

## Letter from Andrew Wadsworth (Jul. 20, 1898):

On board Steam Ship Senator Cavite July 20<sup>th</sup> [18]98 Manila Bay Dear Sister,

Being too far away too[sic] walk over after tea, thought I would say a few thoughts I have in mind. When you come to think of it we are a long ways from home We arrived here Sunday morning after a pull[or fall?] of 39 days on the briny deep. We had the dandy time in Honolulu of them all after unloading in the forenoon we were turned loose and we pranced[?] around until dinner time and then we sat down to a banquet 4,000 strong and of all the good things that dinner took the plumbs[?] and all the boys say they are going back that way just to say smile[?] we only staid[sic] there one day then up and away westward for the balance of the journey. Nothing of importance happened for days and days except flying fish and wind we had two funerals after leaving Honolulu but not on our boat the weather was fine and the sea smooth all the way. The glorious 4<sup>th</sup> found us all at sea and telling[?] what we did the year before we had all the flags up and fellas as jolly as possible had a good dinner with pie and a short programme of talks and band music and we had firecrackers also, one of the boys went into a Chinese store in Honolulu and bought crackers and when he opened[?] up[?] for a bunch on board he had Fourth of July timber to burn. We passed a small island several days after that but no steamers at all we steamed south west to the lower coast of the Ladrone[sic] islands expecting to meet the Charleston[?], but no Charles was there then we headed northwest to the north[?] of Luzon and when we were three days out we saw smoke on the [?] and we all had rubber to use until we bore down on the boat and when the bonny [handdrawn picture of the U.S. flag] broke out well you had ought to have heard them yell because we did not know who might be doing business here. Then we steamed merrily along arriving Sunday July 17th and then the scene was changed they anchored us near Cavite which is about five miles from Manila and is the scene of Dewey's hammering, and you had ought to see the shape he left the place after the hell was over. You can see seven or eight wrecks of gun boats about ¼ of a mile from where we are anchored with only their funnels and nests sticking above water and everything just as fixed[?] it. When the first expedition arrived and went ashore at Cavite dead men and women were laying[sic] in the streets or where ever they fell the natives have no "thought for cleanness" or sanitary meanes and smallpox and leprosy victims run loose in the streets there is a large amount of shipping in the harbor the Germans have 9 battleships the English 7 or 8 and a lot of freighters and Colliers are anchored around us Last Monday a Japanese gunboat came in and when the dispatches[?] were read we heard them cheering away down the line and when it watched us we heard that Sampson had hit the Spaniards home and then we yelled again and the band played and all around was noisy and we of Course said Hurrah again. We are all alone tonight as the regiment Debarked this morning and tonight are camped about two miles from Manila in the field for action The insurgents and Spanish hammer away at each other

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## **Primary Source**

as they see fit Monday we could see the smoke of battle, I have to stay on the ship until our stores unloaded which may be a week or more have a gang of 36 men to hike around and keep busy I am feeling fine have gained ten pounds on the trip and hope to gather[?] a few more run around barefooted with a shirt and pair of pants and feel as sloppy[or stuffy?] as the next and the climate here is about the same as the south of Florida, it is cloudy most of the time and rains in squalls more or less every day it is very nice on the boat as we have a breeze all the time expect[?] it is warm enough ashore the soil is sandy and covered to quite an extent with timber and bamboo the natives are bright and intelligent as the average run of people they come out in canoes with oranges bananas eggs mangoes coconuts pineapples and other good things which are very nice as they ripen here different from being shipped they are betting we will be home to eat X-mas dinner but one can't tell about these things. Will soon finish this as we have been working today and lights are out at 8 and all the American ships are kept dark so the men of war can use their search lights in looking over the harbor and they look pretty close I tell you no small boats are allowed on the harbor at all of nights without the password and such is the glory of war. Give my love to all the folks and then some and when time permits will jot a few more but don't forget to write once in a while.

> Co. C. 1<sup>st</sup> neb. vol. Andrew Regimental[?] Philippine expedition Siege [?] [?] Manila

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bolunce of the foundy nothing of Cherrendis, anfortance haffered for days and days two fundad ifter leaving Honolov but On board Steam Stay Sendar Bovile July 20 !! 88 Mean Sister Mounila Buy Being to far owney too not on our boat the weather was fine and the way. The found us all obsea wolk over after tea thought I would say and letting what we did the your before We had all the flags up and fellas July as jossible had a good demier a few thoughts I have in mind. When you come to think of it we are her Sunday morning after anived here Sunday morning after being with fel and a short programme of Colles and bond music and We had fire Cockes olso, one of the deep. We had the dandy time in boys went onto a Chinese store in Handula of them all often Nonolw and bought Crockers and when Is ofened up for a lunch on board unbrading in the forenoon we were tund losse and we hanced burn, be fassed a small island several around until dinner time and then We sat clown to a hangust & coo days often that but no steamers ut strong and of all the good things all we steamed South west to the hour that dinner took to blumbs. and Coast of the Spadwone islands expecting a meet the Charleston but no all the boys say they or going back that wely Just to sony hohite Charles was there thin we healed We only staid the one day then with west of the with of Leagon and when we were This days out If and away westword for the

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