

Primary Source

Letter from Andrew Wadsworth (Oct. 14, 1898)

Manila P.I. Oct 14th 98

Dear Sister,

Your letter of aug 8th came the 28th of Sept. when the Regiment Recd[?] 12 sacks of mail recd[?] five letters and some papers, was sorry to hear of father's death but I had rather expected it as he was getting along in life and had had a shock which generally hurries a person's disability, am sorry I did not go and see him last fall while I was down, but the chance gone is gone forever. I should have written sooner but a new title and office keeps a fellow moving. We are sojering[or sofening?] now. All the troops are quartered in large roomy barracks that are well lighted and ventilated and have wide canvas cots to sleep on and a nice shower bath which is compulsory for every man to take. We moved in our present quarters about 2 weeks ago there is a large dining hall and we pulled out two fiddlers and had them touched[?] us up and the way three hundred men cavorted around was a sight but we have to give them such variety or they get logy, but they are busy most the time as eight to ten men are out on guard duty every day from each company. We start the day with first call at 5:35 am. Breakfast at 6, drill at 6:50, back at 8, guard mount at 8:30, first srgts[?] call at 11:30, mess at 12, on sick[?] call 3:30, dress parade 5:30, supper 5:45, tattoo 9:45 tap 10, so you see the day is well filled up, but all the boys take time to think of home. That seems to be the desire of all of them now as the excitement is over and the idea of staying here for a year or so longer is not relished by the majority of them. We have 174 men sick out of 963 and they are doing everything they can to reduce the number, all the drinking water has to be boiled and other sanitary measures taken to avoid sickness we have lost two from Co. C. and about 30 from the regiment. Our colonel left last week for the states on sick leave. Think he will resign as soon as he arrives in God's Country. I can hardly realize that the frost is on the pumpkin vine with you was out today for a while and the flowers and ferns and palms were so pretty, rained this forenoon and everything was so fresh and nice there are some of the prettiest yards and lawns I ever saw and its no trouble to take care of them as they just come along of themselves but I haven't seen a plant that looked like a letter from home only a rose geranium and a foliage plant, would like to see your fancy bed as it was last summer, pineapples will be along in December also mangoes, oranges, and coconuts and pineapples we have all the time. No strawberries or fall pippins or northern spies but beans we have to give away. I got some fresh radishes this noon and they were just the thing I told you. There are a few English people here and to see an English girl on the street brings all the boys to attention and rubber neck There were 6 or 8 nurses came about 2 weeks ago and they have done a lot towards curing the boys. Little attention they give them is appreciated so, may they do a world of good, there are no birds of any kind in the city except monkeys and mangy dogs, everything goes opposite people[?] wagons and horse cars[?] pass on

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the left hand side. They have a railroad that runs out about 100 miles, the cars look like toys and the brake man wants to slow down he jumps off and puts on the brake on the side of the car on the run, they are hauling the rice[?] crop now, the tobacco output is enormous and some of the finest buildings here and tobacco factories a good cigar only costs a cent, and a package of 20 cigarettes a cent and a half, most all the shops have raised the price of their goods since payday and they have had enormous trade the souvenirs the boys send home are a fright. I haven't taken the opportunity of collecting anything yet, I might send you a Chinaman to split the wood and draw water but I don't think you would appreciate the gift. I didn't ever like a negro but they are pretty good people after seeing the nabobs that live here. Near the sunset this letter is 'milo'[?] but it will let you know the old man is all o.k. and there you are. Give my love to all the cousins and enquiring friends and don't forget the pup. Wishing you a merry X-mas well close hoping some day to see you all, and tell war stories.

With love & kind regards, Andrew

P.S. find I am out of stamps and you will probably have to put up for it, am sorry.

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Cigarettes a cent and a half, most all

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REV. JAMES MAILLEY Chaplain 1st Neb. Vol. Inf. us Fixed Director required to repute of policy of the Co. Sast Chathas and Director required to repute of the Co. POST