

# **California and the War with Spain: Introduction, 1898-1899**

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THE CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

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towards the close of the nineteenth century conditions in the colonies governed by Spain, particularly those relating to the Island of Cuba, had become so intolerable that not only the Spanish subjects, but practically the entire civilized world was called in protest.

The United States Government was placed in such a position that the appeals of the sufferers in Cuba came to this country with great force. It was evident that a state of absolute barbarity existed on the island and that insular conditions were of daily occurrence. Public and private remonstrances against the practices of the representatives of the Spanish Government were unheeded, denunciations to various districts on the island were disdainfully treated by the authorities and contributions were improperly diverted.

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Deplorable as these conditions were, President Grover Cleveland during his administration, 1893-1897, and President W. McKinley who succeeded him were disposed to plunge the United States into war because of them.

1898-1899

President McKinley inherited not only the Cuban problem which had been deteriorating for years, but a popular demand for intervention which had attained enormous proportions. This state of affairs could hardly have been more embarrassing, and all this painful and distressing by the policy pursued by Spain. The President and his Cabinet were sincerely anxious to avert war, and negotiations with a view to mediating conditions in Cuba were entered on soon as United States Envoy, General Stewart L. Woodford reached Madrid.

Negotiations at Madrid were encouraged but they led to no practical result. Spain was not prepared to make any concession and insisted on the part of the United States officials. It was obvious that Spain looked either the power of the will to terminate the struggle in Cuba and it was equally obvious that the United States could not postpone the discharge of its responsibilities as civilization and to itself much longer. The discovery of a vessel grossly upon which the American flag was flying without authority, international interests, moral obligations, or the pride of either, was

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Earl Irving Faunt, page 10.  
\*The Spanish-American War, by E. A. Alger, page 1.  
\*The Spanish-American War, by E. A. Alger, page 2, v.

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Towards the close of the Nineteenth Century conditions in the colonies governed by Spain, particularly those existing on the Island of Cuba, had become so intolerable that not only the Spanish subjects, but practically the entire civilized world was united in protest.

The United States Government was placed in such a position that the appeals of the sufferers in Cuba came to this country with great force. It was evident that a state of absolute barbarity existed on the island and that inhuman cruelties were of daily occurrence. Public and private remonstrances against the practices of the representatives of the Spanish Government were unheeded, benefactions to relieve distress on the island were disdainfully treated by the authorities and contributions were improperly diverted.\*

Deplorable as these conditions were, neither President Grover Cleveland during his administration, nor President Wm. McKinley who succeeded him were disposed to plunge the United States into war because of them.\*\*

President McKinley inherited not only the Cuban problem which had been intensifying for years, but a popular demand for intervention which had attained serious proportions. This state of affairs could hardly have been more embarrassing, and was made painful and distressing by the policy pursued by Spain. The President and his Cabinet were sincerely anxious to avert war, and negotiations with a view to ameliorating conditions in Cuba were opened as soon as United States Envoy, General Stewart L. Woodford reached Madrid.\*\*\*

Negotiations at Madrid were encouraged but they led to no practical result. Months went by marked by honest and persistent effort on the part of the United States officials. It was obvious that Spain lacked either the power or the will to terminate the struggle in Cuba and it was equally obvious that the United States could not postpone the discharge of its responsibilities to civilization and to itself much longer. The discovery of a common ground upon which the two countries could meet without sacrificing material interests, moral obligations, or the pride of either, was

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, page 18.

\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 1.

\*\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, pages 3, 4.

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never made. The failure, however, was apparently not caused by any lack of effort, yet even after the destruction of the battleship "Maine", there were those who believed that war could have been averted. Finally the United States Government demanded the recall of General Weyler from Cuba and a revocation of some of his most vicious edicts. Weyler was recalled, the reconcentrado edict was revoked and Captain General Blanco was sent to Havana with instructions to reorganize the government of the Island upon a basis of autonomy.\*

To what extent the proposed measures would have improved the situation is unknown, but there is reason to believe that the plan met the wishes of the Autonomist Party in Cuba. No one can be certain whether it would have succeeded or failed for it was never put to the test. The destruction of the United States Battleship "Maine" at 9:40 in the evening of February fifteenth, while peacefully at anchor in the harbor of Havana, swept away forever the effort of adjustment. The people of the United States, awed by the suddenness of this calamity, awaited the result of an investigation by a United States Naval Court of Inquiry, which was immediately organized to determine and report upon the cause of the disaster. On the twenty-first of March, 1898 the Court, after full and mature consideration of all the testimony available, reported that in the opinion of its members the "Maine" was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine which in turn caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines. The Court further reported that it was not able to obtain evidence fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the ship upon any person or persons.\*\*

During the days that followed there was tempered discussion in Congress on Cuban affairs, and strenuous efforts were made both in the United States and European countries to insure the maintenance of peace, and at the same time afford the necessary guarantees for the establishment of order in Cuba. Gradually it became apparent to the American people that diplomacy had failed and that Spain could no longer be tolerated by the United States as a neighbor in the West Indies, the time for action had come.\*\*\*

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\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 4.

\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, pages 22-27.

\*\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 5.

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President McKinley submitted a message to Congress on the eleventh day of April which caused that body to act immediately and definitely. This message dwelt upon the policies which had been pursued by the United States in regard to the Cuban situation; told of the Spanish aggression on the island and the great menace to the material interests of the United States. In spite of their career of intrigue and destruction, this government had practiced the utmost prudence, having in view international relations, to protect Spanish interests. The response came on April thirteenth when Congress passed a joint resolution directing the President to intervene in Cuban affairs at once, and authorized the use of the land and naval forces of the United States in an effort to terminate hostilities on the Island. On the twentieth of April, the United States Government presented an ultimatum to Spain, requesting the latter government to relinquish authority in the Island of Cuba and withdraw both land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, before noon on the twenty-third of April, 1898. The Spanish Government protested and refused to comply, whereupon the North Atlantic Squadron of the United States was ordered to blockade Havana and other port cities of Cuba.

The ultimatum of April twentieth was cabled to Mr. Stewart Wardford, United States Minister at Madrid on that date, but before he had an opportunity to present the ultimatum to the Spanish Government he had been handed his passports and notified that diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain were severed. This action by the Government of Spain was considered as constituting the Spanish reply to the ultimatum and ending all peaceful relations between the two countries. At noon on the twenty-third of April President McKinley issued a proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteers for service in the military and naval forces of the United States in the war with Spain. Upon the insistence of the President, Congress on the twenty-fifth of April made the formal declaration that war then existed between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain, and had so existed since the twenty-first day of April, 1898.\*

The response of the people of the United States to the Government's ultimatum upon Spain and the President's call for volunteers was enthusiastic and sincere. The country gave the world an example

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, pages 29, 30, 31.

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of patriotic earnestness such as has seldom been seen. Thousands of men offered to enlist before war was declared. More than 100,000 veterans of the Civil War, wearers of the blue and wearers of the gray, pleaded for an opportunity to serve the Union. It was estimated that a million men offered themselves where only 125,000 had been called. When the second call for volunteers was made May 25, 1898, the administration accepted 75,000 offers for volunteer service.

On the first of April the standing army of the United States consisted of 2,143 officers and 26,040 enlisted men distributed over the entire country. On the twenty-sixth of April, Congress passed an act increasing the regular army to approximately 61,000 and recruiting was continued until that figure was reached. Thus, when called upon to equip, organize and mobilize an army of nearly 275,000 men, the government machinery was altogether inadequate to meet the emergency.\* The situation on April 23, 1898, could be summarized as follows: The War Department had ready for use enough thirty caliber rifles to arm the 33,000 men added to the regular army and enough old forty-five caliber Springfields for the volunteers, but that was all. There was nothing in the supply department to equip the troops included in the calls for volunteers nor for the forces added to the regular army; aggregating some 249,000 men. There was a shortage, not only of ammunition, but of uniforms, hats, shoes, and various other clothing with which each regiment of infantry, squadron of cavalry and battery of artillery must be supplied, together with transportation and field equipment such as wagons, horses, mules, harnesses and tents. There were comparatively few establishments in the United States equipped to furnish the necessary articles. However, these and every arsenal in the country was put to work at full capacity day and night to produce the supplies necessary to equip the new army.\*\* By the first of May the War Department was engaged in the preparation of the armies for operation in foreign countries separated from the United States by distances ranging from 100 to 7,000 miles and from each other by half the circumference of the earth.

Under the call of President McKinley for volunteer troops, the levy was apportioned by law among the States according to proportion, and was confined first to the militia thereof where such an organization existed, and then to the citizens at large. The War Department was overwhelmed by tenders of service from every State in the

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\*The Spanish-American War, by H. A. Alger, pages 6, 7.

\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, pages 11-17.

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Union and there were numerous protests against the policy of limitation, veterans of the Civil War being especially insistent. The War Department favored the recognition of the State Militia. Simple justice required that the men who formed the State military organizations should be given the first opportunity for active service and for that reason it was decided that members of the State Militia would be the first mustered. Under this arrangement the State of California furnished 5,676 officers and enlisted men. This number included the men furnished under the first and second calls and also the regiments with special qualifications recruited at large, but did not include the twelve officers and eighty men furnished to the United States Auxiliary Naval Forces for the protection of the Pacific Coast.\* In regard to commissioned officers for the volunteer forces, the act of Congress providing for raising volunteers, especially stipulated that all regimental officers from second Lieutenants to colonels inclusive, as well as three regimental surgeons and one chaplain, were to be appointed by the governors of the several States. The appointment of more than one Regular officer in any one volunteer regiment was forbidden. The newly commissioned officers under this regulation made an enviable record during the war, discharging their duties in a highly commendable manner.\*\*

Prior to May 1898, the people of the United States had scarcely given a thought to the group of islands in the far off Pacific which were governed by Spain. Public attention had been centered on Cuba, Porto Rico, Havana and Santiago and the happenings there. The Philippine Islands consisting of some 114,000 square miles of territory situated approximately 7,000 miles south westerly from the United States, were to most people in this country simply a few dots on the map. Even after the Naval battle at Manila, people in this country gazed at the map and wondered what and where might be "Manila Bay"\*\*\*

Like all other Spanish Colonies, the Philippines were ruled with an iron hand. All authority was apparently concentrated in the Governor-General, residing at Manila. There were provincial and municipal governments, but all were subject to review by the central authority. To what extent the Governor-General was directed from

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\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 6.

\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, pages 32, 36.

\*\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, pages 1, 17.

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Madrid does not appear, but apparently it depended to a great extent upon his personal influence with the home government in Madrid. There was no authentic statement, so far as was then known, of the exact forms of tyranny practiced by the Spaniards upon the Filipinos. In general it appeared to have taken the form of corrupt administration rather than oppressive laws. Both the fiscal administration and the courts were apparently corrupt. There seems also to have been cases of enforced colonization, in which natives were compelled to leave their homes and settle in other islands.\* During the three hundred years of Spanish control, Christianity had become firmly established in the Philippines. With the exception of some Mohammedans in the southern islands and a few tribes which were entirely uncivilized, all Filipinos believed in the tenets of the Catholic faith. There were a large number of religious orders within the church, supposed to be devoted to good works, but independent of the authority of the priests and bishops and responsible mainly to their own superiors. The testimony is universal that these so called "friars" were to a great extent wholly unlike the good men whom we know as such in this country. It was alleged that they were employed by the Governors in connection with the Civil Administration in which capacity they could and did practice various forms of petty extortion. At any rate, the one clear and emphatic demand from the Philippine people to the home government at Madrid was that the friars should be banished from the islands.

As a result of misgovernment there were several Filipino insurrections, none of them attaining any great measure of success until that of 1896 which was coincident with the rebellion in Cuba. During the years a spirit of discontent had been spreading. A secret society called the Katipunan, meaning brotherhood, having as its object the attainment of Philippine independence, was organized. The revolt which broke out on August 20, 1896, was said to have included a conspiracy for the massacre of the entire Spanish population. The plan was frustrated, however, and some 300 suspects were arrested and imprisoned.\*\* About that time a petition signed by 5,000 natives of the Islands was presented to the government of Japan, asking that government to annex the Islands. The Japanese Government forwarded the petition to Madrid, an act which only added fuel to the fire.

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, page 34.

\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, page 35.



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It was during the summer of 1896 that Don Emilio Aguinaldo, a young School teacher at Silan, a small place near Cavite sprang into prominence. Aguinaldo's first oratorical effort consisted of a fiery speech to the people of the Province of Cavite, counseling resistance to the Spanish authorities. At that time however, he offered no plan for the future government of the Islands. He did organize a revolutionary movement in the Province of Cavite, supervised the construction of one and one-half miles of trenches south of the city and fortified the village of Imus. The insurgents were splendidly entrenched near Cavite and the Spanish troops failed in two attempts to dislodge them. The Spanish forces did, however, succeed in keeping the rebels out of Manila. The warfare was savage and no mercy was shown by either faction. There were no engagements that could be termed battles between the forces, but the warfare was conducted by a series of raids and assaults by detachments.

On the sixth of August 1897, Governor-General Fernando Primo de Ravera commissioned a Filipino to negotiate terms of peace with the insurgents. An agreement known as the Pacto de Bioc-na-bato was entered into between the representatives of the Spanish Government on the one side, and Aguinaldo and thirty-four of his leaders on the other. In the Pacto de Bioc-na-bato it was agreed that the rebels should be paid \$1,000,000, and that the families who had been damaged by the so called war should receive \$700,000. Aguinaldo and his associates were to leave the Islands and not to return without the consent of the Spanish Government. The arms and ammunition of the rebels were to be surrendered and they were to evacuate all trenches and fortifications. An armistice of three years was provided for, certain reforms were promised by the Spanish; and the rebel Filipinos were not to engage again in rebellious acts. There followed much dispute as to the terms of the compact, the insurgents claiming that many reforms were to be provided for, and the Spaniards denying that such was the case. The treaty or agreement was never made public by any party to it, as there remained cause for suspicion that it might contain something which would compromise those connected with it.

On the fifteenth of December 1897, the Governor-in-chief of the Philippines and his mediator, Pedro A. Paterno, signed a statement which was presumed to be a draft in the sum of \$400,000, payable in Hong Kong, China. The draft would be handed to Senor Paterno, together with two checks for \$200,00 each, payable only on condition that the agreement be fulfilled by the other party. Certain sums of money were paid by the Spanish to the rebels and Aguinaldo and his

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party embarked for Hong Kong on the twenty-seventh of December 1897, escorted by Spanish officers. The rebels delivered up their arms, the Spanish Government sent 7,000 troops home and there was an interval of peace on the Islands. What the real intent of the parties to the agreement was, is unknown. It has been claimed and generally believed that Aguinaldo and his leaders were bribed by the Spanish to desert their cause, and that as matters turned out, they were guilty not only of accepting a bribe, but of refusing to stay bought. On the other hand, it was insisted by friends of Aguinaldo, that the money paid by the Spaniards was not a personal matter, but constituted a trust fund to be used as circumstances might direct. If the pledges alleged to have been made by the Spanish were kept, the money was to be distributed among those who had suffered loss in the rebellion, otherwise, it was to be used in a renewal of the revolutionary movement. No doubt the Spanish authorities believed that in the end the funds would be retained by Aguinaldo and his associates, thereby causing them to be discredited and made incapable of causing further mischief. What the outcome would have been can never be known as the advent of the Americans in the Philippines changed the situation completely, and opened to the imagination of Aguinaldo, possibilities which had not previously existed. Aguinaldo and his associates went to Hong Kong and Singapore, and a portion of the \$400,000 was deposited in banks at Hong Kong. No steps were taken by the Spanish authorities to introduce the reforms purported to have been promised and as far as the records show, the pact was not lived up to and there were several subsequent outbreaks on the Islands before war was declared between the United States and Spain.

After the outbreak of the Spanish-American War the attitude of the Spaniards toward the Filipinos changed and every possible effort was made to attach the natives to the Spanish Cause. Strong appeals were made through church organizations and efforts were made to convince the Filipinos that a Protestant army was coming to destroy their homes and rob them of their religious liberty.

War between the United States and Spain opened a new prospect for Aguinaldo and his followers in attaining Philippine Independence. Aguinaldo at once sought an opportunity to negotiate with the representatives of the United States Government at Hong Kong and Singapore who were ready to aid any enterprise directed against Spain. In Singapore, the United States Consul-General was presented to the Filipino revolutionary leader on the day following the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain.

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From the viewpoint of the Americans, the idea was to utilize Aguinaldo's prestige with the aroused Filipinos. It was greatly desired that no ill feeling on the part of the natives of the Islands should exist when the American forces appeared in Manila Harbor.

The result of the Singapore meeting was an agreement between Consul-General Pratt and Aguinaldo, which was entered into subject to the approval of Commodore George Dewey\* and subsequent confirmation from Washington. The terms of this alleged agreement called for Philippine Independence and an American Protectorate over the Islands. Aguinaldo then went to Hong Kong with instructions from Consul-General Pratt to Consul Wildman to put Aguinaldo in communication with Commodore Dewey. This was accomplished, but before the conclusion of the conferences between the Commodore and Aguinaldo, the former was obliged to leave Hong Kong for Mirs Bay, China, as a result of Great Britain's neutrality proclamation. Before he set sail from Hong Kong, Commodore Dewey directed Consul Wildman to see that Aguinaldo and his staff followed on board an American war vessel. The actual facts regarding the purported agreement with Aguinaldo have not been officially disclosed, but that Consul-General Pratt made any promises to Aguinaldo is highly improbable as he had no authority to do so and Aguinaldo was aware of the fact. However, it is quite possible and even probable that both Consul-General Pratt and Commodore Dewey believed at the time that the agreement was desirable and would be ratified at Washington. Apparently, the proposals of Aguinaldo looking toward the independence of the Islands, received no definite answer until the signing of the treaty of peace at Paris.

As previously arranged with Commodore Dewey, Aguinaldo proceeded to Cavite on board the United States despatch boat "McCulloch" arriving there the nineteenth of May, 1898.

When hostilities began between the United States and Spain the Asiatic Squadron, consisting of United States Ships "Olympia," "Boston," "Raleigh," "Baltimore," "Concord," and "Petrel", together with the Revenue cutter "McCulloch" and the supply ships "Hanshan" and "Zafiro" under command of Commodore Dewey, was stationed at Hong Kong, China, soon after the destruction of the "Maine". Commodore Dewey was notified that in the event of war, it would be his duty to see that the Spanish Squadron, which was

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\*Commodore Dewey was promoted to Rear Admiral May 7, 1898. Report of the Secretary of the Navy for 1898, Volume 2, page 69.

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then assembled on the west coast of the Island of Luzon, did not leave its Asiatic station. He was also advised that he would be expectant to undertake offensive operations in the Philippines. Commodore Dewey had been in communication with Mr. Oscar F. Williams, United States Consul at Manila, from whom he had learned much concerning the condition of the Spanish Squadron, as well as the character and strength of the land batteries about Manila. The American fleet was therefore prepared and expectant when the following order was received:

"Washington, April 24, 1898.

Dewey, Hong Kong.

"War has commenced between the United States and Spain. Proceed at once to Philippine Islands. Commence operations at once, particularly against the Spanish fleet. You must capture vessels or destroy. Use utmost endeavors."

Long."

That same day the British Commander of Hong Kong, owing to the fact that his government had declared its neutrality, gave notice to the American squadron that it would have to clear port within twenty-four hours. Consequently Commodore Dewey left Hong Kong on the twenty-fifth of April for Mirs Bay close by. Commodore Dewey obtained information that the Spanish fleet was assembled at Subig Bay on the west coast of the Island of Luzon and toward that point he directed his course. The destination of the American fleet was conjectured by the Spanish agents at Hong Kong and cabled to the Spanish authorities at Manila, who in turn forwarded the information to the Admiral commanding the Spanish fleet in Subig Bay on the east coast of the Island of Luzon. The Spanish Admiral who had but three days previously sailed from Manila to Subig Bay, upon receipt of this information, retraced his course to Manila in order to accept battle under more favorable conditions.

Luzon, the most northern as well as the largest and most important Island of the Philippine group lies northeast and southwest. On the southeast coast of the larger part of the Island and a little above its elbow lies Manila, the capital and chief city founded in 1571. The city is by nature well provided for defence, the harbor almost landlocked with an entrance of but three miles in width, less than half the range of a modern high power gun. The channel leading to the harbor is naturally defended by two Islands, one of which is Corregidor and rises 600 feet from the sea, the other one is Caballo which has an altitude of over 400 feet. After reconnoitering Subig

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Bay on the thirtieth of April and ascertaining that the enemy was not there, Commodore Dewey slowly proceeded toward the entrance to Manila Bay, thirty miles south. Although the information in the possession of our Navy was to the effect that the entrance to the bay was well fortified by high power guns and that the channel was strewn with mines, yet about midnight, April thirtieth, the American Commodore steamed through the Boca Grande under the shadow of Caballo Island. If there were any torpedos or mines they did not explode and the few shots fired from the batteries on the Island and the mainland, when the fleet had nearly passed through the channel, were without effect.

The Spanish Admiral had arranged his fleet in battle formation off the arsenal at Cavite where he would receive the support of two land batteries as well as the three shore batteries at Manila. At the break of dawn a battery near the city opened fired on the United States Squadron and a number of shots were exchanged. The American Commander knew that the Spanish fleet was ready for his attack, that between them lay a mined field and that the enemy was supported by five shore batteries which were reported to be armed with modern high power guns. None of Dewey's vessels were armor clad, yet with dauntless courage he advanced to the attack, his own flag ship in the lead. Three times Commodore Dewey's ships circled in front of the Spanish vessels. The battle raged until the Commodore was erroneously informed that his fleet was running short of ammunition for the five inch rapid fire guns. He then withdrew the squadron for redistribution of ammunition and to afford his crews an opportunity for breakfast and rest. In an hour and fifty-four minutes four vessels of the Spanish fleet had been sunk and the remainder were in flames. At quarter past eleven the American fleet returned to the attack and by twelve-thirty P.M. the work of destruction was completed. The shore batteries were silenced and the Spanish vessels, ten in number, were burned or sunk.

Commodore Dewey with his usual modesty announced to Washington the result of his engagement with the Spanish fleet in the following language:

"The squadron arrived at Manila at daybreak this morning, May 1, 1898, immediately engaged the enemy and destroyed the following Spanish vessels: "Reina Christians", "Castilla", "Don Antonio de Ulloa", "Don Juan de Austria",

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"Isla de Luzon", "Isla de Cuba", "General Lezo", "Marquis del Duero", "El Curreo", "Velasco", one transport, "Isla de Mindano", Water Battery At Cavite. I shall destroy Cavite arsenal despensatory. The squadron is uninjured. Few men were slightly wounded. I request the Department to send immediately from San Francisco fast steamer with ammunition.\*\*

It has been claimed that the Spanish fleet was composed of obsolete vessels, that it was outclassed in the number and size of its guns and that the victory at Manila Bay was nothing more nor less than the triumph of the strong over the weak. But, the Spaniards had the choice of position and had they possessed the energy or genius of the Americans during the engagement off Cavite arsenal, they could certainly have done great damage to a fleet of six vessels maneuvering at times within the range of a mile. Four of the steel cruisers of the Spanish fleet were built within a year of the time the "Baltimore", "Concord" and "Petrel" were constructed. The guns of the Spanish fleet did not quite equal in number or caliber, those of Dewey's fleet, but the combined guns of the Spanish squadron and shore batteries which took part in the battle exceeded in number and caliber those of the American ships. The Spaniards had two protected cruisers, five unprotected cruisers, and two gun boats, a total of nine vessels, opposed to our three protected cruisers, one partially protected cruiser and two gun boats; and their vessels were manned by 1,875 men against 1,709 men of the Americans. This numerical strength of the Spanish did not include the forces engaged in manning the five shore batteries which fought against Dewey's command. With such possibilities, the American squadron should have been outclassed; but look at the comparative results: the entire Spanish fleet was utterly annihilated; not one of Dewey's ships was appreciably damaged. The Spanish Admiral reported his loss at 381 killed and wounded, while Commodore Dewey had but seven men slightly wounded, none killed.\*\*

If the encounter of May first in Manila Bay determined anything, it decisively confirmed the superiority of American officers and seamen over their opponents and from whatever point of view the battle of Manila Bay is considered, the victory must and will be ever classed by the American People as one of the heroic battles of the world's history.

After the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Philippine waters, the land forces of the Spaniards in Manila could obtain neither reinforcements nor supplies. Outside of the city of Manila the country

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\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 322.

\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 324.

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was infested with Filipinos who were hostile to the Spanish and the presence of Dewey's fleet in the bay made impossible any hope of relief from the Spanish Government. The Spanish troops in the Philippines numbered about 21,000 all of whom except about 1,000 were in Manila and of the 20,000 in Manila, 15,000 were Spanish Regulars. Admiral Dewey reported that he could reduce the defenses and take the city of Manila at any time, but that he considered it useless to do so until the arrival of sufficient land forces to retain permanent possession.\*

Thus came about the necessity for the hasty preparation of a military force to occupy a comparatively unknown group of Islands, 7,000 miles from the west coast of the United States. A military movement to the Philippines was part of the general plan of campaign, but had been regarded as secondary in importance to the proposed operations in Cuba and Porto Rico.\*\* Orders for assembling 18,000 volunteers chiefly from Western States, at San Francisco, preparatory to sending an army of occupation to the Philippines, were given as early as May fourth. The necessity for the early dispatch of a large force so far from a supply base required the solution of new and perplexing problems such as mobilization, equipment, and transportation, and demanded the best talent procurable for its successful development.

The expeditionary forces to the Philippines were designated as the Eighth Corps and placed under Command of Major General Wesley Merritt, who had been in command of the Department of the East. Additional information as to the number of the Spanish forces in the city of Manila had been received and it was deemed advisable to increase the strength of the corps to 20,000. General Merritt arrived at San Francisco the latter part of May, and from the date of his arrival he devoted his entire time and energy to the instruction, organization, and equipment of his command. The success of the expedition, and the strategic manner in which it was developed and conducted, bear testimony of the tact and skill of the commander of the volunteer forces.

The first of the volunteer troops, designated the First California Volunteer Infantry, went into Camp in San Francisco on the Sixth day of May, 1898. Recruiting was hurried forward and preparations for the departure of the troops were rushed to completion. The matter of securing the necessary transport ships was serious. All suitable vessels of American registry were chartered or purchased and still there were many thousands of troops unprovided for.

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\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 326.

\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 326.

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The lack of transport facilities was finally overcome by sending vessels from the Atlantic Coast to San Francisco. This caused considerable delay and resulted in the movement of the Eighth Corps in seven expeditions or installments, extending over a period from May to October, 1898.\* However, the first expedition to the Philippines was ready to sail from San Francisco within three weeks from the date of the order for muster. This expedition consisted of three vessels, the "City of Peking", the "Sydney" and the "Australia". The ships sailed on the twenty-fifth of May with 2,500 men under command of brigadier-General Thomas M. Anderson. The troops of the first expedition consisted of five companies of Regulars, the First California Volunteer Infantry, a detachment of the California Volunteer Heavy Artillery and the Oregon Volunteers.\*\* The cruiser "Charleston" awaited the arrival of the troops at Honolulu and conveyed the expedition from there to the Philippines. After an uneventful voyage, the expedition reached the Island of Guam on the twentieth day of June 1898.\*\*\*

The second expedition commanded by Brigadier-General F. V. Greene, consisting of 158 officers and 3,428 men, none of whom were Californians, sailed from San Francisco June fifteenth and reached Manila Bay July seventeenth, 1898.

The third expedition consisted of troops from Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota and North Dakota, together with detachments from the Regular Army and numbered 197 officers and 4,650 men. The total force of the three expeditions was 470 officers and 10,484 men. The troops included in these three expeditions were the only troops to reach Manila prior to the assault and capture of that city.\*\*\*\*

The State of California may well be proud of the enviable record established by her sons in the war between the United States and Spain, and the Filipino Insurrection which followed. In addition to the entire regiments organized within the State there was a large proportion of Californians in the Regular United States troops who saw service in the Philippines. There were also California recruits in nearly every regiment of Volunteers that passed through San Francisco, not forgetting those who volunteered for service in the United States Navy. Through no fault of their own many regiments of California volunteers did not see service in a foreign land. To all of these and especially to the First Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry, and the California Heavy Artillery, the only entire California organizations to see service in the Philippines, the State and the Country owes a debt of gratitude. The work assigned to them was "well done".

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\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, pages 328-329.

\*\*The Americans in the Philippines, pages 174, 175.

\*\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, page 57.

\*\*\*\*The Spanish-American War, by R. A. Alger, page 329.



CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS AND THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

The following is a list of the organizations of the National Guard of California which were mustered into the Federal Volunteer Service:\*

<u>Organization of the National Guard of California</u>	<u>Organization California Volunteers</u>	<u>Date of Muster</u>	<u>Location</u>
First Infantry	First Infantry	May 6, 1898	Manila
Seventh Infantry	Seventh Infantry	May 9, 1898	Presidio California
Companies C and G Sixth Infantry	Companies C and G Sixth Infantry	May 11, 1898	Benicia Barracks
Company A, Sixth Infantry	Company A, Sixth Infantry	May 11, 1898	Fort Alcatraz
Companies B, D, H, and E, Sixth Infantry	Companies B, D, H, and E, Sixth Inf.	May 11, 1898	Fort Point.
Company E, Second Infantry	Company F, Sixth Infantry	May 11, 1898	Santa Cruz
Company A, Second Infantry	Company A, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale
Company B, Second Infantry	Company K, Eighth Infantry	July 6, 1898	Fruitvale
Company D, Second Infantry	Company L, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale
Company H, Second Infantry	Company H, Eighth Infantry	July 8, 1898	Fruitvale
Company I, Second Infantry	Company I, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale
Company B, Fifth Infantry	Company B, Eighth Infantry	July 6, 1898	Fruitvale
Company C, Fifth Infantry	Company C, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale
Company D, Fifth Infantry	Company D, Eighth Infantry	July 6, 1898	Fruitvale
Company E, Fifth Infantry	Company E, Eighth Infantry	July 6, 1898	Fruitvale
Company F, Fifth Infantry	Company F, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale

\*Adjutant General Report, 1896-1898, page 8.

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS AND THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

The following is a list of the organizations of the National Guard of California which were mustered into the Federal Volunteer Service: Continued.

Organization of the National Guard of California	Organization California Volunteers	Date of Muster	Location
Company G, Fifth Infantry	Company G, Eighth Infantry	July 7, 1898	Fruitvale
San Jose Company (outside guard)	Company M, Eighth Infantry	July 9, 1898	Fruitvale
None	Battery A, Heavy Artillery	May 9, 1898	Presidio, California (50 men at Manila)
None	Battery B, Heavy Artillery	May 9, 1898	Fort Baker
Troop B, Cavalry	Battery C, Heavy Artillery	May 10, 1898	Fort Canby, Washington
None	Battery D, Heavy Artillery	May 10, 1898	Presidio California

As a fitting recognition of the services of the officers and men of the California National Guard who were mustered into the United States Volunteer service in the Spanish-American War, and who had been or should at a later date be discharged therefrom, the Legislature of the State of California enacted the following law which was approved by the Governor March 21, 1899:

All officers and members of the regiments and companies of the National Guard of California who served in said war, to be granted leave of absence from the time of their mustering into the United States Volunteer Service until being mustered out of the same.

That within 150 days from their being so mustered out, they could report and would be recognized as belonging to the National Guard and returned to duty.

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CONTINUED  
OF OFFICERS WHOSE SERVICE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD  
DURING THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS AND THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

That all officers of such companies, divisions, battalions and regiments as entered the Volunteer Service and should return to the National Guard should continue to serve under the commissions held by them at the time they entered the Volunteer Service.

The officers of the National Guard who entered the volunteer service were granted all the privileges, exemptions, and retirements up to the date of their being mustered out of the Volunteer service, the same as if they had remained in the National Guard.

Officers and members of the Organizations of the National Guard who entered the Volunteer Service, who report for duty to be granted continuous service as in the National Guard, up to the time they so reported.\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900. General Order No. 5, page 57.