

Philippine Study Group of Minnesota

Philippine-American War Corrective Plaque

February 4, 2002 Installation

TIMELINE

May 1, 1898

Admiral Dewey launches surprise attack against a handful of Spanish war vessels in Manila Bay. Commander of Spain's Asian naval fleet surrenders.

May 19, 1898

President McKinley instructs his cabinet to make preparations for the occupation the Philippines.

June 12, 1898

Generalissimo Emilio Aguinaldo, along with other Filipino leaders, sign the Proclamation of Independence.

Summer, 1898

Volunteers soldiers from many Midwestern states enlist to fight Spanish. U.S. soldiers defeat Spanish troops in Cuba

August 13, 1898

Volunteers from the 13th Minnesota take part in invasion of Manila. Filipino Army (who control suburbs) kept out of city by U.S. soldiers. Spanish Commander quickly surrenders (surrender had been arranged prior to battle, unbeknownst to rank and file soldiers). This is the final battle of the Spanish American War.

September 15, 1898

The Malolos Congress is convened to lay the legal and constitutional foundations for what is to become the First Philippine Republic.

December 12, 1898

U.S. and Spanish negotiators sign the Treaty of Paris, officially ending the Spanish-American War and ceding the Philippines to the U.S. for \$20 million. However, perhaps mindful of the yet unfinished build-up of its ground forces, the U.S. refuses to dispel Filipino suppositions that the Americans might yet recognize Philippine independence.

January 23, 1899

Generalissimo Emilio Aguinaldo formally proclaims the establishment of the First Philippine Republic at Malolos in Bulacan province.

February 4, 1899

U.S. sentries shoot and kill 4 Filipino troops at Santa Mesa bridge. This incident marks the beginning of the Philippine-American War. Out of a population of about 6 million, Filipinos

lost an estimated 400,000 to 600,000 lives in the conflict. American losses were approximately 10,000.

February 6, 1899

With one vote to spare beyond the required two-thirds majority, the U.S. Senate votes to annex the Philippines.

March, 1899

Protestant missionaries begin arriving in the Philippines.

Spring & Summer, 1899

U.S. soldiers, who had volunteered to fight the Spaniards, become disaffected with the war, horrified that they have been ordered to wage war with Filipinos. Letters sent to their families back home turn the tide of American sentiment against the war. Filipino soldiers wage a dogged guerilla war despite a shortage of weapons, but American troops easily conquer village after village. In the remote countryside, popular resistance continues.

July 4, 1902

U.S. declares victory in Philippine-American War. Filipino resistance continues until 1910.

October 12, 1899

Minnesota Governor John Lind, *even on the occasion of welcoming the volunteer soldiers back to Minnesota*, offered praise that rang hollow with the horror of what the men had discovered in their tour of duty: "The mission of the American volunteer soldier has come to an end. *For purposes of conquest he is unfit, since he carries a conscience as well as a gun.* The volunteer soldier has always stood for self-government, liberty and justice. With your generation he will pass from the stage of our national life [Emphasis added]."

1942

Japan takes control of the Philippines in World War II.

October 20, 1944

U.S. forces return to the Philippines. MacArthur lands in the island of Leyte. Philippine government is re-established three days later.

July 4, 1946

The Philippines is granted political independence by the U.S.