



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Colonel John Miller Stotsenburg: Man of Valor

Full Citation: J R Johnson, "Colonel John Miller Stotsenburg: Man of Valor," *Nebraska History* 50 (1969): 339-357

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1969JMStotsenburg.pdf>

Date: 10/30/2015

Article Summary: Stotsenburg served in the Army in the Southwest and later at Fort Niobrara, keeping Indians on reservations. When the Spanish-American War broke out he became an officer of the First Nebraska Volunteers. He died under enemy fire in the Philippine Insurrection and received posthumously a promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

Cataloging Information:

Names: John Miller Stotsenburg, John H Stotsenburg, John Joseph Pershing, Geronimo, Mangas, Emilio Aguinaldo, William Grayson, Irving Hale, Harry B Mulford, John P Bratt, George P Colton

Place Names: Fort Bayard, New Mexico; Fort Niobrara, Nebraska; Manila and Malolos, Philippines

Keywords: John Miller Stotsenburg, John Joseph Pershing, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, United States Military Academy (West Point), Moqui Indians, University of Nebraska, First Nebraska Volunteers, Thurston Rifles

Photographs / Images: J M Stotsenburg; officers of the Sixth Cavalry, including Stotsenburg, John J Pershing and Richard B Paddock

COLONEL JOHN MILLER STOTSENBURG: A MAN OF VALOR

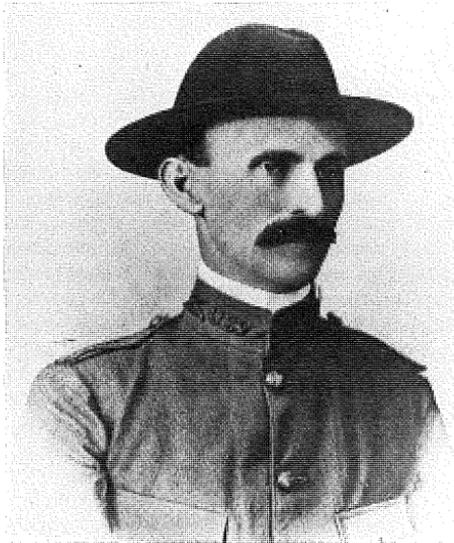
By J. R. JOHNSON

Some men live long and accomplish little. Others, cut down in their prime, accomplish much. Such a man was John Miller Stotsenburg.

He and General John Joseph Pershing were very close friends. Until Stotsenburg's untimely death on a battlefield during the Philippine Insurrection, their careers ran somewhat parallel. Graduates of West Point Military Academy, each was assigned to the Sixth Cavalry in New Mexico and Arizona. There they helped round up the obstreperous Apaches and later assisted in corralling the stubborn Sioux in South Dakota. Pershing served as Commandant of the cadets at the University of Nebraska and largely on his recommendation Stotsenburg was later given the same post. Each held the rank of Professor of Military Science and Tactics. Both men served in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Both men were products of the Middle West.

John M. Stotsenburg was born in New Albany, Indiana, November 24, 1858. Five years earlier the family had

Dr. Johnson, Professor of History at Bellevue College, Bellevue, Nebraska, has been a frequent contributor to Nebraska History.



Col. John M. Stotsenburg

moved from Wilmington, Delaware, where John's grandfather, Evan C. Stotsenburg, had large iron foundries. His father, John H. Stotsenburg, seems to have been a remarkable man. He was a lawyer and later a judge. A Democrat, he became quite active in Indiana politics. His other affiliations included membership in the Episcopal Church and in the Masonic and Knights Templar lodges. He is described as an intelligent, independent thinker and as having great influence on his son John. The Stotsenburgs were of Dutch ancestry. John's mother, Jane Miller, came from upper New York State.¹

Stotsenburg's early education was obtained in the New Albany public schools. Dr. E. B. Zier, a classmate and chum, gives this evaluation of John as a young man:

He was one of those quiet determined men; always knew what he wanted and how to get it. . . . He was a leader among the boys. Never drank or used tobacco in any form, nor did I ever hear him use profanity. He was a bookworm and his library was well-stocked with the world's best known works.²

In appearance, Stotsenburg is described as "short and slight and had rather an aesthetic countenance partly, per-

haps due to the fact that he was always a studious man."³ One would hardly believe from these descriptions that this young man would develop into a strong disciplinarian and become a target of the "kid-glove" crowd in later years.

Stotsenburg entered United States Military Academy, at West Point, N.Y., July 1, 1877. His cadet days are well described by Captain Grote Hutcheson, Adjutant General of the Department of the Missouri, who knew him there:

Stotsenburg was an unusually popular man, a great favorite in his class and in the corps and even at that early date he was noted for his honesty of purpose and uprightness and the care he bestowed on every detail of any task set before him. In the social life of a cadet, and especially at the summer hops and in entertaining visitors, Stotsenburg took a prominent part and thus early acquired those graces of character which followed him during life.⁴

The above indicates that Stotsenburg was hardly an introvert and that he found time for pleasure. Neither was he a superman in learning since he graduated forty-first in his class in 1881.⁵ Rather, he was just a hard-working student who was interested in many fields and utilized his talents to the fullest.

Stotsenburg's assignment to Fort Bayard, New Mexico, brought new and rugged experiences. In those days there were numerous small posts in New Mexico and Arizona, and the Sixth Cavalry was divided between Fort Bayard, Fort Stanton, and Fort Wingate in New Mexico, and Fort Huachuca in Arizona. The main duty of the troops was keeping the Indians on their reservations and quelling raids.⁶

From Fort Bayard Stotsenburg went to Fort Huachuca and was there in 1883 and took part in the futile hunt for Geronimo. While there he also participated in the Victorio campaign and was cited for valorous conduct for his part in the Battle of the Big Dry Wash. Victorio was one of the principal Apache chiefs. Geronimo was captured in 1886 but before that time Stotsenburg had been ordered back to Fort Bayard.⁷

Two important persons entered Stotsenburg's life at Fort Bayard. It was there he met Mary LaTourette, the beautiful daughter of an army chaplain. Apparently he lost no time in courting her for they were married at Fort Union, New Mexico, in 1885. It was at Fort Bayard that Stotsenburg and Pershing became close friends. They teamed up in many forays against the recalcitrant Indians in the area. In September of 1886 a minor chief named Mangas, who had been with Geronimo, was giving trouble, so two troops of the Sixth Cavalry were sent to capture or dispose of him. His hideout was in the mountains nearby. After six days of hard marches, in which Stotsenburg and Pershing took part, it was learned that Mangas had escaped with his band into Arizona where he was later captured.⁸

Chasing Indians, however, was only one of Lieutenant Stotsenburg's chores. As Quartermaster for the Regiment his duties were manifold. He was kept busy finding suitable sites for the Indians and securing supplies for their sustenance. In his travels he made studies of their habits and customs and took careful notes of his observations. He was particularly interested in a branch of the Apaches called the Moqui. While many soldiers spent their free time prospecting for gold or seeking pleasure, he went on exploring trips.⁹

Garrison duty in the Southwest in the 1880's was often monotonous, involving only routine drill and record-keeping. A young man of Stotsenburg's nature was not content to sit still. Often he could combine business with pleasure but even a strictly pleasure trip brought useful information . . . and rugged experiences. One adventure was an "excursion" from Fort Wingate to the Grand Canyon with Pershing as his companion. He kept a daily account of their experiences, referring to his partner as "Jackson." In a preface to his report Stotsenburg comments as follows:

The true and perhaps thrilling experience in the following sketch is not recommended for invalids or even the ordinary

sightseer. However, should anyone wish to make a trip where he can obtain the most experience and the most hardship, and see the greatest variety of men, both white and red, let him follow our trails if he can.¹⁰

The objective of these young lieutenants at the outset was a pleasant trip to the Moqui villages, but after a few days out they decided to fulfill a long-time desire to see "the grandest view on the continent." So, with a Navajo Indian named Sam as a guide and interpreter, and a packer called Minus, they made the journey of 200 miles, riding Navajo ponies and carrying their supplies on two strong pack mules. The ponies and mules turned out to be more reliable than their Indian helpers. On their return Stotsenburg reported:

We were glad to get back and we felt perfectly satisfied that we knew how not to go to the Grand Canyon. We also felt proud of the ride we had made, and it will be long remembered by the natives as well as ourselves as the longest and severest on record.¹¹

Stotsenburg's duties took him on many journeys through the Indian country of the Southwest. On one occasion in April of 1889, he and a man named Bulger made a fifteen-day trip through tough country looking for places to move Indians where the water supply was more adequate. As usual he took careful notes of his observations, pointing out which Indians were progressive and which were indolent. He was a keen judge of character of both Whites and Reds. In his excursions he encountered a number of white settlements, mostly Mormon villages.¹²

When the Sioux balked at being placed on reservations in South Dakota in 1890, the Sixth Cavalry was rushed there to help bring the rebellious Indians under control. Stotsenburg (now First Lieutenant, having been promoted two years earlier) and Pershing participated in the maneuvers and skirmishes in the area of the battles of Wounded Knee and The Mission fought near Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This campaign entailed "weeks of arduous service with long marches in the saddle, cold nights in the open,

often sleeping on the ground, with meals of hardtack, canned tomatoes, slabs of bacon and coffee. The thermometer reached 20 below zero and winds often to 60 miles an hour."¹³

Now that the Sioux were subdued, Stotsenburg's administrative ability was further recognized by his appointment as Regimental Quartermaster at Fort Niobrara, Nebraska, near the Rosebud Reservation. He served here for the next three years. These were not the happiest years of his life since this assignment involved tedious work and much patience. Not only was he responsible for the supply of the post but also had charge of the Indians in the vicinity.¹⁴ Chancellor George E. MacLean of the University of Nebraska later commented on his work there:

The duties of a quartermaster at a frontier garrison are exacting and trying. The greater part of the business connected with the supply of the post falls upon him. Stotsenburg was noted for his efficiency while holding this office and not only did he keep the command abundantly and promptly supplied but he also conducted several alterations and supervised considerable construction with a capacity which resulted in bringing him the warmest commendation of his superiors.¹⁵

Stotsenburg's three-year stretch at Fort Niobrara, though largely of a routine nature, did allow him time for study and reflection as well as an opportunity to familiarize himself with that part of the country. His daughter Jane recalls as a small child driving with him to see some Indian dances. He was always observant of the world about him.¹⁶

After leaving Fort Niobrara Stotsenburg spent a few months at Fort Myer near Washington then was sent to the Infantry and Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He made an exemplary record here, graduating with distinguished honors in June, 1897. He stayed on with his regiment until December when he received his appointment as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska.¹⁷

Before this appointment came through, Stotsenburg



The Sixth Cavalry participated in skirmishes with the Sioux in 1890-1891. Officers of the unit included Lt. Stotsenburg, second from right (standing); Lt. John J. Pershing, sixth from right (standing); Lt. Richard B. Paddock, brother-in-law of Pershing, sixth from left (standing).—Photo courtesy of Jane Wainwright.

was concerned because he had learned that some political influence was being exerted in his behalf. He made it clear in his correspondence that he wished to stand solely on his own merits. The University and the Army, he felt, should be kept entirely free from political influences.¹⁸

Chancellor MacLean described Stotsenburg's first appearance on campus.

Immediately upon arrival at the University he reported in full uniform at the Chancellor's office that he was ready for duty. He was a slight, wiry man, somewhat nervous, of few words and of conspicuous modesty. He said he had not been accustomed to classroom instruction, but that he hoped he would succeed in it, and he did. He was advised that a certain predecessor of his [not Pershing] had been called by the students "a petty tyrant in stripes." He remarked that he expected to maintain strict discipline, but that ought not to interfere with kindness to the men.¹⁹

One might think that this modest officer would shy away from the social life of the University. However, he and Mrs. Stotsenburg volunteered their services, declaring their intention to devote themselves to the students, and they were gladly sought as patrons in social affairs. "They were ingenious in devising entertainments that were profitable for various college organizations."²⁰

The Stotsenburgs were hardly adjusted to the University and the Lincoln community when the Spanish-American War broke out. The two regiments of the National Guard were soon called up and Lieutenant Stotsenburg was assigned as mustering officer. He carried out this duty with efficiency and dispatch and followed by requesting active service for himself. Recognizing the need of a regular army officer to help shape up the poorly-trained Guard troops, many of them recent recruits, Governor Silas Holcomb, with the approval of the War Department, appointed him a major in the First Nebraska Regiment.²¹

This appointment created a stir among the Volunteers. Some of the officers in the Guard Units had been

dropped for physical disabilities. They and their followers claimed the Populist Governor was playing politics.

John P. Bratt, Colonel of the Regiment and a hardware merchant in civilian life, aware of Stotsenburg's worth, leaned heavily on the Major in the days ahead, days full of frustrations. The Regiment was assigned to duty in the Philippines and left Lincoln May 16, 1898, on three troop trains. After a stay at the Presidio in San Francisco, the Regiment embarked on a coastal vessel, the *Senator*, which was part of a fleet of four ships that sailed without armed escort. The *Senator*, designed to accommodate 577 passengers, now carried 1023 troops in addition to the crew. With the exception of a stopover in Honolulu, the voyage to the Philippines was a nightmare under crowded conditions, improper rations, and shortage of fresh water. Major Stotsenburg proved invaluable on the voyage, but since he was Bratt's chief "troubleshooter" he became the target for the gripes of the weary troops.

Two days after arriving at Manila Bay the Regiment went ashore on a low sandy beach about four miles south of Manila. Though christened Camp Dewey, it was popularly dubbed the "Peanut Patch" by the men. One reviewer of the experiences thus far commented: "Dust-blown in Lincoln, frozen in San Francisco, scorched in Honolulu and half drowned before Manila, we begin to think we have stood all the trials in the category."

But this was only a prelude to what was ahead for the Regiment. Major Stotsenburg as usual displayed his capacity for organization. When the assault on Manila finally took place, the Nebraska troops played a leading role. A greater problem than the Spanish was Aguinaldo's insurgents encamped outside the city determined to take part in the attack. Dewey's fleet, which had earlier disposed of the Spanish flotilla, was leisurely awaiting the arrival of sufficient land forces to hold the city before opening fire. On August 13 the order for an assault was given, and the combined efforts of the land-and-sea attack

soon brought surrender of the city while simultaneously keeping the Filipinos at bay.

The Nebraska regiment's position was along the beach where at times the men marched in water up to their necks. They were among the first to enter Manila, and it is claimed that the Nebraska regimental flag was the first to fly over the city.

Distasteful garrison duty in Manila followed the occupation until early December. The restless volunteers believed their mission was finished and the cry went up: "We want to go home!" Their uncensored letters stirred up resentment at home, especially when Major Stotsenburg succeeded Colonel Bratt.

Colonel Bratt was in ill health and his physicians suggested that he return home. He resigned September 27 and recommended Stotsenburg as his replacement, passing over Lieutenant Colonel George P. Colton. This officer was on duty at the Custom House and apparently preferred to remain there. Nevertheless, Stotsenburg's appointment was not a popular choice with the men and accelerated the criticism at home. When some of the disgruntled troops (mostly from Company L known as "Thurston's Rifles") were relieved, ostensibly for reasons of health, they lost no time adding their protests to the growing opposition to the new colonel on their arrival home.

Each company was now reduced to eighty men, but new recruits arrived to bring the regiment to full strength. Stotsenburg's commission came on November 10, and the First Nebraska was moved to Santa Mesa east of the city. He immediately set up a model camp. Rigid training was the order of the day. The War Department, recognizing his worth, advanced him to captain in the regular army on December 14.²² Promotions in those days were regimental and very slow. They had to be earned. Stotsenburg had certainly earned his.

The heat generated in Nebraska over Stotsenburg's appointment and reports on his cruelty to his men was climaxed with the return of the Thurston Rifles. On January 2, 1899, some seventy-five relatives and friends of this company met in Omaha and drew up a petition and addressed it to the legislature demanding action against this "tyrannical" officer. The charges taken separately were trivial but in the aggregate made Stotsenburg appear to be a scheming, brutal, and vicious martinet. The list is as follows:

1. Filling a vacancy "erroneously or fraudulently" made by the rejection of Major Scharman by his "hypnotic" influence over Governor Holcomb and others, and gaining the colonelcy by the same tactics.
2. Promoting those who had signed his petitions, and "jumping" those who signed Colton's. [Relative to bringing the regiment home.]
3. Reducing the sick list to avoid having the men mustered out, and incorrectly sending the wishes of the men in a cablegram to the governor.
4. Keeping Company L in the lower hold during the entire trip to Manila from San Francisco.
5. Being responsible, in conjunction with Bratt, for the men losing their straw beds while at San Francisco.
6. Withholding, illegally, ten cents, in conjunction with Bratt, from each man's pay, for stolen goods.
7. Aiding Bratt to assess each company for bananas and coconuts taken on at Honolulu, without their consent.
8. Assessing in conjunction with Bratt, each man for money to pay the cooks on the Senator.
9. Advising and aiding Colonel Bratt to arrest a captain who refused to pay the \$30. [Amount assessed officers.]
10. Getting Company L relieved from duty at the custom house merely for revenge. [This was soft duty.]
11. Confining a private to his quarters for two days for failing to fold a blanket "according to his ideas."
12. Imposing a \$3 fine on a private for chewing tobacco on an isolated beat.

13. Fining a sergeant for "needing a shave."
14. Taking most of the pay of the soldiers in petty fines; petty tyranny.
15. Compelling officers, in conjunction with Bratt, to pay \$1 for cots in Camp Dewey while these were free in other regiments.
16. Assuming general supervision of the troops, in conjunction with Bratt, on the *Senator* and overcrowding the ship and failing to provide suitable provisions.
17. Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

This statement was added to the petition:

We solemnly pledge our money, our time and all our energies to punish this man for his cruel, inhuman, and contemptible conduct toward our boys, who so gloriously went to the front, but who are returning humiliated at every turn by an arrogant, overbearing and tyrannical officer, whom we propose to punish for his infamous conduct, if it is possible to reach him.²³

The legislature, under considerable pressure from the public, proceeded to debate the matter. After some delay resolutions were voted calling for an investigation by the War Department. This agency responded but with considerable difficulty, for by this time the Philippine Insurrection was in progress and the men were in the field. All seventeen charges fell flat. In fact, most of the men in the regiment who had complained were now ready to swear by their colonel rather than at him. They now realized that the disciplinary measures applied had made them a proud fighting force. The tone of their letters home now changed. The legislature, embarrassed over its premature and immature action after two efforts had failed, "rescinded" and "expunged" from the records their infantile resolutions.

While some of the homefolks were whipping up a storm, Colonel Stotsenburg continued the rigid training of the First Nebraska. The immediate problem was avoiding contact with the native soldiery. All efforts to come to an agreement with the Filipino leader, Emilio Aguinaldo,

failed. When news of the treaty with Spain came through and it was learned that the Philippines would not be given independence like Cuba, matters grew steadily worse. Aguinaldo set up a "capital" at Malolos north of Manila, where he was "proclaimed president, captain-general and everything else" according to the Manila press.

It was evident that a clash was imminent between American and Filipino soldiers. The United States had now assumed the enemy role formerly held by Spain as far as the natives were concerned. On the night of February 4 an insurgent approached an American picket, Private William Grayson of Beatrice, Nebraska. When he refused to halt or answer when challenged, Grayson fired and the Insurrection was under way. Colonel Stotsenburg was well prepared for an attack, for when the Filipinos opened fire on Camp Santa Mesa that night, they hit mostly empty tents. After throwing off another attack the next morning, the Nebraskans and other forces advanced, taking a powder magazine and the Deposito, a reservoir that supplied water to Manila from the Maraquina River.

The First Nebraska was attached to the Second Brigade of the Second Division, but at this stage of hostilities Stotsenburg was placed largely on his own initiative. The brigade was stretched out for three miles over bamboo thickets and rice fields with telegraphic communication practically worthless.

The regiment remained on duty in the waterworks area through February and early March. Several sharp encounters took place during this time with six killed and thirty-nine wounded. On March 14 positions were taken three miles northeast of Manila, then on March 25 the northern campaign got under way.

The First Nebraska, now reduced to thirty-one officers and 808 men, was assigned to the extreme right wing of the army, and since a circular movement was followed, the greatest distance was traveled by this regiment; it also

was flanked by the enemy on two sides. General Hale made this report:

This advance . . . through swamps knee to waist deep and numerous stagnant, mud-bottomed esteros waist to neck deep, under oppressive heat and in the face of galling fire, driving the enemy from entrenched positions . . . may fairly be considered the most remarkable exhibition of preserving pluck and endurance during the campaign.

The first objective in the northern campaign was Malolos twenty miles away. Heavy fighting took place at San Francisco del Monte, Meyauayan, and Marilao. At the latter place General Hale remarked: "There go those Nebraskans again, and all hell couldn't stop them." There were no regrets now for the rigid training of previous weeks. But the advance was costly. Colonel Stotsenburg reported from Malolos that the regiment's casualties were eight killed and eighty-two wounded during the campaign. Sixty-five miles had been covered (due to the circular movement) in six days over difficult country.

The First Nebraska was in or near Malolos for twenty-two days resting and preparing for the next move. Malolos had been abandoned by the Insurgents with only feeble resistance. Plans called for an advance on April 24, but a scouting party found itself almost surrounded by a strong enemy force on the twenty-third which triggered an earlier start. Colonel Stotsenburg was in Manila getting a few days of much-needed rest and Major Harry B. Mulford was temporarily in charge. He was sent with a battalion of Nebraskans to help rescue the beleaguered troops. There seems to have been some misunderstanding at this point. After an advance he contended that General Hale had ordered a withdrawal so that the artillery could open fire. While this development was taking place, Stotsenburg arrived on the scene and may not have been briefed on Hale's orders. At any rate, he took command and ordered an advance. Though successful, it was a costly charge. They met a withering charge resulting in four deaths, including the Colonel's, and thirty wounded.²⁴

One cannot doubt the bravery of this soldier in view of his role in what is called the Battle of Quingua. Major James F. Bell, a regular army officer, paid this tribute:

In justice to his memory, I wish to pay tribute to this fearless, brave, gallant soldier, for as soon as he arrived, he placed himself in front of his regiment and with hat in one hand and pistol in the other, led it against the trenches of the Insurgents, routing them completely. It was solely due to this gallant act that we won the fight so promptly after his arrival, for the Insurgents did not appear to have been shaken until our advance began.²⁵

Lieutenant Colonel Colton was now offered the colonelcy but chose to remain at the Customs House. Major Mulford, next in line, accepted the appointment from Governor William A. Poynter, Nebraska's new state executive. Much fighting lay ahead for the First Nebraska. It was not until June 16 that orders came relieving the regiment from service in the Philippines. War Department records show that more men were killed and wounded in the First Nebraska than in any other regiment, regular army or volunteer, during the Spanish-American and Philippine wars, including the Cuban and Porto Rican campaigns.

When the news of Colonel Stotsenburg's heroic death on the battlefield was flashed back home, tributes were paid to him by the newspapers across the country.²⁶ His body, accompanied by Mrs. Stotsenburg, who had been living in Manila, was returned to Lincoln. After an impressive funeral procession the remains lay in state at the Capitol where thousands paid their respects. Services were then held at Holy Trinity Church. The Colonel's body was finally laid to rest in Arlington Cemetary just inside the main gate from Fort Myer. The graveside services were attended by President McKinley and other top civilian and military figures.²⁷ Several years later Colonel Frank D. Eager and other members of the First Nebraska visited the grave, placed a plaque on the rather large stone and raised it to a higher level.²⁸

The high esteem held for Stotsenburg was shown by naming a camp for him in the Philippines. Clark Airforce Base is now a part of Camp Stotsenburg, and in the Officer's Club a "Stotsenburg Room" has been dedicated to his memory. A monument stands where he fell on the battlefield and is cared for by a Filipino who takes great pride in keeping it in good condition. Each year on the anniversary of the Colonel's death a ceremony is held there, as well as in front of the Officers' Club.²⁹

Further evidence of Stotsenburg's worth was shown by the recommendation of his superior officers that he be promoted to Brigadier General. The papers were on the way to Manila at the time of his death.³⁰ Honors often come late in the military field. Years of research often reveal that a deserving soldier has been neglected. Such was the case with Colonel John M. Stotsenburg. In 1927 he was cited for gallantry in action against Spanish and Insurgent forces in the Philippines and was awarded the Silver Star posthumously.³¹

The day Colonel Stotsenburg fell on the battlefield Major F. D. Eager (later Lieutenant Colonel) sent this telegram to Mrs. Stotsenburg in Manila: "The greatest fighter the best Colonel in the 8th Army Corps was killed today. You have my sympathy all of it."³² These words undoubtedly expressed the feelings of the entire regiment. Perhaps one of the finest tributes paid the Colonel was made during the Insurrection when some of the boys remarked: "There goes old 'Stotsey' and the devil in hell can't scare him with a cannon."³³

NOTES

¹ Letter from Mary B. Stotsenburg (Colonel Stotsenburg's niece), New Albany, Indiana, June 6, 1967; Letter from Mrs. John D. Wainwright (Colonel Stotsenburg's daughter Jane), Washington, D. C., June 13, 1967. Stotsenburg had two children, Laura, deceased, and Jane. Jane's first marriage was to the late General Leon B. Kromer by whom she had five children. Her second husband, now deceased, was Rear Admiral John D. Wainwright. Much of the data in this article, especially on her father's early life, is derived from correspondence with Mrs. Wainwright and materials she sent the author.

² Scrapbook compiled by Judge Charles O. Whedon of Lincoln, Nebraska, whose son Burt was Colonel Stotsenburg's adjutant in the First Nebraska Regiment. This scrapbook contains clippings from newspapers across the nation. Precise datelines are not always given, but all are of late April or early May, 1899.

³ *Whedon Scrapbook*, 40. From *Morristown Herald* (Pa.), April 1899.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 5. From the *Omaha Bee*, April 1899.

⁵ *Ibid.*, From the *Nebraska State Journal* (Lincoln), April 24, 1899.

⁶ Jane Wainwright letter, September 18, 1968.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Stotsenburg's personal hand-written notes on "Habits of the Moquis." Courtesy of Jane Wainwright.

¹⁰ William Swilling Wallace (ed.), "Lieutenants Pershing and Stotsenburg Visit The Grand Canyon: 1887," *Arizona and the West*, III (Autumn, 1961), 265-284.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Stotsenburg's personal hand-written notes detailing the trip, April 4 to April 19, 1899. Courtesy of Jane Wainwright.

¹³ Jane Wainwright letters, June 13, 1967, September 18, 1968.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Whedon Scrapbook, 5. From the *Omaha Bee*, April, 1899.

¹⁶ Jane Wainwright letter, October 9, 1967.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*; Whedon Scrapbook. From *Nebraska State Journal*, April 24, 1899.

¹⁸ Whedon Scrapbook, 5. From the *Omaha Bee*, April, 1899.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ J. R. Johnson, "The Saga of the First Nebraska in the Philippines," *Nebraska History*, XXX (June, 1949), 139-162. This article gives a detailed account of the operations of this regiment in the Philippines and Stotsenburg's role. The data used in the present account is taken primarily from that article. A somewhat embellished resume of Stotsenburg's military record by his brother-in-law, James

R. Ely, a New York lawyer, was furnished the author by Jane Wainwright.

²² Whedon Scrapbook, 4. From the *San Francisco Examiner*, April, 1899.

²³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Nebraska, 1899-1900*, 703, 710-715; *Nebraska State Journal*, January 8, 1899.

²⁴ Brigadier General Irving Hale, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, in a letter from Headquarters, Calumpit, P.I., April 30th, 1899, made recommendations for distinguished services in the War with Filipino Insurgents. He concluded his letter with a tribute to Colonel Stotsenburg as follows: "I desire to pay tribute to the bravery and distinguished services of Colonel John M. Stotsenburg, 1st Nebraska Infantry, U. S. V., who was killed in the battle of Quingua, April 23rd, 1899. Both before and after his promotion to the command of the regiment, he worked faithfully and effectively to improve its efficiency. He personally led his troops in all of their engagements,—Santa Mesa and San Juan del Monte, Feb. 4th and 5th; Waterworks, Feb. 6th; numerous hot skirmishes and exhausting pursuits in guarding the Waterworks and road, Feb. 6th to March 14th; San Francisco del Monte, March 25th; Meycauayan, March 26th; Marilao (charge to repel attack), March 27th; Bocaue, March 29th; Malolos, March 31st; and Quingua, April 23rd, where he fell while leading his men with characteristic gallantry in one of the hottest charges of the campaign, 35 officers and men out of less than 250 on the firing line being killed and wounded in the first few minutes of the advance. Colonel Stotsenburg's gallantry on the battle-field was an inspiration to his men and was in a great measure responsible for the splendid record of the Nebraska regiment. His services fully merited promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. His death was a serious loss to his Regiment and the Army." . . . A "true extract." Courtesy of Jane Wainwright.

²⁵ *Annual Reports of the War Department, 1899*, 582; Jane Wainwright in a letter, January 6, 1969, makes these comments relative to the battle of Quingua: "Gen. Hale had sent a message written in pencil telling my father to use his own judgment about moves to be made by the 1st Nebraska . . . this before the battle. The scouting party sent out by Maj. Bell was to find the bodies of men who had been killed . . . and they were surrounded. Maj. Bell sent for reinforcements and a battalion of the 1st Nebraska under Maj. Mulford arrived and advanced until checked by volleys from enemy trenches; another battalion of the 1st Nebraska arrived, and shortly thereafter my father arrived. My father *did* know of the order to retreat . . . but I had always understood that the order was given by Maj. Mulford. . . . When [my father] arrived on the scene and saw the situation he gave the order to charge. . . . Maj. Bell was greatly criticized for sending men into enemy territory to get

the bodies of the men who had been killed. My mother always felt that he was the cause of my father's death."

²⁶ Whedon's Scrapbook contains clippings from newspapers across the nation on the battle of Quingua as well as on the career of Colonel Stotsenburg.

²⁷ Whedon's Scrapbook carries several newspaper accounts of the graveside services in Arlington Cemetery.

²⁸ Jane Wainwright letter, September 14, 1967.

²⁹ "O, You Nebraskas!" *The American Oldtimer*, VIII (June 1941), 5-7; Jane Wainwright letters, September 14, October 9, 1967.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, June 13, 1967, January 6, 1969.

³¹ Photostatic copy. Courtesy of Jane Wainwright.

³² Original copy, U.S. Military Telegraph, Malolos, P.I., April 23, 1899. Courtesy Jane Wainwright.

³³ Whedon Scrapbook, 65.