

PORTO RICO RUMOR IS INVESTIGATED

Small Chance of the Pennsylvania Troops at Alger Being Sent.

GENERAL GOBIN PAID A VISIT TO SECRETARY OF WAR ALGER ON SATURDAY TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RUMOR—WHAT HE HEARD DOES NOT INCLINE HIM TO THE BELIEF THAT HIS MEN WILL BE CALLED UPON.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Camp Alger, Va., July 17.—There has been a great deal of Porto Rico talk during the last few days, but no one is getting very much excited about it. When the rumor was run down it developed that a certain high officer had said that if any troops from Camp Alger were selected to make up the Porto Rican expedition the Pennsylvania brigade might be among them. A cook or water-carrier or some other listener hastened forth with the story and set it going the rounds. It grew as it proceeded and after an hour had gained the proportions of a well-directed and authentic statement that the Third regiment was going to Porto Rico next week.

General Gobin thought the story was nothing better than a surmise and a poor one at that. Three Pennsylvania regiments are now on waiting orders in Florida and they will most likely be given the preference, as they are better prepared to contend with the hot climate than troops encamped in the north. If those three regiments go, General Gobin argues, there is little likelihood of any other Pennsylvania troops being called, as the authorities will conclude that in this Pennsylvania has been given her share. General Butler was seen later and was of the same opinion as General Gobin as to the weight of the story. "General Gobin and his brigade will go to Porto Rico," said General Butler. "If they are to go any farther than that I know nothing of it."

BECAME DISGUSTED.

General Gobin became somewhat disgusted over the refusal of the Porto Rican story to down and on Saturday morning went into Washington to see if he could not get some news. Secretary Alger informed him that there was positively nothing he could tell him regarding the possible disposition of the Third brigade. He would not even say that a Porto Rican expedition was under way, although General Brooke, who it is reported will conduct it, was sitting by during the interview. General Gobin told the secretary that if there was need of the Pennsylvania brigade he could have it at an hour's notice.

The situation can be summed up in this: A Porto Rican army is in course of organization. If more troops are needed than can be supplied from Chickamauga and Tampa a draft will be made on Camp Alger. If Camp Alger is called upon to contribute, the Third brigade stands an equal chance with half a dozen other brigades of receiving the call. There is all there is to it at this writing and if Secretary Alger can be relied upon, no one, not even President McKinley, knows anything more definite.

General Gobin himself is strongly of the opinion that his brigade will be included in the Porto Rican army, if one is formed. General Brooke is a Pennsylvanian and a close personal friend of General Gobin. He made application formally and added a personal request that General Gobin should be assigned to his corps, which the first announcement was made of General Gobin's appointment as a brigadier. This fact would make it safe to assume that if General Brooke has any say in the selection of the troops that will compose his army, General Gobin's brigade will be a part of it.

MERRIMAN'S HARD LUCK.

It may be some days before Assistant Surgeon George C. Merriman will be privileged to enter upon the duties of his new office. Of late he has been acting as division hospital steward and has had charge of the company of one hundred and six orderlies. Thursday night about 10 o'clock he ordered his first sergeant to make a check roll to ascertain if all the men were in their quarters. One of the men, thinking to add a little more excitement to the affair fired three shots from his pistol. Major General Butler heard them and sent two aides out to investigate and if possible apprehend the offender.

They could only find that the shooting took place in the division hospital and that Lieutenant Merriman or Sergeant Merriman as he then was—had charge of the camp at the time. The next morning General Butler sent for Doctor Merriman and demanded that he give the name of the man who fired the shots. Dr. Merriman said he could not as he did not know. General Butler very abruptly said: "You will consider yourself under arrest and in close confinement. Until further orders you will not leave your tent."

When it was seen that a serious phase the case was assuming, the man who fired the shots very honorably waited upon Dr. Merriman and admitted his guilt, adding, also, that he intended to wait upon General Butler and confess. When asked to do it is quite likely Doctor Merriman will be released "with the general's regrets that the occasion demanded such summary proceedings" and the like. It was while under arrest that the new assistant surgeon received word of the receipt of his commission as lieutenant, from Harrisburg.

Major Simon B. Cameron who has been spending a few days as the guest of General Gobin, will go to Scranton tomorrow, to muster in three more companies into the national guard. He also expects to place a company in Carbondale.

T. J. Duffy.

GOSSIP OF THE CAMP.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Camp Alger, Va., July 17.—Private Harris, of Company B, will not be permanently affected by the pistol ball which he drove into his head on Thursday's celebration. The surgeons have not attempted to remove it, and likely will not. If, after the wound heals the ball disturbs him X-rays will be used to locate it, and it will be extracted.

Hereafter all baking is to be done on the grounds. Vermont ovens are to be issued to each brigade and a detail from each regiment will be assigned to do the baking. Instruction in this art of the culinary art is to be imparted by a couple of expert bakers, who are members of the Ninth Ohio (colored) battalion. At present the bread is purchased in Washington, a firm of that city having con-

tracted to take the allowance of flour for the corps and for a small bonus give its equivalent weight in bread. The new plan will save the bonus and cost of delivery, and will, besides, accustom the troops to do their own baking.

Lieutenant Huff, of Company H, is officer of the day. Private Michael H. Hart, of Company F, is orderly at regimental headquarters.

Captain McCausland, of Company G, and Lieutenant Decker, of Company F, attended a dance at Laurel, Md., Friday night.

Mrs. S. Welles Corwin, is visiting her husband, Captain Corwin, of Company H.

Mrs. Beideman, of Scranton, is visiting her two boys, one a corporal in Company B, and another a corporal in Company H.

Mrs. Murphy, of Mifflin avenue, is visiting her son, Sergeant Murphy, of Company C.

Private Fox, of Company H, was called home yesterday by the death of his mother.

Private H. E. Cross, of Company E, was yesterday appointed corporal to succeed Raymond Hardenberg, who has been transferred to the Third regiment of Engineers at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis.

Lieutenant W. E. Dodge, of Company E, has been detailed as the Thirtieth's representative on the Division Engineer corps.

Private W. E. Kimball, of Company E, left for his home in Honesdale today on a seven-day furlough.

Private Hill, of Company E, who was taken ill while on a furlough at his home in White Mills, has recovered and is now back with his company.

Corporal Halpin, Private Day and Private Barrett, of Company G, are home on furloughs.

Three of Company F's men, Privates Bender, Dulman and W. J. Davis, are home on furloughs.

Private George T. Griffiths, of Company F, was today taken to the division hospital suffering from nervous prostration. His illness, it is thought, is the result of worry over being publicly disgraced last Friday, when, by direction of a court martial he was stripped of his corporal's chevrons on the parade ground in front of the whole regiment, for having overstayed a town-pass twenty-four hours. A movement is afoot to have his case reconsidered, and by reason of his previous good record is likely to succeed. It appears that he unfortunately witnessed a short brawl and was gathered in by the police and held over to give testimony at police court the next morning. The fact that he telegraphed to his captain that he was detained at the police station was not brought out at the court martial. This and the records of the police court, showing that he was held simply as a witness, will, or at least ought to, mitigate in his favor.

After untiring efforts for two months on the part of his mother and the unwinding of about a mile of red tape at the war department, Private Richard McAndrew, of Company D, was yesterday granted his discharge and will in a day or two return to his home, in Dunmore. He enlisted under age without consent of his parents.

Private Elmer E. Freeman, of Company A, is visiting friends in Walsh, West Virginia.

First Lieutenant William V. Johnson, of Company A, returns today from a week's leave of absence.

Musician Charles Thomas, of Company B, was called home yesterday by a telegram announcing that his father, Joshua B. Thomas, is seriously ill.

Color Guard Schaefer, of Company D, is back from a week's furlough.

"One of his tentmates," and not "one of his lieutenants," as the telegraph operator would have it, reloaded the didn't-know-it-was-loaded pistol with which Private Harris, of Company B, shot himself.

Mrs. Gobin, wife of General Gobin, and Mrs. Norris, mother of Captain Norris, who have been guests at brigade headquarters for the past week, returned home yesterday.

Forrest L. Fraser, secretary of the M. C. A., who it will be remembered, spent a year and a half with the Y. M. C. A. in Scranton, is acting as one of the secretaries at the Pennsylvania Y. M. C. A. tent here.

Corporal Day and Private Warner, of Company D, leave for home today on a furlough.

Private Horten E. Cross, of Company E, was orderly at headquarters yesterday.

Lieutenant Benjamin, of Company H, was division commander of the guard yesterday.

Captain Corwin, of Company H, was regimental officer of the day yesterday and Lieutenant Decker, of Company F, commander of the guard.

Company F's heretofore champion ball team was defeated yesterday in an exciting game by a scrubs team composed of its own "rookies." During a practice game the previous day the scrubs won by a score of 12 to 9. The champions were gured unmercifully and, chafing under the annoyance, challenged the second team to play for money. The challenge was accepted and \$25 a side posted. The rookies repeated their performance of the day before, winning by a score of 20 to 12.

The newly promoted medical officers have received their commissions. Major Parker is on the brigade surgeon waiting list, hoping to be assigned to the Third brigade. Major Keller has assumed Major Parker's place on the regimental staff and Lieutenant Merriman has come over from the division hospital to take his place as junior assistant surgeon. Lieutenant Merriman's rise has been very rapid. When the regiment started out he was a private in the ranks. He became an orderly in the regimental hospital, then succeeded to hospital steward and next to assistant surgeon, passing from the rank of private to that of lieutenant in less than three months.

Headquarters Steward John Stanton is ill of typhoid fever at the Fort Myer hospital. The attack is of a mild form and the surgeons expect that he will not be laid up any great length of time.

Private Alex Major, of Company C, has been detailed as cook at brigade headquarters.

Corporal Halpin, Privates Bennett and Day, of Company G, are home on furloughs.

Sergeant Bisbee and Corporal Crago, of Company D, are back from a week's visit in Scranton.

A four foot black snake was killed at the very door of General Gobin's tent yesterday.

Captain Derman, of Company A, was brigade officer of the day yesterday.

Nothing has as yet been learned from Private Joseph Kirkenbo, the Company P man who suddenly and mysteriously disappeared last Sunday. If he does not return before next Tuesday he will be published as a deserter. No one in his company will believe that he has deserted. They incline rather to the suspicion that some accident has befallen him. The fact that he was in his shirt sleeves when he left the camp heightens this fear.

The current number of the War Cry contains a pleasant notice of Chaplain Stahl of the Thirtieth, in which is acknowledged many favors done for the Salvation Army officers here in camp.

T. J. Duffy.

Peter Higgins, of Minooka, received a letter Saturday from his son John, who enlisted with Lieutenant Dentler and is now in the ranks of Company C, Eleventh infantry.

"You need not worry about me. I am all right. Myself and Mike Joyce sleep together. On last Friday we had target practice and we beat the whole crowd. The target we shot at was 4 x 5 and the distance was 100 yards. Out of a possible 100 points I made 88, because the record of the company at that distance, Mike Joyce came next with 85."

"We surprised all the old timers to think that two raw recruits from the land of breakers and coal mines could put down Uncle Sam's well disciplined soldiers. But we to the Spaniards. Comes under the fire of the Minirods of Long Island fame, for the thick underbrush in Cuba is surely his grave."

"Tell me not to worry about me for we are as happy here as the day is long. The sisters come to visit us twice a week and distribute scalpings and medals among the soldiers. We go to church every Sunday down to Tampa."

There are 250 wounded men here now who have come over from Santiago, and they say that one American soldier can chase four Spaniards. Last night I received a piece of Spanish flag taken from a block house in Santiago, and will send it to you as a relic in my next letter. We have now our full equipment and are ready to go at a moment's notice; but maybe we would not go at all, as the latest news from Santiago has surrendered and Spain is suing for peace. We get the latest dispatches first. We are camped right along the seashore, waiting for a Spanish show of force until we wrap up his toes. Good-bye, write soon and let me know all about Minooka."

Higgins and Joyce were first class wing shots, and were reckoned among the best youngsters in that sport around the county. They are both under age. Higgins being 17 and Joyce 16. George D. Blandin, of Honesdale, Lieutenant Blandin's death was due directly to the shock his nervous system sustained on the night the Spanish were destroyed in the harbor of Havana. His coolness on that memorable night was marvellous. After the explosion he started for Captain Sigbee's cabin to report the fact and met the commander of the ship rushing toward the deck. The lieutenant saluted with as much precision as he would permit in a war, and reported as follows: "Captain, the ship has been blown up and is sinking."

He received his orders and with Captain Sigbee began the work of rescuing the men from the vessel and the water, never ceasing his efforts until what was left of the Maine had sunk and all the men were in the hospital burning up.

Later reaction set in and Lieutenant Blandin has since been an invalid.

Mrs. C. Bow Dougherty, of Wilkes-Barre, wife of Colonel Dougherty, of the Ninth regiment, has returned from a visit to Camp Thomas, Chickamauga. "It is not the officers who need our sympathy and help," she said, "because most of them can afford to buy whatever luxuries they need, but it is the poor private soldier who must take what he can get and say nothing. Typhoid fever has broken out in camp and when I left there 150 of the Ninth regiment were in the hospital. We are now beginning to believe that the number has increased since then. I went through the hospital and I don't want to see such suffering again. Of course, we must have the services of the very best physicians, Drs. Stewart and Weaver, but they are worked to death and so are the orderlies. I saw men lying in the hospital burning up with fever, while dozens of mosquitoes hovered over them or rested upon their faces. The attendants are doing everything possible for their comfort, but the people here at home should know that there is much to be done which the government cannot do, and which we must do."

MAJOR WINT'S CONDITION.

He is Now on the Hospital Boat.

Major Wint, formerly of this city, who was shot during the battle at Santiago on July 1, while leading a charge of his battalion of the Tenth cavalry up the San Juan hill, is on the hospital ship Belle now near Santiago. He was shot in the right thigh and the bone was badly splintered. He will recover but it will be some time before he will be able to get around.

Major Wint's brother officers speak in the highest terms of his bravery and his general has recommended him for promotion. One of the most desperate assaults of the battle was entrusted to the Tenth cavalry which was dismounted and acting as infantry.

Major Wint was leading his men up the steep San Juan hill amid a hail of Spanish bullets. A captain and lieutenant, who were fighting beside him, were shot down and killed, and then his men began to waver.

Major Wint sprang some distance in advance of them and commanded them to follow him. They responded with a yell, the summit of San Juan hill was reached and the trenches cleared of the Spanish soldiers. Before this was accomplished Major Wint had been wounded. He had the satisfaction, however, from where he lay wounded and bleeding, of seeing his men take and retain the coveted piece of territory he led them to.

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SCENES AT THE FLAG RAISING

Ceremonies of Hoisting the Stars and Stripes at Santiago.

THE THRILLING SCENE WITNESSED BY 10,000 PEOPLE, PRINCIPALLY WOMEN AND NON-COMBATANTS. CAPTAIN CAPRON'S BATTERY FIRES A SALUTE OF TWENTY-ONE GUNS—THE BANNER CHERISHED BY AMERICAN TROOPS OUTSIDE THE CITY.

Santiago de Cuba, July 17, Sunday, 6 p. m.—The American flag is floating in triumph over the governor's palace at Santiago de Cuba. General McKibbin has been appointed temporary military governor.

The ceremonies of hoisting the Stars and Stripes was worth all the blood and treasure it cost. A vast concourse of 10,000 people witnessed the stirring and thrilling scene that will live forever in the minds of all the Americans present. A finer stage setting for a dramatic episode it would be difficult to imagine. The palace, a picturesque old dwelling in the Moorish style of Architecture faces the Plaza de la Reina, the principal public square. Opposite rises the imposing Catholic cathedral. On one side is a quaint, brilliantly patterned building, with broad verandas—the club of San Carlos, on the other—a building of a much the same description, is the Cafe de la Venus.

Across the plaza was drawn up the Ninth infantry, headed by the Sixth cavalry band. In the street facing the palace stood a picked troop of the Second cavalry, with drawn sabres, under command of Captain Brett.

Massed on the stone flagging, between the band and the line of horsemen were the brigade commanders of General Shafter's division, with their staff.

On the red tiled roof of the palace stood Captain McKittrick, Lieutenant Miley and Lieutenant Wheeler, immediately above them, upon the flagstaff, the illuminated Spanish arms and the legend "Vive Alfonso XIII."

THE BANNER UNFURLED.

All about, pressing against the veranda rails, crowding to windows and doors and lining the roofs, were the people of the town, principally women and non-combatants. "The chimas of the old cathedral rang out the hour of twelve, the infantry and cavalry presented arms. Every American uncovered; and Captain McKittrick hoisted the Stars and Stripes. As the brilliant folds unfurled in a general breeze against a fleckless sky the cavalry band broke into the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner," making the American pulse leap and the American heart thrill with joy.

At the same instant the sound of the firing of Captain Capron's battery, firing a salute of twenty-one guns, drifted in. When the music ceased, from all directions around our line came floating across the plaza the strains of the regimental bands and the muffled, hoarse cheers of our troops.

The infantry came to "order arms" a moment later, after the flag was up, and the band played "Hail Round the Flag Boys," instantly General McKibbin called for three cheers for General Shafter, which were given with great enthusiasm, the band playing Sousa's "The Infantry Stripes" forever.

The ceremony of General Shafter and his staff returned to the American lines, leaving the city in the possession of the municipal authorities, subject to the control of General McKibbin.

SUNDAY BASE BALL.

EASTERN LEAGUE. Montreal, 6; Toronto, 5.

AMERICAN LEAGUE. Hartford, 4; Paterson, 2.

AMATEUR BALL NOTES.

The ball team composed of employees of the car accountant's office at the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western station, were met and again summarily defeated by the Alumni Athletic association's team. The game was played Saturday afternoon on the Central grounds. The score was 22-4. Batteries—A. A. A. Harrington and Gallagher; Employees, Crossin and Duffy.

The Taylor Rosobuds challenge the Almans, of Hyde Park, for a game on the Taylor grounds for Thursday afternoon, July 21. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will accept. William H. Nicholas, manager.

The Lackawanna challenge the Eureka to a game July 21 on Sport Hill grounds. We think we have a strong team. Has ought to accept, as we have played them on their grounds for the past three years. We think we are entitled to one game on our ground. J. Burke, captain.

The Crescents challenge the Eureka, West Side Browns or the Moonie Popular to a game to be played on the Crescents' grounds. Will accept. J. W. Love, return name. John F. Liebig, manager.

The Snoozers challenge the James Boys to a game on the James Boys' grounds. Please answer. John Tolan, manager; Andrew Nealon, treasurer.

St. Paul Arrives.

San Francisco, July 17.—The steamer St. Paul arrived tonight from Michael, bringing fifteen passengers from the Yukon.

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