

DESCRIPTIONS OF  
ARMY LIFE IN THE  
PHILIPPINES

BY JAMES R. MEVICKER

## Descriptions of Army Life in the Philippines by James Rufus McVicker

### Prologue:

This series of documents contain the contents of a scrapbook created by James Rufus McVicker (JRM) (1876-1963) during his term of Army duty in the Philippines Islands.

James R. McVicker agreed to act as a war correspondent, initially for the Ottumwa Courier newspaper and later for other publications.

The books contain all, or most, of the newspaper clippings and notes, which JRM submitted, in addition to other newspaper articles relating to the Spanish American War and beyond.

In addition there are articles relating to his West Point experience as well as his political and vocational careers.

The actual pages are faded, yellowed and extremely fragile.

Scanning the contents would have been difficult to accomplish, while maintaining the integrity of the document.

I decided to photograph the pages, as best I could, using a digital camera on a tripod.

Some of the pages may be difficult to read without zooming in to small sections. This dictated using a high-resolution image, resulting in a larger file size than I would have desired.



## President McKinley's Tribute To the Soldiers In the Trenches and the Men Behind the Guns.

THE heroes of Manila and Santiago and Porto Rico have made immortal history. They are worthy successors and descendants of Washington and Greene, of Paul Jones, Decatur and Hull and of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Logan; of Farragut, Porter and Cushing, and of Lee, Jackson and Longstreet. New names stand out on the honor roll of the nation's great men, and with them, unnamed, stand the heroes of the trenches and the fore-castle, invincible in battle and uncomplaining in death. The intelligent, loyal, indomitable soldier and sailor and marine, regular and volunteer, are entitled to equal praise as having done their whole duty, whether at home or under the baptism of foreign fire.

Who will dim the splendor of their achievements! Who will withhold from them their well-earned distinction! Who will intrude detraction at this time to belittle the manly spirit of the American youth and impair the usefulness of the American navy! Who will embarrass the government by sowing seeds of dissatisfaction among the brave men who stand ready to serve and die if need be for their country! Who will darken the counsels of the republic in this hour requiring the united wisdom of all! Shall we deny to ourselves what the rest of the world so freely and so justly accords to us?

The men who endured in the short but decisive struggle its hardships, its privations, whether in the field or camp, on ship or in the siege, and planned and achieved its victories, will never tolerate impeachment, either direct or indirect, of those who won a peace whose great gain to civilization is yet unknown and unwritten.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

.....The Ottumwa Courier

A. W. LEE,  
PUBLISHER.

WEEKLY ESTABLISHED 1848.  
DAILY ESTABLISHED 1864.

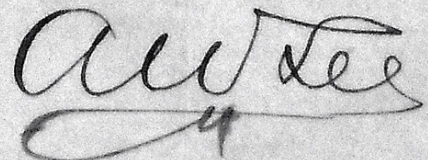
Ottumwa, Iowa, June 3, 1898

James R. McVicker,  
Co. F., 51st Ia Volunteers,  
Des Moines, Ia.

Dear Sir:-

Your postal card received. If you go to the Phillipines we can use your services as a paid correspondent, the compensation being \$1.00 a column for matter used in our paper. We would want you to furnish news items from the Oskaloosa and other near by companies that are in your regiment, and such general news, with reference to the army, your journey etc. as would be of general interest to our readers and of special interest to your friends at Sigourney. Letters descriptive of life, scenes and events in the Phillipine Islands will <sup>be</sup> of special interest, and we want you to give us as much of this kind of matter as you can. Also letters descriptive of your trip from the time you leave Des Moines. We send you herewith a dozen stamped envelopes, and if you will keep an account of the amount you pay in postage for us we will see that you are re-imbursed for the same..

Yours sincerely,



## OF THE TRIP WEST.

Letter From Courier's Special Correspondent With the 51st.

### IOWA MEN ENROUTE TO PHILIPPINES

An Ovation All Along the Line—Generous Treatment by the People. Pretty Girl I Left Behind Me.

Enroute to the Philippines, Colorado, June 7.—In accordance with the request of the editor of the Courier, I shall act as war correspondent for that paper, with the United States army in the Philippine Islands, and shall give especial attention to the experiences and fortunes of the Fifty-first Iowa volunteer infantry, of which I am a member.

The Fifty-first regiment is composed of twelve companies, as follows: A and H from Des Moines, B from Villisca, C from Glenwood, D from Knoxville, E from Shenandoah, F from Oskaloosa, G from Creston, I from Bedford, K from Corning, L from Council Bluffs, M from Red Oak. Colonel John C. Loper, of Des Moines, is in command of the regiment. The regimental adjutant is First Lieutenant J. T. Davidson, of Muscatine, who was until recently a major in the Iowa National Guard. He has been acting for the past five weeks as brigade adjutant of Camp McKinley. Both of these officers are men of considerable military experience and command the respect and confidence of all the soldiers. The three battalions of the regiment are commanded, respectively, by Majors Duggan, Moore and Hume. The first battalion is composed of the companies from Des Moines, Knoxville and Oskaloosa.

Pursuant to orders received from the war department, last Thursday evening, the Fifty-first regiment took leave of Camp McKinley on Sunday morning. The first battalion was sent over the Rock Island route, the other two over the Chicago & Northwestern, and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, to Omaha, the three battalions to be reunited as a regiment at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

From the time the first battalion left Des Moines it has been tendered a continuous ovation all along the route. At Stuart, Iowa, a veritable banquet had been provided for the "boys in blue." They left the train and marched to a vast hall amid throngs of patriotic citizens—veterans, sons of veterans, wives, daughters of veterans, pretty girls innumerable. In the hall, the long tables were loaded with wholesome, tempting, delicious eatables of all kinds, superintended by dozens of Stuart's fairest females. The boys fell to with a hearty good will, and in half an hour their appetites were fully replenished. The soldiers were decorated with flowers at the hands of the fair ones, and departed cheering heartily for the people of Stuart.

The train was met at Council Bluffs by scores of young ladies, who served supper in a graceful, attractive way.

Since leaving Iowa we have noticed a marked deterioration in the beauty of the girls along the route. The girls of old Iowa are the peerless ones.

The scenery of the route has been gradually shifting to the respective characteristics of each region. Throughout Kansas were to be seen the sod houses, the jack-rabbit, the prairie-dog and an occasional coyote. On entering Colorado the varieties of cactus appear and there is a well-marked ascent of slope as we approach the mountains. Not a tree has been visible since we reached the interior of Kansas. The vast sloping plains stretch out on every side, and through the clearer atmosphere the horizon is vastly enlarged as compared with that to which we have been accustomed.

Denver was reached at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon. There the battalion was again entertained by ladies with coffee, sandwiches, oranges, bananas, etc. Up to that time a very strict surveillance had been kept up by sentinels posted at each of the cars, but now a little relaxation was granted for a time. The men were allowed to go out in the city for sight-seeing and exercise. Company F marched with Captain Keating to the state capitol building, and then around some of the attractive parts of the city. At 7 o'clock the battalion was re-united. It is creditable for the reputation of Iowa troops that no breaches of regulations were known, and that the men behaved themselves as soldiers and gentlemen.

The train proceeded northward from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Tuesday morning dawned with sights of hills, mountains and snow-capped peaks all around us. The cactus and sage brush are the almost exclusive vegetation. Now and then we are enveloped in the gloom of a tunnel, but soon bound out into the open air again. It is very chilly up here in these mountains. Overcoats are almost a necessity to the sentinels.

The whole battalion are in the best of health and spirits. There are no cases of sickness. Slight indispositions in health are promptly attended and checked by the vigilant officers. No mishaps have occurred, with the exception of a hat or two lost from the train enroute. We shall probably arrive in San Francisco Thursday morning.

James R. McVicker.

ty-first regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry arrived in San Francisco Friday morning, and immediately pitched tents at Camp Merritt.

The journey of the regiment from Des Moines to San Francisco was a memorable one to all the members. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip. The men were given Pullman tourist sleepers, and had all the attendant accommodations of tourist travelers. They were well provided for by the state authorities. They were well furnished with many necessary articles by their friends. Hundreds of ladies in Des Moines, Oskaloosa and elsewhere worked diligently for a week sewing, and making little oilcloth cases containing needles, thread, pins, court-plaster, etc, in order that the boys might be prepared for emergencies.

The men themselves had been very impatient for the start. They felt that they ought to be moving toward the front. It seemed as though the time would never come. The greatest anticipations were held in regard to the trip. The men were not disappointed. It was a grand trip from every point of view.

In the first place, each man felt the exhilarating influence of the thought that he was serving his country. Then the people all along the route were so patriotic. The regiment received a continual ovation from midland to coast. Everywhere, at all the crossings, houses, stations, towns and cities the people turned out and welcomed us. They waved flags, threw flowers, and cheered us with all their force. These lent new inspirations of patriotism to us and we heartily responded to their demonstrations of patriotism. At many places the people treated us to coffee, meals, fruit, and beautiful flowers. They showed by their actions that they honored the soldiers and that they thought nothing too good for us. It imparted new feelings, new force, new cheer to the men to see all these exhibitions of the unity of feeling of the great American people in all sections. Our journey lay through Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and California, and it will ever be remembered in our eyes, marked with the shining cords of hospitality and patriotism.

The scenery of the trip really surpassed all expectations. Nothing could be grander in the world than all the beautiful sights we saw, and pleasurable scenes we witnessed. They were fine to a degree beyond description.

We were greatly pleased with Denver although we got but an hour of sojourn in that hospitable and energetic city. It was our good fortune to be permitted to see Great Salt Lake. This great body of water in the desert is certainly wonderful. The water is a beautiful dark blue color and extends as far as can be seen—till it meets with the clouds and sky. Great level tracts of white coated sand abound around the shores of the lake—where some time since the briny water stood, but has since disappeared from there owing to the gradual drying up of the lake. Will the lake at last disappear? Is a question to be answered by Father Time.

The mountainous state of Nevada is a beautiful one. In it are well fenced farms, well cultivated tracts of land with straight rows of garden products

## WITH FIFTY-FIRST.

Courier's War Correspondent Tells of Iowa Troops Trip West.

### ROYAL RECEPTION AT SAN FRANCISCO

Thanks to Governor Shaw, the Iowa Troops are Thoroughly Equipped. Their Praises are Sound- ed on Every Side.

San Francisco, June 12—(Special correspondence of the Courier.)—The Fif-

such as are to be seen in Iowa. There are clear, flowing rivers, broad irrigation canals, and grand, lofty mountains. We crossed the Sierra Nevada Mountains in this state. The route lays in spiral forms around mountains as it extends to their summits, reaches through tunnels, crosses canyons, and winds around beautiful rivers and streams. We climbed grade after grade until we reached the highest summits of these mountains. Among them were clear lakes.

Among the mountains the lumbering industry is carried on to a great extent. The tall, straight pines are cut down, rolled into troughs or flukes, and allowed to slide down, sometimes hundreds of feet, into the streams.

California is a truly fine state. It is the best of all, outside of Iowa. The golden wheat was ripened as we passed, and at many points was being harvested. The large western harvesters, drawn by six or eight horses, were at work. This machine cuts down, threshes out the wheat, and stacks the straw as it proceeds. The grain is in good condition for this, as it never rains at this time of year, and the crop can be left standing for weeks after ripening without danger, if need be. There are large, level tracts of land, all well fenced. This part of the country is without hills or depressions. It is perfectly level. The houses are large and well built. Everything seems to be in keeping with a grand state and a great people.

We were well received by the people of California. They showed us all the honor in their power. At Sacramento the ladies of the Red Cross society gave the whole regiment a dinner. The morning we arrived into San Francisco the Red Cross society gave us a fine breakfast. The ladies decorated each soldier with beautiful flowers. It was arranged that the Iowa troops should show their training and military bearing by marching through the streets of San Francisco from the station to the camp, a distance of five miles.

Although the men had traveled steadily five days and nights, they bravely slung their baggage over their shoulders, put on their equipments, right-shouldered rifles and set out for the camp, headed by the old Third regiment band from Centerville. The troops were the admiration of the town. The route was completely lined the whole way with people of all classes. The doors and windows of all the buildings were filled with admiring forms and faces, clear to the roofs. The people waved flags and cheered us. Many hundreds of bouquets were thrown at us. We reached the camp with aching shoulders and weary arms, but we have since had cause to be proud that we marched out here on a parade step. The newspapers came out with flattering praises of Iowa's troops. United States army officers have specially commended us. The people are loud in their praises of the Iowa boys. When we marched by the other regiments in camp they sent forth volleys of cheers for us for the military bearing we were able to present.

We were able to make this fine showing for two reasons:  
First—Because Governor Shaw and Adjutant General Byers saw to the complete equipment of Iowa's soldiers before sending them to the front. Other regiments have been here for weeks and have not received their equipment yet.

Second—Brigadier General Lincoln exercised us carefully in the principles of drill. He endeavored to impart into us the military spirit so that we were confident of our ability to acquit ourselves with credit.

Thus we have made the best appearance of all the regiments that have entered San Francisco, not even excepting the regular army. It is said on good authority that General Merritt thinks of selecting us for the next expedition to the Philippines in preference to the troops that have been here in waiting for many weeks. The Fifty-first regiment of Iowa volunteers will hold high the banner of Iowa's brave soldiers in fighting for the flag of the United States.

James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Iowa Boys are Doing in 'Frisco.

### THE DAILY ROUTINE OF CAMP LIFE

The Risk in Running the Guard—Soldiers Visit Interesting Sights. Iowans are Left Out of the Manila Expedition.

San Francisco, June 13.—The Fifty-first regiment is now comfortably located on the eastern annex to Camp Merritt, close to the North and South Dakota regiments. The white tents are pitched upon the shifting sands, and the Iowa boys are undergoing the experience of marching through sandy streets, sleeping upon beds of sand, and eating a generous portion of sand in their meals. Some of them do not take very kindly to the change as compared with Camp McKinley, and it is somewhat amusing to hear them talk. All of them are readily reconciled to the new condition of affairs, however, when they take into consideration the numberless sights, scenes and pleasures of the city of San Francisco and vicinity.

It is a matter of no small wonderment as to how fast Iowa boys can monopolize the prettiest girls. This is an offense to other would-be competitors committed not only by the men in the ranks but by our officers in an especially exaggerated degree. It may be ventured that some of San Francisco's prettiest belles were in the society of Iowa men last Sunday.

The twelve companies of our regiment are encamped in the regulation army order. The routine of camp work is very complete and exacting as can be seen from the order of service laid down in the following order:

Headquarters 51st Inf. Ia., U. S. V. Philippine Islands Expeditionary Forces, Camp Merritt,

San Francisco, Cal., June 11, 1898. General Orders No. 3:

1. In obedience to General Orders No. 2, June 2, 1898, Headquarters Philippine Islands Expedition, the following routine of camp duty is hereby ordered:

Reveille, first call, 5:40 a. m.  
Reveille, 5:50.  
Assembly, 6:00.

Breakfast call, 6:15.  
Sick call, 7:00.  
First call, guard mount, 7:30.  
Assembly guard details, 7:55.  
Adjutant's call, 8:00.  
Fatigue call, police work, 8:15.  
First call, drill, 8:55.  
Assembly, 9:00.  
Adjutant's call, 9:05.  
Recall, 10:30.  
First sergeant's call, 11:15.  
Dinner call, 12:00 m.  
School, 1:30 p. m.  
First call, drill, 2:20.  
Assembly, 2:25.  
Adjutant's call, 2:30.  
Recall, 4:00.  
Inspection, first call, 5:10.  
Assembly, 5:15.  
Supper call, 6:00.  
First call, retreat, 7:10.  
Assembly, 7:15.  
Tattoo, 9:00.  
Call to quarters, 10:00.  
Taps, 10:20.

It will readily be observed that there are no very long "between times." The soldier is practically confined to the camp in order to be in waiting for the proper performance of his multifarious duties. Each soldier is detailed to go on guard about once a week. Having served his guard tour of duty for twenty-four hours, a sentinel is allowed the day following off duty. We are all anxious to go on guard.

Speaking of guard, brings the subject up for a few remarks. Many of the boys can testify how hard it was to "run the guard" at Camp McKinley—they can state that it wasn't hard to do at all if one kept his eyes open and was a little bold. It is quite different here. It is said that one of the members of the Montana regiment recently shot and killed his own brother for attempting to force his way across the former's post. I am told that another sentinel ran his bayonet through the leg of an officer who imagined he did not have to halt. The guard of most regiments wear a good supply of ball cartridges in their belts. The Iowa regiment has not as yet received such orders, but most of us think it very safe plan to avoid trying to "run the guard."

The men have thus far been allowed very liberal privileges with regard to going to the city in the evenings. Very few have abused these privileges and it is to be hoped they will not if the boys retain them. Colonel Loper is very considerate, and thus far Iowa soldiers have conducted themselves as thorough gentlemen.

Among the number of interesting things and sights that the soldiers have been permitted to visit are the Golden Gate Park, Chinatown, the Art Museum, the bay and the Golden Gate of San Francisco harbor. One of the most prized is the pleasure of taking delightful sea baths in the Sutro bath station, the largest of its kind in the world. This place is built down upon the seashore below the cliffs. Here one can get the benefit of the salt water direct from the ocean, or elevated to a warmer temperature as desired. Numerous large tanks are arranged for the purpose with every apparatus

in the way of slides, spring boards, etc. The men enjoy it thoroughly.

The second Manila expedition left here Wednesday. When the troops to compose it marched from Camp Merritt

...rith this morning to go on board the transports, they were mightily cheered by their remaining comrades. The next expedition is scheduled to leave June 25th. It is not probable now that the Iowa regiment will go on this expedition. Troops from Nebraska and Kansas in part composed Wednesday's expedition. The Iowa men at first hoped to be taken on this trip, but then it was found that the troops had already been selected. We are not at all disappointed as we can very pleasurably think of seeing San Francisco and its fine sights for a few days longer. There may not be much diversion in Manila. It is the soldier's pleasure to enjoy today, and think not of tomorrow. When the time comes, do not fear but that the 51st regiment will give a creditable account of itself.

Very Truly,  
James R. McVicker.

## OFF TO PHILIPPINES

The Courier Correspondent's Story of 2nd Expedition's Departure.

### TRANSPORTS CARRY 4,200 SOLDIERS

Eye Dimmed Thousands Say Adieu. All Goes Well With the Iowa Boys—Interesting Gossip of Camp Merritt.

San Francisco, June 15.—(Special Correspondence.)—The second expedition to Manila set sail this afternoon. The four steamer transports, the Colon, the Zealandia, the China, and the Senator, with troops from Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Utah, California and the regular army, left the harbor of San Francisco between 1 and 2 p. m. At 2:30 p. m., owing to the prevailing fog, they were all out of sight, and the tugboats which convoyed them out of the bay were returning. Thousands upon thousands of people gathered on the wharfs, small steamers and launches, to see the soldiers off. The men had marched aboard Tuesday. The most rapid work had been going on day and night to get things in readiness for the expedition to start on time. Finally, all was done. The ships now waited alone on General Merritt for the signal to start. At last the signal was received, and General Greene ordered the start to be made. Tears were shed, hands were waved, good-byes shouted for a last time, and then the big transports steamed out, towed by the little tugboats. The whole fleet, carrying 4,200 men, was escorted down the bay by many launches, steamers, and tugboats. As they passed successively before the wharfs, prolonged, deafening cheers broke from the assembled spectators. Guns boomed, whistles sounded, bells rang, and the proud banner of stars and stripes was everywhere to be seen waving in every breeze. As our brave soldiers left, for fate unknown, but for a purpose firm as adamant, tears broke from many eyes unaccustomed to be moved by saddening scenes. True without saying the wives, sweethearts and sisters shed their share, but other lips quivered and other eyelids were moistened.

The ships passed through the Golden Gate, and were finally lost to view.

The 51st Iowa band, from Centerville volunteered to play for the departing troops today. This band is believed to be almost peerless, by all our regiment. We have to find its superior in the future as yet.

The 51st regiment is now in the brigade commanded by Brigadier General McArthur. The commander of Camp Merritt, in the absence of Major General Merritt, is Brigadier General Otis. He is a Californian—an editor from Los Angeles.

The next expedition of our forces to the Philippines will start June 25. It will be commanded by Brigadier General Charles King (the Capt. Charles King, of story-writing fame), and, presumably will be comprised of the Third artillery, Fourth cavalry, Seventh California volunteers, the volunteer regiments from North and South Dakota, and the Fifty-first infantry Iowa U. S. V.

The Iowa men are well pleased with their treatment here and their future prospects. All are in good spirits and fun seems as rife here as at Camp McKinley. Very few are under the hospital department, except for sore feet, etc.

Harry Keck, formerly of Bentonsport, Van Buren county, is a member of the South Dakota regiment.

J. E. Walker, formerly of Selma, visited Camp Merritt recently. His home is now at Peachland, Cal.

Mrs. Baldwin, formerly of Oskaloosa, visited Company F, of the Fifty-first Iowa, recently. Her home in Oskaloosa was where J. R. Gentry now lives. She now lives in Los Angeles.

Among the former Iowa people who have called at Company F headquarters are Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, of Oakland. Mrs. Balysie, who lived at New Sharon, has also called.

Mr. Moody, brother of Mrs. T. J. Shipley, of Oskaloosa, called on Company F.

Ex-Senator Greenlee, formerly of Marion county, visited the Knoxville boys. He lives in the city.

Private Suit, of Company F, visited his brother-in-law, some sixty miles up along the coast, on a two days' leave of absence, recently.

All is well in the Fifty-first tonight.  
James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Iowa Boys are Doing in 'Frisco.

### THE 51ST PASSES HIGH IN INSPECTION

New Recruits Coming In—Arrival of a Tennessee Regiment—Excellence of the Band—Work of the Red Cross Society.

San Francisco, June 18.—In compliance with the war department's order increasing the volunteer companies to 106 men, new recruits for the Iowa regiment are arriving from Des Moines. They are sent in squads as fast as they have passed the required examinations.

The regiment was today inspected in heavy marching order by Brigadier General McArthur. The inspection was very satisfactory to the general, and the 51st is said to have passed the best of all the troops that have entered San Francisco. After the regimental inspection there was an inspection of quarters. Each man was required to stand in front of his tent while a brigade staff officer made a careful survey of the regimental camp.

Preparations are being rapidly pushed for the departure of the next expedition. Transports are being fitted up and loaded with supplies for the accommodation of troops.

The 1st regiment of Tennessee, United States volunteers, arrived in camp June 17th. They were heartily welcomed by the ladies of the Red Cross society, given a banquet and decorated with flowers. The regiment received unlimited cheers and applause as it marched on its way to Camp Merritt. A thrill of admiration and patriotism ran through every heart as this great link connecting the south with the west passed in review. The men were of military appearance, but were very poorly equipped and clothed. Of course they could not make a fine martial showing—being, also, travel stained and weary from the long trip.

Thursday the work of vaccinating our regiment was begun. Many sore arms are the result.

The South Dakota regiment's camp is just across the way. Yesterday they proposed to demonstrate their fraternal feelings for the Iowa boys, so they purchased two wagon loads of oranges and said: "Have a treat on us." We accepted, and the way those oranges disappeared was not slow—but it was very sure.

The Iowa band continues to receive compliments from many quarters. Yesterday it played upon the occasion of the arrival of the Tennesseans. When the band played "Dixie" the southerners went wild with enthusiasm. Their shouts and yells were deafening. Tonight the band was requested to furnish music at the quarters of Brigadier General McArthur. They also gave a concert in front of the young ladies' hospital training school for nurses. Round after round of applause was given them by the fair ones, and further in return the young ladies sang for the boys. Our band is the best one in Camp Merritt, as is conceded by the popular verdict.

Colonel Smith, of the Tennessee regiment, once wore the gray as a Confederate soldier. He now wears the "Army Blue."

The Red Cross society has sent the company a box of fruit. The Red Cross ladies in addition to banqueting all arriving troops, continually serves good meals without charge to any United States soldier at any time he may drop into the Red Cross headquarters. As soldiers as a class are very hungry, this is no small work.

Miss L. Weeks, of Des Moines, has arrived. She is a trained nurse, and will help to care for the Iowa boys in their travels and marches and while they may be in the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle, formerly of Oskaloosa, paid the boys of Co. F a visit.

Corporal Reid, of Co. F, spent an afternoon with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Beardsley, at Oakland, and



with his grandmother, Mrs. W. L. Wisner, all having once lived in Des Moines.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore, who formerly transacted the business of the clerk's office of Mahaska county, were visitors at company headquarters today.

Aleck Glen, of Parnell, Iowa, is a member of the Washington regiment.

Mr. Johnson, formerly assistant cashier of the First National bank at Oskaloosa, called on us today.

Mrs. Hill, a former Oskaloosa lady, was a today's visitor.

Mrs. James Brewster, daughter of Hon. John F. Lacey, visited Co. F today. Her husband is manager of the shoe department of the Emporium, the largest and finest department store in San Francisco and in the world. Mrs. Brewster extended to us an invitation to take dinner at their home. Quite a number will be present with pleasure.

The Iowa boys are treated fine by the San Francisco people. They think us the best regiment that has yet entered the city, and are not slow in showing us every kindness in their power. Many of the boys will take dinner outside of camp Sunday.

Frank A. Martin, of Des Moines, has been commissioned by the war department as a second lieutenant. He leaves Company F to report for duty on Brigadier General Lincoln's staff.

The general health of the camp is excellent. Stringent sanitary regulations are enforced.

The officers and men of 51st Iowa compose a splendid organization to which we are proud to belong.

James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Iowa Boys are Doing in 'Frisco.

## SEEING SIGHTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

That a Soldier's Life is Not One of Work Alone is Exemplified in a Letter From the Courier's Correspondent.

San Francisco, Camp Merritt, June 19.—(Special Correspondence.)—If the readers of sketches of camp life gets the idea that the soldier is exclusively engaged in following military routine, he will have formed an erroneous opinion of which he ought soon to rid himself. There are many pleasures for the soldier. Nothing is too good for him. It is an incontestible fact that everybody admires soldiers. So it is not strange that the blue uniform and brass buttons of the United States soldiery will admit the wearer into the immediate confidence of patriotic citizens, and take him to many a place not to be reached by a mere civilian. And the soldiers enjoy their privileges. They will be seen everywhere in the city in full possession of the pleasures and sights. And it is an admirable spirit of the American people thus to honor their country's defenders and upholders. That the people of the

United States, of every condition, everywhere, are patriotic is a matter of our firm conviction. All honor then to the citizen who is patriotic, and does what he can in his daily work and talk to advance the interests of his country.

Yesterday afternoon a small party of Iowa volunteers, including the writer, set out to visit some of the interesting places of San Francisco. We took a cable car from Camp Merritt to Market street. On the way we passed many fine residences. The residences are usually three stories high, of attractive color, well lighted, and of imposing appearance. In front are beautiful, rare and foreign flowers, curious trees, and rare plants. It pleases the eye to see the residences of San Francisco.

Market street is down along the Bay, fronting the numerous wharfs. Of course it is made up of quite a cosmopolitan class of stores, wares and people. It is a very busy place—filled with the rumbling wagons, street cars, and vehicles of all sorts. The pedestrian must be on the lookout lest he be the victim of collision.

Our party proceeded to the United States naval vessel, Marion, and were admitted on board. She is an old sailing vessel, having been in the service for about thirty years. She has been lying at the wharf the past six months, in use as a training school for the naval reserves. The men on board extended a hearty welcome to us, they took us all over the vessel, explaining all the interesting features. The armament of the ship consists mainly of six-inch muzzle-loading siege guns. There is one breech-loading piece. It is of fine mechanism. The forward part of the upper deck is manned by Gatling guns and Hotchkiss rapid-firing pieces. The former can fire one pound projectiles at the rate of fifty per minute, while the latter fire 30-caliber cartridges at the rate of 732 per minute. The pieces were very interesting to us. The vessel has much brass work about it, which is kept constantly polished. Everything bore the impress of the navy. Order and "readiness for inspection" marked everything on board.

From the Marion our party proceeded to the transport troop-ship Morgan City, which is being placed in readiness to carry a load of soldiers to the Philippines on the third expedition. A force of men were at work repairing the vessel and loading her with coal and other supplies for the trip. We wondered whether or not the Morgan City would fall to the lot of the Iowa regiment. She is a nice vessel and would carry between 700 and 800 men.

Next we visited the largest and finest sailing vessel in the United States. She was the Roanoke, which plies between San Francisco and points all over the world. When we went on board the vessel was being loaded with a cargo of port wine. She will be loaded with 8,000 barrels, besides other freight, for this trip alone. It was truly an imposing sight for us as we gazed upon the mammoth masts and spars and skeleton of ropes. It would be a grand sight to see that vessel in full sail. Her hull reached up over twenty feet above the water line. We went down into the interior—the hold—and contemplated the vast space enclosed by those walls of wood. It would take hundreds of car loads of freight to make one cargo for the Roan-

oke. It would certainly take an awful storm to sink the vast bulk of this great vessel. As we looked upon her, thought of the many trips she had made and would make to all parts of the world, of all the cargoes she had carried, and of all the gales and tempests she had endured,—and as we saw the Stars and Stripes floating proudly from her mast-head, our vision kindled into admiration for the greatness of our country, for the progress of our civilization, and for the ingenuity of man. The next destination of the Roanoke is Honolulu. From there she will go to Hong Kong.

We proceeded to the headquarters of the Red Cross society where we were given a pleasant reception and a good, hearty repast.

A structure to make the architect's heart beat and eye kindle in ready admiration is the Mills' building. There is nothing finer in the United States, nor in the world for its purpose. For nine tall stories it stretches skyward, and every story comprises a hundred offices used by attorneys, brokers, insurance agents, real estate brokers, etc. The building is built in the form of a square enclosing a vast open, space for the admission of fresh air and light. The floors and corridors are made of the finest Mosaic work and white marble. The building is finished with marble. It cost millions of dollars for material and erection.

The Palace hotel is said to be one of the finest in the world. The structures forming it are on both sides of one of the principal streets and are connected by overhead passageways. In the main building there are 1400 rooms, and in the other about 900 more. The building is an architectural masterpiece. In the center of the main building is a large court 100 feet square. Projecting from the floors are balconies surrounding this court, each with its quota of electric lights and rare exotic plants. At night when these hundreds of lights are lit, and the guests are assembled seated on the balconies, the music of grand orchestras is wafted upward, reverberating and re-echoing through corridor and corridor till it rolls back in fullest and most melodious volume. "O what a piece of work is man!" In apprehension how like a God."

The streets of San Francisco are wide and excellently paved with a kind of vegetable asphalt procured in the southern part of the state. Enterprise, human mastery of art, and applied science of the age, are visible all over San Francisco. California stretches forth her great resourceful hands and waves to the world her greeting of commerce and industry for the many long years of the future century. Outside of Iowa, California is the best state in the Union.

James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Iowa Boys are Doing in Frisco.

NO ORDERS YET TO MOVE FOR 51ST.

Iowa Boys Anxious to Be Off—Hawkeye Regiments Now Complete—Hospitality of Big Hearted Californians—Gossip.

San Francisco, June 23.—(Special Correspondence.)—The Fifty-first Iowa still remains in suspense as to the further movements of the regiment. The third expedition will leave on Monday next. It is supposed the fourth expedition will be held till July 10. Iowa troops have hoped to be assigned to the third expedition, but the machinery of the department moves so slowly and reports are so conflicting that the men waste but little time in conjecturing. They have ceased to worry. The lesson is pretty well learned—that the soldiers should enjoy today and think not of tomorrow.

The full complement of recruits have arrived for the Iowa regiment. They have been assigned to their respective companies and the work of drilling and disciplining them has begun in earnest. The newly appointed corporals are put to the practical test of their experience and patience in schooling these new men. "Hep! Hep! Hep!" is heard everywhere on the streets as the tread of untrained feet advances. Soon, however, this conglomerate body of men will be organized into their companies as well drilled members, equipped with uniforms,—and the observer will not know the late recruits.

All San Francisco and its press is indignant at the action of the Astor battery, which recently arrived, for refusing to accept the hospitality of the Red Cross ladies. All other bodies of troops have gratefully received banquets and bouquets at the expense of this noble society, but Astor's aggregation of would-be soldiers were too proud to be thus fed. They have a camp all by themselves, will receive no visitors, dine out for rations at the homes of the rich, and live like princes. The body is composed for the most part of Yale, Harvard and Princeton students. They may be students, but they are snubs. They may be soldiers, but they must prove it.

The men of this regiment are repeatedly the recipients of the noble hospitality of warm-hearted, patriotic Californians. Two judges of the state supreme court recently walked into camp, and seeing two privates and two corporals, invited them without ceremony to take supper with them. It was a fine supper. One would suppose that they would not have thus affiliated with soldiers not wearing shoulder straps, but Californians are not given to dress parades. Each man in the regiment has been treated to a package of tobacco at the expense of some warm-hearted donor who perhaps thinks that everybody smokes.

Tuesday evening a reception was given to our regiment by the Young People's Christian Endeavor society. About 800 attended. Splendid program, and delicious refreshments were served.

Mrs. Louis Frank, one of Oskaloosa's daughters, called on Sergeant Beeson recently. She is a daughter of I. Frankel, of Oskaloosa.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinkley, of the city, former Oskaloosa people, called at company headquarters.

The three Misses Hills, of this place, are welcome visitors of the Oskaloosa boys.

D. W. Evans has joined Company F. He is well known to Ottumwa people, having worked on the Press. Mark Evans and J. W. Ellsworth, also of our company, are well known in Ottumwa. Mr. Ellsworth is one of our sergeants.

Jesse L. Corley, of Grinnell, has joined the company as a recruit. Mr. Corley stands high in college circles, having taken third place in the recent state oratorical contest.

A son of Hon. Ben McCoy is now a member of Company F.

Joe Clark and Wm. Hodges, formerly of Knoxville, were Company D callers.

New additional corporals have been appointed as necessitated by the increased number of privates, as follows: For Company F, Jason Randall, of Birmingham; Lake Johnson, of Oskaloosa; Roy Parker, of Sac City; Chas. McGlumphey, of Oskaloosa; Chas. Hearne, of Keosauqua, and Chas. Godfrey, of Des Moines. For Company D, Thomas Risewick, Lloyd Bush, Charles Lucas, Will Barnes, H. M. Wolf and Stubbs Newsome.

The regiment recently had photographs taken in companies by order of Colonel Loper. The regiment is to receive an illustrated description in the Weekly Wave.

The pay rolls are in readiness to be signed and our regiment will soon be \$20,000 wealthier. Nothing is more appreciated than pay day, but the money is soon spent by the soldiers.

Lieut. Frank A. Martin, who was appointed on General Lincoln's staff by the president, left for Mobile, Ala., today. Lieut. Martin has been a member of Company F ever since it was mustered into the United States service, and is a very soldierly man. He is a graduate of Michigan military academy and will reflect credit upon that institution. His friends—the whole regiment—here, wish him rapid promotion.

James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Iowa Boys are Doing in Frisco.

THE THIRD EXPEDITION'S DEPARTURE

Another Grand Farewell to Soldier Boys by Loyal Californians—Iowan's Anxious to Go to the Front—Gossip.

San Francisco, Camp Merritt, June 23

(Special Correspondence to Courier.)

The last ship of the third Manila expedition sailed this morning. This expedition was composed of five vessels, four of which sailed yesterday. They were the Lucania, Ohio, Morgan City, and City of Parn, followed by the Valentinia today. The troops composing the present expedition were the North Dakota volunteers, Idaho volunteers, Wyoming volunteers, Thirteenth Minnesota volunteers, Eighteenth and Twenty-third United States infantry, and several batteries of artillery. Besides—and we must not omit it—was the Sixth California volunteers, a fine regiment composed of the flower of California's chivalry. This brought the total footing of the command upwards of 4,500.

The greatest interest that has been manifested toward any of the three expeditions by the people of the Golden state, clustered around the departing command. Long before the hour of departure, the wharfs and streets were packed by dense, swaying throngs of humanity—some there because dear ones were leaving, some there out of idle curiosity—many leaving flowers, many shouting and cheering; all the vast moving mass heartily doing honor to the departing soldiery. The harbor was literally covered with sailboats, launches and small craft of all kinds. It was hard for them to keep out of each other's way. On one of the numerous tugboats, as honored guests of the occasion, were Colonel Loper and Adjutant Davidson, of the Fifty-first Iowa. Besides them, there was the magnificent Iowa band, officiating for the occasion. Innumerable steam whistles, bells and cannons were continually sounding forth in their very loudest way. Stationed high up in the rigging of the vessels, the regimental buglers played the old familiar calls that to the trained ear signified the carrying out of the schedule. At last the start was made. Cheers went up from all along the shore, and were answered by repeated volleys of cheers from the boys on the troopships. The vessels slowly bore their way down the bay. They were followed afar by many an anxious eye—tear-moistened, perhaps—and the dread wonder if loved ones would ever return.

The Fifty-first Iowa has been placed in the Third brigade, composed, besides, of the Seventh regiment California volunteers, First Montana volunteers, and First South Dakota volunteers. Brigadier-General H. B. Otis has been assigned the command. This brigade will form a part of the fourth expedition, which, it is reported, will sail in about two weeks.

The officers of the Iowa regiment recently had a group photograph made. A reproduction of it will appear in Harper's Weekly. The officers and non-commissioned staff of the regiment are in receipt of many compliments, as well, also, as are the rank and file.

A reception is given to our regiment this evening by the ladies of the Red Cross society at the San Francisco pavilion. The different companies of the regiment will give exhibition drills of various kinds, and an excellent program will be carried out by the society. Refreshments will be served to the entire satisfaction of the "Boys in Blue."

The work of drilling new recruits has rapidly progressed until now they have been placed on duty in many of the companies.

The United States gunboat Bennington, which has been stationed in Hawaiian waters, entered the harbor the 26th with the report that our transports received a magnificent welcome at the hands of the people. All doors were thrown wide open in hospitality toward the soldiers, and all honors were rendered that were possible. The transport ships left Honolulu with all well and should by this time be in the vicinity of Manila. We hope our turn will come soon to start and to do some active service for the United States.

A great number of men were sick the past few days, the result, presumably, of an unfavorable condition of the atmosphere. Our Red Cross hospital nurse, Miss Weeks, of Des Moines, has been untiring in her attendance upon the sick, and has gained the reputation among the boys of being a ministering angel of mercy. None are seriously ill at present.

Roy N. Coates, of Richland, now in the service, has been promoted in the United States hospital corps and has been assigned to duty with this regiment.

The adjutant's reports show that there are now 1285 men on duty as the total strength of the regiment, excepting the men in the hospital department who are counted in the United States army reports.

Seventy additional corporals have been appointed to fill the places now occupied by the additional recruits.

The Red Cross society has distributed 1,300 pillow cases among the men of our regiment.

James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Hawkeye Soldiers are Doing in Frisco.

### IOWA BOYS ANXIOUS FOR ORDERS

Hopeful That They Will be Among the Next to Leave for the Philippines. Arms and Equipment Issued—Gossip.

San Francisco, July 3.—(Special Correspondence.)—Extensive preparations have been made for a mammoth celebration here tomorrow. Over 10,000 soldiers will march in the parade. San Francisco will show beyond a doubt her appreciation of the honor reposing in her by reason of the encampment of the many thousands of the Nation's defenders concentrated here. No more hospitality could have been shown us than that of the Californians. Wherever we may go we shall ever recall with feelings of gratitude the noble treatment received at their hands.

Many Iowans have been physically indisposed, as a result of sore arms from vaccination and other slight illnesses. About 20 per cent of the men have gone on the sick report gooks the past week. The hospital department, ably assisted by Miss Weeks, has been laboring indefatigably, caring for the men.

The issue of arms and equipments was begun yesterday. While in Iowa we expected to receive the new magazine Winchester rifle, but quite a different assignment was made. We had to keep our old guns, and the old Springfield rifles re-tarnished were also issued to the recruits. It has been a great disappointment to the men. We would like to have been supplied with the new Kreg-Jorgensens, the rifle which the regular army carries.

Strict orders have been published relating to the sanitary condition of the camp. The men are forbidden to eat fruit, pastry, and knick-knacks, and the drinking of water until it has been boiled. These stringent regulations are the result of the increased ratio of sickness.

Unpleasant rumors are afloat that our regiment may not go to the Philippines on the next expedition. If such adverse lot is ours, the men of the Fifty-first Iowa will be a disappointed regiment. Two expeditions have left since our arrival here, and we can see no good reason why our turn should not come next. If the men of the rank and file were allowed to decide the matter there would be but one way about it. Colonel Loper has labored hard to make the regiment fit for immediate, active service, and by reason of its superior equipment it seems strange that the regiment was not selected for the third expedition in the place of some of the comparatively undrilled men who were transported. Iowa men want a place in this conflict—on the main line and not on a side-track.

A select party of Iowa collegians were entertained Friday afternoon and evening at Locksley Hall, in Belvedere, by C. O. Perry. They were the guests of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity of the Berkeley State University, of which society they are members. Captain J. W. Clarke and nine others constituted the Phi Delta Theta party of Iowans. After a very pleasant afternoon on the magnificent verandas, the assembled guests partook of an elaborate dinner in the evening. Then some of the finest singers in California regaled the ears of the classic audience with their best efforts. After this, some interesting toasts were ably responded to by the soldiers. The affair was a most magnificent one, exemplifying, as it did, the fraternal feelings of members so widely separated in place of abode and circumstance.

All in camp are anxious in expectancy for our future orders.

Very truly, James R. McVicker.

## AND STILL NO ORDERS

Fifty-First Iowa Boys Get Restless in Camp Merritt.

### ANXIETY TO GET TO THE FRONT.

Young Soldiers Begin the Study of Spanish—The Phantom Pay Day. Gossip About Former Otumwa People.

Camp Merritt, San Francisco, Cal., July 11.—(Special Correspondence.)—The past week to this regiment has been one of constant expectancy and anxiety. It was thought that orders to move were soon forthcoming, and all were eager and alert to learn of any fresh indication of a probable destination. At first it had seemed that we were bound for Manila, and though nothing has transpired to point to any other supposition, yet the fact that we have been left behind by two expeditions and most likely will be denied transportation on the next, augurs no favorable thing for the Fifty-first Iowa. The men have long wondered why there should be so much delay. True, we had not and have not even yet received all our clothing and equipment, but we might have been clothed and equipped long since. True, our recruits needed much drill to render them serviceable, but they might have been left behind under experienced instructors, as were those of other regiments. True, our drills and evolutions may not have been as proficient as some of the regular army, but we were much superior to some of the favored regiments. True, the personnel of the regiment is of young men, but they are all able to bear arms and can not be said to be inferior on any account to the men of any regiment now at the front or encamped here or elsewhere. Why, then, are we left behind? We know not. We are willing and anxious to move—anywhere—if for the purpose of doing some service to the country. But perhaps it is not proper that a soldier should concern himself about the matters of the higher departments. It is his duty only to obey. Perhaps the welcome orders may come very soon. We may sail for the Philippines, or it may be our lot to be selected for the "mid-ocean" camp. One regiment of infantry is to be sent to Honolulu for garrison duty. It is regarded as quite a desirable assignment, and there is credible authority for the statement that the commanders of several regiments are pushing their chances for the duty. And meanwhile the men of the Fifty-first Iowa are still on doubtful expectancy's verge.

The phantom "pay day" still eludes our wistful eyes—until "tomorrow," and "tomorrow never comes."

At present the general health of the regiment is good. No serious sickness.

The commissary department seems to have been awakened to the thorough importance of feeding us well. Things

continue to improve along that line. Sergeant Harry Dutton has charge of the commissary department of Company F. He is one of the most energetic men of the company, and always sees that his duties are well performed.

The regiment is receiving its full supply of clothing and equipment.

The first battalion went out to the Presidio range Saturday for target practice. Many of the best marksmen were surprised (in a small degree) to find their aim very defective, and quite a number of the inexperienced men (in drill) climbed up toward the top.

"Our boys" are again to be entertained. This time the California street Methodist church will be the place for the evening rendezvous of the Fifty-first Iowa Tuesday evening. A place where one can eat pie and cake and fruit and other long-lost luxuries is quite a desirable treat for the men so far from home and pay day.

A very generous lady of the Red Cross society has provided instruction in the Spanish language for a large number of our regiment, and has organized a class. The officers were asked to detail men from each company to take the work, and had no trouble to find willing students. A roll of about 60 names from this regiment has been made for the purpose. Books, stationery and a very able teacher have been secured and their services are at the disposal of the selected students without charge.

The Courier's correspondent recently received a pleasant call from C. A. Telleen, a former Ottumwa man, now located at Templeton, Cal. Mr. Telleen is in the real estate business. He reports that a brother of Captain Brown, of Ottumwa, at San Louis Obispo, Cal., is well and prospering, and that Mr. Brown's sister, Mrs. Kester, of Cayucos, Cal., is in good health. There are many former Ottumwa people in this state. Mr. Telleen had just visited Dr. Orr, of Oakland, Cal., who is also well known to many Ottumwa people.

The daily routine of work has been made more severe. Four and one-half hours of the day are now devoted to drills. Dress parade takes place every evening and guard mounting follows immediately after dress parade. These, added to having our "picture taken" very frequently, are amply sufficient.

Very truly, James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Hawkeye Soldiers are Doing in Frisco.

### SAILING OF THE FOURTH EXPEDITION

Belief That All Soldiers in Camp Will Be Westward Bound by August 15, a Cause for Satisfaction by the Iowa Boys.

Camp Merritt, San Francisco, Cal.,

July 18.—(Special Correspondence.)—The past week at this camp has been marked by two important events—the arrival of the New York regiment, and the sailing of the fourth expedition.

The expedition consisted of the vessels Peru and City of Pueblo. Major General E. S. Otis and staff, the Fourteenth infantry and the Fourth cavalry comprised the forces of this expedition. They were honored similarly as have been the previous departing troops—by cheering throngs of people, by ringing of bells, blowing of whistles, and by the military salutes of artillery. Thus the fourth detachment of the Eighth army corps sailed away toward the absorbing Orient.

The New York regiment is the object of much criticism, perhaps not without cause. They affect a great superiority over the troops of states farther west, and this has not made their regiment excessively popular here. Colonel Barber objected very strenuously to encamping in the sand of Camp Merritt, and he was assigned a place for the regimental encampment on the Presidio reservation. The men composing his regiment are in large part the sons of New York millionaires. Their uniforms are all tailor-made, and besides these they carry dress suits of civilian clothing. We wonder if they think they are on a celebration of some sort. They deserve to be classed with the Astor battery.

It is with pleasure that we learn that the government has secured many transports and can readily forward the remainder of the Philippine expeditionary forces in the near future. There is not much anxiety on our part now as to whether we shall see service in the East. Our long desired fortune will soon be realized. It is fully expected on excellent grounds that the whole of Camp Merritt will have embarked upon the Pacific by the middle of August.

The past week has witnessed the first visit of the dread angel of death in our regiment. Private Ritter, of Company M, died the first of the week and was given the funeral honors of the dead soldier. Friday night Private L. E. Rogers, also of Company M, from Red Oak, passed beyond all earthly roll calls. He had just undergone an operation for appendicitis. He was a teacher of science in the high school at Red Oak. He was a graduate of the Iowa State Agricultural college, and was a well known foot ball player. The remains were escorted to the station yesterday by his comrades, and will be shipped to Iowa for interment.

It might be asked, with reason, if Camp Merritt is a healthful location. Let figures answer: In five weeks the sick roll has reached the enormous total of 230 cases for only 1,300 men!

The writer recently called on James Brewster, one of Oskaloosa's staunchest merchants, who is now located here. He is manager of the shoe department of the Emporium and Golden Rule Bazar—the largest establishment in the state of California. Mr. Brewster will be remembered as a son-in-law of Hon. John F. Lacey.

Very truly, James R. McVicker.

## CAMP MERRITT LIFE

What the Hawkeye Soldier Boys Are Doing in Frisco.

IOWA BOYS SOON TO GET AWAY.

The Courier Correspondent's Prediction—Death Angel in the Camp—Hawkeye Soldiers Not to be Moved to Presidio.

Camp Merritt, San Francisco, Cal., July 24.—(Special Correspondence.)—A little over one week ago the 51st Iowa could show upon its rolls the names of some 1325 men who had passed the United States physical examination and were ready for active service in behalf of their country. Since then the Great Destroyer has entered into our camp and has borne away the lives of four of Iowa's soldier boys. They were all good men, well liked by their comrades who were moved with great sorrow at the early sacrifice at the behest of insidious disease. Company M, of Red Oak, has lost two men, Privates Ritter and Rodgers. These men were the victims of intestinal troubles. The best of care had been bestowed upon them, but all to no avail. They sank away into the Great Beyond. This morning at 8:30 o'clock, Corporal Dan S. Newsome, of Company D, died of pneumonia. He was formerly one of the enthusiastic guardsmen of Iowa, having served in the Third regiment as a battalion sergeant major. When the regiment entered the United States service the position was abolished, and Mr. Newsome entered Company D, of Knoxville. His home was Des Moines. The fourth name to be stricken from the army duty rolls is that of Private Tucker, of Council Bluffs. His death resulted from the malignant attack of pneumonia. He belonged to Company L.

The location of Camp Merritt is very unfavorable to the health of the men. The sanitary conditions have been condemned by the surgeon in charge of the camp, and orders have been given that the encampments be changed to the Presidio reservation. Troops soon to embark will not be moved, however, and on this account our regiment will remain in its present encampment for the few days we shall be here.

The postive orders have not yet been issued assigning the Iowa regiment, but it is well understood that we shall be transported on the next regular expedition. A guard of Iowa men has been detailed for duty on the Arizona, now preparing for a troop ship, and this is regarded as significant that the vessel will be ours. There exists that quiet undercurrent of belief that we are going next for sure, and all preparations of a serious nature are being made accordingly. The writer predicts that ten days or two weeks will see us aboard the transports.

It takes from four to five weeks to make the trip to Manila. An expedition sailing from San Francisco the next two or three weeks will reach the Philippines in the best weather of all the year for those islands. Consequently, it is greatly to our advantage to have had deferred till now the embarkation of our troops.

It can hardly be questioned that all the expeditionary forces of Gen. Merritt's command will now be sent even if peace were to be declared at once. It takes a vast amount of work to get a great body like an army in motion, and it takes a corresponding expenditure of time and money to disband it.

We shall go to the Philippines soon—we are assured of that. We may fight Spaniards, we may have to meet the forces of Insurgent Aguinaldo. We are out to serve the United States and shall follow the banners of our country wherever they may be borne. It is very likely that most of us shall not be discharged before the period of our two years' enlistment passes, let the war close sooner or later. The troops of these expeditions will hold the islands for the United States as long as she retains her claim for them.

Last Monday the Montana regiment sailed away. They were a soldierly-looking body of men, and left quite a large gap in the camp and the hearts of many people when they left.

Friday morning reveille sounded at five o'clock in the South Dakota regiment, which was just across the street from ours. The men quickly arose and fell in line, answered roll call, after which they soon struck their tents, shouldered all their effects and marched away. Each man carried a knapsack into which was placed extra clothing and all other little conveniences, haversack for rations, canteen, belt, cartridge box, bayonet and gun, and also strapped upon his knapsack his blanket roll and half of the material for the little "dog tents for two." All these make up quite an array of effects and aggregate in weight about 65 pounds. As the heavily-laden soldiers composing South Dakota's proud battalions marched by they were followed by rousing cheers from the Iowa men. We have received hundreds of courtesies at their hands, and we could not help showing our sense of good will as our neighbors moved on for the long voyage. Their ship passed through the Golden Gate today, bearing also Brigadier General H. G. Otis and staff. Hurrah for South Dakota!

Since the departure of Brigadier General Otis, the 51st Iowa has belonged to a new brigade commanded by Brigadier General Charles King of literary fame as the "Captain Charles King," the brilliant author. General King is of medium height, solidly built, and seems to be about 48 years of age. He is of very commanding appearance and has a pleasant face. He reviewed our regiment in its evolutions this morning. He has captured the good will of all the men by issuing orders allowing them liberal privileges in leaving the camp during the time not on duty. Heretofore the men have been confined like prisoners, unable to pass the

guard lines without passes from their colonels. Many of those who did pass without authority were caught, and fined or more closely confined. All this hardship and red tape are abolished by General King's orders.

In all 14,900 troops have now embarked for the Philippines. There still remain at Camp Merritt 8,100 men and at the Presidio 1,500 more, making a total of 9,600 troops yet to be transported. This makes an excess of 4,500 over what General Merritt originally asked for.

The troops which still remain at Camp Merritt are the Seventh California, Twentieth Kansas, Fifty-first Iowa and First Tennessee regiments, one battalion each of the First South Dakota, Eighteenth and Twenty-third U. S. A. recruits belonging to the First Colorado, Thirteenth Minnesota, Tenth Pennsylvania, First Nebraska, Second Oregon and two battalions of the Eighteenth U. S. A., a few members of the signal corps, members of the hospital corps, and a number of men belonging to various commands that have sailed, who were left behind on account of sickness.

To the steamer St. Paul, which will leave in about a week, have been assigned the remaining battalion of the South Dakota regiment and the recruits of the Colorado and Minnesota regiments—about 1,000 men in all. Following this the Iowa regiment will probably sail upon the Arizona in about ten days from now—and the 7th California will embark upon the Scandia. Speed the day for our departure—for we are tired of Camp Merritt with all its laborious drills, strict confinement and unpleasant and unhealthful surroundings. We long to go to the front, and take our part as soldiers in the active service. "On to Manila!"

James R. McVicker.

## NOW CAMP MERRIAM

Soldiers at Camp Merritt Moved to Better Location.

FIFTY-FIRST EXPECTS TO GO SOON

To the Philippines, as Transports Are There Now to Take On Troops—  
Cal Orr Calls on Courier Correspondent.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 2.—(Special Correspondence).—The Fifty-first Iowa is now located on the government reservation at the Presidio. In a great many ways it is a much more desirable location than the one at Camp Merritt, but the writer desires to hasten with the statement that the place is very far from an ideal one. In camp Merritt we had sand everywhere, and dense fog daily with which to deal; now we have no sand, but heavy fogs and descending mists every day, that come down and moisten the ground just as a rain would do in Iowa

and making a plastic mixture of the earth that is, unmistakably, mud. The people say we have no rain here this time of the year, but the writer does not know wherein the difference lies. This "mist" (or rain) begins early in the evening and continues all night and a good part of the following morning. It usually remains cloudy here all day, although the sunshine can be seen on some of the far-distant hills.

We are encamped on a slope just above the bay, and our proximity to the water and the Golden Gate through which the constant wind bears the fogs accounts for the peculiar climate of this immediate locality.

We left Camp Merritt last Friday. All morning we awaited positive orders to confirm the reports that we were to be moved. Finally, about noon, orders came. All the soldiers' effects were quickly stowed in haversacks and blanket rolls, thrown across their shoulders, tents were struck, and the march made to the Presidio. There was a great amount of work in again finding our tents and setting them up, but by nightfall the work had been accomplished. Next day some of the tents had to be again moved, which caused a good deal of waiting and vexation, but at last the matter was finally arranged and the tents of the Fifty-first Iowa arose in part constituting the new "Camp Merriam." In addition there will be the Kansas regiment and Tennessee regiment. One of the welcome features of our new location is that we have been supplied with lumber for tent floors. This will make our army home a great deal more pleasant and convenient. All over the camp can now be heard the sounds of the hammer and saw, for the men are busily engaged in the work of flooring, making tables, gun racks and benches. This supply of lumber at first seemed suggestive that we were to be kept here for a long time, but the consensus of opinion now is that it is only a temporary precaution for the sake of our health, as was the moving.

The troops at this place will not be held longer than is necessary. Gen. Merritt's forces in the Philippines will be strengthened by the addition of all the remaining expeditionary troops just as soon as the transports can be placed in readiness. There are now several vessels in port—one of which will very likely bear away the Fifty-first Iowa volunteers. Most likely the Arizona is ours, though all California papers in the present uncertainty unite in claiming it for the California regiment. The vessels Scandia, Arizona, Siam, Centennial and City of Peking are being prepared for troopships at the docks. The City of Peking has just arrived on her return trip from the first expedition, and will again do good service. Assurances are made by army officers here that none of the troops here will be left behind, but that all and more will be required in the Orient. It is claimed that our services will be needed whether Spain makes peace or not.

Mr. Cal M. Orr, a former resident of Ottumwa, recently made the writer a very pleasant call. Mr. Orr came from Ottumwa to Oakland a little over a year ago. He represents the interests of John Morrell & Co., Ltd., in Oakland and all over the Pacific coast. Mr. Orr is well pleased with Oakland and its climate.

Very truly,

James R. McVicker.

## FROM CAMP MERRIAM

News From the Courier Correspondent With the 51st Iowa.

### READY AND ANXIOUS TO GO TO MANILA

Boys Celebrate When they Receive the News That They Will be Sent to Manila—Fixing Blame For Former Camp Location.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 7.—(Special.)—Quite a spirit of contentment has come over the men of the Iowa regiment during the last few days. There is not the spirit of unrest that seemed to pervade the camp for several weeks past. The men are now in a more settled and satisfied mood. Two things conduce to the present happy state of affairs. It is hardly necessary to say that the positive assurance from the war department that the regiment will be forwarded to Manila as soon as possible is the cause of much cheer. The news came Friday evening about sunset that Col. Loper had received the welcome word from Congressman Hull. Soon the men all over the camp were lustily cheering and giving vent to the feelings of satisfaction that had taken possession of them on receiving the news. The cheering lasted, grew louder and more prolonged, and finally headed by our band most of the men in the regiment marched in parade up and down the company streets throughout the regiment. If any doubt existed as to the predominating disposition of the men of the regiment in regard to the matter of sailing, it was certainly dismissed by the enthusiastic demonstration the men made on the receipt of the news.

It at once becomes a topic of interest as to how soon the transports can be in readiness for our embarkation. It is not definitely known what troops will be assigned to the Scandia and Arizona, but it is generally thought here that the California troops, who have been stationed here ever since the war began, will be granted the privilege of departure next. They are very anxious to do so and are striving hard to accomplish their purpose. A few inferior vessels are being overhauled, presumably with a purpose of making them available as troopships. One of the returning vessels of the first expedition is said to have arrived into port today, and others are expected soon. It will take from two to three weeks to again overhaul and prepare these vessels when they do arrive, and as all troopships now in port will take about that period in yet preparing, it seems improbable that the Iowa regiment will be able to depart before the latter part of this month.

In the meantime other complications or aspects of affairs may present themselves. If the peace negotiations are concluded in a short time, the state of affairs at Manila may not warrant the sending of the remaining troops. The

matter in great measure will depend upon the condition whether or not the United States demands the whole of the Philippines. If the city and harbor of Manila are all that are asked, more troops would hardly be needed to garrison the district. If Spain readily makes this concession, Chief Aguinaldo will probably acquiesce to the plans of the United States and continue his operations against Spain only. If we demand the whole group it is likely a very large army of occupation in addition to the present forces will be required. In that event our forces would probably have a prolonged struggle with the insurgents. It is a question involving great possibilities, and fraught with intense interest to the men of the Fifty-first Iowa.

The present location of our regimental camp is a fine one, and no better could be desired, except for the fogs. Fortunately for us, they have abated much in intensity and we are told that the time of year is near when we may expect very favorable weather in respect to fogs and mists. Camp Merriam, in the Presidio, overlooks the broad San Francisco bay, the island on which is situated the military prison—the Alcatraz—and the Golden Gate. This scenery in front, with the wooded hills in the rear, form an ideal a location for a picturesque camp as could be wished. The sanitary and drainage regulations are very stringent and the utmost care is taken to preserve the encampment in fine condition. Since coming here our regiment's sick list has gone down from 300 to 70 cases in less than a week.

The regiment participated in two brigade drills last week. Brigadier General King is desirous of placing his command on the best possible footing and manifests the greatest of attention and interest to that end. The regiment will be reviewed tomorrow by General King. Brigade drills will be a frequent feature of our work in the future. In the meantime the regimental and company drills will continue unchanged. So there is no doubt but that we shall be well enough drilled, and in the meantime the men do not complain of any lack of exercise.

The writer has spoken before of the courteous bearing of Brigadier General Charles King. His conduct is particularly marked with respect to his considerate treatment of subordinates. On the drill ground instead of the formal, ironclad mode of address, he frequently

uses the word "gentlemen," which can not be other than gratifying to those in hearing of his finely modulated voice. His dignified bearing is at the same time impressively military. General King is a true soldier. We admire him greatly.

It is prominently and frequently evidenced that the personnel of our officers is composed of a most capable class of men. They are attentive in the discharge of their duties, and the fact is especially noticeable that they are diligently improving and preparing themselves for the responsibilities that may devolve upon them. Foolish, falsified reports have been given currency in a few Iowa papers to the effect that a state of unpleasantness and feud exists

among our regimental officers. The report is utterly without foundation in fact, and is most essentially untrue. Some groundless rumors of the said nature were whispered about among a few of the men of the regiment when rumors of every conceivable purport were going round, and a thoughtless newspaper correspondent forthwith embodied them as a part of his hastily prepared letter. Of course the stuff was printed and copied about and gained for its writer a little unenviable notoriety. The writer of these lines is glad to state that the greatest of harmony and good will prevails among all our officers and men, and has thus been from the start. We are proud of our regiment and state, and congratulate ourselves upon our faithful and efficient officers.

It is now sought to fix the blame for the quartering of troops upon the sand plains of Camp Merritt in the first place. This was evidently a very unfit location for a military camp. Many hundred cases of sickness and many deaths are charged as needless against the unhealthy site. It appeared to us upon the day of our arrival into Camp Merritt as we pitched our tents that it was a very poor location for an encampment of soldiers. It seems that the blame for the serious blunder involving the bad health and death of so many men is to be charged against the Southern Pacific railway. The reader may not understand how this corporation is allowed to dictate to the United States, but as the writer was told, "We are all slaves to this immense corporation out here. It speaks its will and we must obey. It is so very powerful that it can accomplish whatever it pleases." This railway company owns several street railways connecting Camp Merritt with the city, and reaped immense revenues from the passenger traffic back and forth. Its greedy gorge of gold was gathered in, but at the expense of health and lives of many of the country's defenders. It is gratifying, however, to think of the many kind acts that have been performed for our benefit, and of all the kindness and consideration displayed toward us by the public at large. This in great measure removes the feeling that this is an age "When wealth accumulates and men decay."

Our band gave a splendid concert this afternoon. It was largely attended by throngs of people and soldiers from surrounding regiments. They were all enthusiastic in showing their appreciation. Our band takes rank second to none, but is first.

The regimental hospital corps has been transferred to the division hospital at the Presidio barracks. The sick will not be placed in tent hospitals at this camp hereafter. This is a very beneficial change for the sick, as the hospitals are pleasant and commodious.

Many convalescents will be granted furloughs of 30 days duration with transportation and travel allowances to their homes and return as soon as they are able to endure the trip. This is quite a benefit to some of the sick, a few of them will be honorably discharged in all probability by reason of present disability and impaired constitutions.

Sergeant Guy E. Kissick, of Company F, has been detailed as acting sergeant-major of the first battalion. Kissick is a most efficient soldier, and we shall be pleased at any promotion he may receive.

Privates Stone, Stephenson, Crouch and Suit, who have all had serious sieges of illness in the hospitals, are all on the highway to complete recovery. They are members of Company F, and we are rejoiced to hear of their convalescence.

In behalf of the Fifty-first regiment the writer will say that they patiently await orders—ready and willing to obey.

Very truly,  
James R. McVicker.

## FROM CAMP MERRIAM

Latest Word From the Soldiers in  
the Far West.

### HOME PREFERRED TO GARRISON DUTY

**Boys Do Not Look Forward to Going to  
Manila Now, if Orders Should  
Come, With Much Anticipation.**

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Aug. 15.—(Special Correspondence to Courier.)—The past week has been one of great activity for this regiment. The principal feature of the week was the brigade review before Brigadier General King. This brigade, known as the "Second Brigade, Independent Division, Eighth Army Corps," is composed of the Iowa, Kansas and Tennessee regiments. The review lasted for three days. Tuesday the command marched upon the Presidio plains, in blue uniforms, the Iowa regiment occupying the right of the line. After passing in review, the evolutions of the regiment and battalion in brigade drill were executed, and General King expressed himself to Colonel Loper as having been highly pleased with the work of the Iowa regiment. On Wednesday the brigade appeared in brown uniforms, and the officers were tested as to their ability to command the several subdivisions while the orders came from the head of the brigade. They were carefully supervised, and brought in conference for general instructions by the general.

Thursday morning occurred the final inspection and review, the men being equipped in heavy marching orders—that is, with blanket rolls, haversacks and canteens, in addition to their arms. It was thought that this inspection would, in large part, determine which of the regiments should have the precedence in the next expedition to Manila. There was intense interest in the result. Many civilians and officers of the army were spectators. The three regiments marched past the reviewing officers in columns of companies, preserving unbroken lines and step. The Iowa regiment led the formation, followed by Tennessee and Kansas. These evolutions, consisting of the successive

turning and marching in columns of companies, and finally the wheeling into column of fours, created a spectacle of military display that was most admirable and memorable. As each regiment marched by the preceding one that had already taken its stand, the marching men were greeted with cheers from the admiring soldiers. At the conclusion of the drill General King announced that his entire command would be sent to Manila as soon as transports could be had to convey them. Loud shouts and demonstrations marked the receipt of this intelligence, and the men then took up their semi-victorious march back to the camp. They were in high spirits and thought they would soon sail west.

The next day all our anticipations were again thrown away by the news of the peace protocol. Very many were quite unwilling to thus surrender so early their hopes, and argued that the matter would have no effect upon our prospects for Manila. Others thought quite differently. The latter are now in the majority. General Merriam has announced that he will dispatch no more troops to Manila until further orders from the war department to do so, and this has put quite a different aspect to affairs. It is thought that the war department will not issue the necessary orders unless upon the requisition of General Merritt for additional troops. It is not believed that more troops will be needed for the mere occupation of the city and district of Manila. The Arizona was to have sailed today, and her complement of

troops would have gone aboard yesterday had not the orders countermanding the embarkation been issued.

The general effect is to play matters at a standstill for the troops here. They will not be sent to Manila unless strong reason presents itself, which seems improbable on the belief that the United States will take only the city and harbor of Manila. They will not be sent home or disbanded until the final treaty of peace has been concluded, thus settling the question as to whether further troops will be needed for the Philippines.

Should the United States be awarded a group of islands, or even the large island—Luzon—it is probable that more troops would be immediately forwarded. As their mission would be clearly garrison duty, and at most a mere intimidating force to the natives, the assignment is no longer coveted by the great body of our men. They regard it more seriously, and quite a number with clearly expressed misgivings. The voyage possesses for all a fascinating charm, but the probable service for the allotted period of enlistment, should this trip be undertaken, is something that few volunteers desire in time of peace. Now that the war is over, many feel that they should be allowed to go home. It is widely expressed that to do the garrison duty in the Philippines is a "regular army job," and the men are unhesitating in their desire to see but a short time of that part of the program. We should all like to go to Manila for the trip and to see the country, or to fight, but from garrison duty for two years deliver us! It is not unlikely, however, that if despatched to this Oriental scene for whatever purpose, we should be relieved by the regular army as soon as the necessity for our active service ceased, and

they could be sent. At any rate, we think we are good for Camp Merriam for two months or more.

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A pandemonium reigned in the vicinity of our camp for a brief time Friday evening. Men of the three regiments from Iowa, Tennessee and Kansas, attempted to invade the New York regiment with intentions other than friendly, and were stopped at the point of the bayonet on the part of the guard and detachments of troops from adjacent regiments. Trouble has been brewing for quite a while between the men of the designated regiments and the New Yorkers. The New York men affect an unmistakable air of superiority. They have been loud-mouthed in their self-laudation and contempt for other troops. It is characteristic of them to wear white collars and affect other and more offensive signs of the dress-parade soldier. They have seemed to esteem it a very high duty to do garrison work at Honolulu while other troops sailed beyond to fight. Many personal encounters have taken place between the upholders of the prowess of the contending regiments, and the New York men have shown a decided habit of taking undue advantage of any adversary by sheer force of numbers. Thus, when a crowd of them caught two Tennesseans out alone, they unhesitatingly pitched en masse upon the southern men and seriously pounded them. They grew too arrogant. On the night in question a large party, composed of men of the three regiments before mentioned, advanced upon the New York camp with the avowed intention of "cleaning them out." They would have done the task with alacrity and despatch had not a battalion of Kansas infantry and other troops been ordered out immediately for their protection. The New Yorkers stayed discreetly in their tents until the crowd had begun to disperse, when they began crawling out. As the last men were moving away the officer of the New York guard arrested a Tennessee man. A major of his regiment happened along and promptly and vigorously intervened for his release. Then the New York officer grew very wroth and bold. He took a detachment of his guard and invaded the Iowa lines and arrested two of our men whom he suspected of having taken part in the contemplated raid.

He was returning triumphantly with his prisoners when the sentinel on post halted him, patrol and all, and ordered him to leave the prisoners on this side of the line. He arrogantly refused, but the guard, with fixed bayonet, coolly assured him he was not to be bluffed by New York shoulder-straps, and would use his bayonet on him if he attempted to pass. Then the officer allowed discretion to supplant valor, while the sentinel called for the Iowa guard. Our patrol soon came, took the men from the New Yorkers, released them, and ordered away the invaders. They departed very indignant. Their wrath was in no wise appeased by references to their comrades, the Seventy-first New York, who so signally failed before Santiago, but they left.

About this time a Tennessee captain happened along and said to the assembled crowd of Iowans: "Boys, I fought all through the civil war in the Confederate army, and I want to say that the bravest men we had to fight were not

from Massachusetts and New York and those states, but from the west!" Cheers went up.

All is peaceful now. The little display of sectionalism was perhaps deplorable, but was brought on by reprehensible conduct on the part of New York's troops. It was not our fault.  
James R. McVicker.

## TEN NOW DEAD

*First*  
Fatalities in the Fifty-Second Iowa Camp.

PATIENTS HAVE THE BEST OF CARE.

No Complaint of Negligence in Camp Merriam—Deaths of Harry Stone and Vern Hysham—Other Gossip.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Aug. 23.—(Correspondence to Courier.)—The death list of the 51st Iowa now numbers ten. All of these have died from illness contracted in Camp Merritt so far as known. It is very difficult to preserve good sanitary conditions in a place where large bodies of troops are congregated for any very considerable length of time. Our regimental medical officers and the hospital corps have labored hard and the best of care has been given all patients, but death claims its quota.

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Harry E. Stone died Friday afternoon between one and two o'clock. His death was unexpected, and was a severe shock to the hearts of his comrades. Harry has been slowly but gradually improving and it was our belief that he would recover. It had been planned to give him a thirty days' furlough as soon as he should be able to travel home. He was taken a month ago with the ravages of scarlet fever. He had passed the critical stage when blood poisoning set in and injured his already weakened constitution. He is the second member of our company to pass away. Harry was of a very pleasant disposition, self-sacrificing, kind-hearted and true to duty. Just before being taken ill he had been promoted to the place of company clerk by Captain Keating. He was one of the first members of the company, having started from Oskaloosa to Des Moines with Company F, when the state troops were first concentrated last April. He is a son of Captain Stone, of Oskaloosa. On Saturday afternoon the remains were escorted to the ferry station by his company. Services were conducted by Chaplain Williams, at the close of which the company bugler blew the soldier's last and solemn call—taps. Bouquets of flowers were placed upon the casket by members of the company and by ladies of the Red Cross society. Then leave was taken of our deceased comrade, and the remains started to the destination of the sorrowing home in Iowa.

Vern R. Hysham, of Company M, also died on Friday. He was given the honors of the dead soldier by his comrades, who escorted the remains to the station to be sent to his home at Red Oak, Iowa.

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Quite an incident occurred last week over the reported injury of a Tennesseean at the hands of a colored boy. It seems a sensational report was circulated in the Tennessee camp that one of their men had been killed by a negro. They rushed to the colored man's house and made quite a threatening demonstration, doing considerable injury to the premises. It would have been very unfortunate for all concerned, had not the Iowa guard and the Tennessee officers protected the person of the colored man. Major General Merriam made an investigation, showing the colored man to be innocent of crime. He had merely knocked down two of the Tennessee boys, who, while drunk, attacked him. The Tennessee regiment was placed under severe restrictions and a heavy guard placed around it. The regiment will have to pay damages and the ring leaders of the mob will be promptly court martialed. Thus are the colored man's rights respected in California.

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Orders have been received to transport General King's brigade, to which the 51st Iowa belongs, to Honolulu as soon as practicable. The troops will be held in reserve there until further developments, when, perhaps, they will be taken to Manila. It is the opinion of many that we shall embark for the Hawaiian Islands within the next two weeks. It will be a fine trip, and a very desirable and beneficial change as to climate. It means also 1,500 miles further toward the front, where it is possible hostilities of some kind may yet be renewed. The regiment is thus sure to be held in the service until the final treaty is concluded, which we think will detain us for six months, perhaps. After the treaty is concluded it is expected that the work of disbanding will at once commence.

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The volunteers doing garrison duty will probably be soon relieved by regulars after the treaty is signed. This will occupy a considerable time, and the regular army will have to be largely increased. It is thought that a

number of volunteers will elect to remain in the service by enlisting in the regular army.

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Yesterday the proud ship Arizona sailed for Honolulu with 1,300 troops composed of recruits, and with large quantities of provisions aboard. She will land the soldiers and stores and return to this port for another detachment of troops. The Scandia will also sail soon for Honolulu. The two vessels will soon sail for Manila with provisions and hospital stores, if it be decided not to transport more troops on them.

James R. McVicker.

## IN CAMP MERRIAM. 726

Military Activity Still Continues in the Presidio.

GARRISON DUTY IS NOT WANTED.

With the Prospects of Real Fighting Over Volunteers Prefer to Come Home—Monotonies of Camp Life.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 29.—(Correspondence to Courier.)—Notwithstanding the cessation of hostilities and postponement of the further forward movement for the present, the army camps in the Presidio continue to be the scene of much military activity. The quartermaster's department is constantly busy with a rush of work attending the issue of clothing to the men. Orders were recently issued to the men to hand in their final requisitions for supplies, and these supplies are now being issued. In the opinion of some this would seem to indicate a removal to Honolulu in the near future, but others think the move was made for the purpose of getting rid of the quartermaster's supplies already contracted for. The latter seems the more probable, and furthermore for the reason that the supplies issued to volunteers being hastily turned out in large quantities by the contractors, are generally inferior to the supplies ordinarily furnished to the regular army. These supplies would not be available in the future for the Regulars because their officers would not accept them for their troops. It has been a very noticeable fact that the officers of the Regular army exercise a far greater care and supervision over the welfare of their men than do the Volunteer officers. This is chiefly because of the experience of the former. The troops are now regularly drilled the same as ever. Some of the men think it quite a hardship to be compelled to submit to the old military routine now that our prospects of seeing active service are blighted. They no longer take the interest in the drill and desire greater liberty. However, it would not be advisable to stop the drill work very materially. It seems needful for the proper exercise of the men. Should the drills be stopped many of the men would not take sufficient exercise for the care of their health. So the drills will doubtless be continued with an occasional sham battle by way of diversion. Colonel Loper has ever shown the greatest interest in the welfare of his men. He is a thoroughly efficient commander. For him the men have the utmost respect and good feeling. The colonel can be approached by any of his men, and he seems to take pleasure in granting favors to them.



The weather here for the past several days has been ideal. It has been just deliciously cool and refreshing. There has been no fog, and the sun has shone a good part of every day. As we gather from letters concerning the intense heat now prevailing in Iowa we can to a great extent appreciate our comfortable situation in this respect. But however pleasant the weather may seem we cannot but remark of the insidious nature of the climate of this point. At first our troops were ignorant and wilfully heedless of all cautions. They could not realize the dangers of the evening damps and the daily chills and mists. Some were very careless. As a result there were many attacks of colds resulting in pneumonia and other lung troubles. Then our troops were not properly cared for. To

place men upon the sand of Camp Merritt in such a climate as this was the greatest kind of a mistake, especially when this 1,400-acre reservation of the United States was all of the time unoccupied. But, perhaps, the most unfortunate affair of all was the treatment of the newly arrived recruits in June. They reached here without rubber blankets, overcoats or any protection whatever outside of their light summer clothing. These men were not supplied with anything but woolen blankets for weeks and weeks. As a consequence many of them became seriously ill and a great number of cases in the hospital were the direct result of this negligence. Since moving here on the 29th of July our regimental sick list has to a great extent decreased, but there are still a large number of men who are unable to perform their work on account of the climatic influences. These men would not be sick in Iowa, but the adversities of this climate which afflict them more severely, perhaps, on account of a little carelessness on their part in the first place, render them unfit for service.

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Mid many conflicting rumors there is much speculation as to the probable assignment of this regiment. Gen. Merriam has gone to Honolulu to make an investigation for a suitable location for a camp of concentration. It is hardly believed that any of the troops here will be forwarded, however. The whole of the New York regiment has been sent in small detachments to Honolulu. The last of these went on the Scandia last Saturday. The other transports chartered by the government, which have been lying in readiness here, have been released by the government. So we hardly expect to see the beauties of the Hawaiian Islands. The desire for the trip to the Philippines has long ceased to be—now that the prospect for fighting is over. There are comparatively few "Tommy Atkins" among the Iowa volunteers. When the army ceases its fighting, war has no charms for the average volunteer. He begins to look for a way out. The service has lost its attraction for him. He is ever fearful lest the department may decide to assign him to garrison duty somewhere. This would mean drill incessantly without the compensating privilege of putting it to practical test. The volunteer is not

much of a dress parade soldier. If a vote were taken in the regiment the vast majority would be in favor of being disbanded at once. This can not be for the present, however. Troops here must be held until the treaty is finally negotiated, so that there can be no possibility of further hostilities of a serious nature. The writer would therefore predict that the Fifty-first Iowa will be the last Iowa regiment to be mustered out.—It has faint prospects of yet doing service in far-off islands. It will be kept in the service at least two or three months yet. It is the part of the soldier to cheerfully acquiesce and obey. He has to do it, and so he may as well be pleased.

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Many of the men here are making the best use of their time. Some are reading law, medicine, science. Others are practicing shorthand, bookkeeping, music, and, incidentally, a few are doing journalistic work. These last are having the hardest time of all, for with the blighting of our hopes of engaging in fierce, blithely battles with the wily Spaniards, there is little to write about but the dead monotony of camp life.

James R. McVicker.

## IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest Word From the Troops in the West.

### IOWA BOYS WANT TO COME HOME.

The Courier Correspondent Writes of the Feelings of the Soldiers on Garrison Duty—Other Interesting Gossip.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 2.—(Special Correspondence.)—Again the gloom of death has settled down upon our camp. Two more Iowa boys have departed this life into the great beyond. They have given all within their power to the service of their country, not upon the bloody field of battle, but in that last refuge where many a brave and stalwart soldier has fought so unsuccessfully the insidious ravages of a dread disease—in the camp hospital. A little while ago, a period of some two or three weeks, these two men were missed by their comrades from their accustomed places in the company. They had quit the daily drills. They had gone to the hospital. Little surprise is occasioned in camp when a soldier goes to the hospital. The hospital seems to us a commonplace and inseparable part of the army institutions. So comrades had ceased to think seriously of the sickness of the men until Thursday evening, when it was whispered about that the chaplain had been called upon to minister to Privates Louis Dunn and

Wm. W. Holden, who were dying. Both died last night. They were fine young men, and very highly esteemed by their comrades. Their deaths resulted from the malignant ravages of typhoid fever. It spread a feeling of dread and gloom over the entire regiment when it was learned that two of our boys were called away in one night. The deceased men were members of Company I, from Bedford, Iowa, and with the recent death of Private Brown, of Company B, make a total death list of 13 in the Fifty-first regiment. This almost reaches the number of deaths in the 7th California regiment here, which is the source of so much regret to the people of California, the number in that regiment being 14 since May 9.

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A great stir has been made among the people of San Francisco and southern California the past two weeks over the alarming conditions of sickness and the increasing deaths prevailing in the California and other regiments of Camp Merriam. The sick lists are steadily increasing, and the spread of typhoid fever is alarming, there being 19 cases and 11 suspects in the Seventh California regiment yesterday. The fever is showing itself in all the regiments, 32 men, many of whom are suspects, having gone into the division hospital yesterday. The typhoid fever has attacked several members of the Iowa regiment, and there are many cases suspected of it. The officers of the Seventh California have been accused of concealing the state of unhealthfulness prevailing in that regiment, and the secretary of war has ordered an investigation by Brigadier General Miller, now in command of this department. It is now openly charged that this concealment was made for the purpose of getting the troops off to sea for Honolulu or Manila to prevent the troops from being soon disbanded, as the officers desire to remain upon the pay rolls as long as possible. The people of California are much enraged at the actions of the commissioned officers, and emphatically demand that the California troops be immediately mustered out. The troops themselves are anxious to quit the service, as in fact are the vast majority of all the volunteer forces stationed here.

The following from today's San Francisco Chronicle is self-explanatory:

"The agitation in favor of mustering out the volunteers now stationed at Camp Merriam is daily gaining strength. Although the enlisted men have not been allowed to circulate petitions for their release they have managed to let the public know through

letters and conversations that they very much desire to be mustered out, since there is no likelihood that the country will have further use for their services. The commercial and emergency bodies of the state are taking up the matter and strong appeals are being made to the authorities at Washington to respect the wishes of the privates in the volunteer organizations.

"The following telegram was sent to President McKinley yesterday by Hugh Craig, president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce:

"Sept. 1, 1898.—To the President, Washington, D. C.: There are encamped in and near our city three eastern and

## Descriptions of Army Life in the Philippines by James Rufus McVicker

four California volunteer regiments. Neglect has caused much unnecessary suffering and death among their ranks, which will probably continue unless they are housed in comfortable barracks before winter. Many of these men have left good positions, and now that an early peace is assured desire to return to their homes as soon as their country can safely spare them. In two of the regiments, we are informed, a respectful petition from privates requesting early discharge has been destroyed by officers and the men threatened with arrest.

"We respectfully request that the wishes of the private soldiers in the regiments be first considered, and that those who may desire to return to their homes be allowed to do so as soon as public safety will permit.

"The Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, Hugh Craig, President."

"The officers of the regiment continue to make the ridiculous assertion that a large majority of the enlisted men are contented to remain in the service. Members of Company M said yesterday that in the whole company there was but one man who was not in favor of being mustered out immediately, and that man had decided to make the army his profession. A canvass of Company B showed but two enlisted men who did not object to the efforts their officers were making to remain in the service.

"As any concerted action on the part of the men would render them liable to court-martial there remains for them the one recourse, except the bringing to bear of influence at Washington, of making individual application to their company officers for a discharge, stating the reasons why the discharge should be granted."

The men of all regiments were very enthusiastic to sail for Honolulu or Manila before the completion of the peace movement. They were loath to have to quit the service of the United States without having engaged in active military duty, but during the past few weeks there has come an almost entire reversal of the desire to go to the Philippines. The few who still want to remain in the service are of the class who want to serve in the regular army, for the most part, and many of them have expressed intentions of going into the regular service at the conclusion of the volunteer service. The volunteers as a class desire as speedy release from enforced routine as possible.

There has been no serious breach between the officers and men of the Iowa regiment. The officers have ever conducted themselves as becomes officers toward their men, and though there may be cases of differences, our officers have the full due respect of all the enlisted men. Since it was held to be a breach of discipline by the officers of the army, the Iowa men as well as the soldiers of other regiments here did not forward petitions for mustering out, but it is said, perhaps not without truth, that 90 per cent of the enlisted men would signify their desire to quit the service. Homesickness, doubtless, contributes to the desire of many, but the Fifty-first Iowa regiment is as fine a military organization in all probability as the United States can claim.

The Iowa men are not at all downhearted, but are cheerful and energetic. They execute the routine and drill with as much alacrity and precision as though they were still preparing for the bloody battle. They are well satisfied to remain in the service of the United States as long as their services may be needed. It has been our expectation to be held in the service of the United States until after the problem of the Philippines shall be sufficiently determined to decide upon the question of the need of our services in the islands. If we are needed, we shall gladly go. If we are no longer required to remain in the service we shall lay down our arms with feelings of regret that it had been merely our lot to stand ready to help our comrades while they bravely and heroically fought to the end the foes of our nation. But we shall carry with us into civil life as deep veneration as ever for the emblem of our country, and should ever another call be made for volunteers we will go as quickly to the defense and following of our flag as we did upon our first enlistment. We are proud of the magnificent heritage and destiny of our country, proud of the noble achievements in arms of our armies and navies since the days of the revolution and '76, proud of the recent successes of our comrades in arms, and we should be sorry indeed in the light of the flame of patriotism enkindled by the thoughts of Valley Forge and Gettysburg and a hundred others, if in us it were to be so easily extinguished as by the mere incidental hardships of four months' camp routine. We are willing to serve the government for two years if need be, and for any number of years after should the interests of the great republic require it yes,—and to die honorably in the service if necessary. But the men think their service is no longer needed by the government; they think that they should be soon relieved from military routine by the regular army—and

this is why most of the men of the Iowa regiment as well as the enlisted men of the other regiments desire to return to their homes.

Our regimental adjutant, First Lieutenant J. T. Davidson, has been so fortunate as to receive a promotion at the hands of the president. He has been made a paymaster in the regular army with the rank of captain. Adjutant Davidson officiated in the capacity of camp or brigade adjutant under General Lincoln at Camp McKinley. He held the rank of Major in the Iowa National Guard. He showed commendable military spirit in entering the volunteer service with the rank of lieutenant, and his recent promotion is thereby none the less befitting than it is deserved because of his military qualifications.

A review of all the forces now encamped here, constituting the "Independent Division, Third Army Corps," occurred Wednesday morning. The troops participating were the Iowa, Tennessee, Kansas and California volunteers, the Twenty-third United States infantry, Wyoming and California volunteer artillery and the Fourth United

States cavalry, in all over 7,000 men. They were reviewed by Brigadier General Miller, and the spectacle was witnessed by several thousand spectators who had gathered to see this, the largest military display ever occurring on the Pacific coast.

Quite a number of the sick men have been granted furloughs for 30 days, and these may be further extended 30 days at the end of that time.

Corporal Jason Randall, Corporal Chas. McGlumphey and Private Harry Stephenson, all of Company F, have been enjoying a few days' leave of absence in the fruit belt of California, near Santa Rosa.

Only 40 men of Company B were subject for duty Sept. 1. Other companies are not quite so disabled as that, but sickness is telling on them.

Colonel Loper takes the utmost precautions for the health of the camp. He has issued orders for frequent inspections as to the sanitary conditions of the tents and company streets. The bad conditions and illness prevailing are not due to any negligence on the part of officers or the medical staff.

The monthly inspection and muster occurred the 30th of August. The men will soon be paid two months' wages, the first money received since July 10.

Provision has been made for surf bathing in the bay near our camp, and the men can now enjoy the pleasure of a cool and refreshing salt water bath.

California soldiers are cheering to-night over the rumor that they will soon be mustered out.

James R. McVicker.

# FIFTY-FIRST HOMESICK.

Iowa Regiment at San Francisco Wants to Come Home.

DON'T LIKE NEW ORDER,

Which Says the Fifty-First Iowa Will Be Kept in Commission.

DEATH OF OLIVER MOCK, OF ALBIA.

Fourteen Members of the Fifty-First Have so Far Died in Camp—Expressions from Both Sides.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., September 5.—(Special Correspondence.)—Again across the scene of camp life there shifts the saddening shadow of Death, and another of Iowa's brave soldiers is mustered out alike from the service of his country and the service of his life forever. This time Private Oliver F. Mock, a member of the Knoxville company, is the victim of the dread scourge of the camp, typhoid fever, and by his death increases our list of deceased soldiers to 14, which parallels the number in the Seventh California. Private Mock was some little time ago stricken with illness and conveyed to the hospital. It was at first thought that he had taken the measles, but later it developed that the supposed symptoms of measles were due to the breaking out of scarlet rash, and it was further found that he had typhoid fever. Medical assistance and trained nursing proved unavailing, and early on Sunday morning the afflicted man died of his illness. The news struck deep sorrow into the hearts of his comrades and they express their deep regret that early death should thus sever in the peaceful time the valuable career of their comrade. Owing to the fact that mortification had commenced the body was interred, with full military ceremony in the Presidio cemetery Sunday afternoon. Company D escorted the remains to their temporary resting place, it being thought they will be eventually sent to the native Iowa soil of the dead soldier. Chaplain Williams conducted the religious rites,

the military salute of three volleys was fired and the military funeral was thus ended. Oliver Mock's parents live near Albia, and sad indeed it must be to them to think that their beloved son should have become the unfortunate victim of a dire disease in the full dawning of the peace that blessed the heroic sacrifices of the victorious American army and navy. It is a bitter blow to friends, but the diseased is one of many that have died in the ill-fated army camps of San Francisco. There are other dangers that our soldiers must daily endure besides the possible fatalities of Mauser bullets. It is not all of the sacrifices of war to go into the deadly battle.

A peculiar hemorrhage has recently seized Corporal Wm. Hunter, of Company C. He has bled profusely from eyes, ears, nose and mouth and there are numerous places on his body that seem to indicate future eruptions of the flesh. It is said that the sea level pressure of the air here is too heavy for his lungs and that he should be at once moved to a higher elevation. A delegation of almost his entire company waited en masse upon the colonel. Saturday evening to forcibly present the case and see if action can not at once be taken. It seems the hospital department is so pressed with the cases of the large number of sick men that it is hard to secure immediate proper attention for the sick. As a result of the visit the men were assured that prompt action should be taken. Hunter was taken into the hospital Sunday and will probably be moved to a mountainous country, or sent to his home soon.

A point of issue was raised yesterday between the men of a volunteer company here and the captain commanding. The men were absent from regimental religious services conducted by the chaplain, and after the conclusion of the services the captain directed his first sergeant to call the roll and report men absent from the formation. These he proceeded to list and ordered them in confinement to quarters for seven days. They thought their rights were trampled upon and carried the case to the colonel commanding the regiment. The colonel issued a special order to the captain directing him to immediately release the men. The captain did not do this and persisted in refusing the men their liberties. The men are determined to fully pursue the case, and there are vague remarks about court martials, etc. It remains to be seen as to how the case will end. The articles of war only provide that: "The importance of attending divine service is earnestly urged upon all enlisted men." Thus such attendance is not compulsory and it remains to be seen whether a captain can require it.

Later.—After a visit from the colonel the captain has acquiesced.

Adjutant J. T. Davidson, from Muscatine, is to be congratulated upon his promotion through Governor Shaw from the ranks of first lieutenant to that of captain. He will remain on duty as our regimental adjutant, and will not be transferred to the regular army as was reported.

Adjutant Geo. A. Reed, from Des Moines, has been detailed as acting quartermaster to our surgeon, Major W. S. H. Matthews, who was some time since promoted as division surgeon

here. In the absence of Lieutenant Reed, Lieutenant Park A. Findley, of Company A, will act as adjutant of the First battalion.

The wife and two little boys of Colonel Loper have arrived, and will live in the vicinity of the camp for the present.

The wives of Major Hume, Dr. Macrae and Dr. Fairchild, our regimental assistant surgeons, have arrived, and will make their homes in the city for a time, while those officers are stationed here.

Our band gave a concert Sunday afternoon as usual, and a large throng of visitors were present. Nothing too good can be said in praise of our band, and it is admitted by every one that it has no equal here.

Our officers have good quarters now, most or all of them being supplied with cast-iron stoves in addition to other improvements. A site is being constructed with lumber for a large tent or house, to be erected in front of the regimental parade, presumably for officers' wives—who may wish to make their headquarters within the regimental lines.

It was announced by yesterday's dailies that our regiment would be retained in the service "until further orders." That is what we think. The boys did not fall all over each other trying to get a copy from the newsboy when he called out, "Morning paper here—all about Iowa not going to be mustered out." There was apathy. The newsboy was not greeted with the cheer he received in the good old days when we wanted to go to Manila, and eagerly scanned every line of the newspapers that had bearing on our prospects.

The disposal of the regiment seems undetermined. When interviewed, Colonel Loper said: "I do not know what will be done with the regiment. It may be sent to Honolulu. That all depends upon what General Merriam says. He is expected to return in the next two or three weeks, and will then report upon the possibility of securing a good site for the encampment of troops in the vicinity of Honolulu. If the regiment is not ordered to Honolulu, I shall ask to have it mustered out of the service." The colonel was not asked to express his preferences as he has ever treated his men with the greatest of consideration and it is believed that he will gladly act in accordance with their best interests.

Other officers were interviewed. Some say "It is a lack of backbone and a display of cold feet that the men are showing who want to go home. They are not acting like good soldiers and are too easily wearied with the service. They have enlisted for two years, unless sooner discharged by competent authority, and should not seek to sever their contract with the government until it is ready to let them go and says so. There may be the worst kind of fighting yet. The war is not over yet. Just wait and see." Others who wear shoulder straps say, "I am in sympathy with the enlisted men. They ought not to be left here a minute longer than the government needs their services. I do not blame them for wanting to go home. They ought to be sent there as soon as it is seen their services will not be required. What is there here for them?"

They are in an unhealthful camp in a climate utterly unsuited to them. Many are sick, many have died and more must follow. Something must be done. The men are discouraged here, seeing their comrades dropping into the hospitals and so many dying off. Conditions will get worse. If the government does not want to muster the men out of the service it could at least send them to Des Moines and then grant them furloughs to go to their homes for a time. Then if it were found that their services were needed, they could be sent to the front without great trouble. I believe in standing by the government, but I think that the services of the men are not needed here and that they ought not be kept in an unhealthful camp and climate of this kind."

In response to the representations of Sept. 1st, of Hugh Craig, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that conditions were growing very alarming in the un-

sanitary state of Camp Merriam, and that the troops ought to be mustered out or removed at once, there came a telegram from the war department to the effect that the Sixth and Seventh California regiments were to be mustered out of the service. This brought enthusiastic, prolonged cheering from the enlisted men, but glum looks and tart words from the officers. The colonel of the Seventh California is very indignant at the action of the people who worked to bring this about, threatens to work his political influence to divide California into two states, and says that disgrace has been brought upon his regiment, also that he considers their mustering out as a dishonorable discharge from the service of the United States. When General Miller was informed of these statements of the Seventh California regiment's officers to their men, he said: "That is absurd. The government of the United States does not allow her soldiers to disgrace themselves at her behest. The Seventh is so far from dishonor that congress will be likely to pass resolutions thanking it and others like it for all they have done and suffered, though not in actual warfare in the country's service. The government should pay each of the men on being mustered out three months' extra pay."

The expression of the views of the enlisted men of the Fifty-first Iowa is various, but as is frequently asserted 90 per cent are unanimous on one point: They want to be mustered out of the service as soon as the government can dispense with the possible need of their services in active warfare. The men are not demonstrative or at all mutinous, but they wish that if any expression of preferences is to be asked as to the disposal of the regiment, that they may be allowed to have a voice in that expression of preference. They do not wish to have garrison duty foisted onto them at the mere behest of their commissioned officers, and the writer believes that the officers of the regiment will be considerate as possible of the interests of their men, as is consistent with the proper performance of their duties as commissioned officers of volunteer American soldiers. We have a fine corps of officers in our regiment,—they were elected by the enlisted men—why should they not regard the wishes of their men?

The Courier writer visited the different companies and asked for the prevailing views and opinions in his newspaper reportorial capacity, and the following extracts are the words of representative enlisted soldiers of the Fifty-first Iowa:

"Well, we want to go home, every man of us. We are not in favor of getting up any petitions among the men or holding any meetings that would bring disgrace upon the regiment. We don't want to do anything that should make the people of the grand old state of Iowa ashamed of us. We have the best of officers and the finest lot of men of any regiment in the service, and we are willing to give the government the best we have. But it don't need us. We don't want to lie here doing nothing. If there is any more fighting to do, we want to be in it, but there won't be any. We want to get back to our work as soon as possible. We are here eating up government rations and earning 50 cents per day, and there are but 200 men out of the regiment who can't do far better at home."

"Well, the summons to be mustered out can't come any too soon. Can't get us out, can you? No? Well, s'pose not, but joking aside, and the sentiments of this company are to go home. We are lying here, of no use to the government, and all the time liable to get the typhoid fever. Why there is a company over there with only 40 men fit for duty and 60 on the sick book. Others are bad, our's nearly as bad as that one. Men are flocking into the hospital. It's full. The camp is getting worse. Many men are dispirited, homesick. I tell you, I only think one way about it."

"I'll tell you, my friend, that there is a whole lot of rot going on about this thing. The men are not in favor of going home. They ought not to be. It is all due to the talk of a few homesick fellows who were never away from home before in their lives. They ought not to show the white feather in that way. The United States will discharge us soon enough when she gets through with us. We enlisted for two years and it is not right to seek to get out until our time is up or the United States speaks first. I will be as glad as anybody when the time comes to go home, but I am not going to say one word in favor of it till I know the government is through with our services. That is the patriotic way. Pshaw, these boys are too much like white collars, they lose their starch with just a little sweat. Think of what our forefathers suffered for long years"—just here one of the bystanders interrupted, "Say, reporter, just tell your paper we have a 'top' sergeant who thinks like a brigadier general just 'cause he gets a dollar a day. If I and some of the rest of us got that much we might talk like that too, but us poor privates like me don't get enough to keep the body stuck around the soul and we see differently. O, I wish I were an officer."

"—Say, newspaper man," remarked the sergeant, "don't let what this prodigy says counteract the opinions of all the good soldiers in the regiment. Remember they are not all like him"—"Nor you," said a third party. "No, you just bet not," said a corporal.

"I am not in favor of saying anything a good soldier should not say, but our officers have acted square about it and expressed their honest sentiments to us and we'll express ours to you. We are not in favor of getting up petitions or putting ourselves on record; we don't think it would look right. If the government says we shall stay here and suffer, we'll just do it like soldiers and not say anything against it. But we would like awful well to go home. Some of us quit good positions paying from \$50 to \$75 per month. In fact, all the boys of the company can make good wages outside of this, and we would be glad to be mustered out just as soon as the government can spare us. Quite a number of the boys are sick, but none of this company are sore over their enlistment or are homesick. We don't think we shall be needed at Manila, and we don't want to go anywhere just to do garrison duty unless the United States cannot possibly get along without us."

"The men of this company want to go home as soon as possible. There is nothing in it for us to stay here. There are only two men who want to stay in the service, and they intend joining the regular army. Our officers have always treated us fairly, and we don't see why they should seek to keep us in some garrison just for their own benefit."

A first sergeant said: "If you will take the trouble to ask you will find that beginning with my tent here clear down the line to the cook tent, the men think just one way. They enlisted to fight Spain, and not to lie in a stinking old camp for two years. We shall all get sick if we stay here long. The sick list is constantly increasing. We are d— tired of this. We hope it, or the world, will soon come to an end."

Another first sergeant: "Just write and tell the Iowa papers what a lying lot of newspapers San Francisco has. Tell them we are as good as can be expected. We did not enlist to get cream in our coffee and to lie on feather beds. Just think of the experiences of the veterans of the civil war. Why, we have had nothing to compare to it. I am willing to stand all that any soldier should stand, and his duty is to never complain. That is the way the sensible men of this company think about it."

"The war is over, and new questions come up. It is time we should look after the increasing number of sick men and the causes of all this unnecessary sickness. What's the use of having men die off like flies, in time of peace? Why not disband these volunteer troops and let the regulars attend to this garrison duty and police work? There are enough regulars right here in the city now to garrison all the points that need soldiers. There is the Fourth cavalry, the Third artillery and a regiment of regular infantry—one battalion of the Eighteenth and two battalions of the Twenty-third. We want to get out of here just as quickly as we can."

"Well, sir, this company presents its compliments and would like to inquire whatever induced anybody to think that it wanted to become a part of the regular army. You can just whistle it that we want no garrison duty in

ours. Anybody knows that we enlisted for active service and it is not right to ask or expect us to do garrison duty in time of peace. We want our discharge papers just as soon as possible after that peace commission can see how affairs are to pan out. There is no use of keeping us here another day. We ought to be sent to Des Moines and every man of us given a chance to visit home for a few weeks on furlough. The government could get us together again on very short notice. At any rate we want justice done, and we expect to get it. The sooner we leave this old camp and all other soldiers the better for our health and lives."

"Well, we are not homesick in our company, nor have we got cold feet, but we want to get out of here. The sentiment of all this company is to go home. We don't want any garrison duty in ours, here, at Honolulu, at Manila, or anywhere else. We went into the service to fight during the war, and now if the war is settled we think only one way. We don't want to see any regular army service. If we did, we might have enlisted in it long ago."

"Everything is quiet along the Potomac in this company. Every man is trying hard to have us mustered out, however. About 200 letters were written to Iowa last week to that effect, and you just wait and see if things don't commence popping there pretty soon. There's a petition of the people of our town being gotten up and about 1,000 names are on it now. You just wait and see if we can not get out of this camp."

A member of the hospital corps spoke as follows: "Now, of course, I don't want to have my name quoted for this, but I will tell you a few plain facts. This is a very unhealthy camp. There is no use of the boys having to lie in it in time of peace. They run all kinds of risks of their lives on account of dampness, poor drainage, and bad food. The stuff the boys have to eat here is enough to ruin any man's health. The cooking is poorly done, and can't be done right with such poor facilities and so great a number of men to cook for. It is impossible to maintain good sanitary conditions in a camp like this for any great length of time. There is untold danger lurking from the sinks. And all these are showing a result. Sickness is fast increasing. There are over 200 men of this regiment now unfit for military duty. Typhoid fever is growing alarming. There are about 100 cases of it now in the hospitals. The boys cannot be cared for as they should be. The hospital corps at the division and field hospitals is greatly overworked, one man having to do what formerly was the work of eight. About 150 men of the hospital corps here were forwarded to Honolulu, and it tells on our effectiveness. The sick men cannot be cared for at all like they could be in their homes. It is different—yes, far different. The regiment ought to be sent home. If it is transferred to Honolulu to camp for any length of time things will soon be in as bad or worse conditions. I think the best thing that could be done would be to send us home."

Two Kansans were overheard conversing. Said one: "For my part I am like Lieutenant Colonel Little—I don't want it to be said that I ran harder to get out of the service than I did to get in." Said another: "Yes, you can talk like Lieutenant Colonel Little if you want to, but it's a sorry sight you are to be talking like that on the wages you get, you poor devil you."

The writer leaves the reader to draw his inferences. For himself he reserves expression and avers that he has tried to present the case in an unbiased manner, giving the words of both sides as it has been his lot to hear them. He intends only that a truthful report shall be made, and in his capacity as a correspondent has tried to make that report as he believed proper. Obedience is the first duty of the soldier and so the writer will close his letter, as he has closed several others all summer long, with the words of soldierly resignation that we are here "awaiting orders."

James R. McVicker.

## IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest Word From the Troops in the West.

### LOYALTY OF THE FIFTY-FIRST IOWA.

Its Members are Ready for Any Demands of the War Department—Great Decrease in Sickness—Other News Gossip.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Sept. 12.—(Special Correspondence to Courier.)—A spirit of soldierly resignation pervades the Fifty-first Iowa camp. The official announcement by the war department that the regiment would be retained in the service for the present and until further orders has put to rest much of the agitation and discussion among the men relative to mustering out. If the government needs our services and wants to retain us in its army, we are willing to obey orders and to continue in the service in which we volunteered last spring. It should be clearly understood in this connection that the greater part of all the agitation over this matter was caused by the president's announcement that the troops who most desired to be mustered out, should be disbanded; and that those who liked the service and wanted to remain, should be retained. Immediately the war department found the assurances from the officers that nearly all of the volunteer regiments wished to remain in the service. Then another element turned up—viz., the enlisted men. They considered that the officers had no right to thus express the alleged desires of the troops without consulting them. The officers were accus-

ed of wishing to retain their troops in the service that they might remain commissioned officers and keep their names upon the pay rolls as such. The men thought that the officers had ignored them to the blind following of interested selfish interests. Then the men naturally thought of redress. The petitions in several commands were seized and destroyed, and the petitioners severely rebuked and in some instances thrown into the guard house and fined. This display of severe military discipline so roused the antagonism of the men toward the officers that enlisted men resorted to their final court of appeal—their friends and the press. Hundreds of letters were written, political aid was invoked, and thus was created in great measure the state of affairs of volunteers trying to be released from the service in which they had so freely entered. The men were none the less loyal to their country, but considered that if personal interests were to be looked after their's should also come up for consideration. The camp of the Fifty-first was, happily, not the scene of wrangling or display of vaunted authority such as has been portrayed as true of others. The men have only expressed their preferences in a quiet, soldierly way, and have always remembered that as soldiers and good citizens their first allegiance is to the United States, and not to selfish interests. If the United States needs the Fifty-first Iowa regiment, and the war department has so decided, we are as willing now as when we enlisted, and shall continue even to death to remain in the service of our country—wherever may be carried our flag.

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Brigadier General Miller has repeatedly expressed the opinion that the troops here will soon be transported to Honolulu and eventually to Manila. We have been earnestly believing this for a long while—ever since General Merriam departed to find a site for encampment. We should welcome the change of location and the voyage, for we are about all tired of Camp Merriam, even though it is a fine place. Today, however, it was reported that General Merriam has indirectly given out that there is not a suitable location at Honolulu. If such be his report, we are destined to stay here many weeks unless Spain or Aguinaldo gives us occasion to go to the Philippines.

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The regimental sick list has decreased considerably. The spread of typhoid fever is not thought to be alarming. There are less than a dozen cases of it in our regiment. The total number of sick in hospitals was 69 on Wednesday. Only about 130 men are unfit for duty. This is a very favorable showing, considering all circumstances. It is no doubt a fact that much sickness is caused by negligence on the part of the men, though through inexperience largely. The sickness in the regular army is very slight, comparatively. They, of course, are trained far better as soldiers, and their West Point officers are in every way superior to volunteer officers.

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The general court martial, which recently tried several members of the Tennessee regiment for participating in a riot against the negro, Dan Thomas,

was unable to fix guilt upon any one except Private Scruggs, who plead guilty to striking the colored man on the head with a 2x4 stick of lumber. Private Scruggs has been dishonorably discharged, forfeits all pay due him, and has been ordered confined for three months at hard labor in the military prison on Alcatraz Island.

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Tuesday, September 7th, the division paymaster visited our regiment and paid us two months wages, distributing \$55,000 among the men. Quite creditably for the reputation of our regiment the guard house was not filled as the result of drunkenness, as is usual on such occasions, the men conducting themselves remarkably decorously and soldierly.

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One of the most popular officers of the regiment is Captain Mount of the Shenandoah company. He was formerly colonel of the regiment while in the National Guard service. Captain Mount commands the best wishes of all his men, and is well esteemed by all enlisted men. He frequently acts as major on battalion drill, and manifests all the qualities of a thorough officer and gentleman.

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Private Patrick Ahern, a member of Company B, from Villisca, died Saturday evening. The body is to be shipped to Iowa for interment. This makes the third death in this company, and the Fifteenth in the regiment. The deceased had stomach troubles, which caused his death.

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Sergeant Joe Beeson, Company F, Fifty-first Iowa, and nine privates have been detailed as a military guard for the Condor, now being loaded with army stores and supplies for Manila. The men like the detail as it means easy work and a fine time.

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Chaplain H. P. Williams and the chaplain of the Twentieth Kansas have arranged for the holding of a series of joint revival meetings for the soldiers of the two regiments. The series of services will begin Tuesday evening.

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The army "grayback" has made his unwelcome and despicable appearance on the scene of our experience, and we are waging fierce warfare to be rid of him. "Sic semper tyrannis."

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It is reported that the Twentieth Kansas regiment here will soon receive orders to be mustered out. The men would be pleased, but the report is discredited.

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Lieut. E. W. Hearne, of Company F, who was the state secretary of the college Y. M. C. A. before entering the volunteer service, has proved himself a true Christian friend and helper in the hour of need to many a sick soldier. He has made it a special point to look after the sick, and it is needless to say that his kindnesses are appreciated and commended by all the boys. He is known all over the regiment.

James R. McVicker.

## IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest News From Our Soldiers in the Far West.

### PRECAUTIONS TO INSURE HEALTH.

**Title System of Sewers Put In—A Week's Record Shows Four Iowans Dead—A Soldier Murderer—Camp Gossip.**

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 17.—(Special Correspondence to the Courier.)—The past week has not been an uneventful one to the soldiers of Camp Merriam. They have resolutely drilled and gone through the routine of garrison life that prevails in the camp here, but the time has been marked and the chronicle of camp life sadly and deplorably marred by unwelcome events.

The first of this week came a welcome but inauspicious day for the members of the Tennessee regiment. They were paid two months' wages by the government, as the Iowa men had been the week before. These southern men are a peculiar, undisciplined class of soldiers, and ever since coming to San Francisco have displayed a very demonstrative and, at times, an unduly aggressive disposition. Some of them are constantly parties in a feud of some kind or other, involving soldiers of other troops, saloon keepers, etc. Many are the instances of their having assaulted negroes, engaged in brawls, and in a general way made themselves conspicuous and often obnoxious to the people. This conduct has brought upon their regiment a bad name. The better class of the men deplore this state of affairs, as do also the officers, but this has not prevented the sad tragedy that marked the culmination of much riotous conduct. Tuesday night, Hospital Steward Walter Rosser went into a San Francisco meat market while partially intoxicated, and after making a slight purchase, continued to lounge in the shop. By leaning against some cases he broke a lot of eggs, and the manager, Henry Hildebrand, having before reproved him, asked him to move along. This incensed Rosser, who drew his revolver and shot Hildebrand through the heart. He then fired at the bystanders. Rosser was arrested by the police and taken from the scene of his mad crime, where the infuriated populace was gathering, bent on taking his case to speedy account. Rosser is a graduate of Vanderbilt University of Nashville, 20 years of age, but bears a record of previous disturbances. Rosser will be discharged from the military service and handed over to the civil courts for trial. He manifests the greatest anguish and repentance for his rash deed. His father will be present at his sad but just trial for his life.

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AT CAMP Merriam Typhoid fever is not increasing alarmingly, but it and some attendant complications have claimed four more of Iowa's soldiers this week, swelling our death list to nineteen. Those who died were:

Patrick Ahern, Company B, Villisca.  
Perry A. Black, Company C, Glenwood.

Austin Brown, Company I, Bedford.  
Ellery E. Mills, Company M, Red Oak.

The weather has again taken a foggy and unfavorable turn, and the sick list has kept pace.

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Many precautions are being taken to insure the health of the camps. Recently a tile system of sewers was constructed, and the open sewers were closed. Ample clothing is at the disposal of the men to protect them from the inclemencies of the fogs and chills.

The regimental hospital force has been increased by detailing a number of additional men from various companies for additional service for the time being. The men in the hospital are receiving prompt and careful treatment.

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Hugh Craig, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, who has so often intervened in behalf of the soldiers from threatening evils, has asked the war department to erect barracks immediately for the accommodation of the troops that are to be kept here during the rainy season. Brigadier General Miller has made further recommendations to the same effect, and it is believed that the barracks will soon be under process of construction. Our tents are old and defective, and in the rainy weather would afford but little protection from the chill and dampness. If the troops are to be held here it is of greatest importance that they should be furnished barracks, else a vast number will contract disease and many die.

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Owing to numerous recent disturbances the post guard has been greatly increased, and numerous military patrols are being sent out to arrest all drunken soldiers. The patrols are kept busy, though pleasurably to relate, with a very small number of cases of Iowans. It is said that 500 men of the Tennessee regiment are under arrest, and that of one of their companies all enlisted men are in confinement except the first sergeant. A large number of Tennesseans will be court-martialed. Their regimental lines are closed except to a very of the men. A check roll call is held in companies of the regiment every one and one-half hours, and charges are preferred against all absentees. Colonel Smith, of the Tennessee regiment, seems determined to bring his command under more discipline and control, and to that end has asked of the military authorities permission to send the more turbulent members of his regiment to the military prison on Alcatraz Island for a time until they can learn something of the paramount importance of obedience.

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The provision steamer Condor which has been carefully guarded by Iowa men the past two weeks, sailed today for Manila. The regular liner Coptic will also sail this afternoon. General Miller has telegraphed to Washington

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**Scrapbook provided Courtesy of Dean Norman**

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