

July 29th, Co. A proceeded to Port Ponce where we found plenty of work in manning ships' boats for General Miles, Colonel Black and Major Sackett, and in unloading, storing, transferring and guarding stores.

On Saturday, August 6th, Capt. Brown with twenty-five men started on a trip to Arecibo. We took along a load of tools for Gen. Roy Stone, leaving them at Adjuntas.

From Ponce to Adjuntas is a distance of twenty-five miles, about twenty-three of which is up hill. We marched slowly and steadily, and as there was plenty of fruit and good water along the way we got along finely. The beautiful scenery along the road added greatly to our pleasure and helped to lighten our burden.

You can imagine our surprise when, as we were toiling along (always higher and higher), we stopped to rest at a point about eighteen miles from Ponce, and upon looking backward saw the sea and the ships riding the waves at Port Ponce, seemingly at a distance of about three miles.

At Adjuntas we remained for a few days camping in a rose garden. The days were very warm; but the nights were so cold that we wore our blankets on guard. A very heavy dew fell every night. From Adjuntas we went to Utuado arriving there August 10th and camped on the banks of the Rio Grande. On the trip from Adjuntas to Utuado I was sent out with the advance guard. We got along finely but took the wrong road and had to retrace our steps for part of the way, so that we arrived in camp about two hours after the detachment, that's how the main body became the advance guard. From Utuado we took the Arecibo road and were soon outside of all American outposts, but there seemed to be no more danger, or even less, than one would experience in walking down State street.



On Thursday, August 11th, we went into camp about six miles from Arecibo. We were about to partake of our frugal meal when a courier arrived from General Henry, with word that a large party of Spaniards were returning from a fight on the coast and were marching in such a direction that we would be cut off from friends unless we returned at once. That night we were all put on outpost duty and although we saw considerable signalling going on in the surrounding hills, we were not molested. Next morning a detail went ahead to within sight of Arecibo and upon their return we turned toward Ponce. We got back to Utuado on the twelfth of August, where we stopped for a few days.

On the sixteenth we left Utuado and marched from morning until late in the afternoon without anything to eat but a few hard tacks. We ate supper at a French restaurant, at the expense of Capt. Brown, after which we felt much better, and