
THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR & THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

An Insurrection in Cuba against the oppressive rule of Spanish colonial governors had been under way for three years. Many Americans were not only sympathetic to the downtrodden natives but seemed eager to use the revolt as a justification for annexation of the Island. To the American people, any pretext for driving the Spaniards off the island seemed fortuitous. The western frontier had just about disappeared and many citizens saw Cuba as a small, but eminently desirable piece of land.

On March 11, 1898, Captain S.W. Taylor was the commander of battery F of the 4th Artillery, which composed of thirty men with four 3.2 inch guns. Our unit departed Fort Riley, Kansas for Fort Monroe, Virginia and eventually arrived at port in Tampa, Florida on May 1, 1898. At the time of their arrival there were ten light artillery batteries in Tampa, and only three ships to transport them to Cuba. Four batteries were randomly selected and "F of the Fourth" was not chosen for the first trip. Finally on July 1, Battery F of the 4th Artillery sailed for Cuba aboard the transport Comanche.

Eleven days later they unloaded at Daiquiri, Cuba and were moved into position near Battery E, 1st Artillery. On July 22, 1898, our unit left the trenches and went into camp near the village of El Caney. For the brief period we were in the trenches, our unit earned credit for the Santiago Campaign and the right to display the SANTIAGO streamer. Battery F remained in camp after the city was captured, pestered with fevers and dysentery. On September 25, we departed Cuba, sailing for Fort Adams, Rhode Island.

At the beginning of the Spanish American War, the American consul in Singapore assured the Philippine leader Aguinaldo of independence if he became an active ally. While the Teller Amendment to the declaration of war promised Cuba its independence, Congress decided to retain the Philippines. On June 12, 1898, Aguinaldo proclaimed the Malolos Republic, but at the Treaty of Paris in December, which ended the war, the Filipinos were not represented. The United States purchased the Islands for \$20 million, and President William McKinley announced he would "civilize and Christianize" the Filipinos before recognizing their independence. The inevitable armed incident occurred on February 4, 1899. Aguinaldo offered an armistice, but it was refused, and the conflict known as the Philippine Insurrection began.

On April 30, 1899, following a cross-country rail movement, Captain S.W. Taylor, three lieutenants and 112 men sailed for the Philippines. They reached

Manila on May 23 and made camp on Malecon Drive. Two weeks later the guns and horses arrived on a different ship and the battery took position around Manila. In October, our unit was arrayed with the right platoon at Deposito, the center platoon at the pumping station, and the left platoon at La Loma Church in Manila. From there our unit accompanied General Henry Lawton on his expedition to San Isidro. On December 4, the battery began marching southward, arriving in Malolos on December 16 and engaging in a number of unrecorded skirmishes with insurgents. These actions were recognized by a streamer inscribed LUZON 1899.

From January 7 to March 15, 1899, a portion of our unit, led by Sergeant Considine and equipped with mountain guns, operated independently. His element went on an expedition in Cavite, where it was engaged at Santiago Hill and in numerous small skirmishes. This noncommissioned officer and his men earned the CAVITE streamer for the unit. The entire battery reunited and departed Manila Bay on July 2, 1900, arriving at Catabalogan on the island of Samar the following day. We remained on that island for a year, earning the streamers SAMAR 1900 and SAMAR 1901 for the skirmishes we fought.

In a reorganization of United States artillery units by the War Department, the battery became the 8th Battery, U.S. Field Artillery on February 13, 1901. On July 2, 1901 the battery sailed for the United States, with a two-day stop in Nagasaki, Japan.

At that time our unit was commanded by Captain Kenly and consisted of two Lieutenants and 135 men.

