

# Letters From Manila.

MANILA, Sept. 21.

My Dear Folks.—Still we await the orders to start home, but it seems as if they are as far away as ever. However, there are several boys who did belong to our regiment but now have their discharge and will reach home with this letter. These are the boys who have been sick and have had very little chance to get well unless they are sent back. Among these are Elliott and the major's brother, who failed to leave as intended on the last boat. They go on the Rio de Janeiro with many more who are sick. I suppose the reports tell you that every one is better, or well, but these are false, as the number that goes to the hospital increases every day. Day before yesterday we sent three men to the "cheerful place," making a total of 11 men from Co. I.

Sept. 29.—It has been several days since I started this letter, but as there was no way to send it there was no hurry, besides I could have written very little news, but the last two days have been very exciting.

Yesterday morning, after several days of "false alarm" the mail did commence to come in, with an assurance that a larger lot would be here before night. After a long wait it began to come all at once. We received two separate lots from Hong Kong and another by the Arizona, which arrived on the 27. She brought our regiment the largest mail yet received at one time, giving us 16 sacks. So everyone was feeling excellent. But the regiment taken as a whole is badly worked up over the article in the New York Sun, which makes us out as a pack of ruffians and a disgrace to the United States. Of course we have in our regiment a few terrors, but what organization of 1000 men would not be bothered this way? We do not claim to be a regiment of angels, but we do claim to be as orderly a set of men as any other regiment in the whole army. It is a fact that there were a few rows but they were forgotten by all, (excepting the jealous Sun reporter) as every one of them was only a drunken quarrel. From the day that we enlisted, to the present day, we have not had one serious fight or disturbance caused by our men. The very idea of us stealing and injuring the natives. Why! everything worth taking had long disappeared ere we had landed.

As soon as we left Cavite the troops that took our place commenced to raise disturbances and have trouble until it ended in the killing of one or two soldiers and several natives, besides calling all the companies to arms. This happened about three days after our departure. This one thing shows how we got along with the natives. But our work was noticed by Gen. Merritt, he sending the Oregon regiment a very complimentary message before he left. In it he said "while you have had no fighting to do you have, in guarding the supplies of the company, performed a most delicate and dangerous duty." Besides he complimented Gen. Anderson, who commanded, on having such a regiment as the Oregon regiment. Gen. Anderson himself says that with all his experience as a soldier, he never saw a more watchful and faithful lot of sentries than those commanded by Col. Summers. This I write, to prove to you what an outrageous lie has been circulated around the world by the Sun reporter, a man who was cowardly enough to accept the kind hospitality of Col. Summers, who treated him as a friend and not as a slanderer that he is. No reason can be attributed to him for writing such an article except that he was jealous of the Oregon regiment.

Col. Summers (so it is reported) will take this to headquarters and, unless something is done immediately, he will carry it to President McKinley. But this is certain, if that reporter should ever enter the grounds again he will have good foundation for thinking that this is a tough regiment, that is if he should ever live to tell the tale.

It has been so long since the last mail that it makes this a very interesting one. Of course all the letters have been read but it will take several days for us to read the papers.

Be sure and get some photographs of Lieutenant Moore, who is at home on a sick leave. I saw him take quite a number and know they must be good.

Lieutenant Huntley and Captain Pickens have been quite sick several weeks now, although both are doing much better. Captain Pickens has been around several days and we expect to see Lieutenant Huntley before long. Three men have returned from the hospital, while all but one or two of the rest are doing nicely. Corporal Veireck, Hansen, and Wire are in bad shape, while theirs are not dangerous cases it will be a long time before they will do duty again. Veireck is troubled with his eyes, while Wire is on his back with rheumatism; neither seem to grow better.

From now on the boys are likely to stay in the hospital as long as they can as Dr. Wood and Miss Killam arrived yesterday. About 11 o'clock this morning we were around the guard house and

were agreeably surprised to hear two genuine American female voices. On looking up we saw these two women in native cab, asking for the Oregon headquarters. As they entered the gate all stood at "attention," while a few vowed that they would soon be sick so as to be sent to the hospital. Both ladies appeared to be in fine health and were in excellent spirits. If the Emergency Corps could only know what good these two women will do they would be amply repaid for sending them.

For the last two weeks most of the boys have given up hope of going home as soon as expected, but nearly everyone is confident that we will have started within six months.

Now arrangements are about completed by a number of representatives of the Associated Press for a daily newspaper that will give the news when it is news. The officers of the army and navy have guaranteed \$1500 but I think this unnecessary as there are about 15,000 men here and more coming, so you see that this guarantee is a matter of form, as we are so anxious for news that it would pay.

October 1—Three months ago today we landed on these islands. How many more we are to stay no one knows, but it is thought that if we get off with as many more we will be quite lucky.

Again mail is expected although only a "poco" (little). That is the time when the camp goes wild with delight. As soon as the mail is sighted everyone lets out a yell that does not cease for some time. It is sad to see some of the fellows who did all in their power to make the din greater, after the distribution, when they found that none for them had come.

At inspection this morning Col. Summers told Sergeant Campbell that our quarters were very neat but we must be moved as the sewerage is so bad. We have hoped for this as several of our men's sickness was caused by this defect. All of the boys, sick and well, are doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

LEE HARDING.

MANILA, P. I., Oct. 3, '98.

Mrs. Jennie M. Sullivan, Treasurer Meade Corps Volunteer Auxiliary, of Oregon City, Or.

Dear Madam: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of post office money order for the sum of forty dollars, (\$40). Many thanks for the same. We did not need the money, as I have on hand nearly \$270, and besides we have something over \$60 in savings from our rations. We now get more food than we can eat so we sell the surplus and make a fund of it for future use.

This money or fund, which has been forwarded us by kind friends, is the cause of considerable annoyance to me. Some of the men think I ought to dish it up to them and let them spend it having a good time. I have my own notions as to how it should be handled "and thereby hangs a tale." Those kind of men think they are not getting what is their share. Yet all the fresh bread, fresh beef and vegetables they ate all the while we were in San Francisco, was bought with that money.

On the "Sydney," coming here, I had to pay over \$30 for meals for the sick. In the company I have organized a hospital corps. The members are Sergeant Stillmeyer, Privates Norris Gerrard, and Poindexter. This is for the men, who are not ill enough to go to the hospital, but who need particular attention as to food, etc. We have a large chest, (with a lock), and in it, we keep the good things such as beef tea in cans, soup, rice, eggs, crackers, anything, in fact, that we can find that is good for sick men. One of the four men goes on duty as nurse each day, as there is never a day with no sick. So you can see that there is a little stream of good things going into the chest and out again all the time. If I should let this money, which has been intrusted to me, be wasted, we would soon be without these necessities, and the Lord only knows when we will get out of this sun-baked, fever-burned blot, which mars our fair earth.

By the way, speaking of Rea Norris as one of the nurses; I want to particularly mention his name. He has the largest heart of anyone I know; always looking out to do something for a sick comrade, and he does it like a professional. Besides he is a thorough soldier, doing his duty, and when things come rough, he takes his medicine like the true soldier he is. Poindexter also deserves mention for care and kindness to the sick. With two or three exceptions, I am proud of all my boys. There are many, who will receive mention later.

Kindly tell all, who wish to, that they can, with perfect safety, send money to their friends by post office order, and if anyone wishes to send money to their relatives, they can do so direct in their name just as safely as if they were in San Francisco.

It is very unhealthy here, and we have twelve to twenty sick in the company nearly all the time. Six are now in Division hospital, mostly Albany, Or. men. All, however, are getting well fast and no one is dangerously ill now.

I think I have given you all the information possible as per your request. We are all delighted to know that so many at home think of us. All the boys unite in saying that there is no place like Oregon and no people like Oregon people.

I also want to mention the fact, that the story published in the New York Sun derogatory to this regiment is a base fabrication, without one word of truth, and is a little piece of spite work on the part of Mr. Davis the Sun correspondent.

His talk about the discipline in the navy and among the regulars is simply "rot." I think our regiment, very favorably compares with any in the 8th Army Corps.

Again thanking you all for your kindness, I remain,

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,  
L. L. PICKENS,  
Capt. Co. I, 2nd Oregon U. S. Vol.

CUARTEL DE ESPAÑA, MANILA, P. I.  
Headquarters Sec. Reg. Oregon U. S. V.  
September 29th, '98.

Special Order, No. 158:

Commanding officers of Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L and M, Second Regiment, Oregon U. S. Volunteers, will present to the commanding officer for inspection, on the 1st day of October, an account of all company funds, specifically setting forth all moneys received and disbursed since date of muster.

By order of Col. Summers,  
E. P. CROWNE,  
1st Lieut. and Adj., 2nd Reg. O. U. S. V.

MANILA, October 4.

My Dear Mother and Father.—Just received your letters of 17, 31, 4, 10, 25, and 31 of August, also two from Sis dated 8th and 20th. You have no idea how it cheers the boys to receive letters from home. When they see the mail wagon come through the gate they yell like a band of Indians, and make a dash for the postoffice.

Rodolph Gantenbein has been returned to duty and is feeling fine and the rest of the boys look like a \$40 bill (if you will excuse the expression.)

Mrs. McFarland, of Albany received a letter from here stating that her son, Edwin was dead; but to my notion he is the liveliest corpse that I ever saw, as he is now getting ready for dress parade, yesterday he was playing ball. It would be best for all mothers and fathers to wait for official news before they believe their sons either sick or dead, as it will save a great deal of worry.

We received an Oregonian that had an article in it copied from the New York Sun, furnished by the correspondent of said paper, who accompanied us on the trip and up to date has apparently been on most friendly terms, and to my certain knowledge has been treated with a great deal of hospitality by the very men whom he has been fit to so harshly and unjustly criticize. I am at a loss to understand why he wrote such an article, unless it was prompted through jealousy, for as the records and facts will show the Oregon regiment has been placed in the greatest positions of trust and responsibility of any regiment in this expedition, all of which, with but few exceptions, they have filled with honor and credit to the state and country they represent, and for which they were complimented personally, and by letter by Gen. Merritt, which I am willing to have weighed against all the slander written by a correspondent whose knowledge of military affairs is as limited as his sense of right and justice. I hardly think the record of the 2nd Oregon could have been as black as painted, or Gen. Merritt would not have selected our company from the regiment as his body guard and the first and second battalions to enter Manila under Dewey's guns, and receive the arms of the vanquished Spaniards, while the third battalion was left to guard Cavite navy yard from an expected attack of the insurgents.

I admit that we lack the qualifications of an experienced soldier, but as to discipline, I can truthfully say that we have always been willing, without exception, to obey orders to the letter, which is the most essential feature of a good soldier and the only complaint I ever heard made was that we were not allowed to leave our comfortable quarters and go in the muddy trenches and take our part in the fight, but were informed by Gen.

Anderson that before Manila was taken we would have all the fighting we wanted. As to the contemptible criticism of Col. Summers I wish to say that I am very sorry that a correspondent of a responsible paper would stoop so low as to malignantly slander so worthy a U. S. army officer. I believe in the freedom of the press but I also believe that the dignity of any U. S. official should be upheld by the punishment of any man who so wilfully vents his spite by misrepresentation. As to discipline, no free American would wish to be under any more rigid than that enforced by Col. Summers, and as I have been in close contact with regulars, both on board the ship and in garrison I have had an opportunity to judge what discipline in the regular army is, as has also former regulars who are now in this regiment who will bear me out in saying that he has enforced more strict discipline than any colonel where we have been stationed.

This renowned "pencil pusher" whose venom is only surpassed by his ignorance of what intelligent people would accept for the truth, makes the statement that the Oregon and California regiments looted the churches. Well! just answer this question and then you can form your own opinion as to the veracity of that statement. Do you think that a man would want to loot one of our churches if a lot of savages had been all through them and left nothing but the bare walls?

I will admit that some of the men did over-step the bounds of propriety and take a few small articles to send home as relics, but I do not think the whole regiment should be censured on account of a few.

I don't suppose you care to hear about the petty troubles of the regiment but I do not think that a misstatement should go uncorrected.

Give my love to all my friends and tell them I am feeling fine.

REA NORRIS.

### Slander Related.

Captain Pickens sends the following to the Enterprise:  
Headquarters, First Division, Eighth Army Corps, Cavite Arsenal, P. I., September 30, 1898.  
COLONEL O. SUMMERS, Commanding 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry, Manila, P. I.

SIR:—I have read with equal regret and surprise the article in the New York "Sun" reflecting on the Oregon and California regiments of my command. I well understand the indignation of yourself and associates, but my dear comrades have you not yet learned to make allowance for the exaggeration and sensational tendencies of reporters?

All soldiers, regulars and volunteers, have to pass through a period of discipline and instruction, and it is as unfair to comment on all the irregularities of a new regiment as it would be to publish all the escapades of schoolboys.

All the matters referred to by the Sun correspondent were investigated and disposed of, and nothing has been condoned or passed over. What I particularly admired in the California and Oregon regiments is that they have always taken their medicine like men and have never shown any spirit of insubordination or lack of loyalty.

This has inspired me with such confidence that I have on several occasions selected them for the performance of most important duties. Their services on these occasions have been such as to show that my confidence has not been misplaced.

I may mention that Captain Case, Lieutenants Bryan, Povey and Moore have been very helpful to me, and on the occasion mentioned, Captains Heath, Prescott and Wells, and Lieut. Telfer, and to these I should add Private Ray Green. These men had the opportunities, but I believe every officer and man would have done his best if called on.

As to the Oregon officers being a superlative set of politicians, I will say that as a rule politicians are earnest patriots and able men. They are the most faithful men to their promises I know. Caesar was a political general, so was Cromwell. It is the abuse and not the use of politics we should condemn.

Tell your Oregon men not to mind paper pillers. "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Very sincerely,  
THOMAS M. ANDERSON,  
Major-General, U. S. Volunteers.



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## O. R. & N.

DEPART FOR	TIME SCHEDULES FROM PORTLAND	ARRIVE FROM
Fast Mail 8 p. m.	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, and East.	Fast Mail 7:30 a. m.
Spokane Flyer 2:30 p. m.	Walla Walla, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East.	Spokane Flyer 10:55 a. m.
Dalles Local 8 a. m. Ex. Sunday 10 a. m.	Dalles, Bonneville, Mendenhall Falls, Cascade Locks, and Hood River.	Dalles Local 6:30 p. m. Ex. Sunday 7 p. m.
8 p. m.	Ocean Steamships All Sailing Dates subject to change.	4 p. m.
7 p. m.	To Alaska— Nov. 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28.	5 p. m.
8 p. m. Ex. Sunday 10:50 p. m.	Columbia River Steamers To Astoria and Way-Landings.	4 p. m. Ex. Sunday
6 a. m. Ex. Sunday	Willamette River Oregon City, Newberg, Salem and Way-Landings.	2:00 p. m. Mon, Wed. and Fri.
7 a. m. Tues, Thur and Sat.	Willamette and Yamhill Rivers Oregon City, Dayton, and Way-Landings.	4:30 p. m. Tues, Thur. and Sat.
6 a. m. Tues, Thur and Sat.	Willamette River Portland to Corvallis and Way-Landings.	4:30 p. m. Tues, Thur. and Sat.
Leave Riparia 1:45 a. m. Daily Ex. Saturday	Snake River Riparia to Lewiston	Leave Lewiston 5:45 a. m. Daily Ex. Friday

W. H. HURLBURT,  
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5:30 P. M. Ar Roseburg Lv	7:30 A. M. Ar

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7:30 P. M. Ar McMinnville Lv	5:50 A. M. Lv Corvallis Lv
8:30 P. M. Ar Independence Lv	4:30 A. M. Lv Corvallis Lv

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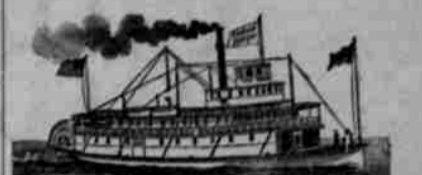
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Mail distributed from North 7:30 p. m., 10:15 p. m.  
Mail distributed from South 9:15 a. m., 5:40 p. m.

**BY EAST SIDE ELECTRIC LINE.**  
Mail closes for Portland and distributing points, 12 noon, and 4:45 p. m.  
Mail closes for Milwaukie only, 8:45 a. m. and 4:45 p. m.  
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General delivery window is open on Sunday from 10 to 11 a. m. All letters dropped into the box at the door is promptly sent off Sunday, as on other days.  
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