

## HOW THINGS ARE AT MANILA

As Viewed By One of the Ogden Boys in Battery "B."

The steamer China, one of the transports which carried the Utah Batteries to Manila, returned from that place a couple of days ago and brought with it mail from the boys. Several letters were received by John V. Bluth from his brother Fred, who at the time of the writing had just been released from the hospital. By letters formerly received from him, it was learned that the China, heading the second expedition, reached Manila Bay, July 16th. On that same day Fred fell ill with appendicitis and was operated on July 20th. The letters received this morning, were dated Aug. 9, 13, 24th and 26th. No doubt the many friends that Fred has in this city will be pleased to hear from him and a synopsis of his last letter follows:

"Hurray! I am once more with the boys! I was turned loose from the Reserve hospital Wednesday, Aug. 24th, and I must say I was hardly ever happier than the morning I got aboard the government tug to cross the bay. The morning was beautiful and the bay was full of men-of-war and transports. The tug-boat touched at five different points for American cruisers to take of mail. It also took off Admiral Dewey and I got a good look at the man that every American, and perhaps a few Spaniards, respect. He is a very short man but in his face you see written 'determination.' We were about two hours going across, but I enjoyed it immensely it being a great contrast to what I had been having for a month past.

"Few can realize what a military hospital is until they have had a turn at it. On the 20th of July I was operated upon by Dr. Rethers, head surgeon at the German hospital of San Francisco, assisted by Dr. Whiting of Oregon and two trained nurses. I was under the influence of ether 45 minutes, finding myself in the general hospital on awakening. After fourteen days there I was removed to the reserve hospital, where I received better treatment. When I received your letters and papers I jumped for joy, though not very high for the cut had not yet fully healed.

"Manila is walled in by three immense walls and I don't suppose that an army of a million could have taken the town without heavy artillery such as Dewey brought to bear on it. The Utah batteries have established a great reputation. They fought bravely all the way through. Not a night passed but that some section of the batteries was out in the mud and rain slaughtering Spaniards. All the regiments speak in the highest praise of our boys; and one infantry officer, whom I overheard, said that he would 'take off his hat to the Utah artillery every time. And yet to think that we never lost a man and had but two wounded. The night on which the Spaniards let so heavy, was so dark that the boys could not see three feet ahead of them. Gen. Greene came up and encouraged them and they let open with shrapnel when the Spaniards were only fifty yards away, 4,000 against 500, and the boys literally tore them to pieces. In the morning they found 358 Spaniards killed and over 2,000 wounded. Gen. Greene said that if the Mo-mons had fought another half hour they would have had Manila, for in the dark many of the shots went high and exploded in the city. The following day however Dewey opened up on the town and then up went the white flags and shortly after the Stars and Stripes.

"I got off the boat up the river last Wednesday (Aug. 24) and started out to find the boys, though I did not know in what direction to seek them. Every few feet I found a sentry in the streets; one would send me this way and another that. Tired out, I sat down by a drug store and commenced to watch the promiscuous crowd of people passing by. All at once I spied Captain Young coming across a bridge and I immediately flagged him. He took my knapsack on his 400-pound horse and told me to follow him. He asked my name. I told him. "A brother to Johnny?" he asked. I said yes, and he asked me to send his kindest regards to you.

"We have splendid barracks, the canal filled with eows which are crowded with natives and Spaniards being but a few yards behind us. The Spaniards all run loose in the city, but are unarmed. We are as safe here as in the streets at Ogden. It is getting warm and everybody is clothed in white, including shoes, making a pretty and pleasing sight. In the center of our present quarters there is a grassy plaza where we keep our guns. We have a nice plunge bath house, but I am not yet able to swim, so I must content myself with sponge baths. My wound is almost healed and I can get along with the rest now. Should it be necessary to remain here the full two years, I think I can make it, for after what I have gone through I think I can stand most anything. I am feeling well at present and perfectly able to attend to my duties as a soldier for Uncle Sam."