Military Service during the Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1902

The signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1898, which ended the Spanish-American War, gave the United States possession of the Philippines. This did not sit well with many natives whose desire for independence soon resulted in armed resistance against the United States. The Philippine Insurrection began February 4, 1899, just outside of Manila, and ended three years later on July 4, 1902, after President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed an end to the uprising.

Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)
In the 1890s, the Department of War used numerous sources, such as muster rolls, descriptive rolls, and pay rolls, to create compiled military service records. These records generally show when a soldier joined a unit and if he was present when the unit was mustered.

M872, Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Philippine Insurrection. 24 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier’s surname.

Note: If you do not find a volunteer soldier listed in the above index, please check the index for volunteer service during the Spanish-American War. For more information, see the following reference report: Military Service during the Spanish-American War, 1898–1899.

Service in the Regular Army, Navy, and Marine Corps
For more information see the following reference reports:
- Officers in the Regular Army, 1789–1916
- Enlisted Service in the Regular Army, 1789–1914
- Sailors in the U.S. Navy, 1789–1885
- Officers in the U.S. Navy, 1789–1925

Pensions
A veteran’s pension file can include his rank, place of residence, age or date of birth, and time of service. A widow’s application can also include her place of residence, her maiden name, the date and place of marriage, the date and place of her husband’s death, and the names of children under 16. A child’s or heir’s file contains information about both the veteran and the widow, as well as the child’s place of residence, date of birth, and the date and place of the widow’s death.

These records have not been filmed and in some cases must be requested from the Veterans Administration.

T288, General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934. 544 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by soldier’s surname.

T289, Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900. 765 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by state or territory, then by type of unit (cavalry, artillery, or
infantry), followed by militia, reserves, sharpshooters, and other organizations, and finally alphabetically by name. The publication concludes with records of units not limited to geographic location, such as the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Volunteers, and U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps.

A1158, *Numerical Index to Pensions, 1860-1934*. 359 rolls. Arranged numerically; this index is useful when trying to decipher unclear numbers on T288 or T289. The cards give the name of the veteran or dependant who had the number as an application number or as a certificate number. Each number could be used four times for four different people. For application or original numbers, the card also shows the certificate number.

**Remarried Widows**
Some widows drew pensions from the service of multiple husbands. In such cases the pension application information for soldiers is usually included in a single file, under the surname of the most recent husband. The index includes the name of the claimant, the name of the soldier and his service (unit), and the pension number.

M1785, *Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the Civil War and Later Wars and in the Regular Army After the Civil War*. 7 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by the widow’s surname.

**Navy Pensions**
Pre–1910 pension files for Navy sailors and dependents (widows, children, etc.) are on microfiche. For more information, see the following reference report: *Pension Records for Service in the United States Navy, 1776–1910*.

**Pension Payment Cards**
M850, *Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. 2,539 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier’s or widow’s surname. This series reproduces Pension Office cards that record payments to pensioners from 1907 to 1933, except for World War I veterans. The card includes the pension certificate number.

**Other War Department Records**
These records are copies of original documents used to prepare a history of the Philippine Insurrection. The descriptive pamphlet outlines the contents of the film and gives background information regarding the importance of these files.

M719, *History of the Philippine Insurrection Against the United States, 1899–1903* and Documents Relating to the War Department Project for Publishing the History. 9 rolls. DP. This series includes Annual Reports, files from the Bureau of Insular Affairs, and documents from the Adjutant General’s Office.

NARA’s web site is http://www.archives.gov