

## OUR "SPLENDID LITTLE WAR"

The Volunteer Regiment Rallies to the Cause in the Philippines

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In 1898 over 1,200 men from Washington volunteered for military service, thinking they would fight the Spanish armed forces and free Cuba of colonial rule. They were, however, shipped in the opposite direction, and the Washington volunteers ultimately found themselves on an obscure archipelago in the Pacific Ocean.

That year became a pivotal one in the history of both Washington and the rest of the nation. People from the Pacific Northwest usually identify 1898 with the famed Klondike Gold Rush and the economic growth it brought to the region, but it is better known nationally for a conflict later called our "Splendid Little War." In one summer America gained a far-flung empire and emerged as a new world power. The aftermath saw the nation leaving behind isolationist policies, entangling itself in foreign affairs, and fighting its first unpopular overseas war. President McKinley, who led our nation into the 20th century, was assassinated, and a war hero named Teddy Roosevelt rose to take his place, becoming one of America's most renowned presidents.

Today the direct role that Washington played during the Spanish American War is not well-known, and many contemporary Northwest historians have also overlooked this chapter of the area's history. So what did Washington have to do with Admiral Dewey or Teddy Roosevelt? What about Santiago, Manila, or San Juan Hill?

Weren't Washingtonians of 1898 preoccupied with gold fever? They certainly were, but while some fought the arctic conditions of the Yukon, another group of Washingtonians fought tropical heat, disease, and the native army of the Philippine Islands.

The dominant news story of the Klondike Gold Rush was eclipsed by a fervently patriotic war with an aging world power. Washington quickly raised a volunteer regiment of infantry and sent them off to bring glory to the state and the national endeavor. The Washington volunteers spent their first seven months in "hurry-up-and-wait" mode and the last seven months in field operations without relief. One of every ten was killed or wounded. Amazingly, only one of every hundred later died of sickness, an unusually low number even for that era. After one year in the Philippines, the Washington regiment was relieved, arriving home in 1899 to a robust and patriotic welcome. Afterwards, the veterans of America's first Southeast Asian war began a long slide into obscurity.

When in the 1970s a large number of Washington's citizens were once again involved in a war in Southeast Asia, the national mood was quite different from that in 1898. Americans were divided by widespread opposition to the war. Patriotism was quieter and not so public.

America's military forces dealt with fickle policy changes and elusive, ever-shifting "strategic objectives." Tucked away in houses and retirement homes throughout Washington were the last few living veterans of the Spanish American war, men in their nineties and beyond. They could empathize with combat troops returning home from Vietnam. Long marches through rice fields in sweltering heat, jungle terrain, booby traps and ambushes, search-and-destroy missions—all buzzwords for a modern generation of Americans—were also well-known to these soldiers of a century ago.

Americans of the 19th century held a near-reverential attitude toward military service. In 1898 there was no need for a draft; in fact, the government had to turn away thousands of disappointed young men. The Spanish American War volunteers were a composite of the United States, representing most ethnic groups, occupations, and income levels of the day. Raised in a more genteel time that respected authority, soldiers of the Victorian era rarely questioned superiors or allowed moral dilemmas to bog down military objectives. Orders were carried out punctually, although the men might privately grumble about them. Army service in the 1890s had changed little since the Civil War 33 years earlier. Discipline was strict and unrelenting. Punishment for trivial military infractions was the norm. Equipment was generally good but often outdated, and many small service luxuries taken for granted today were nonexistent. Food was sparse or of questionable quality, and soldiers often foraged to feed themselves properly. There was, of course, no motorized transport, medical evacuation, or air cover. Resupply to troops in the field was very rare. Troops went into the brush with what they could personally carry and marched for long periods with much physical deprivation.

By February 1898 the Cubans' civil war against Spanish rule had gained widespread attention and sympathy. That Americans started out with genuine humanitarian concerns is undisputed, but the national mood in America turned to anger with the loss of the battleship *Maine* and 260 of her crew. A tremendous explosion, still unresolved today, destroyed the ship while it lay moored in Havana's harbor. Public opinion was inflamed by a hasty official investigation that blamed a Spanish mine, and "Remember the Maine, To Hell With Spain" became the popular national cry. President William McKinley reluctantly began preparing the nation for the war it was demanding.

Few Americans knew that the Spanish empire also included the Philippine Islands. The parallel struggle of the Filipino people for independence from Spanish rule was likewise almost unknown. A liberal movement against Spain had begun in the 1890s; its figurehead was poet and intellectual Dr. Jose Rizal. This movement sought the integration of the Philippines into the Spanish empire, with political autonomy and equality for the Filipino people. The authoritarian government in Spain at that time, like most such regimes, blundered by having Rizal exiled and ultimately executed. The Filipino response was unanticipated—Rizal became a national martyr, and the independence movement became radicalized, seeking to overthrow Spanish authority. Fresh troops from Madrid and Barcelona were sent to put down the uprising while a young middle-class merchant from Luzon named Emilio Aguinaldo rose to prominence after several successful military encounters against Spanish forces. By 1898 Aguinaldo realized that the Spanish still had the upper hand, and he welcomed the intervention of the Americans, hoping they would assist him as they appeared to be doing in Cuba.

Washington was an early participant in the impending war. On March 6, 1898, the battleship *USS Oregon* slipped out of her dry dock at Bremerton's Puget Sound Naval Station. Her record-breaking 68-day journey to the Caribbean theater of operations was quite a feat in the days

before the existence of the Panama Canal. The event itself figured prominently among the reasons for building the canal several years later. Far off in the Pacific Ocean lay the United States Navy's Asiatic squadron, under command of Commodore George Dewey, a Civil War naval veteran. His flagship was the armored cruiser *USS Olympia*, named for the capital of the new state of Washington. It was Theodore Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who ordered Dewey's squadron to the Philippines in anticipation of the impending conflict.

War was declared in April 1898. The United States Navy began a blockade of Cuba, and the federal government asked for 100,000 volunteers for military service. The 14th United States Infantry, which had garrisoned the regular army post of Vancouver Barracks on the Columbia River for the 14 years prior, was ordered to the Philippine Islands. In Olympia Governor John R. Rogers received notice from the War Department that Washington state was authorized one regiment of infantry. The National Guard of Washington, created just after statehood in 1889, was to become the nucleus of the new regiment. Within days their number reached full strength—around 1,200 men. A training and assembly site was selected south of Tacoma. Today the area is covered by Pierce County Transit's bus barns, but in 1898 it was a level prairie surrounded by farms and stands of Douglas fir. Trains carrying carloads of men from all over Washington arrived and dumped their human cargo onto the prairie, creating a beehive of activity. By the first of May an orderly tent city, appropriately dubbed Camp Rogers, had arisen. During this same time, halfway around the world, Commodore Dewey engaged the Spanish naval squadron at Manila Bay and destroyed it completely, with almost no American casualties. Overnight, the previously unknown Dewey became a national hero and was quickly promoted to admiral.

Governor Rogers appointed regular army Lieutenant John H. Wholley to command his new regiment, now officially called the "First Washington Volunteer Infantry." Wholley was a West Point Academy graduate who had served previously at Fort Spokane. At the war's outbreak he was professor of military sciences, civil engineering, and mathematics at the University of Washington. An impressive, no-nonsense officer, Wholley initiated a rigorous training schedule for the men.

William J. Fife became second in command. The Washington National Guard's ranking officer as well as one of its founding members, Fife was an attorney by profession. In Alaska at the time of the call-up, he arrived back in Washington to find that his command had been given to Wholley. This caused some friction, but in hindsight Governor Rogers's choice turned out to be the best one. Volunteer regiments led by West Pointers and former regular army officers were going overseas; those led by career guardsmen were generally not.

The regiment's 12 companies represented dozens of cities and small towns throughout the state, coming from every conceivable trade and profession of the era. Cowboys drilled next to lawyers and bank clerks, loggers and fishermen shared shelter tents with schoolteachers and druggists. United by a common bond of patriotism and compelled by a sense of adventure, the men quickly took to military life. The training was made easier because of the several hundred experienced guardsmen who formed the basis for the regiment. Crowds of onlookers came to Camp Rogers each day, many arriving by excursion train from Tacoma. A few con men and toughs showed up as well, but when a naïve recruit lost all his meager belongings, these men were forcefully run out of camp. One hard fellow unfortunately flashed his pistol at the guard detail to show them he meant business. For a reply, he received a rifle butt to the head. Hauled away by the Pierce County sheriff, the badmen returned no more.

Every recruit was inspected by federal army surgeons before being officially mustered into service. The only glitch to an otherwise smooth process came when a popular guard officer from Centralia failed to pass his physical. Wholley appointed another experienced guardsman to fill the slot, but a few dozen men stated they would not serve unless it was under their friend. This caused a division with the rest of the men, who just wanted competent superiors. When a few men began using political influence, Governor Rogers quickly moved to disband the company with the proviso that those who desired to stay could re-enlist in the "new" company. The majority did, and the dejected captain with his disgruntled followers took a train back to Centralia.

Volunteer regiments in 1898 were being issued recently outdated single-shot army rifles that fired a powerful but smoky black powder cartridge. At the war's outbreak there were simply not enough modern rifles to go around. The Washington volunteers wore the traditional blue wool army uniforms, which were comfortable for the West Coast but not for the tropics. Within a few weeks the 12 companies were grouped into battalions and ordered to San Francisco to join volunteers from many other western states and prepare for overseas service. The first battalion marched out of Camp Rogers on May 10, 1898, traveling on the dirt thoroughfare now known as South Tacoma Way and then down the length of Tacoma's Pacific Avenue to a waiting steamship. As the men passed through downtown, tens of thousands of onlookers cheered them amidst patriotically bedecked buildings. Adding to the tumultuous send-off were steam whistles from all over town, shrieking in unison at appointed times. The second battalion followed several days later. The third and last battalion cleaned up the site of Camp Rogers and soon departed by train for duty at Vancouver Barracks, joining their comrades in California several months later.

The summer of 1898 went by swiftly as the Washington men trained and received disheartening news indicating that they might not be needed for the war. In early July several days of furious fighting between American and Spanish forces around Santiago, Cuba, had decided that island's fate. In August the beleaguered Spanish army in Manila negotiated the terms of an American occupation. There had been only desultory fighting. Camp rumors had the Washington men staying stateside or, worse yet, being discharged.

Although the end of the conflict seemed imminent, the political situation in the Philippines was growing more uncertain. Emilio Aguinaldo had recently formed a government and drafted a constitution in anticipation of America's liberation of the Philippines. His armed forces had been kept outside the city of Manila by collusion between Spanish and American authorities, and 1898 drew to a close with Aguinaldo sensing that the Americans were in no mood to simply let him take power.

Aguinaldo's feeling of betrayal was strengthened by the Treaty of Paris, whereby the Spanish government transferred control of the Philippine Islands to the United States for the sum of \$20 million. President McKinley's administration, with wide-spread support from Congress and the American public, decided to administer the islands under a policy eventually called "benevolent assimilation." This would seek to modernize, educate and "Christianize" the Philippine people before allowing them to govern themselves. The fact that the majority of Filipinos had been staunch Roman Catholics for hundreds of years seemed to have been lost during the political debate.

In October 1898 the Washington volunteers received their long-awaited orders to the Philippines. Before leaving they were issued somewhat lighter army uniforms—one made of brown canvas and another of white cotton. Sailing in two steamships loaded to the gunwales, their three-week sea voyage turned out to be relatively comfortable and somewhat boring. The trip included one highlight for the men—a stopover of several days at Hawaii, another recent American acquisition. There the men toured the quiet town of Honolulu and were feasted royally by a patriotic citizens' committee.

Upon arriving in Manila the regiment disembarked and was soon assigned to the village of Paco, southeast of Manila proper. Rice fields surrounded this hamlet of thatched nipa houses and a few western style buildings, while a magnificent old Spanish church and ancient cemetery, complete with its spectacular "boneyard," stood nearby. An ominous-looking Spanish army blockhouse stood next to the road out of Paco, which headed east toward Santa Ana. The men were billeted in several older houses, draping themselves at night with mosquito nets so they could sleep.

Residing with Tacoma's Company C was the regimental mascot, a little brindle bulldog named "Punch" who slept on an embroidered blanket provided by a group of patriotic ladies in San Francisco. Punch had been secreted aboard one of the transport ships, despite the usual army orders prohibiting such things, and spent the next year in the islands with his dotting companions.

The Washingtonians arrived in the midst of increasing tension between American forces occupying the Manila area and Aguinaldo's forces surrounding the city. Chafing at the refusal of the Americans to let them into Manila, the Filipino soldiers in their trenches and fortifications nevertheless restrained themselves from provoking a fight with the American newcomers. The Washington men performed patrol duties along the line between the two sides. Their particular demarcation was at Concordia Creek, just east of Paco and the Spanish blockhouse. In shifts of 24 hours they fell in for inspection of arms and walked their beat. Aguinaldo's men, under terms of an earlier agreement, could pass through the Washington lines in small groups to enter Paco or Manila, but they were not permitted to bring weapons. For several months the two sides remained surprisingly cordial, yet there remained a palpable undercurrent of suspicion on both sides.

In the early morning hours of February 5, 1899, the uncertain calm was shattered. A Nebraska volunteer named Willie Grayson fired on Filipino sentries whom he believed refused to obey an order to halt. Shooting between the two sides spread quickly down the lines. In the early morning light all American units surrounding Manila were ordered to advance. The Washington regiment charged through the deep, muddy creek and fought their way across several miles of rice fields and thickets. They assaulted a heavily defended knoll guarding Santa Ana and continued on through the town itself. Back in Paco, Colonel Fife and Washington troops from the band and hospital corps fought with snipers in the bell tower of the old church. Amidst the gongs that rang out over the area as a result of bullets hitting the old tower bell, several Washington men were able to evacuate a group of women and children huddled in the lower portion of the church. These people were all led to safety before the grand old building was leveled by fire. By the end of the day the Americans had pushed Aguinaldo's troops back several miles. It had cost them 358 dead and wounded. The Washington regiment's first day of war, dubbed the Battle of Santa Ana, resulted in 12 dead and 45 wounded. The Filipino forces

suffered more, losing at least 2,000 men and many of their military stockpiles in the immediate area.

For the next six months the Washington volunteers were kept in the field. Stationed at the recently captured villages of Macati, Pasig and Taguig, they forayed out on patrols and expeditions designed to secure the tangled region between Manila and the large freshwater lake east of the city—Laguna De Bay. One Tacoma soldier wrote his hometown paper about some of the more disagreeable aspects of field service:

*The Philippine rice field is at this season of the year almost as great a curse to the soldier as the sun. It is a former quagmire tramped full of holes and wallows by herds of native cattle, intersected by a dike two or three feet in height at regular intervals of about twenty paces, all baked by the sun to the hardness of brick, which tears shoes, breaks shins, and causes more profanity than the Army Blue Book.*

Another writer stated, "You can't believe how hot the sun is here. Our guns get so hot they burn when we touch the barrel."

About a week into the war a company of men decided to take a hill in their immediate front. As they advanced through broken foliage they were fired upon. Their initial response was to jeer at the Filipino troops, but within minutes they found themselves pinned down, unable to advance or retreat. Only with great difficulty were they able to extract themselves, and the men decided that they would not underestimate their enemy again. On February 20 Washington companies from Waitsburg and southwest Washington successfully ambushed a similar number of Aguinaldo's best troops. A month later one of the Seattle companies commanded by a popular National Guard captain, George Fortson, was beginning a patrol and were themselves ambushed on a Pasig bridge. Fortson received a mortal wound. At first light the troops located the buildings the snipers had used. Owned by a French businessman, these buildings had been previously spared on the condition that they not be occupied by Filipino soldiers. The Washington men now shot their way into the buildings' walled courtyards and burned them. Several more Americans were injured in this action, some mortally. Up in the Pasig church tower crouched the Scholtz brothers from Tacoma, snapping pictures of the scenes below. Enlisting together, Fred, John and Charles Scholtz recorded much of the First Washington's Philippine experiences on film.

Scarcely a day went by without some incident. Despite the growing number of casualties and fatiguing skirmishes, the men found many lighter moments. One morning the companies at Macati were eating a quick breakfast while Filipino troops kept up a harassing fire. A company cook finished his chores, then picked up his rifle and scurried to join his buddies who were now firing back. A Filipino bullet hit his rifle butt with a loud crack, causing the men nearby to turn in time to see the shocked cook spontaneously hurl the gun "as if it were a hot brick." Their laughter momentarily rose above the clatter of battle.

During lulls some men amused themselves by catching lizards and putting them on leashes while others swam in the Pasig River. They puffed on Philippine cigarettes and cigars, added native fruits to their diet, and scoured the local ruins for hidden money, apparently digging up so much valuable metal that newspapers reported the Washington regiment as having a "Klondike" of its own. Some wrote back to Washington using the recently created postal card. The Washington regiment's chaplain had died of dysentery soon after his arrival in the islands, but the men found a new chaplain and managed to hold semi-regular services.

A few Washington men were a little less inclined to such civilities. One day, while a captain was investigating suspicious fires that had nearly burned the American quarters in Paco, he ran across "some civilians" with "half a dozen soldiers of the Washingtons, armed, and in a boisterous and drunken debauch." The captain blamed the civilians for starting the event and reported, "A more unseasonable time for such a disgraceful affair cannot be imagined." The entire group was placed under arrest by a passing patrol.

For several months the Washington volunteers served in a brigade under the famous General Charles King. A popular author of military adventure novels, King lauded the Washington men and included them prominently in his reports. On one long-remembered day they completed a punishing 30-mile reconnoiter on foot through mud and jungle growth, continuously exchanging fire with their opponents. The temperature never dipped below 100 degrees the entire day. They also participated in three different "amphibious" expeditions commanded by King's regular army replacement, the towering and aggressive General Henry W. Lawton. Lawton was a veteran of the Civil War and later gained renown for his pursuit of the Apache chief, Geronimo, during the American Indian wars. Towed at night in large Philippine "cascoes" [barges] across Laguna De Bay, the men waded ashore under fire at dawn and helped seize towns such as Santa Cruz and Calamba, which were held by Aguinaldo's forces. Several times they helped rescue a number of Spanish army prisoners, who cheered the troops with, "Viva los Americanos," upon their release from captivity.

The expedition to capture the Morong Peninsula is illustrative of American efforts to secure the region. The Washington men were to march north with a column from Pasig and link up with a southward-moving column pushing the Philippine forces onto the peninsula. The Washingtons would then march back to Pasig and board cascoes for a daybreak move on the town of Morong from the lakeside. The northern column would meanwhile continue to push the enemy south toward Morong. If all went as planned, the Philippine army would be trapped on the peninsula. The Washington volunteers marched as planned, then boarded their cascoes for the night trip to Morong. The men waded ashore under cover of several gunboats that accompanied the flotilla. As they assembled on the beach their opponents opened fire. Eventually the town fell as its defenders pulled back to the steep surrounding hills. Washington scouts hiked north to link up with the northern column, losing Private Carl Thygesen, their "point man," to an ambush. The northern column arrived very late, slowed by rugged terrain, ambushes, and native guides who may have taken the wrong trail now and then. Philippine forces had simply melted away, only to reappear elsewhere. Such frustrating campaigns would become common in the years ahead.

By the end of July 1899 the Washington regiment was almost played out. As with all the volunteer state regiments, the strenuous campaigning in tropical heat and rain had taken its toll. Almost half the men were barely fit for duty, many suffering from malarial fever or dysentery. In August they were finally ordered home. Of the 1,126 Washingtonians who had left for the Philippines, 129 were killed or wounded, but only 14 had died of disease or accident. Another 239 stayed in Manila to pursue civil interests or join new army regiments being raised to suppress what was now being called an "insurrection."

The 700-some men who arrived back in San Francisco recuperated for a month and then received their discharges. During this period the enlisted men had a sword engraved for Colonel Wholley and, as a group, presented it to him with his young wife present. Wholley informed the men that he would not be going back to Washington with them but would be returning to the islands with a new command. In early November the regiment headed back to Washington via

railroad and a chartered steamship, the *Queen*. A small tiff arose because the steamship, paid for by the philanthropic father of one of the soldiers, could hold only a few hundred of the men. Their return would thus be in groups rather than as a regiment. Several companies from eastern Washington were anxious to get home after their 18 month absence and opted to take the train back to their hometowns for local festivities.

The state's official homecoming reception was held in Seattle. A three-day series of events, the *Seattle Times* proclaimed it the largest celebration yet seen in the city. Trains delivered hundreds of volunteers ahead of time, while the *Queen* steamed into view out of an early morning fog bank, surrounded by a noisy flotilla of welcoming ships. Bands played at several locations, punctuated by both official and unofficial blasts and noisemaking. The grand parade featured nearly 600 Washington volunteers marching through downtown streets, cheered by over 50,000 citizens. At the Denny Hotel just north of downtown, Governor Rogers presented each man with a specially struck medal. With the conclusion of the festivities, the First Washington Volunteer Infantry passed into history.

Meanwhile, the conflict in the Philippines continued. Aguinaldo's army, mauled by American forces when they tried to fight on conventional terms, resorted to irregular or "guerrilla" warfare after the state volunteers returned home. At the same time that American military leaders called for more federal troops, they assured Congress that the situation would soon be under control. Troop strength swelled to 65,000. While the American policy of "benevolent assimilation" brought with it schools, public works and reformed civil infrastructure, its military forces were locked into a low-voltage war with the Philippine army for control of rural Luzon.

In the United States, opposition to the war began to grow. The "Anti-Imperialist League" included such luminaries as author Mark Twain, industrialist Andrew Carnegie, and William Jennings Bryan (colonel of the Third Nebraska Volunteer Regiment in 1898 and the Democratic presidential contender in 1900). Soldiers also assisted the cause. Their letters, sometimes describing cruelties committed by both sides, were used to educate the public about the war, which had started out with humanitarian goals but had now lost its moral compass. Even some conservatives debated whether the Philippine policy was consistent with the ideals upon which the United States was founded.

By 1901 the war was at its zenith. The Philippine army had been weakened by vigorous American campaigning, factional infighting, and an inability to obtain reliable re-supply of material. Armed bandit groups harassed both sides in rural areas. The crucial blow came when Aguinaldo himself was captured in his remote mountain hideout by five Americans who were led to his lair as "prisoners" of friendly Filipino troops. The amazing story of the capture, with its extreme hardships and danger, reads like an adventure novel even today. Two of the five Americans were former Washington volunteers, Oliver and Russell Hazzard of Aberdeen.

With Aguinaldo's capture and the accelerated surrender of his officers and men, the Americans made one final push to end resistance, resulting in a number of brutal responses and counterresponses by both sides. Congress was finally provoked into hearings on military conduct in the war, but Filipino resistance fizzled out just as many Americans began to grow weary of the conflict. On July 4, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt declared that the Philippine "insurrection" had been quelled. American military losses exceeded 4,000, while Philippine military losses were estimated at 20,000. Some historians have placed total Filipino casualties at 200,000 or more when factoring in disrupted crops, disease and other intangibles resulting from



a war climate that had prevailed for several years. Fighting later flared up between the Americans and Muslim Filipinos in the southern islands, but the question of who controlled the Philippines was no longer at issue.

The Washington veterans organized in 1900 as part of a larger group eventually called the "United Spanish War Veterans." Many went on to prominent positions in government and civic circles. Private Oliver Morris of Hoquiam became a senator in Olympia for several terms. Corporal J. Grant Hinkle became Washington's secretary of state. Herbert Collier was Seattle's city treasurer. Others, such as Captain Marshall Scudder of Yakima's Company E, made the military a career and went on to command regiments overseas in World War I. As late as World War II, a few former Washington volunteers were still serving their country. Oliver P. M. Hazzard, who became a momentary national hero in 1901 for his role in capturing Aguinaldo, became a military circuit judge. In sad contrast, Oliver's brother Russell (once recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor) turned up in Seattle after several instances of puzzling behavior. Apparently degenerated from tropical diseases, he committed suicide in a squalid downtown hotel room.

America and its new possessions had settled into an era of relatively peaceful stability and coexistence. As Washington volunteers grew older they witnessed dramatic events in Philippine history. The Japanese occupation during World War II caused over a million deaths and virtually leveled the city of Manila. Fighting alongside rather than against each other, thousands of Americans and Filipinos had died repelling this latest invader. The subsequent independence of the islands in 1946 and a long tradition of bilateral immigration helped bring about a true friendship between the nations.

Overshadowed after World War II by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, the United Spanish War Veterans kept alive the memory of the sacrifices the men had made and the hardships they had endured. Their last reunion was in the 1970s. Washington still bears lasting, albeit muted, evidence of their legacy. An army post constructed in 1900 in Seattle's Magnolia district was named Fort Lawton, in memory of General Lawton. Only months after the Washington troops returned home, Lawton was killed by a sniper under the command of a Filipino officer whose name, ironically, turned out to be Geronimo. Today the old fort site exists as Discovery Park. On Capitol Hill in Seattle, the former City Park was renamed Volunteer Park to honor the men and women who willingly left their jobs and homes to serve their country. An unmarked triangle of trees and shrubbery at Second Avenue and Yesler, across from downtown Seattle's Smith Tower, is actually named Fortson Place after the brave but unfortunate Captain George Fortson. Large bronze memorials depicting a volunteer soldier and bearing metal salvaged from the ill-fated *USS Maine* were erected at Seattle's Woodland Park and in Olympia. Several ancient Spanish bronze cannons were shipped from Manila and erected in parks throughout the state. The *USS Olympia*, sole surviving United States Navy ship of the Spanish American War era, rests in Philadelphia.

The little bulldog Punch, faithful mascot of the Washington regiment, disappeared into history after the regiment's return, although it was reported that the Tacoma Fire Department might become his new home. The two senior officers who commanded the First Washington died within a year of each other. William Fife's death in 1911 made the front page of Tacoma's newspaper. John Wholley's exemplary military career was cut short with his untimely death in 1912. He left behind his wife and two young children. Emilio Aguinaldo, who maintained an air of dignity despite a lifetime of shifting events in Philippine politics, outlived all the American

military leaders he fought against, passing on in 1964. The last surviving Washington volunteer was William Hicks, a private from Spokane's Company A. He participated in Seattle's annual Memorial Day parade until his death in 1969.

The passing of time has forever erased the last firsthand memories of our colonial conflicts. These events of a century ago dramatically changed both the way America saw itself and the way the world viewed this powerful and growing nation. The dawn of the 20th century found the state of Washington dealing directly with a vast Pacific region that stretched from Alaska's arctic to the tropics of Southeast Asia. The last few tangible reminders that are left from that era still speak of Washington's nearly forgotten role in America's imperialist adventures.

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*Seattle attorney and Air Force veteran James B. Dahlquist has a life-long interest in history and collecting artifacts, primarily from 19th-century American life. Some of the artifacts on display in the current WSHS exhibit, Across Oceans of Dreams, are from his private collection.*