

MILITARY MAIL OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINES
From the Collection of Don Peterson

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

MILITARY MAIL

1858 – 1862
FRENCH-SPANISH CAMPAIGN IN INDOCHINA

A joint French-Spanish Expeditionary Force, consisting of 1,300 French soldiers and two Spanish naval ships (JORGE JUAN and ELCANO) with 500 Filipino soldiers, proceeded to Indochina in 1858. The Filipino soldiers were withdrawn in 1862, while the French continued to occupy Cochinchina (Indochina) into the 20th century. Filipino military mail relating to the Campaign passed through Cavite (Cavite Spanish Naval Yard).



1860 Manila to Cavite to Ignacio Garreta, engineer on the Spanish warship JORGE JUAN. The ship, then anchored at the Cavite Spanish Naval Yard, made regular mail and supply runs between Manila and Saigon from 1858 through 1862 to support the Filipino soldiers in the French-Spanish Expeditionary Force.

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

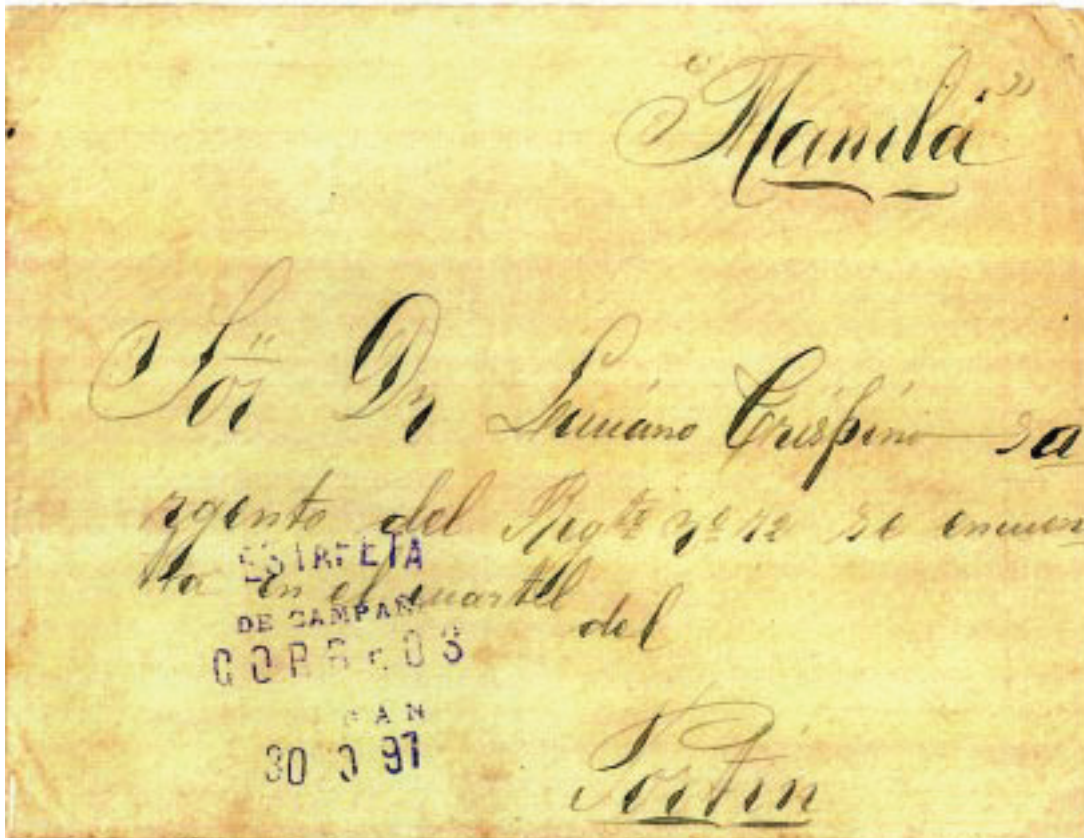
MILITARY MAIL

1896 - 1897

SPANISH EXPEDITIONARY INFANTRY FORCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

INTERIOR MAIL

In 1897, a locally-prepared, dated military unit cachet was applied to Spanish soldier's mail from garrisons in the provinces of Ylagan, Mindoro and Mindanao, indicating the free franking privilege for Spanish soldiers.



1897 (October 10) Ylagan to Manila showing the Ylagan military unit cachet. A Manila receiving cancel (dated November 11) is on the reverse.



Spanish military unit cachet from Ylagan.

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MILITARY MAIL

1896 - 1897

SPANISH EXPEDITIONARY INFANTRY FORCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

LETTER FROM SPAIN TO SPANISH SOLDIER IN THE PHILIPPINES



1897 (December 13) Zaragoza, Spain to Calamba, Laguna Province (Luzon) to Spanish soldier, Fernando Bosch Layubo, 2nd Lieutenant, 3rd Company of Expeditionary Rifle Battalion No. 14. Mailed from Spain at the 50 centimos single-weight overseas rate to the Philippines.

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

MILITARY MAIL

1898

PRE-DEWEY SPANISH INFANTRY INTERIOR MAIL

In early 1898, but prior to the May 1 battle between the Spanish and American Navies in Manila Bay, approximately 10,000 Spanish soldiers were in the Philippines – most of whom were located on the Island of Luzon near Manila. A small number of native Filipinos also served in the Spanish regiments.

ONLY KNOWN COVER FROM FILIPINO SOLDIER IN SPANISH MILITARY UNIT



1898 (April 4) Bacolod to Manila by native Filipino to “Regimiento de Lina, 1st Battalion, 4th Company, Cuartel de Lunita”. The Lunita (or Luneta) was an esplanade near the Manila Harbor and Intramuros (old walled city) where Spanish troops encamped. Enclosed letter in Tagalog (native language)

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

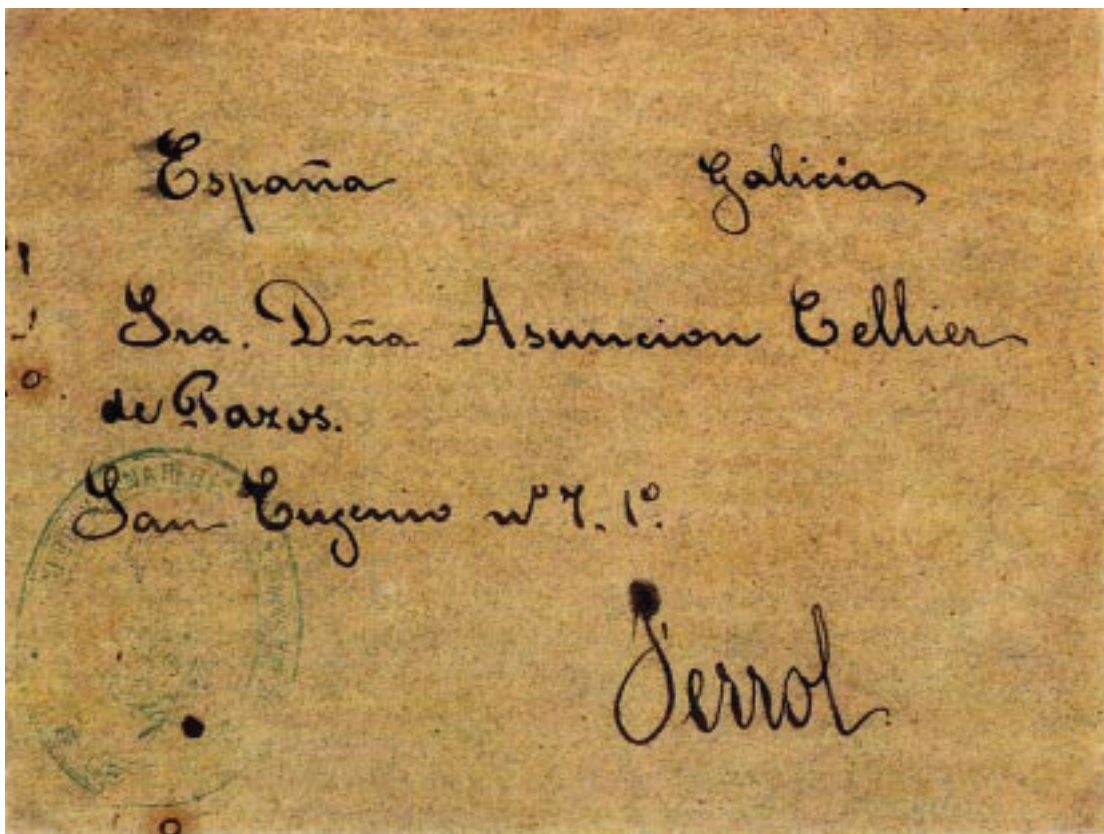
MILITARY MAIL

1898

PRE-DEWEY SPANISH INFANTRY NAVAL FORCES IN THE SPANISH NAVY

A portion of the Spanish infantry forces were under the control of the Spanish Navy Department, and were assigned to various naval ships. The primary naval station for the Spanish fleet in the Philippines was at Cavite, located 20 miles south of Manila. These Spanish infantry regiments could use the free-franking privilege when the mail was marked by an official naval handstamp.

ONLY A FEW SPANISH INFANTRY NAVAL COVERS ARE KNOWN



1898 Cavite to Ferrol, Spain affixed with an official naval seal, INFANTA DE MARINA REGTO DE FILIPINAS DE CAVITE (in blue-green), allowing the soldier to send the letter without charge.

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

MILITARY MAIL

1898

POST-DEWEY SPANISH INFANTRY INTERIOR MAIL

Following defeat of the Spanish fleet on May 1, 1898, Spanish soldiers remained in control in Manila and continued to use Spanish Philippine stamps until their surrender to U.S. forces in Manila on August 13, 1898. U.S. postal operations opened in Manila on August 14, 1898 and later in other parts of the Islands.

ONLY KNOWN COVER FROM SPANISH SOLDIER MAILED AFTER DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH FLEET (MAY 1) AND BEFORE THE SPANISH SURRENDERED IN MANILA (AUGUST 13)



1898 (June 18) small town in Luzon to Manila showing the military unit handstamp (Battalion No. 1?). The letter was addressed to a Spanish soldier, Battalion Leader, Rural Police, 6th Company, in Manila at the single-weight interior (between towns) rate of 3 centavos. Over-paid by 2 centavos. Received (manuscript on reverse) on July 2, 1898.

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

MILITARY MAIL

1898

POST-DEWEY SPANISH INFANTRY P.O.W. MAIL

Following defeat of the Spanish fleet on May 1, 1898, there were approximately 10,000 Spanish soldiers on the Islands. Between July and August 1898, they were attacked by U.S. forces, resulting in their surrender in Manila on August 13. Following cessation of the U.S.-Spain conflict, the Spanish soldiers remained on the Islands; and beginning February 1899, they were caught in the middle of the U.S.-Filipino conflict. Although the Spanish soldier's were considered P.O.W.s from August 1898 through late 1899, they were generally confined to their stations or served on work details. By late 1899, most of the Spanish soldiers had returned to Spain.

ONLY A FEW COVERS FROM SPANISH SOLDIER P.O.W.s ARE KNOWN



1898 (November 21) Manila to Cadiz, Spain from a Spanish soldier P.O.W. via the U.S. Army "MIL STA. No. 1, MANILA" post office. Posted with a U.S. adhesive at the single-weight overseas to Spain rate of 5 cents.