

next morning we started for Ponce after attending mass, held over the remains of one of the 19th Infantry boys.

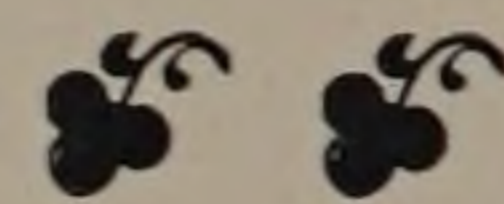
It rained all day as it had done for several days previous, and the mud was something to make one weep, but we surged ahead and made the twenty-five miles in a little less than eight hours. (It was down hill this time.)

We suffered considerable discomfort on the trip, but I look back upon it as one of the pleasantest of my experiences. Life in Ponce from that time on was simply routine work and happy indeed were we when we received orders to come home.

September 8th we left Ponce on board the "Alamo" (since blown up in New York harbor) where we spent seven long uncomfortable days. Arrived in Jersey City on the sixteenth and in Chicago on the seventeenth of September.

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Co. "A" Prov. Batl. Engrs.



An H. I. C. Engineer at Camp Wykoff



AT SUNSET, August 14th, the Second Volunteer Engineers arrived at Camp Wykoff. By noon the next day our Camp was made and we were ready to begin the work of converting the barren hills into an immense sick room to receive General Shafter's fever-stricken army, that would soon come from its campaign about Santiago. Wykoff, as we saw it first, was little more than a hilly waste of land. Here and there a deserted house, with surface roads connecting it and a railroad station of the same dimensions as is expected from a backwoods village. Add to this a glorious ocean breeze and you have Montauk Point as we saw it that August day. To the visitor of a fortnight later a wonderfully different scene presented itself. About the station had grown a little city of commissary and quartermaster depots, Red Cross stations and improvised cafes.

The hills were no longer barren. On one you saw a completely equipped hospital to accommodate two thousand patients, on another a quarantine camp large enough to hold eight regiments. Over by the ocean were tents pitched for twenty-five thousand men. A large water tank perched on the highest ground. From it ran mains to every camp and hospital. From a newly driven artesian well a pump-