

U. S. S. Charleston

Iloilo, P. I.

~~Oct~~ Nov 6, '98

Dear Papa,

How goes the world with you. [sic] Hope you are having a better time than the members of Dewey's fleet for all hands are pretty well disgusted with life in the Phillipines [sic] and don't think there isn't a one but would be willing to go about any place else. It certainly is one of the meanest dirtiest places a man could find. You can't drink water ashore. I haven't had a glass of water ashore since we left Honolulu. You get dysentery if you do it. This is a great thing for the liquor dealers. We had a rather pleasant stay while in Hong Kong it is quite a city. Those Englishmen certainly are great colonizers [sic]. I think the representation our country gets through the Volunteers of the army is pretty poor. I think these [sic] must have rounded up all the tramps and bums in the states and sent them out. Our national guard system, I think, is a dead failure, that seems to be the case around Cuba as far as I can make out. A few days ago we started out from Manila to take a run though the Islands but at our first stop Iloilo we found that the insurrection had cut the overland part of the cable and with 8000 had the city surrounded and I think they may take it if nothing is done. It looks odd to see Spanish flags flying everywhere. There are a couple of Spanish gunboats lying here too. Iloilo has almost 25,000 inhabitants counting suburbs, and is really a more decent place than Manila but of course none of these places have the conveniences that you could find in Brookville. It is on the Island of Panay which with the exception of this and one other town is in the hands of the natives. This climate is very depressing, always damp and the thermometer standing between 85 and 90 nearly all the time. I am afraid that we are going to put most of the cruise in Manila Bay, not a very pleasant outlook. Heard from Sid not very long ago, saw your note on the back of one of the boys [sic] letters. Don't know just when we will get back to Manila.

With love am

Your affectionate son,

Jamie

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