



PHILIPPINES
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Introduction of Special Delivery service and Early usage *Forerunner issues*

Special delivery – Early usage to U.S. possession colony

Incoming from the USA

Minnesota to Manila

1903. FEB. 9 (12 M)

St. Cloud, MINN
to Manila

Addressed to:

Pvt. Guy Beatty

Company E, 5th infantry



2-cts Plimpton PSE

10-ctvos U.S. E5 SD

Back stamped: FEB 16 / 6 – AM / 1903 SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. / STATION D.

The history of the **Fifth Infantry Regiment** spans two centuries of American fighting tradition. During that time, it has received battle streamers for participation in fifty-one separate campaigns in nine major conflicts. Each of these streamers represents the blood, sweat and tears of infantrymen from every era in the country's history. Congress authorized the formation of the 5th Infantry on April 12, 1808. In 1891, most of the regiment was shifted from Texas to posts in Florida and Alabama. They were there on February 15, 1898 when the battleship USS Maine blew up in the harbor at Havana, Cuba. Congress, assuming that the destruction of the Maine had been an act of sabotage, declared war against Spain on April 25.

The United States acquired Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines as a result of the Spanish-American War. Filipino nationalists, who had been fighting against Spain for their independence felt that the war had resulted in no more than a change in colonial masters, so they turned their guns on the U.S troops that had been sent to occupy the islands. **The 5th Infantry arrived in the Philippines in September, 1900 to help pacify the insurrectionists. It was assigned to Abra province in Northern Luzon.**

During three years of campaigning in the Philippines, the 5th Infantry was involved in 38 minor engagements while marching an estimated distance of 15,426 miles. Eighty-six enlisted men perished, six in battle and most of the rest from cholera.