
ATTACK ON MOUNT DAJO.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

PURSUANT TO SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95, COPIES OF ALL REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS RESPECTING THE RECENT ATTACK BY TROOPS OF THE UNITED STATES ON MOUNT DAJO.

MARCH 19, 1906.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 16, 1906.

SIR: I am in receipt of a communication from the Secretary of the Senate, advising me that the Senate has passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War is hereby directed to send to the Senate copies of all reports and other communications between the War Department and any officials in the Philippine Islands respecting the recent attack by troops of the United States on Mount Dajo.

In response to the resolution, I inclose herewith all reports and other communications between the War Department and the officials of the Philippine Islands respecting the recent attack by troops of the United States on Mount Dajo.

Very respectfully,

WM. H. TAFT,
Secretary of War.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

[Cablegram received at the War Department March 9, 1906, 9.05 a. m.]

THE MILITARY SECRETARY,
Washington.

Following condensed from Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood:

ZAMBOANGA, March 9.

Troops, naval detachment, constabulary, Col. Joseph W. Duncan commanding, attacked Moro's fortifications in crater, on Mount Dajo, near Jolo. Action lasted afternoon March 6, morning March 8. Mount Dajo 2,100 feet high, 500 feet angle,

50 degrees, lava ridges, heavy timber. Artillery lifted block and tackle 300 feet. Moros depredated from stronghold past eight months and resisted to the death. About 600 killed. Major-General Wood, Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss present throughout.

Killed: Army, 15 enlisted, Capt. Tyree R. Rivers, wounded in thigh, slight; First Lieut. Gordon Johnston, wounded in shoulder, serious; First Lieut. Ernest H. Agnew, wounded in hand, slight; First Lieut. Wylie T. Conway, eye, slight. Thirty-two enlisted men. Names enlisted men killed, wounded, reported later. Navy wounded: Ensign H. D. Cooke, wounded in foot, serious; Cockswain Gilmore, elbow, slight; one seaman, slight.

Constabulary: Killed: Three enlisted; John R. White, wounded in thigh, serious. Thirteen enlisted. Total killed, 18; wounded, 52. Troops, Naval Detachment, Constabulary highly commended.

ANDREWS,
In the Absence of the Division Commander.

[Cablegram received at the War Department March 12, 1906, 7.50 a. m.]

THE MILITARY SECRETARY,
Washington.

The following is a list of the killed Mount Dajo fight:

Company B, Nineteenth Regiment U. S. Infantry: Barsley Box.
Company D, Nineteenth Regiment U. S. Infantry: Edward Kilgore,
Thomas Harrison, John Tomaszewski, Charles Banks.
Company L, Nineteenth Regiment U. S. Infantry: John N. Pfeil.
Company F, Sixth Regiment U. S. Infantry: Carl H. Bailey, John
P. Hines.
Company G, Sixth Regiment U. S. Infantry: Walther Hagedorn.
Company K, Sixth Regiment U. S. Infantry: John H. Shuler.
Company M, Sixth Regiment U. S. Infantry: Henry C. Wriedt,
Purl De Busk.
Troop F, Fourth Regiment U. S. Cavalry: Louis C. Herr, William
E. Kelly.
Troop I, Fourth Regiment U. S. Cavalry: Robert J. Bastian, Charles
J. Hoffer.
Troop K, Fourth Regiment U. S. Cavalry: Leo Calve.
All wounded are doing well.

ANDREWS,
In the absence of the Division Commander.

[Memorandum for The Military Secretary.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

Please transmit the following cablegram to Wood, Manila:

It is charged that there was a wanton slaughter of Moros, men, women, and children in the fight in Jolo at Mount Dajo. I wish you would send me at once all the particulars in respect to this matter, stating exact facts.

TAFT.

By direction of the Secretary of War.

FRED W. CARPENTER,
Private Secretary.

MARCH 12, 1906.

[Cablegram as sent in cipher.]

THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
March 12, 1906.Wood, *Manila*:

It is charged there was wanton slaughter Moros men, women, and children in the fight Mount Dajo. Wish you would send me at once all the particulars with respect to this matter, stating exact facts.

TAFT.

AINSWORTH.

[Extract from cablegram received at the War Department March 13, 1906, 9.53 a. m.]

THE MILITARY SECRETARY,
Washington:

In answer to Secretary of War's request for information March 12, I was present throughout practically entire action and inspected top of crater after action was finished. Am convinced no man, woman, or child was wantonly killed. A considerable number of women and children were killed in the fight—number unknown—for the reason that they were actually in the works when assaulted, and were unavoidably killed in the fierce hand to hand fighting which took place in the narrow inclosed spaces. Moro women wore trousers and were dressed, armed much like the men, and charged with them. The children were in many cases used by the men as shields while charging troops.

These incidents are much to be regretted, but it must be understood that the Moros, one and all, were fighting not only as enemies but religious fanatics, believing Paradise to be their immediate reward if killed in action with Christians. They apparently desired that none be saved. Some of our men, one a hospital steward, were cut up while giving assistance to wounded Moros by the wounded and by those feigning death for the purpose of getting this vengeance. I personally ordered every assistance given wounded Moros, and that food and water should be sent them and medical attendance. In addition, friendly Moros were at once directed to proceed to mountain for this purpose. I do not believe that in this or in any other fight any American soldier wantonly killed a Moro woman or child, or that he ever did it, except unavoidably in close action. Action was most desperate, and was impossible for men fighting literally for their lives in close quarters to distinguish who would be injured by fire. In all actions against Moros we have begged Moros again and again to fight as men and keep women and children out of it. I assume entire responsibility for action of the troops in every particular, and if any evidence develops in any way bearing out the charges will act at once.

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WOOD.

