



ONE WAY TO KEEP COOL. Snapshot for The Bee by Bostwick.

Three Recent Incidents In History of Baler

(Continued from Page Seven.)

officer shouted in Spanish for them to surrender or every one would be murdered. Seven had been killed or wounded. The living were lined up and stripped of arms and everything but a few clothes. With hands tied behind their backs, except the lieutenant, they were compelled to leave their dead unburied and march to the insurgent commander's headquarters, a mile away.

Long Tramp to Aguilardo.

Since the recapture eight months later at the Abulug river, in northern Luzon, the lieutenant has made public many things. In the march to the commandant's headquarters the Baler church was seen and they were glad to know that the Spanish ensign still floated over it. The next day they were started on the painful march over winding trails and the stones and boulders of river beds, through gorges and heavy forests, toward the insurgent capital, San Isidro. Regarding that march Lieutenant Gilmore writes: "Our feet were cut by the sharp stones of the path, and of the difficulty in the rocky river bed, with the great boulders to clamber over, the banks to crawl up and down, the waters to wade," and also of "a trail through the primeval forest—a mere path trodden in the thick undergrowth, beneath the branches of mighty trees," and sums it all up as "a journey so long and at times so hopeless that we often despaired of ever reaching the end of it."

The first town reached across the trail was Puntabangan, and the insurgent commander of the town, Captain Maria, treated the prisoners with great consideration, taking the lieutenant to his own house to eat dinner. The people were very anxious to see the "Americans" and to learn if the "Yankees were pigs," as Spanish reports had circulated it. This curiosity continued until San Isidro was reached, where there were other American prisoners. Upon leaving the town because of American advances curiosity was again aroused and the people of all the towns continued to turn out and gaze at the passing prisoners until their recapture in the far north by Colonel Luther Hare of the Thirty-third Volunteer Infantry.

Enter General Funston.

In placing the foundation of Funston's star at Baler we are tracing the capture of Aguilardo back to the officer who attacked a body of insurgents that was carrying valuable papers from the headquarters of the hidden general to several commanders.

While these insurgents were making their way toward Puntabangan, where they were to go in as "amigos," they captured a Baler resident who was on the trail home. This captive managed to get away when the party was at rest in San Jose and hurried to Baler and informed Captain Detchmندی. The captain immediately ordered Lieutenant Parker Hitt and a detachment to investigate. Hurrying with caution the lieutenant attempted to capture the band, but they were watchful and opened fire when at long range near San Jose. With the command to fire the lieutenant's men opened up and

advanced. It was now a running fight. Filipino valor does not hold its ground. The hope of getting some of these men inspired the detachment and they fought as they seldom had a chance to do. Bullets sang the old tunes, "zip," "swish" and "ping," but not a khaki man was hit. Two "no sabe" (don't know) insurgents were captured, three were wounded and the rest hid away in the trees and foliage.

Upon the return of the fighting party Captain Detchmندی dispatched a native carrier over the mountains to First Lieutenant James D. Taylor, Twenty-fourth Infantry, at Puntabangan, with the news of a skirmish and advising a close watch for new men and to closely question any that might go in to surrender.

Taylor Knew His Business.

In a few days an ex-sergeant and four men reported at Lieutenant Taylor's headquarters and stated that they were tired of insurgent warfare and had deserted from Major Alambra's command. They wished to take the oath of allegiance and be allowed to visit their families, which they had not seen for many months. The lieutenant asked no questions to arouse their suspicion that he was expecting them, but administered the oath and upon the president's advice let them go home for the night. The next morning, February 9, a close question examination was made of each separately.

Lieutenant Taylor has studied Filipino life and knows how much truth there is in their tales and how a few threats will increase their veracity. These ex-insurgents were greatly surprised at the knowledge the lieutenant had of their movements and the late flight, and how many there were in the band. By tact and patience he brought in other men, caused the truth to break out, found important communication and letters that had been hidden and learned that it was from Palanan, the insurgent headquarters, that these men had come.

The questioning of Filipinos is a long process. The sergeant Ambrosio Sanz, was first questioned and regarding "papers and documents," he answered: "I had some when I left Palanan but while in San Jose we were fired on by soldiers from Baler and in the excitement I lost them all." When others were questioned they stated that Sanz had hidden the documents in the barrio of San Juan not far away. Lieutenant Taylor called Sanz in again, but he denied it positively and said that as he had lost them he did not know where they were. Sanz was confined and Lieutenant Taylor hastened with Pedro Decampo, one of the surrendered men, to San Juan and secured, after some search, a small bundle containing letters addressed to Major Alambra's wife and to the president of Puntabangan, Carranglan and Puncan.

It also contained a pass from "Campo Libertad" (Camp Liberty) dated January 11 and signed by Major Alambra for Sergeant Sanz and thirteen privates who had been instructed to obtain from the president's food supplies for the army of the

"Republica Filipina." If persuasion failed intimidation was to be resorted to (as was the custom.) Upon proceeding further with the questioning Sanz told several doubtful things, and especially regarding the time they left Palanan, which he stated was December 22, quite an improbability according to the pass. When the lieutenant ordered the sentry to take the man to jail, he became convinced of earnestness and begged for another chance to explain himself. He again began and admitted he had lied, but would now tell the whole truth, adding that he was afraid he would be found out and killed if he told all he knew and the hiding place of the "presidente de republica." He was assured by the lieutenant that he would be protected to the full extent of his power for any secrets he might disclose. Thereupon Sanz described the size and location of Palanan, the trails leading to it and the number of troops, stating clearly that the only way of approach would be by sea, as no attack was expected from that side, but all other points were well guarded and entrenched.

The next morning Decampo appeared at Lieutenant Taylor's quarters and stated that he thought he could induce some other insurgents to surrender if he had permission to try. Several hours later he entered town with three men, and one of these seemed to be a special messenger and had a small packet of letters, which was given to the lieutenant with these words: "I have been having a hard time and wish to wash my hands of the insurrecto stain." These letters were afterwards of great service. They were addressed to the following commanders, Baldomero Aguinaldo, Simeon Teason, Urbano Lacuna, Pablo Tecson and Teodorico Sandico. No town or province was written on the envelopes, but simply, "Wherever found," a most fitting address. Some of these would be found serving Uncle Sam, but the news had not reached the headquarters of the republic—the moving capital. The letters contained words of encouragement and commendation and to some new and higher ranks were given.

News Sent to Funston.

Late at night on February 10 Lieutenant Taylor sent all the letters and information to General Frederick Funston at San Isidro, thus making possible the conception and execution of the plans of that daring capture. The acknowledgment of Lieutenant Taylor's services was made in the following terms:

SAN ISIDRO, Feb. 13, 7.30 p. m.—Lieutenant James D. Taylor, Twenty-fourth Infantry, Puntabangan; General Funston desires to express his thanks and appreciation of your judgment and energy in getting the valuable letters and information from Aguilardo's messengers. Also please convey his appreciation to your presidente. By command Brigadier General Funston.

(Signed) E. V. SMITH, A. A. G., Fourth District.

When it is considered that Lieutenant Taylor conducted his part without a single false step and that his tact, skill and thorough reading of Filipino character enabled him to gain that positive knowledge which greater ones had failed to gather, he is to be commended in the highest terms. ROSCOE C. OZMAN.

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