

FIRST NEBRASKA REGIMENT OFFICIAL HISTORY

Record Made in Philippines as Outlined in War Department Reports.

IN HEAT OF ACTION FROM START TO FINISH

Glorious Deeds Performed by the Brave Soldiers of Antelope State.

ADDITIONAL LUSTER SHED ON AMERICAN ARMS

Archives at Washington Unlocked to Show What the Nebraska Boys Have Done to Sustain the Honor of the Flag in the Far East—Record of Which They May Well Be Proud.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 29.—(Special to the Bee.)—The interest of the people of Nebraska will be greatly heightened when the true story of the First Nebraska's performance in Luzon comes to be known, especially from the official records of the War Department.

First Nebraska, U. S. Volunteer Infantry, Office of Commanding Officer, February 6, 1899.

To the Adj. Gen., 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, (Through Military Channels.)

Sir: I have the honor to report as follows respecting the action of the night of Feb. 4 and morning of Feb. 5, 1899. At about half past eight p. m. the guard in the village of Santol, about 200 yards southwest of Blockhouse No. 7, challenged four armed Filipinos and ordered them to halt.

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men without force. I want to send your report to the Adj. Gen., 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, (Through Military Channels.)

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTENBURG, Col. 1st Neb., U. S. Vol. Inf.

Camp Santa Mesa, Febr. 6th, 1899. Lieut. Storch, Officer of Outpost:

Replying to note just received—Your orders are to hold the village. If any armed men come into our lines order them out. If they persist in coming, summon enough men to arrest them. In case an advance in force is made fall back to pipe line outpost and re-occupy of village by all means in your power, calling on the headquarters for assistance. I have sent Sergt. Bear over to arrange for a system of signals.

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTENBURG, Col. 1st Neb., U. S. Vol. Inf.

Water Works Depot, Febr. 10th, 1899. To the Adj. Gen., 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, (Through Military Channels.)

Sir: I have the honor to make the following report of what occurred at Nebraska Outpost No. 2 on the evening of Feb. 4th, 1899.

On Saturday evening, Febr. 4th, 1899, at 7 o'clock I took charge of Outpost No. 2 and ordered each of the roads leading to the depot down the road which passes it, is the town of Santol. Here we had a Cosack post of eight men stationed at this junction of three roads.

Another leading from Outpost No. 2, another leading to Blockhouse No. 7, the third to Blockhouse No. 8. At 7:20 I instructed all the men of this post in their orders, a copy of which is hereto attached. They were to allow no armed insurgents to enter the town or the vicinity. They were to halt all armed persons who attempted to pass in the direction of the insurgents' lines, which lay between Blockhouses 6 and 7 and the San Juan bridge, and order them back to their lines. If they refused to do so, to arrest them if possible, or if this was impossible, to fire upon them. I also ordered them to patrol each of the roads leading to Blockhouses 6 and 7 for 100 yards, every half hour. Shortly before eight o'clock a patrol of three men advanced from Santol town side of the road and waited to see if there were any insurgents in the vicinity.

At 4:45 o'clock p. m., Febr. 6th, 1899. To the Adj. Gen., 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, (Through Military Channels.)

Sir: I have the honor to report as follows respecting the action of the night of Feb. 4 and morning of Feb. 5, 1899.

At about half past eight p. m. the guard in the village of Santol, about 200 yards southwest of Blockhouse No. 7, challenged four armed Filipinos and ordered them to halt. Instead of doing so the Philippine patrol cocked their pieces. The sentinel challenged again and then as the natives did not halt but continued the advance, he fired. This was immediately replied to from Blockhouse No. 7, and in about fifteen minutes fire was opened on our camp. By this time we occupied the line of battle as previously arranged. Twelve companies were placed on a knoll east of camp to prevent crossing the river. Though a gallant fight was made here, it was impossible to prevent the crossing on the advance of the Philippines, who were secured in village west of the San Juan. Seeing that the camp was surrounded, I moved Company "L," Capt. Taylor, and "M," Capt. Wilson, back from the pipe line to the south of camp. Afterwards I sent for Company "B" under Lt. Narasack and asked for reinforcements, our lines were held in position until the morning of Feb. 5, when great gallant work, penetrating the village and driving the men out of the convent. The Utah artillery, Lieut. Webb's platoon, were stationed at McLeod's house and went into action in the morning of Feb. 5, doing great execution, silencing the guns and driving back the enemy from the bridge, the powder magazine, Blockhouse and the convent. The work of this platoon and the one under Lieut. Gibbs, with the Nordenfeldt guns at the bridge was very fine.

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