

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

In the field
Feb 19th [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
2nd Lt. Co. B. 1st neb vol
thanks for the stamp

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GOBIERNO PROVINCIAL

DE
MANILA

Dear Sister

Num.

14th
 I'm in the field
 Feb 19th 99

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 out post no 2 when one
 of our men a 1st Lieutenant of the engineers
 who persisted in annoying him by advancing
 on our part of the disputed ground that is
 between the supports. and everything seemed to
 be fixed for a grand hurrah as the echo of
 the shot hadn't ceased then it sounded like
 a huge. Cannon I offer all along on line the
 Regiment was out ^{and the Cav} ~~and~~ on the way to their
 different locations in about a quick time
 as could be done in the dark times

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 and pounded them for several hours and finally got them moving back we had to cross a bridge to get after them which was done when things were pretty warm and then commenced a running fight of about a mile and a half up hill and down over the roughest country possible and well fortified at every turn but we didn't stop till we had advancement to the deposits 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
the firing
again
time for
the boys
and soon
a thing
Party of
men to
we feel
worth
but we
know
the reg
its mar
we have
and the
a star
change
so to
and so

ight
several
and we
set it
d up
lay of
sal
back
them
warm
of
I down
ed well
stop
in water
d then
I see
hills
noon
ad only
began
d and
4 miles

Monday afternoon and evening until they reached
the jumping woods which was the main objective
of our point of attack. but say it was a hot-
time going over some of the ground one hill
the boys had to muck over was heavily barricaded
and swarmed with the Indians but we didnt do
a thing to them. the next day the burial
party planted 84 of them there are 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 dont
know what we are fighting for hardly.
The regiment is camped by Campance along
the main road over which we fought and
we had scraps 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 woken up a dozen times

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during the night by shots or reports of
attacks which don't come while writing this
& can hear the 1st Californians 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 among all the hard work they didn't
a man of us hardly eat or sleep from the
Saturday till the next Wednesday and you
had ought to see the bewhiskered gang we
are but ~~they~~ say the 1st reb are all off
when they come to a scrap, since we have
been camped we have been living on
all the good things the land affords
roast pork chicken sweet potatoes radishes
bananas and other goodies but they
have shut down on our foraging so
we have to be careful how we loan
things the Colonel has an eagle eye

GOBIERNO PROVINCIAL

DE
MANILA

but he is the only boy
for as you can see that
down as no lie several of
the ^{Num.} non-commissioned officers have
been promoted to a commission for bravery
which I am sure they deserve say Carlos
of Co. E. had his hand badly shattered by
a mauler is one of them I believe.
a fellow took a factor of our conf-geo-
today will try and find a few pictures to
remember it by. the boys found a sack
of beans when we were looking round and
we roasted them in an coffee roaster
and they were so good but we feel
so jolly when mail comes had one
last week was better than a dinner
with Pis got a book Paul Wagner
from a fellow's sister in Kansas.
we expect our 4 mass boxes as the

I carried the first of march the boys are
getting all kinds of souvenirs with every
of Remington and mouser rifles bayonets and
small buckets of different kinds but the
trouble is to pack them around the camp
got a lot 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 be quite
new for relics. If I can get them home,
I aint as fat as I was by a good deal
and my old nose shines with sunbeam, but
otherwise am all O.K. will close for this
time with lots of love to you and all
the rest. Yours shortcomings in writing
and spelling

Andrew

2nd St Es. B. 1st Neb 601

Thanks for the stamp

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