



# The National Son

*The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans*

***Volume 2025 No. 2***



In March 1942, United Spanish War Veterans, all former Macabebes and Philippine Scouts, organized an anti-Japanese Resistance group. This image of an unidentified Philippine World War II veteran is published in recognition of their sacrifices over 80 years ago.

## ***In this issue...***

- USWV Veterans in the Philippine Resistance in World War II***
- Major Henry Wessells: Veteran of Three Wars***
- Honoring President McKinley***

## From the National President ‘Tim’ Mabee

The year 2025 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the end of World War II. In this issue of *The National Son*, you will find two articles recognizing the World War II contributions of Spanish-American War veterans.

The lead article details a group of United Spanish War Veterans who organized to resist the Japanese occupation in the Philippines. The second deals with American wartime leaders who led the U.S. to victory in that conflict. You’ll be surprised by what you read!

Major Peter Belmonte has provided two more of his outstanding profiles on Spanish-American War veterans. You’ll read interesting articles about Italian-American Captain Paul B. Lino and Major Henry Wessells who served in three wars.

O’Neill Camp President Avery Frantz has a most interesting article on an a relative that went from being soldier to becoming an outlaw! Avery was also surprised with a special medal by his Camp colleagues for his work and this is also covered.

This issue also includes Camp news, coverage of Memorial Day activities and some profiles of historic war memorials. By the way, we have some positive news on work done by Avery Frantz in helping to save a Spanish-American war memorial in North Carolina. That will be covered in next quarter’s issue.

Annual dues are also ‘due’ by June 30<sup>th</sup>. **Members at Large** can forward **annual dues of \$15.00** to the Treasurer at the following address:

**Kenneth D. Roach  
44 Broadleaf Circle  
Windsor, CT 06095-1633**

**Members of Camps must pay dues through their Camp Treasurer.** Your dues support projects in remembrance of the Spanish American War and that perpetuate the memory of our veteran ancestors who fought and served their country

*-Tim*





**USWV GUERRILLA BIRTHPLACE** – This building or perhaps an apartment in the building at 371-3 A Mabini [Barangay 15 Poblacion] in Caloocan City, now in the Manila 1413 National Capital Region, was the birthplace of a guerilla movement organized and advised by “old men”, all veterans of the Philippine or Maccabe Scouts in service to the United States Army during the Philippine Insurrection (Google maps photo)

# United Spanish War Veterans in the Philippine Resistance in World War II

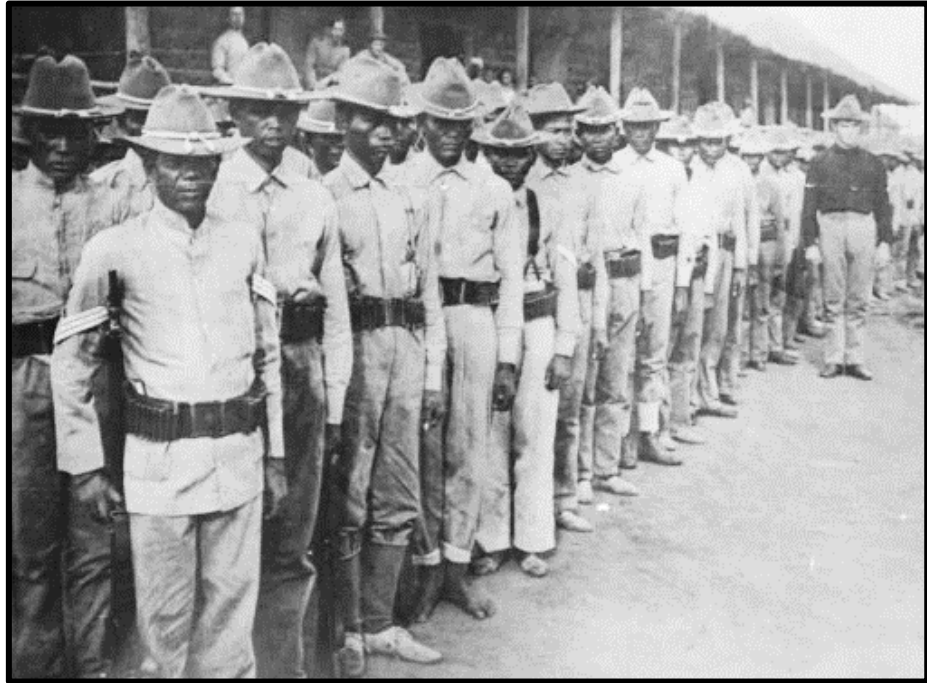
by Greg Eanes

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor followed quickly by attacks on Clark Air Base and other U.S. installations in the Philippine Commonwealth, then a U.S. territory. Japanese forces made their first landings at Luzon on December 10 and 12. They were reinforced by the Japanese 14<sup>th</sup> Area Army on December 22 when it landed at Lingayen Gulf. Another Japanese Division landed near Manila on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

General Douglas MacArthur, seeing he could not fend off all threats simultaneously, decided to pull back Philippine and American forces into the Bataan Peninsula for a more concentrated defense. Delaying actions were fought but on December 26, he declared Manila an ‘open city’ so that it would not be contested and destroyed.

### **Old Soldiers**

On March 20, 1942, in a Manila suburb called Caloocan City, a handful of old soldiers met quietly, at the Mabini Street home of Mr. Juan Cunanon, Commander the General Frederick Funston Camp No. 19, Department of the Veteran Army of the Philippines, United Spanish War Veterans (UWSV).



Also present was Mr. Magno de Luna,

Commander of Albert Easthagen Camp No. 21, USWV. With them were a few of their USWV members. They were **MACABEBE SCOUTS during the Insurrection**

all veterans of the

Macabebes and Philippine Scouts that served in the U.S. Army during the Philippine Insurrection. Though organized in 1899, the Scouts were not formalized until 1901. They knew how to survive and fight in the jungles. They proved invaluable in capturing Aguinaldo and ending the war. They continued to protect the civilian population from bandit gangs in the follow-on mopping up operations. And they played a role in the war with the Moros. More than 50 companies or just over 5,000 Scouts had been organized in support of Army operations during the Insurrection.

In 1942, they found a new mission: to organize “underground works against the enemy, the Japs.” According to period documentation, “All of the veterans known to them” and their USWV camp members “were invited to join into the propose[d] organization.” And with “the efforts of Commander Luna and Commander Cunanan, they were able to have a membership of 64-veterans.”<sup>1</sup>

These men organized themselves as the ‘Spanish-American & World War I Veterans’ because some were veterans from the First World War as well. The group officially became known in American records as the ‘Spanish-American War Veterans (Barker’s Unit #21)’. The organizers were all Filipinos. By World War II, these veterans were ‘old soldiers’ in their late 50s to early

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<sup>1</sup> Memo to the Veterans Administration, dated Manila, P.I., January 19, 1946, and signed by Magno de Luna and Juan Cunanan, commanders of their respective camps. Contained in the National Archives (NARA) Philippine Archives Collection, *Papers of the Philippine Guerilla Recognition Program*.

70s. They could not run as fast or shoot as straight perhaps, but they felt they could be of value as organizers, facilitators and technical advisors in how to fight a war. They organized to collect intelligence on the common enemy, provided operational advice and some even directed limited operations. Their network would eventually grow to over 1,000 people with soldiers as young as 14 years of age.

Within a few months, they had contacted U.S. authorized guerilla forces. They were attached to and worked for Captain Joseph Barker, II, a 27-year-old West Point graduate who had served with the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) for two and one-half years before Pearl Harbor. He had grown to know and love the Philippine people, learning the language and taking part in the social life of Manila. When Bataan surrendered on April 9, Barker escaped to continue the struggle. He joined up with Lt. Col. Claude A. Thorpe who had been ordered by MacArthur to organize resistance. Under Thorpe's direction, Captain Barker commanded the *East Central Luzon Guerilla Area (ECLGA)* which was the Manila area.

On November 19, 1942, their organization was formally "accepted and duly recognized as USAFFE<sup>2</sup> Luzon Guerilla Army Forces, East Central Luzon Area known as '*Barker Unit*', *Spanish-American and World War I Veterans*".

### Unit Recognition

In late 1945, the war over, the U.S. Army in the Western Pacific, G-3 Operations, Guerilla Affairs Unit conducted a series of investigations on individuals and organizations seeking recognition as part of the Philippine Resistance. Official recognition provided one with the ability to claim compensation and veteran benefits. Many of the guerilla units were made up of elements of various military organizations who had retained old unit designations. Once contact was established with MacArthur's forces in Australia, these units were incorporated under U.S. Army command and control. They were allocated Guerilla Areas or designated areas for operations. In addition to these groups, local civilians and organizations also took matters into their own hands to establish "independent or irregular guerilla units."<sup>3</sup> Of 1,172 groups evaluated by the U.S. Army, only 277 were given official status as part of the U.S.



**CAPTAIN JOSEPH BARKER –** Birmingham, Alabama native and West Point graduate Joseph Barker earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Legion of Merit for his wartime activities in the Philippines which were cut short when he was captured in 1943 by the Japanese Kempetai while disguised as a priest. He was bayoneted to death and his remains have never been recovered. He was 28 years old.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Army Forces Far East (USAFFE).

<sup>3</sup> NARA, Record Group 407, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, *Guerilla Unit Recognition Files, 1941-1948*. NARA Summary of Records. (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1257644>)

Army Forces Far East (USAFFE) . Their manning included over 260,000 resistance fighters. Post-war claims were made by 1,277,767 people claiming to have belonged to and supported the Philippine resistance.<sup>4</sup>

Among those groups *not* officially recognized were the Spanish-American War Veterans, primarily because they appear to have folded early in the war. They also failed to meet several of the requirements, specifically, a requirement that the unit and/or its members have documentation certifying their attachment to a U.S. Army unit, especially so during the liberation. Also, as guerillas, that unit had to have constant service in the field and have been under “adequate control” of recognized Army authorities. The “adequate control” provision was, according to Major Magno De Luna, “the main stumbling block that barred the recognition of an otherwise continuous guerilla service.”<sup>5</sup>

One of the challenges for the USWV group was that both Lt. Col. Thorpe and Captain Barker were killed during the Japanese



<sup>4</sup> ‘Larry Schmidt, *American Involvement in the Filipino Resistance Movement on Mindanao During the Japanese Occupation, 1942-45*. Master of Military Art and Science Thesis. U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (1982),p5.

<sup>5</sup> Letter, Corporal Magno De Luna, U.S. Army (Retired) and Jua Cunanan, for the Albert Easthagen Camp No. 21 and Gen. Frederick Funston Camp No. 18, Department of the Veteran Army of the Philippines, USWV to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan, dated April 29, 1948. This was a direct appeal to MacArthur petitioning for a final decision “with regards to the recognition of guerillas we organized in the field.” MacArthur’s staff replied that such decisions were, by order of the Secretary of the Army, made by the Commanding General, Philippine Ryukyus Command . As a result, MacArthur’s command “has consistently refrained from interfering” but could and did pass along the request.

occupation.<sup>6</sup> When that occurred, according to DeLuna, “the units organized under the were assimilated in the field by other American and Filipino guerilla commands, thus virtually losing ‘adequate control’ by Col. Thorpe’s and Capt. Barker’s delegates.” By assimilation, they lost their unit identity. Some of the USWV guerillas ended up as the Port Battalion, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry (ECLGA) in October 1942. On 11 March 1944 they became part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of the Buenavista Regiment, Bulacan Military Area (BMA).

As part of the BMA the battalion

(a) helped organize and train troops; (b) maintained intelligence and sabotage operations; (c) sent men to Lt. Col. Bernard L. Anderson’s headquarters and obtained arms and ammunition and (d) helped in mopping up operations along the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains in the towns of San Ildefonso, Angat, Norzagaray and San Rafael. They also provided supplies to guerilla forces in the field.<sup>7</sup>

In July 1943, some of the 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry fighters were drafted into then-Captain Anderson’s ‘Birth of Victory Command, Southern Nueva ECIJA Sector. Anderson’s command would consist of 7,000 resistance members. He was later awarded the Distinguish Service Cross for his combat leadership.

Records show many of the active younger men in the unit were incorporated from August to October 1942 into the 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry, ELCGA. Four of them managed to recruit an additional 200 members. At least 50 men continued to work for the Intelligence Unit headquartered in Barrio San Jose, Baliuag, Bulacan until January 1944 when it was relocated for security purposes. It ceased operations in February 1945 when the Americans arrived.

This shifting around of personnel to various units was the Army’s basis for rejecting the organization’s official group recognition as their men were dispersed “to other guerilla units.” The Army failed to recognize the ECLGA affiliations of the USWV guerilla organization under their original name even though the units to which they were attached were recognized ECLGA units.

As a result, the Army determined the unit “failed to fulfill the requirements of our constant guerilla recognition criterion used in the consideration of all claimant guerilla units.”<sup>8</sup> Marie Vallejo, a National Archives researcher noted, “One of the requirements was that the guerillas had to be a fighting unit. They could not just be on the roster of a unit and then go home and wait

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<sup>6</sup> Thorpe and other American and Filipino leaders were betrayed in October 1942. After several weeks of captivity and interrogation by the Japanese Kempeitai, they were executed and buried in unmarked graves at the Chinese cemetery in Manila. Captain Barker took command of the Luzon Guerilla forces when Thorpe was captured. Barker’s ECLGA was then subordinated to Lieutenant (later Lt. Col.) Edwin Ramsey who survived the war and eventually commanded 40,000 guerillas. Barker was captured in Manila on January 14, 1943, while disguised as a Priest. He too was betrayed. Barker was bayoneted to death by the Kempeitai in October or November 1943.

<sup>7</sup> Letter, Colonel Alejo S. Santos, Infantry (AP 0-27808), Commanding Officer Bulacan Military Area ‘To Whom It May Concern’, dated 5 March 1948. This letter provided additional testimony to the appeal of the Spanish-American and World War I Veterans, ECLGA

<sup>8</sup> Letter, HQs Philippines-Ryukyus Command to Mr. Magno de Luna, 19 April 1948.

to be called back. They had to be together at camp, drilling, fighting and doing military intelligence work.”<sup>9</sup>

### Army’s Investigation

According to the Army’s 1945 investigation, “The organization of this unit is extremely confused.” USWV Commander de Luna made

“two or three trips between Bulacan and Manila in order to give advice and encouragement. Francisco L. Cruz is at present represented as the overall commander of approximately 1,000 men, most from San Rafael and Norzagaray, Bulacan. A man by the name of Protacio Bautista appears to the leader of the intelligence portion which operated separately from the men under Cruz.”<sup>10</sup>

Captain Barker had authorized A.T. Santos to organize Bulacan and Manila for the U.S. Army. Santos designated Francisco L. Cruz as a Major in command of a battalion. Army investigators reported, “The battalion under Cruz operated vigorously for two or three months in the summer of 1942 before the Japanese zonified San Rafael and persuaded the men to surrender their weapons under the provision that they would be free to go home if they ceased guerilla activity. For all practical purposes this battalion ceased to exist...”<sup>11</sup>

Cruz then joined a Japanese association “purportedly in order to travel freely” but he tried to reform the old organization “under the directions of Joaquin Tolentino” who was connected to what was known as the TMO guerillas led by Patricio Dionisio. In 1944 Cruz was with the anti-Japanese Bulacan Military Area authority and went to work for them. Under the BMA authority, Cruz’s men worked as laborers and messengers.

The report stated,

“In small groups they would transport rice and supplies to the combat troops in the mountainside. Because they had surrendered their weapons in 1942 and had not been active as an organization since that time it is evident that not much confidence in the group was given by the stronger and more active groups. However, when the American army came down the valley in 1945, these men salvaged almost 500 Jap and American weapons, and they mobilized for training. Small groups were used as bridge guards behind the lines and for maintaining civil order. There was no formal attachment to American Army units although many of them cooperated individually.”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Tonette Orejas. ‘Untold Stories of PH War Heroes Kept in U.S. Archives’. *Philippine Daily Inquirer/Inquirer.Net*, dated April 9, 2018. Accessed June 21, 2024. (<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/981049/untold-stories-of-ph-war-heroes-kept-in-us-archives#ixzz8dipS3rUe>)

<sup>10</sup> Investigation by Lieutenants Charles P. Middleton, Jr., and Tabora of Contact Team ‘E’. Meeting with ‘Spanish American War Veterans (Barker Unit #21)’ on Dec. 7, 1945. Report written on December 10, 1945.

<sup>11</sup> Investigation by Middleton and Tabora.

<sup>12</sup> Investigation by Middleton and Tabora.

The report noted a roster of 57 Spanish-American and World War veterans, part of the organization, “who lent moral and financial aid to all guerillas. They are all old men and ex-soldiers who were physically unable to offer effective resistance.”<sup>13</sup>

The investigator wrote, “After careful examination of the documents involved, after interrogation of the officers and enlisted men, and after checking with various disinterested parties, Contact Team ‘E’, recommends that this unit be not favorably considered for recognition.”<sup>14</sup>

### **Wartime Activities**

The fight for formal organizational recognition, however, led to documentation of some of their activities. For example, when 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicolas Flores of the Philippine Scouts escaped from Bataan in April 1942. He engaged on July 16, 1942, one Lt. Catalino de Luna, the son of Magno de Lunda, “founder of guerilla units in San Rafael, Bulacan”. Flores and the younger de Luna reportedly “formed the nucleus of a powerful spy ring operating in Manila and forming a connecting link” with the San Rafael guerillas under the command of Lt. Col. Francisco L. Cruz.

It was reported, “The movement of Japs from Manila to Bulacan by foot or by motor car was relayed by informers or spies days or hours in advance, and as a result Commander Luna and Col. Cruz were able to ambuscade Japs in the Bulacan highways.

Another man reportedly staged anti-Japanese plays to combat Japanese propaganda. The plays were a form of basic communication to counter Japanese psychological operations.

Colonel Wistrimundo Gregorio, a USAFFE officer that escaped from Bataan and joined the resistance in Manila, later becoming Chief of Staff of the Manila Military District, ECLGA certified the Spanish-American & World War I Veterans “was a unit of the Manila District, ECLGA” and

“had been active in Manila and Bulacan along the following lines of guerilla warfare; (1) Intelligence, counter-espionage and sabotage operations; (2) Psychological warfare or counter-propaganda; (3) combat operations in Bulacan.”<sup>15</sup>

They maintained a secret shortwave radio by dispersing the parts to various houses. When needed, the owners of the pieces met at night to get the ‘Voice of Freedom!’ broadcast.

In May 1943, some of the organization’s members fell into Japanese hands. Lt. Marcos J. Valencia engaged the Japanese to convince “the enemy to believe that they were good civilians and not ‘guerillas’ thereby effecting their release.

In September 1943, Lt. Valencia and colleague Buenaventura Monsayac learned the village of Bustos would be raided by the Japanese from two directions. The Japanese were looking for guerillas engaged in sabotage activities. The two men recruited some others and rushed to Bustos

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<sup>13</sup> Investigation by Middleton and Tabora.

<sup>14</sup> Investigation by Middleton and Tabora.

<sup>15</sup> Letter, Subject: Certification, from Colonel Wistrimundo Gregorio, dated 6 March 1948.

to warn the village of the impending raid. All the men fled except one who refused to "heed the warning."

In January 1944 a similar event occurred in Barrio Calantipay. The citizens were able to leave before the Japanese arrived.

In April 1944, the town of San Rafael was targeted by the Japanese. The same intelligence unit alerted the community, and their men dynamited a wooden bridge forcing the Japanese to abandon their vehicles on the way to town. By the time they got there, the Japanese found the town virtually deserted.

The intelligence operatives also closed a school to students before an Allied bombing. The school was also being used as a Japanese headquarters. The unit also identified enemy troop concentrations for U.S. forces and, when the war was over, they continued to help mop up Japanese stragglers.<sup>16</sup>

On August 10, 1945, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ricardo Cruz and a seven-man patrol had a meeting engagement with 15 Japanese near Norzagaray, Ipe Area. The Japanese attacked immediately killing one man. The Filipino guerillas counterattacked killing the Japanese Major in command which led to the other Japanese rapidly retreating.<sup>17</sup>

On October 17, 1945, a four-man guerilla patrol near Bugaan Hill encountered two Japanese soldiers. Rather than surrender, the two Japanese soldiers immediately attacked the Filipino patrol with hand grenades. It was reported, "The patrol countered with a tommy [gun] and both Japs died of bullet wounds."<sup>18</sup>

Received from Barker's Unit at Norzagaray, Bulacan, the following Weapons.

Smith & Wesson revolver	Rifle, Winchester
1. 15261	42. 334537
Thompson MG	43. 236829
2. S-102286	44. 266114
	45. 269033
Carbine, US	
3. 4585552	Rifle, Eddystone
4. 5451741	46. 972012
5. 5517504	47. 73719
	48. 404348
Rifle, M-1	49. 181002
6. 253608	50. 177910
7. 514619	51. 960925
8. 838848	52. 1356729
9. 2003757	53. 429779
10. 3174240	54.
11. 2092928	Rifle, Rock Island
12. 1273238	54. 398297
	55. 183061
Rifle, Springfield '03	56. 132701
13. 135983	
14. 822400	Rifle, Smith-Corona
15. 206200	57. 364833
16. 137167	58. 4724754
17. 1478732	59. 4751427
18. 1325653	60.
19. 203751	
20. 1138981	Rifle, Japanese
21. 841328	61. 915638
22. 1341232	62. 794561
23. 415216	63. 49163
24. 874296	64. 14620
25. 1475854	65. 1894912
26. 1112403	66. 6236
27. 507012	67. 1212919
28. 1489525	68. 604375
29. 1010221	69. 1642116
30. 1272138	70. 85042
31. 903334	71. 001805746
32. 3446359	72. 64567
33. 194699	73. 1059006
34. 4069419	74. 40667
35. 3582937	75. 1746136
36. 4063027	76. 91571
37. 4074633	77. 93646
38. 4080999	
39. 3836862	Carbine, Japanese
40. 547356	78. 12286
41. 3985775	

(SGD.) ALBERT W. CHILDRESS, JR.  
2nd Lt., 342nd Infantry

(CERTIFIED TRUE COPY ON FILE:)

FRANCISCO L. CRUZ  
Lt. Col. Infantry  
Commanding Officer

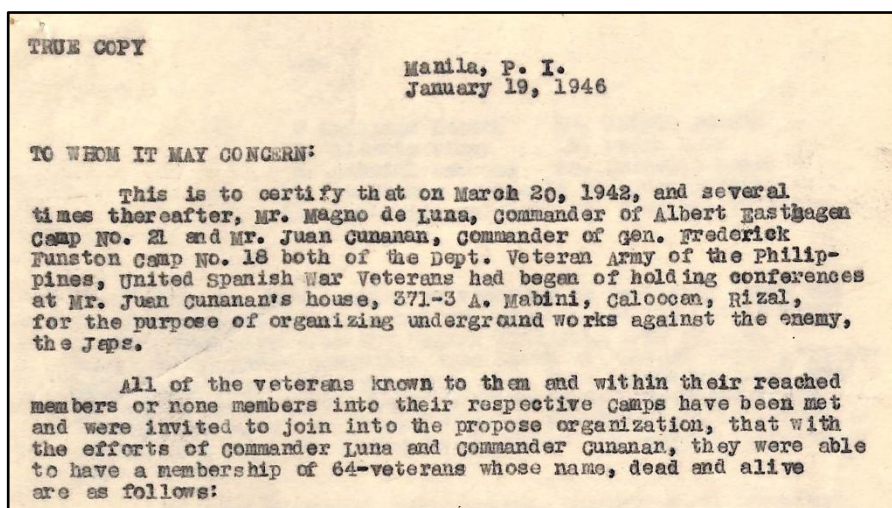
**CAPTURED WEAPONS – Official report showing weapons captured by the USWV organization (Barker's Unit) and turned over to the U.S. Army.**

<sup>16</sup> Report of Captain Ramon I. Permato, Assistant Chief G-2, in charge of Bulacan Intelligence Unit, USAFFE Luzon Guerilla Forces, East Central Luzon Guerilla Area (ECLGA), Spanish-American & World War I Veterans No. 21, in the Field 'Barker Unit', Manila and Bulacan. Report dated October 26, 1945.

<sup>17</sup> Report of Lt. Col. Francisco Cruz to 342<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Black Hawk Division, dated 22 October 1945.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, Cruz report, 22 October 1945.

Many of their members (like other organized guerilla organizations) also mobilized to form a Philippine Army unit and trained for the invasion of Japan. The atomic bombs forced Japan's surrender and eliminated the need to invade. The Spanish-American War veterans unit, reconstituted for the liberation and invasion and was disbanded by the U.S. Army as an unrecognized unit on December 5, 1945.<sup>19</sup>



**EXTRACT OF LETTER CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION OF USWV  
GUERRILLA GROUP**

### Appeal

Though rejected for official recognition, the USWV commanders appealed the decision twice and even provided rosters of over 1,067 individuals broken out into a unit structure for 'proof of service' of these individuals.<sup>20</sup> The failure of the organization to be recognized as part of the organized fighting forces was a great disappointment. Unless recognized by membership in another unit, they would not be credited with or able to obtain benefits of military service.

Magno de Luna, commander of the Albert Easthagen Camp No. 21, USWV, wrote,

"Out of the original headquarters and headquarters battalion of *Spanish-American & World War I Veterans* who were mobilized for the underground from 20 March 1942, only 193 officers and enlisted men were [recognized] in the [previously submitted] roster as deserving guerillas. We excluded Spanish-American War Veterans who served as part-time guerillas and are not after recognition of guerilla service, being contented with their back pensions."<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Letter, Corporal Magno De Luna, U.S. Army (Retired) and Jua Cunanan, for the Albert Easthagen Camp No. 21 and Gen. Frederick Funston Camp No. 18, Department of the Veteran Army of the Philippines, USWV to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan, dated April 29, 1948. This was a direct appeal to MacArthur petitioning for a final decision "with regards to the recognition of guerillas we organized in the field." MacArthur's staff replied that such decisions were, by order of the Secretary of the Army, made by the Commanding General, Philippine Ryukyus Command. As a result, MacArthur's command "has consistently refrained from interfering" but could and did pass along the request.

<sup>20</sup> Letter, Magno De Lua, Commander of Albert Easthagen Camp No. 21, USWV VAP PDD to Major General George F. Moore, Commanding General, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, dated 29 April 1948 with courtesy copy to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, SCAP Tokyo, Japan. The consolidated roster included casualties which were previously reported by Lt Col Francisco L. Cruz.

<sup>21</sup> Letter, De Luna, 29 April 1948

## Organizing USWV Members of ‘Spanish-American War Veterans (Barker’s Unit #21)’ East Central Luzon Guerilla Area

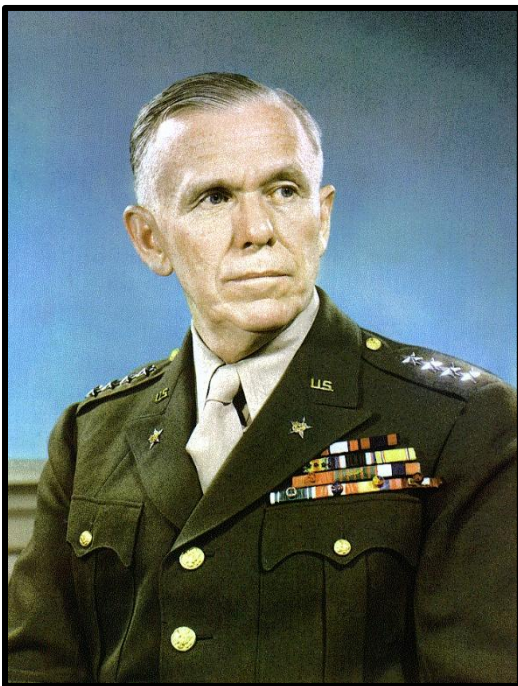
Agdipa, Estanislao
Austria, Tomas
Baluyut, Leoncio
Bautista, Feleciano
Bautista, Gaudencio
Bautista, Valentin
Bonifacio, Ciriaco
Bonifacio, Juan
Cano, Pedro
Clemente, Gavino
Cortes, Benito
Cunanan, Higino
Cunanan, Juan
de los Santos, Alberto
de los Santos, Damaso
de Luna, Magno
Domingon, Lorenzo
Garcia, Juan
Guevara, Victor
Gutierrez, Pelagio
Lacap, Maximo
Lacnlale, Ciriaco
Layung, Valeriano
Lobo, Matias
Manalese, Modesto
Manansala, Angel
Manansala, Marcelo
Manansale, Basilio
Manasala, Anastacio
Mendoza, Juan
Mendoza, Rufino

Mercado, Vicente
Meses, Melencio
Mineses, Cayetano
Nagari, Santiago
Pabalate, Felipe
Publa, Modesto
Quiambo, Agapito
Quiambo, Asnastacio
Quimen, Cirilo
Rada, Pedro
Ramos, Cornelio
Ramos, Fulgencio
Reyes, Ambrosio
Reyes, Engracio
Saez, Pedro
Salonga, Bartolome
Salonga, Pio
Suing, Prudencio
Sunda, Gregorio
Sunga, Feliciano
Sunga, Francisco
Symbol, Leoncio
Usi, Pedro
Valencia, Gregorio
Vargas, Francisco
Venosa, Mariano
Viray, Alberto
Viray, Antonio
Viray, Estanislao
Viray, Gavino
Yumang, Alipio

# Spanish-American War Veterans in World War II

By Greg Eanes

The former Philippine Scouts in the USWV in Manila were not the only U.S. Spanish-American War veterans to serve in World War II. From ordinary privates to top military leaders, a select number of Spanish-American War veterans were in the ranks of the U.S. Navy, Army and even the Army Air Corps.



**SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR ERA VETERANS** - The United States top two military leaders in World War Two, Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, Jr. was in the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the Philippine Insurrection and Admiral William D. Leahy, the most senior officer during World War II, who served on the *USS OREGON* during the battle of Santiago Bay and later saw service in China during the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection.

Across the nation other veterans of the Spanish-American War era stepped up to work for the nation's defense. As early as February 1941 it was reported "58 war veterans" registered for "National defense duty." Two were identified as "John Dabinett, 78, of Grove Street, and John Nelson, 67, of Clinton Place."

According to the article, the American Legion Post Commander where the registering was occurring “had intended to accept only veterans of the World War but the two Spanish war veterans were so insistent upon ‘doing their bit’ that he registered them.”<sup>22</sup>

In *Lexington (KY) Herald* reported on January 15, 1942, that a Spanish-American War veteran enlisted into the Army at the age of 66. It was reported, “William Cox, 66, of Cincinnati, one of 16 sergeants assigned to guard President Woodrow Wilson at the Paris peace conference after the first World War, re-enlisted in the army today. Post officers said he was the oldest man sworn in since the recruiting station here was opened. Cox is also a veteran of the Spanish-American War.”<sup>23</sup>

On January 18, it was reported in the *Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times* that Spanish-American War veteran Joseph Taylor, 70, “applied for enlistment in the Navy – and what’s more, passed the physical examination.” The recruiting officer intended to seek a waiver of the age limit which was age 50 at that time.<sup>24</sup>

On February 22, it was reported in East Hempstead, New York that retired Army Master Sergeant John Donlan, a grandfather, “took his old uniform out of moth balls Saturday and whistled happily as he brushed it off.” It was reported, “The 64-year-old veteran of four previous wars” had at his request, been “taken off the army retirement list and restored to active to duty.” He had 40 year service when he retired in 1938 and had previously served in the Army Air Corps.<sup>25</sup>

A few months later in July, it was reported from Sheppard Field, Texas, “A 64-year-old private, whose military service in times of emergency dates back to the Spanish-American War, has joined the Army Air Forces technical training command at Sheppard Field. He is private Harry Rudolph of Brooklyn, who gave up a veteran’s pension and underwent an operation on both legs to qualify for enlistment and a chance at specialized training for a ground crew post.”<sup>26</sup>

Additionally, many of the America’s senior military leaders were veterans of the era. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army in World War II, was a veteran of the Philippine Insurrection reporting there in 1902 after being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in February 1902. He served with the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment as a platoon and later company commander.

Fleet Admiral William Daniel Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1897. He participated in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion.

When the war with Spain broke out, Leahy was aboard the battleship *USS OREGON* and participated in the *OREGON*’s fast transit from the west coast to Cuba to participate in the

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<sup>22</sup> *The Herald News*, 24 Feb 1941, ‘2 Spanish-American War Veterans Enlist’.

<sup>23</sup> *The Lexington (K) Herald*, 15 January 1942, ‘Spanish-American War Veteran Enlists at 66’.

<sup>24</sup> *Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times*, 18 January 1942, ‘Spanish-American War Veteran Enlists in Navy’.

<sup>25</sup> *The (Waterloo, Iowa) Courier*, 22 Feb 1942, ‘64-Year-Old War Veteran Enlists for Active Duty’.

<sup>26</sup> *The Peninsula Times Tribune*, 23 July 1943, ‘Spanish War veteran enlists as a private’.

blockade. He was in command of the forward gun turret during the battle of Santiago Bay, reportedly this only naval battle.

He was transferred in time to the USS CASTINE, a gunboat, serving in the Philippines in November 1899. The CASTINE participated in the Boxer Rebellion in Shanghai with the mission of guarding the city with other coalition forces. It served in China for about eight months before returning to the Philippines where the CASTINE supported Army operations at Iloilo and Marinduque.

It was during this period he earned command of the gunship USS MARIVELES and crew of 23 sailors. This was followed by command of the USS GLACIER, a supply ship. He returned to the U.S. in late 1902. He held the Sampson Medal, the Spanish Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal. His ship was not recognized for the China Relief Expeditionary Medal for some reason.



**Fleet Admiral Ernest King**



**General of the Army Henry H. Arnold**

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Fleet Admiral Ernest King, while still a cadet at the Naval Academy in 1898, was assigned to the cruiser *USS SAN FRANCISCO* patrolling the Florida coast and off the coast of Cuba.

He graduated in June 1901 and was aboard the cruiser *USS CINCINNATI* in the Pacific which operated in Philippine waters. He held the Sampson Medal, the Spanish Campaign Medal and the Philippine Campaign Medal.

General Douglas MacArthur was also awarded the Philippine Campaign Medal. He was an Engineer Officer in Company 'I', 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of U.S. Engineers in the Philippines In October 1903. In November he was ambushed by two Filipino guerrillas while working near Guimaras forcing him to shoot and kill both.

While not in the Spanish-American War era, General of the Army Henry ‘Hap’ Arnold served in the Philippines after commissioning in 1907. He was an infantry officer in the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, leaving in 1909. He was not awarded a Philippine Campaign medal, which was issued up to 1913, as he was not engaged in combat operations.

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THE DETROIT FREE PRESS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1903.

5

# Sons of American Heroes Who Serve Their Country.

LIETENANT DOUGLAS MACARTHUR,  
SON OF GENERAL ARTHUR MACARTHUR

U. S. GRANT, 3d  
SON OF GENERAL F. D. GRANT.

LIETENANT PHILIP H. SHERIDAN,  
SON OF GENERAL PHILIP H. SHERIDAN

LIETENANT JAMES LONGSTREET,  
JUNIOR,  
SON OF THE FAMOUS CONFEDERATE GENERAL.

FITZHUGH LEE, JUNIOR,  
SON OF GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE.

FRED D. GRANT,  
SON OF U. S. GRANT.

LIETENANT THOMAS F. SCHLEY,  
SON OF ADMIRAL SCHLEY.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH WHEELER, JUNIOR,  
SON OF GENERAL JOSEPH WHEELER.

LIETENANT THOMAS E. SELFIDGE,  
SON OF ADMIRAL SELFIDGE.

**Taking Up the Profession of Arms, In Which Their Fathers Won Renown, They are a Credit to the Service--North and South Contribute to the Roll of Honor, and Both Sections May be Proud of Their Patriotism.**

WASHINGTON, October 3.—(Special correspondent.)—The military instinct most surely lives in the blood of many of our nation's heroes of old-time war before he participated in the army list of today. It is surprising to find how numerous these sons are, whose fathers were famous as makers of American history can never die have them. They are the sons of men who entered the profession of arms, and proudly wear the uniform of the United States.

James S. Grant, 3d, was graduated from the military academy at West Point in 1893. He is the son of the late General F. D. Grant, and has entered the engineering corps, to which only young men who specially distinguished themselves in the army were admitted. He died before his death, Gen. Grant wrote to the president, asking to appoint his grandson to a position, and Mr. Cleveland gladly did so.

The youth, who is a son of the late Gen. Frederick D. Grant, gives promise of a brilliant career. Edward, who graduated from West Point in 1893, is the son of the late Gen. Frederick D. Grant, while only a couple of years behind him is Sherman Miles, offspring of Nelson A. Miles, who rose from a cadetship in a Western dry goods shop to the place of commanding general of the United States army. They are the young fellows, both.

Both as well as North.

But one of the most interesting features of this study in heredity lies in the fact that both sides in the great civil war—the fathers for the south as well as those of the north—are well represented in the army list of 1903. A son of "Fighting Joe" Wheeler, Joseph Wheeler, Jr., is a captain in the artillery corps, and was

CADET SHERMAN MILES,  
SON OF GENERAL MILES.

LIETENANT JAMES MCKINLEY,  
NEPHEW OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

James as one of the bravest young officers and bravest poker players in the service. Another famous leader of "rebel" forces, Fitzhugh Lee—the famous Gen. Longstreet, so justly respected as a foe by his adversaries as one of the bravest young officers of the north, draws pay today as a lieutenant of the gallant Thirtieth Regiment of the same arm. The struggle for first place in the class of 1903 at the military academy of the north, drew pay today as a lieutenant of the gallant Thirtieth Regiment of the same arm. The struggle for first place in the class of 1903 at the military academy of the north, drew pay today as a lieutenant of the gallant Thirtieth Regiment of the same arm.

supposed to be slated for the place of Gen. Miles when the latter should retire in August of this year. But the Fate, and Mr. Roosevelt, decided otherwise, and Gen. R. H. M. Young was the 3d.

James F. McKinley, a nephew of the late honored president of the United States, is now an aid to Gen. Young at the headquarters of the general staff in Washington. He is one of the brightest young men in the army, and bears a striking resemblance to his uncle, enlisting as a private in the Eighth Ohio Infantry in 1890, he earned the shoulder-straps of a second lieutenant of cavalry in the following year, and was promoted to be first lieutenant in 1893.

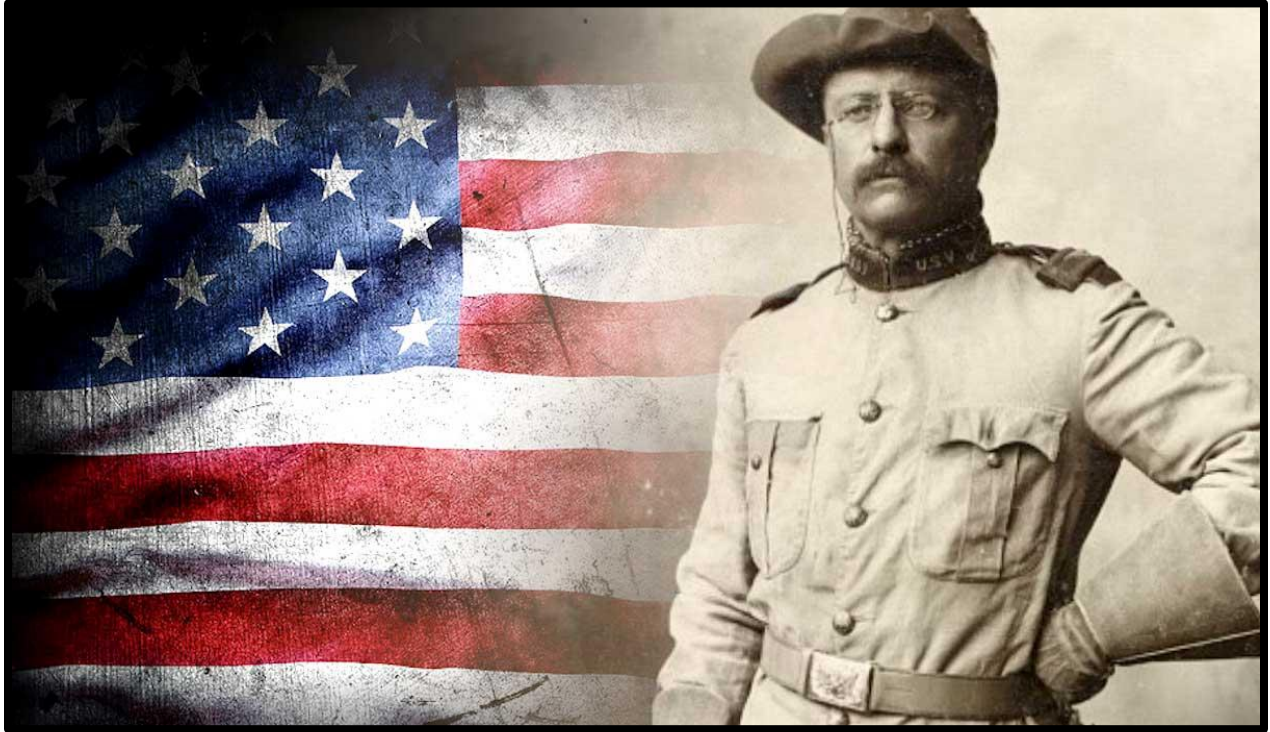
Thomas F. Schley, a son of Admiral Schley, likewise entered the army as a private, in the signal corps, and rose from the ranks. He is today a captain in the infantry. Another naval officer's son is Thomas E. Selfridge, Jr., just graduated from the military academy, whose father and grandfather, both of them admirals, were on the retired list of the navy at the same time—distinguished in the history of this country. The former still survives, but the older admiral and a couple of years ago, at the ripe age of 80, looked like his father.

One of the most notable sons of great fathers in the United States army, though by no means to be numbered among the younger, is Frederick D. Grant, the son of the hero of Appomattoh. He is now a good deal of military life when a raw cadet, as exemplified.

Uncle Allen.

"Being a man's leg," said Uncle Allen Smith, "never comes to make any difference in the race. It merely indicates the race."—Chicago Tribune.

# Annual Dues Notice



Please note that we are on a fiscal year basis. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Dues become payable no later than June 30th of each year. **Members at Large** can forward **annual dues of \$15.00** to the Treasurer at the following address:

**Kenneth D. Roach  
44 Broadleaf Circle  
Windsor, CT 06095-1633**

**Members of Camps must submit dues through the Camp Treasurer.** Your dues support projects in remembrance of the Spanish American War and that perpetuate the memory of our veteran ancestors who fought and served their country.

## **Captain Paul B. Lino** ***1<sup>ST</sup> Illinois Cavalry Regiment and*** ***2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment, 1898-1899***

**By Maj. Peter L. Belmonte, USAF (Ret.)**

When the nation's National Guard units were mobilized and mustered into federal service in the spring of 1898, they came to their mobilization camps in varying states of readiness. Many units showed up at one of the staging camps without adequate equipment, arms, or uniforms. Regular Army officers often commented negatively on National Guard units' fitness for operations in the field. Of course, many National Guard units were well-trained and equipped, and many state volunteers, officers and men, had prior military or National Guard experience. This brief biographical sketch illustrates one typical National Guard officer; it adds to our understanding of the state troops who went to war in 1898.

Paul B. Lino was born on 29 May 1852 in Sicily, probably Palermo.<sup>1</sup> His parents were Rosario Lino, also born in Sicily, and Michelina Lanza, born in Italy or possibly in Malta. Rosario came to the United States with his family sometime in the 1850s. By the 1860s, Rosario and his son Antonio (Anthony) were operating a fruit and confectionary business, called Rosario Lino and Company, on State Street in Chicago, Illinois.

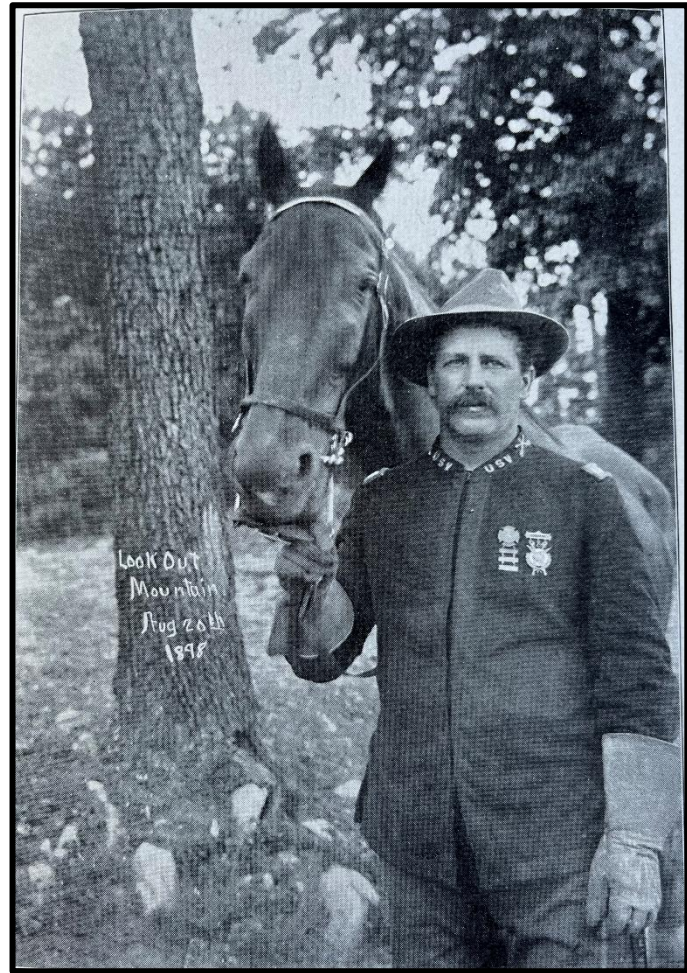
By the 1870s, Paul Lino was a confectioner on South Halsted Street in Chicago. On 10 July 1874, Lino married Mary Biggio in Chicago. In subsequent years, Lino was involved with other enterprises, including being a restaurateur. Lino's military career began when he enlisted in Troop D, 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment, Illinois National Guard, on 28 March 1881. He reenlisted on 28 March 1886 and was promoted to commissary sergeant in May of that year. On 1 July 1886 Lino was appointed first lieutenant. Lino was transferred to Company L, 2nd Illinois Infantry Regiment, Illinois National Guard, on 14 March 1887. On 20 June of that year, Lino was promoted to captain. During the 1890 target firing exercises, Lino's Company L scored firmly in the middle of the pack among the regimental companies and field and staff. Lino transferred back to the 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment as captain in Troop A on 3 June 1891.

The coming of the Spanish-American War meant the mobilization of most National Guard units, and Illinois began calling up troops on 26 April 1898, the day after the United States declared war on Spain. The 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment traveled with other Illinois units to the state capital at Springfield. There, the regiment was mustered into federal service with fifty officers and 974 enlisted men on 20 and 21 May. On 1 June, the regiment arrived at Chickamauga, Georgia, one of the staging areas for Regular and volunteer troops. The regiment's hopes for service in Cuba or Puerto Rico were dashed, however, as they and other units remained in the United States for the duration of hostilities. The regiment returned to Chicago on 27 August, and they were given thirty days furlough. The men were mustered out of federal service on 11 October 1898 with fifty officers and 1,158 enlisted men, the increase due to recruits arriving in Chickamauga from Chicago during the summer. The regiment lost during service sixteen enlisted men by disease, one man killed by accident, and six men deserted.<sup>2</sup>

**On Right: Capt. Paul B. Lino, 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment, August 1898 (Bolton, *History of the Second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry*, public domain).**

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Lino was mustered out with his regiment on 11 October 1898.<sup>3</sup> Not content to let grass grow under his feet, Lino applied for a transfer to his old unit. He was appointed the commander of Company A, 2nd Illinois Infantry Regiment, on 22 November 1898.<sup>4</sup> The 2nd Illinois Infantry Regiment had made the journey to Springfield and was then ordered to Tampa, Florida, to take part in the invasion of Cuba. Orders were changed, however, and the regiment was sent to Jacksonville, Florida, to become part of the Seventh Corps. After suffering through dreadful heat and attacks of typhoid that claimed the lives of twenty-two men of the regiment, the 2nd Illinois Infantry moved to Savannah, Georgia, on 25 October; it was there that Lino joined the regiment and took command of Company A.



Company A had the reputation of being one of the best-drilled companies of the regiment. Lino “brought to the duties of his office a large experience gained by several years of military service, the effects of his administration becoming immediately apparent in the improved discipline of the company and the abundance and quality of the mess.”<sup>5</sup> The regiment was assigned to the occupation forces in Cuba, and in mid-December Company A left Savannah aboard the *Michigan*, a converted cattle boat. According to the unit history:

“A vessel more absolutely unfit for the transportation of troops can hardly be imagined. Filthy in the extreme, the sickening odors arising from the decks and hold rendered the ship unsanitary to a degree, while the deck on which it was proposed to quarter the troops was situated beneath that on which the mules and other animals were to be carried; and as the decks were by no means water tight, the leakage ran through to the troop deck, causing a state of things easier to imagine than to describe. The vessel was a superannuated cattle boat, and in no respect had it been rendered fit for the service it was now to be engaged in.”<sup>6</sup>

Thus, we see that, even as late as December the War Department was still struggling with problems incident to the safe transportation of troops to Cuba.



Above: Company A, 2nd Illinois Infantry Regiment; it's unclear whether this photograph was taken before Capt. Lino assumed command of the company. He might be one of the officers in the front row. (Bolton, *History of the Second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry*, public domain).

While in Cuba, Company A and the rest of the regiment performed police, patrol, and escort duties. The regiment left Cuba in three detachments from 29 to 31 March 1899. After brief stops in Tampa, Florida, the regiment was reunited at Augusta, Georgia, in early April. After the regiment's return from Cuba, Lino wrote a letter praising his regiment and requesting that they be mustered out in Chicago. The letter, written while Company A had a brief stopover in Tampa, states:

"The experience of Company A does not differ much from the rest of the regiment. The boys performed guard duty during the entire stay in Cuba. They are a good-natured, fine set of fellows and I thoroughly enjoyed my command. We lost none of our company by death. They are bringing back eighty-one men. I am in favor of mustering out in Chicago."<sup>7</sup>

Despite Lino's desires, the regiment was mustered out in Augusta on 26 April 1899. Upon muster out, the regiment had forty-eight officers and 1,006 enlisted men. During its year of service, it had lost twenty-two men by disease and two men by desertion.<sup>8</sup>

Of his service with the 2nd Illinois Infantry Regiment, the regimental history notes:

“Jolly and genial, with a pleasant word and a cheery smile for everyone, no more popular officer could be found in the Seventh Army Corps; but so well does Captain Lino know how to combine firmness with kindness that the discipline of his company has been excelled by none.”<sup>9</sup>

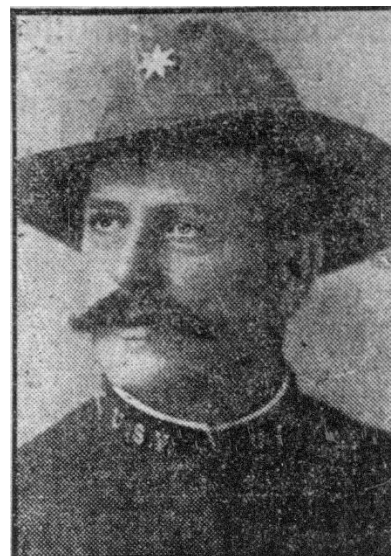
After his return from Cuba and discharge from active service, Lino transferred back to the 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment. In 1899, the War Department created United States Volunteer regiments. These units were recruited for duty in the Philippines, and many Regular and National Guard officers applied for a commission in one of the regiments. Lino applied for and received a commission as a captain in Company B, 38th Infantry Regiment, United States Volunteers.<sup>10</sup> However, Lino’s hopes to lead men in combat were dashed before he departed the United States for the Philippines. In the Fall of 1899, while the regiment was in San Francisco, California, preparing to deploy to the Philippines, General Rufus Shafter ordered Lino to appear before a board of Regular Army officers to inquire into his fitness to hold the rank of captain. After two days of hearings, Lino was relieved from duty and discharged in November 1899. Friends of Lino asserted that he was unfairly targeted in order “to make a vacancy for a sergeant named Wood, who was married to the daughter of an officer. ... Soon after Lino’s removal Wood was appointed Captain.”<sup>11</sup> Lino returned to Chicago and resumed his captaincy in the Troop B, 1st Illinois Cavalry Regiment; nothing more is known of Lino’s appeal regarding his removal from command.

NAME: <b>Lino Paul B.</b>				(S-P. A. 1.)			
Certificate No. <b>1,167,965</b>		<b>ARMY INVALID.</b>		Law: <b>Act of June 5, 1920</b>			
Service: <b>Capt. Co. A, 1st Ill. Cav. and Co. A, 2nd Ill. Inf.</b>							
Disability: <b>Age</b>							
<b>ISSUES.</b>							
CLASS.	RATE.	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.	DATE OF CERTIFICATE.	CLASS.	RATE.	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.	DATE OF CERTIFICATE.
Orig.	12	July 15, 1920	May 10, 1921				
	18	May 29, 1921					
	24	May 29, 1925					
	30	May 29, 1928					
Fees: <b>No fee</b>							
Transferred from: <b>GROUP 1</b>				Transferred to:			
Died:				Bureau notified:			
Remarks:							
Former Roll No.				Home: <b>MAY 13 1921</b>			

**Paul Lino’s Veterans Administration Pension Payment card. The last date, 29 May 1928, probably indicates a posthumous payment to one of his children (Fold3.com).**

Soon thereafter, Lino and his family moved to South Haven, Michigan, to engage in the restaurant business. There, Lino continued his interest in military affairs. Before 1904 he was the captain of a unit called the South Haven Rifles. From this unit, Lino organized a cavalry troop which became Troop A, 1st Michigan Cavalry Regiment, part of the Michigan National Guard,

in 1905.<sup>12</sup> Throughout the next several years, Lino and his troop garnered public attention and enthusiasm by their drill performances and ceremonies. A typical newspaper report states: “The men have improved much since their last appearance at Ludington, and the daring evolutions of the horsemen has elicited praise, even from the regular army observers.”<sup>13</sup> Lino and Troop A were the official escort of President Theodore Roosevelt when he visited Lansing, Michigan, in May 1907.<sup>14</sup> His affiliation with the Michigan National Guard continued until at least 1911. In 1916, Lino moved back to Chicago where he was possibly involved with the Illinois National Guard again. One of Lino’s Veterans Administration records implies a discharge date of December 1917.<sup>15</sup> If that’s the case, it’s possible that Lino’s Illinois National Guard unit was mobilized and mustered into federal service for World War I in the spring or summer of 1917 and that Lino’s discharge in December 1917 was due to age or disability. In any event, in 1920 Lino began drawing a disability pension based upon his military service.



**Paul Lino, c.1899. He wears the Seventh Corps insignia on his hat (*The Kalamazoo Gazette*, 16 June 1909, Newspapers.com).**

Lino’s life was tinged by sadness and loss. His first wife, Mary Biggio, whom he had married in Chicago in 1874, died on 1 December 1885. Lino’s second wife, Angelina Perrazzo, whom he had married on 8 August 1888, died on 17 September 1902 in South Haven, Michigan. While Angelina’s body lay in Lino’s residence prior to removal to a funeral home, the building caught fire due to an arsonist. Lino attempted to reenter the house to retrieve his wife’s body but was overcome by smoke and failed in the attempt.<sup>16</sup> Lino had at least three children by his two wives. Lino died on 14 January 1926 in Broadview, Illinois.

#### Notes:

1. All personal and military history information is taken from the following databases on Ancestry.com, unless otherwise specified: *U.S., Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940*; *U.S., Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976*; *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*; 1900, 1870, 1880, 1910 *United States Federal Census*; *Chicago, Illinois, U.S., Voter Registration, 1892*; *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995*; *Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Marriages Index, 1871-1920*; *Illinois, U.S., Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947*; and several public family trees. In a few cases, dates for the same event differ slightly among the applicable documents; the author has done his best to reconcile the conflicts. In no cases did the differing date impact overall historical accuracy.
2. *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain*, Volume 1, (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1993), p. 590.
3. Fold3.com, *US, Civil War Pensions Index, 1861-1900*.
4. Ibid. See also H. W. Bolton, Chaplain, editor, *History of the Second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry from Organization to Muster-Out* (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company, 1899), p. 244.
5. Bolton, p. 255.
6. Bolton, pp. 66-67.
7. “No Losses in Company A,” *The Chicago Tribune*, 1 April 1899, via Newspapers.com.
8. *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain*, Volume 1, p. 589.
9. Bolton, p. 244.
10. “Chicago Men for New Volunteer Captains,” *The Chicago Tribune*, 31 August 1899, via Newspapers.com.
11. “Capt. Lino Asks Rehearing,” *The Chicago Tribune*, 2 March 1901, via Newspapers.com.
12. “Sound Taps for Leader in 1898,” *The Kalamazoo Gazette*, 21 January 1926, and “Cavalry Accepted,” *Lansing State Journal*, 3 June 1905, both via Newspapers.com.
13. “Life in Camp,” *The Kalamazoo Gazette*, 12 August 1906, via Newspapers.com.
14. “No Backward Step,” *The Lansing Journal*, 31 May 1907, via Newspapers.com.
15. Paul B. Lino, *U.S., Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940*, Ancestry.com.
16. “Tries to Save Wife’s Body,” *St. Joseph Evening Herald*, St. Joseph, Michigan, 19 September 1902, via Newspapers.com.

# Spanish-American War Monument in Acton, Massachusetts

Sumner Hunnewell shared photos of the Spanish-American War Monument in Acton, Massachusetts. According to the Acton Historical Society,<sup>27</sup>

"This stone was erected in 1912 by the town of Acton. The town report for the year ending 1 February 1913 showed payments to Julian Tuttle for the foundation (\$15) and to D. C. Harris for the monument stone (\$200). There were also expenses for the dedication ceremony and luncheon.

"The August 21, 1912, *Concord Enterprise* reported the installation of the red granite stone on "the little triangular piece of the common facing the monument." An October 16 article about the dedication ceremony held on 12 October 1912 included a transcription of the address given by Reverend F. P Wood. *The Acton News* of March 28, 1913, reported that at the monument's location (before it was moved) "it will be eventually shaded by a tree which was set in commemoration of the treaty by which the Spanish-American war was brought to a close."



<sup>27</sup> **Spanish American War Monument - Acton Historical Society**; See also: *The Acton News*, 28 March 1913, page 4; "Lest We Forget," *The Acton Citizen*, 11 November 1994; *Concord Enterprise*, 16 October 1912, page 3; Acton Centre news, *Concord Enterprise*, 21 August 1912, page 10. (The article mistakenly reported that the names on the stone were of Civil War veterans.) See also: [Presentation, Proposal to Acton Historic District Commission about Veterans Memorial and Relocation of Spanish American War Memorial](#), undated but probably October 2011, includes pictures of the Spanish American War Memorial in its previous location. The historical society also owns photos of the memorial at its former site on Action Common.

“Note that William G. Rodway, an Acton resident who joined a Boston regiment and died of disease while in service, was omitted from the listing. A [blog post](#) gives further information about him. Others who were considered "of this place" in 1898 were "Aleck Losaw and a young man whose correct name is not learned, a farm hand at J. Coffey's." (*Concord Enterprise*, 3 November 1898, page 5). The 22 December 1898 *Concord Enterprise* (page 8) described a reception for Acton's veterans of the war and listed those present. In addition to names on the stone, the list included T. Marion. Alec Losaw was present at the reception but was said to be from Boxboro.”



## **Buckey O'Neill Camp Restores and Dedicates Flag Memorial**



**Figure 1 – FLAGPOLE AND BASED WITH PLAQUE - Tanner Guskey and Doug Dinwiddie President of Fort Bayard "Doug is the older one in Kakhi"**

On April 12, 2025, the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175 - AZ, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, dedicated a restored United Spanish War Veterans flag base at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, along with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society.

Brother Tanner Guskey of the Camp had the pleasure of co-dedicating the memorial along with President Dinwiddie. Brother Guskey discovered the empty base of the flagpole in December of 2023 while volunteering and stopped to read the signage near the pole. Later in late 2024 Brother Guskey volunteered to search for Spanish-American War memorials within New Mexico and found that this dilapidated flagpole seemed to be the only artifact left by Spanish-American War Veterans in New Mexico. This tragedy was then brought to the President of the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175, and on Jan 1, 2025, it was voted upon to purchase a flagpole and plaque for the base, in conjunction if Fort Bayard donated their labor and



flags for the pole. An agreement was struck and the flagpole and plaque inscribed "In Remembrance of the New Mexico United Spanish War Veterans, 2025, Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans" was placed in the flagpole restoring it. During the dedication Brother Guskey shared a speech speaking about the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, the importance of the Spanish-American War, and his portrayal of his ancestor. Two dozen people attended the dedication, in which afterwards tours of the homes were conducted along with provided confectionaries.

The dedication service was covered by both *The Silver City Daily Press* ([New Fort Bayard flagpole celebrates past, renewed life - Silvercity Daily Press](#)) and the *Grant County Beat* ([New flagpole and flags dedicated at Fort Bayard 041225](#)).

# Show the Flag!

The SSAWV offers several items appropriate for wear at meetings and special events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also make great gift ideas for your loved ones seeking a gift for SSAWV members on birthdays and Christmas. It is a great way to ‘Show the Flag’ of the SSAWV!



**Pricing:**

\$60.00 Large Medal

\$45.00 Small Medal

\$25.00 Patch

Plus \$5.50 Flat Rate Shipping

## How to Place an Order

Contact our National Supply Officer Charles “Chuck” Hand by e-mail at [chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com) and indicate the items you wish to purchase. He will respond and calculate your shipping and handling charges, please add \$5.50 for shipping.

Our Supply Officer can be contacted at:  
Charles “Chuck” Hand, National Supply Officer  
116 Sage Canyon  
Boerne, TX 78006  
Email: [chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com)

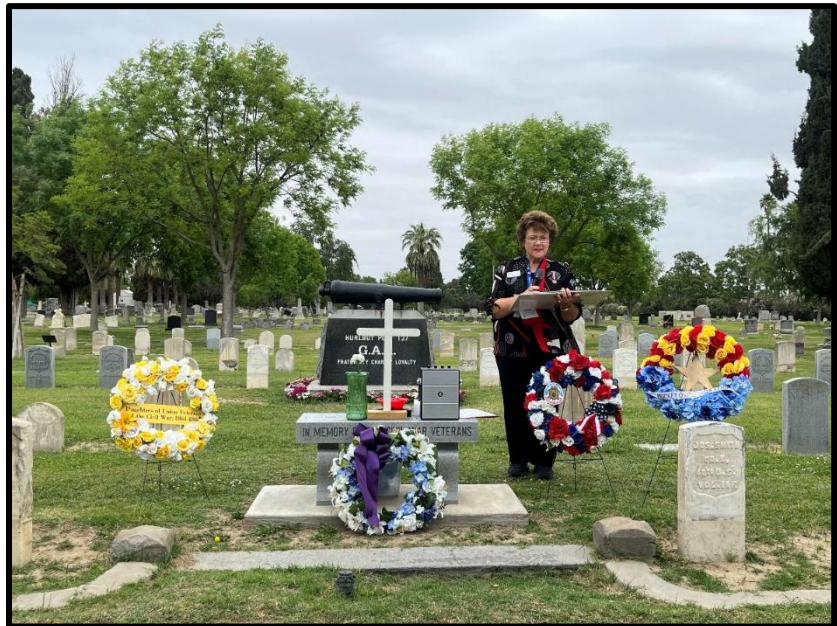
# O'Neill Camp Supports Memorial Service



On April 25, 2025, in Bakersfield, California, the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175 of Arizona presented a wreath in remembrance of the Union veterans and Mexican American War veterans buried within the Grand Army of the Republic section of Historic Union Cemetery.

A memorial service and box luncheon after was conducted by the Ida Saxton Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, of Bakersfield, California.

The SSAWV as a patriotic organization as a whole remembers all veterans, including our Civil War veterans. Most Spanish American War veterans were the children of Civil War veterans and Civil War veterans, both blue and gray, served in the U.S. Army or Navy during the conflicts of the Spanish-American War era.



# O'Neill Camp Honors President McKinley

The Buckeye O'Neill Camp No. 175 - AZ, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans held a memorial service and presented a wreath in honor of President William McKinley on April 26, 2025, in Redlands, California.

McKinley was known for saving the orange industry of the area with his tariffs and after visiting Redlands he would be shot and killed 4 months later. A heartbroken town would later erect this memorial, and Teddy Roosevelt would unveil it in 1903.

Pictured is Camp President Avery Frantz wearing his Camp name tag presenting Arizona's wreath.

Congress passed House Resolution 233 with a vote of 311 to 6 on April 19, 1898, declaring Cuba should be free. According to the House of Representatives website, "The resolution proclaimed, 'that the people of the Island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent,' and it demanded that Spain withdraw immediately from Cuba while authorizing President William McKinley to employ U.S. military forces to achieve that end."<sup>28</sup>

President McKinley signed the resolution on April 20. the Kingdom of Spain declared war on the United States on April 24. Congress, in turn, declared war on Spain on April 25 with a retroactive date of April 21, 1898.



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<sup>28</sup>[The House Recognition of Cuban Independence from Spain | US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives](https://www.house.gov/history/art-archives/the-house-recognition-of-cuban-independence-from-spain)

# From Soldier to Outlaw

## The Astonishing Tale of My One-Legged Uncle

**By Avery Frantz**  
**Buckey O'Neill Camp, SSAWV**

Eugene Philmore "Phil" Rapier was a veteran of the Spanish-American War who later gained infamy as a semi-notorious criminal in the Arizona Territory. Born in Alabama, Rapier enlisted with Company B of the 1st U.S. Territorial Infantry—Arizona's official unit during the war—based out of Tucson. He served honorably and was discharged in early 1899, having seen no combat during his service.

As a young man, Rapier suffered a traumatic train accident, resulting in the loss of one of his legs. He used a prosthetic limb for the rest of his life; a detail that would later play a unique role in one of his most infamous acts.

Following his discharge, Rapier struggled to adjust to civilian life and soon turned to crime. His first offense was in August of 1900 with the theft of a horse owned Dr. McMillan's which was hitched to the front of his doctor's office in Flagstaff. Upon reaching McMillan's Ranch Rapier then stole a saddle, until he was overtaken by Sheriff Johnson. He was held under a \$500 bail. Despite this, Rapier was not held long but would later hold a brief prison sentence in Florence, and later he was incarcerated at the notorious Yuma Territorial Prison, known for its brutal conditions.

Rapier's most audacious crime occurred on August 26, 1906, while working as a clerk for the Roosevelt Reclamation Service. That day, he stole 2,000 blank government checks from a U.S. official at the Roosevelt Dam. He then fled, forging checks and requesting postal money orders as he moved across the Southwest—stopping in Roosevelt, Thatcher, El Paso, Tombstone, and Bisbee. He reportedly stole thousands of dollars in the process.

In El Paso, he allied with Mr. and Mrs. Lemon, two seasoned criminals who aided him in exchange for a share of the profits. Eventually, U.S. Marshals tracked him to Bisbee, where they apprehended him along with the Lemons after a month-long pursuit.

In early 1907, Rapier was transferred to the Gila County Jail in Globe to testify against the Lemons. While held in the jail's central holding area, nicknamed "the cage"—he attempted an escape by sawing through the bars. The attempt failed when the hole he created was too small to crawl through.

During a subsequent search, jail guards ordered Rapier to remove his prosthetic leg. When he did, a saw fell out—revealing how he had managed the escape attempt. Rapier claimed the saw had come from Yuma, though officials suspected it had been smuggled into the jail while he was in Globe.



His prison records also noted an "India Ink Mark" near his abdomen—an early mention of what we now recognize as a tattoo.

After serving his sentence, which included 30 days in solitary confinement, Rapier attempted to settle into a more stable life. By 1920, he was living in the Globe-Miami area of Arizona, residing with his brother and working with the Copper Company, taking part of the booming copper mining industry of Gila County.

By 1930, Rapier had relocated to Illinois, where records show he was employed in machinery work. Eventually, Rapier moved again—this time to Montana, where he lived out his final years and passed away.



**MEMORIAL DAY IN ARIZONA - Brothers of the Buckey O'Neill Camp No. 175 marched in procession at the Citizens' Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona for Memorial Day. Brothers, led in gear similar to the Rough Riders, were led by military order by Camp Sr VP David Williamson. Junior Rough Rider Braxton Porter holding the colors of the state then presented the flag to the local VFW to be tethered to the pole. After speeches were done, including Camp Jr VP Prater reading the Gettysburg address, Brothers then fell in with the local VFW, joining them in salute. Pictured, from left to right, Bro. Jackson Steadman, Chaplain Jeffrey Steadman, President Avery Frantz, Sr VP David Williamson, Braxton Porter, Sgt-at-Arms Brandon Porter. (O'Neill Camp Photo)**



**SSAWV LEADERSHIP – National President Tim Mabee (left) visited the Alexander Quinn Camp in Lebanon, Pennsylvania recently. He’s pictured with Quinn Camp members; Past National President Jim McAteer (center, who is also the Quinn Camp Secretary) and current National Vice-President Mark Donahue (on right) who is also the Quinn Camp President. PNP McAteer is a Vietnam veteran and 2025 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam Era. On behalf of the national membership, the editors says, ‘Thank you for your service’ and ‘Welcome home!’ to PNP McAteer and all of our Vietnam veterans! (Quinn Camp Photo)**

# Pride in Membership!

The SSAWV offers several items appropriate for wear at meetings and special events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also make great gift ideas for your loved ones seeking a gift for SSAWV members on birthdays and Christmas.



## How to Place an Order

Contact our National Supply Officer Charles “Chuck” Hand by e-mail at [chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com) and indicate the items you wish to purchase. He will respond and calculate your shipping and handling charges, please add \$5.00 for shipping.

Our Supply Officer can be contacted at:

Charles “Chuck” Hand, National Supply Officer  
116 Sage Canyon  
Boerne, TX 78006  
Email: [chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com)



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## O'Neill Camp Commander 'Surprised' with Award from Membership



**Figure 2 O'NEILL CAMP AWARD** - Members of the Buckey O'Neill Camp surprised Camp President Avery Frantz with a specially minted medal in recognition of his work advancing the goals and objectives of the Sons of Spanish-American Veterans and the camp. Pictured, from left to right, are Brandon Porter, Ryan Taylor, Avery Frantz and David Williamson. (Contributed photo)

Buckey O'Neill Camp member Brandon Porter, with the help of fellow O'Neill Camp members surprised Camp President Avery Frantz with a specially minted medal to recognize his work over the past several years.

According to Porter, "I brought up the idea to the members of Buckey O'Neill camp to give Avery, our camp president an award for the great work his has done over the past few years.

The camp agreed it was a great idea, so I designed the medal the *Captain O'Neill Award of Merit*." It was presented to Frantz in surprise ceremony on April 6, 2025, at Dillions BBQ Arrowhead in Glendale, Arizona



# Spanish War Veterans Honor First Battle Use of American Flag at Fort Stanwix

In a tribute reaching beyond their own time in uniform, the Liscum-Wheeler Camper of the United Spanish War Veterans, dedicated a commemorative plaque on August 3, 1927, at Fort Stanwix, New York — marking the first recorded instance of the American flag flown in battle.

The plaque, donated to the city, honors the events of August 3, 1777, when the Stars and Stripes were raised above the fort's southwest bastion during a key moment in the Revolutionary War.

Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Continental troops held off a prolonged siege by British forces, Hessians, Loyalists, and Native allies under Lt. Col. Barry St. Leger. A daring sortie by Lt. Col. Marinus Willett on August 6 helped ease pressure on American militia fighting nearby at Oriskany.

Though the USWV fought in the Spanish-American War of 1898, this gesture reflects their broader mission: to preserve national memory and promote patriotism across generations. The plaque also references the fort's earlier and later roles in diplomacy and defense — from its 1758 construction to the 1784 treaty with Native nations.

By honoring where the flag first entered battle, the veterans connected their own service to the country's founding struggle — a reminder that American ideals are defended not just in war, but in how we remember it.



## ‘Real Son’, 91, Enrolls with O’Neill Camp

(Sun Lakes, Arizona) - The SSAWV Buckey O’Neill Camp in Arizona announced in March that they’ve enrolled their second ‘real son.’ According to Camp Commander Avery Franz, “I received a letter from 91-year-old William Peters of Sun Lakes, Arizona showing service of his father and stated he attended USWV meetings in Georgia with his father in the 1950s.”

## ‘Fighting Joe’ Wheeler Member is UDC Speaker

(Richmond, Va) – An SSAWV ‘Fighting Joe’ Wheeler Camp member provided the keynote address at the national United Daughters of the Confederacy spring meeting and annual Massing of the Flags in Richmond on April 5, 2025. Eanes’ talk, *‘The Confederacy: A Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Nation’* was designed to highlight the multi-ethnic dimension of those in Confederate service with vignettes on Native Americans, Jewish Americans, Confederates of Color, Asian-Pacific Islanders, Hispanic-Americans, first and second generation immigrants, and women, who worked in support of the Confederate war effort. Nine former Confederates attained General Officer rank in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. At least two former Confederate veterans, holding General Officer rank in state service, were also commissioned as Colonels in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War.



## ‘Fighting Joe’ Wheeler Member is Memorial Day Speaker

(Sublett’s, Powhatan County, Va) – SSAWV ‘Fighting Joe’ Wheeler camp member Greg Eanes provided the annual Memorial Day address at the Huguenot Springs Confederate Cemetery in Powhatan County, Va. The site is the resting place of approximately 250 Confederate soldiers who died from disease or from the results of wounds while being treated at the Huguenot Springs Hospital.

Colonel Barton Campbell, USAR (Retired) helped identify the location over 40 years ago when it was an overgrown field, forgotten to history. In the middle was a 1915 UDC monument. In time the cemetery was transferred to the JEB Stuart Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 1343, and this led to the creation of the Huguenot Springs Cemetery Foundation (HSCF) which facilitates cemetery maintenance, emplacing of veteran cemetery markers and orchestrates the annual Memorial Day services.

Due to administrative rules in the Veterans Administration implemented by prior administrations but now enforced, each marker and materials for placement for each newly identified war dead now costs about \$900. Individuals wishing to make tax deductible donations this 501(c)3 can send checks made out to HSCF and send to James Ray, P.O. Box 29814, Henrico, Va 23242-0814.

*---Veterans of Three Wars---*

# Major Henry Wessells

By Maj. Peter L. Belmonte, USAF (Ret.)

Formed in August 1861, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment saw service during the Civil War and then on the Great Plains, fighting against Sioux and other Native American tribes.<sup>1</sup> The regiment was one of seven cavalry regiments to see combat in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. From the time the regiment moved to Tampa, Florida, in early May 1898 until the Battle of San Juan Heights on July 1, Major Henry W. Wessells, Jr., commanded the regiment.<sup>2</sup>

## Civil War

Henry Walton Wessells, Jr., was born on December 24, 1846, in Sacketts Harbor, New York. He was the son of Henry W. Wessells, Sr. (1809-1889) and Hannah Cooper Wessells. Henry Wessells, Sr., graduated West Point in 1833 and served in the Second Seminole War, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War. At the close of the Civil War, he was breveted a brigadier general; he retired from the Army in 1871.<sup>3</sup>

He followed in his father's footsteps, attending the Military Academy at West Point from September 1862 to November 1864.<sup>4</sup> His reason for leaving the Academy while the nation was embroiled in the Civil War is not known, but Wessells apparently still desired to serve in the military. He enlisted in the Army for three years at New York City on March 1, 1865. Wessells served in Companies K and D of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment until his discharge as a sergeant on August 16, 1865, at St. Augustine, Florida. Wessells was discharged in order to accept an appointment as a second lieutenant in the 7th Infantry; his date of rank as both second lieutenant and first lieutenant appears to have been July 21, 1865.<sup>5</sup>

During his five-month stint as an enlisted man, Wessells' two years at West Point probably resulted in his quick promotion to Sergeant; his experience and ability as a non-commissioned officer, and perhaps his father's connections, resulted in his commissioning as an officer. In 1869, Wessells, a junior officer in the 7th Infantry Regiment at Fort Brooke, Florida, married Eliza Lane Meginniss in Leon, Florida. The couple would eventually have two daughters and three sons.<sup>6</sup> In this instance, Wessells overstayed his leave slightly, but there is no record of any adverse action, and his career appears not to have suffered.<sup>7</sup> Fort Brooke was located near



Tampa, Florida, a place Wessells would visit thirty years later during the Spanish-American War. In 1870, Wessells made the move from hot, humid Florida to Fort Shaw, Montana Territory, with the 7th Infantry Regiment. There, he spent time on special duty with the mounted detachment.<sup>8</sup>

### Indian Wars

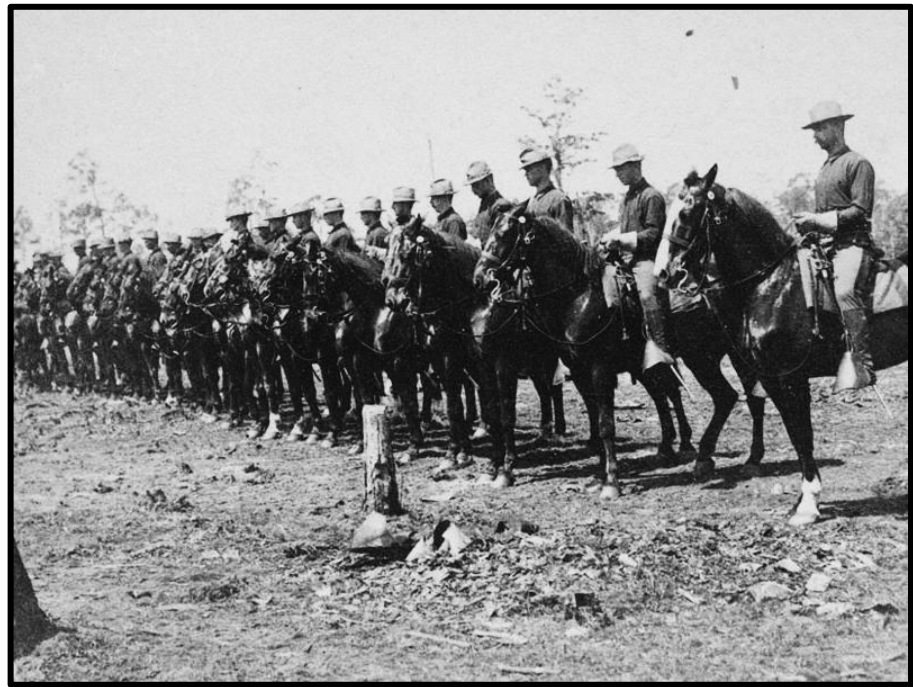
This mounted service must have appealed to Wessells, for on January 1, 1871, he transferred to the cavalry and was assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Promoted to captain in December 1872, Wessells became acquainted with the Cheyenne while stationed at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, where he had to deal with tribal members who were attempting to flee the Indian Territory to return to their lands in the Northern Great Plains. Cheyenne captives were held at Fort Robinson until they broke out of their barracks on January 9, 1879. Wessells, who had risen to the command of Fort Robinson only the month before, led troops of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment in the pursuit of the fleeing Cheyenne. During the pursuit and final attack, the regiment lost eleven soldiers, and one Indian scout killed, and three men, including Captain Wessells, wounded.<sup>9</sup> In the ensuing years, Wessells would find himself stationed at Fort Washakie, Fort D. A. Russell, Fort Bridger, and Fort Laramie, Wyoming Territory; Fort McDowell and Whipple Barracks, Arizona Territory; Sidney Barracks and Fort McPherson, Nebraska; Camp Eagle Pass, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Clark, Fort McIntosh, and Fort Davis, Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma Territory; and Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.<sup>10</sup>

On August 16, 1892, Wessells was promoted to major.<sup>11</sup>

### War with Spain

As the United States inched closer to war with Spain, President William McKinley began tentative steps toward preparedness. One such step was an increase in the size of the Army and the movement of troops to concentration points in preparation for

shipment to Cuba. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, under Colonel Samuel B. M. Young, assembled at Camp Thomas near Chickamauga, Georgia, on April 24, 1898. On May 4, Young was appointed temporary brigadier general in order to command one of the cavalry brigades being formed for action in Cuba. At that time, Wessells assumed command of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, and the regiment moved to Tampa, Florida, nine days later. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment became part of the First Brigade of Major General



THIRD CAVALRY IN TAMPA (U.S. Army Center for Military History)

Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Division. The First Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Samuel S. Sumner, consisted of the 3rd, 6th and 9th Cavalry Regiments.<sup>12</sup> Colonel Young advanced to command of the Second Brigade, consisting of the 1st, 10th, and 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiments. A squadron of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment was also part of the Fifth Corps preparing for action in Cuba. The regiment boarded the transport *Rio Grande* on June 8. Due to space constraints imposed by the shortage of adequate troop transports, only about two-thirds of each cavalry regiment shipped to Cuba, and all regiments, except for a non-divisional squadron of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, left their horses behind, surely a bitter pill to swallow for cavalymen. In the 3rd Cavalry, troops A, D, L, and M stayed behind in Tampa, along with the horses and most recruits.<sup>13</sup> Each of the regiment's troops that boarded transports left newer troops behind and "had an enlisted strength of fifty men, almost entirely old soldiers ..."<sup>14</sup> Due to confusion over the whereabouts of part of the Spanish fleet, the Fifth Corps convoy did not depart Tampa until June 14, arriving off Daiquiri, Cuba, eight days later. The regiment disembarked on June 25 and went into camp.<sup>15</sup>

### Cuba and the Philippines

The 3rd didn't participate in the Battle of Las Guasimas on June 24, but they moved into line along with the rest of the Cavalry Division on the night of June 30, bivouacking on El Pozo Hill. During the assault on Kettle Hill and San Juan Heights the next day, the 3rd lost 3 men killed; and 6 officers and 49 men wounded, and two men missing, out of a total of 22 officers and 432 enlisted men present for duty.<sup>16</sup> Among the wounded was Major Wessells who had been shot in the neck. Sometime in July, Wessells fell ill, along with many other in the Fifth Corps, and by the end of July command of the regiment fell to Major Henry Jackson.<sup>17</sup> The regiment left Cuba in two groups; the groups arrived at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York, on August 13 and 14. The men marched to Camp Wikoff, the convalescent camp, and moved into tents. On September 5, the regiment departed Camp Wikoff and moved to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.<sup>18</sup>

From September 1898 to August 1899, Wessells was at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, with part of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment; he reassumed command of the regiment on October 3 of that year. Promoted to lieutenant colonel in May 1899, Wessells returned to the Philippines with his regiment, probably in late 1899. By March 1900, Wessells was commanding the post at San Fernando de la



Union, Philippines. He was also the military commander of the provinces of Union and Benguet, on Luzon. By January 1901, Wessells was in command of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, now stationed at Camp Porter, New York. He was promoted to colonel and retired for disability in the line of duty in February 1901.<sup>19</sup> Wessells moved to Washington, D.C., where he lived with his wife, Eliza, and daughter, also named Eliza. Wessells was promoted to brigadier general on the retired list on April 23, 1904. He died on November 9, 1929, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.<sup>20</sup> Except for a brief time as a newly commissioned officer in the 7th Infantry Regiment, Wessells had served his entire time in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

## Summary

Wessells was typical of the field and staff officers of the Regular Army in 1898. He had seen service in the Civil War and, while he had not graduated from West Point, he obtained a commission and served against Native Americans in the West and on the Great Plains. His combat experience as an officer was in fighting Native American warriors in various circumstances. At times, in isolated posts in the West, Wessells, as a company grade officer, found himself commanding a post and the troops therein, such as at Whipple Barracks, Arizona Territory, in the early 1880s.<sup>21</sup> This, too, was typical of the times and an experience he shared with other field grade officers in 1898. Also, in common with many of his fellow officers, the conditions he found in Cuba were in many ways different from those he had encountered previously in active service. While some historians have rightly, in some cases, criticized Army leadership in Cuba in 1898, none can deny that Wessells, and men like him, carried out their mission under trying conditions imposed upon them by circumstances beyond their control.

## Notes

1. Philip Katcher, *US Cavalry on the Plains 1850-90* (Oxford, UK: Osprey, 2010), pp. 6-7.
2. *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain*. Volume 1. Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1993, p. 542.
3. General biographical information found on Wikipedia pages.
4. Arlington National Cemetery, <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/hwessjr.htm>.
5. Ancestry.com, *U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.
6. Wessells family members are found using various databases available on Ancestry.com.
7. See Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.
8. See Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*.
9. General information about the Fort Robinson action can be found on Wikipedia.
10. See Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*.
11. Promotion and unit of assignment information is found on Ancestry.com, *U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
12. Ancestry.com, *U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985*, and Ralph C. Deibert, *A History of the Third United States Cavalry* (Harrisburg: Telegraph Press, 1933), p. 34.
13. Deibert, *A History of the Third United States Cavalry*, p. 34.
14. *ibid.*
15. Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009, found under Henry W. Wessells, Jr., roll dated June 30, 1898, Santiago, Cuba.
16. For casualty figures, see Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*, found under Henry W. Wessells, Jr., roll for June 30, 1898, Santiago, Cuba. Major General Joseph Wheeler gives similar figures but with 47 men wounded and none missing, see *The Santiago Campaign, 1898* (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1971).
17. See Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*, found under Henry W. Wessells, Jr., roll for July 1898, Santiago, Cuba.
18. Deibert, *A History of the Third United States Cavalry*, p. 35.
19. For Wessells' promotions and stations, see Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.
20. Findagrave.com.
21. See Ancestry.com, *U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*.

# Annual Dues Notice



Members of the SSAWV please note that we are on a fiscal year basis. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Dues become payable no later than June 30th of each year.

**Members at Large** can forward **annual dues of \$15.00** to the Treasurer at the following address:

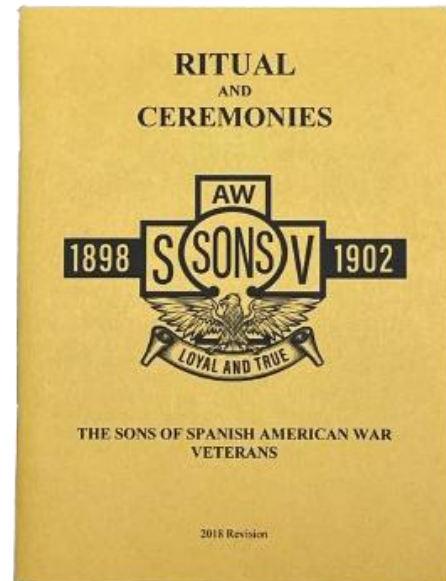
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06095-1633**

**Camp members must submit dues to the Camp Treasurer.**

Your dues support projects in remembrance of the Spanish American War and that perpetuate the memory of our veteran ancestors who fought and served their country.

# Did you lose something?

The SSAWV offers replacement membership certificates for those that have lost them due to moves or fires or perhaps through improper storage leading to damage. Additionally, those needing the current Ritual and Ceremonies manual for Camp or personal use can also obtain these from the Supply Officer.



## How to Place an Order

Contact our National Supply Officer Charles “Chuck” Hand by e-mail at [chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckhand.ssawv175@yahoo.com) and indicate the items you wish to purchase. He will respond and calculate your shipping and handling charges, please add \$5.00 for shipping.

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