

The Mariana Islands (Islas de los Ladrones), part of the Spanish Empire since 1667, are governed via the Philippines, and are using the Philippine-issued stamps since 1870s. During the Spanish-American war, Spain, under financial pressure, sells the Marianas to the German Empire. News of this agreement did not reach the Islands until the arrival of the Spanish steamship **Uranus** and its Spanish official contingent from Manila in Oct 1899 to oversee the transfer of sovereignty.

For his part, the Spanish political military governor of Marianas, Col. Eugenio Blanco signs a decree authorizing the overprinting of the remaining small stock of Philippine stamps, the "Baby Alfonso XIII", with **MARIANAS/ESPAÑOLAS**. All letters using such stamps are carried by Uranus on its return to Manila, with transit date Dec 11, 1899.



German Asiatic Fleet Marine Schiffspost No.1 "Kaiser"
Manila to Kiel Germany, Jul 26, 1898



GERMAN INTEREST

The German naval fleet sails to Manila during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Aside from economic interest, it aims to safeguard the Germans in Manila; also seen as German Empire's colonizing attempt of the Philippines. The US naval blockade of Manila Bay prevents German maneuverings. The Treaty of Paris, which marks the end of Spanish regime also puts an end to this German ambition.



Faith, Hope and Charity: Conquest of the Philippines

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