

1898

SPANISH SOLDIER P.O.W. MAIL

On August 13, 1898, 13,300 Spanish soldiers surrendered to the U.S. Army in Manila. About 9,700 soldiers remained in outposts on Luzon or were under the control of insurgent forces – caught in the middle of the U.S.-Filipino conflict. Total Spanish soldiers on the Islands were 26,000. The last of the 3,000 Spanish soldiers in the Visayas and southern islands surrendered at Zamboanga in January 1899. Upon surrender, the Spanish P.O.W.s were relieved of their weapons and were confined to their previous stations or served on work details. By late 1899, most of the Spanish soldiers had returned to Spain. Thousands of native Filipinos also served in the Spanish Army, and melted back into the population.

ONLY A FEW COVERS ARE KNOWN FROM SPANISH SOLDIER P.O.W.s



1898 (November 21) Manila to Cadiz, Spain from a Spanish soldier P.O.W. (entafeta militar no. 1) via the U.S. Army "MIL STA. No. 1, PHILIPPINES" (Manila) post office. Posted with U.S. adhesive at the single-weight overseas rate to Spain of 5 cents.