SPANISH–AMERICAN WAR AND PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR COLLECTION
CA. 1898–CA. 1901

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes of photographs, 1 OVC photograph box, 1 box of stereographs, 1 flat file item

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1898–ca. 1901

PROVENANCE: Multiple

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:


NOTES: See also: Bock Brothers Collection (P 0276); Harry H. Huey Photographs of the Spanish-American War (P 0277); Albert E. Handley Collection (P 0481); Henry F. Goedecke Philippine-American War Diary (SC 2764); W.E. Biederwolf, History of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry (General Collection: E726.I3 B5 1899); Bowers, Geo. B., History of the 160th Ind. Vol. Infantry in the Spanish-American War (General Collection: E726.I3 B68 1900); Indiana Adjutant General's Office, Record of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899 (General Collection: E726.I3 I3 1900)
HISTORICAL SKETCH

On 25 April 1898, the United States declared war on Spain. The war ended on 10 December of the same year with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which resulted in Spain losing control over Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guam, and other islands. The war was a turning point in world politics, resulting in Spain’s loss of power and an increase in power for the U.S.

Beginning in 1492, Spain was the first European nation to explore and colonize in the Western Hemisphere. At its greatest extent, Spain’s empire extended from Virginia south to the tip of South America (excluding Brazil), and west to California and Alaska, and across the Pacific to include the Philippines and other island groups. By 1825 much of this empire had fallen into other hands, except for Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine, Carolina, Marshall, and Mariana Islands.

In the late 1800s, Cuba was the first of Spain’s remaining possessions to initiate its own struggle for independence. In 1895 President Grover Cleveland proclaimed U.S. neutrality in the Cuban insurrection, but by the end of 1896, he declared that the U.S. may take action in Cuba if Spain failed to resolve the crisis there. Relations between the U.S. and Spain deteriorated, and when the battleship U.S.S. Maine was sunk by a mine in Havana harbor on 15 February 1898, Spain was blamed. “Remember the Maine!” became a battle cry in many American newspapers. On 11 April 1898, President William McKinley requested authorization from Congress to intervene in Cuba to put an end to the war between Cuban revolutionaries and Spain.

In Indiana, Governor James A. Mount was notified on 25 April by the Secretary of War that the state must supply four regiments of infantry and two light batteries of artillery. Mount immediately called for over 4,000 men to meet at the state fairgrounds to be mustered into service. From this first call, Indiana Volunteer regiments 157 through 160 were formed, continuing the numbering from the Civil War Indiana Volunteer regiments. Also mustered in were the 27th and 28th Light Batteries, Company D of the 2nd U.S. Engineers, and the 14th Company of the U.S. Signal Corps. Indiana was the first state to meet its full quota of troops. A month later, on 25 May, McKinley called for 75,000 more volunteers. The Indiana quota for this second round was one regiment of infantry and two companies of black volunteers. Many of the volunteer soldiers never left the U.S., but were stationed in camps in southern and eastern states, as well as in Indianapolis.

Meanwhile in the Philippines, reforms were sought in Spain’s administration of the islands. At first peaceful means were tried, but soon some decided that only through armed revolution could the problems be solved.

By 1890 U.S. foreign policy had been influenced by those who advocated the taking of the Caribbean, Hawaiian, and Philippine islands for bases to protect U.S. commerce and to enable fleet movement from ocean to ocean. Following the U.S.’s declaration of war on Spain, the first U.S. troops were sent to the Philippines from San Francisco on 25 May 1898. The Philippine Expeditionary Force (Eighth Army Corps) arrived at Cavite, Philippines, on 1 June.

On 15 June, the American Anti-Imperialist League was organized in opposition to the colonization of the Philippines. Among its members were Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, and former president of Indiana University, David Starr Jordan.
A peace protocol was signed by the U.S. and Spain on 12 August, but U.S. troops assaulted Manila the very next day, “unaware that peace had broken out.” The U.S. war with Spain ended on 10 December, with Spain acknowledging Cuba’s independence, ceding Puerto Rico and Guam to the U.S., and selling the Philippines to the U.S. for $20,000,000. More than 5,000 American soldiers had died during the war, but only 379 deaths were battle casualties. The rest died from disease in camps in the U.S. and on foreign soil. Indiana had supplied a total of 7,421 volunteers and 1,000 regular army soldiers to the war. The number of Hoosiers who died during the war was seventy-three; all died from disease.

Philippine revolutionists had declared their fight for the independence of their islands on 1 December 1898. On 21 December, President McKinley instructed the U.S. army occupying the Philippines to use force as necessary to impose American sovereignty over the islands. On 1 January 1899, a new president was declared in the new Philippine Republic, but the U.S. refused to recognize the new government. The Philippines condemned the “violent and aggressive seizure” by the U.S., and threatened war on 4 January. A month later, the Philippine Republic declared war on the U.S. forces in the islands, following the killing of three Filipino soldiers by U.S. forces. The Philippine–American War did not end until July 1902, with more than 4,200 U.S. soldiers, 20,000 Filipino soldiers, and 200,000 Filipino civilians dead.

Sources:


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of black-and-white photographs and a few illustrations related to the Spanish–American and Philippine–American wars. Indiana regiments are depicted as well as some general military scenes of the era. The collection is arranged into fourteen series as described below.

Series 1, 157th Indiana Volunteer Infantry: Colonel George M. Studebaker; group portrait of other officers; group portraits of identified volunteers from Allen, DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben counties in Indiana. One non-photographic item: certificate for the commission of Aubrey L. Kuhlman as Major.

Series 2, 158th Indiana Volunteer Infantry: One photograph of Co. D soldiers in camp at mealtime, with Lorenzo D. Blessing identified (plus duplicate enlarged copy); portrait of Lorenzo D. Blessing in uniform.

Series 3, 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry: Group portrait of identified volunteers from Putnam County; soldiers of Company L (some identified).

Series 4, 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Photographs that May have Belonged to 2nd Lt. Paul S. Brownlee: 130 photographs that probably belonged to Lt. Brownlee (many photos have his name written on back, and he appears in several photos), primarily of Co. K of the 159th Indiana, but a few other groups are pictured also. Images include camp scenes, soldiers, railroad scenes, and Arlington National Cemetery. Lt. Brownlee was from Princeton in Gibson County, Indiana.

Series 5, 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry: Portrait of soldier James M. Burrier; soldiers in camp scenes; two printed illustrations of camp scenes at Columbus, Georgia, and Lexington, Kentucky, drawn by Robert E. Powers of Co. C.

Series 6, Photographs that Belonged to Captain Joseph R. Harrison of the 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry: Soldiers; camp scenes; railroad scenes; Lookout Mountain; a national cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee; distant view of a city (possibly Chattanooga); railroad alongside businesses (possibly Fitchburg, Massachusetts). Joseph R. Harrison, the son of James and Mary Harrison, was born 28 May 1862 in Noble County, Indiana, and later lived in Whitley County. He was captain of Company G, 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and senior captain in the Fourth Infantry Indiana National Guard. (There is a brief biography of him in History of the 160th Ind. Vol. Infantry in the Spanish-American War by Geo. B. Bowers, pp. 139–140; General Collection: E726.I3 B68 1900)

Series 7, 161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry: Regiment musicians; camp scenes in Jacksonville, Florida.
Series 8, 14th Company, U.S. Signal Corps: One photograph of Captain Charles T. MacIntire in camp at Jacksonville, Florida.

Series 9, 27th Light Battery: See P 0402, series 25, box 2, for stereograph of soldiers awaiting embarkation.

Series 10, 28th Light Battery: Group portrait of identified volunteers from Allen County; one photograph of soldiers in field with cannons (Clyde Snowberger is identified).

Series 11, 5th Infantry, Company E: Group portrait (Thos. Hynes identified); company quarters in Calasiao, Pangasinan, Philippine Islands.

Series 12, Unidentified Views from the Spanish–American War: Unidentified soldiers; camp scene.

Series 13, Stereographs Collected by Argus E. Ogborn: Soldiers; camp scenes; officers including Theodore Roosevelt, Leonard Wood, and Joseph Wheeler; President McKinley; parades honoring Admiral George Dewey. Argus Ogborn (1905–1992), from Richmond, Indiana, was a collector of memorabilia and artifacts. He was a Department of Indiana Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: 157th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

CONTENTS

Colonel George M. Studebaker (1865–1939) (enrolled 26 April 1898, age 32; born in South Bend, Ind.; manufacturer; son of Clement Studebaker).

Group portrait of Field and Staff Officers; picture taken in the fall of 1898, while Colonel Studebaker was ill. Front row: 1st Lt. Chas. Collins, Battalion Adjutant; Major Edwin H. Fitzgerald; Major George W. Feasor; Lt. Colonel Will T. May; Major A.L. Kuhlman; Major Walter W. Barnett, Chief Surgeon. Standing: Chaplain Charles S. Medbury; 1st Lt. Harry Ford, Battalion Adjutant; Captain Elmer D. Rex, Regimental Adjutant; Captain Harman L. Hutson, Commissary Officer; 1st Lt. John C. Noel, Battalion Adjutant; Captain Charles E. Barnett, Assistant Surgeon. Lt. Colonel May was a Regular Army officer. Lieut. John C. Noel was Adjutant of Major A.L. Kuhlman’s Third Battalion.

“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “Steuben County” Boys Mustered into the Service of the United States May 10, 1898, for the Spanish–American War. / Co. H, 157th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry / The ‘Indiana Tigers’ officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind. / Thursday, Oct. 13, 1898.” Shows ninety-three men in uniform; includes a list of names with ranks.

“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “DeKalb County” Boys Mustered into the Service of the United States May 10, 1898, for the Spanish–American War. / Co. I, 157th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry / The ‘Indiana Tigers’ officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind.” Shows seventy-four men mostly in uniform; includes a list of names with ranks.
“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “Noble County Boys
Mustered into the Service of the United States May 10, 1898, for the Spanish–American War. / Co. L, 157th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry / Indiana ‘Tigers’ officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind.” Shows seventy-eight men in uniform; includes a list of names with ranks.

“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “Allen County Boys
Mustered into the Service of the United States May 10, 1898, for the Spanish–American War. / Co. B, 157th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry / The Indiana ‘Tigers’ officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind.” Shows eighty-two men in uniform; includes a list of names with ranks.

Certificate for the commission of Aubrey L. Kuhlman as Major, 10 May 1898, signed by Governor James A. Mount and Adjutant General of Indiana James K. Gore.

Series 2: 158th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

CONTENTS

Portrait of Lorenzo D. Blessing, seated, in uniform, holding rifle, with stars and stripes bunting in background. [Blessing was born in Virginia (ca. 1871), but a resident of Mapleton, Ind., when he enlisted 26 April 1898; was appointed Artificer on 1 Sept. 1898, and mustered out 4 November 1898.]

“Co. D Mess.” Shows more than fifty men gathered for a meal on the grass, with tents in the background (photo by Knaffl Bros. of Knoxville, Tenn.). Lorenzo D. Blessing is identified.

“Co. D Mess.” Enlarged copy photo of image described above, showing more than fifty men gathered for a meal on the grass, with tents in the background (photo by Knaffl Bros. of Knoxville, Tenn.). Lorenzo D. Blessing is identified.
Series 3: 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

CONTENTS

“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “Putnam County Boys
Mustered into the Service of the United States May 12, 1898, for the Spanish–American War. / Co. I, 159th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry / officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind.” Shows approximately 100 men in uniform; includes a list of names with ranks.

Twenty-five men of Company L gathered at mealtime. The face of one man has been circled in ink, and “John E. Hartigan” is written on back.

Twelve men of Company L standing together; names written on back: Lewis Holman, Harry Walls, Andy Roseman, Win(?) Robinson, Will Kennedy, Smiley Johnson, Lee Purcell, Robert Simpson, John Bayard, Maurice Bayard, Charles Thuis(?), and Marion Fellon(?).

Series 4: 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Photographs that May have Belonged to 2nd Lt. Paul S. Brownlee

CONTENTS

Twelve small photos of camp scenes; a few people are identified: 1st Lt. [James E.] Thomas of Co. B and wife; 2nd Lt. [James F.] McCurdy of Co. C; and an orderly Strickland.

Early August 1898, Virginia (Burke’s Station, Bull Run, and Haymarket)—ten photos of camp scenes and scenery; one photo shows “tent built especially to escape malaria [?] due to damp ground.” The 159th Indiana, the 6th Pennsylvania, and 7th Illinois regiments are pictured.


Arlington National Cemetery—seven photos, including the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Dead, the William Worth Belknap monument, Lt. Col. George W. McCoy sitting by the tomb of George Crook, and an unidentified soldier sitting by the tomb of George Crook.

Return trip to Indiana from Pennsylvania (11–12 September 1898)—eight photos show wagon train waiting to haul things to the train, railroad, scenery seen from the train such as the Susquehanna River, and a stop at Union Station in Columbus, Ohio. (One photo of the Susquehanna has the date “11/18/98” written on the back of it.)

Unknown locations—13 photos of camp scenes and unidentified soldiers. One photo is identified as possibly being of Stable Sgt. [James R.] Taylor. One photo shows a soldier shaving another. One photo shows “American Tobacco Co distributing tobacco to members of 159 Ind Vol. Each man received ½ # Battle Axe Plug/ 2 Pkgs. Dukes Mixture/ Matches/ Cigarette Papers.”

Unknown locations—23 photos of camp scenes, scenery, railroad, and unidentified soldiers. One photo is identified as possibly being of Stable Sgt. [James R.] Taylor. One photo shows an African-American man with a white beard; below the photo is written: “A Typical Virginia Darkey”; on the back of the photo is written: “A Reminder of Slavery.”

Cabinet card portraits—five photos: duplicate portraits probably of Paul S. Brownlee seated in front of a tent at Camp Alger, Virginia (one is signed “Paul” on back) (28 June 1898, photo by World’s Fair Photo View Co. of Washington, DC); “Shorty” Hall (possibly John Hall or Wilber Hall) in his tent at Thoroughfare, Virginia (August 1898); possibly Pvt. George L. Lucas at Camp Alger, Virginia (July 1898, photo by World’s Fair Photo View Co. of Washington, DC); Charles Thulke standing with a rifle in front of a tent with other soldiers in the background (signed on back) (26 August 1898).

**Series 5: 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry**

**CONTENTS**

Cabinet card portrait of James M. Burrier, Co. A, Camp Hamilton, Ky., 16 October 1898.


Seven scenes of soldiers in camp shown by tents, eating together, reading together, etc. (several photos by Watson Bros. of Warsaw, Ind.). One shows a woman and man outside of a tent (photo by Hessel & Ralston of Warsaw, Ind.).

Copy photograph of soldiers lined up aiming their rifles. Written on back: “Firing by Volley” (neg. # B14).

Series 6: Photographs that Belonged to Captain Joseph R. Harrison of the 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

CONTENTS
Various camp scenes showing lots of soldiers, tents, and some musicians. (Photographs are numbered 2–17 [missing 1, 6, 9, 11, 14, 18, and 19]).

Various camp and railroad scenes; Lookout Mountain; a national cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee; distant view of a city (possibly Chattanooga); railroad alongside businesses (possibly Fitchburg, Massachusetts). (Photographs are numbered 20, 26, 28, 30, 34, 40, 46, 48, 50, 63, and 67).

Series 7: 161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry

CONTENTS
Twenty soldier musicians with wind instruments and drums in a round uncovered structure made of bamboo. Written on back: “Band stand of The 161 Ind Built of Bambo[o] cane & covered with Royal Palm leaf making a Handsome Home for Practice Cool and shady.” List of regimental band members from Biederwolf, p. 428.

Two faded camp scenes in Jacksonville, Florida. Written on the back of one: “Near Head Quarters 161 Ind / Breaking Camp Jacksonville / Col Durbins baggage in foreground.”

Series 8: 14th Company, U.S. Signal Corps

CONTENTS
Captain Charles T. MacIntire using a typewriter outside his tent at Camp Cuba Libre in Jacksonville, Florida, 27 August 1898 (neg. # A53).
Series 9: 27th Light Battery Indiana Volunteers

CONTENTS

Twenty-seventh Indiana Light Battery awaiting embarkation (stereograph published by C.H. Graves, Philadelphia, Pa., ca. 1898).

CONTAINER

See P 0402, series 25, box 2

Series 10: 28th Light Battery Indiana Volunteers

CONTENTS

“Our Gallant Volunteers” – “Allen County Boys
Mustered into the Service of the United States May 12, 1898, for the Spanish-American War. / Grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, Indianapolis, Ind., on Thursday morning, Sept. 8, 1898” Shows 114 identified men in uniform; also includes a list of names of those not pictured. (In wood frame with glass.)

Approximately forty-five men in uniform standing in a field with cannons; trees and a bridge in background. Clyde Snowberger is identified as the fifth from the left, standing behind cannon (1898).

CONTAINER

Flat File 2-a

Photographs, OVC Box 1, Folder 10

Series 11: 5th Infantry, Company E

CONTENTS

Group portrait of about thirty men in uniform (photo by J.D. Givens of San Francisco, Calif.). Written on back: “Thos Hynes / Spanish War / Indianapolis / Co E – 5th Inf. / Hynes could be the 3d from Left – Front Row, I am not sure / from J Niblack / 5/16/[19]67.” (J.D. Givens was the Presidio's civilian 'post photographer' from 1899 to 1933.)

Photographs, OVC Box 1, Folder 1

“Quarters E. Co. 5th Infty. Calasiao PI” shows large building with uniformed men outside of it, in Calasiao, Pangasinan, Philippine Islands. Written on back: “Thos Hynes / from J Niblack.”

Photographs, Box 1, Folder 9
Series 12: Unidentified Views from the Spanish–American War

CONTENTS
Contact sheet with three images: soldiers with a cart outside a building (copy neg. # 2855); soldiers by steps outside a building (copy neg. # 2857); camp scene with horses (copy neg. # 2856).

Copy photograph of soldiers with a cart outside a building (copy neg. # 2855).

CONTAINER
Photographs, Box 1, Folder 10

Series 13: Stereographs Collected by Argus E. Ogborn

CONTENTS
Eight stereographs of soldiers and camps, including Cuba, Florida, and Virginia. One shows “soldiers and their sweethearts on the eve of departure for Manila” gathered by ships.

Stereograph of a picture of Rear Admiral William T. Sampson that is surrounded by flowers and star-covered cloth (published by Littleton View Co. of Littleton, NH, 1898).


President McKinley visiting Major General Wheeler in his tent at Camp Wikoff, Montauk Point, New York (© Strohmeyer & Wyman, 1898).

CONTAINER
Stereographs, Box 1
West Point cadets passing under the triumphal arch during the celebration honoring Admiral George Dewey in New York, 30 September 1899 (© Strohmeyer & Wyman, 1899).

President McKinley, Secretary of War Elihu Root, and Admiral George Dewey at celebration honoring Dewey in Washington, D.C., on 3 October 1899 (published by Underwood & Underwood).


President McKinley speaking before crowd in Quincy, Illinois (© Strohmeyer & Wyman, 1900).

President McKinley’s second inauguration, Washington, D.C., 4 March 1901 (published by Underwood & Underwood).

“President McKinley leaving the Church after addressing the Grand Army, Pacific Grove, California” (© Underwood & Underwood, 1901).

**Series 14: Battleships**

**CONTENTS**
