

PHILIPPINES  
Luzon

Manila Bay  
25 July 1898

Transport Post Office Forerunner

On Steam Ship Zealandia  
In Manila Bay  
July 25<sup>th</sup> 98

Dear Parents.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Merritt arrived  
yesterday afternoon, the balance of  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> expedition will be 6 days later.

It rains here  
and very  
early, about

RETURN TO  
ELMER H. THOMAS,  
NEW BRIGHTON, PA.  
I. P. THOMAS & SON CO., 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
BONE FERTILIZERS  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Soldier's letter  
Elmer H. Thomas  
Lieut. Detachment 10 P.V.



To Samuel C. Thomas,  
New Brighton Pa.  
U.S.A.

U.S. CHARGE  
TO COLLECT 2 CENTS

Several shipments of mail from the troops prior to the opening of the post office at Cavite on 30 July went directly to the United States for processing. These letters were forwarded to the addressees without prepayment of postage but 2 cents postage due was charged on delivery.

Example shown from a soldier on board S.S. Zealandia is one of six covers recorded from the despatch of 28 July; has transit backstamp of San Francisco on 22 August 1898 and was received in Pennsylvania on the 27th. Letter mentions arrival of General Merritt on the 24th and expected arrival of the balance of the expedition on the 30th.