

FROM THE PHILLINES.

An Interesting Account of Life in Manila Sent to the Chancellor.

PHIL RUSSELL WRITES.

Camp Dewey, near Manila, Aug. 5, 1898.—My Dear Chancellor: I received a telegram from you shortly before leaving for Manila, which I assure you was very much appreciated, but at that time to my duties as a lieutenant of the line were added a number of others that kept me very much occupied before sailing. During the voyage I had the pleasure of being signal officer, which relieved me of some more disagreeable duties. The trip was unnecessarily hard on both officers and men, picked up as they were, like cattle and land even in the enemy's country was a welcome sight after thirty-two days on the water. The sight that struck us with most force in Manila bay were the hulks of the Spanish war vessels, marks of Dewey's great victory of May 1st. With such men directing affairs it is no wonder that American arms are unsurpassed in the world. We are encamped within two miles of the Spanish lines in a clearing between two bamboo and mahogany forests, a beautiful spot and healthier I believe than our San Francisco camp. Of course our men are without any comforts, having with them only what they can carry on their backs, but hardy and husky, and cheerful as only American soldiers can be.

Our days of tin soldiering are over and we number our dead and our hospitals hold our wounded but it is a cause no American need fear to die in, though it is far from home. Those of the First Nebraska who are fortunate enough to return home will have as their portion a reverence and love for the stars and stripes that only a soldier who has followed the flag to victory can feel. Day before yesterday our regiment was sent to occupy entrenchments at the front. All day it rained and the men worked in the mud without a murmur. About ten that night we were suddenly and strongly attacked but they found us ready and even the terrible scream of shrapnel and the noise of bursting shells could not unnerve the men. They took it as coolly as if the bullets were rain drops and sent back better than they received. The men cracked jokes, stopped long enough occasionally to light a pipe and cool their guns and went at it again. Through the engagement lasted over an hour not a man flinched and you might all well be proud of the first Nebraska, should they return home right now, instead of being on their toes to go at it again. The best accounts give the Spanish loss at 400 killed and wounded, while in the whole engagement we only lost one man and the wounded say Spanish bullets only tickle. D company, though they sustained the main part of the attack, came off unharmed. Our officers' uniforms are very conspicuous and the officers all don a private's uniform when starting for the front. I borrowed our company cook's trousers and they now have a hole through one knee, that's all I can show for it. This sort of thing has all the interest of a football game but we miss the girls. It's a fault that can't be remedied here for the natives are worse than monkeys. I see by the last papers of June 24, many conflicting rumors of the situation here, it may be of interest to you to have the truth of it.

After Dewey's victory of May 1st, Captain General Augusti was ready to surrender, but admiral Dewey, with no infantry to support him, could not accept such a surrender for he had no means of protecting Manila. He at that time promised the insurgents, who have proclaimed a republic with General Aguinaldo as president, an American protectorate if they would hold the Spaniards within the walls of Manila. This they have done simply because the Spaniards have no desire to come out. The insurgents come and go as they please, fight when the individual happens to feel bloodthirsty and stop when hungry.

Major General Merritt comes with an order to set up a provisional government. Dewey's promise to the insurgents cannot be kept, for if they are admitted into Manila, the city will be looted and every Spaniard's throat cut, on the other hand if we refuse them admittance we have 25,000 armed insurgents to fight, with a chance for foreign interference. The Monterey has come in and it is expected that her guns can silence the Spanish batteries when we must do the rest. It is the opinion of many that before Spain will undergo a bombardment, the army will surrender, even then we have the insurgents to settle with. There is no question that Spaniards have nerve. It is false to call them cowards. Many of their vessels went down with colors flying and every man at his gun and no coward will attempt to take fortifications under such a fire as we gave them the other night. We are all ready for whatever turns up, only we want it quick, the delays are the hardest to put up with. Though we are several thousand miles away and under peculiar circumstances, we follow events in

America as closely as possible. I have an especially warm place in my heart for the University and shall welcome the day when I may put foot on the campus once more. Remember me most warmly to any friends I have there. Give my sincere regards to your wife and Miss Smith. By the time this letter has made its journey the University will be in the eve of another year. I had hoped and expected to put that year and some to follow in college work, but fate has ruled otherwise and under the circumstances no inducement could be strong enough to make me regret my choice, though America and civilization will be a thousand times welcome I want to thank you most sincerely for your remembrance in San Francisco.

It was a great disappointment to me that I could not take part in commencement week but in turn a great pleasure to feel not entirely forgotten by those that have had so much to do with the last few years of pleasure and profit. Believe me most sincerely and respectfully yours,

PHIL W. RUSSELL,
Second Lieutenant, Company D, First Nebraska United States Volunteers,
Camp Dewey, near Manila, Philippine Islands.

DEPARTMENT NOTICE.

All juniors and seniors wishing to take English according to old schedule, one hour a week, meet in room 308, U. St 1210 Tuesday, Sept. 27.

W. R. Hearst is back and will take part in the Sophomore-Freshmen contest. He is already in training, as he was captain of the York hose team, which won the state championship at the firemen's tournament here at the Exposition in August.

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