

Primary Source

Letter from Andrew Wadsworth (Mar. 8, 1899):

Manila, P. I. In the field March 8th, 1899

Dear Aunt Jennie,

Your very welcome letter of Jan 20 came about a week ago so many transports are coming here now we have had a mail every week for the last month and nothing except orders to go home would please us better have forgotten whether I have written any of you folks since we commenced to chase niggers have no doubt read in the papers what we are doing have been out a few days over a month and its taking the fat off our ribs in good shape we have a scrap about 3 times a week can generally figure on one about every Sunday our last run was on Thursday we went out with 8 companies 4 of regulars and chased them for about 4 miles they split up in bands and kept about 800 to 1,000 yards in our lead and all we can do is to tire ourselves out chasing over the rice ridges[?] and started back to camp and were booking[?] along saying hard things about the niggers and all at once they came out of the trees and it sounded like poping[sic] Corn They had a skirmish line nearly a mile long we faced about and took position behind some bamboo and held them with two companies till the rest of them came back and then we hit them hard just as we advanced on them my Captain and a private were wounded and a private killed shot through the head but we smoked them out. I tell you got[or God?] about 40 guns and we figure two niggers to every gun and we have a little peace open[?] again for a few days as we have no 1st Lt. I am in command of the company and its a position

[text missing]

of the good things that have come along. We had a Christmas last week when our boxes came and say it was good to see the things that tumbled out of them everything from pins[?] to night dresses. I got candy jell preserves papers[?] Books needles and little things that helped[?] to fill up[?] and fruit cak[e] was common stuff but so good, and just think it has been one long summer ever since we left home. The weather is fine is[?] gentle quite warm in the middle of the day but there is most always a wind and the nights are two blankets cold and skeeters in regiments which with brown[?] Piercing drills. Was so glad to hear from you as all the little incidents about the old home are milk and honey to this lad. Read a letter from Aunt Myra[?] and Coz[?]] Ray telling about wills visit and how good he is to have around the place (\$2.00 Will) and of the visit to Hattie Havent heard from Nat for some time got 2 magazines of Jan & Dec from Navy[or Mary?]. Enjoyed Effies letter very much. Glad to hear from anybody that cares to write. Will close with love to you and all the rest of the tribe have someone kiss the little one for me.

Andrew 2nd Lt. Co. B. 1st neb vol

Source: http://teachinghistory.org/best-practices/examples-of-historical-thinking/25471

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