



“Anxious to get some scrapping”

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“Anxious to get some scrapping”: Spanish-American War Letters from Arkansas Soldiers and Sailors

BRIAN K. ROBERTSON

WHEN THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON SPAIN on April 25, 1898, it seemed all but a forgone conclusion. After all, many in the American public, and many of her politicians, had been clamoring for war for months and, in some cases, years. The prime impetus for the war was Cuba. The island, which had been under Spanish domination for centuries, was in the throes of revolution. To increase sales, some American newspapers—the “yellow press”—printed sensationalized stories about Spanish atrocities against Cuban civilians. The newspapers declared that the U.S. had a humanitarian duty to intervene and to help the Cubans gain their independence. Repeated reports of outrageous behavior on the part of the Spanish, particularly their use of concentration camps in which tens of thousands of Cubans perished, proved too much for many Americans to bear, especially as these horrors were taking place a mere ninety miles from American shores. Outrage reached a fever pitch with the mysterious destruction of the American battleship *Maine* in Havana’s harbor in February 1898.¹

Contributing to the drive toward war was many political leaders’ increasing interest in expansionist policies that would give the United States greater prominence on the world stage, alongside European powers that were building empires of their own.² In addition, American companies had vast holdings in Cuba, and the revolution and subsequent fighting was

¹Ivan Musicant, *Empire by Default: The Spanish-American War and the Dawn of the American Century* (New York: Henry Holt, 1998), 69-70, 103-104, 136-152; Gerald F. Linderman, *The Mirror of War: American Society and the Spanish-American War* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1974), 148-173; David Traxel, *Crusader Nation: The United States in Peace and the Great War, 1898-1920* (New York: Knopf, 2006), 3-4.

²Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion, 1860-1898* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998), 62-101, 300-325; Thomas G. Paterson, “U.S. Intervention in Cuba, 1898: Interpreting the Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War,” *Organization of American Historians Magazine of History* 12 (Spring 1998): 5-10.

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putting those properties and profits in danger. Furthermore, the United States was just coming out of a long depression, and many American companies and farms found themselves dealing with excess production and, thus, needed to find new markets. Cuba and the rest of Latin America were the closest and most obvious, but the real prize was Asia. Many American leaders, business and political, had been eyeing the Philippines, a Spanish possession similarly beset by an independence movement. These Americans saw the Philippines as a gateway to the lucrative Chinese market and as a jumping off point for other markets in Asia.³

But most Arkansans who supported the war effort probably did so, albeit perhaps naively, with the thought that they were helping the Cuban people. Economic interests in Cuba or far-off Asia likely did not play much of a role in galvanizing most Arkansans' support for the war. Instead, many of them probably saw it as their patriotic duty to stand up for their country during its perceived time of need. This was also a time when many too young to have fought in the Civil War saw war as a romantic and noble adventure. Even after close calls in battle and a tough campaign, one Arkansas soldier in Cuba pronounced himself "as happy as a June bug on a sweet potato vine."⁴ There was no shortage of Arkansans who clamored to carry the flag to foreign lands.

After war was declared on Spain, the federal government sent out a call to the states for volunteers to fight in the conflict. Arkansas's governor, Daniel W. Jones, received a request for two regiments of infantry, approximately 2000 men. Unfortunately, the Arkansas State Guard was in poor condition. Neglected for years, it could not muster enough troops to meet the quota. As a result, Governor Jones suggested raising two new regiments of volunteers. Most of the troops came from Guard units, but the rest were raised from around the state. In the end, thirty-two counties contributed men to the war effort.⁵

As men and units mobilized, patriotic fervor gripped the state. Local newspapers abounded with stories about the zeal for the war. The *Helena*

³LaFeber, *New Empire*, 326-335, 401-406; Philip S. Foner, *The Spanish-Cuban-American War and the Birth of American Imperialism*, 2 vols. (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972), 1: 293-310; Paterson, "U.S. Intervention in Cuba, 1898," 5-10; Julius W. Pratt, "American Business and the Spanish-American War," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 14 (May 1934): 185-201; Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 194-198.

⁴Brinkley [AR] *Argus*, August 18, 1898, p. 3.

⁵*Report of the Adjutant General of the Arkansas State Guard 1897-1900* (Little Rock: Thompson Lithograph and Printing Co., 1900), 5-7; Bertha Davidson, "Arkansas in the Spanish-American War," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 5 (Fall 1946): 211; Dallas T. Herndon, *Centennial History of Arkansas*, 3 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1922), 1: 706-707; Mike Polston, "Spanish-American War," *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, accessed December 9, 2021, encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

Weekly World reported, "The war spirit is rife in Helena today. This morning's early exciting news served to stimulate the patriotism of our citizens and soon in a number of places throughout the city flags were displayed."⁶ The *Gravette News* relayed that "Everywhere over this good fair land of ours, flags are flying for war is here."⁷ Newspapers were replete with notices from prominent men from communities across the state offering their services, usually in the form of organizing local companies. Some of these notices appeared even before hostilities were officially declared. Enthusiasm for the war was such that even prisoners at the Pulaski County jail expressed their desire to fight.⁸

African American and not just white Arkansans joined in the fervor. James H. Sykes, a black newspaperman from Little Rock, was among the first to volunteer his services. He, along with fifty other African American men from the area, submitted a petition to Governor Jones. Their patriotism was not especially welcomed, though. African Americans had not been permitted in the State Guard, and Governor Jones rebuffed Sykes' entreaty. Undeterred, Sykes wrote to Secretary of War Russell A. Alger stating that he had organized a company of African American men from Little Rock for service and could organize an entire regiment, 1000 men strong, if given permission to do so. Unfortunately, the War Department turned down his request, stating that it was the governor's decision on what troops to accept to fulfill the state's quota. Jesse C. Duke, another African American man from Little Rock, wrote directly to President McKinley. "On behalf of the loyal colored population of this state I appeal to you for some opportunity to evidence our loyalty and patriotism to the country and its flag, by being permitted to enlist under your recent call for volunteers. . . . It will be an enormous wrong upon a large body of loyal citizens to be thus denied the privilege of entering the army of volunteers; and unless you come to our relief by authorizing separate organizations of colored men I fear that my race will have no share in the defense of the flag."⁹

⁶*Helena Weekly World*, April 27, 1898, p. 3.

⁷*Gravette [AR] News*, May 7, 1898, p. 1.

⁸Susan S. Wolfe, "Arkansas and the Spanish American War," *Ozark Historical Review* 2 (Spring 1973): 31; *Arkansas Democrat* (Little Rock), April 22, 1898, p. 6; *Pine Bluff Daily Graphic*, April 27, 1898, p. 5.

⁹African American Arkansans were finally given a chance to serve when the War Department called for the organization of ten regiments of infantry, including four African American, that might be immune to tropical diseases. Styled as "Immunes," many of these soldiers came from southern states. Ultimately, Arkansas contributed three companies of African Americans to the war effort. Sykes was appointed a recruiting agent and later elected first lieutenant in the first company of Immunes organized in Arkansas. Duke was appointed second lieutenant in the same company. *Arkansas Democrat*, April 22, 1898, p. 6; *ibid.*, April 27, 1898, pp. 1, 6 [quotation]; *ibid.*, May 13, 1898, p. 4; *ibid.*, June 13, 1898, p. 6; *Arkansas Gazette*, June 17, 1898, p. 5. For additional information on the African

With a martial spirit pervading the land, Governor Jones ordered recruits to a rendezvous point in Little Rock. The first groups of men arrived on May 4, gathering at College Avenue and 17th Street, near Oakland-Fraternal Cemetery. The area was named Camp Dodge in honor of Dr. Roderrick Dodge whose family donated the land for use. As the camp swelled with recruits, many of whom lacked weapons or even shoes, problems arose. Unprepared for such a large influx of humanity, officials could not provide adequate food and housing. Furthermore, the convergence of so many men from across the state led to an outbreak of measles. Strict health regulations from the War Department for recruits also culled many of the men from potential service.¹⁰

Another problem faced at the camp was a lack of funds. The legislature had not appropriated money for the State Guard in several years, and it was going to take a lot of it to outfit two regiments with the necessary clothing, weapons, and supplies. The editor of Arkadelphia's *Southern Standard* put it bluntly, "Not a dollar of appropriation to aid in organizing and maintaining the State militia. Not a dollar to pay the expenses of those charged with that duty. On every side of us the states have made provision for an emergency like the present. Arkansas has done nothing."¹¹ Luckily, the state's banks as well as many private individuals came through to foot the bill in the form of loans. This money was later paid back by the state and federal governments.¹²

As the state of Arkansas prepared her sons for conflict, halfway around the world hostilities were already commencing. When Commodore George Dewey and the U.S. Navy's Asiatic Squadron steamed into Manila Bay in the Philippines during the early morning hours of May 1, they found the Spanish fleet laid out in a defensive position. Unfortunately for the Spanish, though, not only did they lack adequate firepower to compete with the Americans, but they also were also hampered by poor training. The U.S. Navy, on the other hand, was the most professional and well-equipped force in the American military, having undergone years of modernization in the 1880s-1890s.¹³

American experience during the war, see Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., *Smoked Yankees and the Struggle for Empire: Letters from Negro Soldiers, 1898-1902* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1971).

¹⁰Wolfe, "Arkansas and the Spanish American War," 31-33; Herndon, *Centennial History of Arkansas*, 1: 797.

¹¹*Southern Standard* (Arkadelphia), May 6, 1898, p. 2.

¹²*Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 7-8; Wolfe, "Arkansas and the Spanish American War," 29-30.

¹³Lt. John M. Ellicott, "The Naval Battle of Manila," *Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute* 26 (September 1900): 492-512; George Dewey, *Autobiography of George Dewey, Admiral of the Navy* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913), 197-233.

One of the sailors in Dewey's squadron was Stokeley Morgan. Born in 1859 in Mount Holly, Arkansas, Morgan was the son of Confederate colonel Asa S. Morgan and Eliza W. Morgan. He grew up in Union County and was admitted to the United States Naval Academy in 1876. Morgan graduated eleventh in his class. He later returned to the academy as an instructor of chemistry and physics. Morgan married Mary Eleanor Williams in 1888. Five years later, they had a son. Morgan served on several ships prior to the outbreak of the war with Spain. He also surveyed the coast of southern California, a proposed canal in Nicaragua, and an undersea cable to Honolulu, Hawaii. During the battle of Manila Bay, Morgan commanded one of the main batteries on board Dewey's flagship and is credited with firing the first American shot of the war. He fell ill shortly after the battle and may have suffered neurological damage from the repeated concussions of his guns. Forced to retire several months later because of medical disability, Morgan died on November 10, 1900, and is buried at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery.¹⁴

The following letter appeared in the June 21, 1898, issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

United States Flagship Olympia,¹⁵
Manila, Philippine Islands, May 5, 1898

My Dear Father:

We have met the Spaniards and they are ours. We reached the harbor of Manila at daybreak on Sunday, the 1st of May. By the first dawn we made out a fleet of eleven Spaniards anchored across the bay, about five miles in front of the navy yard

¹⁴Michael D. Polston, "Stokeley Morgan (1859-1900)," *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, accessed November 23, 2021, encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

¹⁵*Olympia* was laid down in San Francisco on June 17, 1891, and launched on November 5, 1892. The protected cruiser displaced 5586 tons and could run twenty knots. She boasted four eight-inch guns, ten five-inch guns, six one-pound guns, and six torpedo tubes. She carried a crew of 411. *Olympia* later served in World War I and during America's involvement in the Russian Civil War. Her last act of service was returning the remains of the Unknown Soldier from France to Washington, DC, in 1921. *Olympia*, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966, is currently berthed at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia. She is the oldest steel American warship still afloat. "Olympia," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed November 14, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/o/olympia.html.



New York Herald reporter Joseph Stickney photographed Stokeley Morgan (rear left) aboard the USS *Olympia* during the battle of Manila Bay. From Stickney's *Life and Glorious Deeds of Admiral Dewey* (1899).

at Cavite.¹⁶ They had their colors up and were evidently prepared to receive us. We were also ready, and had been at our guns the whole night, while passing the forts at the harbor entrance and up the channel. At 5:35 the action was opened by a shore battery on the Manila side, distant some five miles. Their shots fell near, but failed to touch us, and we did not reply. Soon the Spanish fleet got under way, and at about 4,000 yards opened fire. The *Olympia*, followed by the *Baltimore*, *Petrel*, *Raleigh*, *Concord*, and *Boston*,

¹⁶Cavite was across the bay from the Manila and the main seaport for the city.

stood for them in line.¹⁷ The Olympia began the action, firing at the Spanish flagship Reina Christina, and soon all our ships were engaged with the enemy. We had battle flags at each mast head and presented a gala experience before the smoke enveloped us.

¹⁷Commissioned on January 7, 1890, in Philadelphia, the protected cruiser *Baltimore* was armed with four eight-inch guns and six six-inch guns. She displaced 4413 tons and had a maximum speed of 20.1 knots. In 1913, she was recommissioned as a mine layer and saw service during World War I. *Baltimore* was sent to the Pacific in 1919 and based at Pearl Harbor. She was decommissioned in 1922 and sold for scrap in 1942. "Baltimore," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed November 14, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/b/baltimore-iv.html. *Petrel* was a fourth-rate gunboat commissioned on December 10, 1889. Initially assigned to the North Atlantic Squadron, she was reassigned to the Asiatic Squadron in 1891. *Petrel* was decommissioned after the Spanish-American War but recommissioned in 1910. She served in the Caribbean until the outbreak of World War I when she was assigned to the American Patrol Detachment at Boston. *Petrel* was decommissioned again in 1919. "Petrel III," *ibid.*, accessed November 14, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/p/petrel-iii.html. Laid down on December 19, 1889, at the Norfolk Navy Yard, *Raleigh* was commissioned on April 17, 1894. The protected cruiser could do nineteen knots and had a crew of 319. Her armament included eight six-pound guns, four one-pound guns, and four torpedo tubes. She also had one six-inch gun as well as ten five-inch guns. She was decommissioned on June 10, 1899, but was recommissioned on January 5, 1903. *Raleigh* served four years in the Pacific before being decommissioned again on October 12, 1907. She was recommissioned a second time on February 21, 1911, and then spent four years visiting Mexican ports. With United States entry into World War I, *Raleigh* was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and patrolled the eastern seaboard. After the appearance of German U-boats off the coast, she was assigned to the American Patrol Detachment at Key West. From July 1918 until the end of the war, she guarded convoys along the East Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Caribbean. *Raleigh* was decommissioned on August 5, 1921, and sold for scrap. "Raleigh II," *ibid.*, accessed November 17, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/r/raleigh-ii.html. Named after the second armed conflict between British and American troops during the American Revolution, the gunboat *Concord* was commissioned on February 14, 1891. Initially assigned to the Atlantic, she joined the Asiatic Squadron in 1893. Following the Spanish-American War, she remained in the Philippines to assist with the insurrection. After being decommissioned and recommissioned twice, *Concord* returned to the Philippines and operated there until March 1906 when she was sent to China. In June 1914, she was assigned to the Treasury Department and served as a quarantine station vessel at Ashton, OR, until March 1929. "Concord II," *ibid.*, accessed November 20, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/c/concord-ii.html. *Boston* was a protected cruiser that was commissioned on May 2, 1887, at the New York Navy Yard. She was armed with two eight-inch guns, six six-inch guns, two six-pound guns, two three-pound guns, two one-pound guns, two forty-seven-millimeter Hotchkiss revolving cannons, two thirty-seven-millimeter Hotchkiss revolving cannons, and two Gatling guns. Her crew complement was 284 men. *Boston* was the second cruiser completed during the transition from wood hulls and sails to steel hulls and steam propulsion. On September 30, 1889, she was assigned to the Squadron of Evolution, which sought to develop new tactics and doctrines for war fighting ships. *Boston* was reassigned in October 1891 and sent to the Pacific. Decommissioned on November 4, 1893, she was recommissioned on November 15, 1895, and shortly thereafter returned to Asia where she operated along the Chinese and Korean coasts. Following the Spanish-American War, she briefly sailed Philippine waters before returning to China. In December 1898, *Boston* returned to the Philippines and remained there until June 1899. Decommissioned on September 15, 1899, *Boston* was recommissioned on August 11, 1902, and spent most of her remaining service sailing along the west coasts of the United States, Mexico, and Central America. She was decommissioned on June 10, 1907, at the Puget Sound Navy Yard. She later served as a receiving ship for the Navy until 1945, having been renamed the *Despatch* in 1940. Authorities scuttled the *Despatch* off the coast of San Francisco on April 8, 1946. "Boston V," *ibid.*, accessed November 20, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/b/boston-v.html.

The thundering of the guns, the whirl of flying shot and the bursting of shells was deafening. The shots from the enemy's ships fell around us thickly, and the large guns in their shore batteries added to the noise and tumult of the battle which raged around us. We steamed in front of the Spanish line of battle, delivering our fire as we passed. Three times we did this, each time approaching nearer the enemy's lines, the last turn putting us at a range of 2,000 yards. At this distance our fire was terribly destructive, for we could see our shots strike and tear holes through them like cardboard. The enemy's fire was vicious, but their marksmanship was poor, and we suffered but little from it, and so it continued for two and one-half hours. Our fire slackened not for one whit—steadily, well directed, coolly our men stood and worked the guns, pouring a hail of heavy shot and shell into one after another of the enemy's ships. I was at my eight-inch guns in the forward turret, my right gun opening the fight, and directed at the Spanish flagship; then alternately I fired them as one ship after another came most perfectly in range, and as each shot struck the destruction was terrible. Leading and being the flagship, the *Olympia* seemed to attract the most attention from the enemy, and their shot fell thick and fast around us, but with the reduced distance and one even more disastrous fire in the third turn, the enemy's fire appreciably slackened; several of them ceased; some of them had been sunk, and others were on fire.

At this stage of the battle the commodore gave the signal, and we drew away from the enemy. We did not fully realize the extent of the damage we had wrought, and many were the sighs of regret at thus withdrawing, for we wanted to finish them then and there, but the commodore knew best, for the Spanish fleet had been destroyed.¹⁸

It was after 8 o'clock when we hauled out of range and got breakfast. For two hours we rested, the time only enlivened by an occasional shot from the enemy's heavy shore batteries at too great distance to do us harm.

At 10:30 o'clock we got under way and went at them again. Several of their ships were on fire, some of them had disappeared, and only three or four returned our fire. They were soon silenced,

¹⁸According to Dewey, he withdrew because it had been erroneously reported to him that his flagship, the *Olympia*, was nearly out of ammunition. George Dewey, "Naval Battle of Manila Bay, May 1, 1898, Ship Action Reports: USS Olympia," Naval History and Heritage Command, accessed November 23, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/s/selected-documents-of-the-spanish-american-war/olympia-in-battle-of-manila-bay.html.

and we then turned our fire on the shore batteries around the navy yard, silenced them, and the battle was ours. The Spanish fleet had been entirely destroyed. They succeeded in getting two of their cruisers, the *Isla de Cuba* and the *Isla de Luzon*, higher up the bay and out of reach of our guns, but were forced to scuttle and abandon them, and the *Petrel* went and burnt what was left.

The *Reina Cristina* and *Castilla*, their largest and most formidable vessels, were on fire and both sunk. One shot from one of my 8-inch guns entered the *Reina Cristina* under her counter and passed through her whole length, doing immense destruction. It was aimed by Peter Murray (chief boatswain's mate) one of my gun captains, and he was highly complimented by the commodore.¹⁹

So far as we know the ships destroyed were the *Don Antonio de Ullos*, *Don Juan de Austria*, *General Alava*, *General Lezo*, *Marque del Duero*, *Velesco*, *Eleano*, *Reina Cristina*, and *Castillo*.²⁰ We also captured in perfect condition the *Manila*, a fine steamer of 2,000 tons.²¹ During the engagement two torpedo boats came out and made for the *Olympia*, but our rapid-fire battery turned upon them soon and put them under the water. Thus you see the havoc we have made on the Spanish fleet in these waters. So far as we know she has left out here with only two small gunboats and a couple of troop ships. And such is the result of Commodore Dewey's descent upon Manila, and it has been a sort of retributory justice for the destruction of the *Maine*.

The next morning the navy yard in Cavite was surrendered to us, with all the stores and munitions. I was sent on shore and blew up all the guns in the shore batteries, together with their magazines and ammunition. We hold the yard and after taking such things as we need will destroy the rest. The Spanish troops were withdrawn across the bay to Manila.

¹⁹Morgan got Murray's first name wrong; it was Patrick. Murray was born September 2, 1859, in England to Irish parents. The family immigrated to Baltimore, MD, in 1864. Patrick joined the United States Navy in 1876 at the age of sixteen. He retired in 1907 after serving thirty-one years, including a stint at the United States Naval Academy. Murray died in Baltimore on July 10, 1915. "CBM Patrick 'Pat' Murray," Find a Grave, accessed December 20, 2021, www.findagrave.com/memorial/198560703/patrick-murray; *Baltimore Sun*, June 28, 1899, p. 10; *ibid.*, July 13, 1915, p. 8.

²⁰Dewey reported the following ships destroyed: *Reina Christina*, *Castilla*, *Don Antonio de Ulloa*, *Don Juan de Austria*, *Isla de Luzon*, *Isla de Cuba*, *General Lezo*, *Marques del Duero*, *El Correo*, *Velasco*, *Isla de Mindanao*, and *Argos*. Murat Halstead, *Full Official History of the War with Spain* (New Haven, CT: Butler & Alger, 1899), 285.

²¹Dewey also reported the gunboat *Callao* captured. *Ibid.*

We may have to bombard the town to bring it to terms. They have several forts along the water front which have occasionally fired on our ships, but so far we have not returned their fire as our shot would go into the city containing nearly 300,000 inhabitants, many of them foreign residents as well as Spaniards, but the majority of the people are native Philippine Islanders and half castes.

Two of our ships yesterday destroyed the batteries on Corregidor Island where we came in at the entrance of the bay.²² Torpedoes were planted there, but a good providence protected us, and we passed them safely.²³

We have cut the cable which connects us with the outside world, and I send this by the McCulloch, which leaves with dispatches today, and will write again as I have the opportunity.²⁴

Your affectionate son,
Stokeley Morgan

On May 20, 1898, in Little Rock, the First Arkansas Volunteer Infantry mustered into federal service. Lt. Elias Chandler, a West Point graduate and former professor of military science and tactics at the University of Arkansas, was appointed the commanding officer. Chandler had spent many years with the Army on the western frontier prior to his service in the war with Spain. Five days later, the Second Arkansas Volunteer Infantry mustered into service at Little Rock, commanded by Col. Virgil Y. Cook. Cook, a Kentucky native, had fought for the Confederacy and moved to Arkansas in 1866, becoming a well-known merchant and

²²Corregidor would be the site of an important battle during the early stages of America's involvement in World War II.

²³Not to be confused with modern torpedoes, the word often referred to naval mines during this period.

²⁴Underwater telegraph cables were a critical means of communication, thus it was important to sever them in times of war. Even today, undersea cables are of strategic importance as they are crucial to the flow of information. As of 2015, 99 percent of transoceanic data flowed via undersea cables. Lt. Cameron McR. Winslow, "Cable-Cutting at Cienfuegos," *Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* 57 (March 1899): 708-717; Douglas Main, "Undersea Cables Transport 99 Percent of International Data," *Newsweek*, accessed November 23, 2021, www.newsweek.com/undersea-cables-transport-99-percent-international-communications-319072. A member of the Revenue Cutter Service, *McCulloch* was a cruising cutter armed with four three-inch guns. Commissioned on December 12, 1897, she was on her first cruise when war with Spain broke out. Following the battle at Manila Bay, she was dispatched to Hong Kong, the closest cable facility, with news of the American victory. In January 1899, *McCulloch* was sent to San Francisco. She operated along the West Coast until August 1906, when she was dispatched to the Bering Sea to engage in seal patrols. *McCulloch* returned to San Francisco in 1912 and resumed her patrol operations. *McCulloch* sank on June 13, 1917, near Point Conception, CA, following a collision with a commercial steamer. "McCulloch," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed November 23, 2021, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/shiphistories/danfs/m/mcculloch.html.

planter in Jackson and Independence Counties. The same day that the Second Arkansas mustered in, the First Arkansas boarded an Iron Mountain Railway train and headed for Camp George H. Thomas in Chickamauga, Georgia. The Second Arkansas followed four days later.²⁵

The men of the Second Arkansas included Dr. George W. Granberry. Born in Alabama in 1848, Granberry moved to Panola County, Mississippi, with his family when he was twelve years old. In 1862, Granberry joined the Second Mississippi Partisan Rangers and served until the end of the Civil War. He later entered the Memphis Hospital Medical College, graduating in 1881. That same year, he moved to Jacksonville, Arkansas, and set up his medical practice. Well regarded in the community, Granberry was elected as a Democrat to two terms (1887 and 1889) in the Arkansas House of Representatives and two terms (1895 and 1897) in the Arkansas Senate. After moving to Cabot, he helped organize the Cabot Guards, a company in the State Guard, in 1893. Granberry was serving as its captain when the Spanish-American War broke out. His sons, George Jr. and Benjamin F., also enlisted in the Second Arkansas.²⁶

The following letter appeared in the June 5, 1898, issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

Camp George H. Thomas, June 1, 1898
Mrs. James P. Eagle²⁷

Dear Madam:

We made the trip from Little Rock to Chickamauga with no in

²⁵*Report of the Adjutant General*, 119-120, 126-127; Wolfe, "Arkansas and the Spanish American War," 33; *Arkansas Gazette*, May 25, 1898, p. 3.

²⁶George Sr. died on August 10, 1927, at the Arkansas Confederate Home; *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891), 455-456; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 133-134; *Historical Report of the Secretary of State* (Little Rock: Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, 2018), 163, 165, 169, 170; *Arkansas Gazette*, August 11, 1927, p. 10.

²⁷Mary Kavanaugh Oldham Eagle was born February 4, 1854, in Madison County, KY, the daughter of William K. Oldham and Kate Brown Oldham. Mary graduated from the Science Hill Female Academy in Shelbyville, KY, in 1872. She married James P. Eagle in 1882 and served as Arkansas's first lady between 1889 and 1893. Mary was active in many organizations, both locally and nationally. A founder of the Woman's Co-operative Association, she was also heavily involved with the Aesthetic Club, a Little Rock women's club, and a frequent delegate to the Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1893, Mary was appointed to the ladies board of managers of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. She was also active in church affairs, serving for many years as the president of the Woman's State Missionary Board for the Baptist Church in Arkansas. Mary died on February 15, 1903. *Arkansas Democrat*, February 17, 1903, p. 5; James P. Eagle, *A Brief Memoir of Mary K. Eagle* (Little Rock: Press of Arkansas Democrat, 1903), 3-16.



Co. L, Second Arkansas Infantry. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

cident worth relating, but all safe and comparatively sound. We were all fagged out in a measure by the trip. We fared well on the trip. Major Johnson providing for us at every available point such refreshments as could be had, and the soldier “stand-by,” hot coffee.²⁸ Many were the blessings showered upon his head for the kindness.

²⁸James Junius Johnson was born in Little Rock on March 23, 1864, to Richard Henry Johnson and Anna Newton Johnson. His father had been editor of the *True Democrat* and *Arkansas Gazette* newspapers, and was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1860. James’s uncle was Robert Ward Johnson, former United States and Confederate representative and senator. The Johnsons were part of the Arkansas political dynasty known as “The Family.” James attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for two years, but left without graduating following his involvement in a hazing incident. He later moved west and got into the mining business in New Mexico and Colorado. Johnson played a prominent role in the Cripple Creek miners’ strike of 1894. There he organized approximately 1300 miners to resist the efforts of the mine owners and local sheriff’s posse to break up the strike. When the war with Spain broke out, he was engaged in the mining business in Oregon. He returned to Arkansas shortly thereafter. Once in Little Rock, he helped reorganize the Fletcher Rifles, one of the local militia companies, and was elected captain. Johnson was appointed major of the Second Arkansas on May 18, 1898. He died of typhoid fever on September 29, 1898, while his unit was stationed at Anniston, AL. *Report of the Adjutant General*, 61, 128-129; *Arkansas Gazette*, October 1, 1898, p. 3. On Johnson’s activities in Cripple Creek, see Browden Weber, “Cripple Creek 1894: The Time a State Militia Came to Help Strikers, not Hurt Them,” *Progressive Magazine*, February 12, 2018, accessed July 27, 2023, progressive.org/latest/cripple-creek-1894-mining-strike-180209/.

We were the middle section with the second battalion, filling the entire car. Our camp is now pitched upon the historic battlefield of Chickamauga, one the most noted of the civil war from several standpoints. More men were killed and wounded in proportion to the numbers engaged than any battle of the whole war—not even excepting Gettysburg. Governor Eagle remembers all the features of the battle, as he was an active participant.²⁹ We are now camped on ground that he occupied at some point of the engagement. What a contrast! Now Arkansas and Maine fraternizing. But no one can measure the changes—centuries of history transpiring in a few years.

But I set out to thank you ladies, especially yourself and Mrs. G. B. Rose.³⁰ While life lasts we shall hold in affectionate remembrance your kindness to Company G. God will shower down blessings upon you. Of this I have no sort of doubt. And you can always feel that you have some to fight for you as long as company G has a man left. We know that Governor Eagle is our friend, along with you, and our gratitude goes out to him also. The whole company feels grateful to you and Governor Eagle for all the kindness shown us, and all are free in expressing themselves.

The toilet articles were just such as the men need, are justly appreciated. When we will go from here, or where, is sealed book to us, but whether upon our own shores or foreign skies, we will always hold you and the other ladies in grateful remembrance. You will please pardon this long letter. My regards to Governor Eagle and yourself.

²⁹James P. Eagle served two terms as Arkansas's governor (1889-1893). Prior to the Civil War, he served as the deputy sheriff for Prairie County. When war broke out, he joined the Fifth Arkansas Mounted Regiment but soon transferred to the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles. Eagle was wounded during the Atlanta Campaign and eventually reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. After the war, he became a wealthy farmer and served in the state legislature. During his governorship, Eagle struggled to unify a divided Democratic Party while engaging with a legislature that was determined to enact a series of segregationist laws, many of which he opposed. He died on December 20, 1904. C. Fred Williams, "James Philip Eagle (1837-1904)," *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, accessed November 23, 2021, encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

³⁰Marion Kimball Rose was born on April 21, 1861, in Salem, MA, the daughter of Judge Eben Wallace Kimball and Mary Frye Kimball. Her family moved to Little Rock in 1874, and her father set up a law practice there. Mary later graduated from Wellesley College. She married George B. Rose, an attorney and son of Uriah M. Rose, in 1882. George was a partner with his father in the firm that is now known as the Rose Law Firm. Mary was a member of the Aesthetic Club and one of the founders of the Young Women's Christian Association in Little Rock. She and her husband had two children, a daughter who died an infancy and a son, Clarence. Mary died on January 25, 1935. *Arkansas Gazette*, January 26, 1935, p. 14; Herndon, *Centennial History of Arkansas*, 3: 120-121.

Yours, etc.,
G. W. Granberry
Capt. Company G, Second Ark.

The identity of the author of the next letter is unknown as it was penned under a pseudonym. Judging from the content, though, the author was educated and likely an officer or noncommissioned officer in Co. H of the First Arkansas Infantry. Various clues suggest he was from Arkadelphia, including that the letter appeared in the June 10, 1898, issue of that city's *Southern Standard*. It gives voice to the theme of sectional reconciliation—white southerners and white northerners united in a common cause—that was so prominent during the war.³¹

Chickamauga Park, Georgia June 4, 1898

Dear Standard:

We are still at Chickamauga Park, and having become more used to our environments and more accustomed to slight change in temperature and hard ground, with absence of hay, are more contented and better pleased than when we first came. I don't know when we will leave, but are beginning to believe we will stay here always.

We had a chance to go to the Philippine Islands about a week ago, but we had just gotten here and after an examination of our sick roll was made, it was found that it was entirely too large, and a Tennessee regiment was sent in our place. Troops from all around us are being sent every few days. About nine regiments were ordered to Tampa Thursday, and I understand other regiments are awaiting like orders.

We had a review here yesterday. There is a difference of opinion as to how many regiments were represented, but as near as I could judge, there were about ten thousand. We were the first to pass down the line, and I couldn't get a chance to see how many followed us. I say we had a review, but I don't know whether it was a review or not. We went over early in the morning and after waiting about two hours and failed to see General Brook, the Inspector, show up, we passed in front of a Kentucky colonel and came home.³² We spent these two hours in the sun, but the sun

³¹David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001), 346-354.

³²This is likely Gen. John R. Brooke.

only affected the Northern troops, and to Southern boys, the time was very enjoyable.

Each regiment, either had a band or a drum corps, and during the time, sweet music alternating with that of a more patriotic and soul-thrilling nature was dispensed to the soldier boys. The troops near us were from Maine, New York, Wisconsin, and Kentucky, and their bands and drum corps kept the hills reverberating with strains from "Dixie," "Yankee Doodle," "The Star Spangled Banner," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," "The Red, White, and Blue," "The Old Kentucky Home," "Swanee River," "Home Sweet Home," "Arkansas Traveler," and some other classical pieces whose names I couldn't learn. "Dixie," was by far, the most popular air, and I think, was played by all the regiments, but first by the Arkansas. The Yankees seem to like it just as well as we do. There is a whole lot of them who never heard "Dixie" before they came south, but, when a band would open up with that tune, quite a number of the Yankees would join us in filling the hills with vigorous yells. We old Confeds didn't fail to appreciate their feelings, and when "Yankee Doodle" was sounded, we would join in an applause with just as much seeming enthusiasm as did they when "Dixie" was played. This association of sons of the blue and the gray, and the playing of the National airs of each side, is really more effective than one would imagine. It binds us more closely together and gives us more fully to understand that we are now fighting for one common cause. While I, for one, can never forget how our noble fathers fought the Yankees, in these very woods, for the defense of our beloved Southland, and while the cause of those bloody battles of the sixties can never be obliterated from my mind, yet, after being with these people and seeing with what spirit they adopt our beloved "Dixie," I can march with them to victory with much more resignation than before.

The First Arkansas Band played only one piece during all this time, and that was some fantastic piece, which none of us could understand. The boys made repeated calls for "Arkansas Traveler," and it was only through the kindness of a Maine band that we ever got it at all. They played it very well though, and one could see the boys' faces beam with pride when they heard it.

I was over to the 2nd Wisconsin camp the other day.³³ The band had just obtained a piece of music containing "Dixie" and

³³The Second Wisconsin Infantry was organized on April 28, 1898, at Camp Harvey in Milwaukee. The regiment arrived in Chickamauga on May 17, 1898. By late June, sickness had become

they were playing it while I was there, for the first time. When it was ended, the men were wild with applause and on all sides could be heard calls for "more Dixie," "more Dixie." They played it once more and promised to play it oftener when all had learned it.

We are getting filled up with music here. Bands and drum corps are scattered through the woods on all sides of us and we can hear some of them play most any time of the day. The drums corps consists of one base [*sic*] drum, seven snare drums, two pairs of cymbals, and eight fifes. The corps takes the place of a band in a regiment. New York, next to us, has one, and between tattoo and taps every night, they play the same pieces, including "Dixie" and "Yankee Doodle." The thing comes somewhat monotonous, but whenever they open up on "Dixie" the whole Arkansas camp is roused and rallies with yells.

The Second Arkansas regiment is about a quarter of a mile from us, but the woods are between us and obstruct them from our view. We go to each other's camps every day and see each other, nearly as much as while at Little Rock. I have been over there several times and met some of the Arkadelphia boys, as well as Captain John Newman, of Harrison, the editor of *The Times*. Gus Logan, an old Arkadelphia boy, is with the band of the Second.³⁴

Until Thursday evening, we had not drilled since about a week before we left Camp Dodge. We drilled again yesterday and again today, and I think we will drill again this evening. The most of us have sore arms yet and we have not obtained our equipage, but all arms will be well in a week and we will get our uniforms this evening, so as they are the things that keep us from drilling. All are looking forward to a routine of drill soon.

We had our measurements taken for uniforms on Sunday. The uniform is a navy blue coat and army blue pants. I think before another sun hides itself behind the western hills, the Arkadelphia

widespread in the unit, mostly typhoid fever. In early July, preparations began to send the regiment to Cuba. The men were sent to Charleston, SC, to await transport. Unfortunately, by the time enough ships did arrive, Spanish troops in Cuba had already surrendered. The Second Wisconsin was sent to Puerto Rico where they saw limited service but suffered severely from disease. Ralph M. Immell, *Roster of Wisconsin Troops in the Spanish American War* (Madison: Ralph M. Immell, 1899), i-iv.

³⁴William Augustus Logan was born December 15, 1871, in Murfreesboro, AR, the son of George W. Logan and Mary McLaughlin Logan. He mustered into service on June 17, 1898. He received a disability discharge on January 19, 1899, while at Anniston, AL. He died in Little Rock on August 3, 1955. *Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 62; Arkansas State Board of Health Certificate of Death, accessed December 29, 2021, Ancestry.com; *Arkansas Gazette*, August 4, 1955, p. 10C.

company will apparently constitute regular old time Yankee soldiers.

We fare very well here, and even Bill Hart, from Hearn, the biggest eater in camp, and by the way, a jolly, good old boy can't now make a kick.³⁵ The Government issues us fresh beef, regularly, and using that with tomatoes and beans, and occasionally canned tomatoes, we make a good meal. I heard one fellow though, today say, he wished Uncle Sam wouldn't feed his cattle so much, so as to make them fat. We are always glad to get the Standard, to give us the news from home.

Respectfully,
"Box."

As the Arkansas soldiers were settling into their new environment in Georgia, one of Arkansas's sailors was doing the same in the Philippines. Benjamin Swett Tappan was born in New Orleans on April 12, 1856. His father, Benjamin S. Tappan, was a prominent lawyer in the city. The elder Tappan was killed during the Civil War, and young Benjamin moved to Helena, Arkansas, after the war was over, to live with his uncle James C. Tappan, a lawyer and former Confederate general. Benjamin left Arkansas in 1871 for the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1876. He served on a number of ships prior to the war with Spain and was on the *Raleigh* when the war erupted. Following the war, Benjamin continued his service, taking part in the fight against the Filipinos, before being sent stateside to the branch hydrographic office in Baltimore. He attended the Naval War College in 1903 and from there was placed in command of several ships as well as the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In 1915, he became the commandant of the naval station at Olongapo in the Philippines. Tappan was awarded the Navy Cross for his role as the commandant of the navy yard in Philadelphia during World War I. He died on December 18, 1919, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His son and grandson both served as naval aviators, the former during World War II and the latter during the Vietnam War.³⁶

³⁵Hearn is a small community near Arkadelphia. William A. Hart was born February 15, 1876, in Clark County, the son of William G. Hart and Sarah E. Hart. He mustered into service on May 17, 1898, and mustered out on October 25, 1898. He died on October 27, 1928, in Shreveport, LA. *Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 45; U.S. Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940, accessed December 29, 2021, Ancestry.com.

³⁶Daniel L. Tappan, *Tappan-Toppan Genealogy: Ancestors and Descendants of Abraham Toppan of Newbury, Massachusetts, 1606-1672* (Arlington, MA: Daniel L. Tappan, 1915), 18; "Benjamin Tappan," Find a Grave, accessed January 8, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/49322603/benjamin-tappan; *New York Times*, December 19, 1919, p. 15; United States Naval Academy Memorial Hall, accessed January 8, 2022, usnamemorialhall.org/index.php/BENJAMIN_TAPPAN_



Benjamin S. Tappan. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

The following letter appeared in the August 3, 1898, issue of *The Helena Weekly World*.

On board U.S. Steamer Callao
Manila Bay, June 11, 1898
Dear Wellman:³⁷

III, LCDR, USN.

³⁷Robert Wellman Nicholls was born December 9, 1849, in Assumption Parish, LA, to Robert W. Nicholls and Jane M. Phillips Nicholls. His father died of typhoid fever six months after he was born. His mother married Benjamin S. Tappan in 1855. This made Wellman and Benjamin, the author of this letter, stepbrothers. Wellman graduated from the state university in Pineville, LA, in 1869. The following year he moved to Helena, where his mother and stepbrothers had relocated. Shortly thereafter, Wellman began reading law with the firm of Tappan & Hornor. He married Jane McAlpine in 1873. In 1876, he

I have time for a line only, by unexpected mail.

I am in great luck! The only officer in the fleet who has had a command.

The Callao is a little beauty, 208 tons, 2 screws, and can steam 1060 miles, 10 knots, and has a fine battery of one large and six machine guns.³⁸ To the original armament I have added a revolving cannon taken from the wreck of the *Reina Christina*, and a small shell gun from the gunboat *Argos*. We are awaiting impatiently the arrival of the transports with the troops from San Francisco, and in the meantime, strictly blockading the city of Manila. I think the Spaniards out here are disheartened and that the city will surrender with but very little resistance.³⁹ We could have taken it on the 1st of May, but did not have the force to remain on shore and keep order. The rebels are making good headway with the Spaniards at all places outside the city walls and have over 1,000 prisoners and many wounded Spaniards. The Callao is anchored close in to the shore at Cavite, outside the arsenal and navy yard, captured by us on May 1, a few hundred yards from the insurgents headquarters, the prison and hospital, so that I have a fine opportunity to see all that goes on. We are guarding a causeway or narrow roadway leading from Cavite to the mainland. The Spaniards have set a price upon the head of Aguinaldo, insurgent leader, dead or alive, and it is reported that they intend to make a night attack on his headquarters by way of the causeway.⁴⁰ One

was elected city attorney, and, in 1878, mayor, a position he held until resigning in 1882. He was later elected county judge. Robert Wellman Nicholls died on February 28, 1912, in Helena. *Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890), 790-791; *Arkansas Gazette*, February 29, 1912, p. 7; Cook Family Tree, accessed February 3, 2022, Ancestry.com.

³⁸The Spanish gunboat *Callao* was built by the Manila Ship Company and commissioned in 1888. She was captured by U.S. forces on May 12, 1898. *Callao* was commissioned into the U.S. Navy on July 2, 1898, and served as a tender for Admiral Dewey's flagship *Olympia* until the end of the war. After that, she patrolled Philippine waters and operated against insurgents. *Callao* was sent to Hong Kong in February 1903. She spent the next thirteen years patrolling the Chinese coast and rivers while supporting U.S. interests there. *Callao* was decommissioned on January 31, 1916, at Hong Kong and subsequently sent back to the Philippines. *Callao* operated as a ferry boat until she was sold in Manila on September 13, 1923. "Callao," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed January 1, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/c/callao-i.html; Robert Gardiner, Roger Chesneau, Eugene M. Kolesnik, eds., *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships, 1860-1905* (New York: Mayflower Books, 1979), 167.

³⁹With Manila surrounded, Spanish authorities were forced to surrender the city on August 13, 1898. Much to the chagrin of the Filipinos, though, the Spanish surrendered to the Americans rather than the revolutionaries. Adding insult to injury, the Americans refused to allow the insurgents into the city, which only increased friction between the two parties. Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 541-585.

⁴⁰Emilio Aguinaldo, one of the revolutionary leaders, had fled to Hong Kong in 1897. He returned to the Philippines, arriving at Cavite, on May 19, 1898, and took command of Filipino forces. He declared Philippine independence on June 12, 1898, but maintained a wary eye on the Americans

night we were fired upon the bullets whistled over the deck and struck water around us, but we opened up with muskets [*sic*] and machine guns and cleared the beach in short order. I do not think they were regular Spanish troops, but a party of looters or robbers, who were attacked by insurgent pickets, and we happened to catch the return fire. The Spaniards have now all been driven back towards Manila, across the bay six miles away, and the fighting is in that neighborhood. Have no anxiety whatsoever about me, for I am in the best health and spirits and I don't think we will have any more fighting out here, but that Manila will surrender on demand of Admiral Dewey, when the troops arrive. Hope our forces in Cuba will soon score a victory. The captain, officers and crew of the Callao were paroled when she was captured. During the few hours they were on the Raleigh as prisoners the executive officer of the Raleigh was kind to the Spanish captain, who was so touched at such unexpected treatment that he kissed his hand on leaving the ship—very much to the embarrassment of the latter. The poor fellow is now in prison in Manila, has been court-martialed, and it is said has been sentenced to be shot for surrendering his ship without scuttling or blowing her up. Report is also current that the sentence of the court came very near being hanging, so incensed were the Dons by seeing the Callao flying our colors and doing blockade duty in front of the city. The poor fellow did the best he could, and would only have sacrificed life by delaying longer his surrender. Things are lively out here. Am well and fine.

Benjamin Tappan

While American efforts, thanks to the Navy, were progressing in the Pacific, closer to home the Army was finally getting organized for a campaign against Cuba. The majority of troops being sent to the island were regulars, but three volunteer regiments made the trip as well. Most notable among the citizen soldiers were those of the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, or, as it was more popularly known, the "Rough Riders." Col. Leonard Wood, an Army surgeon and former presidential physician, was commander. Theodore Roosevelt, the former assistant secretary of the navy, served as the second in command. At least fourteen Arkansans joined the unit. One was Frank Garland McKinney. Born in Ozark on November

whom he did not fully trust. Aguinaldo became president of the First Philippine Republic on January 21, 1899. He later led Filipino forces against the Americans in the Philippine-American War. Halstead, *Full Official History of the War with Spain*, 314; Garel A. Grunder and William E. Livezey, *The Philippines and the United States* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1951), 19-22.

10, 1874, McKinney grew up in Bellefonte in Boone County. He enlisted in the Rough Riders on May 3, 1898. After the war, he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Arizona. McKinney later went into the mining business, working for a time at the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company in Bisbee. He died of tuberculosis on May 2, 1936, while at the Whipple Veterans Administration Hospital in Arizona. McKinney is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Harrison.⁴¹

The following letter appeared in the June 29, 1898, issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

On board the Yucatan, Tampa Bay, Florida [no date]

Mrs. Ida Bower⁴²

Dear Sister:

Your letter of the 26th inst. Just received and contents noted with relish. We left Tampa Tuesday morning for this port and were loaded on the Yucatan in the evening.⁴³ We have been lying here in the harbor ever since, but are expecting to sail out any time. We expected to go to Key West and meet [Admiral William T.] Sampson there for an escort to Cuba, but five Spanish gunboats have been lurking around near for two or three days, so they decided to wait here for an escort. There are now about thirty-five ships in our fleet, and if they started out alone a few Spanish gunboats could play "whaley" with us. But we will not be long here now, as there is one man-of-war and two or three gunboats in sight of us now, and with our guns we could make it interesting for a goodly number. Our boat is to be one of the escort, and our troops is to be the first one landed on Cuban soil. We are the honored troop of the regiment.

⁴¹Musican, *Empire by Default*, 262-274; Arizona State Board of Health Death Record, accessed January 16, 2022, Ancestry.com; Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, *ibid*; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; "Frank G. McKinney," Find a Grave, accessed January 16, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/54650939/frank-g-mckinney.

⁴²Ida McKinney Bower was born July 25, 1869, in Ozark, AR, the daughter of George Franklin and Sarah Webb McKinney. She married William A. Bower in 1892, and they lived in Harrison. The couple had seven children. Bower worked for a time on a fruit farm but later in life taught music in her home. She died on May 13, 1959. Manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; "Ida McKinney Bower," Find a Grave, accessed January 16, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/23537661/ida-mckinney-bower.

⁴³The *Yucatan* was built in 1890 and chartered by the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War. She displaced 3525 tons and had a top speed of fourteen knots. The ship could carry 1000 men and 250 horses. "The U.S. Army Transport Service," Spanish-American War Centennial Website, accessed March 29, 2022, www.spanamwar.com/transports.

You asked about our officers. Captain Wm. Llewellyn; first lieutenant J. W. Green; second lieutenant _____ Tayhe [i.e., Leahy].⁴⁴ Captain's name is pronounced "Lualen." Teddy is our colonel. There are twelve troops in our regiment but four were left behind. There are only about 800 men of the "Rough Riders" on this trip. All of our horses are left behind until we secure a landing in Cuba, when they will be sent to us.⁴⁵ I hated very much to leave our horses behind, but did not want to be left with them. Our horses were taken from Texas and New Mexico, and off the range. Most of them had been broken, but you know a broncho is never gentle. My horse is one of the best but not the gentlest. He is a tall, slender bay that runs twenty miles an hour and bucks all the ticks off him just for fun. He fell back with one fellow one day when I was on duty and came near killing him. He has fallen with me twice, but I went off the side as he went over and was on him

⁴⁴William Henry Harrison Llewellyn was born on September 9, 1851, in Monroe, WI. His father, Joseph, had been an officer in the Second Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War. At the age of fifteen, Llewellyn moved to Montana to seek his fortune in the gold mining business. He spent several years in the effort but was ultimately unsuccessful. Llewellyn relocated to Omaha, NE, around 1874, where he worked as a land speculator. He was appointed a special agent with the Justice Department in 1877 and sent to the Dakota Territory to work with the Sioux. In 1881, Llewellyn was appointed Indian agent for the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico. He resigned his position in 1885, moved to Las Cruces, and joined a law practice. Llewellyn served multiple terms in the New Mexico Territorial House of Representatives, including one term as speaker. Following the war with Spain, he returned to New Mexico where, later, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him United States attorney. Llewellyn was a vocal proponent of statehood for the territory and served in the constitutional convention in 1910. He died at the United States Army Beaumont Hospital in El Paso, TX, on June 11, 1917. Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *The Leading Facts of New Mexican History*, 3 vols. (Albuquerque: Horn & Wallace Publishers, 1963), 2: 541-542; "William Henry Harrison Llewellyn," Find a Grave, accessed January 23, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/30161967/william-henry-harrison-llewellyn. John Wesley Green was born in Columbus, OH, in 1861. He joined the U.S. Army at the age of seventeen, serving in the signal corps. He later transferred to the Fifteenth United States Infantry and spent five years operating against the Apache Indians. After leaving the Army, he served as the town marshal for Gallup, NM. Following the war with Spain, he returned to New Mexico and worked as the superintendent of the territorial penitentiary. Green died on September 8, 1935, in San Diego, CA. Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexican History*, 2: 542; "John Wesley Green," Find a Grave, accessed January 23, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/11707737/john-wesley-green. Born in LaSalle Co., IL, in 1867, David J. Leahy moved to New Mexico in 1891, where he became the principal of schools in Springer. He was later made the superintendent of the schools in Colfax County. With the outbreak of war with Spain, he helped organize volunteers in Raton and was appointed second lieutenant. Leahy was wounded during the charge up San Juan Hill. He returned to New Mexico after the war and was appointed clerk of the district court at Alamogordo. Leahy was appointed United States attorney in 1907 by President Roosevelt following the retirement of William H. H. Llewellyn. In 1911, he was elected judge of the fourth judicial district. Leahy died on February 6, 1935. Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexican History*, 2: 542; "David J. Leahy," Find a Grave, accessed January 23, 2022, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23947583/david-j-leahy>.

⁴⁵Unfortunately for the Rough Riders, their horses were not sent to Cuba, and the cavalrymen were forced to fight dismounted. Theodore Roosevelt, *The Rough Riders: An Autobiography* (1899; repr., New York: Library of America, 2004), 48.

again as soon as he got up. They put the boys out on “bronks” and those that could not ride were either mustered out or put in the hospital corps. We have no sabers or machetes yet, nothing but rifles, but will get a long knife, a 45 six-shooter and gun when we get our horses. Our rifles are six-shooters, 70 caliber, 30 grains and shoot 2,000 yards, and will shoot through thirty-six inches of solid pine timber. It shoots a steel ball.⁴⁶

All the boys are in good spirits and anxious to get out to the work. I am more restless every day for some of the excitement of war and would feel greatly disappointed if the war should be over without even one shot at the Spanish. I hope to have a least one good hard battle from them. Of course I know that I am as apt to get killed as anyone, but if I am killed I will die for a good cause and be doing my duty. I do not feel scared nor do I feel that I will get out of it all right, but I feel that whatever happens will be all right. If I am lost in this war I hope that you will take it just as I do, that it is all right if I die an honorable death. If I come out all right we will all feel very grateful to our Creator that I was spared.

There are about 40,000 in our fleet—some 35,000 are regulars—the rest are volunteers from different parts.⁴⁷ I have found only one man from our regiment that is acquainted with Boone [County]. He knew papa and Uncle Sterling and all the neighbors.⁴⁸ But I never knew him and never heard the name before. Have forgotten what he said it was. Our boys are all good hearted

⁴⁶McKinney appears a little confused about his weaponry. The Rough Riders were armed with .30-40 Krag carbines, which used a thirty-caliber bullet that was propelled by forty grains of smokeless powder. The carbines had a five-round magazine. McKinney might have conflated the characteristics of the .30-40 Krag, a relatively new cartridge, with that of the .45-70, which was the U.S. military's earlier round of choice. The .45-70 was still in use with most of the volunteer regiments as well as some federal units during the war. *Ibid.*, 18; Alejandro de Quesada, *The Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, 1898-1902* (New York: Osprey Publishing, 2007), 16-18.

⁴⁷The number of men in the fleet was actually much smaller. The U.S. Army Fifth Corps, which constituted the invasion force, took only 17,000 men to Cuba. Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 270.

⁴⁸Sterling Price McKinney was born December 20, 1861, in Arkansas, the son of John Adams McKinney and Lucinda Catherine Bourland McKinney. His father served in the Twenty-First Arkansas Infantry during the Civil War and was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge. McKinney was living in Bellefonte when he married Carrie Crumpler in 1884. By 1900, he was living in Vernon, TX, and working as a dry goods salesman. He later became an oil speculator in Vernon before moving to California in 1931. He died in Los Angeles on August 22, 1942. Manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Wilbarger Co., TX; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Wilbarger Co., TX; manuscript census returns, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, population schedules, Wilbarger Co., TX; Lucinda C. McKinney widow application, Arkansas Confederate Pension Applications, accessed January 17, 2022, FamilySearch.org; California Death Index, accessed January 17, 2022, Ancestry.com; “Sterling Price McKinney,” Find a Grave, accessed January 17, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/125150087/sterling-price-mckinney.

boys, and although rough, are easy to get along with and as a rule are perfectly honest. There are a few thieves among the Rough Riders. But they will be disposed of as soon as they can be caught. One was caught and was sent up three years for stealing a razor. All of us are like brothers, what ones gets all get, and if anyone gets into trouble with an outsider it is an easy matter to settle it when the other boys come up. I have never had the least trouble yet and have had only one or two fights in our troops in the month we have been constantly together. The officers are well selected and good men. No one is dissatisfied, and every man anxious to get some scrapping to do. But if the war should close just as it is. Oh, my! There would be a mass of broken hearted boys. It is so miserably hot that I can't write for the perspiration. I am on the top deck. The nights are lovely, so cool and nice.

Good-bye, sister. Write to Tampa, Florida, Troop G, First U.S.V.C. We can't tell what will be our next landing. Much love to all the family at home.

Your affectionate brother,
Garland

The troop ships finally departed on June 14. In the armada were twenty-nine transports and six other vessels, carrying almost 17,000 soldiers as well as over 2000 mules and horses. It would be the largest military expedition to leave the United States before World War I. The Americans landed part of their force at Daiquiri, on the southeast coast of Cuba, on June 22. During the next two days, the remaining troops landed at Siboney. These points were approximately eighteen and ten miles, respectively, from the campaign's objective—the port city of Santiago de Cuba.⁴⁹

The Spanish fleet had been cooped up in Santiago's harbor since the end of May. The Spaniards were unable to leave on account of an American blockade. A minefield prevented the Americans from entering the harbor. The Spanish shore-based artillery was also a potent threat. The result was a standoff in which both sides occasionally fired on the other, but for the most part they just bided their time. In an effort to bring the situation to a head, the Americans landed their army in the hopes of enveloping the city and taking out its harbor guns. Doing so would allow the Navy to clear the minefields and engage the Spanish fleet.⁵⁰

As the American Army advanced toward Santiago, the Spanish fleet decided to make a run for it on July 3. In what would be the largest naval

⁴⁹Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 353-370.

⁵⁰*Ibid.*, 297-328, 340-357.

battle of the war, seven American warships (four battleships, one cruiser, and two armed yachts) squared off against six Spanish ships (four cruisers and two destroyers). Severely outclassed, the Spanish fleet was annihilated. Ship after ship tried to make it to open water only to be pummeled by superior American firepower. The fastest Spanish ship, *Cristóbal Colón*, nearly made it.⁵¹ She had gotten past the American ships and had the Americans in hot pursuit when she was forced to slow down after burning through her best coal supplies. The fifty-mile chase lasted almost two hours. The following letter, written by Edward W. Eberle on board the battleship *Oregon*, to his brother in Fort Smith, describes the final minutes of the battle and provides a recap of some earlier action.⁵²

Eberle had been born in Denton, Texas, on August 17, 1864, after his family had fled Fort Smith during the Civil War. After the cessation of hostilities, the Eberle family returned, and Edward was raised in the city prior to receiving his appointment to the United States Naval Academy in 1881. After graduation, he served in several positions before being assigned to the *Oregon* in 1896. Following the Spanish-American War, Eberle was appointed the chief of staff of the Asiatic Squadron. He later served as the commander of the San Francisco Naval Training Station and the Atlantic Torpedo Fleet before being appointed a superintendent of the

⁵¹The armored cruiser *Cristóbal Colón* (Christopher Columbus in English) was an Italian ship that the Spanish had purchased in 1896. Capable of doing twenty knots, she was without her ten-inch guns during the action near Santiago. Gardiner, *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships, 1860-1905*, 351, 382.

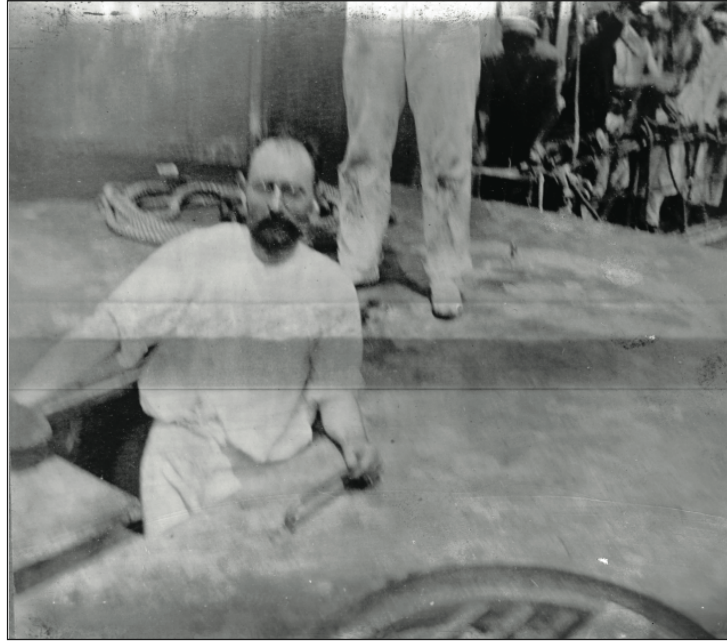
⁵²Laid down on November 19, 1891, in San Francisco, *Oregon* was commissioned on July 15, 1896. As the crisis with Spain moved toward war, she left San Francisco and headed for the Caribbean. Her trip around South America became legend when she steamed over 14,000 miles in sixty-six days. While the trip demonstrated what a modern warship could do, it also reinforced the need to shorten the time required to travel from one coast of the United States to the other, resulting in increased pressure in the United States to build the Panama Canal. Following her action at Santiago, *Oregon* was ordered to the Philippines, where she stayed until February 1900. *Oregon* then spent nearly a year operating along the coast of China before returning to the United States on May 5, 1901. *Oregon* was decommissioned in 1906, but recommissioned in 1911. In 1914, she was placed on reserve status, but was returned to limited service along the West Coast during World War I. In 1918, she escorted American soldiers who took part in the Siberian Expedition. She was decommissioned in 1919 and later turned into a floating museum. *Oregon* was sold for scrap on December 7, 1942, during World War II. The Navy later decided to halt the scrapping process and used her as a storage hulk for the campaign against Guam in late 1944. She was subsequently loaded with dynamite and towed to the island. *Oregon*, now classified as IX-22, remained in Guam for several years after the war. She broke from her moorings during a typhoon in 1948, but was located almost five hundred miles away and towed back. The vessel was sold on March 15, 1956, towed to Japan, and scrapped. "Oregon II," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed January 30, 2022, /www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/o/oregon-ii.html.



Edward W. Eberle. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

Naval Academy, a position that he held through the end of World War I. In 1919, Eberle was promoted to rear admiral. He went on to command the battleship divisions of the Atlantic Fleet before being promoted to admiral and placed in command of the Pacific Fleet. He later served as the chief of Naval Operations. Eberle retired in 1928 after forty-seven years of service. He died on July 6, 1929, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.⁵³

⁵³Mark K. Christ, "Edward Walter Eberle (1864-1929)," *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, accessed January 1, 2022, encyclopediaofarkansas.net; "Notable Graduates: Edward W. Eberle," United States Naval Academy, accessed January 1, 2022, www.usna.edu/Notables/cno/1885eberle.php.



Edward Eberle commanding a gun turret aboard the USS *Oregon* during the battle of Santiago de Cuba. Photo by Edward H. Hart. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*

The following letter appeared in the August 20, 1898, issue of the *Arkansas Democrat*. For unknown reasons, the introductory material from the letter was not printed.

[Dr. J. Gilbert Eberle]:⁵⁴

⁵⁴Edward's brother, Joseph Gilbert Eberle, was born in Fort Smith on December 31, 1853. Their father, Joseph, a native of Switzerland, was one of the first merchants in the town. After attending local schools, Joseph Eberle went to Little Rock where he enrolled in St. Johns' College. He later attended the Kentucky School of Medicine, graduating in 1875. Eberle returned to Fort Smith and practiced there for nearly fifty years. He served as the physician for the federal jail under Judge Isaac Parker's jurisdiction and also as the chief of staff for the city's Sparks Memorial Hospital, the first hospital in the state of Arkansas. Eberle married Jennie Pearson on his birthday in 1878. Jennie was the daughter of John Pearson, a local gunsmith who had earlier worked with Samuel Colt to develop the first revolver. The couple had six children. One, Walter, later became a physician himself. Another, William, graduated from the Naval Academy like his uncle. Joseph Eberle died on December 22, 1924. Fay Hempstead, *Historical Review of Arkansas: Its Commerce, Industry, and Modern Affairs*, 3 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911), 2: 888-889; Find a Grave, accessed January 30, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/44647421/j-gilbert-eberle.

As we chased after the Colon all our officers and crew were assembled on deck in the forward part of the ship around my big turret, as my guns were the only ones that would bear and reach the enemy. I begged the captain, who was standing on top of my turret, to let me try a shot at the Colon, but he said, "Wait till we get a little closer."⁵⁵ Finally he sang out "Eberle, you try a shot!"

I aimed very deliberately and let drive. A mighty cheer went up from five hundred throats as the big shell struck astern of the Colon nearly five miles away. It threw up a column of water that shut her out of sight.

"Give her another, Eberle," shouted the captain. I increased the range and let go the other gun and again wild cheers went up. We loaded quickly and at my next shot, with increased range, I dropped the shell right under the Colon's bow and she headed for the beach. Our crew nearly went wild. They danced and yelled and hugged one another. I let drive with my other gun and the shell struck under the enemy's stern, when down came her colors in surrender. That was just at 1:12 p.m. and I the only one firing at the Colon.

As she surrendered the captain yelled at me, "Eberle, cease firing, she has surrendered." I then crawled up on top of my turret to take a look and get a little fresh air. The captain patted me on the back and congratulated me. Then followed the happiest moment of my naval career. As I stood there on top of my turret beside the captain, bareheaded and all covered with powder, smoke and grease the crew, the crew of five hundred fighting men, bare to their waists, gave three mighty cheers for Captain Clark and then three cheers for Mr. Eberle. That was a moment to live for, and my thoughts went to my darling wife and boy. I longed for them, but crept back into my turret in confusion, and there in my turret my own gun crews were cheering me.

Our band was soon on deck playing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Brooklyn was the only other vessel in sight at the time of the surrender and she was far outside us.⁵⁶

⁵⁵Capt. Charles E. Clark was the commander of the *Oregon*.

⁵⁶The armored cruiser *Brooklyn*, built by William Cramp & Sons & Engine Building Company of Philadelphia, launched on October 2, 1895. As part of an experiment, two of her eight-inch turrets were powered by electricity instead of steam. They proved so successful that the design was incorporated into later battleships. During the Spanish-American War, she served as Commodore Winfield Scott Schley's flagship of the "Flying Squadron," the U.S. naval force sent to Cuba. Following the war, *Brooklyn* cruised the Atlantic coast and the Caribbean before being sent to the Philippines. She was made the flagship of the Asiatic Squadron. *Brooklyn* returned to the United States in 1902. She then spent the next four years as part of the North Atlantic Fleet and European Squadron. In

The captain of the Colon said that the Oregon's big guns caused her to surrender. They called the Oregon the "Yankee devil"—a very complimentary name.

As the Brooklyn came near us she cheered us again and again, and Commodore [Winfield Scott] Schley congratulated us on the grand victory. About 3 p.m. the New York and Texas came up and they gave us wild cheers.⁵⁷ The Oregon was ordered to take charge of the captured Colon. We sent out a large force of men to her and transferred her officers and men to the transport Resolute, which had come up.⁵⁸

The crew of the Colon maliciously scuttled her[,] their ship[,] after she had been run ashore and surrendered, an act unknown in civilized warfare. It is a blot on the name of Spain to damage a

1905, she returned the remains of John Paul Jones to the United States from France. *Brooklyn* was placed out of commission in 1908 but was commissioned in ordinary in 1914 and assigned to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. In late 1915, she returned to the Pacific and served there until 1921, when she returned stateside to Mare Island Navy Yard and was placed out of commission. *Brooklyn* was sold for scrap later that year. "Brooklyn II," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed March 17, 2022, <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/b/brooklyn-ii.html>.

⁵⁷The armored cruiser *New York* was laid down on September 19, 1890, in Philadelphia and commissioned on August 1, 1893. After stints in the South Atlantic and North Atlantic Squadrons, *New York* was assigned to the European Squadron in 1895. She later rejoined the North Atlantic Squadron and operated along the East Coast throughout 1897. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities with Spain, she was sent to Key West. After the declaration of war, *New York* headed for Cuba and bombarded Matanzas before sailing for Puerto Rico. She was the flagship for Admiral Sampson's squadron during the campaign against Santiago. After the war, she served for a time with several state naval militias. *New York* joined the Pacific Squadron in 1903 and was made the flagship for the Asiatic Fleet in 1904. She was decommissioned for modernization in 1905 and recommissioned in 1909. *New York* joined the Asiatic Fleet in 1910 and was renamed *Saratoga* in 1911. She was put in the reserve fleet in 1916, but returned to service in 1917 with the United States' entry into World War I. Later that year, she was renamed *Rochester*. After the war, *Rochester* spent several years operating along the coasts of Central and South America. In 1932, she joined the Pacific Fleet. She was decommissioned in 1933 in the Philippines and was scuttled to prevent her capture by the Japanese in December 1941. "New York IV," *ibid.*, accessed January 8, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/n/new-york-iv.html. Laid down on June 1, 1889, by the Norfolk Navy Yard at Portsmouth, VA, the battleship *Texas* was commissioned on August 15, 1895. She served with the North Atlantic Squadron prior to the war with Spain. After the cessation of hostilities, *Texas* returned to patrolling the Atlantic coast. *Texas* served as the flagship for the Coast Squadron until 1905. She later became station ship at Charleston. In 1911, her name was changed to *San Marcos* so that the Texas name could be assigned to a new battleship. Shortly thereafter she was sunk as a target in Chesapeake Bay. "Texas I," *ibid.*, accessed March 17, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/t/texas-i.html.

⁵⁸*Resolute*, originally known as *Yorktown*, was an iron passenger liner that was purchased by the Navy a few days before the U.S. declared war on Spain. Built by the Delaware River Shipbuilding and Engine Works in Chester, PA, *Resolute* was commissioned on May 11, 1898. Following the battle at Santiago, she transported Spanish prisoners of war to the United States. Once the war was over, *Resolute* transported American soldiers home. She was decommissioned on December 15, 1899. Shortly thereafter, she was transferred to the War Department and renamed *Rawlins*. The ship returned to civilian service in 1902 and operated under different names until she burned and sank at New York in 1926. She was refloated in 1928 and sold for scrap. "Resolute II," *ibid.*, accessed March 17, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/r/resolute-ii.html.

surrendered ship and the Colon's captain should be made to pay the penalty for such conduct. We tried to save the fine ship, but all our efforts were in vain. At 11 o'clock that night she turned over on her side and sank—our officers getting away just in time. We hope the wreckers will be able to save the Colon for she was by far the finest ship of all, for she was perfectly new.

As we rejoiced the fleet on July 4 off Santiago we received a glorious ovation and our passage through the fleet was like a triumphal procession.

Cheer after cheer rent the air and Commodore Schley signaled, "Welcome, Brave Oregon!" We were simply overrun with visitors, and the admiral is our most ardent admirer.

It was simply my good fortune to be in command of the first division, which embraces the three forward turrets—the big 13-inch and the two 8-inch turrets. In action I personally command and fire the guns of the 13-inch turret. Of course any other officer would have accomplished the same results as I did with the big 13-inch guns, but it was my good luck to have command of that division. My men worked like heroes and the intense heat was not even considered. My position is on the sighting hood, and from that position I train the turret, elevate, aim and fire the guns. The firing is electric and I simply had to press the firing key to hurl a 1,100 pound projectile at the enemy. There was no excitement at all, although the men were full of enthusiasm. As for myself, I felt just as if I were at target practice. I had no doubt about the results from the start, although I expected we would lose a number of men, but not a man on our ship received a scratch.

The torpedo boat destroyers were simply torn to pieces by the rapid fire guns of the Oregon, Iowa, Indiana, and Gloucester, and the slaughter to them was frightful.⁵⁹ Next to the torpedo boats the

⁵⁹Laid down on August 5, 1893, at Philadelphia, the battleship *Iowa* was built by William Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Company. She was launched on March 28, 1896, and commissioned on June 16, 1897. *Iowa* was dispatched to Cuba in April 1898 to take part in the blockade. Following the war with Spain, she was sent to the Pacific. She served as part of the Pacific Squadron until February 1902, when she became the flagship of the South Atlantic Squadron. On June 30, 1903, *Iowa* was decommissioned at the New York Navy Yard. The ship was recommissioned that December and made part of the North Atlantic Fleet. She was decommissioned again on July 23, 1908. *Iowa* spent the next several years being commissioned and decommissioned. After the United States entered World War I in 1917, she was placed in limited commission, serving as a receiving ship and later training ship. In 1919, *Iowa* was renamed and redesignated as *Coast Battleship No. 4*. In 1920, she was turned into a radio-controlled target ship. The ship was sunk on March 23, 1923, in the Canal Zone during an exercise to simulate an attack on the Panama Canal. She was sold for salvage and scrap later that year. "Iowa II," *ibid.*, accessed March 22, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/i/iowa-ii.html. Built by William Cramp & Sons at Philadelphia, the battleship *Indiana* was

greatest slaughter was on the *Oquendo*.⁶⁰ Her decks were simply covered with dead and wounded. The enemy lost about 600 killed and most of that was accomplished within fifty minutes. I fired fourteen and a half tons of steel at a cost of \$10,000. Our after 13-inch turret was unfortunate in not getting many shots, as it was a running fight and the after guns did not bear on the enemy after the first half hour, because after that time we were chasing the *Vizcaya* and the *Colon*, and so my division had all the work to do.⁶¹ The *Oregon* fired just 1,776 projectiles during the battle—a very historical number—and it shows how hot we made it for the enemy's ships.

July 1, 2, and 3 were all days of hard work for the *Oregon*, and she did her work nobly. July 1, the *Oregon* and *New York* bombarded the town of Santiago while the army advanced and did its hardest fighting. On July 2, was the last and heaviest bombardment of the Santiago forts, and we silenced the batteries and tore them to pieces. The *Oregon* did a very beautiful piece of work that morning. We had silenced the eastern battery, dismantled its guns and knocked the *Morro* to pieces.⁶² The left wing of the fleet was

launched February 28, 1893. She was commissioned on November 20, 1895. *Indiana* was in Key West with other ships of the North Atlantic Squadron when the war with Spain broke out. Following her service in the war, she returned to operating off the Atlantic coast. *Indiana* was decommissioned on December 29, 1903. She was recommissioned in January 1906 and then placed in reserve in July 1907. *Indiana* spent the following years moving in and out of commission. *Indiana* was decommissioned for the last time on January 31, 1919. Later that same year, she was renamed and reclassified as *Coast Battleship No. 1*. The ship was used for target practice in Chesapeake Bay in the fall of 1920 and was sunk during bombing tests by aircraft. She was sold for scrap March 19, 1924. "Indiana I," *ibid.*, accessed March 22, 2022, [history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/i/indiana-battleship-no-1-i.html](https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/i/indiana-battleship-no-1-i.html). The gunboat *Gloucester* was originally J. Pierpont Morgan's large yacht *Corsair*, built by Neafie & Levy in Philadelphia in 1891. In need of ships, the U.S. Navy purchased her on April 23, 1898, and she was commissioned on May 16, 1898. Following her involvement in the battle of Santiago, *Gloucester* engaged in operations around Puerto Rico. From 1899 to 1902, she served as a schoolship for the U.S. Naval Academy. *Gloucester* was recommissioned November 15, 1902, and served as a tender for the South Atlantic Squadron. She was decommissioned in 1905 and subsequently saw service with the Massachusetts and New York naval militias. *Gloucester* was recommissioned during World War I and conducted harbor patrols in New York City. *Gloucester* was struck from the Navy list on August 12, 1919, and sold for scrap a few months later. "Gloucester I," *ibid.*, accessed March 27, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/gloucester-i.html.

⁶⁰*Almirante Oquendo* was launched on October 4, 1891. The armored cruiser was heavily armed but lacking in protection. She boasted two 11-inch guns, ten 5.5-inch guns, eight 12-pound quick-firing guns, ten 3-pound Hotchkiss revolving guns, eight Nordenfield machine guns, two Maxim machine guns, and eight torpedo tubes. *Oquendo* displaced 6890 tons and could do 20.2 knots. Gardiner, *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships*, 382.

⁶¹*Vizcaya* was of the same class as the *Oquendo* and boasted the same specifications. *Ibid.*

⁶²Eberle is referring to San Pedro de la Roca Castle built atop an outcrop, El Morro. It guarded the eastern side of the entrance into the harbor. Built in 1683, the fortress is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

still firing away at the western battery, but the heaviest battery was the Punta Gorda battery, which was located well inside the harbor. This battery was firing furiously at the Iowa and Massachusetts, which were opposite the harbor entrance though some distance out, while this ship was to the eastward entrance and out of sight of the Punta Gorda, as we had gone in close under the Morro and were hammering the last battery and Morro to pieces.⁶³ While we were doing this the admiral signaled, "Oregon, go in close and silence Punta Gorda!" The captain told me to train my big guns to starboard and be ready to fire on Punta Gorda as soon as it came in sight from behind the headland, as we were going to steam into position. He headed the old Oregon right in across the harbor mouth while Punta Gorda was firing furiously. I waited patiently with my hand on the key to give Punta Gorda a surprise. Just as the ship brought Punta Gorda into view I fired my two guns, one just after the other, and landed a shell right in the top of the battery. Old Punta did not fire again. We threw in a few more shells for good luck and then steamed away in silence. That morning I fired eleven tons of metal with my two guns, about \$7,000 worth.

I would like for my friends back in Arkansas who have always been so kind to me to know that I commanded and fired the big forward 13-inch guns of the Oregon during her noble career, that I fired the shots that sent the Vizcaya to her doom, and caused the Colon to lower her colors. I deem myself fortunate in having the opportunity to do the work I have done, and regard the pride I feel in the fact as perfectly pardonable.⁶⁴

[Edward W. Eberle]

⁶³Laid down on June 25, 1891, *Massachusetts* was built by William Cramp & Sons at Philadelphia. She was commissioned on June 10, 1896. She was assigned to the North Atlantic Squadron and spent nearly a year operating along the eastern seaboard. Following the Spanish-American War, *Massachusetts* spent seven years cruising the Atlantic coast and eastern Caribbean. She later served as a training ship for midshipmen from the Naval Academy. *Massachusetts* was decommissioned on January 8, 1906. She was placed on reduced commission in 1910, again serving as a practice ship for midshipmen. Decommissioned again in 1914, she was recommissioned in 1917, shortly after America's entry into World War I. *Massachusetts* was decommissioned for the final time on March 31, 1919, scuttled, and then used as target practice by shore batteries at Fort Pickens, FL. The wreck is now a Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserve and on the National Register of Historic Places. "Massachusetts III," *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, accessed February 24, 2022, www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/m/massachusetts-iii.html.

⁶⁴For a more detailed description of the battle, see Edward W. Eberle, "The Oregon at Santiago," *Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* 58 (May 1899): 104-111.

While the Navy was dealing with the Spanish ships, the Army was sloggng its way through the Cuban countryside, taxed by the oppressive heat and voracious insects. It was also hampered by the logistical challenges of moving thousands of troops through an area that was devoid of developed means of transit. The main road, such as it was, was little more than a cattle trail in most places. Moving through the jungle-covered mountains was slow and tedious. Nevertheless, American enthusiasm for the anticipated battle, coupled with assistance from Cuban insurgents who served as guides, allowed the Army to make headway through the difficult terrain.

Advance elements of the American Army caught up with retreating Spanish soldiers at Las Guasimas on June 24. A sharp fight ensued, though casualties were relatively light on both sides. In a moment of excitement during the encounter, former Confederate general Joseph Wheeler, now commander of an American cavalry division in Cuba, reportedly yelled, "We got the damn Yankees on the run!" upon seeing the Spanish give up their positions and flee toward Santiago.⁶⁵

American and Spanish forces clashed again a week later at El Caney and San Juan Heights on the approaches to Santiago. The Americans had planned to take the Spanish stronghold of El Caney in a couple of hours before concentrating on the more expansive defenses at San Juan Heights, but the Spanish defenders held off the Americans for most of the day, even though they were outnumbered more than ten to one. While one American division focused on reducing El Caney, two others were engaged at San Juan and Kettle Hills. It was at the latter location that the Rough Riders earned their fame. Often overlooked, or at least discounted, was the role that African American soldiers played in securing the victory.⁶⁶

A number of Arkansas soldiers took part in the land campaign against Santiago. One was Will Rider of Brinkley. Born in Arkansas in 1871, Rider was the son of William and Dora Rider. The senior Rider hailed from Nassau, Germany, and emigrated to the United States in 1843. He worked as a tinner in Brinkley. The younger Rider enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after the war was declared. He went to Cuba as part of the Fourth U.S. Infantry Regiment.⁶⁷

The following letter appeared in the August 18, 1898, issue of the *Brinkley Argus*.

⁶⁵Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 352-386; "BG Joseph Wheeler, USA," Army Historical Foundation, accessed February 24, 2022, armyhistory.org/bg-joseph-wheeler-usa/ [quotation].

⁶⁶Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 390-431.

⁶⁷*Brinkley Argus*, April 28, 1898, p. 2; manuscript census returns, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, population schedules, Webster Parish, LA; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Monroe Co., AR.

Santiago, Cuba, July 17, 1898

Dear Father:

On this day, the surrender of Santiago to the Americans, I will write you a few lines, and I hope they will find you and the boys all O.K.

Well, we are camped on a hill just 1200 yards from the city and have splendid view of everything around us. The Americans have the city surrounded with entrenchments and big guns and Sampson has them flanked on the water. On Sunday eve the 10th, we surrounded the city and at 4:30 p.m. opened fire, which continued until 7 p.m. There were 12,000 of us infantry and 10 batteries of artillery, all intrenched. The Spaniards opened fire first and we silenced their artillery in 25 minutes. Monday morning the Spanish had white flags flying all over the city and hundreds of them were killed and wounded.⁶⁸ Our loss was one killed and one wounded.—A glorious victory! That is the reason they surrendered.⁶⁹ The buzzards are eating their dead, as they have not buried all of their dead yet and the Spanish hospitals are full of dead and wounded.⁷⁰

They had all the advantage of us, for if we had been in their position and forts, all of Europe could not have moved us.

I was in all the battles except San Juan. We were the Reserve, but got one killed and three wounded by stray bullets at the battle of El Caney.⁷¹ I thought sure my time had come, as the bullets whizzed by me like a hail storm and dead and wounded laying all around me. I never lost my nerve, but after the battle I fainted, as I was over-worked—no sleep for two days and nothing to eat but hard-tack.

I was on the extreme left of the second set of fours in the skirmish line, was kneeling, when my second Lieutenant said to

⁶⁸Though the American artillery and Navy ships were able to quickly silence the Spanish guns, casualties amongst the defenders were minimal. Following the shelling, a truce was declared in order to continue further discussions about the possibility of the Spanish garrison surrendering. Herbert H. Sargent, *The Campaign of Santiago De Cuba*, 3 vols. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1907), 3: 18-24.

⁶⁹The Spanish were not only surrounded, but they were also critically short of food. In addition, the troops suffered from poor morale and ineffective leadership. *Ibid.*; Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 483-487.

⁷⁰Once the Americans took control of the city, they dealt with a burgeoning health crisis. Over two hundred people a day were dying as a result of starvation, disease, or wounds. One soldier reported that the city “stewed in misery and filth.” Decomposing animals, rotting garbage, and human waste filled the streets. There were so many dead that the Americans spent several days building large pyres to dispose of the bodies. Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 508-510.

⁷¹Casualties for the entire regiment at El Caney were seven killed and thirty-five wounded out of 465 men. Sargent, *Campaign of Santiago De Cuba*, 2: 107.

me “Take steady aim!” when a whizzing bullet came over me and caught him in the neck. He died in 30 minutes from the wound.⁷² His last words were “Give them Hell, boys!” We did. We killed 118 in one of their trenches and captured 167 of them, including their yellow flag. It was all the officers could do to keep the men from killing the Spanish prisoners after we had captured them.

At the battle of San Juan the reason so many men were killed and wounded was because they had French sharpshooters in trees who did a lot of damage.⁷³ We found them after it was too late, and how pitiful they begged for their lives, but they got no mercy from us.

Of all the men in the army that were wounded, 90 out of a 100 only received flesh wounds and are now joining their companies by the hundreds.

The Spanish bullet is about one-half as large as ours, but every time our bullets hit they kill or take a limb off.⁷⁴ We killed a good many of them—over 75 per cent more of them killed and wounded than were of us.⁷⁵

I have had a hard, hard time of it so far, wading rivers, being rained on, hard marches, no sleep and hungry half the time; no clean clothes, no shave, and have gone four days without getting to wash my face. All I have on is a pair of pants, a blue flannel shirt, a pair of heavy brogan shoes and a pair of socks that I have worn for six weeks. My clothes have not been dry since I landed in Cuba, and my body is sore all over from insect bites and poison

⁷²This was John Jay Bernard, born April 1, 1872, in California. His father was Brig. Gen. Reuben F. Bernard. *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain: Including the Insurrection in the Philippine Islands and the China Relief Expedition, April 15, 1898, to July 30, 1902*, 2 vols. (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1993), 1: 124; “2Lt John Jay Bernard,” Find a Grave, accessed February 6, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/8241110/john-jay-bernard.

⁷³Rider misspoke or is confused about French sharpshooters being present at San Juan, as there is no evidence of that. The Spanish sharpshooters, however, were greatly feared by the Americans and inflicted significant damage upon them. John D. Miley, *In Cuba with Shafter* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1899), 123-124.

⁷⁴Actually, the .30-40 Krag bullet used by the American regulars was only slightly larger than the 7mm Mauser bullet used by the Spanish. The Spanish rifle was considered superior to the Krag fielded by American regulars. In fact, many of the Spanish rifles were taken to the United States where they were studied by the Springfield Armory. The result was the creation of the M1903 Springfield rifle, which replaced the Krag and was based on the Mauser system. Quesada, *Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection*, 36-37.

⁷⁵Rider’s statement of bravado is wildly inaccurate. In reality, the Americans sustained far heavier casualties, more than double those of the Spanish. This was mostly due to the Americans’ reliance on frontal assaults against entrenched Spanish positions. *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain*, 114; Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 423.

vines, but will fight as long as I can stand up for my country. I am as happy as a June bug on a sweet potato vine.

To-day at twelve we were all lined up and as far as we could see were our soldiers lined up around the city. The American flag was raised in the city over a big building and 21 guns fired, and then each regiment gave three cheers for the American flag. All the bands began to play "The Star Spangled Banner," "Red, White and Blue," and "America." We all had tears in our eyes, so overjoyed were we.

To-day is a day I will never forget. Also the 3rd of July, when Sampson sank the Spanish fleet. His big guns would shake the earth we were standing on. We could hear the shots, but could not see the fight.

On the 4th all of the women and children had to get out of the city and had to pass our lines. They were a pitiful sight. A good many of them sick and the rain pouring down on them with nothing to shelter them from it, and nothing to eat made it awful.⁷⁶

Well, papa, as I am awful hungry, will close. Write to me soon and a long letter. Address your letter "Co. B, 4th U.S. Infantry, Santiago, Cuba."

P.S.

Send me some papers to read. I guess we will return to the States in about a month.

Will

While a number of Arkansans operated in war zones, most of them remained stateside. The First and Second Arkansas Infantry regiments continued their training in Georgia throughout the summer of 1898. Initially, many exhibited a stoic optimism that they would eventually make their way to Cuba to engage in the fight. But as the summer wore on, and triumphs on the battlefield increased, many became frustrated and began to lose heart. Worse, sickness became a major problem in the camp. Typhoid fever and dysentery were the main culprits, but yellow fever, measles, diphtheria, and pneumonia also increased at alarming rates. As concern grew, Governor Jones dispatched Surgeon General James M. Keller and Adj. Gen. Arthur Neill to the camp to investigate. They reported conditions there as deplorable, indeed criminal, and recommended the troops be moved at once. In decrying conditions in the camp, one Arkansas soldier

⁷⁶Thousands of civilians evacuated the city during a ceasefire. Hundreds of them would soon die due to starvation and sickness. Miley, *In Cuba with Shafter*, 129-133; Musicant, *Empire by Default*, 475-477.

went so far as to describe the drinking water as “not fit for ducks to paddle in.”⁷⁷

Chaplain William Cross of the First Arkansas responded to the suffering, in part, by enlisting the help of women back in Arkansas. Cross, born and educated in New York City, was serving as the rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Hot Springs when the war broke out. He promptly resigned his position and enrolled in the regiment on May 9. Prior to joining the new volunteer regiment, he had served as the chaplain for the Third Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas State Guard.⁷⁸

The following letter appeared in the August 3, 1898, issue of the *Helena Weekly World*.

Headquarters, 1st Arkansas V.I.
 “Camp Thomas” Chickamauga Park, Ga., July 26, 1898
 Mrs. E.D. Pillow, Helena, Ark.⁷⁹

My Dear Madam:

I have your letter of the 23rd, and I thank you very much for the cheering information contained in it. It is a source of great gratification and thankfulness to me to know that at last some one became interested in our hospital work. Until one personally investigates, as you did, it is quite impossible to understand the conditions existing in the Division Hospital.⁸⁰ Perhaps many of the mothers of our men do not understand that after a certain period

⁷⁷Wolfe, “Arkansas and the Spanish American War,” 34-36; *Arkansas Gazette*, August 14, 1898, p. 2; *Atkins [AR] Chronicle*, July 29, 1898, p. 2 [quotation].

⁷⁸*Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 17, 122; *Helena Weekly World*, May 18, 1898, p. 4.

⁷⁹Emma Rice Pillow was the wife of Edward D. Pillow, one of the largest planters in the state. Born on May 16, 1853, in Phillips County, she was the daughter of Dr. Frierson H. Rice and Margaret Fanny Rice. Emma and Edward had three children. Their son William was a first lieutenant in Co. G of the First Arkansas. Emma died on December 17, 1914. *Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 792; *Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 40; “Richardson-Laird Connections,” Ancestry.com, accessed February 24, 2022; “Emma Rice Pillow,” Find a Grave, accessed February 24, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/196247169/emma-pillow.

⁸⁰Adjutant General Neill reported, “There are approximately 500 patients there now, badly crowded, and many of them there under tent flies with no walls and have, of course, gotten wet by every blowing rain. The measles are now prevalent and the measles ward especially bad. The day I was there 137 patients were in this ward with only three nurses in attendance. They were in various stages of illness and most of them in clothing they wore when brought to the hospital, anywhere from one day to three weeks previous. The ward was absolutely filthy. Only the regular army ration is furnished for the sick, with oatmeal and some canned soup added, the latter of which is condemned by surgeons as unfit to eat. Milk and other articles necessary for fever patients is not furnished, and one of the surgeons stated emphatically that men would not have only died from want of food, but for water, had it not been for the assistance of the Red Cross and National Relief Societies who furnished ice. . . . There is many a grave at Chickamauga that if properly marked would have the inscription, ‘Died of neglect at the hands of somebody at the war department.’” *Arkansas Gazette*, August 14, 1898, p. 2.



Unidentified officer of the Second Arkansas. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

our sick are removed to the Division Hospital, taken from our Regimental Hospital and placed in the wards at the Division. They may not know—possibly they do not—of the many difficulties in the way of providing for the comfort of a patient under such an arrangement, the slowness of every movement by reason of the larger number of patients. It is also difficult to get the necessary nourishment and comforts for the men, as in the great rush of affairs many things, supposedly of minor importance, were originally overlooked. Naturally it has taken a long time to get all sorts of necessaries moving into the hands of the surgeons. The situation is improving steadily, but I have no hesitation in saying that this improvement is largely due to the officers of our regiment, who have contributed to a fund to be used for our own sick. With this money we have procured some bed linen, night shirts, pil-

lows, cots, and soups and other light but nourishing foods. Still, we have not enough to supply the demand and furnish a change of linen.

Our greatest need is a sufficient supply of pillow slips, sheets (cot size), night robes, and towels. Such things can be made by the ladies of your society.⁸¹ The suggestion of your friend from Hope, whose letter I return enclosed, is a good one, because it is possible for me to disburse the money contributions to better advantage at Chattanooga, and in such amounts and for such special articles as are needed.

Our men are improving every day. We have a few who are very sick, and we are doing all we can to make them comfortable. Dr. Minor has been detailed to the Division Hospital, and I am glad of it.⁸² He is an able physician and will give his patients close attention. I do not know the nature of the letter you have evidently sent to the ladies in various parts of the state, but let me say that it was impossible for you to have exaggerated the conditions. These conditions will be greatly improved through the interest and help of the good women of Arkansas and we will ever be grateful to them for their efforts in behalf of their sick. I have prayed that some one would come to us who would go home filled with a

⁸¹Pillow put a notice in the July 26, 1898, issue of the *Helena Daily World* asking for the assistance of ladies in the community in creating a hospital relief association to aid soldiers of the First Arkansas. Seventeen women met the following day in Pillow's home, and she was subsequently elected president of the association. A similar effort was started in Little Rock to assist soldiers of the Second Arkansas. Other women's groups, such as the Colonial Dames, also rose to the occasion and provided aid to the soldiers. *Helena Weekly World*, July 27, 1898, p. 3; *Arkansas Gazette*, August 7, 1898, p. 2; *ibid.*, August 11, 1898, p. 8; *ibid.*, August 12, 1898, p. 5; *ibid.*, August 13, 1898, p. 2; *Arkansas Democrat*, August 3, 1898, p. 6.

⁸²James Cabell Minor was born to Dr. Charles W. Minor and Lucy Walker Minor on October 10, 1858, in Albemarle County, VA. He studied medicine at the University of Virginia, graduating in 1882. Minor then traveled to Louisville, KY, where he took a clinical course at the Hospital College of Medicine. Following its completion, Minor moved to Newport, AR, where he worked as a surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. While in Newport, he married Emma Smith on February 6, 1884. The couple relocated to Walnut Ridge in 1886. Their son Lancelot Cabell was born there that same year. Minor later moved to Hot Springs. He organized Co. A of the Third Arkansas Infantry of the State Guard in May 1897 while in Hot Springs. Minor was mustered into the First Arkansas on May 9, 1898. Following the war with Spain, he was appointed acting assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army on December 1, 1898. On July 10, 1899, he was appointed captain and assistant surgeon of the Twenty-Ninth Infantry, U.S. Volunteers, and subsequently sent to the Philippines. Following service in the Philippines, Minor returned to Hot Springs where he worked at the Army and Navy General Hospital. On November 27, 1904, he married Florence Gray in Hot Springs. Minor died on February 25, 1936. *Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas*, 17, 121; *Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 808-809; Paula Darlene Moore Family Tree, accessed February 24, 2022, Ancestry.com.

determination to enlist the sympathy and efforts of the mothers of our men, and I consider your visit Providential.

May God bless you and your co-laborers in this work you have undertaken for the physical good of others.

With all good wishes for you and your and heartfelt thanks for your efforts to improve our situation, I am

Faithfully yours,

William Cross, Chaplain

1st Ark. V.I.

Though the Arkansas boys continued their training in Georgia, the war was clearly winding down in Cuba. With an end in sight, some soldiers reflected on the experience. John R. Newman, the captain of Co. K and the editor of the *Harrison Times*, was one such citizen soldier. Born in St. Louis on October 19, 1859, the son of an English father and an Irish mother, he was known for his musical talent and graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Newman also served for many years as the director of the Harrison Silver Cornet Band. His father, Thomas, started the *Boone County Advocate* in 1870, the first newspaper in Boone County. The younger Newman became editor of the *Harrison Times* in 1878. He later served as the president of the Arkansas Press Association and on the executive committee of the National Press Association. In 1897, Newman organized Co. B of the Fourth Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas State Guard. Following the war with Spain, he returned to his job as editor of the *Times* and continued in that capacity until his death on February 22, 1919. He is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Harrison.⁸³

The following letter appeared in the August 5, 1898, issue of the *Arkansas Democrat*. It contains extracts from the weekly letter Newman sent to the *Harrison Times*. No date is given for the letter, but from its contents one can deduce it was written July 29 or 30.

Our company received 1,000 rounds of ammunition Wednesday, and by the last of next week we hope to load up and move out some six miles to the rifle range, where a week will be spent in target practice. We think we have a number of fine shots amongst us, and all hands are looking forward to the tour with pleasurable anticipations. A strict score will be kept of every shot fired, so

⁸³Sammy Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," *Boone County Historian* 11 (Summer 1988): 83; Fred W. Allsopp, *History of the Arkansas Press for a Hundred Years and More* (Little Rock: Parke-Harper Publishing Company, 1922), 76-78; "Captain John R. Newman," Find a Grave, accessed February 27, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/45575761/john-r-newman.

there will be no chance for fish stories about shooting after it is over. If we were at home this little trip would be looked upon as the event of the summer, but now that Uncle Sam is paying the bills it comes as a matter of course—just as everything in the army.

An instance of rapid promotion possible under the system of military succession was given us last week. By reason of absence of Col. [Virgil] Cook and two of our majors, our captain found himself commandant of the camp and acting colonel. Major [James T.] Johnson was at the same time acting brigade general. On account of the indisposition of Lieut. Maggard, Sergeant Murray commanded Company K in battalion drill with Sergeants Andrews and Pace as first and second lieutenants, and all of our company officers moved up a couple of pegs.⁸⁴ Everything seemed to

⁸⁴Perry C. Maggard was born January 10, 1864, in Missouri. He moved to Arkansas at a young age but later attended Johnson's Commercial College in St. Louis. He was living in Bellefonte when he married Allie Maxine Gilmore in 1887. The couple had five children. Maggard was elected justice of the peace of Harrison Township in 1892. He was later appointed clerk for the U.S. Land Office in Harrison. Following the war, he returned to his position at the land office. Maggard died on February 20, 1929. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 116; Arkansas County Marriages, 1838-1957, accessed March 6, 2022, Ancestry.com; "Perry Clinton Maggard Sr.," Find a Grave, accessed March 6, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/54650554/perry-clinton-maggard. Born on March 25, 1869, in Kansas City, MO, Robert S. Murray was raised in Vernon Co., MO. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1895 and served for three years in the Third Regiment of Heavy Artillery. Prior to his enlistment, he worked as an abstractor of land titles. Given Murray's prior military experience, he was appointed first sergeant on May 16, 1898. He later transferred to the regimental staff. Murray contracted typhoid fever while at Chickamauga and spent six weeks in the hospital. He was appointed sergeant major on January 21, 1899. He returned to Harrison after the war and worked for a time as a real estate agent. Murray later moved to Klamath Falls, OR. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Forces during World War I. Murray died at the VA Hospital in Roseburg, OR, on June 2, 1939. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 114-115; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Klamath Co., OR; U.S. Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, accessed March 6, 2022, Ancestry.com; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 107; Oregon State Deaths, 1864-1968, accessed March 6, 2022, Ancestry.com; "Robert Swan Murray," Find a Grave, accessed March 6, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/59799615/robert-swain-murray. Enoch Perry Andrews was born May 1, 1874, in Falls City, NE. When the war with Spain broke out, he was living in Harrison and working as a stenographer. He later moved to Little Rock where he was a railroad postal clerk. Andrews died on June 26, 1936. Manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Pulaski Co., AR; "Enoch Perry Andrews," Find a Grave, accessed March 6, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/58120961/enoch-perry-andrews. Henry Pace was born October 15, 1873, in Harrison. His father, William F. Pace, was an attorney. The younger Pace was nominated for an appointment for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point but was turned down on account of his small stature. He then attended Arkansas Industrial University at Fayetteville for three years. Pace went on to study medicine under Dr. J. J. Johnson in Harrison before going out to practice on his own in Eureka Springs. He married Blanche Margaret Pyle in 1917. Pace died on March 13, 1938.



John R. Newman. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

move quite as smoothly as usual, and we were all curbed in our egotism by noticing how easily and how well our places were filled along down the line.

The new corporals provided for under the enlarged organization were appointed this week as follows. Privates Estes, Newton,

Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 107; manuscript census returns, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, population schedules, Carroll Co., AR; "Dr. Henry Pace," Find a Grave, accessed March 6, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/183353129/henry-pace.

Penn, Weaver, Murphy, Quarles, and Robt. Johnson, lance corporal.⁸⁵ Company K is now up to the standard in every particular, and feels able to hold its own with the best of them.

⁸⁵John Thomas Estes was born March 10, 1873, in Marion County, AR, the son of Nathaniel and Lydia Caroline Cantrell Estes. Growing up in Yellville, Estes was for a time a partner with Hutchison & Thompson, millers and wood workmen. He was known to be a good mechanic. He mustered into the company on May 16, 1898. Following the war, he worked as a painter. Estes married Martha Talburt on February 22, 1900, in Yellville. He later moved to Texas and spent the remainder of his life there, working as a carpenter. Estes died on July 2, 1947, at the VA Hospital in McKinney, TX. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 112; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 105; Arkansas County Marriages, 1838-1957, accessed March 13, 2022, Ancestry.com; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Marion Co., AR; "John Thomas Estes," Find a Grave, accessed March 13, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/48715535/john-thomas-estes. Jefferson Davis Newton was born January 26, 1866, in Arkansas to George Washington Newton, Sr., and Nancy Brown Newton. His father had served as a major in the Confederate army. Newton graduated from Eastman College in Poughkeepsie, NY. When the war with Spain broke out, he was the circuit clerk of Boone County. His wife, Martha Adeline Edmondson, took over the duties while he was away during the war. Newton served for a time as part of the regimental color guard. He received a disability discharge on October 17, 1898. Newton later moved to California. He died on February 19, 1952. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 115-116; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 106; Arkansas County Marriages, 1838-1957, accessed March 13, 2022, Ancestry.com; "Jefferson Davis Newton," Find a Grave, March 13, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/3738950/jefferson-davis-newton. John W. Penn was born October 8, 1864, in Johnson Co., AR. Not long after his birth, he moved to Boone County. Penn was living in Harrison when he married Sidney Harris in 1892. After returning from the war, he worked as a carpenter. Penn later moved to Okmulgee, OK, where he managed a pool hall. In 1930, he was working as an elevator man in Tulsa. Penn died on November 16, 1939. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 84; Arkansas County Marriages, 1838-1957, accessed March 13, 2022, Ancestry.com; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Okmulgee Co., OK; manuscript census returns, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, population schedules, Tulsa Co., OK; "John W. Penn," Find a Grave, accessed March 13, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/19304838/john-w-penn. Joseph B. Weaver was born March 25, 1872, in Boone Co., AR. He owned a livery stable, which burned down in 1896, in Harrison. He was also one of the best baseball players in Northwest Arkansas. After the war, he married Maude Lovena Poynor. According to the 1920 census, he was living in Tahlequah, OK, and working as a court clerk. He later opened a grocery store in Hominy, OK. Weaver died on February 27, 1933. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 85; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, population schedules, Cherokee Co., OK; manuscript census returns, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, population schedules, Osage Co., OK; "Joseph B. Weaver," Find a Grave, accessed March 17, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/75819084/joseph-b-weaver. Oliver O. Murphy was born March 7, 1876, in Newton Co., AR. Prior to enlisting at Berryville, he had been a teacher. Following the war, Murphy worked on his father's farm in Carroll County. On March 6, 1905, he married Alice Brammer. By 1910, Murphy was working his own farm in Carroll County. He later moved to Ottawa County, OK, and returned to teaching. Murphy died on April 26, 1956, at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville, AR. Rose, "Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War," 110; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 105; Arkansas County Marriages, 1838-1957, accessed March 7, 2022, Ancestry.com; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Carroll Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Carroll Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Fourteenth Census

Being in the 3rd army corps ours prospects for getting away from this camp are still quite gloomy as indicated in my letter of two weeks ago. It begins to look as if the job they are saving for us will never need to be done. If the people of Havana are not starved into terms and the people of Spain worried into suing for peace before October 1 next it will prove that they are very remarkable “stayers,” even though they have lost their effectiveness as fighters. In the meantime many unexpected benefits will have come to us out of the contest. The freedom of Cuba itself would have amply repaid us for all the sacrifices—but with it we had coming to us a lifting of the national mind above the narrow selfishness which has been the moving spirit for many years in political as well as business channels throughout our country. Our people are finding that the really great men of our nation are in the navy and army instead of in the plotting corporations and greedy trusts; that the Goulds and Vanderbilts are contemptible creatures when measured by the side of the Deweys, the Shafters and the Hobsons.⁸⁶ Amongst the nations of the world which have heretofore regarded us as sordid money-grabbing “pigs,” we have arisen in respect until the greatest naval power of earth is willing to ally itself with us

of the United States, 1920, population schedules, Ottawa Co., OK; Arkansas State Board of Health Certificate of Death, accessed March 7, 2022, Ancestry.com; “Oliver O. Murphy,” Find a Grave, accessed March 26, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/160417985/oliver-murphy. Edward S. Quarles was born June 26, 1855, in Arkansas. After growing up in Fayetteville, he took part in the Oklahoma Land Rush in 1889, settling in Guthrie with his wife, Allie. Quarles mustered into service on June 21, 1898, when the regiment was in Georgia. Following the war, he returned to Oklahoma and operated a boarding house in Oklahoma City. Quarles died May 26, 1937, in Oklahoma City. Manuscript census returns, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, population schedules, Washington Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, population schedules, Oklahoma Co., OK; First Territorial Census of Oklahoma, 1890, Logan Co., OK; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 106; “Edward S. Quarles,” Find a Grave, accessed March 29, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/103193851/edward-s-quarles. Robert E. Johnson was born on August 2, 1876, in Wilkesboro, NC, the son of Adam S. and Emily Wiles Johnson. Prior to the war, he worked for a time as a clerk at the post office in Harrison. Following the war, he returned to Harrison where he was a teacher. Johnson later worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. He died on November 7, 1942, in Greene Co., MO. Rose, “Bugler, William J. Moore, Spanish-American War,” 114; manuscript census returns, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, population schedules, Boone Co., AR; manuscript census returns, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, population schedules, Greene Co., MO; manuscript census returns, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, population schedules, Greene Co., MO; Missouri State Board of Health Certificate of Death, accessed March 7, 2022, Ancestry.com; “Robert E. Johnson,” Find a Grave, accessed March 7, 2022, www.findagrave.com/memorial/845916/robert-e-johnson.

⁸⁶Newman is referring to Maj. Gen. William Rufus Shafter, commander of the Fifth Army Corps, and Richmond P. Hobson, a hero of the naval battle of Santiago and, later, an Alabama congressman dubbed “the Father of American Prohibition.” Lisa McGirr, *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (New York: Norton, 2016), 4-5.

against all the rest if necessary. It is certainly worth much to find a friend in our old-time enemy, England. But greatest and best of all has been the accomplishment of national unity never before enjoyed by ours or any other nation. The Tory spirit split us in 1776, it gave way later to sectionalisms which made north and south reluctant allies, both in 1812 and 1845, and open, desperate enemies in 1861. Now all this is gone, and standing shoulder to shoulder in the cause of right and humanity, we for the first time find ourselves brothers in the broadest sense, all completely loyal citizens of a common country, and ready to think as well as fight in union.

John R. Newman

Approximately two weeks after this letter was written, the war ended. While a number of Arkansans saw action as part of the regular Army, Navy, or Rough Riders, the two volunteer state regiments never got that opportunity. Indeed, they never left the United States. With the war over, most were eager to return home. When they learned that they might be forced to stay in service and do garrison duty, anger erupted throughout the regiments. The discontent was so great that Lt. Will Garland, son of former governor, senator, and United States attorney general Augustus Garland, circulated a petition at the behest of his men asking that the citizen soldiers be allowed to go home. He was soon arrested on charges of sedition. He was quickly released, but his arrest created a firestorm amongst the rank and file who felt like their concerns were not being addressed. Ultimately, the First Arkansas was released from service and mustered out on October 25, 1898. The Second Arkansas was not so lucky. It was sent to Camp Shipp in Anniston, Alabama. The regiment did duty there until mustering out on February 25, 1899. In the end, a total of fifty Arkansans from the two regiments died during their service. All but one of these deaths were the result of disease.⁸⁷

While John Newman, editor of the *Harrison Times*, spoke in glowing terms about the brotherhood that had been created between the North and South during the war, he unsurprisingly looked at it through only a narrow lens. Despite their efforts to assist their country during a time of war, African Americans were not part of this new brotherhood. As in the case of other of America's wars, black men hoped that by showing loyalty to the country they could improve their lot in society. Sadly, those hopes did not bear fruit. It would take another fifty years before black and white Americans were allowed to serve side-by-side in the American military.

⁸⁷*Arkansas Gazette*, August 23, 1898, p. 2; Wolfe, "Arkansas and the Spanish-American War," 36-39; *Report of the Adjutant General*, 119, 126.

In addition to a renewed sense of unity, at least between white Americans, the war also made the United States a global power, and an imperialist one at that. As part of the peace treaty, the United States took control of the former Spanish possessions of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. Though formally independent, Cuba became a protectorate. The United States continued exercising control over the island nation for decades. In the Philippines, many viewed the Americans as just another set of colonial rulers. Revolutionary ideas were still widespread in the archipelago, and American leaders soon found themselves embroiled in another conflict, this time against a local population seeking self-determination.