

Siassi,

March 22, 1904.

My own dear darling precious girls, big  
and little:-

I have just returned (that is  
a few hours ago) from a march. We left  
here yesterday morning, and camped out  
over night.

I am now going tonight to a little  
island near Captain Hunt's place, Bongao,  
to get a man, who stole a young girl and  
carried her off to slavery, and I hope to  
get back day after tomorrow morning.

All I have time to write is that I am  
well, and want to get this message of  
love off~~ff~~ to you.

As ever your own devoted husband,

*Tom*



Mrs. T. L. Smith,

In care Mrs. R. P. Pepper,

Frankfort,

Kentucky.

3-22-04.

JOHNSTON  
25  
MAR  
1904  
JOLOISLE

1904  
730 P  
MAY 28  
E. P. HANCOCK  
N. Y.



but was uncertain because of the fact that the cablegram was repeated from Cottobato, and its date lost in transmission somewhere.

I am glad you subscribed for the A. & N. Journal because it affords you a quick way to learn of certain army changes, of certain things your friends are doing, etc., etc. It certainly is more or less interesting to all persons in the army, or who have dear friends in it.

Lena's request for a pearl will be given my attention, but she need not worry about the payment as we can arrange that later on. I will have no cause for worry either (you see I will have the pearl all the time, - this is a joke of course), so the best way then is for me to buy the pearl when the chance is offered me, and when I bring it to the U. S. we will arrange for the payment. I bought <sup>a day or so ago</sup> a couple of fair pearls (one is a very pretty little one that will set nicely, and the other one is larger and is nice on one side) for ten dollars Mexican. Mr. Shaw guessed that I paid twelve dollars Mexican, which price he calculates to be such that twice that amount can be obtained when the pearl <sup>are</sup> is sold.

Siassi,

April 12, 1904.

My precious family of girls:-

Your welcome letters received from sixth to twenty-fourth last, and read them over with much interest. They came yesterday, and will be followed likely by some more very soon as we have been informed the Liscum arrived at Jolo today with a great# deal of States' mail.

The dear little sayings of "Baby Miff" as you now seem to call her (and she seems also to call herself) seem strange that she can say until one counts the time that has elapsed since last I saw that darling baby. They would fill a volume that would be most readable matter to us. I read each and all of these things with the greatest pleasure.

Your letters told me definitely that "little Finnie" was born February 10th, and I also saw the same news in the Army and Navy Journal that came in last mail. I judged from the cablegram received that the date of birth was February 10th,

*There was another juramentado in Jolo two days ago. A sergeant killed him before any Americans were killed.*

Enclosed herewith is a postal card that Sergeant Madden evidently tried to get to reach you. Also enclosed herewith is a letter from the SULTAN OF SULU. It is addressed to me, and pertains to certain property that his royal highness owns in the town of Siassi. I have sent you the envelope and all so that you can see how my name and title looks in Arabic. The SULTAN'S signature is explained by means of my pencil notations. I could sell that signature if I wanted to do so, but I thought you might like to have it because of the fact that he has been more or less prominent from the time of the Bates' treaty made with him to the time of the recent fighting in Jolo.

The signature is at the top of the page you will observe. The writing has to be read from right to left too.

I am going to Manta on the east coast of this island tomorrow, and thence to the small island of Laminusa, which is there very close to Siassi Island. I will be gone two days, and of course will not have an opportunity to write in the meantime.

Last night I just felt too blue to write. I pulled out my letters from the pile one by one, not daring to sort to see just what I had, and hoped against hope that surely one would be from that dear departed Father, -perhaps his very last one to me-, and if one more mail does not bring it, then hope must be abandoned forever and ever.

It simply unfits me to think of it. I remained awake till one o'clock because I knew how wakeful it would make me to try to sleep with the thoughts of him weighing so upon my mind, and even after I did retire I heard the hours of two and three o'clock called off. I could not sleep this afternoon, so I surely will be able to get a good night's rest tonight, and that I am going to seek real soon.

Love beyond limit and kisses galore for my big girls (Pin and Libbuth) and for my precious wee one.

As ever your own devoted husband,

*Tom*

buried tomorrow.

The Sanderling is due here tonight from Jolo, but will not be available for taking away mail in that the boat goes from here to Cagayan de Jolo, one of our most western~~most~~ possessions in the Philippines.

No information has yet been received showing when we will leave here for some other station, and, so far as I personally~~am~~ am concerned, it is to be hoped no news of that kind will soon come.

The Buford, which has taken the place of the Seward until the latter gets repaired<sup>u</sup>, arrived in Jolo this morning, and no doubt brought some U. S. mail. The last transport arriving in Manila from the U. S. brought 346 sacks~~s~~ of mail.

I hope therefore to get tomorrow evening some letters telling about you, and our precious little babes, to all of whom I now send my love and kisses galore.

As ever your own devoted husband,

Tom

Siassi,

April 24, 1904.

My own sweet dear darling Pin, and precious little babies:-

In order to get letters ready for the boat, which we hear is coming ~~here~~ tomorrow, I have spent the whole evening long until now,-long after taps-, in getting off the official mail, and now will try to get a few words to you,-even if nothing more than to let you know all is well here.

We, that is Lieutenant Butler and I, are going to Lapac Island tomorrow with a detachment of soldiers to map the shore line of the island. We expect to return before dark. The island has a good beach, and is such a short distance away, that we ought not have any difficulty in going completely around it. One of us will go with a detachment one way, and the other another way, so each detachment will have to walk but half way around. Our boat will accompany us throughout.

Datto Dacolah died at noon today, and is to be

L. SMITH,  
Captain 17th Infantry.

Mrs. T. L. Smith,

~~In care Mrs. R. [unclear],~~

No. 2. Joseph's  
Hospital  
Lexington

~~Frankfort,~~

Kentucky.



4-24-04.

LE...  
MAY 6 9 10 11 12  
JUN 2 9 10 11 12  
1904  
RECEIVED  
1904

Siassi, Siassi, P. I.,

May 13, 1904.

My own sweet dear darling girl, and precious little babes:-

The last mail brought me your letters of March 12, 18, 22, 24, and 26, besides one from Charley Clay. It was in your letter of March 12th that I learned definitely the date of my Father's death to be March 11th as, judging from the cablegram, which was unavoidably delayed through repetition, I had inferred the date was March 13th, - the day prior to the receipt of the cablegram.

Charley's letter to me was such a nice one, and of course under the circumstances surrounding one in the Philippines received a twofold welcome.

Of course my Mother could well understand that you were in no condition to travel except at great risk, and you can rest assured she well appreciates that fact as only a Mother of so many children, - seven all told-, as have been hers can tell. I do so pity her, because I now fully realize the extreme sorrow such a terrible affliction brings,

but I rejoice in the fact that my<sup>my</sup> brothers are grown, and able to care for her while I am in this far-away land.

Death has brought sorrow too on others we well know, and that but day before yesterday. All details are lacking here on account of the fact that the subscription price to the bulletins was so exorbitant that officers at this station felt they could not afford to pay their pro rata share. I was willing to pay my share, but the others were not so the bulletin that heretofore has been telegraphed free does not come at all. All we have heard is that a detachment of 29 men and 2 officers from Cottobato were attacked by about 700 Moros, and were nearly annihilated. Lieutenants Woodruff and Hall were reported killed; 15 men killed and 5 wounded. This may be exaggerated, but we have no means of telling. You no doubt have already seen the details in papers in the U. S. as those things are known quicker there than they are at remote stations in the Philippines. Poor Mrs. Woodruff I do pity so much! There she is at

Gottobato with her little baby, and her affliction is too terrible for words to express.

I can appreciate full well what a sad sad blow a death can bring. For years and years I lived on without a single death in my own family, -so far back as I can remember-, and I really did not know what sorrow and unbearable grief it can bring. The very sudden death of my dear old Father thrust before me this whole matter in a form heretofore totally unknown to me.

I now have just about given up every hope of getting a line from him. One by one I reached for my letters only to find there were none from him, and, as I pulled the last one from the pile, there came with it a full realization it was not to be, -that of my hearing by letter from him again, that he had gone gone forever, and that I must be content with what I could remember of my visit of several years ago. The chances are so remote of my getting a line penned by him during his last days that I have almost, but very reluctantly though, abandoned the hope.

You will find enclosed herewith some stamps that

Lollie or the girls, if any of them <sup>are</sup> still collect-  
ing stamps, may care for, so just give them as you  
see fit. They are hardly valuable because it would  
not be very difficult to get the same kind from  
Borneo, but they are rather odd and come from a  
remote part of the world. U. S. C. G. S. "Tablas"  
on the envelope means United States Coast Guard  
Ship "Tablas." You no doubt will remember that  
boat as it used to come here once in a while when  
you were here.

I am also enclosing another perhaps interesting  
matter, namely a letter written by me to you when  
you were enroute to San Francisco and I was on duty  
there. The way the letter came back to me is  
self explanatory from the letter enclosed. My  
letter may now be as interesting to you as it would  
have been ~~if~~ had you received it on time. I  
have had it in my possession for a long time, and  
it will have been sealed for more than two years by  
the time it reaches you, -in fact it was written  
about two years ago-, it will take you back to that  
time, and no doubt be interesting on that account.

Doctor Holliday almost talked my arm off this

evening after dinner, and put me off till quite late in writing my letter to you. My duties have been such that it has been difficult to get any letters to you in the last couple of days, and, on account of the fact that my company is to leave here tomorrow for a week's target practice in Jolo, I have been most anxious to get a long letter off to you on the same boat that takes us. We will live like gypsies in camp for one week there, and will then hurry back here. I expect to leave here tomorrow, Saturday, and be back again in this post by the following Saturday. Doctor Holliday I find is a man of very high principles, and I am fond of him for that reason. Captain Hunt recently asked me if he (Doctor Holliday) was trying to run the post so I judge from that remark that Captain Hunt is not very fond of him. I understand, but not officially though, that when Doctor Holliday was at Bongao he invariably marked in the sick report "NOT INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY" every case of sickness that resulted from drunkenness. I admire him for it, but am safe in saying it will make him very unpopular with some to continue on

these lines. My fondness for him is probably on a par with Captain Hunt's dislike for him. He is a very efficient, energetic man of high principles.

You state that you wish you had remained over here instead of going home. I would dearly dearly love to have you save for the one reason that both yours and our darling babe's health, and perhaps your very constitutions, would be endangered. You can hardly realize how thankful you should be. Suppose that dear little babe was afflicted with the many diseases so common here, how would you feel? Of course I do not need your answer for I know full well how you would feel about it, and I know too that when you stop to think about it in that light you are thankful you are where you are. Then again this climate is very trying on those women, who stay here for long periods, -two years or more. To come here as you have done on two or three occasions for a period less than a year each time is not bad, but the second year and then on are enough to make one grow old, and become enfeebled in health, -especially the women. I feel that, as long as I am here on this tour of foreign duty, that it is best for me to be

without you and the darling babes, but I long for the day when we can all be together in the States. You could not wish for this any more than I do, but as I have so often said this sad separation must be from time to time as the tours of foreign duty come around, and it must continue until I see my way clearly to leave the service. I have always told you that I believe something will surely make it so that we can live together in a home of our own, -that Providence will arrange it some way or another. It is trying indeed to wait for the time to pass, and to serve in places and under conditions that some- times approach what many people are prone to consider dangerous. No man realizes in battle the dangers he is going through, and, as General Smith used to say, constant contact with danger makes one indifferent about it, and that almost unconsciously too.

"Libbuth" is certainly at an age that is so interesting that I can hardly bear to miss it. Her little sayings sound so amusing to me. I think of the time when I will have her along with me telling me just how to manage the other darling babe, "Pinnie Jr.", as I push the latter along in the go-cart.



The younger one will be just about like "Libbuth" was on June 5, 1902, when you left with her for Frankfort, so it will seem to me like taking up the thread of "Libbuth's" life where I left it off. One thing is certain that when I do return to the U. S. I am going to equip myself with the best camera, - a large one that will take pictures two feet long if necessary-, that I can get, and am going to get one of those shutters, the focal plane shutters, that~~s~~ are used for taking such rapid pictures as horse races, railway trains at full speed, etc., and then with such an outfit I will be able to take the babies pictures no difference how fast either of them may move. I expect to pay about \$300 for my lens, and about \$50 for the camera, so that I will therefore get the best, and something that will do for many many years. It will be a great source of satisfaction to take photographs of our darling babes with such a camera. I will have no trouble in using my leisure time, and that in a very happy manner too.

Your statement about not having received the six hundred dollars interest worries me, but surely you would have again let me know had you not received it

by this time. When we were at Vancouver, the bank mailed a notification to you, but now that I am away where I can not attend to the matter, they fail to notify you that the interest is ~~###~~ at your disposal. In, that whole affair was so arranged that there should not have been the least delay, and I thought you understood how it was arranged. Here is what was done. Instead of our holding the note, or leaving it with any one as Mr. Chinn, it was left at the bank (the First National Bank of Columbus, Indiana) where the interest was payable, and of course the interest was in your name, as is the note, and was available for you at any time after maturity, which date to the best of my recollection was about February 9. Now the status was just this:-On or about February 9, 1904, the interest was due and was no doubt paid (as if not paid it not only drew interest itself, but gave us the option of foreclosing a mortgage, which, in view of the fact that the mortgaged land is so much more valuable than the note Mr. Hamblen, who gave the note, would not let happen) and was there at your disposal. It seems the bank should have notified you, but of course it

gave them the use of the \$600 until you called for it. I do hope you have obtained it long before this time. I thought I had it so nicely arranged, and counted on you having the \$600 besides your wheat money, which would make all told \$900 from which you could pay any thing you might owe, and would have money to meet current expenses. You can keep me advised how you stand, and between us an arrangement will always be made whereby you will always have the money you need. Always be sure to let me know your wants. Had this money been at your disposal I knew of course that you would not want me to send any from here until you saw it about time to need it. Had I thought there would have been the least hitch about your getting that interest, and I do not believe there would have been had you known what I have written you in this letter I would of course have sent on plenty by check from here as I would not have your account get so low. I believe that the next mail will likely bring me the information that you arranged to get the interest, and if such information does not come I will cable you. I doubt very much whether or not

Mother could have told you about this matter as she never bothered about such matters at all. Brock could have found out about it for you as he knows about the note, -in fact ~~####~~ made one trip with me to see Mr. Hamblen just before the latter gave the note. I do so hope you have arranged this whole matter as I do hate to see your funds get so low that you are handicapped in meeting current expenses, and I shall not permit such a state of affairs to happen as long as I can prevent it. You know too my feelings about our paying our own way for those legitimate expenses that would be a part and parcel of our household expenses if we were together under one roof. I feel that we can easily pay all such expenses without any embarrassment whatever, and I know full well that it is but right and just for us to do it. In one way I am glad this matter came up again so you can again know the state of our finances and all about the note question, but I certainly am sorry you were thus embarrassed in getting the interest. I may, in fact have almost concluded, to lend some money in the Philippines but not for a longer period than a year at most. I am always

ready to provide, as you well know, and it happens that I have an supply to do it now and even a nice surplus to meet any ordinary contingency, which is of course what should be looked out for.

I have made a memorandum about the paper weight (the elephant row design) and the paper knife, and will only be too happy to get them for you, and will be sure to do it and get any thing else you want. I have made the memorandum in writing in a special book I keep for those things I have to give attention

You could not possibly miss me any more than I do you, and words can not tell how I miss both you and our precious darling little babes. I will be glad to see July 1st come around, as that marks the half way point of our Philippine tour, and in doing any thing the time always seemed shorter and the goal so encouragingly near every day after the half way point had been passed.

Give my love to all. Accept a heart full for yourself and the babes and may God's blessings be upon all of you is the prayer of

Your ever devoted husband,

*Jim*

F. L. SMITH,  
Captain 17th Infantry.



Mrs. T. L. Smith,

~~In care Mrs. R. P. Lepper,~~

~~Frankfort,~~

Kentucky.

*To Dr. Joseph's  
Hospital  
Lexington*



LEXINGTON  
MAY 2  
JUN 6  
1904  
Σ 9 13 B M P 04

RECEIVED

4-15-04.

Siassi,

May 25, 1904.

My sweet darling wife, and our dear precious little babes:-

My company left Jolo at six-thirty on the morning of this day, and arrived here at eleven-thirty in the morning. We expected to finish target practice after a week's stay, but found it necessary to remain ten days.

Apparently there were no changes from the usual routine of affairs during the absence of the company, and consequently there is little local news to tell. I found a nice pearl or so for sale soon after my return, and went to the Chino to make the purchase this afternoon. I bought three, and of these two are tolerably nice ones, and the other is a very good one. The largest, which weighs nine grains, is the best, and the smallest,



which weighs four grains, is the next best; then there is the third, which weighs seven grains, that is fine on one side and so perfectly round on that side that it will set well, but is full of specks on the other side. I gave a twenty dollar gold piece (this is worth here \$26,-the Moros are crazy for gold), and a ten dollar bill for all three, which is equivalent to giving \$36 for all of them. I regard the nicest of the three pearls as worth what I paid for all three.

We expect mail in very soon, and are anxiously awaiting it. It is so~~ph~~ late, and I am so tired, that I will now say goodnight. Love and kisses galore to all of you.

As ever your own devoted husband,

*Tom*

Mrs. T. L. Smith,

In care Mrs. R. P. Pepper,

Frankfort,

Kentucky.



ANCA, RECD  
JUN 4 1904  
MINDANAO, P.

MANILA, P.  
JUN 4 1904  
730 A.P.

RECEIVED

5-25-04.

Siassi,

June 4, 1904.

My precious darling girl, and our dear little sweet babes:

The mail that just arrived,--and such a long delayed one it has been-- brought seven dear letters from you written about March 28 to April 8, and it also brought me my first mail from home written since my Father's death. Of course I was, and am, very much broken up over the news now reaching me by letter, as it serves to bring back to me so many recollections of the past that now come mingled with the grief and sorrow the loss of him brought upon me. It has, in a way, been very fortunate for me that the past several months have been busy ones, as they occupy time that would otherwise have been filled. Now there is actually so much to do that it is impossible to do it all. The post school has begun, and they are to spend two hours daily in hearing Lieutenants. Then we have arranged, at the request of some of the men, to carry on a special class for the enlisted men. That occupies two hours more each day. There are two daily drills, an inspection daily of the town and the post, the many reports and returns required, etc., so that actually it is difficult to do all of this and the every other day guard duty. We still keep up the mapping, and will I suppose until we get every island in the group mapped. We will leave tomorrow to be gone five days mapping, and then more than half of the group will have been mapped.

There is no local news, and as we are deprived of our former privilege of getting daily bulletins we know little about the outside world. I am in good health, but I certainly feel blue over the receipt of the last letters, so will not try to write more this time. I wish I could have been more cheerful tonight.

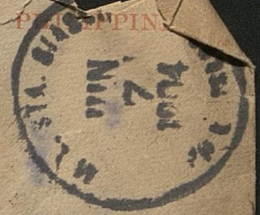
Love and kisses  
Galore.  
Tom

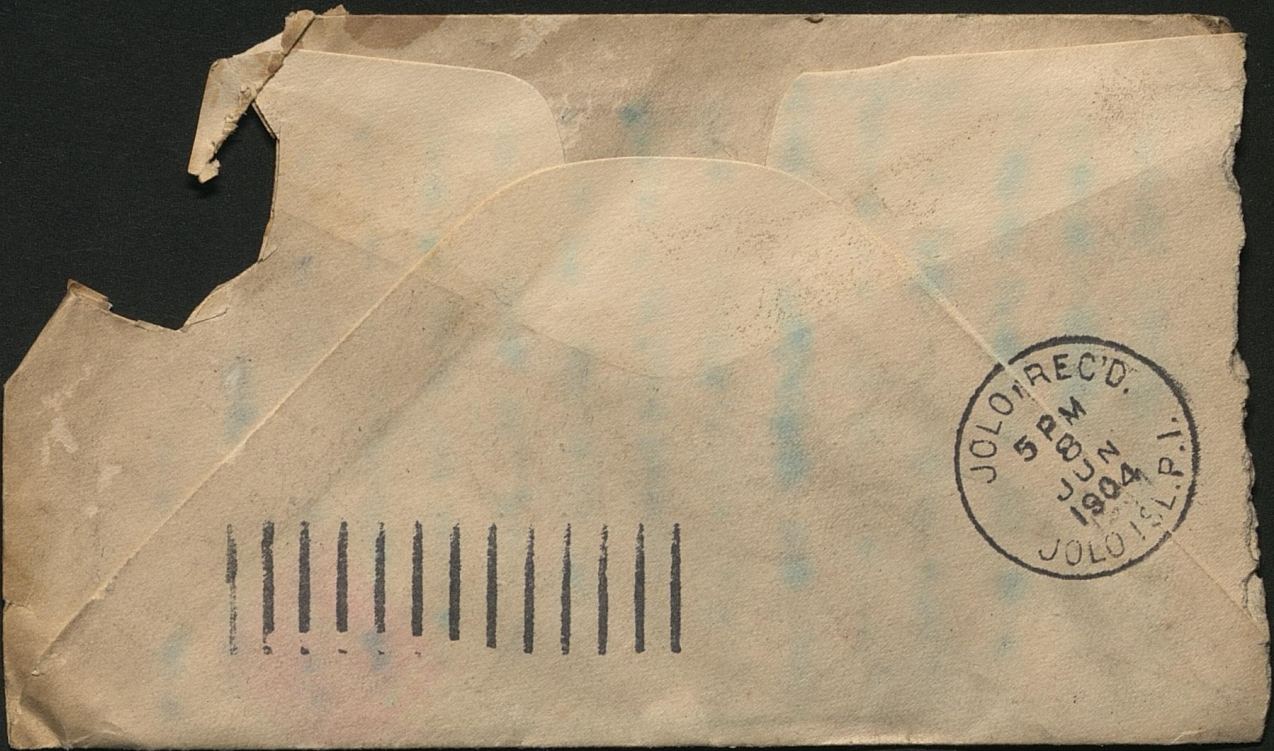
Mrs. T. L. Smith,

In care Mrs. R. P. Pepper,

Frankfort,

Kentucky.





JOLO REC'D.  
5 28 PM  
JUN 1904  
JOLO I.S.L.P.I.



June 14<sup>th</sup> 1914

My own dear precious boy -  
There is

a circus in Lexington  
today and I was watching  
the wagons, early this  
morning, as they were

coming from the depot.  
As I watched them pass  
I was thinking of how  
you and my eff would  
enjoy taking "today trip"

about "Pioneer Jr. 25<sup>th</sup>  
first - circus. Then  
I thought of the time

you and I may spend  
in the circus in San  
Francisco, not long ago

what was for me!  
I remember that night -  
as well. What fun

we did have watching  
them with Fritz's folks  
were sitting before us  
and laughing so.  
Mr. Coffman says that  
I may go home soon  
and next week I will  
probably sit up on  
Sunday. Today is Thursday  
and I am certainly glad  
I am so near out - with  
Wed. Three week day before  
yesterday that I have  
from the Feb.  
Charlie told me that  
he had seen in the  
D. & N. Journal that  
Capt. Bird had committed  
suicide on Angel Island  
but - he must have  
been mistaken as I  
saw in my last D. & N.



Journal - That you  
Mrs. Department had  
received news that Capt.  
Wild had been accidentally  
shot - and fatal at  
H. W. Howell you  
will notice it in  
the Journal you  
self. Well I must say  
good bye for today  
will add more tomorrow.  
May God bless you  
upon your and bring  
us together in health  
and happiness.

Ours and dreams of  
love and peace from  
your own dear devoted  
wife and father.

KY.

Capt. Thomas L. Smith  
17th U.S. Infantry  
Manila Philippine Islands



COTTA BATA  
MINDANAO  
1904

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
JUN 21 7 30 PM  
1904

6/21/04

Jolo, Jolo, P. I.,

June 23, 1904.

My precious darling Pin and dear sweet little babes:-

There is so much I have to tell you that I hardly know how to begin. First of all is about the order for a move from Siassi. The order came late on the sixteenth of the month, which gave us but three following days to comply with it, namely: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, so as to have all pest property ready for shipment by the twentieth. We did get it ready by the twentieth, and on the morning of that day# the transport "Sabah" was there to get it. We loaded all day and the next until nine o'clock at night, when we left for Jolo arriving at the latter place early on the morning of the twenty-second. We have been unloading property here for now nearly two days, but expect to be ready by night to leave for Cottobato, and thence up the river (Rio Grande) twenty-four miles to Reina Regente, our new station.

Siassi was discontinued as a station by the military, and has been turned over to the Constabulary temporarily, and they are charged with the care and safe keeping of all of the buildings. The order came very suddenly, and was quite a surprise. We had things in such nice shape at Siassi. I had fixed up the men's bath house, and wash room, had piped water to the wharf, repaired the roadway leading to the wharf, the dock had been completed, had put water into the administration building, in both gardens, at the corral, in the stableman's quarters, in the bakery, in the buildings just east of the guard house, in Lieutenant Butler's quarters, etc., etc., and

had fixed up drains all# over the post. Recently all of the hedges had been trimmed, the grass cut, etc., etc., and the post was in tip top shape every way. I was indeed sorry to leave, but of course had no control over orders. Bongao is to be discontinued on the twenty-fifth of the month also, and Captain Hunt's company is to go to Zamboanga. There are two companies of scouts at Reina Regente (pronounced Raina Rayhainta) and with my own company there will also be there two companies of the 17th Infantry. Major Maney is to be in command, but at present is sick in the First Reserve Hospital, Manila, P. I.

You never saw such hurrying in all# of your life as could have been seen had you been at Siassi for the three days following the order to move. It was# not half enough time. We simply worked day and night## to get ready,-that is we packed all# of the time. In addition to that it was necessary to make out very many papers that are necessitates upon# the discontinuance of a post.

The Chinese gave us a nice farewell. They fired many fire crackers, and had the usual amount of other Chinese fire works. The "Sanderling" fired a salute as we were leaving, and the Moros from Siassi and neighboring islands were over to say good bye and cheer as we left. The Moros represented that they hated# to see the U. S. troops leave, and that they put little faith in their own brethren,- the Constabulary, because the latter are armed, and are overbearing when given any authority whatever. It is quite true too. Well founded complaints have arisen because the Constabulary often tried to dictate prices in the market, and then show<sup>d</sup>a force of arms. I predict they will have trouble with# the Moros.

Upon arrival at Jolo, I learned that the three companies of the 17th Infantry were out on a march guarding doctors, who were vaccinating the Moros of Jolo Island. The troops returned today, and were very tired. Captain Durfee had a slight touch of malaria, but is feeling much better now. I saw Captain and Mrs. Lyon, and they asked to be remembered. They were so kind to me upon my return from Manila last fall, also when I was a target practice at Jolo recently and again this time. Mrs. Lyon does not like Jolo. The Cavalry and the Infantry have never gotten along well there. Sometime when I am on the subject again I will# tell you more details about the way things are working there. I never did like to serve at a post where more than one branch of the service were serving.

Lieutenant Snyder (the 1st Lieutenant of the company) joined at Jolo. His wife and little sixteen months' old daughter are with him. The baby is not a pretty one (Mrs. Snyder is not very good looking either, so it is a case of inheritance), but is very pleasant. I rather like Lieutenant Snyder, and know that if my present opinion of him continues I shall be glad to have him in my company.

Since writing the foregoing we have left Jolo, and are now (the afternoon of June 24) nearing Cottobato. We have crossed the bar at the mouth of the river on which Cottobato and Reina Regente are located. I had counted upon writing a great deal to you today, but we have had such a rough day of it that it has been almost impossible to write. Mrs. Snyder, her nurse, and Lieutenant Butler have been sea sick,--some of them the whole# day long. All are out on deck now. Lieutenant Butler was able to eat breakfast. None of the others ate at all today, so the whole lot will be hungry at dinner.

I shall try to go ashore tonight, and see the Morses. Other than for that I have no desire to go ashore till we reach Reina Regente. I heard that the 17th Infantry Headquarter move had been postponed, that is the order directing headquarters to <sup>Zamboanga</sup> Cottobato had been suspended for the time being. Therefore in all probability I shall get to see the Morses.

I am going to mail this letter at Cottobato, so will conclude it now in time to mail it when the boat stops. We are not very far from there now, and it is getting so dark I can hardly write more.

The lamps furnished in the rooms on this boat are just good enough for bed room lamps, and that is all, and they are fastened high up on the wall.

Kiss both my precious darling babes, and with them accept more love than I know how to tell.

As ever your own devoted husband,

Tom

Reina Regente, Mindanao, P. I.,

July 31, 1904.

My precious darling family of girls:-

To write a letter at night now, as I am trying to do this one, means to fight away the bugs, cock roaches, mosquitoes, and various other winged insects that swarm about a lamp in greater numbers than I have ever seen at any other place in the world. You never saw any thing to equal the way these bugs come around a lamp at night. I must write to you tonight, or else not get my letter off before I go out again from here. I expect to be back again tomorrow night, or certainly by the next night. I telephoned to Lieutenant Butler at Cottobato this evening to send the following cablegram to you:-

M PEPPER,

FRANKFORT, *Buy on other side*

KENTUCKY.

ANCHORITE (which means, "Telegram received; cannot do as you request.")

EFFULGENCE (which means, "Should much prefer it.") RELAX (which means, "All well here.")

This was the best I could do towards replying to your cablegram in a brief manner. Your cablegram stated "Telegraph War Department immediately for college detail for four years. Lexington wants you."

At the time this cablegram came to the Philippines, I was out in the field, and, upon my return, found a telegram from the Adjutant General of the Division stating there was a trans-pacific cablegram for me at Division Headquarters, and wishing to know whether he should open it, and repeat the same to me. I replied, "Yes," and within a day received the message. When I state that "I cannot do as you wish," I simply mean that I cannot telegraph the War Department. You

*Washed a bug in by possibility*



know, my darling girl, or at least I had better say I will explain to to you that neither I, nor any other Captain, has the authority to telegraph the War Department notwithstanding the fact that I would like to get that college detail. # Charley Clay can better explain to you in a few minutes conversation why I cannot telegraph than I can by writing pages. All I can do is to make my application through military channels, but then that would be so long in getting to the War Department and back that the place would more than likely be filled long ahead of the return of the application. I could not find any code word telling you that I would like to have the college detail so I sent the nearest meaning I could, namely EFFULGENCE, which means "Should much prefer it." This, while not worded right for my answer, I thought you would understand as meaning I would like to have the detail. Sometime in the early part of 1902 (about May) I replied, in answer to inquiries from regimental headquarters, that a college detail would be very acceptable to me. Soon afterwards I noticed that the place at Lexington had been filled by some retired Major, and we found no other chances for Kentucky colleges, so I lost interest in the matter, and, about a year ago, replied, when a new inquiry was sent me from regimental headquarters, that I did not care for a college detail. I even went so far then as to state that if my name happened to be on the list of eligibles that I would request it please be stricken off. I thought the colleges that I would care to serve at as instructor had been filled by other appointments, which would last a long time. I never counted upon getting a chance to get the detail at Lexington, or I would not have replied as I did. Still it has been done, and therefore the War Department will no doubt want an expression of my wishes in the matter before any detail is made. If the War Department offered me the detail, I would very promptly show them my wishes by accepting it.

I fear that my chance of getting Lexington is gone unless the detail is offered me by the War Department, and I do not care to bring any influence to bear to bring this about. If the detail is offered me I will gladly accept of course because it would be very pleasant in many ways. The school term I presume will have begun by the time this letter reaches you, and it will then be too late.

The field work here has given us more of a siege ~~here~~ within the past month, and we have had more of it, than in any month since I came over to the Philippines. I have not had time, -in fact have not been in to do it-, to attend to hardly any of my clerical work, and, as for letters, I have been able to get off only a few to you, and none at all to any one else. Mr. Hatchitt will be still waiting for a reply from me, but I will write to him at first opportunity, and also to Charley Clay, whom, I am sure, will understand full well better than the others just why I have been unable to do much writing. I am in fine health, and have not had one day's sickness during the whole month, but have had work of such a character to do that it has absorbed my time, and, on account of nights and days spent in the field, has taken me away from desk and writing materials. I hope, and rather expect, the next month will be better.

I have much more to write about, as I found a stack of your letters here that arrived during my absence, and have not yet been answered.

With more love and kisses than any words can possibly describe, and a longing for the day to soon come around when we can all be together in the United States, I remain,

As ever your own devoted husband,

Tom