle "	50
Lamason " n	50
Donohoe " n	25

A vertical index on the right edge of the notebook lists the letters A through Z.

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Jan. 1st P. M. 1st Cal.
ordered to be ready
to leave by 11 O'clock
Jan 2nd, Under sealed
orders. The boys feel
some what shaky as
we go on guard, but
load up old Betsy
and resolve to shoot
the first suspicious
looking native.

Cats are supplied
each guard.

Jan 3rd. Gugler and
I take a stroll along
the wharf and "josh"
the Chinamen.
Go on a slip and
get some genuine
home made sugar.
Come off guard
and take a good old

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fashioned² bath.
My feet are pretty
sole and I am sleepy
a plenty. P.M. Hair
battalion drill and
Colonel Little makes
several breaks.

Go to bed about 7 P.M.
so as to catch up in
sleep. The 1st Cal
get further order
and get their Pay
Jan 3rd at 2 O'clock
A.M. One company
in 2nd Bat. made
a mistake in the pay
roll, so we didn't get
paid till to day. Have
orders to be ready 9 A.M.
but being the 3rd
from the last, we
didn't get paid till

3 P.M. As we marches
over to the 2nd Bat.
each with his side
arm and full white
suit and leggings on,
we made a very
good showing.

Ranking Now comes
first and then private
alphabetically.

Some owed the Compt
others various bays
and thus a great deal
of money changed hands
pretty soon. We marched
to the bank, where we
got¹⁰ 2.00 Mex for
each dollar. Then
we strike for Mahog-
boxes and you could
see natives strung
out down the street

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carrying bones to
the various barracks,
Crap games are very
numerous, but laps
put and end to them.

Call to quarter goes
about 8 o'clock, as
the colonel has another
scare, Major and I
get a warm loaf
of bread and some
butter and enjoy our
selves for awhile.

The artillery takes
several guns and a lot
of ammunition out
on the picket lines.
It looks a little
like trouble.

Jan 4th. Go on fatigue
and do my share of
work, of course (not)

Have morning drill
in the dining room,
as it is too muddy
out side.

"Freddy" went in the
kitchen Monday
and we get more
and better grub.
Biscuits for supper.
Go down to the
3rd Battalion to YMCA
where we have every
good meeting.
I join the society
and am put on the
program com.

Baldie had his trial
at 3 P.M. He made
\$100 last month.
Rumbo wins out in
crap game. Shave
off my beard and

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the boys hardly know me. The Native band serenades us nearly every night.

Jan 5th. Mount guard Schule is pretty well jugged, but manages to mount guard. He call Abrams The Frisco Hobo and makes lot of fun.

After guard mount, go up to the post office and get a money order for Twenty dollars, which I send home. Go on guard at 1 P.M. Mail goes to U.S. at 12:30.

Baldie get 30 days and thinks he is quite lucky. Feel awful long when I go on at 1 A.M. It

seems like two hours will never pass away. Baes, from F. Co., dies of small pox. Squires and Seaton are taken to Hospital. Suspected of small pox.

Jan 6th. Garrity and a fellow from Co. B. almost have a scrap over a cot.

Gen. Otis issued a proclamation, giving the purpose of the Americans. It is posted up in prominent places and is printed in English, Spanish and Filipino. Come off guard and feel pretty tough but take a good old cool bath.

D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V

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and feel ^{80.} h. again.
Two more roll calls
to answer to.

Write 2 letters to Albuquerque
Get wood that we
will get mail to morrow.
Sailhammer and Schule
on a tear. Crap shooting
the chief amusement.

Raining a nice little
shower. The Filipinos
tear down the proclamation
and are very angry
refusing to accept it.

Day 4th. Room orderly
to day; sweep our section
and commence to scrub,
when orders come to
pack up and move over
to the 1st. Cal. Barracks.

Then begins the usual
confusion of leaving up.

Our load [?] about 200
Carts with stuff, and
Eight men from each
company are detailed
to march along the
side of the carts to guard
the stuff. Col. Little loses
his head and cusses
every body in sight.

As we start for the
other barracks (about a mile)
one could not help but
notice what a peculiar
procession we made,
going along at a snails
speed. We get there at
last and the first thing
we do is to make a
reconnoiter around.

The barracks are fine,
regular Spanish Barracks,
Cavalry, infantry with gun

D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V Y Z

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racks, shower "baths" and
cooch shacks.



We all get settled by
retreat and Col. Little
makes a spell. Bigelow
+ Hand pretty sick.

Take a bath, and have
a time going to town
in the rain.

Dec 8th. Get up to Reville
and it is too dark for
Selhammer to see the
roll, so he dismisses us.

Aguinaldo issues a procl.
contrary to Gen. Otis.
He urges the insurgents
to fight for liberty, so we
are looking for a fight.

most any "time".
Rounds, Abrams, Barry and I
hire a "vehicle" and fly to the
ferry boat going to Calite,
afraid we will be too late,
but find we have plenty
of time. Find about a
dozen other Co. L. fellows
on the boat. Start at 8:30
and make it in about
an hour. Pass the 1st
Cal. Corp, in the bay waiting
for further orders. Also
see part of Dewey's fleet
among which are the
Olympia, Boston, Monad-
nock, Monterey and
two others. The Concord,
Baltimore, Petrel and
one other are at Golo.
Lund, Mayo and I
strike off together and
soon begin to get hungry.

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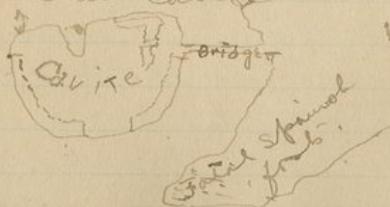


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Go to a Chinese Restaurant
and get hot cakes, chicken,
maple syrup, fried potatoes,
and Apple pie. Then we
take a walk over the city.

Go up on the walls, see
the big guns, dungeons,
powder magazines,
torpedos stations and etc.
Inside the walls we
could see where the
Spaniards had shot
prisoners to death.

In a circle around
Cavite are the smashed
up Spanish war vessels.
about Ten in number.
Here is Cavite



I got several¹³ relics some
from an old church that
was built in 1643.

The Americans refuse to
let any soldiers across
the river, for fear the
natives will kill them.
They (The Nation) had a
flag raising here not
long ago, and they
have several companies
of soldiers here.

Start back at 2 P.M.
and land at 3 P.M.
Walk to the Barracks,
pretty well tired out.
Ed Hand is taken to the
hospital. Pathmeyer
died with Smallpox today.
Jan 9th. Go on Guard.
Have to mount with
the other two battalions.

D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V Y Z

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same as ¹⁴ several.

Capt. Christy scares us and tries to scare us to death. He says guard duty has been too slack.

Post No. 34, two extra guards are put on at night on this post.

About 10 O'clock, call to arms goes in the first battalion.

All is excitement and Col. Little gets the Sgt. Majors sword, and they claim he had to change pants. The guard posts are filled up, and every regiment is under arms; with two days rations and two hundred rounds of ammunition. Dewey runs one of his

gun boats ¹⁵ up close to the insurgents lines.

Monday P.M. The 1st Cal. (Gallant 1st) come back to quarters and tell the Col. They want their quarters that night, but the Colonel says "no". Every guard is wide awake ("nit") and on the alert.

Jan. 10 and no body killed except one Native that attempts to cut one of the outposts. It is reported that the insurgents are firing on the outposts. Bigelow is pretty sick, but when call to arms went

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he was one¹⁶ of the first in line. He was taken to the Hospital this morning, suspect, smallpox. This man from 7 died with it to day. 1st Battalion has to move back to old quarters. All are very sorry. The old guard down go over to the Cal. Barracks and thus get out of helping to pack up.

May 8 and I jump on or cart and go over to Cal. Barracks. See that our stuff is packed and then bluff a guard and like up town. Here we get a cream pie(?) about as big as a

dollar and all crust, also some cake. Is to barracks and feel pretty blue. cause - vaccination. Boys get over about Three P. M. Miller + Rambo has a scrap. Winner - Rambo.

Jan. 11. Still feel pretty tough - head ache etc. About 10 A. M. Some fellow comes from up town saying that "the War has commenced." The natives are running hell mell, Chinamen are closing stores, dropping their loads and running for their lives. Soldiers are lined up across

D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Z

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bridge stopping every body from crossing. The fellows rushes up stairs shouting "Isit your guns, boys?" Some are asleep, others reading or writing but they quickly put every thing aside, grab their guns and cartridge belt, rushing pell mell down stairs, shouting at every jump. It is only a scare and soon things are of the usual order.

Seilhammer drills the Co. 3 sets of fours, and we have a big time.

I feel awful tough, but drill just the same my arm hurts so bad I can hardly sleep. Corp. Gibson pretty sick.

Jan. 12, Seilhammer drills the company again. Go on sick report, but sick call & drill call goes before breakfast is over so I drill as usual.

Millam taken to the hospital, with a cigarette in his mouth. Blair, Co. A, died today. At drill call, we stack arms and our arms are

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16th 1861
inspected by the
Doctors. About five
are all right, nine
among them.

Jan 13. All off duty
are lined up and taken
out east three miles to
be vaccinated; right
from the matter out of
sores on an affected
heifer. Most of the
boys ride ride back.

My arm is swelled on
top and underneath,
but I go on battalion
guard just the same.
These guards are to
be on the lookout around
the barracks, and
the Colonel even has
one guard on the
barracks to watch by

Insurgent signals such
as balloons and etc.

We hear all kind of
reports as to the Insurgents
attacking us. A Lieutenant
of the 10 Penn. is shot
in the thigh, but
not before he gets two
and wounds another.

About Three hundred
Insurgent run our out
post into the block
house and then like.
They have their bayonets
fixed and guns cocked.

The kids have to keep
away from the mess
room, at mess, when I
am on guard there.
Posters are put saying
that "the Americans
ought to give up the Phil.

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