



# The National Son

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

*Volume 2026 No. 1*



**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – Vietnam veteran and SSAWV Past National President IPNP) Jim McAteer of the Quinn Camp #173 is pictured delivering the keynote address at the Laying of Wreaths in Richland PA (Lebanon Co) in Dec. 2025. His talk is included in this issue.**

## From the National President...

Greetings to All!

We hope you enjoy this quarter's issue of *The National Son*. In addition to camp news, you'll find Part 2 of the *Spanish-American War Diary* of Walter Scott Elliott is published. The article is provided courtesy of the Daughters of '98 and Barbara Elliotte Osborne.

In this *National Son*, you will find two great articles by Peter Belmonte and Greg tells me he's got three more by Pete that will be published in the next issue. Well done Pete! Author Dennis Edward Flake shares a summary of his larger study on *The Fighting Tenth* about the 10<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry.

Two of our Camps supported the annual Wreaths Across America effort in December. Quinn Camp's Jim McAteer (also PNP) gave an excellent talk in Richland, Pennsylvania in support of the effort. Kudos also go out to Avery Frantz (now 1<sup>st</sup> National VP) for reaching out and working with the local UDC for the Arizona program.

There's also an article on Personnel Demobilization in the Spanish-American War Era, part of a larger Army study on post-war demobilizations. It answers questions about that process. Coupled with that is an inventory of U.S. Navy Trophy Guns captured during the conflicts of the Spanish-American War Era. Many of these are on display at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and accessible to the public. Also included are the minutes from the latest Council of Administration meeting.

**NEW ADDRESS FOR TREASURER - Effective Immediately! SSAWV Acting Treasurer is Mr. Avery Frantz. Dues checks should be forwarded to him at this address: 1449 East Highland Avenue, Unit 32, Phoenix, Arizona 85014.**

**This also signals a change in ordering SSAWV materials.** While you will still continue to order items from Chuck Hand (who will also notify you of the appropriate postage), all checks for the purchase of materials will be sent directly to the Treasurer.

Enjoy this issue and be sure to get your camp news to Greg as you conduct your activities throughout the year.

*-Mark*



# **Lebanon County and the Spanish American War**

**Remarks delivered by PNP Jim McAteer  
At 2025 Wreaths Across America Service  
Richland, Pennsylvania**

During January, 1898, the *USS MAINE* arrived in Havana Harbor, Cuba, a territory of Spain, on a goodwill visit. In February, 1898, the *USS MAINE* blew up in Havana Harbor. American officials determined that the ship was destroyed by an underwater mine. As a result, in April of 1898 the US declared war on Spain.

President McKinley ordered all US National Guardsmen to report for duty. In Pennsylvania, all national guardsmen reported to the national guard headquarters, located in Mount Gretna, Lebanon County.

At that time, state national guard units were not allowed to be deployed outside of their state. Consequently, all Pennsylvania guardsmen who reported to Mount Gretna were asked to voluntarily resign from the state unit and volunteer in the US army. Lancaster and Lebanon County units were reorganized as Company H, 4th Pennsylvania Volunteers at Mount Gretna.

The 4th Pennsylvania Volunteers were reassigned to several different military posts within the US after organization, including Camp Thomas, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. In August, 1898, the volunteers invaded Puerto Rico, then a Spanish colony. On November 13, 1898 the battle of Guayama was halted upon the Americans learning of the truce established the previous day.

The 4th Pennsylvania returned to Pennsylvania and participated in the Peace Jubilee Parade, Philadelphia, on October 27, 1898. On November 16, 1898, Company H was honorably discharged from US service.

This war had a deep impact on the United States of America. Veterans returned to their home counties and started community organizations which became the Veterans of Foreign Wars that exist today. These posts have served their home communities for over 125 years. European countries now thought of America as an international military power. Military tactics learned during the Spanish American War were used by our officers during World War I.

During 1916, the 4th Pennsylvania National Guard was again activated and assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas, where the unit participated in the Mexican Intervention. While there, the unit was reassigned as machine gun units and, during World War I, served in Germany.

By the 1930's the Pennsylvania National Guard had outgrown the confines of Mount Gretna and moved to their current location at Indiantown Gap.

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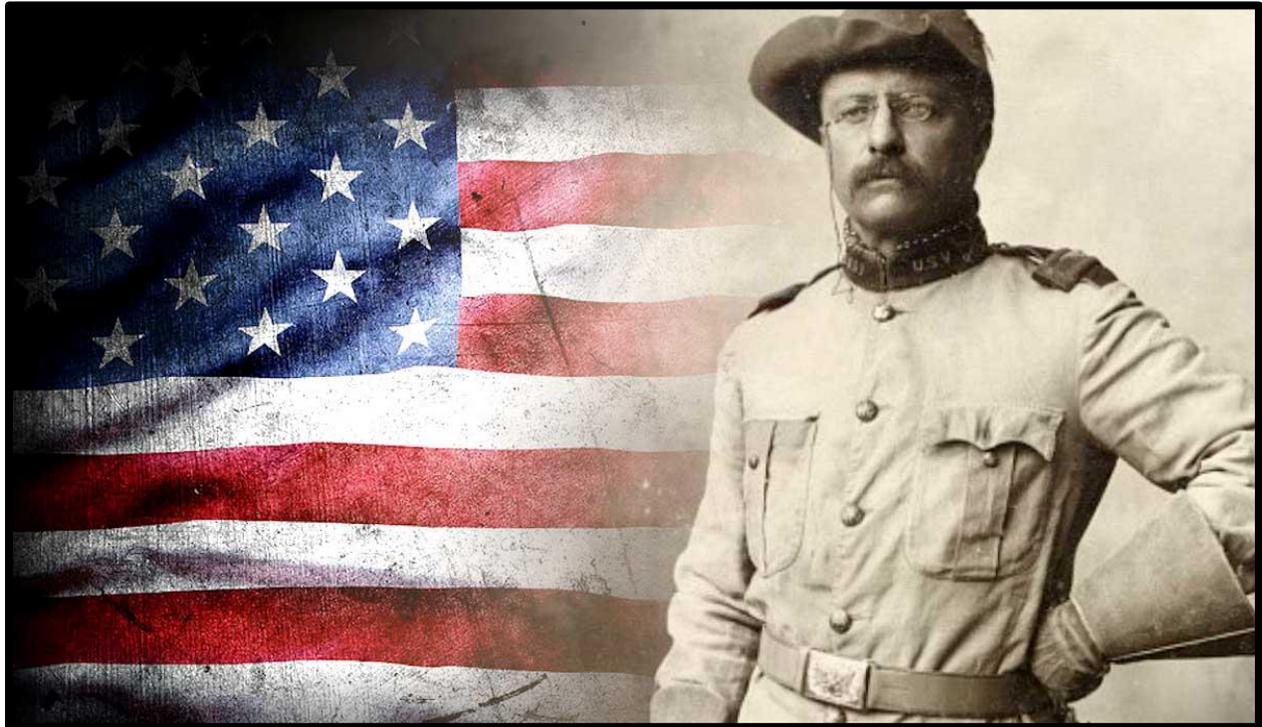
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - The SSAWV's O'Neill Camp supported Wreaths Across America in conjunction with the United Daughters of the Confederacy during the Christmas holiday. Pictured, from left to right, are M. R. Taylor, Camp Treasurer, Camp #175, SSAWV; Marian Hulka, Chapter Outreach Coordinator, Chapter #2102, UDC; Jeri McAnerny, Chapter President, Chapter #2102, UDC; A. D. Frantz, National Sr VP, SSAWV.**

## O'Neill Camp Supports Wreaths Across America

The Buckeye O'Neill Camp No. 175, Sons of Spanish American War Veterans in conjunction with the Thunderbird Chapter No. 2102, United Daughters of the Confederacy placed wreaths on those buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona, for Wreaths Across America. The Buckeye O'Neill Camp No. 175 sponsored a grave specific wreath for Nathan Cook, the last Spanish American War veteran and last United Spanish War Veteran member of the United States. Mr. Nathan Cook served in 4 wars, and was known by Real Son William Peters and his wife whom are members of the Camp and live in Sun Lakes, Arizona. After placing a wreath for Cook the Sons helped the UDC in placing their sponsored wreaths.



# Annual Dues



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 Acting Treasurer at the following address:

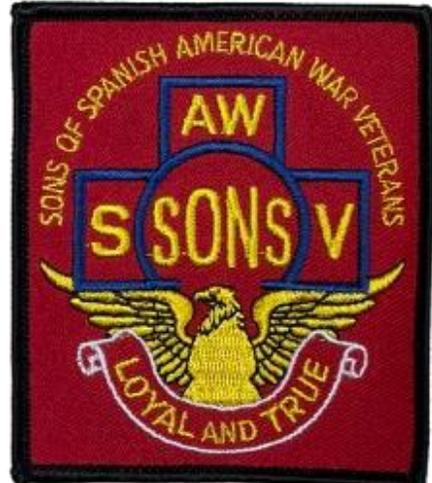
**Avery Frantz**  
**1449 East Highland Avenue**  
**Unit 32**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85014**

**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.

# 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.

## **SEND CHECKS TO TREASURER!**

Please send all payments to:

**Avery Frantz**  
**1449 East Highland Avenue**  
**Unit 32**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85014**

Checks made payable to “SSAWV”.

**We also accept Zelle electronic payments to [SSAWV@business.net](mailto:SSAWV@business.net)**

Visit our National SSAWV website at: <https://ssawv.org>

**This is part 2 of an article. It originally appeared in the Daughters of '98 January 2026 newsletter and is printed verbatim. Our thanks to Walter Scott Elliott's granddaughter and D98 member Barbara Elliott Osborne and National President Pat McAteer for sharing.**

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**WALTER SCOTT ELLIOTT**

## **Diary of Spanish American War**

**(Part 2 of 3)**

**1st Division 1st Army Corps Reserve Hospital Corps  
under Major General John E. Brooke**

Walter Scott Elliott was born March 13, 1869 in Indianapolis, Indiana. His family was Ulster Scots and strong Presbyterians. His grandfather, John Elliott was a dragoon in the U.S. Army and was at the battle of Tippecanoe with William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh.

Between 1888 and 1892 he became a railroad man traveling the West from San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, to Astoria, Oregon and Laramie, Wyoming.

For a while, He tried his luck gold prospecting in Cedar Creek Canyon Hesperia, CA. At one point he became so lost in the mountains that he was close to death. He vowed to God that he would spend all his days in service to Christ.

That was not an empty promise, God did spare him and in 1894 Walter attended Wheaton College in Illinois to get a theological education in order to join the ministry. In 1896 he was at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Walter became D.L. Moody's, road manager and traveled with him across the country in his evangelistic crusades.

In early 1897 Walter was enrolled at McCormick Theological Seminary and started working with the YMCA and their Christian outreach.

In May 1898, when Walter was 29 years old, He heeded his country's call for action in the Spanish American War. He enlisted in the Hospital Corps and took his oath at Fort Sheridan, north of Chicago. In July 1898 he was transferred to Camp Thomas at Chickamauga Park., GA where they had basic training. He was in General Brooke's First Army Hospital Corps which soon took rail-road cars to Newport News, VA en route to Puerto Rico.

***In this issue of our newsletter, we include the second installment of the three-part series of his Spanish-American War Diary.***

**August 1, 1898 (Monday)**

The ship's captain reports that he will probably make a port by tomorrow noon. It is said that First class battleship "USS Oregon" is to come out through Mona Passage to escort us. A small island was sighted at daybreak this morning. This is another delightful day on board. A brisk, brief shower routed us from our slumbers just before dawn. It took some hustling to care for our patients.

We had the usual seawater bath on deck this morning. At "sick call" we nurses and doctors had our hands full, giving out pills and dressing wounds and bruises for about an hour or more. We had horse bites, mule kicks, cuts from knives and sabers, bruises and sprains from falling over the ship.

9:30 a.m. Ship just sighted directly east of us, at first barely visible. Masts and stack above horizon. Evidently heading toward us. Getting closer. Our flag hoisted just now for the first time since we started. Great excitement on board; particularly among the

officers, who stand looking through their field glasses and making comments and conjectures. Our ship has quickened her pace.

10:00 a.m. It is plain now that the sighted ship is going north. The lookout on the bridge has announced that it is a transport on her return trip. She is now almost out of sight again.

I sat on the bench in the corner of the quarter deck, where I was somewhat secluded and read Paul's Philippian letter. This letter is particularly adaptable to my present circumstances; Chapter 1:20- 26 and Chapter 4: 10-13 in particular.

### **August 2, 1898 (Tuesday)**

At 6:00 a.m. we sighted the top of the mountain island of Monita. Thirty minutes later the full outline of the island Mona loomed up to the east of Monita. An hour later still more land was sighted farther east. The sight of land filled the hearts of all with joy, even as the crew of the Santa Maria were when Columbus caught sight of San Domingo, the island we shall see in an hour or so.

At 9:00 a.m. we were just passing Monita. It is a small heavily wooded isle, looking like the top of a mountain peak sticking out of the water. It seems to be uninhabited. Seven or eight small bodies of land are visible some miles ahead on the port side.

At 9:20 a big flock of seagulls surrounded the ship and one, which seemed to be tired out, alighted on the tackle beam supporting one of the lifeboats on the starboard side. The men all take it as a token of good luck and every fellow with a Kodak camera is taking a snapshot of him. He rode from 10 minutes and then, just as Paul Biggers was adjusting his Eastman cam-era to take a shot of him, he spread his wings and flew away.

We are now at 9:50 a.m. in sight of Puerto Rico. We can only see the long dark outline of the mountainous island. Major Bain says we will land this evening. Major Smith is very sick, probably has typhoid.

At 10:45 a.m. two ships are in sight ahead of us. All eyes and glasses are turned on them. One seems to be a war ship, the other a sailing vessel. The usual excitement attends the circumstance.

At 11:05 a.m. we met the war ship which proved to be a German merchantman. We hoisted two blue and white flags on the main mast, and the German answered the salute by hoisting a little red and white pennant. Ten minutes later we passed the sailing vessel in full sail. She looked very pretty. We have been sailing for several hours with the Puerto Rican Coast in plain sight on our left.

At 2:00 p.m. We came upon the transports “USS City of Washington” and “USS Seneca” anchored three miles out from a Puerto Rican City. As we pass them the men on board cheered wildly.

At 4:50 p.m. We met the “USS Nueces” flying the “Red Cross” flag. We heaved to and spoke to her. The captain told us that Ponce had surrendered and that General Nelson Miles had given orders to deliver to us ordering us to go to Ponce,- that peace has not yet been declared but that there is no war. We will probably get more orders when we reach Ponce so the nurses told us.



**USS NEUCES - View of Guanica Harbor, Porto [i.e. Puerto] Rico, showing U.S.A. transport "Nueces" with 5th Artillery in foreground, July-25-1898. Nine days later Walter Scott would see this ship in the same waters. (New York Public Library Digital Collection).**

We can now see the green grass of the hills of the coveted island. We are within 7 miles of Ponce. It is 3:15 p.m. and now we are fixed! A 3:30 p.m. we came upon a pretty little green isle about two hundred yards long. On it was a lighthouse and house for the keeper painted milk white. The green trees and grass looked very pretty and as we were admiring the tropical scene we suddenly perceived that our ship had stopped, and the word quickly passed around that we were aground.

It is now 5:15 p.m. and we are still tugging away trying to get loose The other transports have passed us and are now lined up with a lot of battleships and cruisers a half a mile ahead of us.

A small boat containing four Spaniards or Puerto Rican natives came up to our side and we threw them a rope. They are dressed like Mexicans with the high crowned straw hats. They shouted, "A Bravo Americano."

**August 3, 1898 (Wednesday)**

We spent the whole day trying to get the ship loose from the coral reef on which she is strand-ed, but to no effect. Our ship draws 30 ft of water and we are stranded in 23 ft. At about 3:00 this afternoon the battleship "USS Prairie" came alongside as close as she could get (200 yards) and we began transferring our men to her. By dark all but one or two companies have been carried on "lighters" or lifeboats and steam launches to the "USS Prairie."

I was left aboard the "USS Massachusetts" in charge of my patient, Hall, who is now nearly well again. The old ship pounded away all night long against the rocks beneath and she listed far to starboard. During the day some of the men were sent ashore to the fort and when they came back they were wearing Puerto Rican straw hats; loaded down with coconuts and native fruits, and had their pockets full of Puerto Rican money which they had gotten in exchange for American money. They reported the natives very friendly to Americans. I dickered for one of the straw hats which I am now wearing. it is reported that 2,000 Spaniards are holding a mountain pass twenty miles north east of us and that they are strongly entrenched.

**August 4, 1898 (Thursday)**

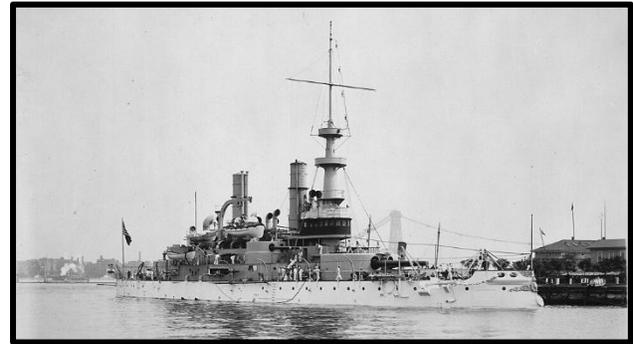
At daybreak the men on all the ships begin hustling. We began lowering horses over the side into lighters. Several stevedores got kicked, making work for me as a hospital man. The men who had been sent to the "USS Prairie" were transferred to the "USS Florida" earlier in the day. One hundred Puerto Rican natives were brought aboard the "USS Massachusetts" to as-sist in heavy work of unloading. I tried my meager Spanish vocabulary on them to good effect.

They graphically described the flight of the Spanish army when the Americans approached Pounce. Some Spanish soldiers hid in cellars and in trees and the Puerto Ricans caught them and killed them, so one fellow told me. He was a very tall, brawny fellow and he used many gestures as he told of the big Spaniard he had killed. I held up my homemade American flag and they said "Muchas Bueno, Americano." They were very friendly to me and proudly pro-claimed themselves "Puerto Rican Americanos."

It is rumored that there is heavy fighting today at the pass, 20 miles east, and that the American soldiers have been unsuccessful in dislodging the Spaniards. It is said the American soldiers have been ordered not to eat native fruits for ten days. We took our first lesson in Spanish today.

**August 5, 1898 (Friday)**

I and my patient are still aboard the “USS Massachusetts” which continues to pound against the bottom in spite of the strenuous efforts to release her. A division hospital has been established on shore and I have orders to get my patient to shore as soon as possible. “Don't try to use those Puerto Ricans anymore,” shouted Captain Reed to the foreman this a.m. “They just stand around in the way and don't do anything.” And the lieutenant of the “USS Prairie” after shouting orders over the side of the ship to a boatload of natives, who failed to understand him, turned aside and remarked “Oh, if I only had a pocket full of rocks.”



USS MASSACHUSETTS (BB-2)

Later -. At 10:00 a.m. today I and my patient pulled ashore and reported at the hospital. My first sight of a Puerto Rican City filled me with wonder. The natives seemed clean and intelligent. Abundance of fruit. I joined my company in camp at noon. Marched through streets of Ponce at head of command with my homemade flag. Natives all in favor of America. Cries of “Puerto Rico Americano” on every side. One woman ran out into the street and kissed the flag. This is the most beautiful Island.

*The next newsletter will conclude Walter Scott Elliott's Spanish-American War Diary.*



**U.S. TROOPS IN PUERTO RICO** – This image reportedly depicts U.S. military personnel after landing in Puerto Rico in August 1898.

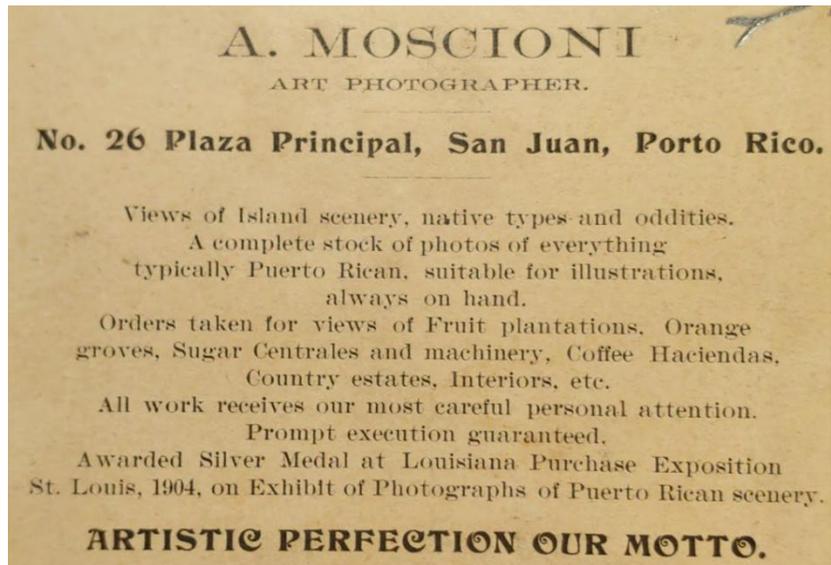
# Attilio Moscioni

## A Veteran of Two Wars, and an ‘Art Photographer’

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

In historiography of the Spanish-American War, it is probably not recorded how many American servicemen took their discharge in Cuba, Puerto Rico, or the Philippines, or returned thereto shortly after their discharge, to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence. There is anecdotal and documentary evidence that this happened, and not infrequently. In a previous issue of the *National Son*, I considered the case of Emilio Cassi, one of the trumpeters in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, Roosevelt’s Rough Riders, who lived and worked in Cuba for many years after his discharge. In this article, we will examine an Italian American soldier who remained in Puerto Rico and worked as a photographer there for many years after his discharge.

Attilio Moscioni was born in Rome, Italy, on 14 November 1876. He came to the U.S. in 1897, and he enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years at New York City on 24 June 1898. Moscioni, a photographer by trade, served in Battery G, 5th Artillery Regiment, during the Puerto Rico Campaign. He was discharged as a private with a “very good” character rating on 25 April 1899, at San Juan, Puerto Rico.<sup>1</sup> Moscioni remained in Puerto Rico, and he married Carmen Padilla there on 23 February 1901. Moscioni filed to become a United States citizen in San Juan on 24 November 1902.<sup>2</sup> Moscioni took hundreds of photographs that



Attilio Moscioni’s business card - (courtesy of Juliana Fillies, Facebook newspaper clippings).



An example of Moscioni’s photographs. Vieques Public School, c. 1907 (Library of Congress).

documented Puerto Rican life in the early twentieth century. In 1911 he published a souvenir booklet of photographs; the booklet, *Picturesque Porto Rico*, was probably sold to tourists.<sup>3</sup>

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Moscioni, Attilio</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Late rank, Co. G, 5 Regt U.S. Art.</i>				
TERM OF SERVICE: <i>Enlisted June 24, 1898 Discharged Apr 25, 1899</i>				
DATE OF FILING:	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	LAW.	CERTIFICATE NO.
<i>1425 July 6</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>1521601</i>	<i>7/20</i>	<i>1275818</i>
	<i>Widow,</i>			
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ADDITIONAL SERVICES: <i>55th Serv Co Sig Corps USA</i>				
<i>71A 9-24-25</i>				
REMARKS:				
<i>7/21/1925</i>				
Died ..... , 1 ..... , at .....				

**VETERANS PENSION ID CARD** - The Spanish-American War veteran's pension index card for Attilio Moscioni periods of his service (Fold3.com).

With the United States' entry into World War I in April 1917, Moscioni returned to New York City. He enlisted in the Army on 17 December 1917. On 6 March 1918, Moscioni was a private in the U.S. Army Signal Corps Photographic Division when he left the U.S. bound for France aboard the Army Transport *Tenadores*. He listed his next of kin as his wife, Carmen Moscioni, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. When he returned to the U.S. aboard the *Agamemnon* on 24 May 1919, Moscioni was a sergeant in the 55th Service Company, Signal Corps. He was discharged on 6 June 1919. On 6 July 1925, Moscioni applied for a disability pension based upon his military service.<sup>4</sup> In 1928, Moscioni visited Italy and while there he was granted an audience with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. After Moscioni's return to the United States, Mussolini sent him an autographed picture of himself.<sup>5</sup> Moscioni lived and worked as a photographer in New York City until his death there on 14 March 1950.<sup>6</sup>

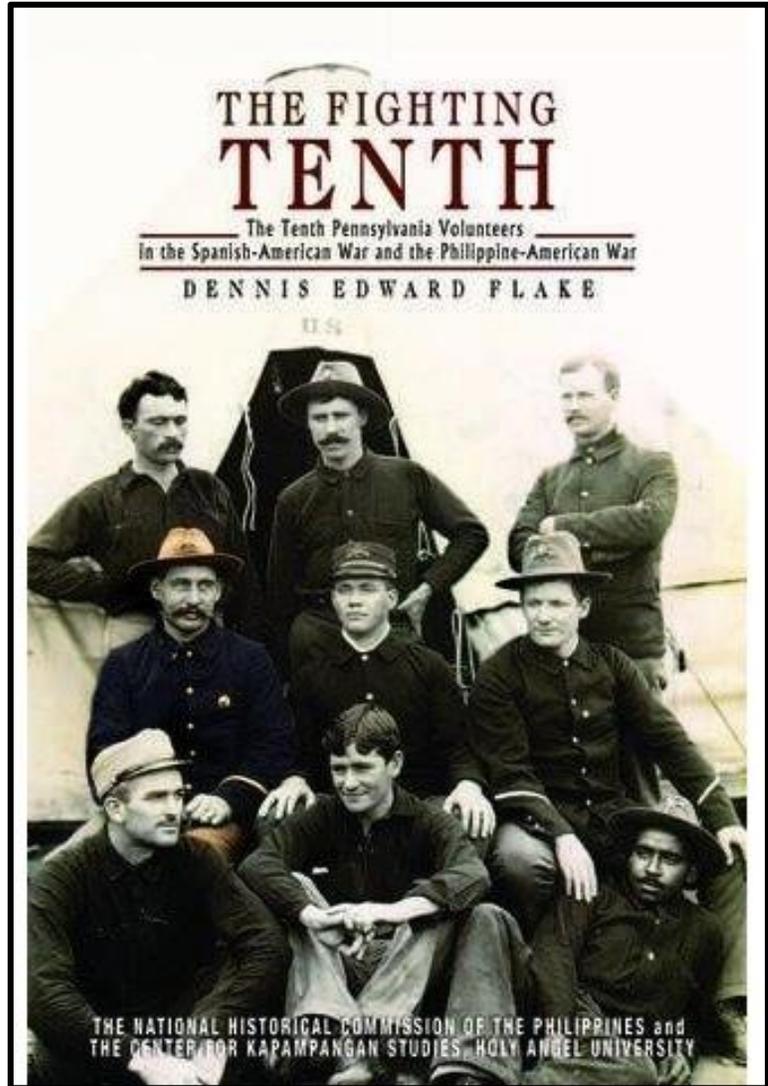
### Endnotes

1. *U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914*, Ancestry.com.
2. *Puerto Rico, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1897-1985*, and *Puerto Rico, Civil Registrations, 1885-2001*, Ancestry.com.
3. For Moscioni's souvenir booklet, see: <https://www.attiliomoscioni.com/index>. This site is a record of almost 1,000 of Moscioni's wonderful photographs.
4. *U.S., Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910-1939*, Ancestry.com. See also: *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*, Fold3.com.
5. "Honors War Vet," *Stockton Independent*, Stockton, California, 7 February 1929, via Newspapers.com.
6. *1920, 1930, 1940 United States Federal Census*, and *U.S., Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940*, Ancestry.com.

## *The Fighting Tenth: The Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish- American War and the Philippine American War*

By Dennis Edward Flake

The history of one military regiment during a war normally does not significantly expand our general historical understanding and knowledge of the overall war. The history of the Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteer regiment in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars is an exception. A recently discovered four-volume diary written by a common soldier in the Tenth, Private John Asendorf, provides a primary source that expands our general understanding and knowledge of the Philippine-American War. The diary enhances our perception in three key areas of the war. First, the seven-week period from the end of the American advance on February 5, 1899, until the resumption of its advance on March 25, 1899, was the most prolonged and intense fighting of the war. Second, there was not a clear distinction between the conventional and guerrilla phases of the Philippine-American War. A guerrilla war was being waged simultaneously with the conventional war during the early months of the war. Third, there was significant dissent among the members of the Tenth especially with the enlisted men on the need for America's annexation the Philippines and the Philippine-American War. This paper will begin with a summary of the history of the Tenth during the two wars and then address the three key topics.



The Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteers were a Pennsylvania National Guard regiment from the counties in Western Pennsylvania surrounding Pittsburgh. At the request of governor of Pennsylvania, the existing members of the Tenth along with many new volunteers proceeded to a training camp in the central part of Pennsylvania at Mt. Gretna. Within a short period of time, the Tenth had met the standards of the U.S. Army and were sworn into federal service. When their official orders were issued, the Tenth received a big surprise. The Tenth had signed up to fight the Spanish in Cuba, but they ended up as the only volunteer regiment from east of the Mississippi River being sent to the Spanish colony in Asia, the Philippines.

The Tenth arrived via a transport ship to the Philippine Islands in mid-July 1898 after receiving some additional training in San Francisco. Along with other arriving Americans, the Tenth made camp in Cavite outside the former Spanish Navy facility. The camp was dubbed Camp Dewey in honor of the American naval officer who defeated the Spanish Navy in Manila Bay on May 1, 1898. The Tenth awaited orders for their role in fighting the Spanish.

Senior American officers had negotiated an arrangement with the leader of the Filipino revolutionaries, General Emilio Aguinaldo. The revolutionaries allowed the Americans a small portion of the siege lines surrounding Manila. The assigned American lines were directly south of Manila along Manila Bay and directly north from Camp Dewey.<sup>1</sup> The American volunteers rotated assignments at the lines and worked to improve the breastwork.

At approximately 11:10pm on July 31, 1898, the Spanish forces decided to test the resolve of the American troops at the lines south of Manila. The Spanish opened up with artillery fire and then made a frontal assault on the American novices. The Tenth was in the middle of the battle. The Americans held the line and the Spanish were repulsed. By sunrise, the Battle of Malate was over, and the Tenth was relieved at the line. The Tenth started building a reputation among its fellow soldiers as being willing to fight and stand strong under enemy fire.<sup>2</sup>

The Tenth did participate in the Mock Battle of Manila on August 13, 1898.<sup>3</sup> They were ordered to march north through Malate towards Manila along the beach. They received very minimal opposition by the Spanish as they proceeded north. By the time that they could see Intramuros, the white flag of Spanish surrender was already flying. The Tenth camped inside the walled city for the night.

During the approximately six-month interlude between the mock capture of Manila by the Americans in mid-August until the outbreak of the Philippine-American War on February 4, 1899, the Tenth performed many different duties in Manila. They were assigned prison guard duty, street patrols, and guard assignments at American military headquarters. As the tension between the American and Filipino forces rose, more members of the Tenth were assigned outpost duty at the American lines north of Manila. Two companies of the Tenth were ordered to Corregidor Island in the mouth of Manila Bay for guard duty. All during this time, the Tenth believed that they had only enlisted for the Spanish-American War and that their obligation to their country was completed. They were expecting to be sent home.

When the outbreak of the Philippine-American War occurred on February 4, 1899, the Tenth was placed in the middle of the conflict. The regiment fought the Filipino revolutionary forces at the Chinese Hospital north of Manila. Following the capture of the hospital, the Tenth then charged up the *La Loma* or the hill behind the Chinese hospital past the Chinese and Filipino cemeteries and captured the *De La Loma* White Catholic Church at the crest of the hill. Following the battle, the Tenth was ordered to halt its advance and dug in just north of the church.

For the next seven weeks, the Tenth was entrenched at the same location north of the White Church. They would occasionally make short forays beyond the lines or support other small American advances, but they always returned to the same trenches. This seven-week period at the line was an extremely intense and violent time. An exchange of artillery and rifle fire was happening almost daily. The revolutionaries made several frontal assaults on their lines. The length and intensity of the period was a very stressful time for the Tenth.

Once the senior American officers thought that they had enough troops on the Island of Luzon, they ordered an advance of the American forces on March 25, 1899. The Tenth was once again the center of the conflict. They fought several battles and skirmishes on their way north to Malolos. The Tenth was positioned on the outskirts of Malolos along with other American forces for an assault on the revolutionary capital. On the morning of March 31, 1899, after a few hours of artillery fire on the city, the American entered the city with very little opposition. General Aguinaldo had decided that a tactical retreat from the capital was his best military and revolutionary option.<sup>4</sup>

The Tenth remained on the outskirts of Malolos for the next two weeks. They participated in outpost duty, collection of revolutionary war materials, and some minor encounters with Filipino revolutionaries. On April 14, 1899, they were finally relieved from combat duty and were ordered back to the site of the former Spanish Navy facility in Cavite. The men were hoping for a quick departure for home.

Unfortunately, the Tenth did not depart the Philippines until July 1, 1899. Although their quarters in Cavite were very good and their military duties were minimal, the Tenth was more than ready to head back to the United States. They had only signed up for the Spanish-American War, and it had been over for months. A few companies of the Tenth did participate in several military operations during this time, but compared to their previous exploits, they were minor. One company of the Tenth traveled by boat across Manila Bay and assisted American forces in Pampanga province. Some companies of the Tenth also traveled to the south of Cavite province in support of American military operations.

The Tenth arrived back in San Francisco on August 1, 1899. They had made two port calls in Japan on their way home. Their commanding officer, Colonel Leroy Hawkins, died of cancer during the voyage back to the United States. The Tenth were warmly received in San Francisco and were given a hero's welcome with a lot of fanfare when they returned to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania by the end of August.

Private John Henry Asendorf was one of many American men who felt compelled by various reasons to serve their country during the Spanish-American War. Unlike most of the men, he recorded his thoughts in a diary. During his fifteen months of service in the Tenth, he compiled four volumes of his diary.<sup>5</sup> There were short gaps in his writing due to illness or combat, but he was an extremely diligent writer.

The official history of the Tenth has many gaps.<sup>6</sup> Little or nothing had been written about the Tenth's journey to San Francisco, its military training in the bay area, and its voyage to the Philippines. There was an enormous gap in the official history of what the Tenth did during the almost six-month interlude between the end of the Spanish-American War and the outbreak of the Philippine-American War. Another critical missing piece of the Tenth's history was the almost seven weeks that the Tenth spent in the trenches north of *La Loma* waiting for orders to advance on the revolutionaries. And finally, the official history was very quiet on what the Tenth did after they were ordered to depart the front lines in Malolos in April 1899. Fortunately, the Asendorf diary fills in holes.

In addition to the value that the Asendorf diary provides to the history of the Tenth, the diary also adds to our general understanding and knowledge of the Philippine-American War. First, there was not a seven-week period of relative calm between the halting of the American advance on February 5, 1899, and its resumption on March 25, 1899. There was an almost daily and nightly exchange of rifle fire and at times artillery fire between the Americans and the revolutionaries. This was definitely a period of continuous warfare, and the Tenth and the revolutionaries should be commended for their tenacity, endurance, and stamina during these trying times. Second, there was no clear line between the conventional and guerrilla phases of the war. John Asendorf was uniquely positioned due to his dual role as soldier and butcher for the Tenth to witness the simultaneous conventional and guerrilla war. Third, there was not uniformity in the ranks of the Tenth on the need for the annexation of the Philippines and Philippine-American War. The men had only enlisted for the Spanish-American War. The Asendorf diary clearly shows a rift and dissent in the ranks of the Tenth. Private Asendorf even went so far as criticizing his officers for wanting to remain in the Philippines in letters sent to his hometown newspaper. This paper will now address these three key issues.

During the period between the halting of the American advance on February 5, 1899, and its resumption on March 25, 1899, it has been well documented that two significant battles transpired north of Manila. There was the capture of the Caloocan railroad station on February 10, 1899 by American forces.<sup>7</sup> Then there was the counterattack by revolutionary forces, under the command of General Luna, on February 22 to February 24, 1899.<sup>8</sup> Outside of these two battles, there has been very little written about the conditions of the American and Filipino lines north of Manila during the seven-week time frame. The Asendorf diary provides in detail the perilous and difficult situation at the lines.

When John Asendorf resumed his daily diary entries on February 13, 1899, he provided a summary of the events that occurred from February 4 to February 13. He was too busy and tired to write routinely during the nine-day period. Following his writings on the fighting on February 4 and 5, he described a battle front from February 6 to February 13 that was under constant fire where the

Americans and the Tenth were forced to lay flat in the trenches day and night. The Tenth did participate in short forays into nearby villages and in the capture of the Caloocan rail station. The American had to use the artillery from Admiral Dewey's fleet in Manila Bay to bomb the revolutionary positions.<sup>9</sup>

In Asendorf's diary entries from February 14 until March 1, 1899, there was not one day that was quiet at the lines. If it was calm at the Tenth's sector of the line, it was hot at another American sector of the line. On February 17, five days before the counterattack by General Luna, Private Asendorf wrote that "I am almost played out..."<sup>10</sup> The threat from Filipino sharpshooters was always present, and the Filipino revolutionaries made several frontal attacks on the American lines outside the February 22 to 24 dates.<sup>11</sup>

March 2, 1899, was the first day since February 4 that it was completely quiet on the American lines. The peace was short lived because on March 3 the revolutionaries attempted to break through the American lines where the Washington Volunteers were located.<sup>12</sup> For the next two weeks, there was not one day where there was quiet on the lines. On several days, the American used artillery from the Utah Battery to quell the firing from the revolutionaries. If there was not direct exchange of gun fire at the lines, there was the constant threat from sharpshooters who were hidden in the trees north of the American lines.<sup>13</sup>

In the Asendorf dairy, March 18, 1899, was the next day that it was completely quiet. Once again, the calm was short lived. There was heavy firing for several hours on March 19 on the lines to the right of the Tenth. It was quiet at the sector of the line where the Tenth was positioned. The quiet resumed on March 20 and 21, but there was a resumption of cannon and gunfire on March 22 on the extreme right of the American lines. The area where the Tenth was located remained calm.<sup>14</sup>

The two days, March 23 and 24, prior to the American advance on March 25 were quiet at the lines north of Manila. The Americans were receiving reinforcements and preparing for its advance.<sup>15</sup>

There were forty-nine days between the outbreak of the Philippine-American War on February 4, 1899, until the Americans recommenced their advance north towards Malolos on March 25. During this time, there were only six quiet days on the lines north of Manila. Five of the six quiet days came on the last week prior to the American advance. The American and Filipino soldiers had to endure and survive continual trench warfare for forty-four days with little rest and relaxation. By any measurement, this was an extremely arduous task.

It has been commonly understood that the conventional phase of the Philippine-American War ended on November 12, 1899 when General Aguinaldo disbanded the Filipino army and initiated the guerrilla warfare phase of the war.<sup>16</sup> The only exception to this distinct line between conventional and guerrilla phases of the war that has been well documented was during the counterattack by General Luna on February 22 to 24. The counterattacked used infiltration and arson in Manila, which was behind American lines, as a tactic during the battle.<sup>17</sup> The Asendorf dairy clearly shows that the guerrilla tactics that were utilized by General Luna during his counterattack were used consistently by the revolutionaries during the early months of the Philippine-American War.

John Asendorf was uniquely qualified to witness the guerrilla warfare behind American lines during the early months of the war. In addition to his responsibilities as a soldier, he was the designated butcher for the Tenth because he had been a civilian butcher prior to his service in the Tenth. As the butcher, he would make daily trips from the front lines north of Manila back to American headquarters in Intramuros to collect meat for the Tenth. Since he was familiar with the roads from the front lines to Manila, at times he was also ordered to collect and deliver ammunition to the entrenchments. During these approximately five-mile trips from Manila to the front lines and vice versa, he experienced firsthand several incidences of guerrilla warfare.

On February 11, 1899, while on a meat transport behind American lines, Private Asendorf saw a revolutionary shoot at an American officer who was on horseback. Asendorf's location was about three miles from the lines and two miles before Manila. The Filipino missed the officer. Asendorf came to the rescue of the officer and shot the revolutionary.<sup>18</sup>

During a trip to bring ammunition to the front on February 14, 1899, Asendorf's wagon broke down violently approximately two miles north of Manila. He told his partner "Doc" who was driving another wagon to continue to the lines. While waiting for assistance, the injured Asendorf was confronted by several Filipinos who knew his precarious situation. Asendorf pointed his rifle at the men and said that he would shoot the first man who approached. The men backed off and left the area. Asendorf was concerned that they had gone for reinforcements. Within an hour and a half, "Doc" and eight guards returned to assist the imperiled Asendorf.<sup>19</sup>

On February 18, 1899, while in Manila, John Asendorf heard many gun shots exchanged in the city between American soldiers and revolutionaries.<sup>20</sup>

While on a morning meat delivery to the lines on March 3, 1899, Asendorf was shot at by several revolutionaries. Once again, he was a couple miles behind American lines. The bullets missed Private Asendorf but hit his wagon. One bullet penetrated and completely passed through a side of beef.<sup>21</sup>

The most traumatic event that Asendorf experienced during his time in the Philippines occurred on March 15, 1899. He was transporting ammunition to the front during the early morning hours when he was attacked by three revolutionaries carrying bolos. He was severely lacerated in several locations before he was able to kill two of the revolutionaries with his rifle. The third revolutionary was killed by a Minnesota Volunteer who came to his rescue.<sup>22</sup>

On the evening of March 19, 1899, while in the city, Asendorf heard revolutionary gunshots being fired at the guards at American headquarters.<sup>23</sup> On March 23, Asendorf stated that Filipinos in Manila were still under a 7pm curfew and that many arrests were being made in the city.<sup>24</sup> Obviously, the Americans were still very concerned with infiltration and guerrilla activities in the city only two days before their advance north.

Finally, after Malolos had been secured, Asendorf and another soldier in the Tenth were sent back to Manila to take care of some regimental business. The two men traveled by horses and carriage through Bulacan province and the areas north of Manila. While fording a river, the two Americans

were fired upon by some revolutionaries. The Americans were surprised by the attack because they were behind American lines. Asendorf said that "...we drove on for dear life..."<sup>25</sup>

Based on the consistency of these attacks, the guerrilla tactics used by the revolutionaries do not appear to be isolated cases. The Asendorf diary portrayed a concerted and deliberate guerrilla tactic used by the revolutionaries. Considering the technological strength of the U.S. Army at this time, it would have been a mistake by the revolutionaries not to use a simultaneous conventional and guerrilla strategy while fighting the Americans.

The Asendorf diary also provided evidence regarding the obvious tension among the ranks of the Tenth. The men of the Tenth had only enlisted for the duration of the Spanish-American War. By the time the Philippine-American War had broken out on February 4, 1899, the Spanish-American War had been over for months. The Tenth had been anticipating a return home since October 1898. Many were questioning why they were still in the Philippines. The men of the Tenth were also raising questions about the need for annexation of the Philippines by the United States and the possibility about war with the Filipinos. However, once the Philippine-American War started, there was no dissent among the ranks of the Tenth.

In his September 29, 1898, diary entry, John Asendorf stated that two enlisted men of the Tenth had gone to Malolos to observe the ratification of Philippine independence. John had heard that thirty thousand Filipinos had attended the event.<sup>26</sup> In his diary entry for the next day, September 30, he wrote that the two enlisted men had returned to Manila and reported to the men of the Tenth that "...the Natives much more intelligent than we first considered and think the (sic) are able to take of them self..."<sup>27</sup>

John Asendorf said in his diary on October 24, 1898, that there were rumors circulating in Manila that the Philippines would be allow to be an independent government but under the protection of the United States and England. John stated that "...all of us hope that it may be true..."<sup>28</sup>

The December 22, 1898, diary entry detailed how John had had letters published in his hometown newspaper in Uniontown, Pennsylvania called the "Weekly Standard." In the letters, John had criticized his superiors for wanting to stay in the Philippines. He wrote that "...I said the Offic. (sic) are trying to keep (sic) us here..." He wrote in his dairy about how he was reprimanded by his immediate officer, Lieutenant Woods. He did not back down from his complaint, and he stated to Lt. Woods that "...if the shoe fits him he can wear (sic) it..." He continued by saying that "...the Boys are all pleased with the letter..."<sup>29</sup>

A January 20, 1899, entry by Asendorf appeared to have uniformity of opinion among the officers and enlisted men of the Tenth against acquiring the Philippines. John Asendorf was commenting on the debate in the U.S. Senate regarding the retention of the Philippine Islands by the United States. He said that there was "...much grumblng is heard where most every Soldier and Officer is denouncing the great Men at Home who are working so hard to retain these (sic) Islands..."<sup>30</sup>

On January 23, 1899, Asendorf commented on the big celebration in Malolos regarding the election of Emilio Aguinaldo as President and Commander of the Army for the Philippine

Republic. Asendorf was impressed enough with the inauguration of the Malolos Republic that he sent home a published copy of Aguinaldo's address at the event.<sup>31</sup>

The writings of John Asendorf clearly displayed tension and a rift among the men and officers of the Tenth. At this time in American history, the volunteer military was very democratic, and many common soldiers were not afraid to express their opinions. John Asendorf went so far with his right of free speech that he even stated his opinion in a public forum. The common soldier of the Tenth thought that he had honored his commitment to his country by serving for the entirety of the Spanish-American War, and once the war was over, it was his right as an American citizen to be sent home.

In conclusion, the Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteers were normally at the center of the fighting during the Spanish-American War and the early months of the Philippine-American War. Based on their experiences during the two wars, they were dubbed "The Fighting Tenth." The expanded history of the Tenth based on the diary of John Henry Asendorf of Company C offers the Filipino and American historian more information on the Philippine-American War than just the details of one regiment. By reading the diary and learning more about the day to day affairs of the Tenth, historians can enlarge their understanding and knowledge of Philippine and Philippine-American history.

### Notes

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| <p><sup>1</sup> Teodoro A. Agoncillo, <i>History of the Filipino People</i> (Quezon City: R.P. Garcia Publishing Co., 1990).</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Thomas Stewart, <i>Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish-American War 1898</i> (Harrisburg: State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1901).</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Agoncillo.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Gregorio F. Zaide, <i>The Pageant of Philippine History Volume II</i> (Manila: Philippine Education Company, 1979).</p> <p><sup>5</sup> John P. Asendorf, <i>The War Diary of John Henry Asendorf</i></p> | <p>(<a href="http://www.ajandj.com/diary/">http://www.ajandj.com/diary/</a> 2006).</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Stewart.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> Arnaldo Dumindin, <i>Philippine-American War 1899-1902</i> (<a href="http://philippineamericanwar.webs.com/">http://philippineamericanwar.webs.com/</a> 2008).</p> <p><sup>8</sup> Agoncillo.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> Zaide.</p> | <p><sup>17</sup> Zaide.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>28</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>29</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>30</sup> Asendorf.</p> <p><sup>31</sup> Asendorf.</p> |
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# Personnel Demobilization of the U.S. Army in the War With Spain

The following article is a section of the U.S. Army's *History of Personnel Demobilization in the United States Army* by Major John C. Sparrow, Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army published in July 1952. The document was provided by National President Mark Donohue. Only that section dealing with the War with Spain is published. The footnotes from the original document are renumbered in this article.

## War With Spain

The American Army that was mobilized for the War with Spain was principally a volunteer one. However, most of the fighting was done by regular units. The governor of each state or territory was requested by The Adjutant General War Department to enroll or recruit volunteers for regiments by quota based on the census of 1890.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the volunteer regiments from the various states and territories, there were three regiments of volunteer cavalry and two of volunteer engineers organized from the Nation at large. Ten regiments containing individuals supposed to be immune to tropical diseases completed the volunteer army.<sup>2</sup>



**COMING HOME - Demobilized Spanish-American war Veterans returning home after demobilization.**

The War with Spain was of short duration and placed very little strain on the manpower resources of the Nation. The Army was expanded to a strength of only 280,500<sup>3</sup> of which 216,256 were volunteers as of 31 August 1898.<sup>4</sup>

With the cessation of hostilities there arose in various parts of the country a clamor by the public to bring home the troops immediately. Pressure was exerted on Congress and the Executive Department to muster out the volunteers in the Army. A group of Kentucky citizens petitioned the War Department for the return of the 1st Kentucky Regiment from Puerto Rico. The commanding officer of the regiment was a native Kentuckian, a volunteer, and a former

<sup>1</sup> War Department (WD) GO No. 30, 30 April 1898.

<sup>2</sup> WD GO No. 44, 13 May 1898

<sup>3</sup> Gen. Peyton C. March, *The Nation at War* (New York, 1932), p. 312.

<sup>4</sup> WD Annual Reports, 1919, I, p. 462.

Confederate officer. In response to the petition he wrote The Adjutant General, War Department: ". . . Friends in Kentucky have no authority for asking that the First Kentucky be relieved from duty. These men are soldiers.

The government will determine when the regiment is no longer needed. . .".<sup>5</sup>

The first directive providing for demobilization of the volunteer forces was issued on 20 August 1898.<sup>6</sup> Records of soldiers were to be completely prepared at Federal camps before trans-orting the organizations to their respective state camps. After arrival within the state, organizational commanders accomplished final payment and men were mustered out without furlough. This system had been in effect only ten days when new procedures were announced.<sup>7</sup> Under the new method organizations were moved to state camps where records and other administrative details were prepared. While these administrative procedures were being performed soldiers were given furloughs for 30- and 60-day periods. On completion of the furlough men returned to their organization rendezvous and were mustered out.

The system of demobilization put into effect on 30 August 1898 resulted in many abuses. It led to the multiplication of absentees and increased the number of rendezvous points, which in turn increased expenses and required a much greater number of Regular Army officers to assist in mustering-out in state camps. From the over-all viewpoint results were much less satisfactory than under the original plan. The 30 August system was later amended by providing extra pay to all ranks instead of granting furloughs. The mustering-out of the volunteer forces terminated on 22 June 1899.<sup>8</sup>

Some interesting sidelights developed with the demobilization of the volunteer forces. All soldiers eligible for honorable discharge were permitted to retain their arms and accoutrements, if they so desired. The value of the retained supplies was charged to the individual on the muster-out role at standard rates.<sup>9</sup> Soldiers who belonged to volunteer regiments that were being demobilized, but who were serving sentences of a court martial other than dishonorable discharge, were paroled during the period the organization was on furlough. When the unit returned for final muster, the unexecuted portion of the soldier's sentence was remitted as of the date his company was inactivated or mustered out.<sup>10</sup><sup>37</sup>

A great deal of difficulty was encountered in discharging men who had been confined in federal hospitals during and after the time their regiments were being mustered out. This had also been true at the end of the Civil War.<sup>11</sup> Many men found new homes in the states where their hospitalization occurred. Other men were sent to their homes by the particular Army hospital. Many states and local communities financed the return of soldiers to their home state for further hospitalization or convalescence. For example, the Governor of Kentucky borrowed \$3,000 and

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<sup>5</sup> A copy of Col. Castleman's letter can be found in Kentucky, Federal Writers Project, op. cit., p. 287.

<sup>6</sup> WD GO No. 124, 20 August 1898.

<sup>7</sup> WD GO No. 130, 30 August 1898.

<sup>8</sup> WD *Annual Reports*, 1919, I, p. 462.

<sup>9</sup> For standard rates see: Chief Mustering Officer, Ohio, *Orders and Instructions Concerning the Muster Out of Volunteers* (Columbus, 1898), pp. 11-12.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> See Illinois, *Adjutant General Report*, op.cit., pp. 108-24.

directed the State Adjutant General to "equip hospitals, trains, and bring home sick Kentucky soldiers from Fortress [now Fort] Monroe and Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park." As a result of the directive, seventy-five soldiers from Thomas and one hundred from Monroe were returned either to their homes or to hospitals in Kentucky.<sup>12</sup> Neither the length of the war nor the numbers of men involved in the struggle were of sufficient magnitude to provide useful conclusions for large-scale demobilization planning, but some valuable experience was gained. A report to The Adjutant General, War Department, on the demobilization invited attention to the following lessons that could be learned:

1. Clerical and other administrative procedures relating to demobilization of personnel should be performed while organizations are under federal control at stations in the field. Individual records could not be completed while men were on furlough from their state camp. It required four and one-half days longer to demobilize a regiment at its state camp than at a Federal station, even though administrative work continued while the majority of the troops were on furlough.
2. Thirty- and sixty-day furloughs granted to troops produce evils. Some of these were:
  - a. The uncertainty of the time of discharge made it difficult for an individual to obtain permanent employment.
  - b. Large numbers of men were unable to support them-selves properly on their pay and commuted subsistence during extended furlough periods.
  - c. Sudden changes of climate produced much sickness and discomfort because men, anticipating muster-out on their return from furlough, did not want to draw additional clothing.
  - d. Volunteer soldiers did not accept the furlough as a reward.

Men would have preferred to be discharged and then be given the additional pay of the furlough period.<sup>13</sup>

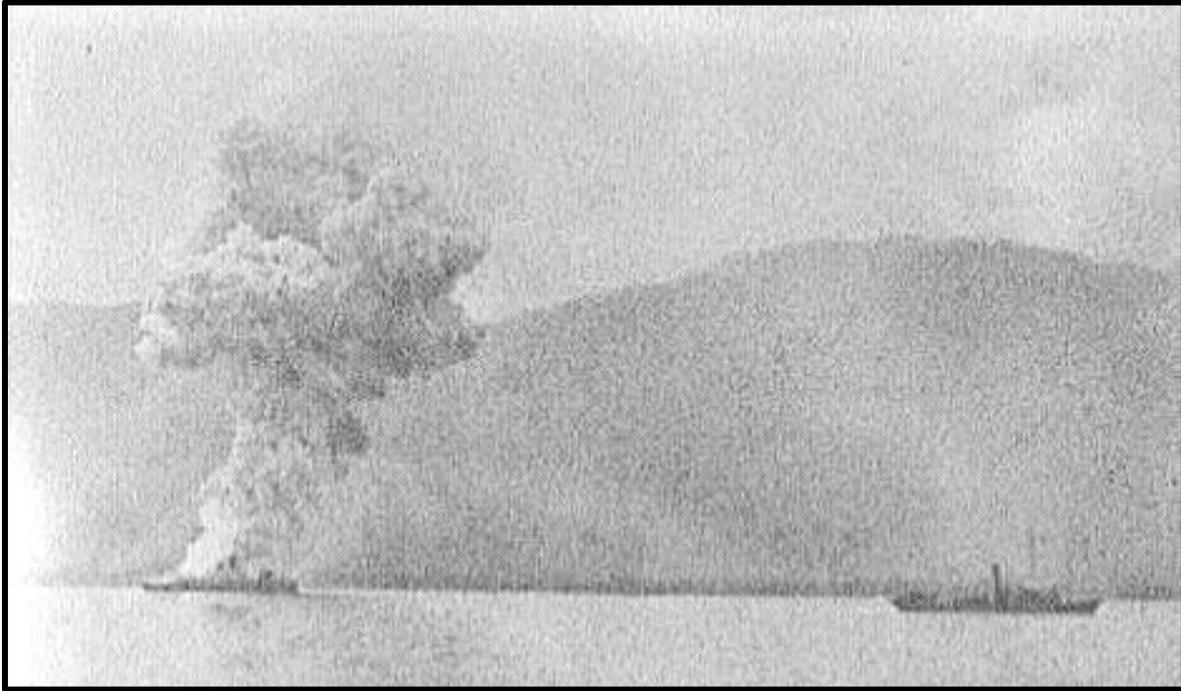
Because of the difficulties involved in suppressing the Philippine Insurrection, the cessation of hostilities with Spain did not bring a complete peace until 1902. In the next fifteen years a series of events followed that had a pronounced effect on the military establishment: During the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, when Elihu Root was Secretary of War, Congress passed legislation that established the Army General Staff; the year 1903 also saw the passage of the Militia Act or so-called Dick Bill which established the National Guard in a more modern relationship to the federal government; by 1914 Congress had approved legislation that defined the composition of the land forces;<sup>14</sup> in 1916 President Wilson called many units of the National Guard into federal service for use in the Punitive Expedition; and before the end of the year a National Defense Act was enacted.

<sup>12</sup> Kentucky, Federal Writers Project, *op.cit.*, p. 286.

<sup>13</sup> Maj. J. A. Johnston, *Report on Muster-In and Muster Out of Volunteers, 1898, 1899, and 1901*, pp. 14-19; See also Johnston's "*Muster-In and Muster-Out of Volunteers Spanish American War.*" AG 335262. National Archives.

<sup>14</sup> *The Army Act of 25 April 1914*, sometimes called "Volunteer Act."

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The Spanish Navy ship *Vizcaya* burns during the battle of Santiago Bay as seen in this very rare and early photograph of ships in combat. Several of her guns are at the U.S. Naval Academy.

## U.S. Navy Trophy Guns *of the* Spanish-American War Era

In the 3rd Quarter, 1907 issue of the U.S. Naval Institute's *Proceedings* (Vol 33, Issue 1) was an article on 'trophy guns' in the custody of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. One section identified several from the Spanish-American War Era. For historical purposes, that list is reprinted. Each entry reads with the size of the weapon, from where it was captured, the size of the weapon and its markings.

1. 14-cm. R. F. gun from *Maria Teresa*.<sup>15</sup> Length, 17 feet 6 inches. "Arsenal de Caracas, 1897."
2. 14-cm. R. F. gun from *Viscaya*.<sup>16</sup> Length, 17 feet 6 inches. Marked "Artilleres de l'Nervion, Bilbao, 1893."

<sup>15</sup> The Infantry *Maria Teresa* was Admiral Cervera's flagship and led the breakout from Santiago Bay on July 3, 1898. After gallantly fighting the ship was beached and the crew rescued by U.S. Naval personnel.

<sup>16</sup> The *Viscaya (Vizcaya)* was the same class armored cruiser as the Infantry *Maria Teresea*. It was the second ship in the escape from Santiago Bay and was immobilized by fire from five American battleships; *Brooklyn*, *Texas*, *Iowa*, *Oregon* and *Indiana*.

3. 5 1/2-inch smooth bore. Bronze. Length, 9 feet 6 inches. From Cay Toro, [Guantanamo] Bay. Sevilla 20 de Junio, 1805 Note: There was a Cuban fort here abandoned to the Marines in 1898.
4. 3 1/4-inch Krupp B. L. R.<sup>17</sup> Steel. From wreck of Spanish cruiser *Don Jorge Juan*<sup>18</sup>, at Nipe Bay. Action of July 21, 1898.
5. 3 1/2-inch muzzle loading bronze field piece, on carriage. Philippine trophy.
6. 37-mm. Hotchkiss revolver cannon.<sup>19</sup> From *Reina Mercedes*.<sup>20</sup>
7. 37mm. H. R. C. (same as No. 6), from *Reina Mercedes*.
8. 2 boat guns, 1-pdr. B. L. R. From the *Viscaya*. Marked "Arsenal de la Carraca, 1890 and 1893."
9. 2 boat guns. Make, Schneider. 7-cm. Captured at Sangley Point, near Manila, by Admiral Dewey, May 1, 1898.
10. 2 short 1-pdr. Hotchkiss boat guns. From *Reina Mercedes*.
11. Mortar. Bronze. Smooth bore, 14 3/4-inch. From Manila. Marks Cobres de Mexico y Peru. Sevilla, 1779.
12. 1 Mortar, 12 3/4-inch, smooth bore. Bronze. From Manila. Marks Cobres Yanges y Mexico. Sevilla, 1784.
13. Mortar, 9 1/2-inch. Bronze. Smooth Bore. From Manila. Marks El Insolente, Barcelona, 1760.
14. 3 1/2-inch rifled muzzle loading field gun. Bronze. Taken from Filipino insurgents at Balbee, P. I., by *U. S. S. Manila*. Cast in Seville, 1801.<sup>21</sup>
15. Barrel Nordenfelt gun, (11-mm), from one of the vessels destroyed by Admiral Dewey, May 1, 1898.
16. Old Spanish gun, mounted by Filipinos, and fired by them from Old Cavite, into the U. S. Navy Yard at Cavite, on June 13, 1899. Cast in Barcelona in 1803. Remodeled into a Krupp B. L. Note: The article on the right details that day's encounter and the capture of several guns by Navy ships.



<sup>17</sup> B.L.R. is Breech Loading Rifle

<sup>18</sup> The *Jorge Juan* was a decommissioned sloop serving as a coal and torpedo depot ship sunk during the battle of Nipe Bay, Cuba on July 21, 1898. Her battle ensign is reportedly also at the Naval Academy.

<sup>19</sup> The 1872 Hotchkiss Revolving Cannon contained five barrels rotated like a Gatling Gun. It had a 10-round magazine. The 37-mm barrel was capable of firing 68 one-pound per minute. Range of 2,000 yards of 1,800 meters. There was a version that could fire shrapnel and cannister at Naval targets (i.e.; torpedo boats).

<sup>20</sup> The *Reina Mercedes* was a cruiser. Due to a bad boiler, her guns were offloaded and used in support of the infantry on shore. The ship was sunk, raised and entered U.S. service as the USS REINNA MERCEDES (IX-25) as a receiving/barracks ship for the Naval Academy. The weapons were likely captured on shore.

<sup>21</sup> The Spanish ship *Manila* was captured by Admiral Dewey's fleet on May 1, 1898 and repurposed as U.S. Navy Gunboat USS MANILA. On the *Manila* was Lieutenant Commander W.F. Halsey, Sr., (1853-1920) who wrote an article for *Proceedings* entitled 'Some Experiences On Board the U.S.S. Manila' (July 1902), Vol. 28, No. 3, Issue 103. Halsey was on the USS NEWARK during the Santiago Blockade. He retired as a Navy Captain and was the father of World War II Fleet Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey, Jr. The younger Halsey was not yet 16 when his father fought at Santiago Bay.

# Sons Of Spanish American War Veterans Council Of Administration

## Minutes

15 January 2026

**Members Present:** National President Mark Donahue, Jim McAteer, James McBryant, Donald Hotchkiss, Jonathan Swarts, Avery Frantz, Greg Eanes, Wayne Wehrheim, Dennis Flake, David Duggan.

The Teleconference was called to order at 8:06P.M. and was Chaired by President Donahue.

- 1) **Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes of the 2025 National Convention made by Jim McAteer , seconded by Wayne, Motion approved by all present.
- 2) **Treasury:** Don Hotchkiss presented the particulars of the Treasurers Report/ spread sheet. Dues, Donations, & Roster updates were discussed.
- 3) **Supply Officer:** Report to be forwarded by email at a later date by President Donahue.
- 4) **Old Business:** Would there be a ceremony for the Saratoga Spring S.A.W. plaque? Info needed from PNP Tim Mabee
- 5) **New Business:** A. Frantz presented info about a North Carolina USWV monument & a plaque in Boston for a Mascot of the USS Maine.
  - 2026 National Convention discussed, need feasibility study, Possible locations, Appomattox Va. Or North Carolina w/ possible park dedication involved, date to be determined (Late August or early/mid September).
  - 2027 National Encampment possible location, Las Vegas Nevada or Phoenix Arizona.
  - Trustees, Audit is fluid, bank statements sent out, audit will be for the fiscal year (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025). There has been no audit since the Connecticut Nat. Convention in 2022. There was no 2024 audit. Looking /waiting for audit info from Ken Roach.
  - Societies Meeting in Washington D.C. , reach out to Tim if interested.
  - Ken Robinson wants to be involved in the SSAWV and revive the South Carolina Camp. Needs to verify if the number of members is good to revive/ recharter the camp, renew paperwork & verify the members exist, something in writing to verify the camp exists, need to have an organizing meeting, & keep track of camp renewal progress. Must review the process for reviving a camp.

- Jeff Lilly of MOLLUS inquired if the SSAWV & MOLLUS would like to share organization ads in each other's newsletters. Council discussed the matter and approved the matter.
- Proposed By Law Amendments need to be voted on at the 2026 National Convention.
- Avery Frantz brought discussion about the North Manilla P.I. Cemetery, the S.A.W monument there & its S.A.W. veterans graves there. Cemetery is in poor condition with people living in it, graves/ tombs desecrated w/ remains removed. The monument there is in poor condition. Avery made a motion for the National SSAWV to give his camp \$500 dollars to clean up the S.A.W. veterans section of this cemetery. This motion was discussed at length with many questions, motion voted on, 1 vote in favor, the rest of the present council against/ Ney. Motion failed. This cemetery's situation was further discussed concerning possible action the SSAWV could take such as removal of remains to a National Cemetery, etc. Another motion was made to give the Arizona SSAWV Camp \$100 to be used to acquire info about the number of S.A.W. burials in the cemetery , possible relocation of the veterans remains to a National Cemetery, costs involved, & any other info that can be obtained, etc. Vote on the motion held, 1 against/Ney, the rest of council in favor. Motion passes. Treasurer to write a check in the amount of \$100 to the Arizona SSAWV camp to obtain the discussed info.
- National SSAWV website has been updated.
- Electronic payment for supplies from the supply officer has been established.
- A "Thank You" to Don Hotchkiss for allowing us to use his Zoom space for this meeting!
- Next Council meeting to be in March 2026. Date and time to be determined.

The teleconference meeting adjourned @ 0930 P.M.  
Respectfully Submitted, David Duggan  
National Secretary General,  
Member Alexander M. Quinn Camp # 173 SSAWV

# 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)

Indicate the items you wish to purchase.

He will respond and calculate your shipping and handling charges.

## SEND CHECKS TO Acting TREASURER!

Please send all payments to Acting Treasurer:

**Avery Frantz**  
**1449 East Highland Avenue**  
**Unit 32**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85014**

Checks made payable to “SSAWV”.

**We also accept Zelle electronic payments to [SSAWV@business.net](mailto:SSAWV@business.net)**

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)

### Pricing:

\$15.00 Rosette  
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\$55.00 Necktie  
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ABOVE PHOTO: Pvt. Pasquale Tuozzo, left, with comrades, 32nd United States Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Philippines, circa 1900 (Edward Garcia/www.soldiersofthequeen.com collection)

--- 32<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Volunteer Infantry---

# THE STRANGE CASE OF PVT. PASQUALE TUOZZO,

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

As members of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans, we honor the men who served in the United States military from 1898 to 1902. As historians, we know that not all men served honorably. This is the story of one of those men. Pasquale Tuozzo was born in Salerno, Campania, Italy, in about 1872. He was a mechanic living in Torrington, Connecticut, when he

enlisted in Company M, 3rd Connecticut Infantry Regiment, on June 22, 1898; he was mustered in on July 2. The regiment served stateside at Camp Haven, Niantic, Connecticut; Camp George G. Meade, Pennsylvania; and Camp Marion, South Carolina. Tuozzo was on detached duty as a baker at brigade headquarters in Summerville, South Carolina, from January 15, 1899, to February 15, 1899.<sup>1</sup> He was discharged in March 1899 and made his way to Galena, Kansas.

Tuozzo was there at the right time and place to enlist in one of the twenty-five United States Volunteer Infantry Regiments that were authorized by Congress on March 2, 1899, to take the place of state volunteer units whose terms of enlistment were expiring. Beginning shortly thereafter, the U.S. Volunteers were recruited for a two-year term expressly for service in the Philippines. Organized recruiting for the 32nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment began on July 22. On July 27, Tuozzo enlisted in the newly forming regiment. He was described as being five feet, eight inches tall, with brown eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion, weighing 155 pounds. It was noted that his left thumb was off between the first and second joints. Tuozzo listed his profession as baker and his next of kin as Angelo Tuozzo of Torrington.<sup>2</sup> The regiment was recruited largely from eastern Kansas and western Missouri. In its ranks “were the farmers of the Kansas and Missouri countryside, the sons of bankers and agriculture businessmen from the city, and everyone in between.”<sup>3</sup> Tuozzo was one of thirty-two recruits for the regiment who left for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, at midnight that same day. The recruits were described as “a body of fine young men [who] would certainly make good soldiers.”<sup>4</sup> Assigned to Company C, Tuozzo trained with his regiment at Fort Leavenworth and San Francisco until he departed for the Philippines on October 1, 1899.

A complete recital of the regiment’s activities in the Philippines is beyond the scope of this article. According to historian James Craig, the regiment “found itself involved in several major combat operations. For the most part, however, the 32nd found its niche operating successfully along the northern banks of Manila Bay in the United States Army’s first successful counterinsurgency.”<sup>5</sup> Tuozzo’s actions throughout his period of service in the Philippines are largely unknown. What’s known, however, is that, for reasons now unknown, he shot and killed Private William Kilpatrick, a fellow member of Company C, on October 7, 1900.<sup>6</sup> Kilpatrick was a twenty-five year-old native of Indiana who had enlisted from the Indian Territory. Tuozzo was arrested and brought to trial in December 1900. The charge read: “Murder, in violation of the 58th Article of War.” The specification read (minor corrections to original for clarity):

In that Private *Pasquale Tuozzo*, Company C, 32d Infantry, U.S. Volunteers, did, in time of insurrection, with malice aforethought, willfully and feloniously murder and murder and kill one *William Kilpatrick*, Private, Company C, 32d Infantry, U.S. Volunteers, then and there being, by shooting him with a certain revolver, then and there held in the hands of the said *Pasquale Tuozzo*, thereby causing the death of the said *Kilpatrick*.<sup>7</sup>



**MEMBERS OF 32<sup>ND</sup> USVI IN PHILIPPINES - Standing, from left to right are Ralph Hadwiger, William Rife, John Baunach, John Ryerkirk, George F. Millans and, the man killed by Tuozzo, William Kilpatrick. Sitting, from left to right, are William H. Smith and Charles W. Kennedy.**

Tuozzo pleaded “not guilty” to both the charge and the specification. The general court martial convened at Balanga, Bataan, Luzon, with Major M. J. Henry, 32nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment, as president, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. H. K. Love, 32nd U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment, as judge advocate. It’s an interesting side note that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Love was the officer who had recruited Tuozzo and others in Galena in July 1899. Tuozzo was found guilty of both the charge and the specification; he was sentenced “to be dishonorably discharged, to forfeit all pay and allowances, and to be confined in the Bilibid Prison, Manila, at hard labor, for ninety-nine years.”<sup>8</sup>

Tuozzo’s stay in Bilibid Military Prison was short-lived. Pursuant to Special Orders No. 222, Headquarters Division of the Philippines, December 27, 1900, Tuozzo was to be transferred with forty-three other prisoners to San Francisco, California, aboard the U.S. Army Transport *Sheridan*, scheduled to depart Manila on January 1, 1901. Upon arrival in San Francisco, Tuozzo and the others were to be handed over to officials of the Department of California “for completion of their sentences in that department.”<sup>9</sup> On January 10 the *Sheridan* left Manila carrying 675 officers and men of the 37th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, some miscellaneous military and civilian passengers, and forty-four military prisoners, including Pasquale Tuozzo.<sup>10</sup> The prisoners “were confined in the steel cage in the forward part of the ship, below two steel decks. A strong guard was continually on watch, with orders to shoot anyone who attempted to escape. The prison was considered the strongest in the transport fleet...”<sup>11</sup> When the ship docked at

Nagasaki, Japan, Tuozzo and three other prisoners escaped. According to one report, the escape was cleverly planned (minor corrections to the original for clarity):

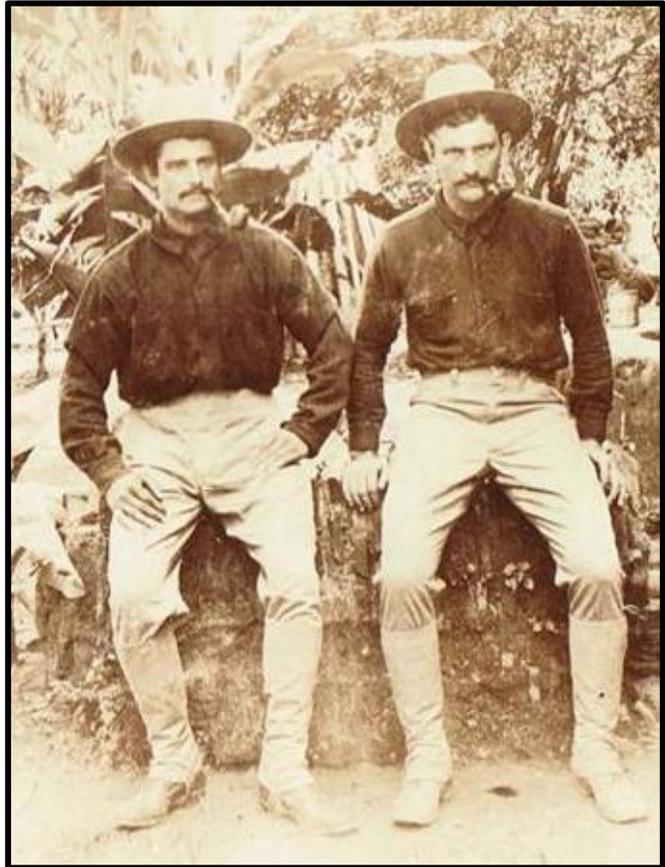
An unused air-shaft was closed by a trap in the ceiling of the cell. The shaft terminated in the paint locker on the main deck, which is always closed....While the main body of the prisoners crowded forward to the bars singing, Pasquale Tuozzo, under the sentence of ninety-nine years for murder, raised the trap, and pulled himself up into the air-shaft. Three others followed him. The bottom of the paint locker composed of four-inch boards was easily removed and on went the men to the deck, and down the anchor chain. A passing sampan took the escapees ashore.

Tuozzo and a ten-year term man were not caught. The other two returned to the vessel as stowaways and were found the day before the vessel reached port.<sup>12</sup>

To date, no other information has been found that can be positively determined to pertain to Pasquale Tuozzo or Angelo Tuozzo, his next of kin. Likewise, it's been impossible to determine the circumstances surrounding Kilpatrick's murder. It's interesting to speculate whether Pasquale Tuozzo remained in Japan or returned to Italy or the United States. In any event, his case reminds us that the military forces of the United States have always been composed of all kinds of men and women and that they were subject to the shortcomings common to all mankind.

### Endnotes

1. *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and China Relief Expedition From April 21, 1898 to July 4, 1904*, in U.S., *Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976*, Ancestry.com. Tuozzo's profession is given as mechanic in a contemporary newspaper article, "Roster of the Third Regiment," *The Day*, New London, Connecticut, July 9, 1898. All newspaper articles sourced via Newspapers.com.



**Pvt, Pasquale Tuozzo (on left). Home Town, Torrington Connecticut. Discharged, (Dishonorable) Dec, 10 1900, G.C.M. [General Court Martial] for killing Comrade William, Kilpatrick, Co C, 32nd U.S.V.I. Gen Prisoner at Alcatraz Island. Life at 99 years (Edward Garcia/www.soldiersofthequeen.com collection).**

2. Maj. James R. Craig, USA, *A Federal Volunteer Regiment in the Philippine Insurrection: The History of the 32nd Infantry (United States Volunteers), 1899 to 1901*, MA thesis, United States Army, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 2006, p. 56; This paper is available at: <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA451795.pdf>. For Tuozzo's enlistment, see Pasquale Tuozzo enlistment document, preserved by Edward Garcia and used with permission, Ancestry.com, hereafter cited as "Tuozzo documents."
3. Craig, *A Federal Volunteer Regiment in the Philippine Insurrection*, p. 5.
4. "New Recruits," *The Galena Evening Times*, Galena, Kansas, July 28, 1899.
5. Craig, *A Federal Volunteer Regiment in the Philippine Insurrection*, p. 5.
6. *U.S., Veterans' Gravesites, ca. 1775-2019*, Ancestry.com.
7. General Orders No. 29, Headquarters Department of Northern Luzon, Manila, December 6, 1900. Copy in Ancestry.com, see Tuozzo documents. For Kilpatrick's information, see *1900 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com.
8. "New Recruits," *The Galena Evening Times*, Galena, Kansas, July 28, 1899; "Ninety-Nine Years for Murder," *The Washington Post*, January 20, 1901.
9. Tuozzo documents, Ancestry.com.
10. "Thirty-Seventh Infantry Home Again After Two Years of War," *The San Francisco Examiner*, February 7, 1901.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.

\*\*\*\*\*

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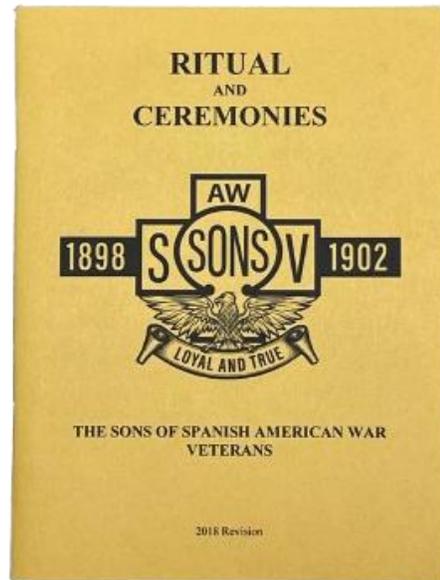
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**We also accept Zelle electronic payments to [SSAWV@business.net](mailto:SSAWV@business.net)**

Visit our National SSAWV website at: <https://ssawv.org>

# Annual Dues



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 Acting Treasurer at the following address:

**Avery Frantz**  
**1449 East Highland Avenue**  
**Unit 32**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85014**

## **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.



**VETERANS DAY 2025 – Pennsylvania’s Quinn Camp No. 173 took time to recognize Veterans Day 2025. They honored Spanish-American War era veterans in Lebanon PA. From left to right are National President Mark Donahue, PNP Jim McAteer and Three Year Trustee Dennis Flake (Contributed photo).**