

**Primary Source** 

## Letter from Andrew Wadsworth (Feb. 19, 1899):

In the field Feb 19<sup>th</sup> [18]99

Dear Sister,

I had a letter partly written to you over two weeks ago but we have had a merry time here that you have probably heard about, so I didn't get a chance to finish it things have somewhat quieted down so I will try and tell a little of our experiences in the last two weeks two weeks ago last night the war[?] began on our outpost was 2[?] when one of our men shot a lieutenant of the insurgents who persisted in annoying him by advancing on our part of the disputed ground that is between the outposts and everything seemed to be fixed for a grand hurrah as the echo of the shot had not ceased then it sounded like a huge corn popper all along our line the Regiment was out and the Cos on the way to their[?] different locations in about a quick time as could be done in the dark things continued to be interesting till about midnight when the firing ceased for a few hours several of the boys were wounded and several killed. And we all prayed for daylight so we could get it back at them about sunrise we opened up all along the line with rifles and a battery of Utah artillery. We pounded them for several hours and finally got them to moving back we had to cross a bridge to keep after them, which was done when things were pretty warm and then commenced a running fight of about a mile and a half uphill and down over the roughest country possible and well fortified at every turn but we didn't stay till we had advanced to the Deposito or water reservoir which was Sunday noon and then we tumbled down and rested we could see the natives still going back towards the hills. We rested[?] at the reservoir until Monday noon and then started after them again. Had only just started when their sharpshooters began to ping[?] away at them we skirmished and fought and shelled them for about 4 miles Monday afternoon and evening until they reached the pumping works which was the main objective of our point of attack. But say it was a hot time going over some of the ground and hills the boys had to walk over was heavily barricaded[?] and swarmed[?] with the indians but we didn't do a thing to them. The next day the burial party planted 84 of them there we lost a man killed and three wounded in our Co. and we feel that every man of ours that's lost is worth more than the whole damned island but what can we do about it. We don't know what we are fighting for hardly. The regiment is camped by companies[?] along its main road over which we fought and we had scrap most every day two officers and three men were wounded yesterday in a skirmish that lasted about an hour we change the order of living some as when we go to bed we put on all our clothes lay down and probably get woke up a dozen times during the night by shots or reports of attacks which don't come while writing this I can hear the 1st Californias busy about 3[?] miles to the south of us shooting and burning and lord only knows where it will end they expect more U.S. troops about march 1st and then they want to let us get at them[?] that's all we ask, but we have lots of fun

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among all the hard work there didn't a man of us hardly eat or sleep[?] from the holiday till the next Wednesday and you had ought to see the bewhiskered gang we are but they say the 1st [?] Neb. are all ok when they come to a seat[?] since we have been camped we have been living on all the good things the land affords [?] pork chicken sweet letus[?] radishs[sic] bananas and other goodies but they have shut down on foraging so we have to be careful how we loan[?] things the Colonel has an eagle eye but he is the only boy for us you can put that down as no lie several of the noncommissioned officers have been promoted by a commission for bravery which I am sure they deserve srgt Curtis of Co. E. had his hand badly shattered by a mauser is one of them I believe. A fellow took a picture of our camp[?] yesterday will try and find a few pictures to remember it by. The boys found a sack of peanuts when out[?] looking round[?] and we roasted them in our[or an?] Coffe[?][sic] roasts and they were so good but we feel so jolly when mail comes had one last week was better than a diner[sic] with pie got a book Paul Wagener[?] from a fellow's sister in Kansas. We expect our X-mas boxes on the [?] as the [?] candies the first of March the boys are getting all kinds of souvenirs with every way of Remington and mauser rifles, bayonets, and small trinkets of different kinds but its [?] trinkets is a fact them[?] around[?] the insurgents got a bit of reinforcements from the hills armed with bows and arrows and shields I was nosing around in the woods one day and found two of the shields which with he guts[?] me for halves[?] if I can get this home I aint as fat as I was by a good deal and my old nose shines with sunburn, but [?] otherwise am all o.k. will close for this time with lots of love to you and all the rest. excuse shortcomings in writing and spelling

Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Co. B. 1<sup>st</sup> neb vol thanks for the stamp

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Continued to the interesting till about midnight monday when the friend clased for a few hours serial of the boys was wounded and sweat tilled and are the pung Man all projed for doysly W- so we could get it lime for back of them about senies the ofened up all along this line with rifles wand a bulling of Hy Long What alithing we founded there for sweat and some home and sprolly got them to moving heret a Ching we had a tross a hielge a testing often them Jorty J. which was done when things were pretty warm mon & and him commenced a running fight of about a smile and a half up hell and down my feer wer A roughest country forsible and well with . fortified of every tun but we dident stop but wh reservois which was sinday moon and then know a to rig the hundred and rested mud could sel to notice with sold self point lack would be hills to man W has he resurvir uslift monday nom and th Just stated when their shorters began a sas Chang to ping away at them we skermished and for 6 fought-undishelled then for obuguloped production de library, university of Michilder and the library, university of Michilder and the library direction required in the publication, deposit of this. and of

yes monday afternoon and evering while they wached serval. the purpose which was the main objective Man Joint of attock. but say I was a hot W IL they boys had walk over was the viewely barried and d uf ing of Lal and swammed with the indiens but in dident do beret a Ching to Chern, the next day with buried tem Tarty Stantitude 84 of them there are lost a Enceron men killed and three wonded en un co and 108 by feel that every man of ours that book is I down burth me then the whole daried island rd well but what can we do about with we don't strf\_ know what min one fighting for motion hadly. er water the regiment is complet by Companio along of then see to main rough over which we fought one . hills In had serals most every day two offices and thus men were would jet tealing in-1 nom a Names that lasted about an abour we adonly Change the order of bring song as when we Legan For and hed we find fut on all our cliebtes lay dum and properties to the start of Sand 4 miles

during the night by states or reforts of altacks which don't come while wiling this q can have the 10- Coliporans bery about 3 miles to the south of us ishooting and. burning and Lord only know realer it will had They expect more in a troop whom much 1 st and then they went 4 bet us get at then that all we ask, but we have lots of bus among all the had work they dident a men of no headly led or sleet from the Soluday till as next wednesday and you Lord ought to see to bewhistered gang are and but my say the 1st religion all of Ishen they would be a seral sine we have hein camfed we have hein bring on allthe smoot things the land affords wast fact chiefen sued blis radish bannerais and aller goodus but they hand short down on an foraging so we have the Coreful how we boan then the Colonel has our eagle eye

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GOBIERNO PROVINCIAL but he is the only boy

DE for us you conty of Manila

MANILA Millingan

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I candie the first of march by toys an Setting all knds of suranies with may of Runington and mouser riples bayones and small herket of different knows herets hould is a fack them around the insugato for a bot of remotorements from the hills and with two and anono and shields 9 mas nosing award with the words are day and found two of thought shields which with he gut nut for helies. They year get their windome, I ains as falinas I was by a infood dear and my old nost shines with sunbition, but otherword am all o. R. will down for the times with lots any love a gouland all PHOTOCOPIED FROM ORIGINAL IN WILLIAM L.CO

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