

DESCRIPTIONS OF
ARMY LIFE IN THE
PHILIPPINES

BY JAMES R. MEVICKER

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.

for authority to dispatch upon the latter 17 soldiers belonging to companies now at Manila, who were left behind because of sickness. Sergeant Joe Beeson, of Company F, had charge of the guard.

Corporal McClumphey, whose home is in Oskaloosa, will probably be given his discharge soon on account of kidney troubles.

First Sergeant Sessions, Sergeant Harry Dutton, Corporal Parker and Privates McCoy and Preston, all of Company F, have obtained furloughs of ten days' duration, and will make a trip up the Yosemite valley. They took with them their shelter tents, haversacks and canteens, and will camp at convenient places along the way.

Privates Pease and Mark Evans, of Company F, will have 30 day furloughs and transportation issued to them.

A new schedule of camp routine has gone into effect which does not diminish the drills and can claim no special advantages except a later reveille and an earlier retreat. Retreat now occurs at 4:30 p. m., after which soldiers may be absent on leave until 11 o'clock and by passes until 12:30 a. m.

First Lieutenant A. H. McRoberts, of Company E, of Shenandoah, has tendered his resignation to the war department. He did this rather than submit to a trial by court martial on charges of drunkenness. He was captured by a patrol guard early Thursday morning and placed under arrest by the officer of the day in command of the patrol. McRoberts made a stubborn resistance to arrest, and was afterward taken before Brigadier General Miller, who ordered charges to be drawn up against the officer at once. Lieutenant McRoberts appeared before Colonel Loper, who advised him to hand in his resignation. Colonel Loper desires this example to serve as a warning to others who have been similarly guilty.

The news came this morning and was tranquilly received without dissent by the soldiers that no more troops will be forwarded to the Hawaiian Islands. Despite General Merriam's favorable report for a camping site near Honolulu it was given out here that no more soldiers would be sent there.

Hon. John F. Lacey has the full esteem and gratitude of the members of Company F, who appreciate the lively interest that he has ever shown in the welfare of the company.

James R. McVicker.

IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest News From Our Soldiers in the Far West.

REJOICING OVER "TO MANILA" ORDERS

Spirits of the Iowa Boys are Suddenly Transformed - News Received With Cheering-Sickness On the Decrease.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Sept. 26.—(Correspondence to the Courier.) No more effective transformation in the spirits of the soldiers here could be produced than is that caused by the welcome orders for going to Manila. One week ago our prospects were shrouded in doubt and uncertainty. It was not known as to whether the troops would be kept at the Presidio all winter. The soldiers dreaded the very thought of it—it was a most undesirable possibility. The spirits of the men were depressed accordingly. But now all is changed. Definite orders have been received, our prospects are excellent, and welcome fortune smiles upon us. All the volunteer forces here will proceed to Manila at an early time—as soon as transportation can be secured. It is now only a question of time and a few more weeks of patient waiting on our part.

The returning vessels of former expeditions will be used to carry us. The Pacific steamship line of whom the government chartered the vessels, has received information that the steamships Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania left Manila the first of September and will be here about the first of October. Thus the matter of transportation is one of only a short time. The vessels will be at this port in a week or two, but a few days will be required to refit them, and then we shall start through the Golden Gate and out upon the Pacific to make the long trip of 1,000 miles. It will be a happy consummation of our long-slumbering wishes and our almost extinguished expectations.

The boys of the Fifty-first Iowa cheered most enthusiastically upon receiving the orders from the war department last Monday morning. The band turned out, hundreds of soldiers gathered in line behind it, and another old-time parade was had around the regiment. The feelings of the men arose to the height of pleasure, and a more cheerful spirit has been growing ever since. Do the boys of the Fifty-first Iowa want to go to Manila? Well—yes!

The question of precedence among troops naturally arises for discussion again, and various beliefs are adhered to by different regiments. On the authority of a prominent officer it is said that the Fifty-first Iowa will be selected to go first for the following reasons:

Colonel Funston of the Kansas regiment is the senior colonel of the regiments here, and as Brigadier General Miller most likely will leave with the next expedition, the Kansas colonel will be selected to command the brigade, and this will detain his regiment until the last; the Tennessee regiment has so many affairs of different kinds to look after and has unfortunately acquired such a bad name through a few reprehensible characters that it must stand aside; the Washington regiment has but so recently entered the expeditionary forces that it would be manifestly unfair to accord to it the preference; and this leaves the plum to the Fifty-first Iowa.

One of the largest of the transport ships—the China—came into port last Thursday. The steamship company objected to rechartering the vessel to the government, as they claimed to need it in their business, and so it was released and returned to them. The China brought as passengers from Manila Brigadier General Francis N. Greene, bearing General Merritt's report, Senor Agoncillo and secretary, representing Aguinaldo for the peace conference, and Major General Merriam from Honolulu. Besides these there came upon the vessel from Manila Murat Halstead, the noted journalist, Correspondent Pay of the New York World, and a number of sick soldiers. Major General Merriam reported that the soldiers at Honolulu were well cared for, and he is said to have found favorable sites for the location of military encampments should the government desire to send any more troops to garrison Honolulu. The sick soldiers at Manila will be transported here as fast as possible and for their care a large and commodious hospital is to be erected by the government.

Sickness is decreasing in the Iowa regiment. Prompt and careful attention is given to all soldiers as soon as disease attacks them. The best of hospital advantages are maintained. The government employs in the hospitals here 30 trained Red Cross female nurses besides the regular trained nurses of the army. There are also a number of Catholic ladies and others who serve as nurses in the hospitals. The hospital premises are kept scrupulously clean. The most absolute care is taken to render advantageous treatment of inmates. Everything needful which money can buy is furnished the sick soldiers. The people of San Francisco are most liberal in presenting luxuries, extras, etc.

The regiment had two deaths the past week. John A. Ganser, of Company C, died of typhoid, and George A. Graham of Company D (Knoxville) died from complications of pneumonia following measles. Total number deaths, 21.

Miss Della Weeks is still on duty with the regiment. She goes about her work of mercy and kindness among the sick boys with never failing constancy. She seems to enjoy her sacrificing labors in behalf of the suffering ones, and many a one of them blesses her for the timely care bestowed in the time of sickness.

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Perhaps it can be said with truth that the hospital corps of our regiment is unsurpassed by any in the service. Assistant Surgeons Macrae and Fairchild stand in the very forefront in the medical profession and their ability is readily evidenced by the success with which they perform their work among the soldiers. Of the enlisted men Victor L. Bedier is a registered pharmacist, Harry B. Dabney a graduate of a Chicago college of dentistry, and Wm. G. Hicks, Allen E. Hickey, Roy V. Witter and H. W. Seager are medical graduates and were practicing physicians before entering service. The ability of the members of our corps is furthermore shown by the fact that in the recent examinations for promotions to supply additional hospital stewards for the division hospital here, the Iowa men stood highest and secured most of the appointments.

The Courier correspondent interviewed Colonel Loper upon the affairs of the regiment this afternoon. He said: "The regiment has as good prospects as any and hopes to be the first to go to Manila. Considering the unfavorable climatic conditions of San Francisco and the tendency of the men to expose themselves to the inclemencies, I think the health of the command is excellent. I have asked to have new tentage supplied to the men to replace the old. We are doing our best to take care of these Iowa boys. I don't think there is any dissatisfaction in the ranks. No orders were ever issued from these headquarters for confining men in the guardhouse for wanting to go home. No such threats have been authorized or sanctioned by me. The officers of this regiment are gentlemen and good officers so far as I know. The statement published in the Des Moines Leader that two officers of this regiment, above the rank of captain, are known to have been drunk on duty, is untrue. If any of my officers have been drunk in the service, and it is substantiated by affidavits on the part of the persons making such a charge, I would hold an investigation at once. Such officers could be easily gotten rid of. These charges and others that have been published are positively unworthy of notice. I think all the boys are glad to go to Manila. It will be well worth the time to any of them. The experience and knowledge gained will be useful to a man no matter what his profession. I am very willing to invest my time for what is to be learned. I think the volunteers will all be relieved from the Philippines by next spring anyhow. So the completion of one year in the service is all I think the boys can put in as volunteers. The regular army will soon be reorganized." Major Hume also expressed himself of the trip's being a valuable one, and said he thought it would be one which the men would appreciate all their lives for having taken.

The writer can state as a result of his observation and inquiry that despite any unfavorable health conditions army life here seems to agree with a great many of the soldiers, and is shown by their healthful faces and increased weight. Many have gained from five to 20 pounds since coming to Frisco. In his own case the writer can state that he has gained 10 pounds

since the time of his enlistment at Camp McKinley. The going out in the damp and chilly evenings without overcoats is responsible for much sickness. This is inexcusable as the overcoats have been furnished to all the men, and they have been instructed to wear them. The people of San Francisco would not think of committing some of the indiscretions and careless acts of some of our soldiers. Another very abundant cause of sickness is the intemperate eating of pastry. Many men in the army seem to forget and utterly disregard the cautions which they may have learned and applied in civil life.

A military exhibition was given last night at the Mechanics' Pavilion by soldiers of the Kansas and California troops for the benefit of the family of Captain Richter, of the First California regiment, who was killed at Manila. Between 3,000 and \$4,000 was realized and will be presented to the widow and her children.

The Seventh California regiment has been hoping against fate that the orders for their mustering out will yet be revoked, and that they may yet be allowed to go to Manila.

Last night the first autumnal rain fell in San Francisco. It is the first rain we have been favored with since leaving Iowa, and we got considerable benefit of it from the way it leaked into our tents. It has been raining again tonight, and promises now to keep it up for the rest of our stay in California.

The Red Cross society maintains convalescent homes on the Presidio reservation and across the bay at Oakland. Many soldiers receive the cheer and comfort at these places that would not be afforded them in the mere military advantages of the government hospitals. The soldiers bless the Red Cross society.

Our regimental sergeant major, Claude Baker, is now able to be around once more. He is very weak, however, and will take a furlough and visit his home. In his absence Corporal Charles Godfrey, of Company F, performs the duties of sergeant major.

Before the embarkation for Manila a strict physical examination will be given each man to determine his fitness for the trip. Those disqualified as well as those who have not sufficiently recovered from typhoid and other serious illnesses, will be discharged from further service.

A number of men have asked to be discharged on account of the need of their families for their presence at their homes. Their applications will pass through proper military channels for consideration, and they will probably be given their desires.

A feature of the battalion drills at present is the turning over of the companies to non-commissioned officers that they may practice in commanding. Major Duggan originated this in the First battalion.

First Sergeant Pray, of Company H, who was recently stricken with typhoid, has so far recovered that he was able to visit his company today.

Camp does not seem quite so monotonous now that we count the days for our departure and scan the bay for the returning troops.

James R. McVicker.

IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest News From Our Soldiers in the Far West.

ADJ. GEN. BYERS VISITS THE BOYS.

Doubt of the Soldiers That They Will Be Sent to Manila—Management of Rations—Other Camp Gossip.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 3.—(Correspondence to Courier.)—One of the most pleasant features of this week in our camp is the visit made us by Adjutant General S. H. M. Byers, who has come from Des Moines especially to inspect the welfare of the Fifty-first regiment and to report its condition to Governor Shaw. Adjutant General Byers was formerly major of our Second battalion while it was in the National Guard service, and it is needless to say that he has a live, personal interest in a great number of the men, though he manifests the greatest attention to all—officers and enlisted men alike. Besides the general survey of the regiment which he will have accomplished in the course of his conversation and experience with his number of friends and acquaintances, General Byers will have formed very correct and close opinions upon all the details of our present camp and mode of living, for it is his intention to personally inspect and mess with each one of the twelve companies in turn. The general takes delight in speaking kindly and familiarly to the enlisted men, and the men are proud of the Iowa adjutant general. He is a military appearing man with his uniform and insignia of a brigadier general which rank he holds in the Iowa National Guard service, and has created no little sensation among many officers of other regiments, who at first supposed him to be a new brigadier general sent out by the war department to assume the vacancy soon to exist, and which the officers here hope will be filled by the promotion of some one of the commanding officers already stationed here.

Saturday afternoon there was rendered upon the athletic grounds adjacent to the Presidio, a magnificent spectacular drill and review by one battalion from each of the Iowa, Kansas and Tennessee regiments. Exhibition drills were followed by a parade. But the principal event was a sham battle conducted by the Second battalion of the Fifty-first Iowa. One party, acting on the defensive, remained entrenched behind the natural obstructions and within the depressions of an irregular part of the grounds. It was the business of

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the other party to attack and dislodge them. The attacking party, bearing an American flag, threw out scouts and flankers and the interesting play began. Firing was begun with blank cartridges, the attacking party continued the advance, a continual firing by individuals, squads, platoons and companies ensued till the fight became general and both sides were almost completely obscured by dense clouds of smoke. Finally, through the smoke and din it could be seen that the side carrying the flag was victorious and that the others were taken prisoners. The drill was given for the benefit of the army and navy Christian commission which has done a grand work here and all over the country where encampments have been made in behalf of the soldiers. Writing materials have been furnished the men free of charge,

tents have been erected and furnished for the accommodation of the men, religious services and entertainments have been given for the uplifting and betterment of the men socially, and many comforts have been afforded us which otherwise we should have been without. When the complete history of this war shall be written it will contain an account of the noble hearted individuals and societies that have so benevolently assisted by kindness and encouragement the efforts of the "boys in blue."

It has been fully demonstrated that skillful management has much to do with the satisfactory feeding of the large body of men gathered in our camp. Rations are issued to all of the companies alike, but it is a fact that the mess appointments among the several companies are vastly different. The difference arises through the tact and ability of some commissary sergeants to trade the rations to advantage and serve them in a satisfactory way, while others lack special abilities and are perhaps deficient in skillful management, thereby losing a large part of the rations. Of course, the difference in cooks must be taken into account also. No doubt affairs have been mismanaged from time to time in some of the companies, and thus the blame ought not to be laid upon the government, but upon incompetent men who did not know how to look after the well-being of the soldiers. Company A, from Des Moines, has about the best management in the way of rations of any in the regiment. Commissary Sergeant St. George spent several years in the Canadian mounted police, and his experience in this organization counts for much if his ability in managing the rations of his company is to be attributed to it. The cook of that company spent eleven years as a cook while a sailor. Training counts—that is why the regular army so far surpasses the volunteers.

The majority of the men are settled in their belief that we shall eventually be transported to Manila—but many express doubts. No transports have reached here the past week, though several are due and daily expected to reach here. Perhaps the government will hold us a little while awaiting the trend of affairs in the opening work of the peace commission. Another week will surely throw some light on the question of our transportation.

The transport City of Peking started for Manila one day last week with military supplies, but a break in her machinery stopped her before she left the harbor and she had to be towed back to the dock by a tug boat. It was fortunate the accident occurred so near port.

Sergeants Dutton and Sessions and Privates McCoy and Preston, of Company F, have returned from a ten days' furlough spent in the Yosemite.

Privates F. T. Suit and Harry Kramer, of Company F, are spending a sick leave near Santa Rosa, Cal.

Private Roy G. Brown has recovered from a light form of the measles, and is at present at the Red Cross convalescent home in Oakland.

Our regimental chaplain, Herman P. Williams, has obtained a leave of absence and will make a flying trip to his home in Iowa.

Corporal Alonzo Fritch and Private Ed McElroy, of Company F, both from Oskaloosa, applied for discharge from the military service on the grounds that they were the support of their folks and were needed at home, some time since. A telegram has just been received from the war department indicating that their applications for discharge will be granted. It would seem that it is not so hard to get out of the service where good cause exists for discharge.

The Fifty-first Iowa has the best officers of any regiment in the volunteer service here, or anywhere else, in my opinion, and Captain W. H. Keating, of Company F, is one of the truest of these. He has always worked hard, caring for the sick soldiers of the company, and never a man of the company has gone into the hospital but that Captain Keating has been prompt to call around looking after his proper treatment and care, and often carrying to him some delicacy such as a sick boy relishes. These are the things that we shall remember in after years.

Colonel Loper ordered a thorough renovation of the camp last Wednesday. Tents were taken down, floors scrubbed and taken up to allow the ground to dry underneath, ticks were emptied and filled with new straw, and the whole camp thoroughly policed. It was a hard job and took most all of the day, but then after it was finished things were better than before, and disease scared away.

Private D. W. Evans, of Company F, who is well known in Ottumwa as a newspaper man, has been recommended for discharge on account of physical disability. Private Lambert, of Company F will also be discharged for the same reason.

Ex-Secretary of State McFarland, W. W. Welday and E. Selover, of Des Moines, and W. D. Kyle, of Red Oak, have just returned from an Alaskan mining venture, and visited our regiment the past two days. Their venture was not crowned with success.

Mrs. E. C. Worthington, wife of Captain Worthington, of Company H, has arrived from Iowa. Several of the officers now have their wives here, and some of the ladies are planning to take

the trip to Manila if the regiment is transported across the 7,000 miles of ocean.

The writer recently called upon Charles D. Prather, of Company K, Twentieth Kansas, who was an inmate of the division hospital, afflicted with lung disease. He is a brother of Mrs. Esther Wilkerson, of Ottumwa. He has been given a thirty days' furlough, and started for his home in Wellsville, Kansas, last Saturday, accompanied by a Red Cross nurse.

Perhaps no regiment in the service has a prouder record as to the conduct and discipline of the enlisted men than has the Fifty-first Iowa. In this regiment the college student, the clerk, the printer, the mechanic, the lawyer, the physician, the minister and the common laborer have carried their rifles side by side in the utmost harmony and brotherly fellowship, as in fact is doubtless true of all the volunteer regiments, and all hearts throb with the same feelings of patriotism, reverence for the flag, and love of dear old Iowa and her honor.

James R. McVicker.

IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest News From Our Soldiers in the Far West.

PREPARING FOR THE LONG TRIP.

Indications are that the Fifty-First Regiment will be in the Philippines by December 1. Interesting News Letter.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 10.—(Special Correspondence to Ottumwa Courier.)—The many preparations now going on and recent developments indicate the early embarkation of the troops here for Manila. By orders from headquarters the soldiers have made requisitions for all necessary clothing, these requisitions have been filled, and all surplus articles in the possession of the regimental quartermaster have been returned to the depot quartermaster of the department of California. Many large boxes containing necessary additional quartermaster's supplies have been packed, nailed up, and addressed, "Quartermaster, Fifty-first Iowa, Manila, Philippine Islands." Lieutenant Logan, ordnance officer of the regiment, has received an issue of 357,000 rounds of ball cartridges for the Iowa regiment. One-half of these contain smokeless powder, while the other half are of the old black powder kind. Thus it seems the regiment is being fully prepared for all possibilities of warfare. The transport "Senator," which recently arrived, is not large enough to carry a full regiment, but is being rap-

idly refitted to carry a complement of 800 men to the Philippines. This number will be made up of one battalion of the Twenty-third regular infantry, the Second Oregon recruits, one of the three organizations, California heavy artillery, Wyoming artillery or Nevada cavalry, members of the hospital corps, and women nurses, in all about 800 enlisted men and thirty-eight officers. The Senator will sail October 16, according to present plans, although it is thought possible that another vessel will be ready in time to make the start with her.

Following closely the arrival of the Senator, the transports Valencia and Ohio came into port last Friday. The Ohio came by way of Nagasaki, Japan, while the Valencia came by way of Honolulu, a distance of 400 miles farther. The Valencia made the return trip in thirty-four days. Several soldiers of the regular army whose term of service had expired and others on furlough, returned on these vessels. The ships arrived into port in good condition, and will soon be ready for a return trip. It is expected this week will see the arrival of the transports Newport, Rio Janeiro, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Colonel Long, the depot quartermaster, estimates that if the vessels are not seriously damaged it will require but ten days for their preparation, as follows: Thirty-six hours for unloading, twenty-four hours for dry-docking, two days for fumigating and five days for refitting. The war department has ordered that there be more ample accommodations provided for the enlisted men, and to this end a reduction of 20 per cent in each vessel's former complement of troops will be made. Brigadier General Miller has just said that in his opinion the next sixteen days will suffice for the embarkation of the 6,000 expeditionary forces here upon the seven transports. The Arizona upon reaching Honolulu from Manila, will take Brigadier General Charles King and his forces and return to the Philippines. So, in all probability, it is safe to predict that by the first of December the whole of the expeditionary forces will have been transferred to the Philippines.

Since the writer's former letter two members of Company K have been added to our list of dead. They are Privates Kirk Bates and Harry Scott, of Corning. The cause of their deaths was typhoid and complications. Number of deaths now, twenty-three.

The general health of the regiment remains about fixed. The total number of cases from the regiment charged to the division hospital is 125, of whom perhaps seventy-five have gone to their Iowa homes on furloughs. There are about ninety men unfit for duty in their own quarters. Since the recent rains the cases of typhoid fever in the regiment have been rapidly decreasing. About fifteen men will be discharged from the regiment on account of physical disabilities which disqualify them for further service. All men who have been sick for any considerable length of time will be subjected to rigid physical examination before the regiment embarks, and several of these will doubtless be excluded.

Colonel Loper's attitude in regard to his regiment is to obey without question the orders of the war department, but he expresses the determination to look after the interests of his men in regard to remaining in the service after peace is established. He will then ask to have the regiment mustered out as soon as possible. He desires to carefully look after the material interests of all his men, and to allow them to return to civil life as soon as possible.

Adjutant General Byers has been the recipient of many compliments and unstinted honors from the Iowa boys while making his visit of investigation here. A review of the regiment was given in his honor today. He intends starting for Iowa on Wednesday evening. He will carry with him the grateful expressions of the gratitude of the Fifty-first regiment for what the state and its able administration have done for us.

A competitive rifle practice occurred last week. Ten men from each of the Tennessee, Kansas, Seventh California, Twenty-third regular infantry, and Iowa regiments competed. The Iowa team stood highest, making 598 points out of a possible 750. Then followed the Twenty-third infantry, 574; California, 567; Tennessee, 492, and Kansas, 491. It is well known that the Fifty-first has many capital marksmen.

First Lieutenant D. M. Fairchild, Jr., has been appointed the head of the regimental medical force with the pay of captain. He at one time attended Iowa State university, and is a well known medical graduate. He is a very popular surgeon.

A location is being surveyed for a new and commodious hospital of 400 beds for the accommodation of soldiers. Its erection will commence immediately in order that it may be in readiness to receive as soon as possible the sick and convalescent soldiers returning upon the hospital ships from Manila.

Second Lieutenant Ross, of Company E, Fifty-first Iowa, has been promoted and commissioned first lieutenant to fill the vacancy caused by the enforced resignation of First Lieutenant A. H. McRoberts. First Sergeant Williams, of that company, has been promoted and commissioned as second lieutenant.

Foot ball teams have been organized in the Kansas and Iowa regiments and games have been arranged with the State university of Berkeley and the Leland Stanford university of Palo Alto.

Decisive orders have at last been received by the Seventh California regiment. It has been ordered mustered out of the service, and accordingly it will proceed to Los Angeles and the men sent to their homes on thirty day furloughs. The efforts of the officers to have the mustering out orders revoked proved of no avail when it came to light that there were over 800 individual applications for discharges in the regiment.

Through the efforts of Lieutenant E. W. Hearne, a pleasant hospital tent has been arranged in Company F. Many necessary articles have been purchased from the company fund and others have been donated by the California Red Cross society.

Sergeant Fred Moore and Corporal Frank Reid recently spent a five days' leave visiting interesting points in the vicinity of San Jose and Santa Clara. They also made a trip to the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton and looked at the moon through the large telescope. Oskaloosa boys are in for having a good and profitable time.

Privates Suit, Kramer and Roy C. Brown, of Company F, will return from the enjoyment of sick leaves spent on peach farms in the vicinity of Sebastopol, Tuesday.

The spirits of the men were never better than at present. They are proud of their country and are determined to uphold her honor and their prowess as soldiers, should opportunity offer. Between the men of different regiments here the greatest of good feeling prevails. The bond of fellowship is particularly strong between the Iowa and Tennessee soldiers. Between the men and officers of the different commands there exists mutual good will. We are awaiting with eager anticipation the order for embarkation.

James R. McVicker.

IN CAMP MERRIAM.

Latest News From Our Soldiers in the Far West.

GETTING READY FOR TRIP TO MANILA

Fifty-first to Sail Probably Within the Week—Soldiers Undergo Rigid Physical Examination—Camp News.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 17.—(Special Correspondence to Courier.)—The necessary troopships for the last and largest expedition to the Philippines have now all arrived, and active preparations have been pushed to such a state of completion that it is believed the whole of the expeditionary forces will have embarked within ten days. By the end of the month all of the volunteer forces will have departed from San Francisco, and the Presidio will be garrisoned only by two troops of the regular Fourth cavalry. The transports, about which so many fears have been held lest they might have been seriously damaged by the fierce typhoons in the southern seas, have arrived intact and on good time, with the exception of the Zealandia,

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which fared so badly in a typhoon off the Chinese coast that she was forced to put into port at Nagasaki, Japan, and remain twenty-eight days for repairs. The Zealandia and Pennsylvania arrived into the San Francisco harbor Saturday evening, increasing the number of transports to seven, namely: The Senator, Valencia, Ohio, Newport, Indiana, Zealandia and Pennsylvania. They all arrived in good condition and need but little repairing.

The Senator will start today. Her troops comprise on battalion of the Twenty-third infantry, Oregon recruits, and Battery D of the California Heavy Artillery. The soldiers arose very early and with great cheering prepared to break camp. The 800 men have taken up their march for the dock, where they are to arrive not later than 11 o'clock, and the transport is expected to start with them by 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Tomorrow the Valencia will sail. Her soldiers will consist of the Second battalion of Washington volunteers and Battery A of the California Heavy Artillery. This makes her quota about 500 men.

The Ohio is expected to leave by the end of this week. The First and Third battalions of Washington volunteers have been assigned to her, making a force of about 800 men. Colonel Wholley, who commands the Washington regiment, was a lieutenant in the regular army before receiving his commission as a colonel of volunteers. He has worked hard to get his command off among the first commands of the expedition, and has succeeded.

The Indiana and Zealandia will be ready in about one week. To them will be assigned the Kansas and part of the Iowa troops. The Pennsylvania is a very large vessel, and with the Newport will carry the remainder of the Iowa troops and the Tennessee regiment. The Newport will go last and upon her will embark Brigadier General Miller, his staff, and other officers of the expeditionary forces. No reason is known why these transports should not sail with their complements of troops as at present scheduled, and only a radical change of orders can cause a delay. It has become our firm belief that the last of October will find us far out from the pleasant city of San Francisco,

coursing through the waters of the Pacific toward Manila. We are very glad to go.

Among the many preparations for the ocean voyage of the troops, there was held a very rigid physical examination for the purpose of excluding soldiers who were disabled in any way. Perhaps 175 or 200 men of the Fifty-first will be recommended for discharge from the service on this account. This will include all men sick in hospitals and away on furlough who have not fully recovered. The number of men in the regiment will be cut down from 1337—its full strength July 4th, 1898—to a little over 1,000.

The Tennessee will also be reduced in numbers. Special orders from the secretary of war were received directing all turbulent, unruly men to be discharged from that regiment, and in compliance with that order about 150 have been ordered discharged. From this, deaths, and the discharges made for physical disability, the regiment will number but about 1,000.

Much superior accommodations will be given the men of the last expedition to what were afforded men of former expeditions. A reduction of 20 per cent in crowding has been made, fresh beef will be furnished through new and ample refrigerators, and the experience of previous trips insures better care and treatment for the soldiers.

Last Thursday was witnessed the long-postponed departure of the Seventh California regiment for Los Angeles, where they will be mustered out after the usual thirty days' furlough. The regiment has had a checkered career ever since its arrival here in May. The men seemed very much pleased to go to their homes and cheered loudly as they left San Francisco. Full military honors were accorded them by the other troops here. The soldiers cheered them as they left.

It has been decided that officers can not take their wives with them on board troopships for Manila, but must send them on passenger vessels at their own expense. This will probably have the effect of causing many women to give up the trip.

The sailing vessel Tacoma leaves soon with a cargo of horses via Honolulu for Manila. She will be under the command of Lieutenant O'Shea, of the regular cavalry, who will deliver the horses and return to his duties here.

Former Quartermaster - Sergeant Young, of the Twentieth Kansas, who was convicted of selling government supplies for his own financial benefit, and sentenced to a term in the United States military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., last summer by a general court-martial, has been pardoned by President McKinley.

One of the most dastardly deeds that has come under our observation in the army resulted seriously to Private Reuben Burr, Company E, of the Fifty-first Iowa, yesterday morning. Some one, presumably a malicious enemy, secretly placed a loaded ball cartridge in one of the rifles in Burr's tent, cocked the piece and placed it upon the rack in such a position that a slight movement would discharge it. The rifle was so placed that the fire would surely take effect upon some one. One of Burr's tentmates happened to come into contact with the piece and it was instantly discharged. The powder and ball tore through Burr's right forearm, splintering the two bones and so mangling it that the arm remained connected by only a few thin ribbons of flesh and blood vessels. A section of his arm two inches in length has been removed and it is hoped that the lower arm can be rejoined and saved. This was the fourth time that loaded cartridges have been placed in the rifles in this tent, and the second time Burr's piece has been thus loaded. It is supposed that an enemy planned the affair, though it seems strange he would resort to so uncertain a method. The loading of the piece was a crime, according to the regulations of the army.

Colonel Funston has had a board of inquiry appointed to investigate the fitness of Captains Tower and Watson, of his regiment, for their respective commands. He thinks them unfit to per-

form the duties of their stations and seeks to have them removed from his regiment. This will probably cause their dismissal from the service.

An epidemic of fever broke out in Company D, of the Washington regiment. The soldiers of the company were quarantined by command of Colonel Wholley. Upon investigation it was found that the soldiers had been poisoned by condensed milk.

In his next letter the writer expects to be able to give full particulars as to the date of our embarkation for Manila.

James R. McVicker.

WITH FIFTY-FIRST.

Orders Have Not Yet Been Received to Embark.

TRANSPORT ARRIVES WITH SICK MEN

From Manila, Whose Stories of the Country Are Eagerly Listened to by Those Who Are About to Go—Other News.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Oct. 24.—(Special Correspondence.)—October is fast nearing an end and we are still encamped at the Presidio. Orders have flown thick and fast since the 19th of September; preparations for the grand, final expedition have been carried apace; transports have arrived on their return from previous trips, but we are still here and probably shall be here for just about two weeks longer. The inevitable delays have come to partly thwart our too sanguine hopes that the latter part of October should find us far out upon the briny deep. But the disappointment is not great. We realize that our sojourn here is only for a few days and we are content, for we have grown to love the place only second to our homes. The finest weather of the year seems to have been reserved for our especial benefit for the few weeks preceding our departure from the hospitable city of San Francisco. The people have ever shown us such marked kindness and pleasant hospitality that we have come to regard California and Californians with next as generous feelings as we entertain for our own Iowa and Iowans. It will be second as sad a parting when we leave as was that from our own state last spring. But we are as anxious to go as ever, and believe that November 5 will find Camp Merriam entirely forsaken of soldiers, who will be on the transports bound for Manila.

The proposed expedition took on a more materialistic appearance the past week by the departure with their troops of the two transports Senator and Valencia. The Senator started

Descriptions of Army Life in the Philippines by James Rufus McVicker

Monday with a battalion of the Twenty-third infantry and recruits for the Second Oregon. The Valencia followed Wednesday with the Second battalion of Washington volunteers and Batteries A and D of the California Heavy artillery. The two vessels carried an aggregate of 1,300 men. The Senator will wait at Honolulu for the Valencia and the two will proceed together from there to Manila.

The Ohio and Indiana will probably not sail for about a week. The Ohio will carry the First and Third battalions of the Washington regiment and part of the California Heavy artillery, in all 800 men. The Indiana will take the Second and Third battalions of the Twentieth Kansas, while the First battalion of that regiment will sail with Brigadier General M. P. Miller upon the Newport. The Newport will probably wait until the last of the expedition is ready.

The Fifty-first Iowa will doubtless be assigned the Pennsylvania. She is a fine, large vessel, capable of carrying the whole regiment. She is well fitted and well furnished. It would be an additional pleasure to make the trip aboard so nice a vessel. The Tennessee soldiers will get last choice—the Zealandia, which is a very good vessel. This will complete the assignment of the expeditionary forces. It

has been said, however, that the Eighth California regiment will also be sent to Manila. If so there will be available for its transportation one or more of several other transports now returning. Brigadier General Miller has recommended to the war department the sending to Manila also of Troop A, First Nevada cavalry, and Battery A, Wyoming Light artillery, now encamped here.

The Rio de Janeiro arrived from Manila Saturday with 150 invalided soldiers on board. Eight soldiers died on the voyage, of whom three were embalmed and brought home, while five were buried at sea. The returned transport did not appear the gay troop ship she was a few months since when she sailed with hundreds of enthusiastic soldiers cheering for the glory of war. Instead she carried a load of invalids who could only crawl upon deck to behold the shores of their native land as they neared it from their long trip. They were in all stages of sickness and suffering, but the return to America has instilled new life into all of them.

The sick soldiers were transferred to the division hospital at the Presidio. They were the center of much attraction yesterday. Hundreds of people went to see them and to talk with them of their strange experiences. To their comrades who contemplate yet making the trip these tales had special charms. Moreover, many of them brought with them personal acquisitions in the way of curiosities and mementoes. On the basement of the main hospital building are stowed curious chests containing Manila cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, silk handkerchiefs, fabrics of rare and costly kinds, Mauser cartridges, Spanish military equipment, etc. There are hidden away Mauser rifles, Spanish sabers, canes, daggers, and dirks galore. There are

also monkeys and parrots in great profusion. Some of the soldiers had been through the battles in August and told thrilling accounts of their experiences. They were surprised to learn that more soldiers were to be sent to Manila. They said that nearly all the soldiers there are very anxious to get back to the United States. They had words of praise for the Spanish soldiers, to whom they entertained the kindest of feelings. Other soldiers listened to their tales and desired all the more to go to Manila, for despite their pale, emaciated looks, their thin, tottering, weakly forms and the plain evidences of their sufferings, yet they threw such a glamour of the glory of war upon the attentive "boys in blue" that there seemed no other course. All of the returned soldiers will be discharged from the service as soon as practicable.

Last Thursday was a gala day for the Iowa regiment. Colonel Loper excused the entire regiment from duty, and nearly all the soldiers departed upon special excursion trains for Palo Alto. It was the occasion of a football game between the team of Stanford University and that of the Fifty-first Iowa. The Iowa team is one of recent organization, but is composed of splendid material drawn from college men who have played the game in many of the colleges of the state of Iowa. The Stanford team is regarded as a very good one, and they promised themselves an easy victory over the "corn huskers." In this they erred very grievously. They are now wondering what happened to them. The soldiers formed one of the most enthusiastic crowds it has ever been our lot to see. Their players were clearly in it to win from the start. Such cheering and such a game made one of the most exhilarating times ever afforded. The soldiers gradually gained, never losing, but pushing steadily ahead. The college boys were clearly outplayed at every stage of the game. Stanford's line was battered down time after time. The college men simply could not stand up against the onslaught of their opponents. Stanford's eleven was beaten six points to none. The star of the game for Iowa was Palmer. Miller came next, but all were brilliant. Fifteen hundred spectators witnessed the game, and when it was over the soldiers were given a rousing send-off as they boarded the train. The line-up of the Iowa team was as follows: Dutton, L. E. R.; Miller, L. T. R.; Tidrick, L. G. R.; McCorkel, center; Van Dorn, R. G. L.; Daly, W. R. T. G.; Mather, B. R. E. L.; Daly, R. quarter; Palmer, L. H. B.; Gaines, captain, R. H. L.; Mather, J. E. full. Substitutes for Iowa were: Garton, Anderson, McLaughlin, Melton, Knox, Meredith, Saltgaber.

A matrimonial epidemic seems to have seized the army chaplains here. The chaplain of the Tennessee regiment married a San Francisco girl not long since. The Kansas chaplain did likewise soon after. Chaplain Williams, of the Fifty-first Iowa, went to Iowa on a fifteen days' leave, and now he has returned with an Iowa bride. Of course the happy pair were serenaded. Our fine band turned out, and after appropriately rendering the doxology,

played reveille and a number of familiar and suggestive airs, which made everybody quite merry. The chaplain's bride was formerly Miss Beulah McFarland, of Wapello. We heartily approve his choice, and as he is one of the most popular and deserving men in the regiment, he has no lack of good wishes from the entire Fifty-first. He is a thrice happy man.

The Tennessee, Kansas and Iowa regiments were paid their September wages the 21st. As a consequence there is increased activity among the men to find pleasures for their money. The adjacent saloons and restaurants are doing a rushing business.

A few weeks since Private James Meadoes, of the California troops, murdered Corporal Jonas Ury, by stabbing him in the throat. They had a quarrel over a loan which Ury had made to Meadoes, and Ury was starting for his captain's tent to report the matter when Meadoes killed him. Last week Meadoes was tried by jury in Oakland for the crime. He was acquitted and allowed to go "seot free." Army officers have determined that he shall not get off as lightly, however. He cannot be again tried for the offense of which he was acquitted by jury, but he can be charged with minor offenses against military discipline and tried on these technical specifications. The officers propose seeing him sentenced for a considerable time at hard labor at the military prison on Alcatraz island.

The American Tobacco company last week presented all the soldiers of the expeditionary forces with a half pound plug of Battle Ax chewing and two packages of Duke's mixture smoking tobacco each. A distributing wagon went through the regiment bearing the mottoes: "Presents for our soldiers departing for Manila" and "Patriotic sentiment is best when it takes a practical form." Suffice it to say the gifts were fully appreciated by the boys, for those who do not use the weed knew what to do with it. There was quite a tobacco speculation for a while.

Private Reuben Cole, of Company G, Fifty-first Iowa, while running around a tent, caught one of his fingers against a taut wire and his finger was severed in two at the first joint. He will probably be discharged as it is considered to be sufficient cause for disability.

Private James N. Branum, of Company G, Twentieth Kansas shot one of the fingers of his left hand off last week. It is thought he did it purposely in order that he might be discharged from the service, as he is very anxious to quit. It is proposed to court-martial him and sentence him for a while to the Alcatraz military prison.

As a result of a court of inquiry as to the efficiency of two Kansas captains, Captain Towers has been adjudged incompetent on account of drunkenness and Captain Watson has been declared competent for his position.

Full descriptive lists and accounts of all men to be left behind from departing expeditionary troops are being made out. This signifies that all men left behind will probably be discharged from the service.

A new hospital to cost \$100,000 is to be built here. Its erection is to commence immediately. Its capacity will be 400 beds. The plans have been received by Col. J. V. D. Middleton, chief surgeon here, and he has selected a location upon the Presidio.

Corporal Jason Randall, of Company F, Fifty-first Iowa, has gone to his home in Birmingham, Iowa, on a furlough. He has been sick for a long time. We are sorry to lose him, as he has ever been one of the most soldierly and gentlemanly fellows in the company.

The Fifty-first foot ball team has arranged for a game with the California State University team, to take place at Recreation park, in this city, next Wednesday. The boys anticipate a lively time.

James R. McVicker.

THE LAST LETTER.

Courier Correspondent to Write No More From 'Frisco.

STORY OF PREPARATIONS FOR MANILA

How Fifty-First Iowa Got Ready for Its Long Trip—Regiment's Health Fine—Hawkeye Boys Win Competitive Drill.

Camp Merriam, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 30.—(Special Correspondence to the Courier).—When this appears in print the Fifty-first Iowa will have sailed for Manila. The steamer Pennsylvania has been in port since Oct. 15, and a large force of men has been laboring ever since her arrival to refit her for a second voyage. Their work is about completed. Orders have been issued to place the heavy baggage of the Fifty-first Iowa on board not later than Wednesday next, and it has been announced that we shall break camp Thursday morning, march to the dock, go aboard, and sail before night. There is no reason whatever for a further delay, and every one fully believes that we shall go as stated. All drills have been suspended to allow the men ample time for leave-taking and individual preparation. And the men are all jubilant. All are enthusiastic. We are proud to belong to the Fifty-first Iowa volunteers, and proud that our regiment is destined for actual service in the newly-acquired, far-off possessions of the United States.

The past week has been marked by the departure of three transports loaded with soldiers for Manila. They were the Indiana, the Ohio, and the Zealandia. The Indiana with two battalions of Kansas troops sailed Thurs-

day. She was to have started Wednesday, but was delayed for twenty-four hours by the marriage of Colonel Funston almost at the last moment of the scheduled time for departure.

Following the departure of the Kansas troops Thursday, the Ohio sailed with two battalions of Washington volunteers on Friday. They were under command of Colonel Wholley, who was a first lieutenant in the United States Army at the beginning of hostilities. Several western governors showed great wisdom by selecting West Point graduates for the highest commissions in the troops from their respective states, and Colonel Wholley's commission as a colonel of volunteers is one such an instance. His success as a commanding officer has all along exemplified the advantages to be secured in selecting regular army officers for the higher stations. His men have been the best cared for in every way of all the volunteer regiments here. His regiment was recognized as one of the best drilled and disciplined commands on the Pacific coast.

The third vessel to depart carried the greater part of the Tennessee regiment. The regiment marched by our lines this morning. Their appearance was greeted by the playing of "Dixie" by the Fifty-first Iowa band, which took a station near the route of march. Soon it became known that the Tennesseans were marching by our camp, and the Iowa regiment turned out in full force to do them far-well honors. As the sons of the south swept by in heavy marching order, arrayed in the army blue, they presented a far different appearance from that which they made when they marched by our regimental camp upon their entrance into old

Camp Merritt last June. They were a motley and ill-appearing body of men then. They looked far more soldierly this morning. We had a kind of contempt for them when first we saw them. But we have grown to like them now. With all their peculiarities and all their faults, we have for the southern mountaineers' feelings of brotherhood such as we entertain toward no other regiment in the service here. They marched by us this morning in a quiet, military manner and made no demonstrations whatever of their feelings except to quietly smile as if to say: "I told you old Iowa would turn out to see we 'uns off." But we celebrated the occasion. We cheered them with all our might as long as their column was passing. No other departing command has been complimented with such hearty and prolonged cheering from boys of the Iowa.

Last Tuesday evening a competitive drill occurred in Mechanics' Pavilion, among companies from the Kansas, Tennessee and Iowa regiments, for the possession of a silver trophy cup, which was to be awarded to the best drilled company upon the decision of three regular army officers, who were the judges. The event was quite an affair, there being over 5,000 people in attendance. The proceeds were for the benefit of the army and navy Christian commission. A fine musical concert and entertainment was rendered by the three regimental bands. Company

M. of the Fifty-first, commanded by Captain J. W. Clark, won the cup. The comment of the Tennesseans was: "It's all right for you 'uns to get it; it's all the same to we 'uns so long as it stays in the family, anyway." The ladies of the Red Cross had provided a bountiful supply of fine cake and other refreshments, which were heartily disposed of by the soldiers. When it comes to eating good things the soldiers can't be lost.

Iowa soldiers are still elated over their football victory over Leland Stanford university. Colonel Loper saw the game and enjoyed it the best of all the soldiers. He ordered the Iowa boys to go into immediate training for another game and provided the necessary training table for the team. He excused them from all other duty and ordered them to work hard in training. Our team plays the California State university team at Berkeley tomorrow. The boys have been promising themselves another victory, and our regiment will be represented there by a vast majority. The Berkeley people will hear such yells from the soldiers as they have never heard before, and they will long remember this feature of the game.

The health of the regiment is excellent. There have been 200 less cases of sickness during the month of October than there were for September. There are no serious cases among the men of this regiment now in the hospitals. There are 115 men charged to the division hospital, of whom about eighty are on furlough. About eighty-five men have been discharged as a result of the recent physical examinations and twenty-five others have received discharges for favor on account of marriage, support, etc. The death of Private Fred Carver, of Company G, the 24th inst., of pneumonia, following typhoid, increased our total loss by deaths to twenty-five. A few men are sick and convalescing in private hospitals and private families. From all causes the Fifty-first regiment will be reduced from its full strength, 1,337 men, to about 1,050 men, which is the number scheduled to go on the Pennsylvania. It is improbable that sick and convalescent soldiers left behind will ever be sent to rejoin the regiment at Manila. They will most likely all be discharged from the service. The hospital corps of the Fifty-first has been on duty for the most part at the division hospital, and has now been ordered to rejoin the regiment and proceed with it to Manila. Major Mathews, who has worked so indefatigably at the division hospital, has been granted a thirty day furlough on account of impaired health. It is said that he may not proceed to Manila to rejoin the Fifty-first Iowa regiment, but that he may be made chief surgeon in charge of the new hospital now being erected, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Major Mathews stands high in medical and military circles and will probably get the promotion. In this event one of our assistant surgeons, Drs. Macrae and Fairchild, will come in for promotion to the place of regimental surgeon.

and some one of our popular hospital stewards will be promoted to the place of assistant surgeon. All of these officers have so nobly performed their duties in care of the sick that they merit unstinted praise.

It has been given out that Captain Mount, of Company E, has resigned his commission. Among much speculation Captain J. T. Davidson, regimental adjutant, is said to be slated for the vacancy. The regiment loses a most efficient and popular officer in the person of Captain Mount, who will return to his profession as a jeweler in Shenandoah.

Second Lieutenant Baker, of Company H, was married last Tuesday to Miss Monette, who had just reached here from Des Moines. The First battalion smoked the lieutenant's cigars. He is a very popular and capable officer.

Corporal Fritch and Private McElroy, of Oskaloosa, and Private West, of Van Wert, all of Company F, received their discharges from the service last week and departed for their respective homes. They were needed to help in the support of their folks.

Among those discharged for disability are the following: From Company G, of Creston, Privates Tar, Armitage, Goddard, Hewitt, Amos Rogers and Fred Rogers; from Company D, of Knoxville, Privates Mitchell, Rogers, Paxton, Crawford, Barnes, Hamann, Skull, Giltner and Jenks; from Company F, of Oskaloosa, Privates Lambert, Kinney, Evans, Whitsell, Greenwalt and Wimmiller. The total number will probably reach 100 or even more.

Major Kinzie, of the United States army, who is in command of the harbor defenses here, has preferred grave charges against Captain O'Brien, of the Tennessee regiment, for not obeying the orders of a sentinel commanding him to remain without the limits of the defenses, which are not allowed to be inspected by any one, of whatever rank, without authority. Captain O'Brien, in defiance of challenges and orders, rode up to the works and leisurely surveyed them. He may be cashiered by a court martial.

It is with feelings of pleasure that the writer brings to a close the last of his Camp Merriam letters. He congratulates himself on the inviting prospects that present themselves in a trip to Manila, and can promise the reader something more interesting than the monotonous tedium of camp routine in his future correspondence.

James R. McVicker.

ARRIVE AT HONOLULU

Fifty-first Iowa Boys Have a Safe Journey to Hawaii.

COURIER MAN MEETS G. W. KEISTER

Who is Now Collector of the Customs Department - Tells of the City and Its Inhabitants and Improvements.

On Board Transport Pennsylvania, 750 miles out from Frisco, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 6, '98.—(Special Correspondence.)—And so the Pennsylvania has sailed at last, bearing the Fifty-first and here we are several hundred miles out upon the Pacific. It is our fourth day out, and we are much the wiser.

Our last week in San Francisco was one not soon to be forgotten. It was one continual round of farewell visits, and preparation. Thursday morning, the 3d inst., came quickly enough, and as soon as the dampness was lifted from our tents, they all at the bugle's call, were allowed to fall toward the west. After thoroughly cleaning up our old camp we took up our four mile march to the dock where we arrived at about 11 o'clock. By 1 p. m. all were aboard. Over 4,000 people gathered on the wharf to see us off. The Pennsylvania cast loose at 3 p. m. The thousands cheered us, and we cheered our hospitable San Francisco friends with all our might in return.

With 1,050 men on board the Pennsylvania is very crowded. A crowded transport is not a very pleasant affair, but proper efforts are being made to keep the vessel clean and the men healthful. Liquor was excluded from being taken aboard by the men, and they are very well behaved.

The voyage has been very uneventful thus far, but, excepting for the seasickness, has been very pleasant. The Pennsylvania makes ten knots an hour, and will reach Honolulu by next Friday. She will stop from two to four days for coaling and other purposes, and we shall thus have a short time for seeing the city. It is an opportunity we shall gladly take advantage of. We expect to reach Manila in a little over a month from our time of starting, on about December 6th.

For the purpose of enforcing regulations and insuring proper sanitary conditions two companies are placed on duty every day. One of these performs guard duty and the other does the fatigue work or policing the vessel of all dirt.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 1898.

The vessel has been making good progress and will probably reach Honolulu by tomorrow. We shall stop there three or four days while the ship takes on a new supply of coal. The men are very eager to see the land and antici-

pate a great deal of pleasure in Honolulu. The weather has continued very pleasant, but this part of our voyage is much warmer than at first. As we reach the milder waters more animal life is to be seen in the ocean. Schools of flying fish are frequently observed, and many strange fish are often seen swimming near the vessel.

A peculiar coincidence is connected with the Pennsylvania and her transporting the Fifty-first Iowa to Manila. The vessel was formerly an Atlantic liner plying between Philadelphia and Antwerp. Last spring it was decided to put the vessel into commission for carrying passengers to the Klondike regions, and she started south on her voyage around South America for San

Francisco. Late in the month of April, after she had passed the port of Montevideo, a break occurred in her machinery, and she put back to that port for repairs. There, for the first time, it was learned that war had been declared between the United States and Spain and a further very interesting piece of intelligence was given the officers of the ship in the information that a Spanish gunboat was determined to capture the Pennsylvania and was even then in the port of Montevideo, though unaware as yet of the passing and presence of the Pennsylvania. Another gunboat was up the Parana river and was on its way down to join in the pursuit. The officers of the ship were much perplexed and applied to the United States consul at Montevideo, Colonel Al. W. Swalm, for aid. He secured for them a special permit to leave at night. The repairs were hurriedly made, the color of the smoke stack, railings, and other features of the vessel were altered, and without a light on board and as quietly as possible, the Pennsylvania slipped out of the harbor of Montevideo at 11 o'clock of a dark night, and made with all speed for the Straits of Magellan. She passed safely through and completed her voyage to San Francisco, where she was chartered by the United States as a transport for the Philippine expeditionary forces. It is thus a singular coincidence that the vessel which United States Consul Swalm extricated from the very clutches of the Spaniards should afterward carry to Manila the Iowa regiment of which he was formerly colonel.

The men are well fed, the rations being cooked by the ship's crew under contract. By a wise provision of Colonel Loper one commissioned officer of each company must be present at the serving of the rations to insure proper regularity and fair treatment in the supply of rations. By means of extensive refrigerators on board fresh meat will be kept for the whole voyage. The provisions thus far have been of the best quality and in sufficient quantities to satisfy the appetites of the men.

Taken as a whole, the vessel is a marvel of convenience for the large number of men aboard. Shower baths are provided for the men daily and all men are required to take at least one bath every two days. Three barbers from among the soldiers are plying their vocations on board by the colonel's special permission, and they are allowed the use of rooms for these purposes. A very large number of the men wash their clothes by attaching them to the end of a rope and allowing them to drag in the water at the sides

or behind the ship. They report very favorably on the experiment. A part of the vessel is reserved for the hospital, but thus far there have been no serious cases of sickness.

Honolulu, H. I., Nov. 12, 1898.

Land was first sighted on our left yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock. At first it was very dim and indistinct, and many of the soldiers were very skeptical and suggested that what was supposed to be land might merely be clouds; but the sanguine watchers were rewarded. Gradually the mountainous outlines of Molokai Island appeared sharp against the horizon. The soldiers were intensely interested. They gathered on every available spot of the ship from which a good view could be obtained, and watched. Toward evening land was also decried ahead and on our right. The soldiers watched and waited and through the darkness there appeared the ragged forms of the sharp volcanic mountains and hills of Oahu Island. Finally a light was seen on the shore, at the sight of which the men gave vent to prolonged cheers. Other lights appeared and soon they became quite frequent. These were fishermen's lights. A faint illumination now showed in the sky ahead of us. This was said to be a reflection of the lights of Honolulu. The men watched with the most intense interest. Then, at last, as we rounded Diamond Head, the lighthouse and the lights of the city became visible. They shone dimly so far away and glimmered over the water. The water became smoother as we approached the harbor. Signal lights were seen along the shore. The speed of the vessel was slackened and we were moving slowly along when the vessel quietly grounded. She had run onto a sand reef. Immediately all the men were ordered aft in order to lift the bow, and the propeller was reversed. After a little delay and some difficulty the vessel was extricated and slowly backed off to a deeper part of the harbor. She was allowed to drift all night, and this morning slowly steamed to the dock in Honolulu.

This part of the trip was something never to be forgotten. The sun had fully arisen and was shining gloriously upon the beautiful verdure of the gardens and hills. The city appeared in its full beauty. A boat came out to meet us, bearing a pilot and rowed by four sturdy natives. The United States flag was now run up at our masthead. The United States gunboat Bennington is in the harbor, and an officer of the navy with a force of marines also put out to meet us. The officer came aboard. Of course, hearty compliments were passed between the "navies" and the "boys in blue." The stars and stripes were also hoisted from the Bennington and our band played the "Star Spangled Banner." All the soldiers and sailors uncovered while the piece was playing. We heartily cheered the sailors and they responded. The band played "America," "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," the Doxology and other appropriate pieces as we drew near the wharf.

Quite a collection of natives were on the wharf. They are a fine appearing people. We were surprised to find them so intelligent. Very soon they displayed their enterprise in setting up stands for the purpose of selling refreshments to the soldiers. The natives

are independent as a class. They ask good wages for their work. There is a large mixture of Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese among the laboring class and these come into competition with the natives at ruinously low wages.

There are several Iowa men living here, and they made it a point to meet large numbers of the boys and invite them to the pleasures of their homes. It was the writer's good fortune to meet a former Ottumwa man in the person of Geo. W. Keister. Mr. Keister came to Honolulu in 1894, and participated in the overthrow of the monarchy. Under the new republican government, which is the regime controlling at present, Mr. Keister was appointed inspector of customs, which position he now occupies. He likes Honolulu and is enjoying the best of health. He was greatly pleased to see the Iowa regiment and said that he had been waiting all summer for their arrival. Mr. Keister did the writer the kindness of showing him the sights around the city, took him to the chief pleasure resort of the city, and altogether entertained him in a right royal manner.

Mr. John W. Short, formerly of Iowa City, is also here in the employ of the customs department.

The general health of the regiment was excellent during the voyage and upon our arrival here, but eight members of the regiment, on account of ailments which existed before the voyage, were placed in the army hospital here. It is not probable that they will be sent to rejoin the regiment, but they will most likely eventually be discharged.

The officers of the Fifty-first were entertained tonight by the officers of the National Guard of Honolulu. Our band furnished music for the occasion. The people are quite proud of their military organization. It consists of two battalions of militia. One of the regiments is composed of natives and it has surpassed all the other companies in all competitions in drills and rifle practice. It is understood that a battalion of natives will be enlisted into the regular army to form a part of a permanent garrison for the islands.

Honolulu and its suburbs have a population of 30,000. The city extends along the sea for over seven miles. It has one of the finest harbors of the world, which, however, is very shallow in parts and needs much improving. The harbor and city are practically defenseless, except for a naval vessel which is nearly always stationed here. The city is situated on the island of Oahu, the fourth in size. The next largest town is Hilo, on the island of Hawaii. This town has but 3,000 population, and there are no other towns of any great importance. As is evidenced on every hand sugar raising is the chief industry.

Good schools exist and a general culture has been diffused throughout the islands. The older inhabitants cling fondly to the dying notions of the fallen monarchy, but the younger natives are well reconciled to the new order of things. Honolulu is, of course, the metropolis as well as the capital of the islands. Steamers constantly ply between it and the other points of importance of the Hawaiian group. Honolulu is quite a cosmopolitan city and is very progressive. The city has an admirable system of water works, electric lights and all modern improvements. Under the present regime the

city has no municipal government, but is under the general government of the islands. This will doubtless be changed, and the city will be incorporated when the islands are formally organized under the new United States provisions as to the new territory. There are four daily newspapers published in Honolulu, which can only publish the news of the world when it is eight or nine days old. This and commercial interests urgently demand cable communication with the United States.

Our sojourn here will be limited until only about Wednesday, while the vessel coals and undergoes a few necessary repairs. We shall enjoy these few days and then heartily proceed westward for three weeks "on to Manila." Some speculation is indulged in as to whether or not we may be sent to the island of Mindanao, or some other part of the Philippine group not yet garrisoned by United States troops. The state may be sure we shall, while bearing the stars and stripes at our front, uphold the honor of old Iowa as well as the glory of our nation.

James R. McVicker.

LONG OCEAN VOYAGE.

Courier Correspondent Sends Another Letter From Manila.

HEALTH OF COMMAND IS EXCELLENT.

How the Days at Sea Were Passed—The Daily Routine on Ship Board—The Arrival at the Philippines.

Manila, Philippine Islands, Dec. 7, 1898.—(Correspondence to the Courier.)—The Pennsylvania, bearing 1,050 men of the Fifty-first Iowa in excellent health, arrived into Manila Bay this morning. She cast anchor out in the harbor, and the men will remain on board for a few days while the assignment of the regiment is being determined. The men are greatly in hope that the regiment will be assigned to duty in the city and quartered in some of the excellent old Spanish barracks. It has been reported that the Fifty-first will be ordered to relieve the First California regiment now on duty in the city, and that that regiment, as the result of great pressure by influential persons of California, will be returned to the United States for mustering out.

Regiment's Health Is Excellent.

The health of the Fifty-first has been excellent, taking into consideration the conditions of a long sea trip and the changes of climate. Twelve members of the regiment had to be left behind at Honolulu, mostly on account of ailments existing before the trip was undertaken. There were five mild cases of typhoid fever during the passage from Honolulu to Manila, but these are now convalescing. Private Chas. J. Kinney, of Company H, has had a hard struggle for his life with typhoid, but has now taken

a turn for the better. He will rapidly improve when transferred to the excellent army hospital at Manila. The regiment is thus fortunate in having so well maintained health during the trip. Much credit is due the capable and deserving surgeons in charge of the medical department of the command for the good results of their care and painstaking efforts. I refer to our surgeons, Lieutenants D. M. Fairchild and Donald Macrae. They are most popular with the men of the regiment.

The voyage from Honolulu to Manila was not a very eventful one. At the outset the men settled down for a long, tiresome trip, but determined to make the best of the three weeks' sailing o'er the broad Pacific. Cards, books, papers, and sundry quiet amusements were taxed to carry us over the long stretch. Our band gave us two concerts daily, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, and these were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated.

Departure From Honolulu.

The Pennsylvania left Honolulu November 16, after a most pleasurable stay of four days in that delightful tropical city. The people turned out in great numbers to see us off. They showed their kindly feelings for the "boys in blue" and that we had won a good place in their hearts by throwing showers of oranges and bananas aboard to the eager soldiers. The fine Hawaiian band turned out and played pleasant farewell music, to which our band responded with its distinctive playing.

November 21, at 1:40 p. m., we crossed the 180th meridian, or "place where the sun jumps a day." The ship did not change its reckoning just then, but waited until midnight to rectify its time. Then Wednesday morning was ushered in, and upon awakening we found that Tuesday had been dropped during the night. We had vague opinions on the subject which we had imbibed from our school geography of long ago, and so were instantly reconciled to the new order of things, but it was very amusing to hear the warm argument and disputation put forth by many of the soldiers who failed to understand.

Thanksgiving Day Aboard Ship.

Thanksgiving day was duly celebrated on board. Chaplain Williams conducted some very interesting services in the morning. At the noon hour the men were rejoiced to find, if not turkey, an agreeable change in the regular rations in the way of peaches, syrup, jelly, cheese and cocoa. The dinner was well relished.

About 10:30 a. m. of the 24th, a dim smoke was observed far behind us. It kept growing in appearance and was eagerly watched by the men. A few hours later the form of a ship could be made out, and it was rightly guessed to be the transport City of Puebla. She overtook the Pennsylvania about 5 p. m. Five companies of the Tennessee regiment were on board, and we very energetically cheered them, to which greetings they were not slow in responding in a lively manner. Our band played "Dixie" to their great delight. Signals were exchanged. Then, being a vessel about eight knots faster than the Pennsylvania, the City of Puebla started ahead and soon left us far behind. How we envied her speed, but we had to be content to plod along!

Daily Routine.

The daily routine of the ship required one company for guard and one company for policing each day. In this way each company came on for daily duty once every six days. Thus duty aboard has been comparatively very light. The men have spent a long period of enforced rest and will be glad to resume regular military duty once more.

The trip was a uniformly pleasant one, and the sea comparatively quiet with the exception of Sunday, the 27th. Frequent storms occurred that day, and the sea rolled very high, causing the ship to rock most unpleasantly. Very many were again rendered sea-sick by the unpleasant state of affairs. They thought that the last attack was as bad as the first, and the writer must confess that of all the unpleasant feelings of sickness in the world, sea-sickness is the worst—yes, by far the worst.

Ladrones Sighted.

On November 1, about noon, a small volcano was observed south of us. It was in action, and there seemed to be pouring forth from it dense clouds of smoke and lava. We passed it too far behind to have the pleasure of a night view. It belonged to the Ladrones Islands group.

In Subig Bay.

Some of the northernmost islands of the Philippine group were sighted December 5. The vessel passed through Balintang Channel during the night and sailed all next day southward along Luzon. Its shores, now sharply defined by bold promontories and mountain ranges, now receding and dim, were eagerly watched by the soldiers all day. This morning we sailed very close toward Luzon.

The green forests and beautiful tropical vegetation rendered the shores very interesting and picturesque sights. Subig Bay, where Dewey first massed his fleet preparing to enter the harbor, and Corregidor Island were pointed out to us. Then we slowly entered the broad entrance to the great Manila Bay. It is a wonderful piece of water, stretching out as far as the eye can reach, and appears large enough to accommodate all the navies of the world. Small sailing craft were here and there to be seen. As we approached, the shipping of Manila loomed up in the far distance. We passed Cavite, where were to be seen several of Dewey's vessels, as well as the projecting masts of sunken Spanish ships that thus tell their grim tale. As the Pennsylvania approached, we observed several of the transport ships at anchor far out from the city. The Pennsylvania slowly advanced and took her place among them. She cast anchor far out from the city, for the reason that the harbor of Manila is not of sufficient depth for a vessel of the Pennsylvania's draft.

A steam launch soon came alongside and removed a large load of mail, brought on the Pennsylvania for the forces here. Soon many native canoes came out and surrounded the Pennsylvania with fruit to sell the soldiers.

Colonel Loper reported to the commanding general for orders relative to the disposition of his regiment. The men will probably have to remain on board for three or four days while the assignment is being determined. We

are anxious to set foot on land once more, and they will be welcome orders indeed that assign us, as we hope, to quarters in the city of Manila.

James R. McVicker.

The Courier prints today another letter from Manila by its special correspondent with the Fifty-first Iowa. This correspondence was written previous to that sent and printed in Wednesday's Courier, but arrived two days later. This letter tells of the long ocean voyage from Honolulu to the Philippines and the arrival in Manila bay. The Courier's correspondent is James McVicker. He is a member of the Fifty-first and has furnished the Courier with many a readable letter since the regiment first went into camp at San Francisco. He is endowed with a keen sense of observation, and a splendid style as Courier readers are well aware. No better, no more complete, no more interesting, no more instructive descriptive article of Manila and its strange scenes and sights and people has been written by anybody than that penned by Mr. McVicker and printed in Wednesday's Courier. Today's contribution from his pen is no less interesting. Mr. McVicker's home is in Sigourney.

10,000 MILES AWAY.

The Courier Soldier Correspondent Writes From Manila.

SEEING SIGHTS IN THE OLD-CITY.

Troops Spend Sunday at the Island's Capital—Interesting Observations Touching Spanish Prisoners and the Insurgents.

S. S. Pennsylvania, Manila Harbor, Dec. 14, 1898.—(Special Correspondence to the Courier.)—The Fifty-first has remained on board ship one week now, and still no definite orders have been received, although they are expected very soon. It is reported on good authority that the brigade composed of the Iowa, Tennessee and Kansas regiments will, together with some regulars, be sent to Iloilo, on the island of Panay. That place is 300 miles south of here. The Spaniards and insurgents are said to be fighting there, and we shall have to establish peace and order. Two of Dewey's vessels have been sent there, and many of the soldiers are anxious to go for the adventures. No doubt the Spaniards will submit to us at once, but there may be some trouble in quelling the natives.

Soldiers Visit Manila.

All the men of the Fifty-first have been given an opportunity to visit Manila. A tug was secured last Sunday and in two trips took the men ashore—a distance of two miles—at a small fare for each man. The men thoroughly enjoyed their day's experience.

Descriptions of Army Life in the Philippines by James Rufus McVicker

and although it was a warm day they went all over the place and its surroundings seeing the sights.

Manila is composed of two parts, separated by the Pasig river. This river is a very large stream, coming from far in the interior. It is navigable for considerable distance from the mouth. It is walled on each side, and many steam vessels of from twelve to eighteen feet draught are moored to the walls. Hundreds of large barges covered with bamboo canopies and many native boats of all sizes and descriptions are also fastened to the walls. Old Manila, or the walled city, is south of the river, while the newer part of the city is on the north side.

The old city is protected by a great wall and moat. The moat averages sixty feet in width. The wall is thirty feet high and thirty feet in width. In some places there is a double and triple wall, each having a moat easily headed before it. The gates, or entrances, each have the old time drawbridge, which can be drawn up, thus closing them. The passages leading to these gates were commanded by many canon, and in fact before the city surrendered the entire wall was covered with hundreds and hundreds of guns. It is easy to be seen that it was Dewey's threatening fleet, which stood out in the harbor ready to shell the city, that caused the surrender.

There are many interesting things to be seen in the city. There are castles, palaces, cathedrals, barracks and dungeons. The large palace, formerly occupied by Spain's governor general, now floats the stars and stripes and is occupied by Maj. Gen. Otis and his staff. It is a fine structure, built largely of fine marble and mahogany. Around the halls hang large paintings representative of the old-time glory of Spain. The large university of Santo Thomas is composed of several fine structures and most certainly has been a great

school. There are several fine cathedrals. These are now occupied by the Spanish soldiers.

The Spanish Prisoners.

These Spanish prisoners of war are a very well appearing class of men. They are neatly dressed in light uniforms. They are cleanly and keep their quarters in good condition. The fine old cathedrals form cool and comfortable quarters for them. They are allowed to go anywhere in the walled city in the day time and are only required to stay in their quarters at night. They are well fed by our government, and receive, besides, their rations and pay from the Spanish government. So they are really better supplied than our own troops. They are very friendly toward the American soldiers. A great many of them have expressed a desire to join the United States army. They are willing to renounce allegiance to the Spanish government and to swear to support the government of the United States. They hate the Filipino insurgents, and would like a chance to fight them for us. It is not likely that the United States will accept any of them, for service in these islands at any event. There are said to be about 15,000 Spanish soldiers on these islands. Only those in Manila are held as prisoners. The others are in garrisons in different parts of the islands. Many of these are at present engaged in fight-

ing the Filipino insurgents. A French transport in the harbor is now being loaded with Spanish soldiers, and will return them to Spain. A Spanish vessel lately arrived here, and it is said that it will also carry a load of the Spaniards to their homes. Other transports are said to be on their way here for the purpose.

New Manila is composed of several suburbs of old Manila. It is really the business part of the city. Here are to be found mercantile houses of all kinds, conducted by merchants of almost every nationality. There are a few establishments conducted by Americans. There are many fine stores. There are several sugar and hemp warehouses. Here one can see people of almost every nationality, but of course the Filipinos predominate in numbers.

The Filipinos.

The Filipinos are a brown-skinned people. They have straight, black hair. They are small physically, but are nevertheless quite strong. They work industriously and actively when employed, but have no ambition whatever to work for themselves. This is instanced by their lack of agricultural effort. Everything, including fruits, is grown wild, and no cultivation is used to improve the product. It would seem that the Spaniards would have done something to improve the crude fruits, but they did not. It appears that with over 300 years of government Spain has done but very little to improve the people or to develop the islands. The people are utterly uneducated, and in the interior are said to be the most veritable heathen and savages. The interior of even the large islands is but little explored, and it seems the Spaniards never actually held the natives in complete subjection except in the regions of the ports and cities. No wonder that the Filipinos made many insurrections. They are quick to learn and very crafty. The American soldiers have had considerable trouble with them. It is said that several soldiers have been stabbed to death by them while on guard duty, and also that the soldiers now do not hesitate to promptly shoot them if they attempt the least sign of treachery, or fail to halt immediately when challenged. A band of them have been secretly going into the city at nights and committing depredations in the way of robbery and murder of the Spanish residents. It is with this band that the soldiers have had most of their trouble. The insurgent army of Aguinaldo is said to be encamped within a few miles of Manila. It is said to number about 15,000 natives. The United States will certainly order them to disband in the near future and then some trouble may be expected. It is said that Aguinaldo and a few of his chiefs may be bought off so that they will induce the Filipinos to disband.

Minnesota Soldiers as Police.

The men of the Thirteenth Minnesota regiment form the police force of the city. They constantly patrol all parts of it, and are well armed to cope with any offenders who may show resistance. The regiment has been assigned to this duty ever since the troops entered in August. News came last week by cablegram that the Thirteenth Minnesota would be ordered home in thirty days, and the men re-

joined greatly. Their regimental band turned out and a parade was made around the quarters of all other regiments. The men celebrated the report with the greatest rejoicing.

Regular Army Men Pleased.

The American troops are comfortably quartered in the commodious Spanish barracks around Manila. They are supplied with the best of rations. The best of care is taken of them. The men have no complaints whatever, but those who have been here long now desire to be relieved and returned to the United States. The men of the regular army are well pleased with the condition of affairs here and desire to remain, but the men of volunteer regiments who came last summer are tired of life in Manila and as soon as peace terms are satisfactorily arranged and regular army soldiers can be sent, desire to return to their homes.

The work of unloading the Pennsylvania of 5,000 sacks of oats, provisions, Red Cross supplies, and several hundred Christmas boxes for soldiers of the different regiments here, has been progressing the past two days. At the same time several barges loaded with coal have been unloaded in the coal bunkers of the vessel. The captain of the Pennsylvania has orders to hold his vessel in readiness to sail at any time on three hours' notice. This looks much as if the Fifty-first were to be dispatched south to Panay or somewhere else.

Gossip of Men and Officers.

First Sergeant Herbert A. Sessions, of Company F, of the Fifty-first, was stricken with a high fever while on board a few days since and was conveyed to the division hospital at Manila. He is getting along very well, and it is earnestly hoped by his comrades that he will soon recover and return to his duty. This is the first time that Sergeant Sessions has been reported sick since he enlisted. He has ever been a careful and faithful non-commissioned officer and a thorough gentleman. He is well liked by all the men of his company, and is very popular throughout the regiment. He was employed on the staff of the Oskaloosa Herald when he enlisted.

Private Roberts, of Company F, has been sent to the division hospital at Manila on account of failing eyesight. His eyes have become very weak. In all probability he will soon be discharged from the service and returned to his home in Columbus Junction.

Colonel Loper has earned the gratitude of the enlisted men of his regiment by the considerate treatment he has ever shown them, and especially by that he has accorded them since embarking on our long voyage. The commanding officers of several former expeditions treated their men very tyrannically and threatened them with the guard house should they make the least complaint. Col. Loper, on the contrary, maintained a supervising eye on all of the affairs of his enlisted men, readily listened to any complaints and promptly investigated them. Due to this and the watchfulness and care of Major Hume, the men have been supplied with much better food than at first and than they would otherwise have received. In many other ways, also, they have protected our interests.

Fifty-first Awaiting Orders.

The Fifty-first is now 10,000 miles from home, and is still, as of old, awaiting further orders. With best wishes for the Courier and its readers, I remain,

James R. McVicker.

**IOWA BOYS
IN FRONT
OF ILOILO.**

The Courier's Correspondent
Tells of Experiences in
the Orient.

LONG HOURS OF WAITING

Surrender of Spaniards to Insurgents Who Refuse Landing Permission.

TRIP THROUGH THE PHILIPPINES.

Beautiful Scenery of the Archipelago—The City and Its Inhabitants—How Christmas was Spent in Manila Bay

Harbor of Iloilo, Jan. 1, 1899—(Special Correspondence to the Daily Courier)—The United States forces are now confronted by grave and perplexing questions here. Upon our arrival four days ago for the purpose of taking possession of the port and city of Iloilo, it was found that the Spanish garrison had evacuated and that the city had fallen into the hands of the insurgents, who for a long time held the Spaniards at bay within the city and finally succeeded in driving them away.

Our fleet consists of the United States steamship Baltimore, a government dispatch boat, and the transports Newport, Arizona and Pennsylvania. The forces of this expedition are composed of the Eighteenth United States Infantry, the Fifty-first Iowa volunteers, and Battery "G" of the Sixth United States (light) artillery. The expedition is commanded by Brigadier General M. P. Miller, whose headquarters are on the Newport. The fleet slowly steamed out of Manila bay Monday evening, the 26th of December, headed by the Baltimore, followed by the dispatch boat, the Newport and Pennsylvania and the

Arizona, in the order named. We traveled all day Tuesday in sight of the Island of Luzon and passed numerous small islands of the Philippine group on our right. We passed quite close to some of them, and the scenery seemed most beautiful to us. Some of the islands in the distance were volcanic in appearance, and we are said to have passed within sight of two active volcanoes Tuesday night.

Wednesday morning we came within sight of the harbor of Iloilo, and here the Arizona and Pennsylvania were instructed to anchor in concealment behind a point while the other three vessels proceeded into the harbor. The Arizona and Pennsylvania were instructed to follow when the signal should be given. Late in the afternoon a small launch flying the British flag came alongside our vessel. It carried United States officers, who informed our officers that the Spaniards had evacuated the city and that the place had fallen into the hands of the insurgents; also, that a conference had been appointed with the insurgent leaders Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. In response to signals, the Arizona approached the city Wednesday evening and anchored within the harbor about two miles from the city. The Pennsylvania followed her Thursday morning. From this point a fine view was obtained of the regions adjacent to the city. There were to be seen numerous huts and houses set within lofty cocoanut groves and surrounded by banana gardens and other fine tropical vegetation. Opposite the shore of the main island is a smaller island, which is also thickly inhabited and abounds in the thickest and most beautiful tropical vegetation. Its shores are high and rocky, but trees and plants thickly cover every part of them from the base to the top. Here and there, almost hidden from view, can be discovered the native habitations. Numerous yachts are fastened within the little inlets and bays, and in all parts of the harbor can be seen these peculiar sailing craft plying back and forth between the islands. The chief peculiarity about these native craft is that they are protected on both sides by large balancing bamboo poles, which are fastened parallel to the boat at from five to ten feet from the sides. On account of these it would be very hard for one of these yachts to capsize.

On Friday morning one of the native yachts approached our vessel with a white handkerchief flying as a flag of truce. The natives came to the sides of the Pennsylvania and made expressions of friendship. They then presented the soldiers with chickens, coconuts and bananas. They refused money in return for these, and sailed away in their yacht. The Arizona now pulled into the harbor in front of the city, and we were signaled to follow.

About noon the Pennsylvanian again weighed anchor and slowly sailed up and took her place with the other vessels of the fleet, confronting the city. From here a fine view can be obtained of the town and its vicinity. Iloilo is not a very large port but it is almost as important commercially as Manila. It is situated on the southeastern coast of the island of Panay 500 miles south of Manila. There are quite

Notes
a number of fine buildings and fine residences in the city. There are many Europeans—Germans, English, Swiss, and others—engaged in commerce here, and their lives and interests demand protection. In the background of the city is a range of lofty mountains, capped by clouds. The harbor consists of a strait and contains considerable shipping. The insurgent flag floats over the city.

When our vessels entered the harbor we were surprised to find a German cruiser here, although there may be Germans in the city, whose interests demand protection, many impute to this cruiser designs unfriendly to the United States. This cruiser is the same vessel with Admiral Dewey at Manila. The Admiral told the German commander to keep out of his way or fight. It is said it was the intention of this German officer to recognize the insurgent flag since these natives have achieved their independence from the Spaniards, and to then establish a German protectorate over the city. Our fleet arrived just in time it is said, to forestall this movement. To some of our men this German vessel looked very sullenly upon the Baltimore until yesterday when a large British cruiser—the Conaventure—steamed into the harbor. Our men wanted to cheer but it was against order to do so. There is still a Spanish gunboat flying the colors of Spain there, so that war vessels of four nations each are flying its national emblems in this harbor. And the stars

and these were the proudest of them all. Several conferences have been held with the insurgents since then. They have repeatedly refused to allow our forces to land. They claim they have achieved their independence from Spain, and refuse to recognize the right of Spain to transfer the sovereignty of the islands to the United States, since they have defeated Spain and established their government upon an independent basis. So this what can the United States reply? What will the United States reply? These insurgents are entirely independent of Atchin, Iloilo and the insurgents of Luzon island. They are administering the affairs of the city in a peaceable and orderly manner and have committed no pillage or depredation and have as yet in no overt way endangered the lives or interests of European inhabitants of the city. The city is ours by international law, no doubt, but by the principles of our own Great Declaration of Independence, which declares that "all men are created free and equal" and have a right to self-government and independence, can we coerce them to subject themselves to our government? We can not deny their right to have freed themselves from the tyrannical government of Spain, and Admiral Dewey even helped the insurgents of Luzon island by supplying them with arms and ammunition and thus making them our allies. But the insurgents of Panay island have succeeded

in achieving their independence from the Spanish forces, unhelped and unnoticed by our forces. They have established themselves according to law and order. Can we rightfully subject them? Doubtless we will give them a good government but they say they prefer self-government. How shall we reply? By force? But the argument "might is right?" The question seems a complicated one and thus far has baffled an answer. It is said that General Miller has been instructed to use all possible means to obtain the city without bloodshed, and that he has been instructed not to employ force until orders come from Washington. Aguinaldo and his cabinet are said to have agreed upon remaining at peace with the Americans, and it is thought his action may have some influence upon the natives here. All persuasion and diplomacy will doubtless be exhausted before an attempt is made to capture the city by force. The American policy is to subjugate the natives by peaceful means, if possible. We do not wish to have insurgent war upon our hands. They are expensive, indecisive and useless. But we are responsible for the administration of affairs in Iloilo and are accountable to European nations for the lives and interests of their citizens. So we shall doubtless have to take the city peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must. No doubt the question will long since have been settled when the summer goes to press with this letter.

Today makes the fifty-first day that the Fifty-first Iowa has been upon the Pennsylvania. We have long since grown used to life upon the ship, and most of us have ceased to worry as to when we shall land. The men have needed more exercise for a long time, but have accommodated themselves to inactive life upon shipboard to a surprising degree. There is but few sick - not as much by any means as we have had on land. The affairs of our regimental hospital are well controlled under the able

management of our acting surgeon, Liut. D. M. Fairchild, Jr.

Major John T. Hume made the hearts of the men of the Second Battalion rejoice by presenting cigars all around on Christmas. When the men assembled to hear the exercises Christmas night, three cheers were called for Major Hume. They were given with a hearty good will. There is no more popular man in the Fifty-first regiment than Major John T. Hume.

The boys of the Fifty-first had quite a merry Christmas on the old Pennsylvania in Manila Bay. The steamship St. Paul, in the service of the Red Cross society, arrived from San Francisco the 22d. The boys' hearts were cheered by welcome letters and papers from home for there was a large mail brought in by the steamer. But this was not all. There were hundreds - yes, I presume a few thousands of Christmas boxes on board, many of them from old Iowa, but still more from San Francisco friends of the Fifty-first. There were canned meats, fruits and jellies, fruit cakes and dainty eatables of all kinds. There were other things in the way of useful articles, socks, combs, pen-knives, books, Bibles, and other articles too numerous to mention. Nearly every one found himself remembered in some way for kind people had thought of these likely-to-be-forgotten ones and had stowed in a few extras for distribution among them. The St. Paul was turned over to the ladies of the San Francisco Red Cross society for the purpose of carrying Christmas presents for the soldiers at Manila. Of course all presents were transported free. Boxes came from Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, and other states, but the bulk of them came from California which, besides supplying her own soldiers generously, remembered the boys of other states. God bless the ladies of the Red Cross society!

The wife of our chaplain, H. P. Williams, was the only woman who accompanied her husband to Manila on the Pennsylvania. The wife of Lieut. Edaburn, of Company G, came over on the St. Paul and joined her husband on the Pennsylvania in Manila harbor. Both women were left at Manila when the Fifty-first started on its expedition to Iloilo. They will rejoin their husbands when affairs become settled here. No other wives of officers of the Fifty-first will join their husbands in these islands, so far as known.

Miss Della Weeks, who was formerly a Red Cross nurse accompanying our regiment but is now a regular government nurse, came over on the St. Paul in company with several other lady government nurses. Miss Weeks visited the Fifty-first on the Pennsylvania. She was heartily cheered.

Chaplain Williams preached a splendid sermon from the hurricane deck Christmas morning. Christmas night under his direction an entertainment was given, the talent for which was drawn from our regiment. Our chaplain loses no opportunity to look after our moral uplifting.

Company F had a splendid Christmas dinner, but it was equalled, if not surpassed, by the dinner we had this New Year's day. Here is the menu of today's feast:

	Bread.	
Mashed Potatoes.		Roast Beef.
Rice.	Hash.	Peaches.
	Cheese.	Cocoa.
	Sugar.	

Our dinner was much surperior to that furnished from the regimental issue of rations. This is due to the fact that Captain Keating has carefully looked after the interests of the boys of Company F, in the way of managing the company fund, and provided a little stock of extra delicacies for our enjoyment of these holidays. Our appetites did ample justice to the good things, and all were satisfied with our fine dinner. Captain Keating truly deserves our thanks for his kind forethought.

Very truly,
James R. McVicker.

IN THE ORIENT

The Courier's Correspondent
Writes From Iloilo.

LIFE ON A TROOPSHIP

The Daily Routine of the Iowa Boys
Aboard the Pennsylvania—Seventy-Fourth Day On a Vessel—
Interesting Observations

S. S. Pennsylvania, Iloilo Harbor, January 16—(Special correspondence to Daily Courier.)—The situation here has been modified very considerably the past two weeks. The situation at first looked very serious. It was thought that a battle would be fought

with the insurgents for the possession of the city. At present not much trouble is anticipated. The insurgents still continue in possession of the city and refuse to recognize the right of the United States to land troops, but it is believed that they will either eventually acquiesce to our demands or will gradually retire before the advance of our forces if we move upon the city. It is the policy of the United States to conciliate the insurgents by every possible means. The city will not be taken by force or bloodshed if it can be avoided. Still all depends upon the decision of the administration at Washington. Brigadier General Miller now awaits orders from the War department and these orders may come very soon. The United States may decide to cease its policy of forbearance and teach the insurgents that they must not longer bar the way by their old-time tactics. But we hope for peace.

The United States officers have seized several small steamers, launches and scows that were in the possession of the insurgents or owned by Spaniards and have pressed them into service for communication and transportation purposes around the harbor. Soldiers with arms are placed aboard these vessels as guards. Natives are employed as crews on nearly all of them. The treachery of the Malays was recently illustrated aboard one of the launches. The two soldiers aboard were off their guard and were suddenly attacked with knives by the natives. One of the soldiers was fatally wounded and the other saved himself by jumping overboard and was picked up by the Baltimore. Two of the natives were captured, while a third escaped by swimming. It was their intention to escape with the launch.

The German cruiser Irene left these waters a few days ago. She once had a shot fired across her bow by order of Admiral Dewey. She was engaged in some clandestine enterprise unfriendly to the United States at the time. Her mission here was regarded with much suspicion by war officers. One morning the Irene lowered her boats, loaded them with marines and placed several rapid-fire guns in the boats. Her launch then started to tow them ashore. A United States tug overhauled the outfit and asked the German officers to give an account of the affair. They replied that they were only going ashore for a little target practice. Our officers informed them that they were forbidden to land arms and ordered them not to land or approach the shore. The Germans then returned and went aboard their vessel. After the departure of the German cruiser (perhaps for some other Philippine port unoccupied by our forces) the English cruiser Bonaventure also left, and later the small Spanish cruiser departed. Excepting an English gunboat, which recently arrived, only the navy of the United States is represented here. We have the gunboat Petrel and the cruiser Baltimore. The harbor is constantly patrolled by our tugs and launches by day and at night, the powerful searchlight of the Baltimore is continually shifted from point to point along the shore and over the waters to detect any suspi-

ous object or craft. By this means several vessels of different kinds have been caught smuggling arms or other supplies and have been promptly seized by our officers. The captured vessels vary from small launches to quite large steamboats. All have been pressed into the service. Two of the larger steamboats are now used as dispatch boats between our forces here and Manila. One of the small steamboats has been supplied with gun from the Astor battery and is used as an auxiliary gunboat. Her crew was detailed mostly from the Fifty-first Iowa. She still bears her Spanish name "Samar."

The Fifty-first has now been quartered on the Pennsylvania for seventy-four days and it is remarkable how well the men have kept up in health and spirit. There is but little complaint. We are reconciled to the fact that we must await orders, which may be a long time in coming, and so we

are determined to make the best of every thing and despite unpleasant conditions we find pleasure in various amusements and employments. A red letter day on board was marked on the 13th by the arrival of a dispatch boat from Manila, bringing mail. Soldiers were soon engaged in reading letters from home and friends and through our newspapers you stated of the latter part of evening was. They were very eagerly read. Mail reaches us about once in every three weeks, and the day on which the mail arrives is of course quite an eventful one to us. We do not expect mail now before February 5.

Military routine on board the Pennsylvania is not very severe. To provide some exercise a half hour march around the upper deck is required of the men of each battalion when the weather permits. The eight boats of the vessel are in use every day by crews of soldiers who are in practice rowing for the time when they may be expected to convey their comrades to the shore. A regular regimental guard is posted around different parts of the vessel every day. The greater part of the guard is above the deck, but part is below. The guard above deck carry their rifles at

night, and are instructed to allow no unknown boats to approach. The fatigue work, or polishing of the ship is done by a detail consisting of men from each of the companies, every day. There are a few prisoners in the guards house and of course they are permitted to do their share of the police work. The men receive three meals a day, the meals are uniformly about the same. For breakfast each man gets a slice or two of bacon a boiled potato, a cup of coffee and three hardtacks or army crackers. For dinner the soldier receives a thick slice of fresh bread, "thick" soup, boiled potatoes and boiled beef. Supper consists of coffee, bread, stew or "stungullion," or perhaps rice and salmon. The cooking is done by the ship's cooks, who do very fairly under the circumstances, but they have to cook too much at a time to do it properly. We shall welcome the day when our company cooks are permitted to once more cook for us. We should have a much more pleasant time on land.

Evening is the social time on the Pennsylvania. After sunset a pleasant breeze always sets in and it is a genuine pleasure to be out upon the deck. The officers gather upon the port side of the hurricane deck, many of them sit or recline upon easy chairs while others walk up and down for exercise. In-structed men fill up all the available space on the starboard side and congregate along the rail and cabin of the main deck. At about 8 o'clock, or "eight bells" the band appears and renders a concert to an ever appreciative audience of Iowa soldiers. The melodies of the popular and patriotic airs, with which we are familiar, but of which we never grow tired are wafted out

across the water in the

quiet evenings and sound sweetly in the distance but nowhere do they fall upon ears that love them more than while listened to by the boys

of the Fifty-first Iowa. "Steer 'Old Swallow River,' 'Dine 'Home Sweet Home,' and a score of others are being concluded with the "Star Spangled Banner." While the last is being played the men stand with their heads uncovered in salute to the flag, and when it is over they begin to disappear to their quarters. A little later "Call to quarters" sounds and presently a bugle blows the soft and sweet and solemn call of taps "go to sleep" at which lights go out and quiet reigns on the ship, only the pacing to and fro of the sentinels to indicate the presence of soldiers.

It may be asked, "How do the men spend all their time with so little to do aboard ship?" This is rather a hard question. It drags by so slowly sometimes that some of us don't spend it at all - we have to let it just spend itself. We talk and listen to the conversation of "many men of many minds," many play at games of cards, some study Spanish, others shorthand, and a few study school and collegiate branches. Some soldiers read their bibles a part of the time. But nearly

all like to read good books, magazines and newspapers, of which there is a deplorable lack. Our regimental library is boxed up, but we shall get the benefit of it in our next camp on land. Many of us find it pleasant to sleep a part of the daytime and the climate seems to favor this. At any rate the time goes by surely, slowly but forever. Every day passed is one day less to be spent in the army, one day nearer "home, sweet home."

The white city of Iloilo still confronts us, and we shall doubtless eventually occupy it. Behind the city is a lofty range of cloud-capped mountains. They are probably twenty-five or thirty miles distant. There are three active volcanoes on the island of Panay. It is probably rich in mineral wealth.

Its vegetation is the rankest and most luxuriant we have as yet seen. The weather here is somewhat variable. The past two days have been very warm. Previous to this there was a constant, cool breeze and it rained frequently every day. The coldest months of the year here are from November to March, and the hottest months from March to May. At any rate old Iowa is so far superior to this tropic land in so many ways that the writer knows of that in the future Iowa will be his home. But it is a beautiful trip for the traveler.
James R. McVicker.

HOLD A RECORD

Iowa Soldiers On Troopship
Ninety Days.

BACK AGAIN AT CAVITE

The Fifty-First On February 1 About
to Land Again, After a Three
Months' Experience On a
Transport.

S. S. Pennsylvania, Harbor of Cavite, P. I., Feb. 1, 1899.—(Special Correspondence to Ottumwa Daily Courier.)—Ninety days on a transport is a unique experience for United States soldiers. The Fifty-first Iowa claims the record of the longest sojourn upon the water of any regiment of American soldiers in this war, and what makes the distinction really enviable and something whereof to be proud is the fact that the men have borne this long period of waiting in their uncomfortable and inconvenient surroundings with uncomplaining and soldierly fortitude. The chief surgeon of the expeditionary forces deemed a longer stay of the Fifty-first upon the Pennsylvania as endangering the health of the regiment and emphatically ordered that we be taken from the vessel immediately. It still being impracticable to land troops at Iloilo, the regiment was ordered to return to Manila bay and to land at Cavite.

The Pennsylvania weighed anchor at 6 p. m. January 29. Brigadier General Miller had been aboard our vessel all afternoon in friendly conference with Colonel Loper. It is understood that should the general need more troops for the service at Iloilo when the American army is ordered to occupy the place he will earnestly request the return of the Fifty-first to his command. The regiment has been under General Miller's command ever since it pitched its tents at Camp Merritt last July. As the general left in his launch for his headquarters on the Newport he was given three rousing cheers by the Iowa boys, which he recognized by a gesture of the hand and a pleasant smile. As the Pennsylvania moved out of the harbor in

which the Fifty-first has remained as a sentinel for over a month, we were greeted by farewells and cheers from soldiers on the transports Indiana, Newport and Arizona. We left the harbor in their charge and that of the men of Admiral Dewey's two vessels, Baltimore and Petrel. Night settled down and found us once more rocking upon the surging China sea.

Traveling the 30th was very pleasant. We made rapid progress. The morning of the 31st dawned with the bright sunshine. Land in all its varied forms and tropical munificence of vegetation was a continually pleasant sight. At last Corregidor island, which stands forth like a solemn sentinel at the entrance to Manila bay, became visible. It grew plainer and finally we passed the famous point from which the land batteries of Spain frowned upon Admiral Dewey's fleet as they grimly allowed his vessels to pass on to what was believed would prove a certain destruction that would rebound more to the glory of Spain. The city of Manila is thirty-eight miles from this point. As we approached the dim outlines of the farther shore the smoke of certain dark-colored vessels showed plainly and still more plainly as we continued to approach them. They were the famous vessels of the American navy in these waters—the Olympia, the Boston, the Charleston, the Concord and the Monterey. The Pennsylvania sailed into the midst of Admiral Dewey's fleet and cast anchor off Cavite. Near by are the distorted and ruined remains of the Spanish fleet. Eight of Montejos's vessels can be seen, all sunken, with only a small portion of their hulls showing above the water near by the beach. The upper portions of these vessels show the terrible force of the American navy. The Spanish fleet now appears worthless except for old scrap iron. Our vessel is anchored in quite a historic place.

The regimental baggage is being unloaded upon barges and will be landed at once. It is expected that the Fifty-first will disembark tomorrow. We shall occupy very fine barracks. They have been garrisoned by a battalion of the Tennessee regiment, which battalion left for Manila this morning. The men are elated over the prospect of comfortable quarters ashore once more.

The situation at Iloilo was very favorable when we left. More amicable relations had been established with the insurgents. Our officers were invited into the city of Iloilo, providing they would go unarmed and in small groups. Many officers availed themselves of the privilege. The natives also grew quite friendly toward us after our January pay day. They brought boat loads of bananas and

cocoanuts and quickly disposed of them. The natives seemed quite friendly to us. We have also grown to like them first rate. The Filipinos are a very intelligent people.

The men of the regiment are greatly pleased to hear of the promotion of Lieutenant David S. Fairchild to the place of regimental surgeon of the Fifty-first. It was thought that Governor Shaw intended recommending some party outside the regiment for the place, but now the men have reason to rejoice.

The box of reading matter expressed to the Fifty-first by the Ottumwa ladies of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" will be most gratefully received. No better provision can be made for the welfare of the soldiers than to supply them with good reading. Books, magazines and periodicals of all kinds are in great demand among the soldiers. Thanks to the ladies. Yours truly,

James R. McVicker.

SLEPT ON ARMS

Fifty-first Was Ready for Instant Action.

SITUATION A MONTH AGO

The Courier's Regular War Correspondent With the Iowa Boys Tells of Affairs at Cavite in Middle of February.

In the letter printed below, the Courier's staff correspondent with the Fifty-first regiment reviews the exciting events at Cavite, near Manila, from Feb. 4 to Feb. 16. The letter shows that the Fifty-first was not ordered immediately to join the forces about Manila because General Otis deemed they were needed at Cavite. It was thought for a time that the insurgents, as they were repulsed at Manila, would unite and make an attack on Cavite. From Feb. 4 to Feb. 11 the members of the Fifty-first slept on their arms, scarcely undressing. Since that time, according to the cable dispatches, the Fifty-first has been made a part of Major General Lawton's command, which is located south of the Pasig river, holding a force of 3,000 insurgents from the southern provinces.

Cavite, Philippine Islands, Feb. 16.—(Special Correspondence to Ottumwa Courier.)—The Fifty-first regiment has been excellently quartered in Cavite since Feb. 2. Six companies are quartered in barracks in the central part of the town. Companies E and M, of the Third battalion have the barracks enclosed within the walls of old Fort San Filipe. The first battalion has been quartered in the fine Spanish barracks, "Cuartel del Infanteria de Marina." To again live upon land is like a return to home. To set foot upon shore after ninety-one days' sojourn on the Pennsylvania was a most welcome relief. We felt like liberated prisoners when the desired object had been accomplished and we have been most heartily enjoying our freedom ever since. Much has happened in the two weeks past that has been of intense interest to us, and we have been kept wide-awake and very busy a great part of that time.

After having disembarked, and having been quartered in barracks here, the town of Cavite presented great attractions to us. It is not a very large place, but is of peculiar and great historic interest. Cavite is an island of, perhaps, half a mile in length, and one-fourth mile in breadth. It is connected by a causeway of about 300 yards length with the island town of San Roque, which is in turn connected by a causeway with the peninsula projecting from the main land. At the time we landed the insurgent forces extended all along the peninsula and a large body of them held San Roque. The American troops here maintained an outpost at the Cavite end of the causeway and the insurgents had established a strong guard at the San Roque end of the causeway. The insurgents boasted of their great number and threatened to make a charge across the causeway. Our forces commanded the causeway by four Gatling guns and two pieces of light artillery with reinforcements of artillery within easy call. Our forces expected an attack at any time, and the utmost vigilance was maintained. Had the insurgents attempted to charge across the causeway they would surely have been swept down as fast as they came by the terrible fire we were ready to pour into them.

Affairs were rapidly nearing a crisis between the Americans and insurgents. Two members of the Nevada volunteer cavalry, two members of the California volunteer artillery, and American soldiers belonging to the hospital corps and various other commands, had been seized by the insurgents and carried into the interior. The insurgent leaders refused to allow these men to return, claiming them as prisoners of war. It was well known by our officers that a war must come, and we only waited for the insurgents to strike the first blow.

On the night of Saturday, Feb. 4, the Iowa soldiers were roused up some time after 11 o'clock. We fell in, had roll call, and then received orders to sleep on our arms. The following morning we learned that the First Nebraska regiment had been attacked by the insurgents on the night before, their outposts driven in, and that a general engagement between the Americans and Filipinos had resulted. Firing could be heard around Manila during a part of the night. Admiral Dewey's fleet moved to various points so as to take a share in the conflict when necessary. Sunday forenoon, the boom of artillery, the volleys of musketry, and the rumbling reports of the guns of Dewey's fleet, were heard across the bay at Manila and its outposts. The men here gathered upon the fortifying

walls of Cavite and watched the signs of battle from afar. Many were the expressions of regret that we were stationed so far from the scene of conflict. The men were intensely eager to get into the battle. It was said

that Admiral Dewey's fleet would soon begin to reduce the insurgent forts at San Roque. The Dava boys hoped them to take a hand in the battle by crossing the causeway and engaging in combats with the insurgents. But it seemed very hard to wait.

A few days of great suspense followed. frequent alarms were given and we were often called to arms. The men doing guard duty had some most trying times - not in the presence of actual danger at any time but often the victims of

phantoms of their own imaginations. Several dogs and even a couple of cats paid for their criminal resemblance to prowling natives by being shot by the mercurial sentinels who did not wish to take any chances on the probability of some dark moving object being a native. In previous insurrections the Filipinos have proved themselves very expert in stealthily crawling up to the Spanish sentinels and stabbing them. The American soldier walking post at night is very wary lest the same fate overtake him. Several have been killed in this way at Manila. So the men beware of Filipinos by night. We now realize what it is to do guard duty in the enemy's country and a more ugly treacherous enemy never fought Antebellum soldiers except the Indian.

On the afternoon of the 7th instant Admiral Dewey sent an officer to the insurgents at San Roque demanding of them a surrender of the place by 7 o'clock the following morning, or to have their families moved out and to be ready to receive a bombardment. The insurgents replied evasively that they did not know whether or not they would surrender. Admiral Dewey is said to have replied: "They will know tomorrow."

Soon after breakfast on the 9th the small gunboats near by began manoeuvring as though to take offensive positions. About that time smoke began to ascend from San Roque and we soon saw that the Filipinos had set fire to the place. Fires were started here and there. Soon dense clouds of smoke were climbing skyward. About the middle of the forenoon we were called to arms and having been told to remain in instant readiness to march were allowed to break ranks. On the afternoon the first battalion commanded by Major Dugan, marched to the Sally port in the west part of fortified Cavite, stacked arms, and awaited further orders. The Third battalion and companies G and L had crossed the causeway in the forenoon and finding San Roque evacuated were said to be pursuing the insurgents.

As we waited at our former outpost ready to reinforce our advanced troops of necessary numbers of soldiers passed returning from San Roque with much plunder from the burning town - pigs, chickens, machetes, Mauser rifles, ammunition, guitars, knives and spoils innumerable. Toward evening we returned to our barracks.

Our outpost was now advanced to the second causeway leading from San Roque to the Peninsula. The insurgents hold the peninsula with strong forces. They have fine fortifications in the old town of Santa Vito. The gunboats Manila and Callao have been firing on their advance intrenchments the past four days, and have done good work in clearing them up and

causing the natives to retreat. But the insurgents are good fighters. They are very determined. They rebuild and repair their trenches and keep on firing. They have several old heavy siege guns which they took from Cavite after its fall under Admiral Dewey's victory the first of May.

The Third battalion and companies G and L of the second with a part of the California artillery hold the American advance outpost on the San Roque end of the second causeway with

Gatling guns and light artillery they can hold the outpost against any number of insurgents. The First battalion and Companies E and M are at present under orders to guard the navy yard and its arsenal. The Fifty-first Iowa hopes to take an active part in the fighting, and we expect to have that privilege soon. Additional troops will be sent to Cavite. The insurgent intrenchments and fortifications on the peninsula will be blown up. The Fifty-first will, in all probability, then cross the second causeway and engage the insurgents while, it is expected, that a part of our army will attack them on the other side. Our troops at the outpost have already been fired upon by the insurgents, and it will not be long, we hope, until the Fifty-first regiment shall have engaged in a real battle. James R. McVicker.

HE TELLS OF CAVITE

Another Letter From Courier
War Correspondent.

INTERESTING OLD TOWN

Description of the Place Near Which
Dewey Demolished the Spanish
Fleet—The Climate and
Inhabitants.

Cavite, Philippine Islands, Feb. 17.—
(Special to the Courier.)—Cavite is a very interesting old town. It is situated on a fortified island, nine miles distant to the southwest of Manila. On the west this island is connected by a causeway with the town and island of San Roque, which place is connected on the south by a causeway with a peninsula projecting in a northwesterly direction from the mainland.

Cavite was a very important place to Spain, principally as a naval station. It is a well fortified place—indeed, did we not know that great trust cannot be reposed in stone forts and walls in these days, we should call it an impregnable place. On the north stands old Fort San Felipe with its thick walls, barracks and officials' quarters. It is a very pretty place, with gardens of flowers and lovely terraces, lined by beautiful trees. This fort is in reality a retreat within a fort, for the whole town is virtually a fort by reason of the powerful walls and fortifications almost surrounding it. The walls are especially strong on the north and east, from which directions attacks were to be expected from the open part of the bay. The wall does not extend along the south for the

reason that the small bay formed by the peninsula was intended to be protected and used as a station by the smaller gunboats. The wall extends along the west, there being a sally post near the causeway. A large section of the wall on the northwest was shattered by Admiral Dewey just after conquering the Spanish fleet. This part of the wall contained many prisons and dungeons, and it is said that many prisoners walked forth into the light of day as a result of the terrible but merciful work of Admiral Dewey's shells. There are but few of the guns left around the walls. The insurgents were in possession of Cavite for a few days following the great naval victory, and besides improving the opportunity to thoroughly sack the Spanish residences, they are said to have transported to other points several heavy guns and Spanish firearms and ammunition of all description.

There are two very large old churches, or cathedrals, in Cavite. One of them is in good preservation and is still used for religious purposes. The other has suffered much from the great bombardment and other causes and has been utterly abandoned. An inscription on a large stone panel in front bears the date 1643. Connected with this large church, there are many other divisions and edifices, these having formerly been used as a convent. The whole has suffered greatly from the despoiling and relic-hunting soldiers. Railings and walls and marble floor have almost all been broken into small pieces. The church furniture has entirely disappeared. It is in reality but an old pile of ruins at the present time. There is another smaller church in the town, built for the natives and still used by them. Catholicism is the only religion found in this part of the Philippines, but Mohammedism prevails throughout the southern islands.

The Spanish barracks here are very fine. There is ample room for all the troops our government has quartered here. There are many fine residences also. Many of the buildings are constructed with an open court in the middle, and the walls of the second story usually project two or three feet over the walls of the first. For roofing, tiles are chiefly used, though most of the more recent buildings are roofed with corrugated, galvanized sheet-iron. There is in the navy yard quite a fine palace, which was used by the Spanish naval officers. Admiral Dewey has his headquarters in it. The headquarters of the Fifty-first Iowa, Colonel Loper and staff, are also stationed in the building.

The navy yard is quite a large affair, and in it are employed between three and four hundred workmen—most of these workmen are Chinese, who supplanted the Filipinos who showed themselves unfriendly to our government in the recent uprising of Aguinaldo. This navy yard has extensive repair shops, calling for mechanics of great skill. There are magazines for powder, torpedoes, projectiles and naval stores of all kinds. There is also a small dry docking works for the repair of the smaller vessels. Admiral Dewey has made Cavite his naval sta-

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tion ever since his great victory, and consequently the navy yard here is one of considerable importance to his fleet. It will doubtless continue to be an important station under American rule.

Most of the fleet is at present distributed at important points along the bay near Manila. The monitor *Monterey* and the auxiliary cruiser *Buffalo* stand out in the harbor of Cavite. The *Monterey* acts as a sentinel for this part of the bay by night, patrolling every part of it and making us to watch the insurgent outposts by means of a very powerful searchlight.

Eight of the old wrecks of the Spanish fleet are in plain view but a little way out in the harbor. The smokestacks, part of the hulls, guns and parts of machinery show above the water. They have been much visited by soldiers heretofore and many mementoes have been carried

from them. Many of the guns and cartridges have been rescued from the wrecks, cleaned and painted by order of Admiral Dewey. They are arranged in a neat row in the navy yard, and may possibly at some future day be transported to the

United States. They form an admirable relic of the great naval battle and Americans will always delight to gaze upon them. Most of the wrecks appear to be but distorted and useless old ruins, and to one inexperienced in such matters it would seem a hard matter for even such a man as Lieutenant Hobson to make them worth anything.

There would be but little life in Cavite at present were it not for the United States soldiers here. It is a very quiet place anyhow but the "boys in blue" do what little is necessary to make it a habitable place for soldiers. Bes-

ides the fifty-first regiment there are quartered here a battalion of California mounted artillery, a battery of regular light artillery, and a troop of Nevada cavalry - an aggregate of about 500 soldiers. Colonel Toper is the commanding officer of the post and island and his adjutant, Captain J. Davidson holds but an assistant adjutant general.

There are very few natives or Filipinos in the town - the population having very perceptibly thinned out since Aguinaldo was begun. Most of these here are women and children, the men presumably having gone to bear arms in the ranks of the "insurrectos". The natives here make

a good living by ministering to the endless wants of the soldiers. They conduct various little shops and stands and do services of all kinds for the generous "Americanos". The more pretentious shop-keepers here, and in all parts of the islands, in fact, are the Chinese. They have a very large part of the mercantile business of the islands in their hands. These Chinamen are polite, shrewd, and industrious. They take no hand in troubles and insurrections. They are intelligent and quick to see that American rule will be of great and direct benefit to them and to the Filipinos

as well. Their general view of the case in Spanish is as follows: "Filipinos mucho malo - Americanos mucho bueno, mucho dinero - Americanos mucho boom-boom."

There are a few adventuresome Americans in the town mostly engaged in the saloon-business. This is a pretty good field, so they report. Liqueur drinking is especially dangerous in tropical islands, but nevertheless a great deal of liquor is consumed by the soldiers.

The days are rather warm here at present, but the nights are uniformly cool and pleasant. Salubrious and invigorating sea breezes blow soon after sunset and

render the rest of the night as cool as one could reasonably wish, and provided one is protected by a mosquito netting, sleep can be enjoyed to the utmost. Perhaps Cavite and other points of the Philip-

pines will some day be great American winter resorts. The climate is most pleasant at this season. The islands are far more healthful than some persons

have represented them in the past. There is far less sickness among the soldiers here than there was at San Francisco, and of course the deaths have been much fewer. Aside from climatic disorders, the American soldiers in the Philippines have been comparatively free from sickness. Truly, the islands are much more healthful than many parts of our own United States. The march of progress instituted here by our army and navy will certainly uncover great possibilities for these islands. Cavite, by its peculiar situation, will surely some day make an excellent residence town and health resort.

San Roque, recently evacuated by the insurgents and occupied by our troops, is an essentially different place from Cavite. It is a larger island than Cavite, and is connected with it on the east by a causeway about 300 yards long. San Roque has no fortifications at present, though a formidable Spanish fort stood upon its northern extremity till reduced by Admiral Dewey last May. The insurgents had only entrenchments and rifle pits to guard the place, and for this reason were quick to evacuate it when so ordered by Admiral Dewey on pain of bombardment. There are quite a number of Spanish residences and many native houses standing in the town as yet, though for the most part it is but a wide waste of ash-heaps and ruined buildings. It is said that many of the people did not want to leave their homes, but that the insurgent soldiers drove them out and set fire to their houses. It is a very desolate place now. The people left with the insurgent army. Only dogs, cats, pigs, chickens and a few goats remain - and they are fast disappearing, being either mercifully shot by our soldiers, or in the case of the last three taken for food. Hundreds of dogs congregate on the beach and at other remote places and bark and whine all night long. They are starving. Details of soldiers have recently been sent throughout the islands to shoot these animals. The ruins and houses left standing have been searched for relics

and useful articles by our soldiers. Inside the houses were all sorts of articles—mahogany furniture of all kinds, pianos, guitars, clothing, dishes and books. Uniforms of Spanish soldiers and sailors, Spanish and Filipino flags, machetes, ammunition, Mauser and Remington rifles, beautiful sea shells, pictures, photographs and hundreds of pretty and interesting trinkets were found. No doubt almost all of these things were taken from the Spaniards by the insurgents after the great victory of Admiral Dewey last May. Under many of the burned houses chests were found, buried by the soldiers. Of course their contents were quickly investigated. Here some Filipino woman had buried her choice dishes, there a native of literary turn had concealed a chest of books and papers—dictionary, histories, law books, old Spanish records stolen from the Spanish officials' houses at Cavite after its fall (for the natives held this place and looted it for three days). At another point is a chest of fine clothing—some Spanish lady's finery at some time, no doubt—silk dresses, laces, ribbons, gloves, shoes, etc. Extensive machine shops, churches and warehouses, were burned. But most interesting to the writer, were the remains of a printing office. Two large cylinder presses, proof presses, molten type and machinery, all bearing the results of a fierce fire, told the story. As a Chinaman remarked to us while dense clouds of smoke were ascending from the burning houses: "San Roque, adios." Very truly,

James R. McVicker.

AT THE FRONT

Fifty-first Iowa On the Fighting Line.

BEFORE THE ADVANCE

Interesting Letter From Courier's War Correspondent at Front Tells of Part Hawkeye Boys Are Taking in Campaign.

The American army in the island of Luzon is divided into two parts. One army is north of the Pasig river, and the other occupies the territory south. The Fifty-first Iowa is south of Manila and the Pasig river. A letter from the Courier's correspondent, printed below, tells of the advance of two battalions of the regiment to the firing line and of life in the trenches. When the letter was written it was uncertain whether the first advance on the insurgents would be made by the southern army or the northern. The northern army made its advance on Malolos first, as cables have told. If the campaign is not stopped by the rainy season, it is expected the southern army will have work to do pacifying the southern end of the island.

Pasay, P. I., Feb. 22.—(Special correspondence to the Courier.)—The Fifty-first Iowa is now in active service. The regiment is represented at the front by two battalions, while the remaining battalion is doing very rigorous guard duty over the United States arsenal and other government property at Cavite. The Third battalion, commanded by Major John C. Moore, is stationed at the outpost guarding the causeway from San Roque to the peninsula. The Second battalion, commanded by Major John T. Hume, remains at Cavite guarding the arsenal. The first battalion, under command of Major Dugan, is at the trenches of the United States forces around Manila at Pasay, about five miles south of Manila.

Our forces are distributed around Manila and its suburbs in a line of intrenchments over thirty miles long. The insurgents confront us all along the line, and with the forces here at present it is designed mainly to hold the insurgents at bay until reinforcements arrive and then a general movement will be made against the insurgent forces. Several regiments of the regular army are due here now and are expected to arrive soon. The insurgents make frequent attacks upon our line by night but are easily repulsed. It is reported that they are massing for an attack upon this point soon, and a vigilant watch is maintained. In case of attack our battalion will reinforce the Fourteenth infantry which occupies the intrenchments here. At present our battalion is encamped in shelter tents about 150 yards in the rear of the trenches. The battalion is in Brigadier General Over-shine's command.

Our men have been engaged in digging trenches and clearing brush the past few days. This part of the country is a veritable jungle except for small rice fields and little clearings for the native houses. An enemy could approach very near before being discovered. Owing to the peculiar character of the country, our outposts are not placed more than about 100 yards in advance of the trenches. Frequent scouting parties are sent out, and they encounter the greatest danger of being surprised.

Pasay is a small place. It has a barracks, an official building, a church, and half a dozen small shops conducted by Chinamen. There are many native houses. In fact the whole country is thickly set with the native houses and huts. These habitations are simply but neatly built of bamboo and thatched with palm leaves. They are generally elevated four or five feet from the ground. Houses of all sizes are to be found, from the small native hut to the large and commodious native dwelling. Although these houses have a very crude and primitive appearance on the outside, they are nevertheless neat and attractive within. No nails are used in their construction, all the fastening being done by means of tying or sewing with thin strips of very tough bark. The houses around Pasay are mostly deserted at present, their occupants having been insurgents who feared the "Americans." At the time of the battle two weeks ago many houses were used as a shelter from which to fire upon the Americans. All such houses were promptly burned by our soldiers.

There are many piles of ashes in this vicinity.

The intrenchments formerly held by the insurgents are about a mile in our rear. They are well built, but are too deep. The Filipinos when occupying them could not see over the top even while standing. But their way of firing is different from ours. They do not take aim, especially at close range. They simply load and fire and trust to fortune for the bullets to hit. Consequently they fire too high. A regular who participated in a charge of the Fourteenth infantry, remarked: "Hundreds of their bullets whistled over my head."

There is a little cemetery in the churchyard across the road from our camp. Several insurgent soldiers are buried there. There is a row of stone vaults on one side of the cemetery. In these were placed the bones of the wealthier natives. But they were not secure in their resting place. According to the Spanish custom a rent was charged for the use of the vaults. Should the rent remain unpaid for a certain time, the bones were thrown out of the vault upon a common pile. Several skulls and other human bones are scattered around the cemetery. It was the privilege of the writer to witness a native funeral procession recently. A Filipino man and woman passed by, the man carrying a shovel and the woman following with a dead child on a stretcher, balanced upon her head. Both the man and woman were smoking cigarettes. As they entered the cemetery the man took off his hat. The child was buried without a coffin. That was all. Man and woman then returned to their simple hut.

The native customs are very crude. They are really brutal in many ways. The Filipinos are genuine heathen. The Spaniards have done but little in over three centuries to really civilize and Christianize these people. What the Spaniards have taught them has been mostly a form and a superstitious regard for the Spaniards' religion. These natives are very ignorant people. They can be easily imposed upon as is shown by the ability of the present insurgent leaders to mislead them. The leaders tell them the most absurd stories concerning the Americans and the prospects of the Filipinos, and these stories are believed.

Notwithstanding the ignorance and superstition of the Filipinos they are naturally intelligent. They are quick to learn. They make good mechanics. They work industriously. Under good government and a common school educational system, I believe that in a few years the Filipinos would become peaceful, industrious, honest and civilized. A few of them who had become naturalized citizens of the United States were employed by our government to enter the service of the United States as interpreters. They have shown themselves very loyal to our government and have no sympathy for the insurgents. Many of the more intelligent natives have come under our protection and refuse to aid in Aguinaldo's ungrateful insurrection. The United States must rule these islands.

All the soldiers here—regulars and volunteers alike—are one in the desire to help in making the authority of the United States supreme in all the islands of the Philippine group. We have bought them a second time with American blood. Let us keep them. Very truly,

James R. McVicker.

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Scrapbook provided Courtesy of Dean Norman

Compiled by James B. McVicker

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