

"A"

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Guayama, Puerto Rico.

The Assistant Adjutant General,

2nd Brigade, 1st Div., 1st Corps.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that as directed I left Guayama, Puerto Rico, at 5:00 P.M. Sunday, September 18th, 1898, with Co. "M" Lieut. Duffy, commanding, Captain C.W. Fenton, Assistant Adjutant General, Captain Donavin, Regt. Quartermaster, and the Regimental Band for Arroyo to take steamer for Vieques. The Command reached Arroyo about dark: the steamer had not arrived so the men were made comfortable for the night and mess ordered for 5:00 A.M. Monday. No word was received from the steamer until about 7:00 A.M. Sept. 19th and as subsistence had to be unloaded from the steamer and we had some trouble in getting a lighter crew, it was 2:30 P.M. before the command was ready to sail. In the meantime I had received word from Sapt. Sellers, Commanding Co. "D" (who had been ordered to Humacao) who had found it impossible, on account of there being no road, to proceed beyond Manabo, (18 miles east of Arroyo) with transportation. Considering his orders imperative Capt. Sellers left transportation, baggage and supplies with a guard and proceeded with selected men to Humacao. Upon investigation I found it would be unwise to attempt to send the supplies to Capt. Sellers ^{via Cayy & leave him} without subsistence for a number of days. I wired the facts to you and immediately arranged to take a lighter and crew from Arroyo. I left Arroyo at 3:00 P.M. reached Manabo at 5:30 P.M. where we found Lieut. Newlove and part of Co. D transportation and supplies which we loaded into the lighter and on to the steamer in the dark taking until 2:00 A.M. Sept. 20th. It was not considered advisable to leave the lighter and crew which we had towed with us, accordingly I directed that the lighter and crew continue with us until we had unloaded all supplies and men. While at Manabo the three masted schooner Jose Quinones came into port flying a Spanish

Flag, the Captain of the schooner came along side and asked for an American Flag which Capt. Donavin, Q.M. furnished taking the schooner's Flag with him and then proceeded to the harbor of Humacao, which is designated as **P**ointe de Santiago. The City of Humacao is six miles inland with a very bad road leading to it. We unloaded the balance of Co. D, and all of the supplies for the said company at the port where I found that the English Vice Consul had a message for me from Capt. Sellers at Humacao requesting that I remain at **P**ointe de Santiago until he could come over. Capt. Sellers arrived at 3:00 P. M. and notified me that the Spanish troops were still in possession of Humacao and that General Brooke had wired him not to permit armed troops to enter Humacao until noon of September 22nd. With Capt. Sellers, Major Daniel Hogan, Ass't. Commissary and purchasing agent of the army and Captain Fenton, Assistant Adj't General, 2nd Brigade, 1st Div. 1st Corps. and Captain Donavin, Regt. Quatermaster, I went to Humacao, unarmed and paid our respects to the Spanish Lieutenant Colonel commanding the post and arranged with him that the post would be evacuated at about 9:00 A.M. Thursday, September 22nd. I return to Pointe de Santiago and arranged for the comfort of the men left there and sent part of the supplies to Capt. Sellers at Humacao. The Pilot was not familiar with the harbor, therefore, the Captain of the steamer would not take the vessel nearer than three miles, which necessitated the procuring of three boats and crews to assist in getting the lighter into the harbor and back to the steamer. I returned to the steamer about 9:00 P.M. during a heavy gale and on account of the storm the Captain of the steamer would not proceed to Vieques until daylight of September 21st. At 9:00 A.M. we landed with Co. M. Lieut Duffy commanding, at Isabel Secunda the important city of the island where I found Lieutenant Colonel Luis Garcia alpuente and a number of Spanish troops in possession of the city and Government property. To avoid any conflict of authority I left our troops at the beach and proceeded with the staff Officers to the Spanish Fort. The Commanding Officer said he was ready to evacuate but

had waited to formerly turn over the business to a representative of the United States Government. I notified him that he could evacuate at once, leaving one Spanish Officer in charge to whom Lieut. Duffy would receipt for the public property and that I would bring the said ^{Spanish} Officer to Humacao on September 22nd. The Lieut. Colonel agreed to this proposition and embarked with his troops at once. I thoroughly inspected the town and Fort as to sanitary conditions which I found to be very good. The Fort is located in the rear of the town on an elevation overlooking the sea, and is a large well ventilated building of brick and stone, ceilings high, well lighted and supplied by water from two large cisterns. The building will comfortably accommodate an entire regiment. I provided the Fort with filters and directed that the company occupy the building which was formerly turned over and receipted for as reported by Lieut. Duffy. While waiting for the evacuation, I received an invitation from the Reverend Joseph N. Beary, Rector of the Church of England, to take the men to his chapel that he might "Evoke God's blessing in due honor to the first President, of the United States, George Washington and the present ^{one} William McKinley" and that prayers might be offered for the safety and prosperity of the American Army and Navy. I accepted the invitation and after divine services at the suggestion of the Rector, the American flag which was to be raised over the custom house was blessed with due form and ceremony. The Spanish troops having sailed, the Band, company "M" and staff officers were marched to the custom house and the American colors raised with full ceremonies at high 12:00. The Harbor at Isabel Secunda is very fair, the inhabitants fairly intelligent, but as all business has been suspended there has been some suffering among the poor. With the staff officers and band I went aboard the steamer at 9:00 P.M. to proceed to Pointe de Santiago, ~~Cayk~~ and Humacao, Puerto Rico. After some difficulty on account of the high sea we landed at 10:00 A.M. Sept. 22nd and at once proceed overland to Humacao where the colors were raised with due form from the municipal buildings. Capt. Sellars then came back with us to Pointe de Santiago and raised the colors over

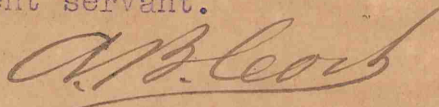
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the Custom House. The district of Humacao has, in addition to Pointe de Santiago, sub ports at five harbors and Capt. Sellars will report in detail upon these after full investigation. I would recommend that a sufficient number of flags be sent to supply the Custom House, Fort and Light House at Viques and the municipal buildings at Humacao, also to supply the Headquarters and Provost Guard Headquarters of this Command with American flags; at least eighteen flags should be delivered to these Headquarters for proper distribution. The flags raised at Pointe de Santiago were my own personal property, while the flag raised at Humacao is the private property of the Acting American Consul. I would also recommend that a steamboat or launch be sent from Ponce to Arroyo for the purpose of maintaining communication with Viques. and Humacao. The condition of financial affairs at all these points seems to require some official action to insure stability and protect merchants who have in good faith taken American currency at 100% premium. After completing the ceremonies at Pointe de Santiago, we took row boats, during very heavy weather, for the steamer three miles ^{and a half} out at sea, but the Captain was unwilling to leave during the night. At 5:00 A.M., September 23rd, we proceeded on our journey reaching Arroyo at 10:00 A.M. Major Hogan of the Commissary Department accompanied our party on the entire trip and was of great assistance to us. Under separate covers I transmit reports of Capt. Sellars and Lieut. Duffy, also certain communications delivered me at Viques.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.



Colonel Commanding, Fourth Ohio Vol. Infy.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES, GUAYAMA,

Guayama, Puerto Rico, Sept. 27, 1898.

Adjutant General,

District of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report for the information of the General Commanding this district that in compliance with orders received from your headquarters under date of the 17th instant I at once ordered one company for each station from the 4th Regiment Ohio Infantry Volunteers, to be supplied with thirty days field rations and the requisite wagon transportation and to move for the points designated without delay. Company D, marched from here on the 18th instant and Company M marched to Arroyo, four miles from here, and there took steamer for Vieques on 19th instant. Some delay to transportation was experienced by Company D at Nauabo because of lack of wagon trail over the hills, but the steamer carrying Co. M, to its station arrived at Nauabo in good time to transport wagons around the obstacles. The delay experienced in occupancy of Humacao appears to have been caused by error or misunderstanding as to date when our forces were to have possession. All trouble was averted however, and the Companies named are now peacefully on duty as required. Flags necessary will be provided as soon as practicable.

I send herewith reports of the several officers having part in the movements of the troops, explanatory of such move-

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ments, they are marked "A", "B" and "C", respectively.

Very Respectfully,

J. R. Grant

Brigadier General, U. S. V.
Commanding, 2nd Brigade, 1st Div. 1st C.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures in the left margin, including the name "Grant" and other illegible text.]

I.R. 848 T.P.R. O.R.
Washington

Sept 27, 1898

W.D. Grant
Bangor N.H.

Report action of
Orders in regard to
sending troops to
Nicaragua.

Mr. Ruffin reports to
Commission Oct 6 98

1st Post

W.D. Grant
Bangor, Sept 29 98

Respectfully forwarded
The flags should be
returned by the same
agent.

W.D. Grant
Bangor, N.H.

File

W.D. Grant
Bangor