

Fred Bluth Writes Some Interesting Letters.

Details of the Trip From San Francisco to the Hawaiian Islands—Honolulu in the Eyes of the Boys in Blue.

The following descriptive letter from the pen of Fred Bluth, who is in Battery B, and now almost to Manila, will be read with interest:

"On board the flagship China, Pacific Ocean, between San Francisco and Honolulu, June 20, 1898.

"I failed to write you on the day of leaving San Francisco though I had promised to do so. I was placed on guard, which means two hours on and four off. The guard house was full of prisoners so the guards had to bunk in their own tents. All that night the boys were so jubilant over the prospective departure in the morning that I got little or no sleep. We broke camp at 4 o'clock in the morning. On account of vaccination my arm was so sore that I could not bear a strap under it so I was excused from the march of five miles and was detailed to help load the drays. When we reached the wharf at 2 p. m. on the 14th, I was seized by a fever and was compelled to go aboard and go to bed. On awaking the next morning the sun was shining in my face through an open port hole. The mist was just rising from the bay and the city, and my head began to clear also. Then I began to think of home and friends and wished I could go ashore and send you a word or two, but when once out in the stream no private goes ashore.

"On the 15th the China hoisted her anchor at 1:20 p. m. and we were off. I will not soon forget that day. Tugboats, ferryboats, rowboats and all descriptions of boats came out to say good by. Almost all of them had on board some kind of band or music. I strained my eyes to recognize some familiar face, but no, I saw none, and then I gazed toward the city while the whistles screamed and the guns boomed. When we got out at Fort Point the guns of the fort saluted us with thirteen guns. I then took a long look at the land which I hold so dear and which I probably will not see for two long years.

"When out about forty miles, I, with a few others, made for the rail, and of course you know the rest. I was laughed at of course, but I was glad that I took sick the first day, for I have never felt better than since that day, and I have had the laugh dozens of times on those who laughed at me. On the second and third day, almost all were sick, but now there are but a few.

"There were four boats which left on the second expedition, the China, Zealandia, Senator and the Colon. They have all kept together until this morning at 8 o'clock, when we left them. This boat, the China, has a speed of about twenty knots, whereas the others range from nine to fifteen knots. We expect to go into Honolulu forty-eight hours ahead of the rest, so that we can take on coal and give room for the other three. There are very few boats on the Pacific that can outrun the China. Battery B is split, three sections, Nos. 3, 4, and 5 being on this boat, and 1, 2, and 6 being on the Zealandia. Battery A is on the Colon with the Pennsylvanians, while we have on board the Coloradans and the Eighteenth regulars. The Coloradans eat on the starboard and the regulars and battery on the port side.

"The China has a Chinese crew which we don't much enjoy. We have to laugh at them, however. When commanded to lash everything in anticipation of a storm, they get so excited, huddle all together and remind me of a base ball team getting rattled. Otherwise they get along fairly well, though unmercifully 'joshed' by the soldiers.

"On the 16th we had a beautiful day, the sea as smooth as a calm lake, though the captain expected a storm about 5 p. m.

"On the 17th we ran into a rain storm and all had to go below.

"On the 18th we had as pretty a sun as ever shown. The storm had cleared and the sea was again smooth. The water is an indigo blue, just as pretty as it can be. I have heard it said on board that no brush can paint it. We saw three big whales, one about half a block away. He must have been mad for he was throwing water in the air, but I think he is feeling better now. My appetite is something awful. I go down voraciously on potatoes, hardtack, coffee, corn beef, hash and cabbage. When we left San Francisco we had on board 32 head of cattle and about 1,400 head of men. About five of the beeves are gone but the men are all here and well. We have beef every other day so I don't see where we have any complaint to make at all. The beans were burnt one morning, and oh how the cooks got roasted from the captain.

"At the rate we are traveling we will probably see Honolulu Wednesday or Thursday, the 22nd or 23rd. This morning, the 20th, is another beau-

tiful day. While sitting on the upper deck someone spied a speck of smoke in the distance. You ought to have seen us get our mail ready, but it proved to be the steamer Peru, which we were informed did not carry mail, so we did not stop. We are expecting to meet the Gaelic and if we do I will mail this letter; if not, I will mail it at Honolulu.

"Tuesday the 21st—Probably the Hawaiian Islands are annexed by this time. We are all wondering whether we will get shore leave. I hope so as I would like to see the city. We have just fired the gun for retreat, which means "to-bed."

"This is the 22nd—We are all anxious to see land, though we do not expect to get there till noon tomorrow. We have had one case of typhoid on board so far, but I think all are well now. We are about 25 hours ahead of the other boats.

"Morning of the 23rd—Hurrah! We have arrived in Honolulu. I spied land this morning at 4. We went up to the wharf about 8 and received a fine reception. We go ashore about noon. The Hawaiian band is now playing "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue," amid a roar of cheering. My address will be, Utah Light Battery, Military Station No. 1, Philippine Islands. It is hot here now, but I like it.

("Then follows a short letter written ashore at Honolulu, June 24th, from which the following is taken:)

"Here we are in Honolulu. To write you what my feelings are is impossible. Talk about receptions. I cannot describe it, it is too grand. We arrived here at 5 a. m. yesterday. We docked about 6:30 a. m. At 9 a. m. 1,400 men commenced a march of four miles to a bathing resort on a fine sandy beach. When through, we marched back to the executive mansion and sat down to the finest table I have ever seen. There were 200 men and lady waiters. When our repast was finished we marched back to the boat, dressed up in our best and commenced to march for review. We were reviewed from the steps of the palace by President Dole and his staff and Gen. Greene who is in command of this expedition.

Later we shook hands with the President and his wife.

"My mind is changed as to California being the prettiest place. I will say this much: Honolulu is the prettiest city in the world until I see a prettier one. Oh, it is lovely. Nothing but beautiful mansions and extensive lawns. An aristocratic class of people seem to live here. My eyes were opened so big that they are sore. This city is not behind in anything except it be the street car system, horse cars being used, though the city is lighted by electricity. I thought Ogden had a swell fire department, but they go them one better here. There is nothing, however, in San Francisco that can touch our department at home.

"We have been given an hour to come up in the palace to write letters and we are doing so. The Hawaiian government have given us the privilege of writing all the letters we wish and turn them over and they will stamp and forward them for us. They mailed 7,000 letters for the first expedition. I am writing on the balcony of the palace. It's a beautiful place. They have furnished us with material. Isn't that nice? The Monterey was reported to have arrived while we were eating. Our treatment here has been such that all the roughness of the sea voyage has been forgotten. We play a game of ball here at 4:30 p. m. When aboard again I will write further details."

He also enclosed a white silk badge upon which was printed:

ALOHA

(save or welcome)

to the

U. S. Flag and Hawaiian Flag.

Boys in Blue

Honolulu, H. I.

1898.

The Chief Burgess of Milesburg, Pa., says DeWitt's Little Early Risers are the best pills he ever used in his family during forty years of house keeping. They cure constipation, sick headache and stomach and liver troubles. Small in size but great in results.

O. L. PEEBLES.