

1898

PRE-AUGUST 13 SPANISH SOLDIER MAIL

By January 1898, due to troop rotations, battle casualties, desertion, and disease, there were 26,000 Spanish soldiers in the Philippines (23,000 on Luzon near Manila and 3,000 on the other islands). Several thousand native Filipinos also served in the Spanish regiments and Guardia Civil, a native military organization that was part of the Spanish Army. The Spanish surrendered to the U.S. Army in Manila on August 13, 1898.

ONLY KNOWN COVER TO A FILIPINO SOLDIER IN THE SPANISH ARMY



1898 (April 4) Bacolod to Manila to a native Filipino to "Regimiento de Lina, 1st Battalion, 4th Company, Cuartel de Lunita". The Lunita (or Luneta) was an esplanade near the Manila Harbor and Intramuros (old walled city) where Spanish troops encamped. Letter written in native language. Posted at the 3 centavos between town interior rate.