

believes you received my
cablegram for on Dec
30th, I received another,
"Responsive", from you.

This meant, "Let me
know how you are." So I
am going to send you an
answer tomorrow and I
do hope that you get this
one.

The man by whom I
sent the cablegram on
Dec 24th. returned from
Manila with the story that
he had the cablegram sent
from the branch office in
Manila. I asked him
what he had done with
the receipt for the money

Bautista, P. I.,
January 1st, 1900

My dear darling devoted
precious sweetheart:-

When your cablegram,
"Requester, invention", meaning
"I miss you very very much."
We wish you all a merry
Christmas ^{evening} I was perfectly
delighted to hear from you
and sent in reply a cable
two days later, that is, on
December twenty-fourth,
consisting of the words,
"Relax. Restless" meaning
'all well here. Merry Christmas
to you all'. I do not

paid for the message. He said he did not
get one - he thought it a mere matter of form in
getting a receipt. I suspect that my first message
then was not sent at all and am going to inquire
of the cable company. Am sorry it did not
go and I shall take all precautions to see
that the message I send tomorrow goes all right.

The new year has started in a very pretty one.

The band played the old year out. The natives
and soldiers were jubilant and their voices, and
the tune, 'There will be a hot time in the old time
tonight' furnished music good enough for the wilds
of this section.

Remember me to inquiring friends and give my
love to all at home.

Goodnight my own, my blessed precious darling girl!
Hundred of tight squeezes and kisses without number and
a world of the deepest love to you from
your own dear affectionate and devoted husband Tom.

nothing and he persisting
in his usual manner, I
finally said - I can not
recall the exact words -
"I miss my horse so
much."

He said, "ye you miss
your horse? That is a great
joke." He did make
a great joke out of it
for when the two sections
of our train were
together, or rather were side
by side, for a short time
in Birmingham Alabama,
he had call of the officers
asking me about my horse
and laughing quite a good deal over

Barbours, P. S.,
Dec 31, 1899.

My dear darling precious
devoted wife:

What do you suppose
I have just been doing?
Reading old letters, dear
and sweet as ever, over
again, and of course
recalling many happy happy
past days.

Days when I missed so
much the same dear sweet
precious girl I missed now
on the 17th's trip to Tampa.
I remember the day
when Mr. Michie asked
me "What is the matter
with you" and I said

It was just a few nights before when Miss Bonnell, according to what she recently told you, thought we became engaged.

I did ask and obtain your permission to correspond with you, and how afterwards I did look for your dear sweet letters.

Those dear sweet days at Columbus Barracks - I never can forget them. The many pleasant drives we took and pleasant evenings spent at the Great Southern furnish pleasant recollections to me now.

If you could have known then what my thoughts about you were, how much I loved you and I could have known the same about how you regarded me, I suppose there is nothing to say but that each would have been surprised.

I know I must have been perfectly delighted too. You must tell me about the funny talks you

Soldiers' letters:-

J. L. Smith

1st Lieut. J. Conroy 17th Inf.



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,

United States of
America

course where we are now, would
look altogether out of place.

I would like to be
in the land of snow at
this very moment and with
my own precious darling
sweet heart.

I burned the two letters
that you requested me to
burn although I hated to
thus dispose of a single one
of your dear sweet letters.

They were the ones in
which you referred to Captain Miller
and in this letter - the fact
at least - makes the same
reference for my at miss
burn I too

Now my precious darling

and Miss Bonnell had
recently about yourself
and me - concerning us
during the first winter
you visited Pia at Columbus
Barracks.

Of course I know you
will tell me as you
started in your letter, but
I want you to write
me the whole conversation
for you know I want to
hear it.

In your letter of
November 1st, you stated
"It is snowing hard now."

Snow would look rather
odd to us now, and of

girl you know that I think the world of Captain
Clay and am as sorry as any one to hear any misfortune
that has befallen him. So for Ria's and his sake, I
shall just consider that there is nothing owed me
by him. I shall never mention the subject, and the
fact I would do any good turn for him that I
could do.

I hope he succeeded in getting a pleasant
location for his recruiting detail.

In bidding farewell to '99 we do it as we did with
'98 and hope the war features will be eliminated from
the new year.

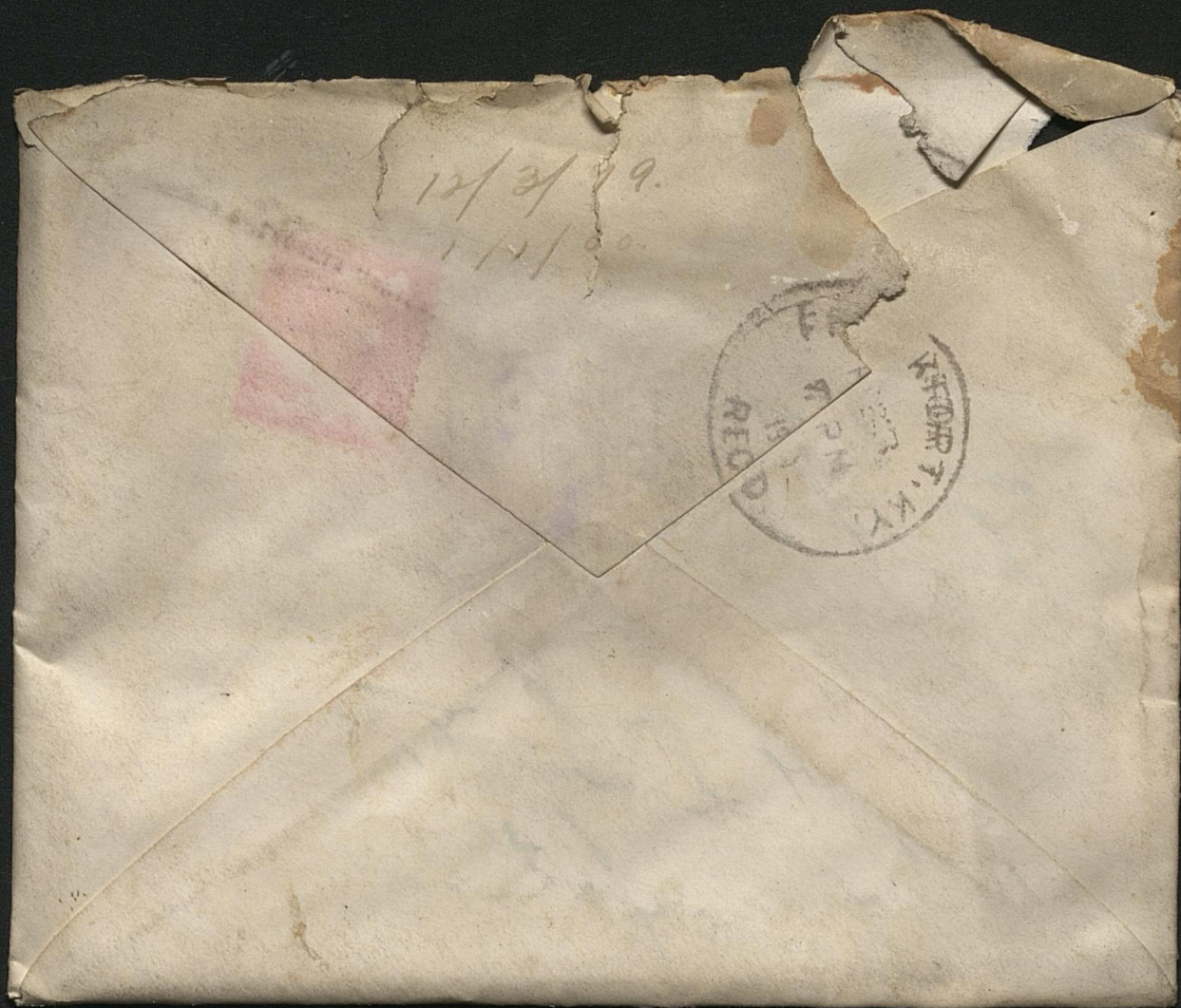
But the passing year has, with all its war
and the sorrow that follows, many pleasant days
for you and me and I shall always treasure them
dear in my memory.

Now in the closing line, which shall be one
of love to my sweet sweet dear girl, I send as deep
and sincere love as heart can pour forth and in
a quiet way that has no bounds
Your dear devoted and affectionate husband Tom

11, 24/00.

11/25

FRANKFORT, KY
MAY 10
5 PM
1890



in the U. S. before
many more months have
elapsed.

The greatest sort of
happiness for me would
be to live in a home
with you, my own dear
darling Pin, and I
hope and pray the day
is not far distant when
we can be together strong
and well.

I hope like you we
may be blessed with
sweet dear children.

What could be sweeter
or dearer than a little
baby looking just like

Bautista, P.I.,
January 2nd., 1900.

My precious dear sweet darling
girl:

The man going from
here to Manila today has
a cablegram for you and I
hope and trust that ere the
day is over you will have
received it.

A year ago today
we were in New York
City purchasing rugs for,
as we thought then a
home for us in the Philippines,
but we may hope now
to be able to use them

you its own sweet dear darling mother.

Whether a boy or girl baby, I want it to be just as much as possible like you for you are to me as sweet and dear in every way as I could wish one to be.

I have just been looking at the little photos you sent in your letter of Nov 1st - the ones taken at Columbus Barracks about a year ago and I think they become more of treasures each day. I think often of the pleasant happy moments when I came last year ago from Columbus to Georgetown. How blue I would feel on my return trip to Columbus!

Goodnight again my precious sweetheart.

Many many kisses and the greatest possible amount of the deepest love from
Your ever devoted and affectionate husband
Tom

Your dear sweet letters
to me from November 20th
to the end of the month
came today as also did
both Christmas boxes you
sent.

Both boxes came in
fine condition and I have
already examined their
contents.

The cake is just
as nice as can be - you
can tell that even without
tasting and I have eaten
some of it so I know
exactly how good it is.

The Hugglers seem
just as fresh and nice
as you get them in the

Bantista, P.I.,
January 3rd, 1900.

My devoted dear precious
darling sweetheart:-

Today's mail and
today's Express, if the
latter may be graced
with such a "form" for it
was really small packages
that had been handled
by the L. M. department, -
this is what all of
us welcomed most heartily.

A two week mail (and
a number of Christmas
boxes is enough to bring
joy to all the segment
and it did.

U.S. so you know they taste perfectly fine.

Please thank your dear Mother for me. I shall write her a letter telling about how fine the Hunglers are.

The silver handled knife came just as I was about to bid farewell to my only knife, a one bladed and now almost worn out affair, so the new one, a beauty it is too, comes immediately into use.

With an infinitely great amount of love to my precious dear darling girl who sent me the knife, I send also a penny for it, an 1898 penny. There may be room enough in this letter for the penny, but I want you to know it is not sent along as ballast so this letter is weighted down with deep deep love for you my own precious sweetheart.

long enough before Christmas
to have been sent to any
islands of the archipelago -
and I appreciated them
just as much as ever.

I know with them
came the love of the
girl I love more than
tongue can tell.

To love that girl
and to be loved by her
is happiness to me.

To think and know
my precious sweetheart is
so pure sweet and noble
as ever breathed and that
I have in store for me

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The Quarter master's
department was a little
slow in distributing the
Christmas boxes - perhaps
taking half as long as it
took to send the boxes
across the ocean - yet
they were just as welcome
as had they arrived on
Christmas day.

I knew that the
dear darling girl who
sent the boxes started
them so they should have
been delivered on time - they
arrived on Steamer Hancock

when I return to the U.S. no end of her tenderness
and loving kindness which I in turn can reciprocate
is a happiness and blessing hard to equal.

Nothing that I can do for you, my own dear
precious Pin, and devoted darling wife, is too much
for me to do, and I am always glad to hear of
your happiness in any way, to hear of any thing
you do or say - to sum it up, in all that Pin does,
Tom takes an interest and shall always do so.

I enclose a few little sketches touched up
with water colors. The Filipino women were
sketched just as they sat with their baskets of market
produce and the little pictures, poor as they are, give
some ideas of the scenes here. Later on I may
do better than in these, my first attempts.

An infinite amount of love - the whole heart full
poured out - goes now to you my dear devoted wife, my
precious blessed, darling Pin
Ever, your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

suits me exactly. I shall write my tomorrow's letter with it. I have tried it and it makes a nice fine line. I had it filled with ink soon after I began this letter.

Here is the way it writes - much better, you see than the pen with which I am now writing - rather with which I have been writing.

"Pillow Dex", "Parchesi" or "Chessindia" at the board is marked, and "Tiddledy Winks" came in good shape and Captain Kern had already challenged me to try my

- 2 -

When you sent me a fountain pen you sent exactly what I have sought unsuccessfully too, in Manila.

Dr. Clafford and Lieut. Waldo tried, each on different occasions, to purchase a Waterman fountain pen for me in Manila but could find none for sale. Then I wrote you asking that you send me as I needed one very much and here before my request had had time to reach you I received a nice pen, and it just

luck with him in these games. They remind me of the many pleasant games I have had with my dear darling sweet girl now so far away.

The soda mints and the potash tablets - also the three grain quinine capsules - came in unbroken packages and I shall use them if needed. As I unwrapped the paper from around the bottles of tablets, each bottle with three distinct papers affording ample protection against breakage, I thought perhaps my own dear precious darling girl's hands had wrapped these very bottles.

The three bottles of "Dr. Lyon's" tooth powder furnished another evidence of her thoughtfulness and of her love for me. The Commissary Department, I am glad to say, now supplies this much needed dentrifice but until quite recently it could not be obtained here. The bottles you sent will come into use just the same and I thank you for them and with the chance goes a world of love.

Solais's letter
J. L. Smith,
1212 Pine St. & Conny / 17th July



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky.

United States of
America



return and well we ~~should~~
have had as the country
is very wild, the road high,
rough and at places very
muddy, and the whole section
passed through is one that
would be almost ideal to
hasten business -

The town of Cabaruan is
a new one - you will not
find it on any of the maps -
and is the stronghold of a
religious society that sanctions,
so I would learn, the murdering
of any native who refuses to
belong to it.

Malasiqui, P.I.,

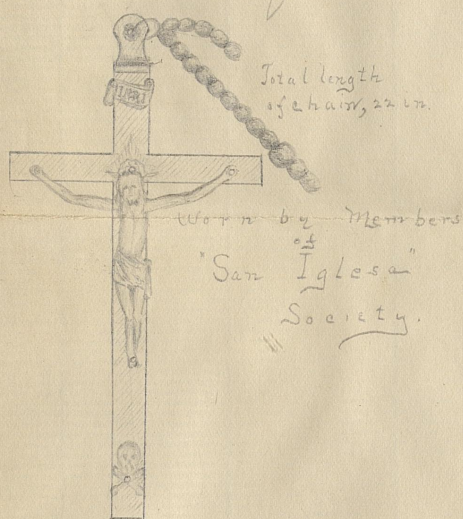
January 8th, 1900

My sweet dear precious devoted
darling girl:-

A wreck on the rail road
makes it necessary for me to
stay here over night.

In company with Colonel
Smith I left Bantusta at
about six o'clock A.M. today,
proceeded by rail, taking our
horses along also, to Malasiqui
and found there about ten
miles to Cabaruan riding from
Malasiqui on horseback. ~~We~~ He had an armed
escort of ten enlisted men
from here to Cabaruan and

Each member, old and young, wears a necklace of black beads, made of black wood, every tenth bead being slightly larger than the others, and to this necklace is fastened a cross, the design of which I will try to illustrate to you in a few moments.



Full size

There are three degrees in this society. The ^{members of the} third or lowest degree wear a cross similar in design to opposite illustration but about one half the size and made entirely of brass.

The second degree members wear a cross, the design and size of which are the same as in illustration, the edges and in fact the whole cross, (except the part indicated thus, , which part is white) being made of brass.

The first, or highest degree, members wear ^{across} differing from the second degree one in that black wood is substituted for the white portion of the second degree design.

The members of this society - some of them - seem to be

While we were there the natives assembled us into their bands, two in number. All bent brass horns, horns ~~some~~ constructed partly of bamboo, wasper gutters and one or two foreign fan instruments were put into service.

We marched up and down every street of the town and the natives exhibited a great friendliness - pretended though I am inclined to

believe. The bands first played the tune "There will be a hot time" but at one portion, or for perhaps I should say, the

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connected in some manner with, in fact I should say represented, viz, every thing ~~mean~~ ^{that} done by natives in the northern part of the inhabited portion of this island.

They are growing in strength daily, and, according to reports, by means of force, the penalty for refusing to join being death.

They offer a new house to every native family joining their society. In their numbers little, but soon to be large; out of the way town they seem to be wrapped up in their religion - a religion, just think of it, that sanctions murder.

musicians found it too difficult and at this particular place not a note was sounded. It would occur with regularity - the whole procession marching three or four steps in silence.

Frequently Col. Smith would stop to the side of the street to shake hands with the natives, and the little children, most of whom were either wholly or partly naked, would flee as if their lives were going to be taken. I laughed until I could hardly stand up. The older natives were very much amused to see the children run.

I made a few pencil sketches while there. My book will before very long be filled with sketches and I shall then send it to you.

On the whole, I enjoyed the trip and found it most interesting.

Goodnight my dear angel girl - Bless your dear sweet heart how I love you and wish I could be with you! But my love goes to you just the same and a great amount. I know how to tell you.
Ever your own dear devoted husband
J. M.

Just about one year
ago we returned to Columbus
Barracks, there then as
man and wife, whereas before
we had been but sweethearts.

Pin, you did not know
at the time, I will venture
to say, how much I
loved to meet you any
place and to meet you if
convenient I only had a chance
to say a word or two in
passing you as I went to
and from my quarters at
Columbus.

Mr. Michie knew, he
felt confident of it at least,
that I loved you long

Bantista, P.S.,
January 9, 1900

My own precious darling
sweetheart:-

Yesterday's trip made
me good and tired - I feel
the effects of it yet - as
it has been a month
since I did any marching
of any consequence.

We returned here today
arriving about ten o'clock,
A.M.

I have not spent all
of today, but have a
great part of it, in thinking
of you my blessed precious
devoted darling girl.

before ever I confessed to him that I did.
It was rare indeed that I could get to meet
you & I came to or from my quarters, and I knew
you purposely avoided being there so it was by accident
always that we met.

Many girls, as you well know, or not that way
and I only loved you more for your actions in that
particular.

I knew you would not for any thing in the world
have those so inclined, Mrs. J. for instance, say that
you were showing any fondness for me, and I felt,
for your sake in particular, I should not by my
own actions cause such gossips to talk about us,
and so there we were, each trying to so act that
there would be no cause for comment.

Yet I am afraid that in spite of all this, I could not
keep but show I loved you.

You will remember, I know, the night I talked to
you so long ^{on the porch} after the hour at which news came for

that now we can talk of
matters that were then
almost secret in our hearts

Now it is my darling
wife, my own dear sweet
precious Pin about whom
I think and for whom I
want to do all I can
to make happy.

Just thinking of it, my
precious sweetheart, anything
I can do for you, I really
do in part for myself for
to make you happy means
to make me happy too.

We live for each ^{other} and I
want to feel so wrapped up
in every thing you do and in
all I can do for you, that

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the regiments departure for
the "Spanish-American War"

That night I asked you
if I might correspond
with you.

I thought of telling, came
almost doing so, you that I
loved you deeply, but then
in second thought, it
occurred to me perhaps the
present orders ~~we had~~ made
it but for me not to
say any more than ^{would enable me} to
know I could write to
you and you have no
objections thereto.

How glad I am we
did write to each other and

each and every little item will be of interest to me.

Our plan shall be with my darling girl, my devoted life companion in view.

I love to spend moments in thinking of you and of planning for the happy time when we shall be together once again both strong and well.

The news here is about as usual. One member of the regiment, a gambler who associated a great deal with the natives here, was murdered by them two nights ago - a death that did not surprise those who knew him and his habits.

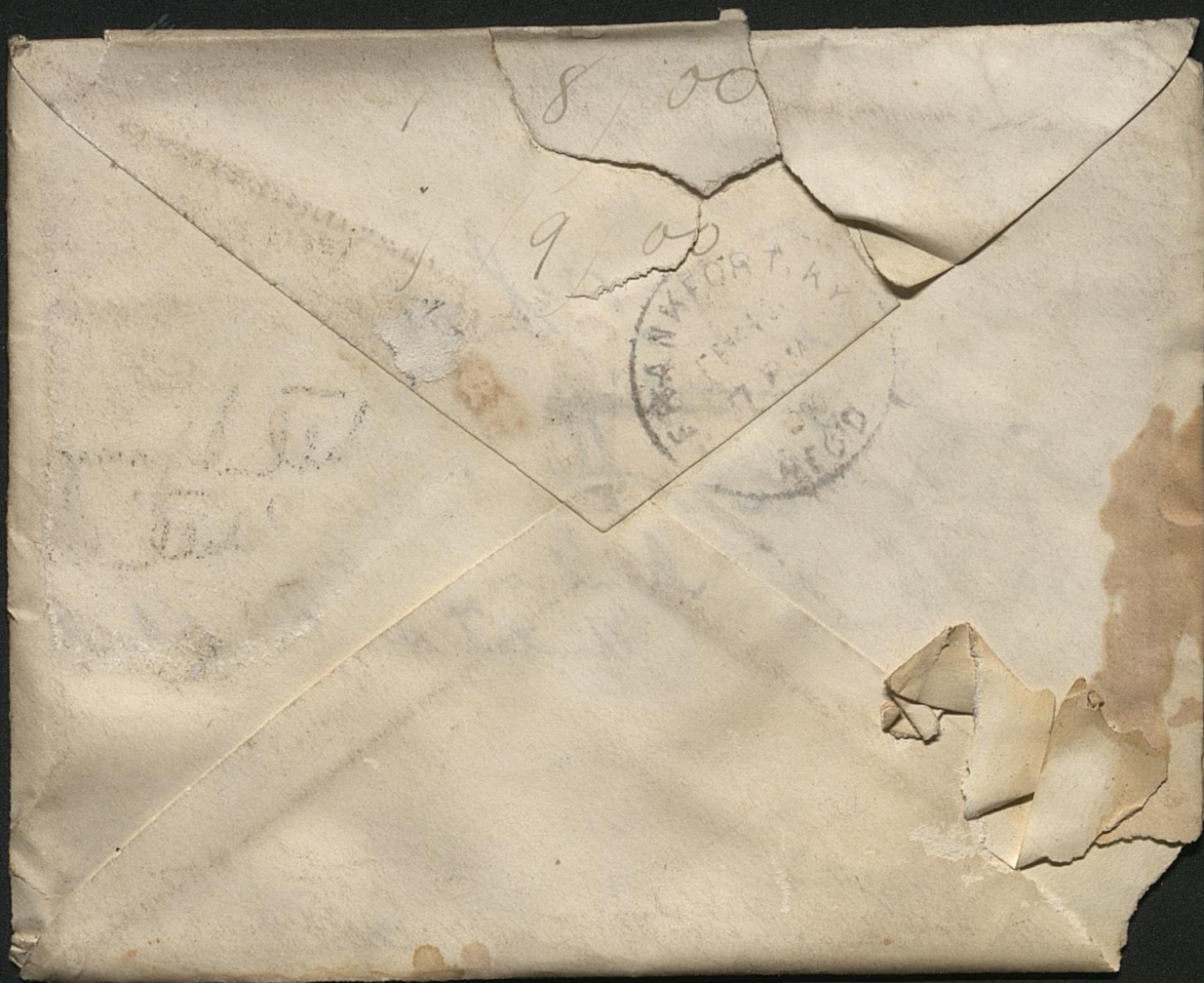
Other than this quietude & peace have reigned here.

The weather is balmy and certainly delightful, all considered.

Good bye for this time, my sweet devoted girl. Remember me when you can and accept an abundance of love - an amount that words fail to express to you, and ever think of me to your own devoted and affectionate husband who loves you most dearly,
Tom.

Sollier's letter
J. L. Smith
at Capt J Comey 7th Regt

Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of



If such is the case and these transports can run with regularity, it is possible for us to get our mail about every ten days. I trust that some such arrangement will be effected.

There is generally a longer delay in Manila in the distribution of supplies to the army than would seem necessary. That is, it takes longer than civilians, business men, take to do the same or a similar thing in any large city of our own country.

Bautista P.I.

January 10th, 1900

My own precious Tom and darling devoted girl:-

Rumors again of another mail, and what delightful rumors these are!

It has been recently stated by officers of the regiment who heard it in Manila, that the Quartermaster's Department intends to run from now on its system of transport so that three will arrive here each month from the United States.

The mail system here has been quite reliable but it has frequently taken an undue time to get our mail whereas if the service had been efficient such delays would never have occurred. The intention of the postal department, as expressed in general orders from the war department, has been to establish post-offices in every large camp, provide there a man to issue money orders, sell stamps, Stationery &c, yet this has never been carried out in these islands.

We have trusted to our own men to get our mail to some one of the few American post-offices here and I believe it has always been carefully guarded.

We all hope it has. I sent many a message of love to my own precious darling girl and I would hate to think any failed to reach her.

Good night Sweetheart. Remember me and give my love to all at your home. Accept the greatest imaginable amount of love yourself from your own devoted and affectionate husband Tom.

considerable excitement in the neighborhood of the outpost.

An insurgent Colonel who now and then visits this place, his home, was seen and recognized by a native interpreter who followed the insurgent and, by signalling to the outpost some distance ahead, caused the arrest.

When the outpost attempted to make the arrest, considerable resistance was offered - some natives standing near even coming to the assistance of the insurgent.

It was during the

Bautista, P. I.,
January 11th, 1900.

My sweet dear Darling
Precious girl:-

A few things of an exciting nature occasionally happen here. Today a report was brought in by a civilian that our outpost on the road leading south from here was attacked and needed assistance.

The headquarters guard, followed soon by a company, went to the location of the outpost and found that not a shot had been fired although there had been

scuffle that our informant became so alarmed.

I am glad it was not necessary to exchange any shots. The prisoner was brought in nearly frightened out of his wits as he believed dire punishment awaited him. Several insurgent officers have surrendered here and have been of material aid in securing the arrest of others.

Mrs. Kerr writes Captain Kerr that preparations are being made in Manila for the return of the 4th Cavalry to the United States.

I hope many other troops will follow and that the 17th Infantry will be among them for I do want to see and be with my blessed darling girl.

I do not know how to tell you, Pim, how much I do miss you for you are everything to me and I love you more than any one could ever tell.
Accept the greatest possible amount of love and believe me ever
Your own devoted and affectionate husband of
Tom

Soldier's Letter:-

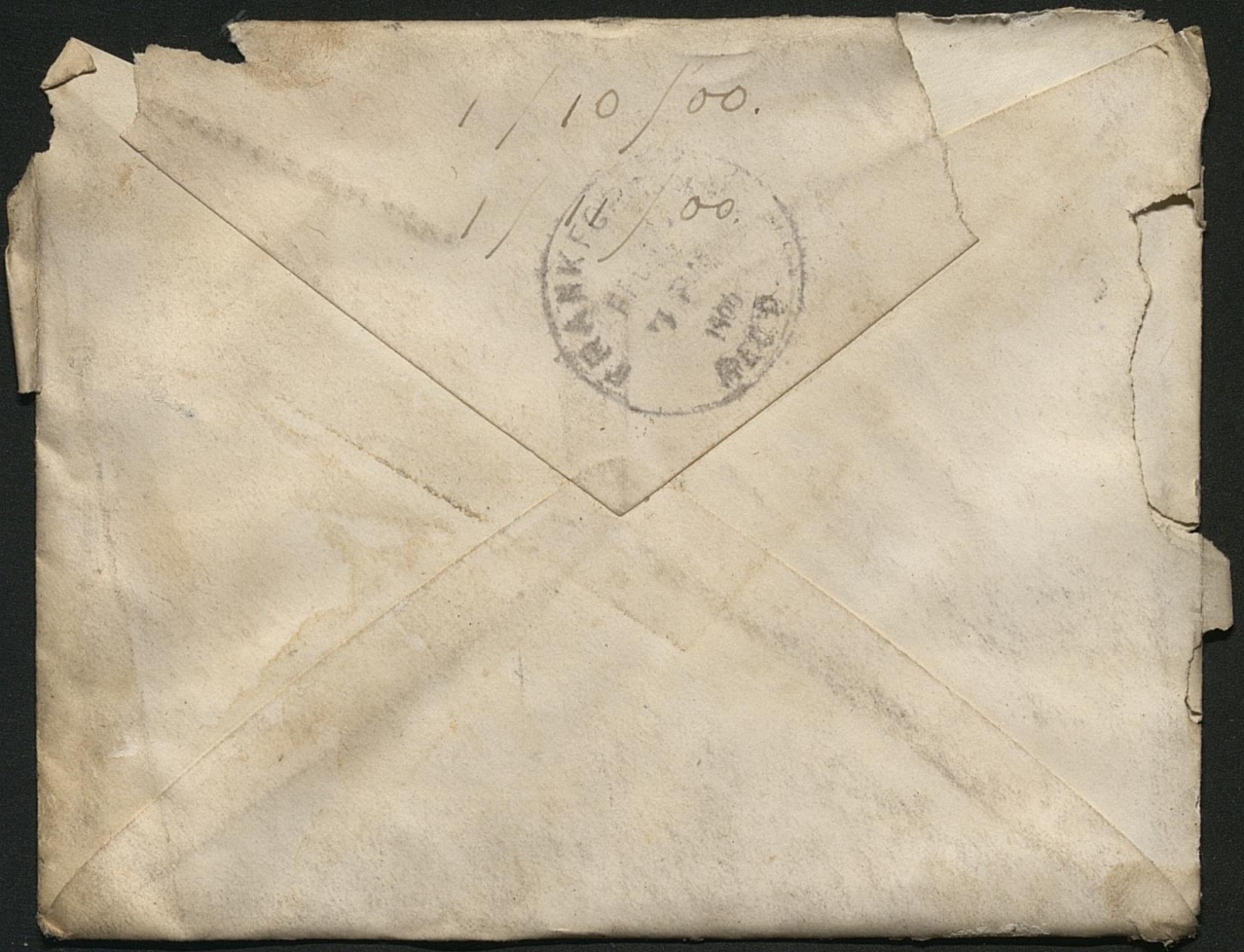
J. L. Smith,

1st Lieut & Company 7th Inf

NO. 1. MANN
JAN 12 1861

CHOSEY

Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America



my headache so that I
took advantage to rest all I
could during the day and I
fell asleep early in the
evening, not awakening
until morning. So here I am
and am thankful the head-
ache is about all gone.

Upon our arrival at Cabaruan,
we were met by all the
musicians of the place and
escorted to a house that
had been vacated for us.

The whole procession
that formed as we came
in to the place was a

Bautista, P.I.,
January 22nd., 1900.

My own dear darling girl:-

Here I have been to
Cabaruan and returned
and yesterday I did not
get to write to my precious
sweetheart although I took
with me this very same paper
on which I am now writing.
Our trip was made

on a very warm day and I
had a slight headache at
the start which developed
later into a very very slight
chill. The sun increased

novel one - natives of various sizes, ages and "descriptions",
ponies and quileys, caribou and carts and all headed by
a band containing a number of the usual and common
band instruments as well as mandoline, guitars, violins
and rudely constructed bamboo instruments. "After the
ball" and "Then 't is a hot time" were favorite selections,
so it would seem, of this band.

They gave us a very liberal supply of chickens, eggs,
rice and vegetables and tried in every way to show
their friendliness.

They showed their crude mechanical devices. I
did not go around to see them but was told by Captain
Wren of the very interesting and curious shops of the
place.

At about dusk they had a theatrical performance
for us which took place in the street in front of our
quarters.

The poor boy's hand and arm were very much swollen as no medical attention at all had been given him.

The natives of the place seemed to think the boy would get along all right without any attention being paid him and he was a living example to us of one of the probably many cases that are allowed to suffer and die or else have deformed when they do get well.

Bautista, P.R.,

January 23rd, 1900

My precious darling sweet heart:

I'm now good and rested from the trip to Cabaruan. A pitiful sight met our eyes shortly before we left Cabaruan.

A native boy, fifteen or sixteen years of age, whose arm had been broken five days previous by the kick of a horse, presented himself asking some one to set his arm for him.

Captain Wren played the role of doctor the poor suffering boy, and put the arm in splints. Of course this was quite painful but not a murmur was uttered by the boy, and he ~~was~~ afterwards showed that he was very grateful for the kindness extended him.

There are no troops at Cabaruan now so had not we gone there this poor wretch, as many others before him have done, have died or else had a deformed and useless arm for life.

We hear that but little activity is being displayed on the south line, that is the territory south of Manila where the most of the insurgent army is now supposed to be. The insurgents have contested but little the occupation of that territory and glad I am of it.

Good-night my precious darling girl. A world of kisses and love for you from
Your own dear devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

It was necessary to get a number of lights ready and so coconut oil lanterns were put around at various places.

Then use a crude lantern in the center of which is placed an ordinary glass tumbler. This tumbler is

partly filled with water and then the coconut oil is poured on the water and being lighter it floats.

A wick is placed in the center in the oil and there you have the lamp or lantern, and by varying the amount of oil

- 2 -

The performance has evidently not been held at that particular place before because it was delayed by the native workmen having to remove a few stumps of trees from the street.

After these stumps had been dug out, and the ground thoroughly smoothed, the people formed, leaving a vacant circular space of a diameter equal to the width of the street, and in this space the actors performed.

or water can have it go out automatically at a time
to suit your convenience

The costumes were importations from I could
not guess where but when donned by the natives and
the whole assemblage was ready to start their
play formed a picture such as we seldom see here
and one which Captain Wren and I hope to get
within the course of a week or so.

The songs, weird music and grotesque acting
made the evening pass very quickly and made it
one not to be forgotten soon too.

We hope to have success in getting a picture that
will give you an idea of this out door theater.

With kisses galore and a heart full of love to my
own blessed darling sweetheart Sam & Eve

Your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

Dear Mother:
T. L. Smith
Lt. Lieut. J. Comsey 1/7th Regt.



Mrs. T. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

1/22/00.

1/23/00.



we have yet had at any station in the Philippines.

He is anxious to so arrange affairs that the officers who will likely be located at Dagupan for some considerable period may have their wives and families there with them and this is the subject upon which we were talking.

We want some assurances that it would be a wise and prudent measure for us to bring there those we so dearly love, and we believe and know that the proper time

Bautista P. I.,

January 24th, 1899.

My own precious devoted darling girl:-

There has been considerable conversation at these headquarters today, that is of interest both to my blessed darling girl and to me so. I will tell you of it.

Colonel Smith seems, for some reason or another, to think that the headquarters of the regiment will before long be moved to Dagupan and that our stay there will likely be of more permanence than

for us to arrange any such plans will be after the move to Baguasan. Then we can see the situation better.

It is encouraging to hear any thing that tends to show that any efforts are being made to bring us nearer those we love so dearly.

Captain Widen is anxious to have Mrs Widen come to the Philippines if only for a short period, and has talked to me frequently about the matter.

Just as soon as it is safe for us to do so, I shall let you know every little detail I can about coming but want to be sure that it will be safe for you, my own dear darling sweetheart.

Goodnight once again my darling girl. Kisses
galore and love beyond description
Your own devoted husband
Tom

As a consequence there is a cloud of dust along the road passing in front of our headquarters.

I intend to watch the process of preparing the rice for the market.

One of the last things done before it is ready is the polishing. I have noticed the shiny appearance of the ordinary commercial rice but never knew until quite recently that it is due to an artificial polishing given it.

Bautista, P.R.,
January 25th, 1900.

My sweet precious darling girl:-

It seems to get drier, dustier and hotter here daily now but perhaps it is due, in a great measure, to the traffic in rice.

The natives haul it all day long - bringing to the rice mill at this place the rice as it is cut from the paddies and returning generally with empty carts but now and then with a few sacks of rice.

Colonel Smith and Captain Wren went to Manila today on errands principally of business connected with the regimental property stored in Manila.

This has always been an excuse to go there but it makes no difference, save for appearance sake, whether an excuse is given or not.

Colonel Robe is now in command and the Adjutant's position falls to me during Captain Wren's absence. Two vacancies (perhaps but one) in the grade of Colonel will promote Col. Robe. I hope he will receive his promotion soon.

Remember me when you can and give my love to all at home.

Accept for yourself a greater amount than words can describe.
Ever your own devoted and affectionate husband,
Tom

Followed letter
J. L. Smith
for Lieut. G. C. C. 1/7 m. 1894



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

up to include January 4th.

Since the arrival of
the mail brought by the
Penney boat I have
your letters to include
January 19th.

No person is more
pleased with mail
received tonight than I
am.

I read in every
letter my precious darling
and has sent me the
deep devotion of her
sweet and tender nature
and I rejoice in returning
the same way my deep

Bautista P. S.,
Feb'y 27th, 1900.

My own dear darling Pen
and sweet devoted precious wife.

The mail is of course
the first thing I speak
about for besides my darling
girl it is about all I
have thought about nearly
all day.

Come few days ago
the old Sheridan brought
me your sweet letters of
the 9th and 10th of January.

Before receiving those
letters I had received all

love for her.

In sending mail as we have to do by a transport service, more or less irregular, we receive our letters in bundles you might say, and what an array of sweet messengers of love they do present

I do get so lonely waiting and watching, and living in hopes of such complete change of affairs here that we, you and I, may once more be together.

I know how happy we would be and I would give anything within the bounds of reason to know we were to be together uninterrupted by such calls as would make it best to live as we have for the past ten months.

All of us feel the same way, yet we do not despair but really keep alive the hope for the change about which I have just spoken.

On every side there was
a something that made
me have my darling
girl ever before me.

What a pleasure it
has always been for me
to know that I have
a darling life companion
so dear, so sweet and devoted
and whom I can always
love and respect.

I do sometimes get
very lonely when I think
of you my precious girl
and realize what a
comfort your sweet presence
would be to me.

Just exactly ten months
ago did my darling
girl start from Manila
harbor on the old ~~Shontan~~

I came on in to
Manila, thence to camp
with a knowledge that
my own dear devoted
companion was rapidly
speeding farther from me
and day after day, just
as it does now, flashed
through my mind the
happy happy days we
have spent together.

Then I realize too how I must feel with my
flesshed darling girl, the dearest in this wide wide world
to me, here in case of any trouble or danger here.

We have such weak assurances that this will
not occur almost any moment that I almost
shudder at the idea of Mrs. Hardaway being
out here.

I would not have my precious sweetheart exposed
to such dangers. It is, if I rely on my
opinion, only a place for soldiers ~~right here~~ until
conditions improve more.

It makes it hard for all of us but how much
easier it is to know that those we so dearly love
are out of harm's way.
I want my darling girl to be as happy every
way as she can until we can be together again and
my prayer is for that time to come soon.
With a heart overflowing with the deepest sort of love
for you I am your own devoted and affectionate husband Tom.

carried me, in thought,
back to where my precious
devoted darling wife is - by
no means is it the
music alone for many
times each day am I
in thought with you.

How I would love to
be right with you - in
fact to hear you sing
"Sleep Kentucky Bats" or
to hear in any way at
all any words from
the lips of the dear
sweet girl who is my
devoted darling life
companion.

Bautista, P. I.,
Feb'y 28th, 1900.

My sweet precious devoted
darling girl:-

The band is playing
"Old Kentucky home" and
I certainly am thinking
of a sweet dear precious
darling girl, the one
I love best of all
others in this wide
wide world, who lives
there.

It is not alone
the hearing of this
piece of music that

What greater joy could there be for me than
to me you and know we could live together both
strong and well. I think this over many times, yet
I conform, as I should, to existing conditions and
trust the day is not far distant when the 17th
will be ordered home.

There are so many rumors about troops
being ordered to the United States that now and
then we almost feel inclined to think there is
some truth in the rumors.

It all depends, I think, about what the
military situation proves to be. In other words,
it seems the authorities desire to move us, but
are kept from doing so because they believe we
can not be spared.

Under such conditions we must stand it bravely.
With kisses and love for my precious darling girl
in numbers and quantities greater than can be described
I am your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

Soldier's letter.
J. L. Smith
R. and Conroy



Mrs. J. L. Smith
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

2/27/00.

2/28/00



points on the road leading east from here.

A train of one hundred and eighty caribous and carts came in today, have been loading all day, and are to leave in the morning.

It seemed you could hardly go any where today for the caribou and carts were so much in the way.

I started to write my letter soon after dinner and an order came to arrange an armed escort for the train.

Paulista, P.T.,
March 1st, 1900.

My own devoted sweet precious darling wife:-

To generally speak in the U.S. of March being ushered forth with mild and ^{weather} rough, yet here it begins with a continuation of summer, or the one tropical season.

This has been quite a busy and exciting day at this little place.

One million rations are to be hauled from here to

Next a report about the damaged condition of the railroad track came. The matter had to be reported to the Chief Luastomato of the division.

Then came a report that the insurgent general Aquino is at Camiling now. We have companies at that little town so I had to prepare a long telegram to Captain Roach describing this insurgent officer and directing Captain Roach to spare neither trouble nor expense in effecting the capture of the insurgent.

Then appear two prisoners who were captured by our outpost and brought in by a non-commissioned officer.

Thus it has been all evening long until now when I am free to write to my own precious devoted girl and try in this poor way to send her all the love I wish her to accept. I can say over and over, and I do love to say it, that you my own dear sweetheart are the dearest most darling precious girl in the world to me.

its present hold in these islands

It does seem too that matters have been greatly misrepresented to the Filipino people or they would never have participated so largely in the insurrection.

The majority of families of these people seem perfectly satisfied with plenty of food ("chow" as they call it) and a little home in which they can live undisturbed.

Surely every thing in the usual run of business affairs here have been attended to this day so I may call all that is left of the day my own and spend it in the happiest way possible that is, in writing to you my own precious girl.

It does seem enormous when you begin to realize what trouble and what expense is borne daily by our government to keep

As they seem so easily contented and are without ambition, you might say, it is difficult to understand why so many have joined with the insurgents.

To know this state of affairs exists makes one feel certain that the agents of Aguinaldo have been all through this territory telling what terrible monsters the Americans are.

That this feeling has not died out more than it has is because such Americans as Atkinson, Levator, Hoar &c have given utterance to speeches that have all along encouraged the insurgents and to this day keeps alive their rebellious feelings.

Goodbye my own dear darling girl. Remember me when you can and give my love to all.
Accept a world of kisses and no end of love.
Your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

difficult matter to keep
the U.S. troops, scattered
as they now are here, well
supplied throughout the
rainy season.

The rail-road will likely
be in several disconnected
sections because now there
are a number of weak
places in it that will
give away during the
first heavy freshet we will
have.

The wagon roads, quite
a number at least, become
almost impassable and it
is questionable whether some

Baruta, P.R.,
March 2nd, 1900.

My devoted precious sweetheart:-
One is half inclined to
believe that if the rainy
season is not upon us and
we are waiting until it is
over, that we are again
making preparations for it.

Here it does actually seem
that way.

This is a sort of central
point and so many supplies
are being sent from here - six
months' supply I am told -
that it seems but little
else is being done.

It is going to be a very

of the food supplies now being stored especially
the vegetables will remain sound and good for six months
as is now contemplated.

Our government is surely paying a price, large
indeed, for the retention of these islands and she has
a great deal more to pay too.

When the rainy season is well on us, you can
just picture to yourself a lot of little scattered
garrisons each with its supply for six months and
situated at a place from which the roads in all
directions are almost impassable. We hope however that
the 17th Infantry will all be together in Manila when
the rainy season comes.

Accept more love and kisses than I know how to
tell you Your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

and the Padre who
lives in the convent
there were aiding the
insurgent cause in
every way they could
and further that insurgent
arms were stored in the
convent.

It seems there was
no foundation in the
report.

To show you how
little faith can be placed
in the average native, I
will tell you about the
native guide who conducted

Bautista, P. I.,
March 5th, 1900

My own dear darling girl:-

The search in the
"Convent" at Malasiqui was
made today and no rifles
found there. In yesterday's
letter I spoke of having
gone there with A. Smith
to make the search
and of his having
concluded to defer the
matter until today.

The reports that
reached us that the
Presidente of Malasiqui

us to the rendezvous of latrones on February 14th
and about which I have already told you.

This guide, as I wrote you, asked for a detachment
of soldiers to conduct himself and family safely
to Bautista saying that, as soon as latrones ascertained
he had acted as a guide for us, he and family would
all be murdered, so we sent the detachment of
soldiers as requested. This nifty fellow, so it now
appears, went to a town where his brother who is
a terrible outlaw was justly confined by the local
authorities, and stated that he would have the
"Presidente" immediately shot if his (our guide's)
brother were not released at once and pointed to
our soldiers or in some way mislead the Presidente
understand the soldiers were there for that purpose,
thus the terror of an outlaw secured his liberty ^{without} and
our detachment of soldiers not knowing what was
going on at all.

Goodnight my precious darling girl Love without
bounds and kisses galore from your own devoted Tom.

will be moved to
Manila, or at least from
here, within ten days,
and Colonel Smith is to
be made Provost-Marshal
of Manila. I just saw
the telegram and it is
now on the desk at
division headquarters.

I am not quite
as sanguine about
our going to Manila
as this particular soldier
is but still think
that perhaps we may
yet go.

Bautista, P.I.,
March 6th, 1900.

My own precious darling
girl:

In some way or
another the enlisted men
here now have very
much the same ideas
as the officers about the
probability of the 17th
Infantry going to Manila
in the near future
for duty. I heard
one soldier remark to
another today "General
McArthur's headquarters

A native not long ago took a fancy to
some shoe polish that I had and finally asked
if he might use some of it and I of course
said he might. His shoes, tan shoes they were,
pleased him very much after he used the polish
and he finally let me know, in a sort of round-
about way, that he would be pleased to have
the remainder of the polish - the full bottle cost
me originally four cents, I purchased it from the L.M.
and I told him certainly to take it.
I thought no more about it until today when
the native insisted upon giving me a wee small
monkey that he carried in here more than twenty
miles. So I took the monkey - Mary Ann I have
named her, and she is the cutest little monkey I
have yet seen. If you talk rapidly to her, she will
fix her little lips and chatter away so you can not help
but laugh.
Love in untold quantities to my darling sweetheart.
and ever your own devoted husband Tom.

Colonel Smith sent out a
scouting party of about twenty-
five mounted men today.

They carried a letter
to the insurgent General
Macabulos and took with
them two natives of this
place who volunteered to
go to the mountain
stronghold of this insurgent
general with the letter.

This letter Col. Smith
sends inviting Macabulos to
come in to Camiling and
thence to Bautista for a
personal interview with General
MacArthur.

Camiling, P.I.,
March 11th, 1900.

My devoted dear precious
sweet heart:-

If a Sunday ever
seemed quiet to me, this
surely has. The place
seems so far out in the
country that it alone
suggests quietude and peace.

The latter is lacking
although the former does
reign.

It is supposed that
there is a sort of
strong hold of insurgents
not very far from here and
this why we came out here.

If this can be accomplished, nothing more is desired
and we will return to Bantista but if Macaboloos refuses
to come here, then all of the troops of this place are to
go out and attack Macaboloos in his strong hold.

It is considered that a great deal more will have
been accomplished if the letter sent out today will
effect the coming in of Macaboloos than if we attack
his strong hold, and even kill many of his soldiers, and fail
to get him.

He is the recognized leader in this part of the
province and once or twice has in a half hearted way
evinced a desire to come in, but has demanded more
liberty than it is regarded prisoners of war should have.

This a pretty, but surely a lonesome, place.

With kisses galore and a heart full of love for my
own dear precious darling girl, I am
Ever your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

Soldier's letter -
J. L. Smith,
1st Lieut 17th Regt



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States
America

3/11/00.

3/12/00.

used in former years is
some five or six feet
higher than the rice fields
through which it passes ^{and}
every now and then is
bridged so that during the
rainy season the water
can drain towards its
natural outlet.

These bridges have nearly
all been destroyed by the
insurgents so that the
road is now so it can
not be used until the
bridges have been repaired.

Colonel Smith looked
over the situation today
and is going to recommend

Camaling, P.I.,
March 12th, 1900.

My own devoted precious
girl:-

Colonel Smith, Capt
Roach, Lieut Davis ^{and}
I took a ride out to
San Clemente today. It
is about five or six miles
from Camaling, and the
road to the place is
over rice paddies and
through cane fields.

The country is so
very low that it will
be very difficult to pass
over in the rainy season.

The highway that has been

that the garrison be withdrawn at San Clemente
as unless the government goes to the great
expense of repairing all the bridges, the troops at
the place may be cut off ^{in the rainy season} by the insurgents and
it be with great difficulty that assistance could
reach them.

Today is so quiet that it is difficult to
realize that it is not Sunday. Surely this is
an ideal place for sleep and rest providing one
forgets about the insurgents being so near.

About the only sounds one hears are the barking
of dogs and ringing of church bells. The soft
melody of the bells almost lulls you to sleep.

Why they ring them so much I do not know.

Dr. Wilcox declared that the bells here have the
same tone as those of the 1st Congregational Church
of Columbus Ohio.

With a world of love to you, my precious dear
angel darling girl I am
Your own devoted and affectionate husband
Sam.

I will not have to
go there at the time
of the hanging.

The natives who
have to suffer the
death penalty richly
deserve it though and it
is believed their execution
will have a good effect
throughout the Province.

I heard General
Bell say yesterday that
no less than one
hundred murders had
been committed in this

Bautista, P.I.,
March 21st, 1900.

My own devoted precious
darling girl:-

After a weary trip
to Dagupan and return
today for the purpose of
making arrangements to
have the Commanding Officer,
Lieut. Carr, at San Carlos,
prepare scaffolds &c
for the execution of

two natives there on the
thirtieth of this month, I
am here again.
It is a sad duty
that we have to perform
and I sincerely trust

the "pay-day" at the first call, reveille, of the day.
It seems that two companies of the regiment will
soon go to Dagupan for duty.

Colonel Smith stated that in conversation with
General Mac Arthur he jokingly remarked, "Well,
General you are moving my companies in the
wrong direction," adding "as soon as you get in
command of the ^{army in the} Philippines, I shall hold you
to your promise to take the 17th to Manila."

General Mac Arthur stated in reply "Ordering two
companies to Dagupan now does not prevent
me taking the 17th to Manila if I should
get command in Manila."

General Mac Arthur served as a 2nd Lieut in the 17th
Infantry and I do hope he gets us to Manila.

With a heart full of love and kisses galore, I am
your own dear devoted husband
Tom

province since the time of our arrival here
last November.

I think an execution by hanging will have
a better effect upon the native population than one
by shooting.

The natives who are doomed to death are the
murderers of other natives - instead of Americans so the
more intelligent class of natives here will therefore
readily understand that the coming execution is
purely to meet the ends of justice.

I hope that civil government will be so
well established here soon that such disagreeable
duties will not fall to the lot of the military.

Everything seems quiet here now. The
insurgent General Macabulos fired a few shots,
presumably cannon, from his camp about ten days
ago but has stopped now.

Accept no end of kisses and a world of the
very deepest, sincerest love from
Your own dear Tom.

play the tune that by
all the soldiers of the
command is called "pay day"
march.

Some times payment is
made on a day when
it would appear that
no one in the command,
save perhaps the Commanding
Officer and the Adjutant,
knows that payment
will take place that day,
yet these musicians seem
to get the information ⁱⁿ some
manner and announce it to
their comrades by playing

Bautista, P.R.,
March 22nd, 1900.

My precious devoted
darling girl:-

The pay-master
arrived today and as a
consequence the soldiers
are unusually well
pleased and are in good
spirits.

The trumpeters of
the regiment invariably learn
beforehand when a payment
of the command will take
place and at the sounding
of the march both at
reveille and guardmounting
on "pay day", they will

I will not have to
go there at the time
of the hanging.

The natives who
have to suffer the
death penalty richly
deserve it though and it
is believed their execution
will have a good effect
throughout the Province.

I heard General
Bell say yesterday that
no less than one
hundred murders had
been committed in this

Bautista, P.I.,
March 21st, 1900.

My own devoted precious
darling girl:-

After a weary trip
to Dagupan and return
today for the purpose of
making arrangements to
have the Commanding Officer,
Lieut. Carr, at San Carlos,
prepare scaffolds &
for the execution of

two natives there on the
thirtieth of this month, I
am here again.
It is a sad duty
that we have to perform
and I sincerely trust

12
Father's letter:-
L. Smith,
Sent by Conroy 17th Inf.



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

3/21/00.

3/22/00.



Put it on the table in
Rear quarters at Camiling.

He telegraphed the facts and
the pen we found and brought
to me. I once or twice

was asleep while riding
horseback from Camiling to
this place ^{the day of the fight} and I supposed
that then I had lost it.

This pen is a very fine
one and I am very much
pleased with it.

I now have two nice pens
received from you since Christmas
and while I thought the
first one you sent me was
such an elegant one, I really
like this pen better.

The very fact that my
own precious darling girl
sent them to me makes
them doubly dear to me.

Bautista, P.I.

April 7th, 1900.

My sweet affectionate precious
darling sweetheart:-

This letter will be
written with a pen, the
fountain pen you last sent me,
that I had given up for lost.

I had taken it with me
during the recent expedition
against Macabulos, had
climbed to the top of the mountains
and in fact almost completed
the trip before I missed the pen.

A Sergeant of the signal
corps overheard me say I
regretted exceedingly the loss
of the pen because you had
sent it to me. He said that
he had seen me use it just
before leaving Camiling and
suggested that perhaps I had

There are many rumors about as to what change
in the state of affairs here the arrival of the commission
from the U.S. will make. They ^{will} come possessed
with plenary powers and are to use, so I understand the
military to carry many of their ideas into execution.

It may be that their arrival will have a good effect
upon the Filipino people that is, the Filipinos may be
more resigned to accept the situation when it has a
civil heat. Let us hope so.

In any event, I believe
the authorities can now cope with the natives and can
in time crush out the rebellious spirit. Just so
much of it will be crushed out and no more. I
think these natives will always be more or less ready
to stir up excitement bordering on a rebellion.

They are treacherous and tricky - surely that is the
general verdict of those of us who have seen here
a year or more and have seen them, that is, lived where
they were during that time.

The unsolved future is before us and I await its solution
with interest and with the hope that I may soon see
my precious blessed darling girl to whom I now send
a word of the deepest sincerest love imaginable.

Ever your own affectionate husband, John.

enjoyed your stay there.

He hesitatingly said, "It seemed to me one of the most forlorn places I had ever seen, but I certainly did enjoy my stay."

"Quite naturally," I said to him, "for you once before told me that is the home of your wife."

Then he went on to tell me of meeting the now "Mrs Corday" some three days later, and of his desperate case of love. We both philosophized over the subject of marriage, and agreed we were better even way now that we are married men.

The conversation naturally led to days of yore when "Darity" was a bachelor at Columbus Barracks. Our conversation gradually drifted to

Bautista, P. I.,

April 10th, 1900

My own darling devoted sweetheart.

Could you have heard my conversation with "Darity" Corday today you would have been amused quite a number of times.

I began with my remark that at about this time a year ago you and I were on the ocean between Singapore and Manila and about one thousand miles out from Manila.

He said, "Well, at this time a year ago I first came to Augusta, Georgia."

Being rather frank with "Darity" as I always have been with him, and seeing a chance for an interesting conversation I said, "I will venture that you

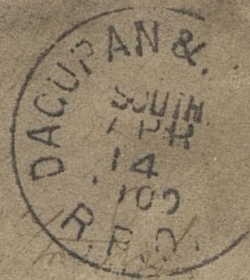
a subject about which you and I have often talked and that is the reported engagement of Miss Harris and Mr. Corday.

I told him very plainly that at one time it was pretty generally understood that they were to be married.

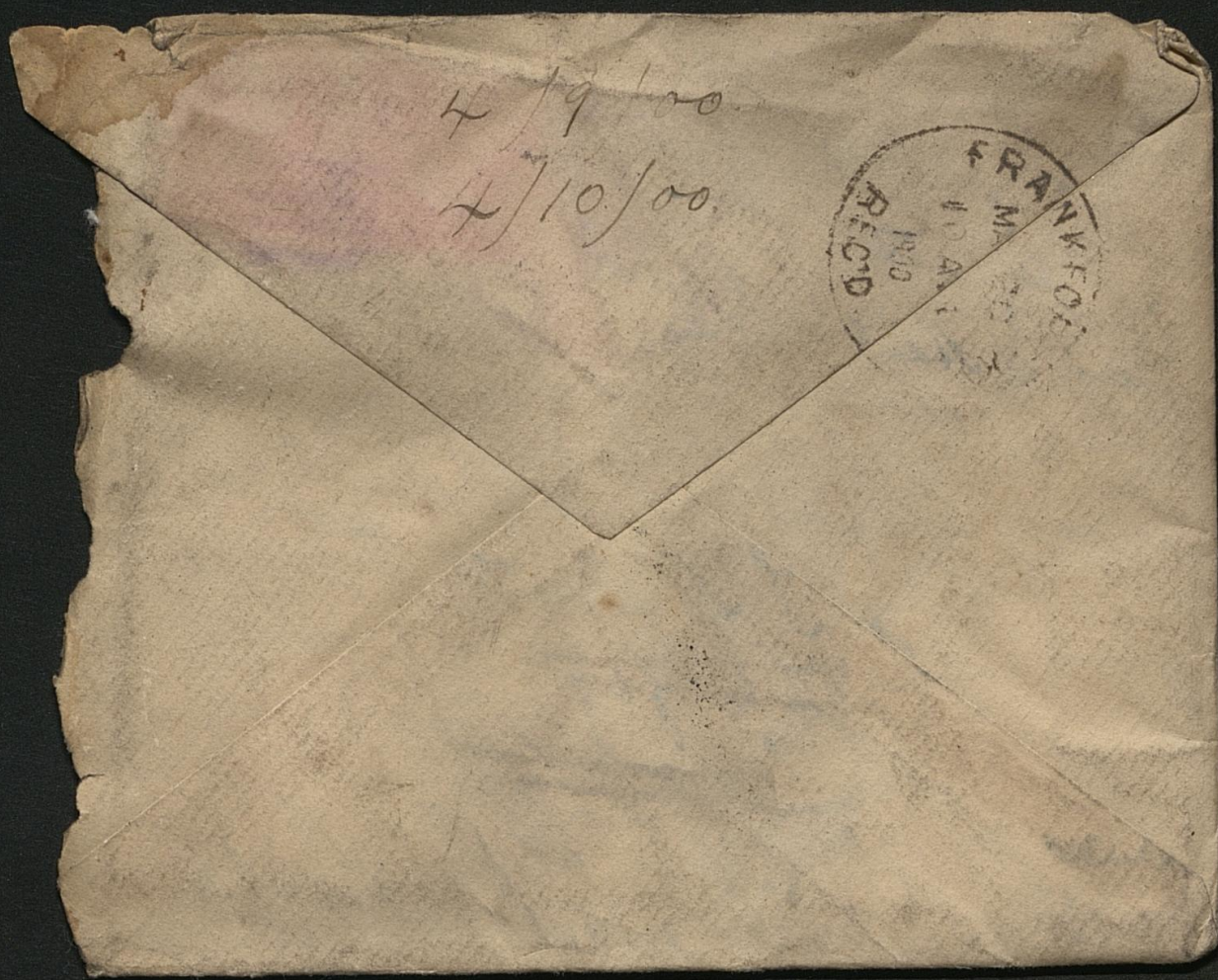
He said: "Well, if you will listen I will tell you all about that," and continued, "When I arrived at Montauk Point, Corday came into my tent and handed me a long note from Miss Harris. He, Corday, at the same time stated I do not know just exactly what has been going on but I am glad to hear of some of it. From his further conversation to me it flashed across my mind at once what he meant so without opening the note, I determined to say nothing at all but to listen to him. I knew there was no cause on ~~my~~ his part for his talk. Some after My Mother asked me what caused the report about Miss Harris and me. I said, I do not know and am not engaged to her. Later I went to Columbus for duty. Miss Harris was at the post but I did not call. I wrote a long note and received from her a reply which shows that nothing existed between us. She felt very much displeased at Corday's actions with me. When I was married she wrote me a nice note of congratulation.

At Columbus Barracks, I tried to be nice and polite to her - that was all as I wanted to make her stay a pleasant one." I told him that at Columbus I thought the same away about him. Now you have the whole story. Oceans and oceans of love from I bring my darling girl. Give ever devoted and affectionate husband Tom.

Soldier's letters -
J. L. Smith,
Lt Lieut 1st Comp



Mrs J. L. Smith,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America



just mentioned he warned me
and told me to see that the
troop of Cavalry got started
promptly and their return again
as he had decided not to personally
conduct operations.

Now since that has been
somewhat of a failure of the
troop to arrive on time

Pin, I splattered ink all
over the top of this page while
trying to get a small piece of
lint out of my pen, but from
the way the pen writes I did
not succeed very well, that is
in removing the lint, but as you
see I splattered the ink all right.

Colonel Smith has decided now
to go to Mayantuc and take
command of the troops so I am
turning advantage of the little
time left before we have to start
and am using it I know in the

Camiling, P.I.,

April 6th, 1900

My own dear darling girl:-

The troops left here as
stated by me in my letter last
night they were but it seems
that some of them became lost
and wandered over unknown trails
the whole night long.

Now has just come in now
that they are together again and
are not far from Mayantuc a
deserted village close to the enemy
and about seven or eight miles
from here.

Colonel Smith decided this
morning at about three o'clock
that he would not go from here
but would have Colonel Pike
conduct the fight in accordance
with instructions previously given
and so accordingly at the hour

very best possible way by writing to my blessed darling girl, the
very sweetest and dearest in this wide wide world.

Of course there is not very much to write here. The place is
so very very quiet so about all I can say is in regard to this
present expedition which now makes every thing all excitement.

I will be glad when it is over. We expect to return here tomorrow
and possibly also to Bautista.

There is one thing here that I rather like to hear and that
is the ringing of the bells. Just why they ring them as they do
I cannot understand. Some say advantage has been taken
by amigos to give warning to their insurrecto friends. No
doubt this has often been done during the war. There really
could hardly be any way of stopping it except by stopping
altogether the ringing of the bells.

I received a very nice letter from Captain Clay a day or
so ago and have looked up the little matters concerning
his company just as he requested me to do. I found that
everything corresponded to his own thoughts in the matter.

I will write to him and explain all.

It is almost time to start so I will say goodbye to you
my own blessed darling girl.

Love and kisses beyond description I now send you

Ever your own devoted & affectionate husband
Tom.

A body of cavalry came along
~~from~~ into Col. Smith's.

Three companies left here soon
after we arrived. Two more
will leave soon, about eleven
o'clock, P.M., and the troops of
cavalry will leave about three
o'clock tomorrow morning.

All are bound for the
insurgent General's, Macabulos',
stronghold in the mountains.

It is not more than about
ten miles south and west of
here and it is expected the
attack on him will be made
early tomorrow morning.

His force, reported to be
about one thousand strong, is
the only known organized
force of the so called Filipinos
armed and it is most desirable
to wipe it out of existence certainly
Scatter it to the four winds.

Camiling, P.I.,
April 5th, 1898.

My own devoted precious darling
sweetheart:-

If this letter is at all
intelligible, I will be very much
surprised for the noise and confusion
in the house in which I am
writing is such that it is almost
impossible to write.

We left Baulista at about six
o'clock in the afternoon of this
date and arrived here about two
hours later.

Major O'Brien with a battalion
composed of companies A, I and D,
left Baulista at four o'clock
in the afternoon and arrived
here just about the time we
did.

Companies L and M are here -
this being their station.

As there are about fifteen or sixteen officers in this one building, a very small building too, you can readily understand the remark I made at the very beginning of my letter.

I will be very glad when the expedition is over, but think this troublesome insurgent element of this section of the island should be taught a severe lesson. Their strong hold undoubtedly will be taken and destroyed.

Colonel Smith asked me to act as his adjutant during the expedition and this is how I happen to be here now.

Lieut Bolton, recently promoted a second Lieutenant in the 17th Infantry, had a scouting party out today, encountered the enemy, killed four of them and wounded one who afterwards died.

From what the Colonel has said, the 17th Infantry will not have much more fighting to do here but will probably go to Manila for duty.

I will not be long now until I can truly say goodmorning to you and it apply for me, that is at midnight here - for it would be almost noon with you.

Before then, I will say goodnight to you and send with it a world of love and an endless number of kisses.

Your own devoted and affectionate husband,
Tom.

Soldier's letter:-

J. L. Smith

1st Lieut 9th Consey 17th Regt



Mrs. J. L. Smith,

Frankfort,

Kentucky,

United States of
America

4/5/00

4/6/00



dearest sweetest darling girl
on earth.

It is raining now - one
of those rains so persistent
that it is very suggestive
that we have a little
more of the rainy season
upon us than we have of
the dry. It is one of
those evenings that remind
us forcibly we are in a
country quite different from
our native land and, making
a comparison, all is in
favor of the land we do
not see but to which
we most earnestly hope
to return soon.

But, in a way, I love

Bautista, P.R.,

June 7th, 1900.

My darling devoted precious
girl - so far away yet so dear
to me.

Three dear sweet letters,
- lost almost at one time
it might be thought yet,
in reality, only delayed -
your precious letters of April
11th to 13th, came to me
in the last mail and
have since been read with
more pleasure than words
alone can describe to you.

I read them over
and over again, and thinking
as I read, knew they
had been sent by the

to hear the pattering of the rain. Last year came mingled with it the sound of bullets. Of that we still have some, but nothing like the amount of one year ago. This means of course that other matters will compare more favorably than they did last. The sick list should be much smaller than it was last year because the exposure to the rains will be less for us. The insurgents knew full well that their many night attacks of last year did us little harm other than to harass us and expose us to the elements.

I would give any thing within the bounds of reason to know I would be with my dear devoted darling girl before the year is over. Nothing could sound sweeter to me than your darling voice and I long for the day when I may again hear it.

As day by day passes there seems to be nothing more that what we had the day before to indicate to us what we might reasonably expect for the future.

I hope for the best and rejoice in the fact there is a blessing awaiting with open arms and a heart full of love to welcome me when I do return and to her I now send love beyond any degree of imagination. Your own dear Tom.

Captain Reichmann leading
the Boers in South Africa.

It seems there are two
men ^{each} named Reichmann
who are with the Boers.

Captain Reichmann will
be very much chagrined I
know, to find that the
impression has gained ground
that he, as is supposed to
be perfectly neutral in his
feelings and certainly so in
his actions, has been
conducting any of the Boer
forces in their operations
against the English.

He is a man of too
high principles to do
any thing like that.

Baylissa, P.I.,
June 8th, 1900.

My own dear sweet precious
darling, devoted girl:-

It has been raining
raining nearly the live-
long day and so much of it
too that whether I write
about it or not, I certainly
am inclined to believe that
the rainy season is upon us.

The fall day, all night
rains such as we had last
year have not started yet.

Today's rain may approximate
very closely to our 1st rain.

You seemed to have read
some of the same accounts
that we did in regard to a

Captain Reichmann is married. His wife and two (I believe it is two) children are in the U.S.

As I read my precious darling's letters about getting dresses ready to be worn in Manila, and getting in readiness other things we would need here, plated knives, forks etc, and in other ways making preparations for a tropical home, I do feel so very sorry that I can not lend any assurance that we may be able to be together for a while yet. I wish I did know just when we could make definite arrangements.

I would be out of the question to think of having you come over here unless I knew that I could be with you to protect you in Manila.

I did feel so certain for a while that we would be ordered to Manila for duty and that you and I could be together again and that during the coming summer. The Colonel's sickness and subsequent departure on sick leave of absence completely changed our prospects or rather chances of moving.

May be it is all for the best and the "silver lining" of the cloud may come out brighter than ever, and we be again together happy strong and well. Such are my prayers and fond wishes. Yours and yours of love from your ever devoted and affectionate husband Tom.

Soldiers' letters:-
J. L. Smith,
Lt Lieut and Comdr 1st Regt



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
The Cliffs,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America.

6/7/00.
6/8/00.

partly answered



thoughts from my precious
girl I so dearly love.

The pencil letters that
my sweet precious girl
thought would arrive here
with the markings so
much defaced by rubbing
while enroute to me that
I would have difficulty
in reading them were as
plain and easy to read as
they could be and were
moreover, like all the
rest, such sweet dear
messengers of love that
it is a pleasure to read
them over and over.

I would give any

Barbista, P. I.,
June 15th, 1900.

My sweet darling Pin - my
precious devoted girl :-

The mail today was
decidedly better than the
usual local one we have
for it brought us the
letters of the U.S. mail
that arrived in Manila
but a day or so ago.

Your dear precious letters
of April 19th and 20th, and
of April 28th to May 14th
constituted my share of
that welcome mail.

Each one of those
dear sweet letters is brimming
over with love and anxious

thing within the bounds of reason to see my
precious darling girl again and hear her sweet dear
voice.

I hope the day is not far distant when peace
will be restored between the United States and the
rest of the world.

I often think of that happy, happy day
when you and I may be together both well, happy,
safe & strong. What fun we could have in
taking pictures that either my darling girl or
myself would like to have. We could help
each other develop the plates, ^{print} tone and mount the
pictures and arrange our album to suit our own
taste in the matter.

We could have a great deal of pleasure too in
printing from old negatives the pleasant reminders of
such happy days of the past.

I fear that if we use "Velox" paper, that
our results will be, like those of your own work that

account of a road about
about thirty miles south
of here, did not get
through.

I am so glad that
our mail came on the
train of June 15th as
otherwise we might have
had to wait for it several
days.

We had to send the
monkey away from headquarters.

They simply became so
mischievous that they could
no longer be endured.

With all of their meanness
the two little ones, - kittens
as they are called here - were

Baúlsta, P.R.,
June 16th, 1900.

My own darling devoted
precious girl:-

The rain rain rain
has continued all day
long, as it did all day
yesterday and the day before,
so that now all the
creeks and rivers of the
country have assumed
proportions such as they
are said to have in the
light of the rainy season.

But one train arrived
here today, the nation
train. I preceded the
military train which on

the meekest and most innocent looking little things I
ever saw.

I never saw anything more amusing than the
fight between the monkey and rooster. I am sure I
related it to you in one of my letters. It was caused
through pure selfishness on the part of the monkey.

The rooster had done nothing other than eat some
corn that some one happened to throw within reach
of the monkey.

The monkey at headquarters took to stealing
every thing about the house. Articles of food, even
eggs, and any bright shiny article would be carried
by them to the top most part of the roof of the
house.

They seemed to know that "Daddy Corcoran" hated them
and they in turn delighted to bother him particularly if
he happened to be taking a nap. He claimed that one
bit his foot one day while he was asleep. I never knew
of their biting anyone else.

Good night my darling girl. Accept a world of love from
your own ever devoted Tom.

that the paper was liable
to any one of a number - some
eight to ten - of different
faults unless managed just
so and so.

If I remember it correctly
these instructions told
in detail how to guard
against each of the faults
of the paper.

A certain amount of
brownish had to be used
got clear white; something
else had to be done to keep
the print from being yellow
etc. etc.

I never worked the paper
satisfactorily although I tried

- 2 -
paper, - very unsatisfactory.

Captain Wren used to
think that "Velox" paper was
such a fine paper yet he
never, so far as I could
judge, obtained as good
results with it as he did
with other kinds of paper.

In the box in which
the paper comes, - or else
issued separately in pamphlet
form by the manufacturer -
there came a set of instructions
regarding the toning printing
etc of the paper (Velox) and
these very instructions were
in themselves an acknowledgment

admit I never used it more than three or four times.

The best - all things considered - paper I ever used was "Aristo Platino." It required a double toning bath - one gold, one platinum - but it was easy to manipulate and gave uniform results. It required sunlight to print. Do handle with care and fingers, unless the paper is wet with fingers wet also, red spots will appear. It should never be wet until after the picture has been printed.

Bromide is a nice paper for printing by artificial light but is very sensitive to light - as much so as a photographic plate and of course requires a great deal of care.

How I must love to be actually with my precious sweetheart and how the little I do know about photography instead of telling. It is now and then

With the very greatest possible amount imaginable of deep sincere love I am
your own devoted and affectionate husband
Tom

Soldier's letter:-

J. L. Smith,
1st Lieut ^{Regt} 2nd



Mrs J. L. Smith,
The Cliffs,
Frankfort,

Kentucky,
United States of
America



ordered - and some one else
that there is no foundation^{for}
the report that any regiment
other than the 9th Infantry
is to go.

The stories that we hear
are that some one heard
some one else say that he
had heard that some one
else had said etc., thus
making what little we
do hear so very unreliable
that it is more satisfactory
to get no report at all
than to receive such unreliable
ones.

We miss our former rank

Bautista, P.I.,

June 21st, 1900

My devoted precious darling
Sweetheart:-

Just at this time
when we receive no
newspapers and there is a
movement of troops to China,
we get meager details of
the affair in the form
of reports that are passed
from one person to another
until they finally reach our
ears.

The person says that
such and such regiments are
to go to China - another that
these regiments have been

road communication ^{with Manila} in more ways than one.

A small steamer, "The Alfred" is to be sent to Dagupan with provisions and other stores about the latter part of the month and we hope in some way to get our mail taken by that boat to Manila on its return trip there. In case of a delay in sending mail from Manila to the United States - and this will most likely occur now inasmuch as the transports are to be held for the purpose of taking troops to China if necessary - our mail may reach the United States after all just about as soon as it would have done had not the rail-road wreck out occurred.

The troops that are south of the wreck out, that is, between the wreck out and Manila are certainly faring much better than those between the wreck out and Dagupan.

But we have much to be thankful for as it seems that the most troublesome insurgent leaders of this section have come in and surrendered within the last month. Every thing is quiet for miles around. With kisses galore and an infinity of love I am, ever your affectionate and devoted husband, Tom.

It seemed to gradually die
out last September and during
the month of October one
would have been ready to
say the rainy season was
surely over yet, as a matter
of fact it was not. During
the next month, November,
and we were then on the
march - we had many severe
rains.

The month of October
was though, according to my
own ideas, about the pleasantest
month of the entire year.
December, January and February
were very pleasant ones too.
Towards the latter part of

Bautista, P.R.,

June 22nd, 1900.

My own darling sweet dear,
precious Pin -

There has been just
enough sunlight for the
past few days to make
one begin to think it is
not perhaps altogether a
settled fact that all of
the dry season has gone.

I have about consoled
myself to the fact that
the rainy season is here and
I even go further and begin
to calculate how long it
will last.

March the warm weather began and has continued ever since not differing greatly from that of the corresponding time last year.

I told Mr. R. C. Davis I had sent several months ago his kind remembrance as he had requested and now has, through a letter from you, received kind remembrance from all at your home.

He told me to say, besides sending remembrance again to you - each and every one, that he was indeed glad to hear in this manner from you.

He and I have been trying to arrange to have Captain Chubb, the Quartermaster, build us two rooms as an addition to the headquarters building and as a place in which we may live.

Mr. Davis will move to this place within a day or so and will probably be on duty here for some considerable time.

I admire him ever so much and know that he is a thorough little gentleman and officer.

Goodbye my precious sweetheart. Accept more kisses than can be described by numbers and more love than any words ~~ever~~ can convey.
Your ever devoted and affectionate husband
Tom.

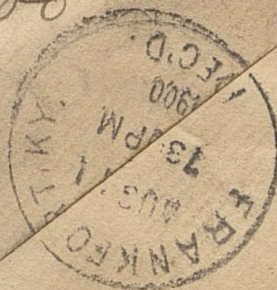
Soldiers letter:-
J. L. Smith,
Lieut J Conroy / Ten Inf.



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
The Cliff,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

6/21/00

6/22/00



holiday to do some unlawful
~~act~~ - perhaps make an
attack upon the little garrison
here.

Ordinarily we have our
little outposts far enough
to ~~run~~ away from the
main command to warn us
of any hostile movements on
the part of natives or of
any thing that we should
properly know in order to
thoroughly protect the place.

The natives so inclined
could come in under the
guise of taking part in, or as
mere spectators of, the holiday
program, and then suddenly

Bautista, P.I.,
June 23rd, 1900.

My sweet dear precious Pin:-
This has been a feast
day with the Filipinos
inhabitants of this little
town. Bands have been
playing - they are now
even at this late hour -
all day long.

Pony races, foot races,
sack races &c have formed
a part of the day's
program.

The idea was suggested
to the Commanding Officer
that perhaps some advantage
might be taken of this

make their attack.

In order that no advantage should be thus granted the natives, the Commanding Officer had one additional company sent here to help patrol the streets. As a result patrols, that is, three to four armed men have been going from place to place all ~~over~~^{over} this little town the whole day long.

The Presidente of the place informed the Commanding Officer long ago that the Filipinos desired to celebrate this day and asked permission to do it. He also extended an invitation for all the officers to attend a dance to be given at night on this, the date set. None of us will of course go as it would give the Filipinos too much of an opportunity to take advantage of our absence from the main body of troops.

You can thus see about how much, ^{or rather how little} faith we place in the Filipinos who are in our very midst.

Let in greater quantities than the most fertile imagination can even suggest. Your ever devoted and affectionate Tom.

Today is "Saint John, the Baptist's" day, and the Filipinos certainly do prefer on that day for a great deal of enjoyment.

The bands have played as much today as they did yesterday and that means all day and still playing at present writing.

Early this morning we noticed men women and children throwing water at each other and seeming to enjoy it very much.

One band came on the early morning train (we still have trains between here and

Bautista, P. I.,
June 24th, 1900.

My darling sweet girl - my precious devoted Pin:-

The holidays of the Filipinos have been so many during the past two weeks that it is difficult to get laborers to complete the construction of the necessary store houses here for the rainy season period.

I trust that today is the last of the present series of their holidays.

Perhaps they will not have another holiday for at least three or four days!

Dagupan but none to Manila) and had hardly formed
ready to march to the scene of festivities when they
were met by children of all ages who seemed to take
the greatest delight in throwing water on these bandmen.

Every thing was taken very good naturedly by all concerned.

Some of the young Filipinos will place two large
jars of water about eight or ten feet apart, and then
call for children. The latter will come each with a
half coconut shell and as sure as any of them venture for
the water in a jar some one of the children at the other
jar will start a regular "water fight" in which there
seems to be more fun and hilarity than one would ever think.

Another thing I noticed today was a man with a
piece of bamboo pole in his hand. This he held above his
head and during the whole time made a speech, so it would
seem, to the children around him. Suddenly he would give this
bamboo stick to some child who would run with it and all the
other children would cheer and run after the child with the stick.

Thus has the day been spent.

Love in great quantities than can be described,
Ever your devoted and affectionate husband, Tom.

Belling's letter:-
J. L. Smith,
1st Lieut. 9th Cavalry



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
The Cliffs,
Frankfort,
Kentucky,
United States of
America

f 23/00.

f 24/00.



TELEGRAMA TRANSMITIDO
TELEGRAM SENT.

No. No.	SENDER. TELT.	RECEIVER. TELT.	TIME. TIEMPO.

U. S. SIGNAL CORPS.

Form 124.

CUERPO DE SEÑALES DE LOS E. U. A.

3-1577

FILED
DEPOSITADO

RECEIVED BY
RECIBIDO POR

CHECK
PALABRAS

To
A

DIRECCION
ADDRESS

Malasiqui, Iloilo, December 26th, 1900.

My own devoted darling girl:-
He arrived here at about half past eight this morning and at about half past nine started to Cebu arriving there at about eleven A.M. He left there at five P.M. arriving here at about half past seven P.M. The trip was interesting and amusing - all the little details of which I will tell you when my return. Mr. Pickard's pony fell down in the mud and its nostrils filled up with the sticky mud. He had to get off in the mud and, to keep the pony from choking, pull mud out of its nostrils. Some of the party lost their hats and became

El Gobierno no acepta responsabilidad por el servicio de la correspondencia telegráfica privada, ni responde de la identidad de la persona que los consigna, ni indemniza los perjuicios que pudieran resultar del retraso, mala interpretación de los textos ó pérdida de los despachos.

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The minimum charge on any message will be the regular tariff for ten words.

La tarifa minima sera de diez palabras.

TELEGRAMA TRANSMITIDO
TELEGRAM SENT.

No. No.	SENDER. TELT.º	RECEIVER. TELT.º	TIME. TIEMPO.

U. S. SIGNAL CORPS.

FORM 124.

CUERPO DE SEÑALES DE LOS E. U. A.

3-1577

FILED
DEPOSITADO

RECEIVED BY
RECIBIDO POR

2

CHECK
PALABRAS

To }
A }

FROM }
DE }

DIRECCION }
ADDRESS }

more or less busy elct in the bush. It was a life
dash when we reached here on the return trip
We will go to Bautista and Bayamón tomorrow.
Both of these places are on the railroad. I
telegraph daily over wharabrats so if you ever wish
to know where we are just telephone District
Headquarters (4 rings), and ask for McCurtin, the
chief clerk and he will give you the latest report
and I be glad to do it I know.
Kisses galore and an unboundless love to the girl
I miss so much & love so deeply. Your own Tom.
This can not reach you before about 5 PM tomorrow.

El Gobierno no acepta responsabilidad por el servicio de la correspondencia telegráfica privada, ni responde de la identidad de la persona que los consigna, ni indemniza los perjuicios que pudieran resultar del retraso, mala interpretación de los textos ó pérdida de los despachos.

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Please have this letter delivered to Mrs. Smith!

From
1st Lt. J. L. Smith, Phil.



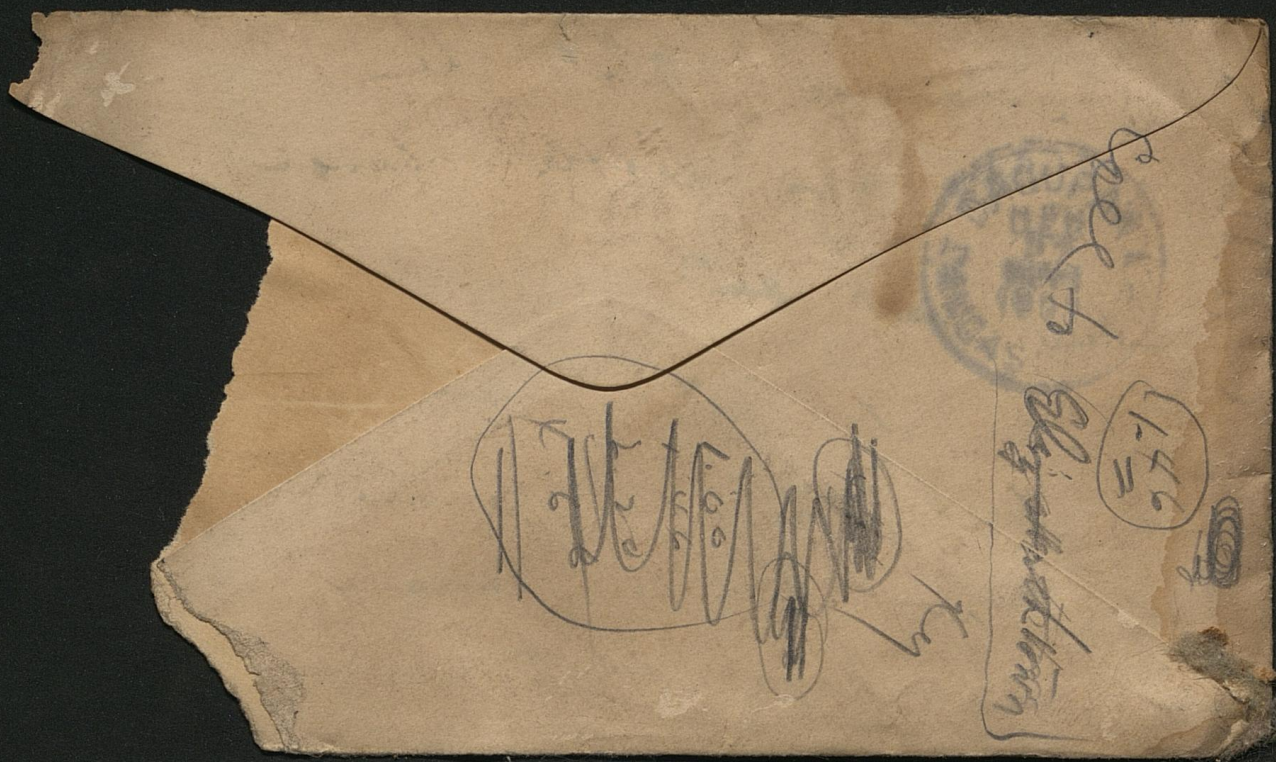
Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Baguayan,
Pangasinan
P. I.

Please deliver to Mrs. Smith !!



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Daguapan,
Pangasinan
P.I.

Handwritten notes on the left side of the envelope, including "Mrs. J. L. Smith" and "175 Inf".



Rosales, P.I., Dec. 2nd, 1900.

My own devoted precious darling girl -

I will try now to write
no more than just what will tell
you where we have been and where
we are going. Yesterday we went
from Dagupan to Malasiqui thence to
Cabanatuan and return to Malasiqui where
we remained over night.

This morning we went from
Malasiqui to Bantista thence to
the place where we now are. We
will leave here and go to Alcala
in time to stay at the latter
place over night. Alcala is not
far from Bantista, - about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Tomorrow, the 28th instant we
will spend in Bantista and Canuling
but will spend the night in Bantista.

On the morning of the 29th instant
we will go from Bantista to Tarlac
and will, I think, return on the

30th to Dagupan I can not
tell absolutely certain yet but am
merely trying to tell you what will
probably be the case.

I will telegraph you about
our return. You know the train
is due at 3:00 PM. so on the
day I telegraph that we will
return please send coming to train.

I do miss you so much
and have thought all day
long about this, - the anniversary of
our wedding day.

I am actually too tired from
riding horseback to write an
intelligent note or to make it
half as long as I wish.

So then with contented heart
and love in untold amount I
am going to go to bed.

Yours and dear love
Who loves you the best & dearly.

Please -
letter delivered to
Mrs Smith at house



Mrs. J. L. Smith,
Dacupan,
P. I.

