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Article Summary: This is the story of the military career of a little-known Nebraska officer, who served in both the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars. As such, it is a case study in the evolution of the American "citizen soldier."

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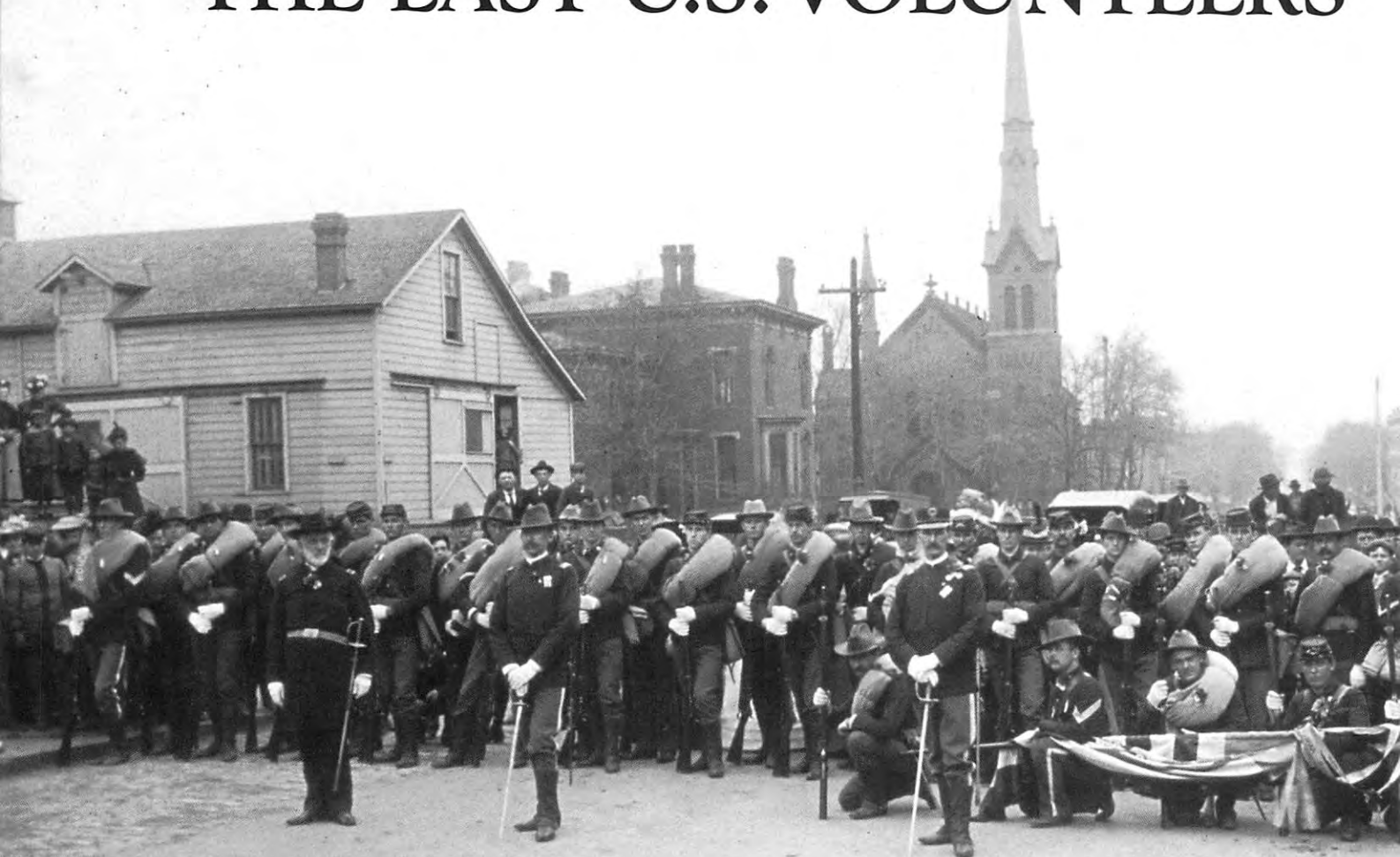
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Photographs / Images: Major Wallace C Taylor, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, 1898; Thurston Rifles, April 27, 1898; Camp Merritt, near San Francisco, 1898; Manila photo of Lieutenant C M Richards, Captain W C Taylor, and Lieutenant J M Tompsett; August 13, 1898 First Nebraska Volunteers advancing through tidewater in Manila; Men of the First Nebraska come under fire in March 1899 in the Philippines; Dead Filipino insurgents; American troops carry their wounded back from the front lines, Philippines; Thirty-Ninth US Volunteer Infantry and Filipino civilians riding small rail cars pulled by a carabao in the Philippines; Three generations of Taylors about 1916: Wallace Cadet Taylor, his son and his father, Cadet Taylor; 1938 reunion of the US Volunteer Infantry with names superimposed [Taylor, Frank, Weiss, Roberts, Pageler, Hutton, Lewis, Young, Rountree, Deckert, Bullard, Haworth, O'Keefe, Morton, Sipple, Gillette, Kleinfeldt, Fuller, Hudkins, Miss Fuller, Long, Blanton, McKorrel, Thornton]

The military career of a little-known Nebraska Officer, who served in both the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars, is a case study in the evolution of the American "citizen soldier."

WALLACE CADET TAYLOR &

THE LAST U.S. VOLUNTEERS



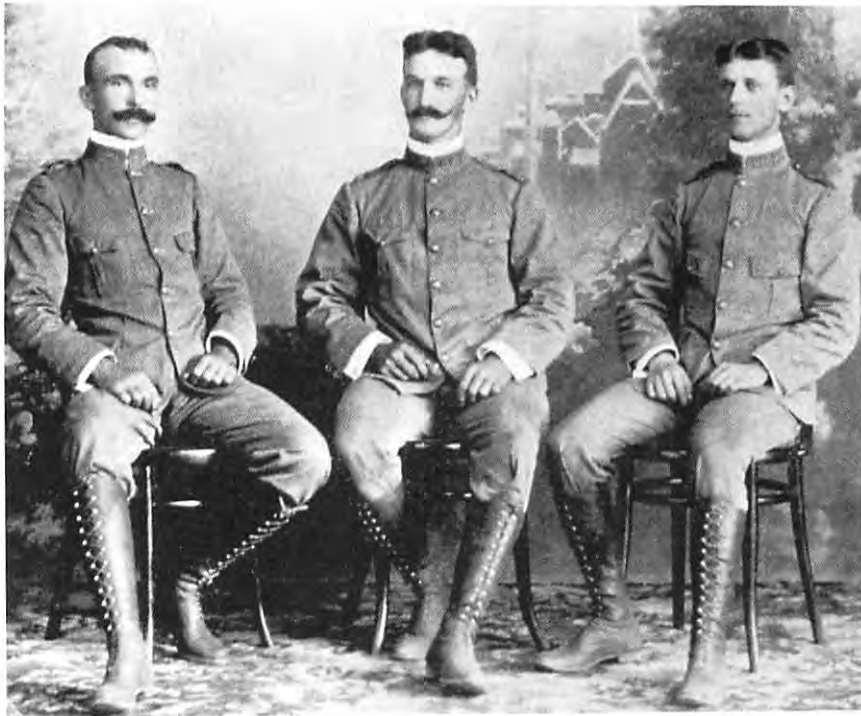


Maj. Wallace C. Taylor, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, 1898. National Archives and Records Administration

Below: The Thurston Rifles near their armory at 17th and Douglas Streets, Omaha, on April 27, 1898. They were mustered into federal service about ten days later as Company L of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. Capt. Wallace C. Taylor, is the officer standing third from the left in front of the company. Courtesy Douglas County Historical Society

BY THOMAS D. THIESSEN





WALLACE C. TAYLOR'S MILITARY CAREER AS AN officer in both of the last two U.S. Army regiments to see combat under the title of U.S. Volunteers illustrates the similarities and differences between the organization, structure, and administration of those units, and in addition is a virtual case study of the rapid evolution of the nation's ready reserve. In the course of two wars, in rapid succession, a collection of fragmented and diverse state militias and volunteer regiments began to evolve into a well structured, uniformly equipped and trained, federally controlled ready reserve of "citizen-soldiers."

One of the units in which Taylor served was a state regiment raised in 1898 for the Spanish-American War; the other was one of the federal U.S. Volunteer regiments formed in 1899 to replace

Camp Merritt, near San Francisco, was the assembly point for thousands of Volunteer units federalized 1898. The First Nebraska Volunteers were among the 275,000 Americans, about 200,000 of them Volunteers, who served during the Spanish War. Photo by J. H. Bratt from *Officers and Members of the First Nebraska Regiment at Camp Merritt San Francisco, San Francisco: Wave Publishing, 1898.*

On Feb. 4, 1899, the day the Philippine-American War began, the officers of Co. L, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry had their picture taken in Manila. Left to right, Lt. C. M. Richards, Capt. W. C. Taylor, Lt. J. M. Tompsett. *A Souvenir... of the Thurston Rifles... in the Philippines*, E. F. Test, J. C. Farrish, and I. W. Miner, Omaha, 1899.

the state Volunteers in the Philippines. The two regiments came into existence under different circumstances, were formed in different ways, and had different characteristics, but both served in the Philippines as part of the Eighth Corps of the U.S. Army, later renamed the Division of the Philippines.

The current deployment—and in some cases repeated deployments—of thousands of National Guard and reserve troops to duty in Afghanistan and Iraq has made the general public unusually aware of the role of volunteers in the military, but citizen-soldiers are a long-standing tradition in the United States. Militia, Volunteers, and National Guardsmen have augmented the Regular Army in nearly every national conflict since Revolutionary times. During large-scale conflicts, including the Mexican War and the Civil War, as well as the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars, citizen-soldiers were mustered into federal service as United States Volunteers.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, however, at a time when European armies were developing large bodies of trained men to serve as inactive reserves, the U.S. Army remained small and did not maintain a reserve pool of trained manpower. Although a number of promoters of army reform advocated the reserve model, the



army chose instead to rely on the National Guard as the nation's first line of defense for augmenting the standing army in times of war. Then composed of fragmented, state-controlled volunteer regiments, the Guard lacked a unified national organization.

Wallace Cadet Taylor's career began in 1893 when, at age twenty-one, he enlisted as a private in an Omaha militia company called the Thurston Rifles. Named for John Mellen Thurston, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, it became one of two National Guard companies in Omaha (the other was the Omaha Guards).

In December 1897 Taylor was appointed captain of the Thurston Rifles. Only four months later, in April 1898, the United States and Spain issued mutual declarations of war, and most Guard units in the nation, including those in Omaha, were federalized.

Wallace Cadet Taylor was born May 26, 1872, in the small, north-central Illinois town of Wenona. His father was Cadet Taylor, the local postmaster, and his mother was Emma Lucinda Barker. Wallace started school in Washington, D.C., where his father served as chief clerk of the Government Printing Office for several years in the 1880s. He graduated from high school in Omaha where the family had moved in the late 1880s. After graduation in 1891, he worked as a clerk or bookkeeper and, in 1893, when the company was formed, enlisted in the Thurston Rifles.¹

When the United States declared war in 1898 its Army was minuscule. It was about to send only about 25,000 officers and men to face a Spanish force of approximately 200,000 men in Cuba alone.² To enlarge the Army, state governors, congressmen, and National Guardsmen lobbied fiercely for the National Guard regiments to be federalized as U.S. Volunteers.

On April 23 the President issued a call for 125,000 men to augment the Regular Army and to serve as Volunteers for the duration of the war, or

a period of two years.³ This manpower need was to be met by federalizing en masse most of the existing National Guard units in accordance with a quota levied on individual states. About a month later another call for 75,000 more men was issued.⁴

Ultimately, more than 275,000 Americans served under arms during the Spanish War. About 200,000 of them were Volunteers, most, like Wallace Taylor, federalized National Guardsmen. The creation of

WHEN THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR IN 1898 ITS ARMY WAS MINUSCULE.

such a large Volunteer force on short notice posed enormous problems for equipping, supplying, and provisioning the greatly expanded army by a military establishment accustomed to dealing with quartermaster, ordnance, and commissary affairs on a much smaller scale.⁵

Nevertheless, men flocked enthusiastically to the colors. On April 19, before the President's first call for men, Captain Taylor of Omaha's Thurston Rifles wrote to the Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard to offer the services of his company "to go wherever ordered and for whatever length of time."⁶ Before the Adjutant General could act on Taylor's offer, the regiment was federalized, and in early May, they arrived in Lincoln. On May 9 he was mustered into federal service as captain of Company L of the First Nebraska Infantry, United States Volunteers.

Like most officers in the federalized state Volunteer regiments, Wallace Taylor had been commissioned by the Governor of his state, not through a competitive examination to determine fitness for command. Consequently, the state Volunteers, even though mustered into federal

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Troops from the First Nebraska Volunteers advance through the tide-water at the capitulation of Manila on August 13, 1898, ending hostilities with Spain. Capt. Wallace Taylor's Company L was said to be the first to enter the city, but the claim cannot be verified. NSHS RG3512-2-19



service and under federal command, were ultimately responsible to state authorities. This was one of the important differences between the state Volunteers and the later federal Volunteers, which were fully under the authority of the War Department.

The state Volunteer regiments were largely composed of men from their respective states, and each company was typically recruited from a single community. This strong local character was reflected in the Nebraska regiment. Of the 137 officers and men of Company L of the First Nebraska during its period of federal service, only 12 were not Omaha residents, and only 3 were from outside Nebraska.⁷

In that sense the National Guard of 1898 was not

assembly point at San Francisco, on May 19 and 20, 1898. After a month or so at Camp Merritt, the Nebraska regiment embarked with the second expedition of U.S. troops bound for the Philippines, and reached Manila on July 17 on board the transport *S.S. Senator*.¹⁰

The First Nebraska participated in the brief fighting before Manila in July and August and in the assault on and capitulation of the city on August 13, which ended hostilities with Spanish forces in the Philippines. At the fall of Manila, Captain Taylor's company was said to be the first American company to enter the city, though this claim cannot be verified and it is likely that similar claims have been advanced on behalf of companies from other regiments.¹¹

truly national in character. As military historians have pointed out, the state Guard organizations were actually forty-five separate state armies, differently trained and equipped, and responsible to their respective state governments.⁸ The Volunteer regiments formed in the latter part of 1899, in contrast, were recruited from large regions of the nation and lacked this marked state and local character.⁹

The First Nebraska Volunteers were part of a large force assembled in May and June at San Francisco to invade the Philippine Islands. Captain Taylor and the men of Company L traveled by train with their regiment, arriving at Camp Merritt, the

Throughout the fall of 1898, the regiment remained in and near Manila as part of the American occupation force. In December, the First Nebraska went into camp at a place called Santa Mesa, outside Manila. Captain Taylor was assigned duty as a battalion commander at Camp Santa Mesa, an increase in the scope and responsibility of his command, although the assignment was only temporary.¹²

Although hostilities with Spain had ceased, the Volunteers remained in the Philippines, awaiting ratification of the peace treaty with Spain on February 6, 1899. Two days before that date, however, another war erupted in the Philippines,



Men of the First Nebraska make use of whatever cover they can find as they come under fire from Filipino soldiers in March 1899. The "insurrection" against American authority began even before the peace treaty with Spain was signed. It was led by nationalists seeking independence and self rule. NSHS RG3512-2-7

which kept them there even longer. The uprising of Filipino nationalists, who sought independence and self-rule, was viewed by the Americans as an "insurrection" against American authority, even though American authority scarcely extended beyond the immediate environs of Manila.

During the fall and winter of 1898 and 1899 tensions between Americans and Filipinos had increased, and armed conflict was expected imminently. The breaking point occurred the evening of February 4, when a Nebraska sentry fired on several Filipino soldiers who responded mockingly to a challenge. Within minutes the firing had spread all along the American line encircling Manila, and the Philippine-American War, its first shots fired by the First Nebraska Infantry, United States Volunteers, had started.¹³

During the remainder of that night and the next day, American and Filipino fighters exchanged fire. Captain Taylor's gallant behavior during the conflict earned him the recommendation of his regimental commander for a promotion to the rank of brevet major. It was the first of several recommended rewards for gallantry in action that he received during service with U.S. Volunteer regiments.¹⁴

Captain Taylor repeatedly stood out from his fellow company commanders in the First Nebraska for his exceptional leadership, energy, and per-

sonal bravery during the early months of the Philippine-American War. On March 25, 1899, while leading his men in a charge that ended in hand-to-hand combat against an entrenched Filipino position at San Francisco del Monte, Taylor was wounded in the right forearm. Nine other Nebraska men also were wounded.¹⁵ For

most of April and May—and the remainder of the First Nebraska's active campaigning in the Philippines—Taylor was confined to the First Reserve Hospital in Manila or to his quarters, recuperating from his wound and from malaria.¹⁶

On April 23 the regimental commander, Col. John Stotsenburg, was killed in action. One of the battalion commanders, Maj. Harry Mulford, was promoted to the rank of colonel to replace Stotsenburg, and on April 28 Wallace Taylor was promoted to the rank of major of Volunteers.¹⁷ He did not see active campaigning after that promotion, however. A major U.S. offensive simply ran out of steam after reaching the town of San Fernando in mid-May, with more than half of the American force exhausted and ill. The Nebraska regiment was down to about three hundred men, about one-third of its strength at the outbreak of war with the Filipinos four months earlier.¹⁸ The exhausted Nebraskans were recalled to Manila on May 20, while Taylor was still recuperating from malaria, and spent the next month doing light duty in and around the capital city.

While in the hospital Major Taylor received an order from Maj. Gen. Elwell Otis, commander of the Eighth Corps, to report for examination for the rank of second lieutenant in the Regular Army. The opportunity had come through Senator Thurston at the request of Taylor's father in Omaha.¹⁹ Taylor

THE REGULAR ARMY WAS STILL
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COMBAT AND DISEASE.

Dead Filipino insurgents lie where they fell (right, NSHS RG3512-3-6) and American troops carry their wounded back from the front lines (below, NSHS RG3512-6-10).



respectfully declined on the grounds that he had no foreknowledge of the exam and did not wish to hold an appointment in the Regular Army.²⁰

He returned to the States with his men on board the transport *S.S. Hancock* and was discharged with the rest of the Nebraska regiment at San Francisco on August 23, 1899. But Wallace Taylor was soon to return to the Philippines as a member of another regiment of U.S. Volunteers.

With the ratification of the treaty between Spain and the United States on April 11, 1899, peace was formally at hand and the Volunteers in the Philippines were entitled to discharge, but with the war against the Filipino nationalists in progress, and because few Regular Army soldiers were available to replace them, they were kept in service. The Regular Army was still recovering from the devastating effects of combat and disease experienced in the Caribbean theater of the Spanish-American War, and from the discharge of experienced soldiers at the conclusion of that conflict.²¹

Political pressure from state governors and congressmen for the Volunteers' return home mounted during the winter of 1898 and 1899, and resulted in passage of the Army Bill on March 2.²² A key provision of that law was the creation of a temporary force of 35,000 U.S. Volunteers to



replace the state Volunteers then serving in the Philippines. Specifically, the law authorized the creation of twenty-four new regiments of infantry and one of cavalry for a term not to exceed two years.²³

The first of the newly authorized regiments began to organize in June 1899.²⁴ The law also authorized the Regular Army a temporary increase to 65,000 men. While the Regular forces were being augmented and trained, however, the new Volunteer regiments would replace state Volunteers in the Philippines and would constitute the bulk of U.S. military forces there.

The federal Volunteer regiments were formed during summer and fall 1899. Unlike the earlier state Volunteer regiments the new Volunteers were responsible to the federal government, not to the state governments. The officers and most of the enlisted men of the new regiments were experienced former soldiers from the Regular Army and the state Volunteer regiments. Most field-grade officers, who commanded the regiments and battalions, had held Regular Army commissions or brevet Volunteer field-grade rank during the Spanish-American War. Ambitious professional officers, many later achieved high rank in the

American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

Most company-grade officers had previously served as officers or non-commissioned officers in the state Volunteer regiments. An estimated 30 percent or more of the U.S. Volunteers had seen service as state Volunteers, and most new Volunteer companies included some ex-Regular Army men as well.²⁵ Recruits had to be from eighteen to thirty-five years old, be able to speak English, be no less than five feet four inches tall, weigh from 120 to 190 pounds, be of good character, able-bodied, and free from disease.²⁶ In short, compared to the earlier state Volunteers, many of them federalized en masse from pre-existing National Guard units, the new Volunteer companies were a highly select bodies of men.

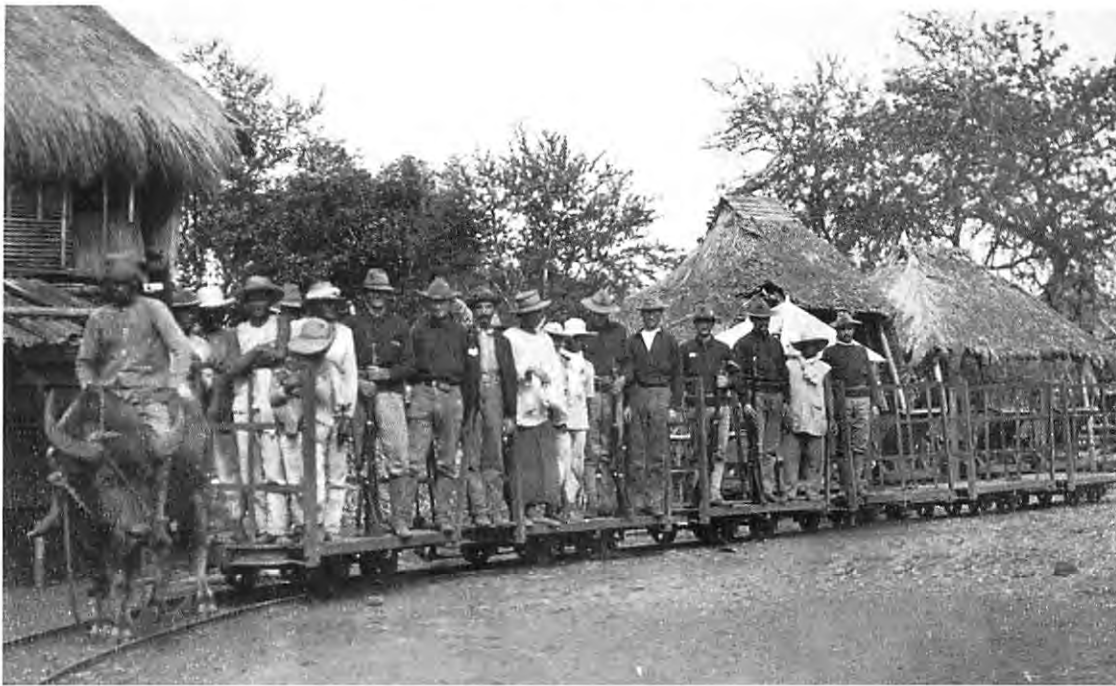
The new Volunteer regiments were a temporary expedient while the Regular Army was reorganizing and expanding to a size sufficient to garrison America's new overseas possessions. Scheduled to be disbanded by July 1, 1901, they would exist only for two years or less. No provision was made to replace combat or disease casualties. A depleted regiment would remain depleted until it was disbanded.

The government offered a \$500 bounty to induce



veterans of the state Volunteers to stay in the Philippines and re-enlist in the new Volunteer regiments, but relatively few men took the bait; after nearly a year of arduous service in the tropical environment of the Philippine Islands, most were anxious to return home.²⁷

John Scott Reed, in an insightful dissertation about the U.S. Volunteers in the Philippines, points out that the Volunteer regiments raised in 1899 were largely filled with men who had been twice trained, first in the Regular Army or the state Volunteers during the Spanish-American War, then as replacement Volunteers. The new regiments received, on average, seventy days of training.²⁸



Soldiers of the Thirty-Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry and Filipino civilians riding a string of small rail cars pulled by a carabao in Calamba, Laguna Province, Philippine Islands. The Thirty Ninth was recruited primarily from former state Volunteers in a ten-state region including Nebraska. Wallace Taylor became a captain in the regiment. Courtesy U.S. Army Military History Institute

When they arrived in the Philippines they were combat-ready, in contrast to the earlier state Volunteers who were less prepared for the rigors of campaigning.²⁹

A week after his discharge from the First Nebraska regiment, Wallace Taylor was appointed a captain in the Thirty-Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry regiment then being recruited in ten states ranging from Alabama and Pennsylvania through the upper Midwest to Washington state.³⁰ Two battalions were assembled and trained at Fort Crook near Omaha, and a third was assembled at Vancouver Barracks in Washington.³¹

The regimental commander was Colonel of Volunteers Robert Lee Bullard. With a permanent rank of captain in the Subsistence Department of the Regular Army, Bullard was the most junior

officer selected to command any of the twenty-five new Volunteer regiments.³² As commander of the Thirty-ninth he proved to be an aggressive and capable officer. As in the other Volunteer regiments most officers of the Thirty-ninth Volunteers had previous military experience. Among the fifty officers were thirteen former Regular Army officers; twenty-two were former officers in state Volunteer regiments; six were former non-commissioned officers from the Regular Army; four were former noncoms, and two were enlisted men from the former state Volunteers; one was a U.S. Military Academy cadet with no previous military service; and one was former National Guard officer who

had no previous Volunteer experience. Apparently only one officer lacked previous military experience before joining the Thirty-ninth.³³

After a brief leave to attend to personal matters and some recruiting service at Omaha, Captain Taylor joined the regiment at Fort Crook on September 28, 1899.³⁴ He was assigned to command Company F, and was once again assigned temporary battalion command responsibility. From September 30 to January 3, 1900, he commanded the battalion assembled at Vancouver Barracks.³⁵ The regiment left Portland, Oregon, in November on board the transports

Olympia and *Pennsylvania*, and arrived at Manila on December 7.³⁶

Some of Captain Taylor's fellow officers and enlisted men in the Thirty-ninth are of note.³⁷ His regimental commander, Robert Lee Bullard rose to lieutenant general during World War I and was appointed commander of the Second Army of the American Expeditionary Force, a body of 180,000 men.³⁸ The Thirty-ninth's lieutenant colonel was Enoch Crowder, who oversaw the national draft during World War I and is regarded as the father of the Selective Service System.³⁹

One of the three battalion commanders was fellow Omahan Maj. Harry Mulford, who had succeeded Stotsenburg as commander of the First Nebraska. Another battalion commander was Maj. John Parker, a Regular Army first lieutenant who

had commanded a battery of Gatling guns at the San Juan Heights in Cuba in 1898 and was nicknamed "Machine Gun" Parker. Another battalion commander, Taylor's immediate superior, was Maj. George T. Langhorne, an aristocratic Virginia cavalry officer who had been military attaché at the U.S. embassy in Belgium. One of the lieutenants was the son of former Confederate general and later U.S. diplomat Fitzhugh Lee, and the regiment even included a Missourian named Jesse James, who was a relative of the famous "border ruffian" and outlaw.⁴⁰

The Thirty-ninth was attached to the First Division commanded by Maj. Gen. Henry W. Lawton and, after Lawton's death in combat, by Maj. Gen. John C. Bates.⁴¹ Throughout its Philippine service the regiment operated on Luzon, the largest island of the Philippine archipelago. Through a series of vigorous attacks during the first three days of January 1900, the Thirty-ninth U.S. Volunteers relieved a beleaguered Twenty-first U.S. Infantry garrison at the town of Calamba in Laguna province.⁴²

Plans were afoot for two American columns to undertake a coordinated offensive through the southern provinces of Luzon, Batangas, and Tayabas, but the Thirty-ninth was not included in the operation plan. On his own initiative and without specific orders, however, Colonel Bullard energetically occupied several towns in the path of one of the offensive columns, commanded by Brig. Gen. Theodore Schwan. General Schwan was not pleased to see Bullard's potentially meddling activities interfere with his planned operations, and on January 15 he ordered the colonel to return to Santo Tomas with one battalion of the Thirty-ninth and maintain communication between Schwan's column and Calamba, essentially static garrison duty. Schwan added the other two battalions of the Thirty-ninth, including Captain Taylor's company, to his offensive column. Taylor particularly distinguished himself in two of the actions that followed.⁴³

On January 21, 1900, at San Diego Hill, strongly held Filipino entrenchments held up the advance of the leading elements of Schwan's column. Schwan ordered a frontal attack on the Filipino position, but before it could be carried out Captain Taylor with only a few men flanked the entrenchment and routed the Filipino defenders. In a letter written to Cadet Taylor, Colonel Bullard reported Major Langhorne's observation that "the enemy's fire suddenly ceased, and, greatly to his astonishment, he saw an American stand up on a parapet of the enemy's works and wave his hat. It was



Three generations of Taylors in 1916 or 1917: Wallace Cadet Taylor (left) his son, and his father, Cadet Taylor. Following his retirement from the Constabulary Taylor moved to Upland, California, and became a citrus grower. Courtesy Kay Taylor Pugh

Captain W.C. Taylor, who had with less than twenty men found a way around the flank and driven off, by surprise and superb courage, a large force, at least 400 men, who had held their ground two hours before a whole brigade under an artillery fire at that."⁴⁴

Taylor distinguished himself again the following day at the town of Majayjay, which was reported to be defended by strong entrenchments and 1,500 to 3,000 determined defenders. The entrenchments controlled all movement on a narrow road leading into the town and overlooked a deep, rocky gorge with nearly perpendicular sides. Some of Langhorne's men, including Taylor, were lowered by ropes to the bottom of the gorge to reconnoiter. Spotted by the Filipinos, they exchanged fire with them and then rejoined the column leaving Captain Taylor and a corporal behind.

WITH THE FRIGHTENED CORPORAL QUAKING IN HIS BOOTS BEHIND HIM, TAYLOR SCALED THE GORGE AND SLIPPED INTO THE FORTIFICATION.

Observing the Filipino position through a telescope, Taylor concluded that the defenders had abandoned the entrenchment, and with the frightened corporal quaking in his boots behind him, scaled the gorge and slipped into the fortification, finding it and the town abandoned. The defenders had fled when they learned that two companies of the Thirty-ninth were scaling the gorge. When the troops arrived, it is said that they found Captain Taylor sitting on the church steps enjoying a cigar.⁴⁵

On the basis of Taylor's "conspicuous bravery and gallantry" in the action at San Diego Hill and his "great personal bravery" in reconnoitering the stronghold of Majayjay, Major Langhorne in April 1900 recommended Taylor for a promotion to brevet lieutenant colonel of Volunteers. Langhorne restated the recommendation in September 1900, and added a recommendation that Taylor also be awarded the Medal of Honor. Colonel Bullard endorsed both recommendations, but, for reasons unknown, Captain Taylor never received either citation.⁴⁶

This was not the only time Taylor was recommended for a brevet promotion while with the Thirty-ninth Volunteers. Writing to a friend in Omaha, Bullard reported that Taylor was again recommended for a brevet lieutenant colonelcy for gallantry in action near Bay in Batangas province on March 10, 1900, where he "ambushed an ambush."⁴⁷

Following General Schwan's expedition, command of the full Thirty-ninth Volunteer Infantry was restored to Bullard. The regiment garrisoned at Calambra, Los Baños, San Pablo, and other towns in the south of Luzon island, an area where resistance to American rule was especially tenacious and prolonged.⁴⁸ The regiment's pacification duties were not limited to fighting and patrolling, but, like other American forces in the Philippines, the Nebraskans were also engaged in civic affairs work such as garrisoning and protection of towns, building schools, supervising road and bridge construction, building intelligence networks, overseeing elections of officials and local governments, dispensing justice through provost courts, and promoting public health.⁴⁹

During its fifteen months service in the

Philippines the Thirty-ninth Volunteer Infantry fought in eighty-four engagements. Half the regiment was lost to death, injury, and illness, and these losses were not replaced.⁵⁰

The Thirty-ninth had the reputation of being a "sick" regiment, having suffered 113 disease deaths, 40 more than any other Volunteer regiment.⁵¹ The Thirty-ninth also lost 11 men killed in action or died from wounds and sustained 31 wounded. More than 700 men were discharged for disability and other reasons. The Thirty-ninth became so depleted and exhausted by October 1900 that it was shifted to a healthier area, the southwestern coast of Batangas province, where operations were less arduous.⁵²

Generally, the U.S. Volunteers in the Philippines stayed healthier than their comrades had been during the Spanish-American War, because the Army had improved hygiene, health conditions, and medical services. The Thirty-ninth Volunteers had many fewer desertions than average, and the second lowest total of general courts-martial in the Volunteer force, attesting to the excellent state of discipline within the regiment.⁵³

During his service with the Thirty-ninth Volunteers, Taylor participated with distinction in engagements at Calamba and Cabuyo, Laguna province, January 1, 1900; Binang, Laguna province, January 2, 1900; Santo Tomas, Batangas province, January 9, 1900; San Diego Hill, Laguna province, January 21, 1900; and at Bay, Laguna province, March 10, 1900. He also commanded the district of Los Baños, Laguna, from February 14 to May 24, 1900, and July 24 to August 9, 1900, and was stationed at San Pablo, Laguna, from March through June 1900. He again commanded a battalion of the Thirty-ninth, from October 27 to December 3, 1900. His final assignment with the Thirty-ninth was detached service at Manila where he served as boarding officer at the Customs House from January 19, 1901, to the muster-out of the regiment.⁵⁴

The Thirty-ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry left Manila on March 16, 1901, and mustered out of federal service at San Francisco on May 6.⁵⁵ Capt. Wallace Taylor did not return to the States with the regiment, however. In June he chose to remain in the Philippines and open a new, and in many

ways even more interesting, chapter of his life and service to his nation summarized in the epilogue below.

The U.S. Volunteers who served in the Philippines in 1899 through early 1901—state and federal Volunteers alike—bore the brunt of the conflict with Filipino nationalists in both conventional and guerilla forms of warfare. The state Volunteer regiments engaged their Filipino adversaries in conventional set-piece battles and were highly successful.⁵⁶ The federal Volunteers who

containment of the effects of the disease threat to American troops; and superior discipline in the face of physical hardships and in their treatment of Filipino civilians. He also cites “aggressive patrolling, good intelligence, organizational flexibility, and sheer physical durability.”⁵⁷

Lt. Col. James Parker, a Regular Army officer who served with both Regular Army and U.S. Volunteer units during the Philippine-American War, judged the Volunteers to be superior soldiers to both their state Volunteer and Regular com-



A 1938 reunion of the Thirty-ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Col. Wallace C. Taylor is standing at the far left. Courtesy U.S. Army Military History Institute

replaced them saw the conflict change from conventional warfare between opposing formations of soldiers to guerilla warfare of ambush and intimidation of the civilian population. They effectively adopted counterinsurgency tactics that ultimately led to the pacification of much of the Philippines by mid-1901 when the replacement Volunteer regiments were disbanded and the remaining pacification task fell to a reconstituted and expanded Regular Army, the Philippine Scouts, and the newly formed Philippine Constabulary.

John Scott Reed attributes the success of the Volunteers in the Philippines to factors including effective small-unit offensive tactics combined with martial law coercion of civilian populations to discourage support for resistance; quick adaptation to the tropical environment and development of appropriate tactics for the terrain;

rades: “These regiments were far superior to the National Guard regiments which preceded them... These men had the individual intelligence and independence of citizen soldiers and soon acquired the discipline of regulars. The raising and organization of these regiments was one of the wisest and most successful acts of the Government. These regiments, in my opinion, were in 1900 more efficient than the regular regiments.”⁵⁸

The Volunteers of both 1898 and 1899 were highly motivated and imbued with a strong sense of duty to their country, enthusiasm for an adventurous life, and remarkable personal courage and physical durability.⁵⁹ Without the high quality of the Volunteer soldiers, Reed maintains, the Philippine-American War would have been fought with “less well trained troops, fewer districts would have been pacified in the winter of 1900–01, and the harsh [punitive] measures [used by the

Regulars] of 1902 [in certain places in the Islands] would have been employed on a much wider scale. The war would thus have disrupted more



Wallace Cadet Taylor in the uniform of the Philippine Constabulary, a national police force formed to suppress insurrection and banditry in the Islands. Taylor joined the Constabulary in 1901 after leaving the Thirty-Ninth Volunteers and again distinguished himself in action. He retired in 1916. Courtesy Kay Taylor Pugh

communities and consumed more human lives, both American and Filipino." And it likely would have taken more time to achieve pacification.⁶⁰

The U.S. Volunteers who campaigned in the Philippines in 1900 and 1901 effectively demonstrated the concept of an "expansible force" advocated by proponents of army reform following the Civil War.⁶¹ They represented the mobilization of a pool of trained men during times of national emergency, similar to the reservist system employed in several European armies of the late nineteenth century. This was essentially the reservist concept, not that of the National Guard, which was fragmented among the states, of variable quality in terms of train-

ing and equipment, and was controlled by the states during peacetime and to a certain degree during times of war.

The Army Bill of March 2, 1899, was the result of much debate over Army reform measures during the fall and winter of 1898 and into 1899.⁶² A central issue of this debate was the expansion of the army to a size needed to pacify and administer America's new island dependencies, primarily the Philippine Islands. Although the bill fell short of the measures long sought by proponents of army reforms, it represented a compromise between the advocates and opponents of reform.

The law required that by July 1, 1901, the Volunteer force of 35,000 men would disband and the Regular force of 65,000 men would shrink to about 29,000 officers and men, close to the Army's total pre-Spanish War authorized strength of about 27,000. Reformers continued to push for organizational changes and expansion of the Army's strength that were finally authorized beginning early in 1901. As historian Graham Cosmas has pointed out, the changes made in 1899 presaged modernization of the U.S. Army, and were followed by a series of important legislated reforms in both the Army and the National Guard that began in 1901 and continued to the advent of the First World War.⁶³

Epilogue

After leaving the Volunteers in 1901 Wallace Taylor stayed in the Philippines. In July a civil government replaced the military government, and soon a national police force was formed to suppress insurrection and banditry and maintain law and order. The U.S. Army took a diminished and less visible role in the American occupation of the Philippines, except in certain areas.

Most of the officers of the new police force, called the Philippine Constabulary, were experienced American officers and ex-officers from the Regular or Volunteer forces. The Constabulary was headed by a chief and four assistant chiefs, who in 1904 were given the ranks of brigadier general and colonel.⁶⁴

Wallace Taylor joined the Constabulary in the summer of 1901 as one of the first assistant chiefs. He saw much action and achieved a much-envied reputation as one of the legendary fighting officers of the Constabulary.

HIS MEN FED HIM BY LETTING THE CONTENTS OF RAW BIRD'S EGGS SOP DOWN HIS THROAT.

On Samar in 1905, a Constabulary company led by Colonel Taylor engaged a large body of sectarian rebels called pulajans. Taylor was severely wounded in the jaw, but he refused to leave the field until all the pulajans were repulsed. It was two days before he received medical attention and a week before he could be treated in a hospital. In the interim his men fed him by letting the contents of raw birds' eggs sop down his throat.⁶⁵ His condition was complicated by a broken clavicle suffered in a fall the night after he was wounded.⁶⁶

For this action, he received the Constabulary's highest decoration, the Medal for Valor, which was awarded only eighty-one times through 1980, at last receiving some of the recognition that had largely eluded him during his service in the U.S. Volunteers.⁶⁷

For 15 years he was one of the most capable and effective officers of the Constabulary. During most of his service he directed operations in the Visayan Islands in the central part of the archipelago. He saw much combat, and in 1914 served as Acting Chief of the Constabulary.⁶⁸

Taylor retired from the Philippine Constabulary in 1916 with the rank of colonel. He moved to Upland, California, where he became a citrus grower. After multiple applications and many examinations, he received a disability pension in 1923 for physical problems resulting from his wounds during Constabulary service. He died on December 28, 1939.

NOTES

¹ Biographical information from several sources, including a brief biographical sketch published in Frank D. Eager's "History of the Operations of the First Nebraska Infantry, U.S.V. in the Campaign in the Philippine Islands," in *Campaigning in the Philippines*, by Karl Irving Faust (San Francisco: Hicks-Judd Company, 1899), 50; a book of personal reminiscences compiled by Wallace's father, Cadet Taylor, in the possession of Mrs. Kay Taylor Pugh, Dubois, Wyo.; Wallace Cadet Taylor's pension application file (C2417-368) in the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Los Angeles, California; and his death certificate on file with the Department of Health Services, Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Sacramento, California. Emma Barker was originally from Homer, Illinois (Kay Taylor Pugh, personal communication, June 28, 2005). Cadet Taylor served with the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. from 1882 to 1886 (Cadet Taylor, book of personal reminiscences, 35, 55–56, 73).

² Graham A. Cosmas, *An Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1971), 5, 76.

³ Graham A. Cosmas, "From Order to Chaos: The War Department, the National Guard, and Military Policy, 1898," *Military Affairs* 29 (Fall, 1965): 118–119; Cosmas, *Army for Empire*, 109.

⁴ Cosmas, *Order to Chaos*, 120; Cosmas, *Army for Empire*, 134.

⁵ Cosmas, *Army for Empire*, 153–165.

⁶ Wallace C. Taylor to Adjutant General P. H. Barry, Apr. 19, 1898. Copy courtesy of Robert I. Miller, Omaha, Neb.

⁷ Compiled from company rosters published in Frank D. Eager's regimental history ("History of the Operations," 91–92); and in the *Biennial Report of Brigadier General Patrick H. Barry, Adjutant General of Nebraska*, 1897 and 1898 (Lincoln: Woodruff Printing, 1899), 458–465.

⁸ Cosmas, *Order to Chaos*, 106; Jerry Cooper, *The Rise of the National Guard: The Evolution of the American Militia, 1865–1920* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997).

⁹ Brian McAllister Linn, *The Philippine War 1899–1902* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000), 126; John Scott Reed, "Burden and Honor: The United States Volunteers in the Southern Philippines, 1899–1901," Ph.D. diss., University of Southern California (Los Angeles, 1994), 36.

¹⁰ John R. Johnson, "The Saga of the First Nebraska in the Philippines," *Nebraska History* 30 (June 1949), 139–162; Thomas D. Thiessen, "The Fighting First Nebraska: Nebraska's Imperial Adventure in the Philippines, 1898–1899," *Nebraska History* 70 (Fall 1989), 220. The story of Company L in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War and the opening months of the Philippine-American War is told in a history of the company published after its return to the United States (E. F. Test, *A Souvenir Historical and Illustrated of the Campaign of the "Thurston Rifles Co. L 1st Neb. Regiment United States Volunteers in the Philippines"* [Omaha: J.C. Farrish and I.W. Miner], 1899).

¹¹ Eager, "History of the Operations," 50.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Linn, *Philippine War*. Nebraska's part in the new conflict is related by John R. Johnson, "Saga of the First Nebraska," 139–162; Donald Chaput, "Private William W. Grayson's War in the Philippines, 1899," *Nebraska History* 61 (Fall 1980), 355–366; and Thiessen, "Fighting First Nebraska," 235–237.

¹⁴ Eager, "History of the Operations," 50.

¹⁵ "Captain Taylor shot an insurgent officer, and, grabbing the insurgent's sword, was in the act of striking another native over the head when he received a bullet in his arm" (Eager, "History of the Operations," 24, 50, 92; National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), military record of Wallace C. Taylor's service with the 1st Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94; *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain 2: 945–947* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, reprinted 1993). A more detailed account is given by Test, "Thurston Rifles," 51–52.

¹⁶ Military record of Wallace Cadet Taylor's service with the 1st Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, NARA.

¹⁷ Ibid.; Eager, "History of the Operations," 50, 92.

¹⁸ Johnson, "Saga of the First Nebraska," 139–162; Thiessen, "The Fighting First Nebraska," 255.

¹⁹ Special Orders No. 113, Headquarters Department of the Pacific and Eighth Army Corps, Manila, Apr. 26, 1899, in Appointments, Commissions, and Promotions file of Wallace Cadet Taylor, NARA, AGO Document File 239,704, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94.

²⁰ Wallace Cadet Taylor to the recorder of the examining board, Manila, May 24, 1899, in Appointments, Commissions, and Promotions file of Wallace Cadet Taylor, NARA, AGO Document File 239,704. Eager ("History of the Operations," 50) incorrectly states that President McKinley appointed Taylor a second lieutenant in the army in May 1899.

²¹ Linn, *Philippine War*, 89–90, 114.

²² Graham A. Cosmas, "Military Reform After the Spanish-American War: The Army Reorganization Fight of 1898–1899," *Military Affairs* 35 (Feb., 1971).

²³ The newly authorized units were the 26th through the 49th U.S. Volunteer Infantry regiments and the 11th U.S. Volunteer Cavalry. The cavalry regiment, the 36th, and the 37th U.S. Volunteer Infantry regiments were raised in the Philippines, the others in the United States. Two regiments, the 48th and 49th, were comprised of African-American enlisted men and company-grade officers (Linn, *Philippine War*, 125; Reed, "Burden and Honor," 35–36).

²⁴ Allan R. Millet, *The General: Robert L. Bullard and Officership in the United States Army 1881–1925* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975), 112.

²⁵ Edward M. Coffman, *The Regulars: The American Army 1898–1941* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004), 52; Linn, *Philippine War*, 126.

²⁶ House of Representatives, Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 1st Session, Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1899, Vol. 1, Part 2, Reports of Chiefs of Bureaus, U.S. Serial 3900 (Washington, D.C.: GPO), 67. See also Reed, "Burden and Honor," 37.

²⁷ Linn, *Philippine War*, 125.

²⁸ Reed, Burden and Honor, 35; Linn, *Philippine War*, 126.

²⁹ The Regular Army of 1899 had been decimated by disease and casualties during the Spanish-American War and was seriously under strength. It had to absorb large numbers of new recruits, estimated at 60 to 80 percent of each company, who required training. Many company-grade officers of the Regular Army in 1899 and 1900 were relatively inexperienced and there was a shortage of officers due to disease, casualties, discharges,



and resignations. As a result, many Regular regiments were under officered when they were sent to the Philippines (Reed, "Burden and Honor," 47–49).

³⁰ Millett, *The General*, 117.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 117–118.

³² *Ibid.*, 115.

³³ Official Register of Officers of Volunteers in the Service of the United States, Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Document No. 117, June 1, 1900. In general, the quality of the new Volunteer force exceeded that of the Regular Army. Reed ("Burden and Honor," 14–15) asserts that establishment of the U.S. Volunteers in 1899 created a force "of superior tactical skill and discipline. The Volunteers were a unique hybrid of regular and militia characteristics, with strong leadership at all levels. A majority of their enlisted soldiers and all their junior officers had previous military experience, while their senior commanders were ambitious regulars of proven ability. In contrast, most Regular regiments sent to the Philippines in 1899–1900 had suffered serious combat and disease losses in Cuba, and as a result were under officered and manned by large numbers of raw recruits...The Volunteers, not the Regulars, were thus the nation's primary land combat force during their two year existence, as revealed by their proportionately higher combat and disease casualties." He goes on to point out that, "Although Volunteers comprised half the infantry force in the islands they suffered 63% of all gunshot and 88% of all edged weapon deaths during 1900, and a large majority of malarial and intestinal disease casualties" (*Ibid.*, 22 n1, n176).

³⁴ Military record of Wallace Cadet Taylor's service with the 39th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, NARA, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ U.S. House of Representatives, Report No. 857, "Extra Pay to Certain Officers and Enlisted Men," 57th Congress, 1st Session, Mar. 11, 1902, Table D, U.S. Serial 4402 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1902).

³⁷ Information about these individuals is summarized in Millett, *The General*, 116–117. More detailed biographical information available on some of them is indicated in subsequent notes.

³⁸ Millett, *The General*; Holger H. Herwig and Neil M. Heyman, *Biographical Dictionary of World War I* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982), 101–102; Anne Cipriano Venzon, ed., *The United States in the First World War: An Encyclopedia* (N.Y.: Garland Publishing, 1995), 110–111.

³⁹ David A. Lockmiller, "Enoch H. Crowder: Soldier, Lawyer and Statesman," *University of Missouri Studies* 27 (1955); Venzon, ed., *Encyclopedia*, 181–183.

⁴⁰ *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Year Ended June 30, 1900*, "Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army," Part 3, p. 541, Serial 4074, House of Representatives Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 2nd Session (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1900).

⁴¹ Linn, *Philippine War*, 162.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 164; Millett, *The General*, 125–127; James Parker, *The Old Army: Memories, 1872–1918* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2003), 240–244. Lieutenant Colonel Parker, who was assigned to the detachment of the 21st U.S. Infantry that garrisoned Calamba, described the conditions of the beleaguered garrison and commented on the ease with which the town was relieved by the aggressive Bullard and his Volunteers: "This [was] to the chagrin of my friends of the 21st Infantry. They were mortified that these raw volunteers had accomplished what they had vainly waited to do."

⁴³ Millett, *The General*, 125–126; Linn, *Philippine War*, 164–165; *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Year Ended June 30, 1900*, "Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army," Part 3, p. 452, House of Representatives Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 2nd Session, U.S. Serial 4074 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1900).

⁴⁴ The action at San Diego Hill was described in "Report of Brig. Gen. Theodore Schwan, U.S.V., commanding expedition," in *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Year Ended June 30, 1900*, "Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army," Part 3, p. 401, House of Representatives Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 2nd Session, U.S. Serial 4074 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1900). General Schwan called Taylor's action "markedly gallant." A regimental history written by veterans of the 39th (Arthur W. Orton, Fred D. Shadell, and C. Duffy Lewis, *History of the 39th U.S. Vol. Inf. ("Bullard's Indians") (39th U.S. Volunteer Infantry Association, n.p., 1949)*, 6, 35) states that Taylor was accompanied by only a "couple" or three men. See also *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain 2*: 1138–1139.

⁴⁵ Major George T. Langhorne, in whose battalion Taylor served, described the "capture" of Majayjay in "Report of Maj. G.T. Langhorne, Thirty-ninth Infantry," in *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Year Ended June 30, 1900*, "Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army," Part 3, pp. 536–538, House of Representatives Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 2nd Session, U.S. Serial 4074 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1900). A more detailed and personalized, though anonymous, account was published in an article entitled "How Captain Taylor, Single-handed, Captured the Town of Majayjay" in the *Omaha World-Herald*, Apr. 14, 1901, Part 3, 17. See also Orton et al., *History of the 39th*, 36; William Thaddeus Sexton, *Soldiers in the Sun: An Adventure in Imperialism* (Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, reprint 1971), 229–230; and *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain 2*: 1139.

⁴⁶ Letter from George T. Langhorne to the adjutant of the 39th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, Sept. 5, 1900, in *Appointments, Commissions, and Promotions file of Wallace Cadet Taylor*, NARA. See also Orton et al., *History of the 39th*, 6.

⁴⁷ Robert L. Bullard to a friend in Omaha, *Omaha World-Herald*, Apr. 14, 1901, Part 3, 17.

⁴⁸ Millett, *The General*, 137–138; Glenn Anthony May, *Battle for Batangas: A Philippine Province at War* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1991).

⁴⁹ John M. Gates, *Schoolbooks and Krags: The United States Army in the Philippines, 1899–1902* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1973); Linn, *Philippine War*, 203; Brian McAllister Linn, *Guardians of Empire: The U.S. Army and the Pacific, 1902–1940* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 12–13. Millett (*The General*, 143) reports that the 39th established 63 schools during the summer of 1900.

⁵⁰ When the 39th sailed for the United States in March 1901, it was comprised of 27 officers and 668 enlisted men, in contrast to its original complement of 50 officers and 1,284 enlisted men (*Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain 2*: 1128, 1259).

⁵¹ Millett, *The General*, 143–144; Reed, *Burden and Honor*, 298.

⁵² U.S. House of Representatives, Report No. 857, "Extra Pay to Certain Officers and Enlisted Men," Mar. 11, 1902, Table D, 57th Congress, 1st Session, U.S. Serial 4402 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1902). See also Millett, *The General*, 146–147.

⁵³ Reed, "Burden and Honor," 298; *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Year Ended June 30, 1900*, Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army, Part 3, pp. 91–99, Serial 4074, House of Representatives Document No. 2, 56th Congress, 2nd Session (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1900).

⁵⁴ Military record of Wallace Cadet Taylor's service with the 39th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, NARA; Millett, *The General*, 138; Orton et al., *History of the 39th*, 10.

⁵⁵ U.S. House of Representatives, Report No. 857, "Extra Pay to Certain Officers and Enlisted Men," 57th Congress, 1st Session, Mar. 11, 1902, Table D, U.S. Serial 4402 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1902).

⁵⁶ Linn (*The Philippine War*, 123–125) recognizes an "ambiguous legacy" left by the state Volunteers in the Philippines: military success combined with a degree of disciplinary laxity. He asserts that the U.S. Volunteers were, overall, superior soldiers (326).

⁵⁷ Reed, "Burden and Honor," 16, 353.

⁵⁸ Parker, *The Old Army*, 299, 369–370.

⁵⁹ Linn, *Philippine War*, 326.

⁶⁰ Reed, "Burden and Honor," 363.

⁶¹ E.g., Emory Upton, *The Armies of Asia and Europe: Embracing Official Reports on the Armies of Japan, China, India, Persia, Italy, Russia, Austria, Germany, France, and England* (N.Y.: D. Appleton, 1878); John K. Mahon, *History of the Militia and the National Guard* (N.Y.: Macmillan, 1983).

⁶² Cosmas, "Military Reform," 12–18.

⁶³ Ibid.; Barrie E. Zais, "The Struggle for a 20th Century Army: Investigation and Reform of the United States Army After the Spanish-American War, 1898–1903," Ph.D. diss., Duke University (Durham, N.C., 1981); Jerry Cooper, *The Rise of the National Guard: The Evolution of the American Militia, 1865–1920* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997).

⁶⁴ The Constabulary was established by Act No. 175 of the Philippine Commission, Aug. 8, 1901. Vic Hurley, *Jungle Patrol: The Story of the Philippine Constabulary* (N.Y.: E.P. Dutton, 1938); Harold Hanne Elarth, *The Story of the Philippine Constabulary* (Los Angeles: Philippine Constabulary Officers Association, 1949); and George Yarrington Coats, "The Philippine Constabulary: 1901–1917," Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University (Columbus, 1968).

⁶⁵ Hurley, *Jungle Patrol*, 38; Elarth, *Story of the Philippine Constabulary*, 67.

⁶⁶ Wallace C. Taylor to the Bureau of Pensions, Jan. 6, 1929, Upland, California, in pension application file 2417368, Veterans Administration, Los Angeles, California.

⁶⁷ Emanuel A. Baja, *The Medal for Valor* (Manila: Juan Fajardo Press, 1933), 87–90; Robert H. Reynolds, *Philippine Medals*, Monograph No. 12 (Glassboro, N.J.: Orders and Medals Society of America, 1998), 83; William H. Powers, "Philippine Constabulary Medal of Valor Recipients," *The Medal Collector* 23 (Nov. 1972), 12–13. In a letter written to his family during his recuperation from the wound sustained in this action, Taylor provided details of the engagement: "We started out about 5 p.m., that day, toward the north, keeping off the trails and taking the woods. At eleven o'clock, we found ourselves back of their first outpost, and lost, as far as the second was concerned, so we snoozed until daylight. We picked up a man who quietly steered us around their second outpost, but as we came back in the trail, intending to cross and come in on them from the woods, we stumbled into two of their men, sauntering along in the woods. That settled it for there was then no hope of absolute surprise, so we pushed right ahead to get in on them before they could get out their card plate, and take the door mat up.

They came out on the front yard to meet us however, and we saw each other about the same time. The woods were thick, and you couldn't see a man fifty yards away. The instant our guide spotted one man up the trail he squatted. I turned half around and called to the men behind me to close up, and as they took their places the ball opened on all sides with consid-

erable enthusiasm. Just then some gentleman from the right soaked me in the neck, just below the ear. The ball took me under the jaw, and stirred things up along my cheek, ala snow plow, on the Union Pacific. I went down, and turning to my bugler pointed to the hole. Then I went out and staid so for a few moments. Have a faint recollection of Poggi speaking to me as I came to. For an instant I didn't [sic] realize what was up. Felt all o.k., so jumped to my feet and putting my hand to my neck, seemed to me only a cut across the neck, and although bleeding some, as I might expect, we jumped in, charged the beggars, and did not stop until we reached their barracks buildings" (Wallace C. Taylor to Herbert Taylor and family, Jul. 21, 1905, typed copy by Cadet Taylor in the possession of Kay Taylor Pugh, Dubois, Wyoming). His condition was complicated during the night by a fall which resulted in the fracture of a clavicle (Wallace C. Taylor to the Bureau of Pensions, Jan. 6, 1929, Upland, California, in pension application file 2417368, Veterans Administration, Los Angeles, California).

⁶⁸ Taylor's excellent soldierly qualities and personal courage were often complimented by his contemporaries in the Philippines. Former Constabulary officer Harold H. Elarth called him "a grand character; a fearless fighting man and leader; the beau ideal of every officer" (*Story of the Philippine Constabulary*, 179). Cary Crockett, another of the Constabulary's legendary officers, described Taylor: "Exceedingly handsome man, very well built, ruddy face, blue eyes, blond hair inclined to curl, hawklike profile, yellowish mustache; utterly fearless. About average height; very trim in appearance and always smartly turned out. He visited my station once in Leyte and we went on a combined pleasure trip and reconnaissance, accompanied by two mounted orderlies only. Accidentally, we ran into several hundred pulajans, well-organized, well-armed and well-equipped. Taylor galloped in on them, firing his pistol and we, of course, had to follow. They were taken by surprise and fled in all directions. We captured six beautiful horses and a brass band of over twenty pieces. Taylor had set his heart on killing the leader, who wore a fine uniform and carried a big bolo which looked like it was gold-mounted. I had great difficulty in getting Taylor back before they found out there were but four of us and came back on us" (quoted in Hurley, *Jungle Patrol*, 82–83). John R. White, a fellow Constabulary officer, related that "Panegyrics should be saved for the dead, but I must at least speak of the impression that the Bayard of the Constabulary made upon me. Our work almost daily provided acid tests which showed up men in whom there was too much base metal, so we did not lack brave officers; yet Colonel Taylor was as conspicuous as a newly-minted five-dollar gold piece in a handful of old copper cents. Wherever the pulajanes were thickest, wherever the hiking was hardest, wherever the odds were greatest against the Constabulary, there he was to be found, inspiring by his courage but no less by his courtesy and fine manner of life. No greater praise could be given him than was voiced whenever two or three junior officers were gathered together—'Colonel Taylor, he's white all through.'" (John R. White, *Bullets and Bolos: Fifteen Years in the Philippine Islands* [N.Y.: Century, 1928], 188). Earlier, in a June 19, 1900, letter to Cadet Taylor, Robert Bullard, the commander of the 39th U.S. Volunteers, echoed a similar appraisal: "He [Wallace Taylor] manages to find a fight where many of us do not. 'I am not like Captain Taylor,' said an officer to me a few days since. 'I am afraid of some things; he is not'" (*Omaha World-Herald*, Apr. 14, 1901, Part 3, 17). William H. Taft, who served as the civil governor of the Philippines and later as president of the United States, knew Wallace Taylor well. In a letter to Cadet Taylor dated Feb. 27, 1904, Taft stated: "There is no man in the islands who has rendered more faithful and brilliant service to the Government than your son. I don't know how we could get along without him...There is no braver man who ever wore the uniform of the United States Army than Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor" (Cadet Taylor, book of personal reminiscences, 130).

