

Richard H. Davis submits herewith three plans to issue service medals to the officers and men of our Army and Navy

Marion, Mass.,

Received Jan 8 – 1902 Office Secretary of War
--

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,
The White House,

Dear Colonel:-

There are the three plans of which I wrote, and which you told me to send you. They refer to a proposal to issue service medals to the officers and men of our Army and Navy. For convenience I have numbered them, A, B and C.

All three plans propose the distribution of medals for the following wars;

The War of the Rebellion.
The Indian Campaigns.
The War With Spain.
The Rebellion in the Philippine Islands.
The Relief of Peking Expedition.

The war with Mexico is omitted as there are few, if any veterans of that campaign now on the active list. [handwritten note: "There are none on active list".]

In Plan A it is proposed that the medals for all these campaigns be issued under the supervision, and by direction of the Departments of the Army and Navy; and that the expense of the medals be borne by the Government. This is merely adapting to this country the system which for seventy years has obtained among the chief military powers of Europe.

Plan B, suggests making use of the already existing military societies founded in this country by those who have already served in recent campaigns, and giving to these societies a semi-official standing; on the condition, that they throw open their membership to the enlisted men, and limit it strictly to those who have seen active service. Where, after a campaign more than one society has been organized by the veterans of that war, the government shall designate which society it recognizes as official. As this plan is proposed chiefly to meet the possible objection of Congress to pay for service medals, it is suggested that each member of that society recognize as "official," pay for his own medal, after the Departments of the Army and Navy have testified that he is eligible to receive it. This is following out a practice which obtains in some

foreign countries where decorations are distributed rather freely, but where the government is so poverty-stricken that it cannot afford to pay for the decorations it issues, and so gives only a brevet, entitling the recipient to buy one for himself. It is neither a dignified nor generous plan, and is suggested only as an alternative, in the event Congress deciding that the laborer is not worthy of the his hire.

Plan C is a compromise of Plans A and B, and like them presumes that the issue of service medals begins with one for the War of the Rebellion. But as the number of those engaged in that war is so great, and the work of investigating the validity of the claims for a service medal would be so enormous, and as the societies of the Loyal Legion, and of the Grand Army of the Republic are already so widely recognized, it is suggested that the official service medal for that War, be the insignia of either one of those societies. Were this, our greatest war, so disposed of, the cost of issuing medals for those wars in which our Army and Navy have since engaged would be so comparatively slight that, it is hoped, Congress would vote the appropriation necessary to pay for them.

WHAT A SERVICE MEDAL IS.

A service medal, or, as it is called in Europe, a War Medal, or Campaign Medal, is one given to an officer or enlisted man, to mark the fact that he has seen active service in a particular campaign against an enemy of his country. It is a sign and witness to the fact that the one who wears it, was at a certain place at a certain time; that that place was a scene of conflict and the time was between a declaration of war and a declaration of peace.

WHAT A SERVICE MEDAL IS NOT.

A service medal is not a decoration, nor an insignia of any "Order". Unlike these, it cannot be obtained by favor, "influence," not by inheritance. The owner can never be suspected of having received it because he had a friend at court, nor because he had a senator for an uncle, nor because his great great grand-father fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. The King of England can create a peer, or make a knight of a commoner, but unless a man has seen service in the Transvaal, he cannot give him a South African war medal. The Duke of Connaught, for example, who has over two hundred decorations and orders, possesses but one war medal, and to obtain that it was necessary for him to go to Egypt on the staff of the commanding general, and be "among those present" at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

THE SYSTEM OF ISSUING SERVICE MEDALS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

In foreign countries after a campaign has taken place, certain dates are designated by the government as those embracing the most important moments of the war, and geographical lines are drawn in which an attempt is made to bound the zone of danger. Each soldier or sailor actively engaged within these fixed lines between these fixed dates, is considered entitled to a service medal. And to each man present during actions or engagements of special importance, separate bars or clasps are affixed to the ribbon of his medal, marked with the name of the action, as for example, "Defence of Lucknow", "Omdurmann", "Defence of Ladysmith", "Relief of Maefking."

Did the same system exist in this country, special bars or clasps for our recent campaigns would probably bear the inscriptions: "Manila Bay", "San Juan Hill", "Relief of Peking", "Guasimas", "Tien Tsin", "Guantanamo."

In foreign countries, while the decorations and orders consist of many grades and classes, no distinction whatsoever is made between the war medal given to officers and to the men. In having served their country each is supposed to be deserving of equal honor.

After the medal is bestowed, the owner is required by regulations to wear it. It becomes part of his uniform, like his sword, or his service stripes. In undress, he wears simply a quarter of an inch of the ribbon of the medal sewn upon the left breast of his coat. In full dress he wears both ribbon and medal.

STYLES OF WAR MEDALS

The style of war medal which has always been favored in Europe, is a plain medal the size of a half dollar made either of silver or gun metal, and suspended from a hidden clasp by a particular-colored ribbon. No effort is made to "paint" or "gild" these medals with either enamel or gold, but every effort is made to obtain for them an appropriate and beautiful design. To this end the French and British governments call to their assistance the best artists and sculptors in the country. An illustration of what beautiful work may be worthily expended on one of these small surfaces is the Dewey Medal, designed by French. In selecting the colors for the ribbon, the rule abroad has been, when possible, to choose such colors as suggest the particular war for which the medal is issued and the colors of the enemy's flag, or the flag itself, are generally used. The colors of the French ribbon for the Tonkin Expedition are those of the Chinese flag; for the Expedition against Mexico, the Mexican flag; for the Capture of Khartoum, red as typical of the British red-coat; black to signify the complexion of the enemy, and yellow as typifying the complexion of the "Gyppies". In the ribbon for the Boer War, khaki is the predominating color. In the designs which are submitted with this letter the same idea has been carried out, but I wish you to understand, that these designs are intended merely to explain the text, and are not, in any way, offered as suggestions. [handwritten note: "I mean, I think they are quite as unsatisfactory as you do. Still, they explain what a service medal is as it is designated abroad."]

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SERVICE MEDALS.

British officers have frequently testified that they find the service medal a great aid in discipline. Its possession gives the enlisted man a new sense of responsibility, he feels that among civilians as well as his comrades, he is a marked man, in that he is distinguished from his fellows as one who has been "under fire". I have been given many instances of unruly spirits in a regiment, who, because they did not wish to do anything which might disgrace their "ribbons", became sober, steady and reliable soldiers.

As incentives to recruiting, the service medals are of undoubted assistance. They hold out an extra honor to the man who contemplates enlisting; they act as a spur to his ambition and undoubtedly increase "smartness" and attractiveness of the uniform.

Of course, the obvious argument in their favor, is that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and that if street railroad companies and post-office authorities find that issuing good conduct stripes to their employees increases the efficiency of their service, and is an incentive to good

work, certainly the government can also expect increased loyalty and efficiency, by distinguishing those men who have served it in battle. But, as it is at present, the soldier who returns from the Philippines, and who may also have served in Cuba, and China, possesses no visible proof of his service. To the eyes of the man in the street, there is no difference between him and the new recruit who has never ventured further from Governor's Island than the Bowery.

PROBABLE COST OF SERVICE MEDALS.

The writer believes that service medals, such as are suggested by the enclosed drawings, if struck off at the Government Mint could be furnished for all the campaigns specified here, the Civil War excepted, at a cost of less than One Hundred thousand dollars. This price includes the cost of designs by the best artists; ribbons made in France, where they are manufactured by hand, and are better and cheaper than any which can be had elsewhere; and the clasps; and the cost of engraving the names of the recipients. At present there are six different bills before congress to give medals to the veterans of the Civil, and Spanish Wars. It is not impossible to believe that a bill which would combine the essential points of these, and which would call for the distribution of such medals as are herein enumerated, might be acceptable, and might pass.

The possible objection which might be raised to giving medals for services already rendered, might be answered by the fact that the men in our Army and Navy who participated in these campaigns are many of them still in active service and likely for some years to remain so, and that if they deserved recognition a few years ago, they have not ceased to deserve it since.

We are likely to be involved in other words, and the service medal is sure to come. If it is to come, it should come by process of law, and in a manner to convey to it, and to its recipient, the greatest possible honor. The spasmodic attempts to induce Congress to give medals for this, or that campaign, or to this, or that particular regiment, is neither equable nor just to others in whose behalf no special legislation has been moved.

The organizing of military societies, and the permitting by Congress of their members, who are also officers of the Army and Navy, to wear insignia, is merely whipping the devil around the post, and is rather a mean method of making our soldiers pay for what should be paid for by the government, and which is of greatest importance, authorized and bestowed by the Government.

The Government should put an end to the suggestion, that "Our officers form a society in order to give themselves a medal." They are entitled to their service medal, and it is the place of the Government, as it should be its pleasure and privilege, to see that they get one.

Although I have not been encouraged to give an opinion on existing regulations, concerning the right of officers to wear decoration, medals, and insignia, I am going to take the liberty of calling them to your attention, as I believe, after considering them, you will agree that they could stand radical revision. I know the matter is not a vital one, but I imagine that to a commander-in-chief, no matter concerning the service, if it can be shown to his satisfaction that it needs improving, will be considered unimportant.

The regulations as they are drawn up to-day seem, at least to my mind, contradictory, carelessly worded, and in one direction lax to a degree, while, in another, they seem needlessly severe. In one breath they permit an officer of our services to deck himself at his own pleasure, with a multitude of ornaments which he has done nothing to deserve, and refuse him permission

to wear even the very highest honor which it is in the power of a friendly foreign government to bestow. Further, in approving the wearing by our officers, of medals which they have inherited from their great great grandfathers, I consider that the regulations are in opposition to the spirit of our government, and are giving a value to a man's ancestors, in the one organization where what he is himself, should be all that counts.

After the coronation at Moscow, several of our officers ridiculed the late Major Logan for wearing string of medals belonging to his father. At the same time these same officers were wearing medals they had inherited from their great great grandfathers. I fail to see why they were not equally ridiculous, and yet in doing this they were supported by regulations. I may add that I belong to several of these so-called "patriotic" societies, so I must not be accused of writing in a "spirit of envy, hatred and all uncharitableness."

Allow me to give you a suppositious example, which will show how our present regulations can be reduced to absurdity.

Paragraph 1760, U.S. Army Regulations;

"Officers and enlisted men who, in their own right, or by right of inheritance are members of military societies of men who served in the armies and navies of the United States of the War of the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the War of the Rebellion, or the Spanish-American War, and the incidental insurrection in the Philippines, or are members of the Regular Army and Navy Union of the United States, may wear on all occasions of ceremony the distinctive badges adopted by such societies."

The regulations of the Navy, Chapter Three, Section thirteen, for 1900, are to the same effect.

According to these regulations a cadet on leaving West Point or Annapolis as a Second Lieutenant or Midshipman, if he can lay claim to any ancestor who was even a Lieutenant of Militia in the Revolution, is entitled to place upon his uniform, "On the left breast of the coat, suspended by a ribbon from a bar of metal", any and all of the badges of the following "patriotic" societies;

- The Sons of the American Revolution.
- The Sons of the Revolution.
- The Society of Cincinnati.
- The Order of Washington.
- Order of Founders and Patriots of America.
- Society of the Colonial Wars.
- Military Order of Foreign Wars.

This, before the young gentleman has even reached the post or ship to which he has been assigned for duty. If he comes of a fighting line, and has an ancestor who served in the War 1812 and another in the Mexican War, he is entitled by the regulations to buy himself three more medals;

- The General Society of the War of 1812.
- The Military Society of the War of 1812.
- The Aztec Club of 1847.

If his father were an officer in the Civil War, and saw some Indian fighting, and you are aware of the number of our junior officers who come of military stock, this same young man, still on the cars on his way to his post, is entitled to present himself with six more medals, making in all sixteen medals, which by the regulations he is authorized to wear, and for not one of which he himself has rendered the slightest service.

Certainly no foreign country, appalling, and fraught with danger as their decorations are, according to our Constitution, and excommunicated as they are by our regulations, would anything so absurd be tolerated as a subaltern's possessing the right to report for duty wearing sixteen decorations for services rendered before he was born, by somebody else.

The medals to which his father's services entitle him are as follows:

Order of Indian Wars.

Veterans of the Indian Wars.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion.

Regular Army and Navy Union of the United States.

Grand Army of the Republic.

Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Nor is this all. If this suppositious young man had the good fortune to be pitched forked into the Cuban War, and has seen some fighting in the Philippines, as have most of our subalterns and ensigns, he is entitled in his own right entitled [sic] to five more medals;

Society of the Army of Santiago.

Naval and Military Order of the Spanish-American War.

Society of Spanish War Veterans.

And to for the Philippines; The Society of the Philippine Insurrection and the "Distinguished Service Order of the United States Army," a title, which no society, not instituted by the Government itself, should for an instant, be permitted to bear.

So now, our hero has three medals for one campaign, and two for another, or twenty-one in all.

My sense of humor prevents me from supposing that any officer would go on parade wearing twenty-one medals, sixteen of which he had done nothing to deserve, but my point is that the regulations which permit him to do so must be at fault. Certainly, any man whose patriotism depends upon wearing a medal of a patriotic society is not wanted in the army.

The regulations forbidding an officer wearing a foreign decoration which is, of course, strictly in keeping with the Constitution seems as though it might be more liberal, and that it might be altered without shaking our Government to its foundations. I would be sorry to see our government allow officers to receive decorations given as compliments, and because they have acted merely as military attaches, or have commanded a guard of honor at a royal funeral, or a celebration at Kiel. But I cannot see why they should not be allowed to receive a decoration for services rendered in the field of battle while acting against a common enemy, as an ally of the Government bestowing it. There were many of our officers most highly commended by foreign generals for distinguished conduct during the Peking expedition; for saving a comrade's life, for carrying off the wounded under fire, and setting examples of coolness and gallant courage. It

does not seem fair that these men should not be allowed to receive public recognition of their conduct which, after all, reflected credit not only on themselves, but on every American soldier and sailor.

In these two particulars, our regulations, seemed to me most irregular, slipshod, undemocratic and un-American. I should like to see them completely overhauled. I should like to see every society badge and medal stripped off the American uniform unless it means that the man who wears it is a veteran of a war, or has rendered exceptional service to his country, in the pursuance of his duty, or as an ally of a foreign power, has upheld the fighting traditions of our Army and Navy. If this were done the regulations would read as follows:

Hereafter officers and men of the Army and Navy shall wear only the following badges, medals and insignia:

1. The Medal of Honor.
2. Special Medals voted by Congress, or bestowed at the request of a commanding officer, by the Department of the Army or Navy.

War Department
Washington, D.C., April 9th, 1902

The Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present, all the members.

The Board gave careful consideration to all the papers submitted to it on the subject of service medals, also to articles written on the subject by persons whose views are of value.

After an extended consideration of the subject of service medals in its many phases, the board has the honor to submit for presentation to Congress for legislative action, the following

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the President of the United States to cause medals to be struck and presented to officers and soldiers and others, who served in the Spanish War, and for other purposes.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be struck and distributed, under proper regulations, medals to commemorate service in the several campaigns and engagements of the war with Spain, the China Relief Expedition, the Philippine Insurrection, and such other wars and campaigns as may be undertaken by the United States in the future; and to reward the patriotism shown by soldiers enlisted for the Spanish War who performed willing service in the Philippines after the war with Spain had ended.

Provided, That in case of distinguished service in time of war, a special medal shall be granted.

And to carry out the provisions of this resolution, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated.

The object of this joint resolution is to give the Army a similar medal to that granted to the Navy by Joint Resolution of Congress No 17, approved March 13, 1902, for services on the shores of Cuba and in the battle of Santiago.

In framing this Joint Resolution, the board contemplates a separate medal for the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the China Relief Expedition. That there shall be a bar for each of the campaigns of Santiago, Porto Rico and Manila, properly inscribed and worn attached to the ribbon of the medal.

These medals are intended not only for the officers and soldiers, but for any persons who have been attached to the Army and performed service therewith.

All officers and soldiers in the service of the United States during the period of war would be entitled to the medal of that war. Those serving in the separate campaigns of the war would be entitled to the distinctive bar of that campaign, in addition to the medal.

The bill provides also a medal to reward those volunteer and regular soldiers who performed willing service in the Philippines after the War with Spain had ended, in spite of the

fact that they were enlisted only for the term of the Spanish War. President McKinley, in his dispatch to General Otis, July 1st, 1899, promised them a special medal.

The details as to who shall receive these medals, what shall be their form, their material, their cost, is left to the President under the proviso that they be struck and distributed “under proper regulations.”

The object of the Provision for a distinguished service medal is to reward distinguished services, not under fire, and which therefore cannot be rewarded with the medal of honor for conspicuous gallantry in action.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned sine die.

[Henry G. Sharpe]
Colonel, A. C. G, U.S. Army
President.

[James Parker]
Major, U.S. Cavalry,
Assistant Adjutant General
Member.

[L. M. Brett]
Captain, 2nd U.S. Cavalry
Recorder.

F. M. B.

Initials of James Parker A. A. G. Alterations No.s 1, 2 and 3.

MEMORANDUM:

By Public Resolution of Congress, No. 17, approved March 13, 1901, there was granted to the Navy a medal for service on the shores of Cuba, and for the battle of Santiago, during the war with Spain.

As yet, no medal has been granted to commemorate the remarkable achievement of the U.S. Army at Santiago, which expelled the Spanish fleet from the Harbor of Santiago and practically ended the war. The landing of this Army on the fever-stricken shores of Cuba in the face of a superior force, was a hazardous undertaking. As compared with the Army, the hazards, losses or hardships of the Navy amounted to nil.

The granting of a medal to the Navy for this achievement practically results in inaugurating the first campaign medal in our service. The occasion being propitious, the bill here proposed, also, incidentally, provides for campaign medals for the Campaigns of Porto Rico, Manila, Philippines Insurrection, China Relief Expedition, and future campaigns of note.

The Campaign Service Medal, is found in foreign armies to be a great aid to discipline and efficiency. Like a medal for merit, it promotes good conduct in its possessor, who is proud of it and dreads to disgrace it. It distinguishes veterans from recruits. Costing the government little, it is compensation for the hardships of a hard campaign. Since it adds to the rewards of the soldier and raises his status in the eyes of outsiders it is a great aid in facilitating recruiting.

The bill also provides that the special medal be granted which was promised by President McKinley to soldiers and volunteers for patriotism, in performing military service in the 8th Army Corps in the Philippines Islands after the Spanish War had ended, and their terms of service had expired, as per his dispatch to General Otis of July 1, 1899.

The bill also provides for a Distinguished Service Medal. Such a medal as this is needed to reward meritorious, valuable and hazardous service which cannot be rewarded by the Medal of Honor. The issue of the Medal of Honor is restricted to those "who have most distinguished themselves in action." There are numerous instances of distinguished service in war times involving the greatest hazard and which have been of immense value to the government, yet were not rendered strictly "in action". There might be cited Lieutenant Vixtor Whitney's reconnaissance of the Island of Porto Rico, both within the enemy's lines, or, hazardous service in time of yellow fever epidemic, etc., etc.

The particular advantage of the Distinguished Service Medal, is in rewarding services which here in our Army are usually reserved rewarded by brevets and in our Navy by an advance of numbers. These methods of reward have many disadvantages which need not be cited here. The medal abroad carries with it an increase in pay, and this feature might with advantage be adopted here, since it adds greatly to its value. We have in our service the "Certificate of Merit", the issue of which by law is limited to enlisted men, "who have distinguished themselves in the service", and which brings its bearer \$2 per month additional pay, an increase of 10 per cent per month on the average pay of the soldier. It is proposed that the "Distinguished Service Medal" take the place of the "Certificate of Merit", carrying [sic] with it the same increase of pay. And that for officers the medal carry with it an increase of pay of 10 per cent.

In providing a system of medals, the question arises whether the title of the present "Medal of Honor" should not be changed. It may be said that every medal is a medal of honor. The criticism is made of the present title that it in no way suggests the particular act which it rewards, namely: gallantry in action. It is believed that the title should be changed, and that it should be designated the "Military Medal for Valor."

The remarkable similarity between this medal and the G.A.R. medal which was apparently copied after it, has robbed the Medal of Honor of a large part of its distinction as a decoration. The Medal of Honor also has in times past, in numerous cases, been granted for services not in action, the law thus not being complied with. In inaugurating a system of medals these facts would seem to call for a change in design, as well as designation, in the Medal of Honor, and that as stated above the new medals should be entitled the "Military Medal for Valor".

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
WASHINGTON May 8, 1902

The Adjutant General of the Army

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith proceedings of the Board of Officers convened by Special Orders No. 62, Headquarters of the Army, March 14, 1902, for the purpose of considering and reporting upon the advisability of presenting to Congress for legislative action, the subject of service medals.

Very respectfully,

H.G. Sharpe

Colonel, A.C.G., U.S. Army,

President of the Board

Enc. 1

Proceedings of a Board of Officers convened by the following order:

Headquarters of the Army,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, March 14th, 1902

Special Orders:

No. 62. : Extract.

11. By direction of the Secretary of War, a board of officers to consist of Colonel Henry G. Sharpe, Assistant Commissary General, U.S. Army, Major James Parker, U.S. Cavalry, Assistant Adjutant General, and Captain Lloyd M. Brett, 2nd U.S. Cavalry, will meet at the War Department at 10 o'clock a.m., March 17th, 1902, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the purpose of considering and reporting upon the advisability of presenting to Congress for legislative action the question of service medals. The board will report to the Assistant Secretary of War for such instructions regarding the scope of its work and its method of procedure as may be deemed necessary. The junior member will act as recorder. Such journeys as are required by Captain Brett in attending meetings of the board and returning to his proper station are necessary for the public service.

By command of Lieutenant General Miles:

Thomas Ward,
Acting Adjutant General.

Adjutants Generals Office

Sept 18 1903
To the General Staff

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

I have the honor to submit, in order that they may be referred to the General Staff, the proceedings of the board, of which I am a member, on service medals for the Regular Army. The copy of the orders under which the board was convened follow:

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

To draft in detail, for consideration and submission to the President, an order or regulation to be added to the regulations relating to uniforms, providing as a part of the uniform of the officers and enlisted men of the regular army service medals with distinctive bars, of the kind contemplated in the recommendations to Congress for service medals to volunteers and regular army not acted upon.

(Signed) E.R.

February 27, 1903

Secretary of War

MEMORANDUM:

An informal Board to consist of Lieutenant Colonel McCain, Assistant Adjutant General, Lieutenant Colonel Ennis, Assistant Adjutant General, and Major Parker, Assistant Adjutant General, will prepare a scheme to carry out the following instructions of the Secretary of War:

“To draft in detail, for consideration and submission to the President, an order or regulation to be added to the regulations relating to uniforms, providing as a part of the uniform of the officers and enlisted men of the regular army service medals with distinctive bars, of the kind contemplated in the recommendations to Congress for service medals to volunteers and regular army not acted upon.

(Signed) H. C. Corbin,

February 27, 1903

Secretary of War

I also submit the following documents:

1. A tentative order, read and corrected in his handwriting by Secretary of War Elihu Root, in March, 1903.
2. A second tentative order, being a revision of the first order as approved by the Board, May 30, 1903.
3. Papers with reference to the recommendation to Congress for service medals for Volunteers and the Regular Army not acted upon. Also certain correspondence with reference to designs for medals.

4. Designs for medals as follows:
 - (1) Design of Captain Cecil Stewart, 4th Cavalry.
 - (2) “ “ anonymous correspondent.
 - (3) “ “ Lieut.Colonel Alfred Reynolds.
 - (4) “ “ anonymous correspondent.
 - (5) “ from Chief of Engineers.
 - (6) “ of Captain A. H. Brown, 4th Infantry.
 - (7) “ “ 1st Lieut. E.S. Sayer, Jr., 21st Infy.
 - (8) “ “ Robert Emmett, Formerly Captain, 9th Cavalry & Lt. Colonel, Vols.
 - (9) “ “ Captain H. M. Reeve, 17th Infy.
 - (10) “ “ C. H. Ourand, District of Columbia Militia.
 - (11) “ “ Captain J. R. Taylor, 14th Infy.
 - (12) “ “ Lieut. Colonel J. S. Pettit, Inspector General’s Department.
 - (13) “ “ Miss Etta M. Gilbreath.
 - (14) “ “ Captain George H. Cameron, 4th Cavy.
 - (15) “ “ Richard Harding Davis.
 - (16) “ “ Captain C. B. Hagadorn, 23rd Infantry.
 - (17) “ “ Colonel Charles W. Larned, Professor, U.S. Military Academy.
5. Two medals, one bronze and one silver, loaned by Richard Harding Davis.

Two systems of medals are provided for. In one, there is a different medal proper and a different ribbon for each war, and a clasp indicating the name of the campaign. In the other, and which lately has been more favored by the Board, the medals proper remains the same, the ribbon and the pin by which the medal is attached to the breast being different for each war, and the campaign clasp, of silver, inscribed with the name of the campaign.

Attention is invited to the fact that, by the absence of Lieutenant Colonel McCain and Lieutenant Colonel Ennis, the Board is reduced to one member.

On May 8, 1903, a letter was sent to the Director of the united States Mint, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, asking for a sketch of a design by some of the expert artists employed at the Mint, and in reply thereto I was informed that Mr. C. E. Barber, an engraver at the Mint, was employed getting such a design. Nothing further has been heard from him.

Some of the recommendations made by the officers and others interested in this matter follow:

Colonel Patten, Acting Quartermaster General, recommends that it would be better to consolidate the Spanish War and Philippines Insurrection medals and dispense with the bars denoting various battles, and have three bars - - - Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines.

Captain Cecil Stewart recommends that medals and clasps be struck in low relief, slightly stronger than that of the enclosed coin; that the cutting of the dies be entrusted to a first class medallist, for his work must depend the beauty of any work adopted. "The medals for rifle competitions in years gone by were the work of bunglers, and led to the production of atrocities from an artistic point of view. The money spent for a first class man for this work will give the best results."

Captain Austin Brown recommends that the Batangas clasp suggested for the Philippines Insurrection medal should not have the date 1902. He hopes that the hard work done in 1901 will not be cut out.

Brigadier General G. L. Gillespie, Chief of Engineers, recommends that on the reverse of each medal be engraved the name of the soldier upon whom it was bestowed and the service rendered.

Colonel Robert Emmett recommends that the medal be small and the ribbon as short as possible, so as to hold maximum number of clasps and show beautiful color. The design of the medal should be the very best that art can make it, but plain and distinctive in its meaning. The pin and clasp should be plain in design. The ribbon should not be red, white and blue, since it is already used in the Medal of Honor. Since it is purely a war medal, he prefers red, a rather deeper color than he has showed in the sketch. Recommends the design be open to competition among American artists.

Captain George H. Cameron, 4th Cavalry, recommends that the medal should be significant of services and used for all wars. The medal should be severely simple, and the design in the face classical. The reverse should specify United States Army or United States Volunteers with dates of correspondence. The clasp should be made in the form of a keeper and pinched upon the ribbon. A distinctive color should be confined to one stripe on the edges. Any design on the face of the medal should be a slight relief in the prevailing French style.

1st Lieutenant J. C. Oakes, Corps of Engineers, suggests that instead of having the name of the campaign on the clasp, that the clasp and medal be the same for all campaigns, and a bar an eighth or a quarter of an inch in width be provided for each campaign. This method is the only one by which one medal will be made to answer for several campaigns.

In conclusion, I would recommend that the selection of the design of the medal be entrusted to a committee of the General Staff containing officers of artistic ability; that the same medal be adopted for all wars; that the design of a figure upon it be made by

some competent medalist or sculptor, such as Saint Gaudens or MacMonnies; that there be a distinct ribbon for each war and there be a color indicative of the war it commemorates; that the different campaigns be indicated by bars; that the pin indicate the name of the war; that a section of the ribbon be allowed to be worn on the dress or service uniform.

Attention is invited to the fact that, by the absence of Lieutenant Colonel McCain and Lieutenant Colonel Ennis, the Board is reduced to one member.

[signed J Parker]

Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry

Assistant Adjutant General

9/19/03.

FIRST DIVISION GENERAL STAFF,
Washington,

November 23, 1904.

MEMORANDUM REPORT: Decorations and Medals.

On September 19th, 1904, the following memorandum was referred to the division:

“The Chief of Staff desires the Division to again take up the whole subject of military rewards, namely: service medals, brevets, medals of honor, certificates of merit, mention in orders, etc.

If it is deemed advisable to recommend legislation on any of these subjects or others connected with military rewards, prompt action by the Division is desired, so that, if practicable, the proposed measures may be presented to the Secretary of War for submission to Congress at its present session.”

This subject, in whole or part, has been heretofore considered by the division, a memorandum covering the subject of medals for service in campaign having been submitted on Nov. 17, 1903; a more extended memorandum covering the entire subject was prepared by a member of the division, under date of Jan. 4, 1904, but was not considered by the division. Both of these reports are herewith.

While medals prescribed by authority are exceedingly limited in our service, the lack of orders prescribing appropriate decorations has been taken advantage of by persons interested in wearing medals, appropriate or otherwise, to such an extent that we are more liberal, or better, loose – in permitting the wearing of medals than most be-medalled army in Europe.

Of our regulations on the subject, Mr. Richard Harding Davis, in a letter to the President which shows a lively interest in, and considerable study of, the subject of military decorations, says:

QUOTE

It will be observed that though Mr. Davis' list is quite extensive, he has omitted (Per Catalogue of Bailey, Banks and Biddle):

National Society Army of the Philippines.

Society of the Porto Rican Expedition.

Military Order of the Dragon.

Military Order of the Carabao.

Society of Manila Bay.

While the wearing of the decorations to which Mr. Davis refers is now permitted by regulations, the regulation is drawn in strict accordance with the law and it is, in the absence of legislation, impossible to prohibit by regulation their being worn.

That it should be prohibited admits no argument, and it is thought Congress should be asked to do this if it is requested to enact legislation in this connection.

It is thought, however, that Congress would hesitate to enact this legislation unless at least the proper desire for decorations was in some way satisfied.

This brings up the question as to what should be accepted as the appropriate decorations for military service, and what object, useful to the government, is subserved by their bestowal.

The object of decorations and medals is:

1. To excite and cherish the military virtues.
2. To identify the wearers as persons possessed of certain qualifications.

That is, while the ornamental or decorative aspect may appeal to many wearers of ribbons and medals conferred for military service, the objects of governments and rulers in conferring these honors are purely utilitarian. That is, while the ornamental or decorative aspect may appeal to many of the wearers of ribbons and medals conferred for military service, the objects of governments and rulers in conferring these honors are purely utilitarian.

Mr. J. H. Mayo, in his work "Medals and Decorations of the British Army and Navy", says that in the British Army they may be classed under two heads:

1. As rewards to particular individuals: -
 - (a) For personal valour.
 - (b) For generally meritorious behavior.
2. As rewards for participation in battles and campaigns: -
 - (a) To commanders and superior officers.
 - (b) To officers and men alike.

Applying this classification to our service, under class (1)a we have the "Congressional Medal of Honor; and the "Certificate of Merit", if its possession were indicated by a badge, would also come under this class.

Under class (1)b, we have no decorations. Those most common in the British Army under this class are the "Distinguished Service Order", the "Order of British India", for "Meritorious Service" and for "Long Service and Good Conduct."

Under class (2)a, we have had special medals authorized by Congress, e.g., for:

Major General Jacob Brown, under resolution approved Nov. 3, 1814.

Colonel George Croghan, under resolution approved Feb. 13, 1835.

Major General E. P. Gaines, under resolution approved Nov. 3, 1814.

And to General Zachary Taylor was presented three such medals by separate resolutions of Congress, for "operations on the Rio Grande"; for operations at Monterey", and for the "battle of Buena Vista."

Similarly, a medal was presented to General Scott for the “memorable campaign of 1847.”

In all, fifteen such medals have been presented since the organization of the Army in 1789. (Heitman’s Register, Vol. 1, pp 45-49).

Under class (2)b, naturally falls the “service in war chevron”, but this is only worn by enlisted men.

Without going further in the matter, it seems clear that no principle of our government has prevented the adoption by our army of a complete system of decorations for military service, but that, on the contrary, Congress has, by the Medal of Honor and Certificate of Merit legislation, as well as the special resolutions referred to, shown on numerous occasions an appreciation of the universally accepted principle on which this particular reward for military service is based. The Executive, by the adoption of the service chevron and service in war chevron, has likewise shown an appreciation of the advantages of a decoration indicative of service.

It is clear that the principle of the desirability of suitable decorations indicative of exceptional service, of long and service in war, has been accepted by all branches of the government interested therein, it seems that there remains but the adoption of a suitable system of conferring such rewards.

In considering, by legislating with reference thereto, to some extent occupied the fields indicated above by class (1)a and class (2)a.

As class (1)b is not provided for and class (2)b only partially so, it remains to be determined to what extent the President may provide the decorations under these heads without reference to Congress.

As decorations under class (1)b would be provided probably for enlisted men only, the award should be accompanied by a pecuniary allowance, and the approval of Congress is, therefore, essential.

Decorations under class (2)b, in so far as they have been heretofore given, have been given under the authority of the President to prescribe the uniform of the Army. (Sec. 1296, R.S.)

It may then be assumed that any action taken with reference to class (1)a and b and class (2)a, should be taken after the necessary authority of Congress.

It would likewise appear clear that, in so far as the present Army is concerned, a request for legislation under class (2)b would be going to Congress for something which heretofore the President has controlled fully under the authority of Sec. 1296, R.S., referred to above.

It is believed, then, that medals and ribbons under class (2)b can, and should, be prescribed by the President as a part of the uniform without reference to Congress. This was the decision reached by the division in a report dated Nov. 17, 1903, and further consideration strengthens the views then advanced.

Action on the report referred to seems to have been withheld principally because it would be impossible in an order, without prior action of Congress, to confer these medals on many

officers and men whose service entitled, them thereto, but who are not now in the military service.

It is very true that medals having the warrant of the government would be highly appreciated, and it is equally true that their presentation would, in a certain way, serve a useful purpose in encouraging a proper martial spirit out of the service, but it should be observed that efforts to obtain medals by acts of Congress are usually accompanied by details which, to enable the President to determine what battles, campaigns, etc., should entitle participants therein to medals, and to prescribe an appropriate medal, of little intrinsic value, for such battle or campaign.

If the President prescribed the decorations indicated for the Army, there is little doubt that Congress will subsequently authorize the decorations to be given to persons entitled thereto who have left the service.

It is, therefore, recommended that the action recommended in the report of Nov. 17, 1903, be taken as a complete resolution of the question of decorations under class (2)b.

Under class (1)a, we now have the "Medal of Honor", and though this decoration has been somewhat abused in the past, it is now being given under restrictive rules which should make it the most highly prized military decoration in the world. It is thought that time will rehabilitate it, or rather create the sentiment which its improper bestowal in many cases did not completely destroy.

An examination of the list of wearers of the "Victoria Cross" shows similarly, that its bestowal has not been in accordance with a uniform standard by any means.

Similarly, under class (1)a, we have the "certificate of Merit" for enlisted men. While this certificate, and the extra pay which accompanies it, is given in accordance with an act of Congress, it is believed that an appropriate decoration indicative of its possession would add to its value, and that the decoration could be appropriately prescribed in the uniform order by the President.

It is believed that these two medals, i.e., the medal of honor for officers and enlisted men, and the certificate of merit with an appropriate medal for enlisted men only, the field of class (1)a will be appropriately occupied, and will require no action further than an order of the President.

As has been heretofore stated, no badge or decoration is in use in our Army of class (1)b, i.e., "as rewards to particular individuals for generally meritorious behaviour." There may even be differences of opinion as to what extent good conduct may be incited by decorations. Notwithstanding this academic lack of agreement, however, it is thought that in practice most armies have adopted badges under this head.

In the British Army they include: -

the "Order of British India",

the "Distinguished Service Order" (for officers only),

for "Meritorious Service" (for sergeants),

for "Long Service and Good Conduct" (all enlisted men).

Similarly, under this class might be placed the medals of the Army Temperance Association.

As any decoration conferred under this head should be accompanied by an increase in pay, in the case of enlisted men, no action can properly be taken without reference to Congress, and as the advisability of requesting Congress to legislate on a matter so purely experimental in our service is questionable, it is not recommended that such action be taken. Possibly, when our own experience supplies information as to the advantages of campaign medals, some such action will be more warranted.

Rewards under class (2)a should, it is thought, continue, as heretofore, wholly in the hands of Congress.

It is, then, believed that it is not necessary, and it is, therefore, inadvisable to request, at this time, any constructive legislation with reference to medals and decorations.

It is believed that the necessary action should be limited to the executive action indicated herein.

When this action becomes effective, it is thought Congress should be asked to repeal the legislation authoring the wearing with the uniform of badges of societies of participants in campaigns for which campaign there is an officially prescribed decoration.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That campaign badges be adopted as follows:

(a) Spanish Campaign Badge. To consist of a bronze badge and a ribbon of red and yellow, red band in the center and a yellow band on each side. The badge to have on the obverse side the words "War with Spain, 1898," and an appropriate design, and on the reverse side the words, "United States Army," with the name and organization of the wearer at the time of campaign service and highest rank held by him in the regular or volunteer army during such service, and the number of the badge. The ribbon to be pinched through a hole in the badge and the ends of the ribbon sewn together.

A section of the ribbon one-fourth inch long and of a width corresponding to the width of the badge ribbon at top, to be provided for wear on service uniforms. These badges and ribbons to be issued to officers and enlisted men who served ashore in the Island of Cuba between May 11, 1898 and July 18, 1898; in the Island of Porto Rico between July 28, 1898 and August 13, 1898, or in the Philippine Islands between June 30, 1898, and August 14, 1898.

(b) Philippine Campaign Badge. Same as the Spanish War badge except the words "Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1903" and a design appropriate to the Philippine Insurrection be placed on the obverse side of the badge, and that the ribbon be of red, white and blue predominating. Section of this ribbon to be provided for service uniform. To be issued to officers and enlisted men who

served in the Philippine Islands between February 4, 1899 and July 4, 1902, or in the Island of Mindanao between February 4, 1899 and July 15, 1903.

(c) China Campaign Badge. Same as the Spanish War badge except that the words "China Expedition, 1900-1901" and a design appropriate to the China expedition be placed on the obverse side of the badge and that the ribbon be of yellow and white colors. To be issued to officers and enlisted men who served ashore in China with the Peking Relief Expedition between July 6, 1900 and May 12, 1901.

Dimensions and designs of all three badges and ribbons, except as to wording, to be substantively as shown in enclosed drawings of Captain Cecil Steward, 4th Cavalry.

2. That a badge to indicate possession of a certificate of merit be adopted as follows:

A badge and ribbon of the same material, form and size as adopted for the campaign badges -- the obverse of the badge to be indicated in accompanying sketch of Captain Reeve, General Staff, except that the words "for service in war" should be replaced by the word "Merit". The reverse of the badge should contain the name of the wearer, with rank and organization of the wearer at the date of the act for which conferred, and the date of the act, thus: John Brown, Corporal, G, 44th Inf., Oct. 6, 1904. The ribbon of the badge will be red, white, and blue, in equal widths. A section of this ribbon will be provided for service uniform.

3. That copies of the approved designs be sent to the Commanding Officer, Rock Island Arsenal and to the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia for an estimate of the cost per thousand of making the badges, and that the Quartermaster General be directed to estimate the cost of ribbons.

4. That if the condition of the funds available permits the immediate issue of the badges and ribbons to officers and enlisted men, general orders be published to the Army as per drafts enclosed herewith. The badges and ribbons to be provided by the Quartermaster Department and issued by the Military Secretary of the Army.

If the above recommendations are carried out, it is believed that all will have been done with reference to decorations that can be done without the intervention of Congress, and it will leave very little in this direction to be desired; in fact, all that at present appears necessary or desirable would be legislation providing additional pay of \$5.00 per month during military service as an enlisted man to the holder of the medal of honor. (Two dollars per month is now given to an officer or soldier to whom a certificate of merit has been granted.)

Also repeal legislation which authorizes the wearing with the uniform of the badges of societies of men who served in those campaigns, service in which it is herein proposed to recognize by a suitable badge.

Neither of these matters is regarded as urgent, but they should not be lost sight of, and should be urged when any legislation on this subject is taken up by Congress or recommended by the War Department.

If this general scheme of service badges is approved, the selection of a suitable design for an Indian Campaign badge will be taken up, and consideration of the question of which of such campaigns should be recognized as entitling participants to a badge.

Respectfully submitted:

J. F. Kerr

Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff

Acting Chief, First Division.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Staff,
Washington,

January 3, 1905

MEMORANDUM

For the Secretary of War:

Herewith is a Memorandum Report of the First Division, General Staff, prepared by direction of the Chief of Staff, in which is outlined a plan for issuing campaign badges to officers and enlisted men of the Army.

Drafts of two orders are submitted.

The first order prescribes that campaign badges will be issued to officers and enlisted men of the Army to commemorate services which have been or shall hereafter be rendered in campaign, and states that announcement will be made by the War Department designating campaign for which badges will be issued and defining the conditions of award.

Incidentally, this order also prescribes a badge to be worn by officers and enlisted men to whom certificates of merit have been or may hereafter be issued.

The second order announces, in accordance with the provisions of the first, the issue of a Spanish campaign badge, a Philippine campaign badge and a China campaign badge, and prescribes the conditions of award.

It is estimated that about 33,000 badges will be required to supply the officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army entitled to them. The badges recommended are of bronze and of design as shown in the drawings herewith. The cost is estimated at 15 cents per badge, which includes the accompanying ribbon and appropriate inscription, making the total estimated first cost for the entire issue about \$5000.

The proposed certificate of merit badges is also of bronze and the total first cost of its issue would probably be less than \$100.

The badges are required to be worn with dress and full dress uniform; with the service uniform a section of ribbon $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long and of the full width of the ribbon is to be worn in lieu of the badge.

Herewith is also a decision of the Judge Advocate General to the effect that the President is authorized under the provisions of Section 1296 Revised Statutes, to prescribe such badges as a part of the soldier's uniform. The cost of the badges and ribbons is thus payable by the Quartermaster's Department from the appropriation for clothing, and the Quartermaster General informs me that the state of the appropriation will permit the above expenditure.

The idea is to issue at once to officers and men now in the Army badges commemorative of service in Cuba, Porto Rico, China and the Philippines, under a plan which makes it unnecessary to ask Congress for legislation or an appropriation. The orders herewith are drawn with that view and I think will fully accomplish the object at a cost which can be met from

current appropriations. Should the proposition as outlined meet with the approval of the President, it may later be desirable to adopt badges to commemorate services in the Civil War and in Indians wars.

A further extension of the principle so as to bestow badges on officers and enlisted men now in civil life who served in the Volunteer or Regular Armies during the Spanish war and the Philippine Insurrection would require legislation, and it is deemed best to leave for future consideration the appropriate extension of the system.

Of course all such badges should be issued by the War Department. In the event of a great war, hundreds of thousands of badges would have to be issued.

I fully approve the scheme as submitted, and the orders as drafted, and commend the proposition to the favorable consideration of the Secretary as tending to promote the spirit and efficiency of the Army.

[Signed Adna Chaffee]

Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

[Handwritten] Approved and heartily recommended

Robert Shaw Oliver

Asst Secy of War

Jany 4 1905

GENERAL ORDERS

WAR DEPARTMENT

No. 4.

Washington, January 11, 1905

1. By authority of the President, a badge with ribbon will be issued to each officer and enlisted man in the service whom a certificate of merit has been or hereafter be issued; the badge and ribbon thereof will be a part of the uniform, and will be worn as hereinafter prescribed for campaign badges.
2. By authority of the President, campaign badges with ribbons will be issued as articles of the uniform to officers and enlisted men in the service to commemorate services which have been or shall hereafter be rendered in campaign.

Announcement will be made by the War Department designating campaigns for which badges will be issued and defining the conditions of award.

3. On announcement that service in a campaign is to be rewarded by a badge, company commanders will forward to The Military Secretary of the Army, through military channels, lists in duplicate of those officers and enlisted men of their present commands who served under conditions entitling them to a badge, with a statement in the case of each individual showing time and place of service, organization in which the service was rendered, and the highest rank held in the regular or volunteer army during such service. Similar lists will be forwarded by the commanders of military divisions, departments, and regiments, and by the chiefs of the Artillery and the Engineer Corps and of the various staff corps and departments, respecting officers and enlisted men at present serving under their immediate command and all officers and enlisted men not otherwise included. When these lists have been verified from the records of the War Department and duly approved, the badges will be sent by The Military Secretary to the proper commanding officers for distribution.
4. Badges for each campaign will be numbered serially and a record will be kept by The Military Secretary showing the name, rank, and organization of the person to whom each badge was issued, for what service, and the highest rank held by him in the regular or volunteer army during such service.
5. Campaign badges, certificate of merit badges, and the sections of ribbon hereinafter prescribed are a part of the uniform for the officers and enlisted men to whom issued and will be habitually worn by them as follows: On the full dress coat and dress coat the badges will be worn in the manner prescribed for badges of military societies in the regulations for uniform.

With the service uniform a section of the ribbon of prescribed badges three eighths inch long and of the full width of the ribbon will be worn in lieu of the badge by those entitled thereto; these ribbons to be sewed on the service coat in a horizontal line in the position prescribed for badges and decorations on the full dress coat in the following order from the line of buttons of the coat: the medal of honor ribbon, the certificate of merit ribbon, and the campaign ribbons in the order in which earned, without space between and without overlapping.

6. Organization commanders will note on the military record of men to whom badges have been issued, the character of the badge and its number. In the case of the loss of a badge by an enlisted man, his immediate commander will investigate and report upon the circumstances attending the loss and make recommendations regarding the issue of a duplicate badge. The report will be forwarded to The Military Secretary of the Army, and six months thereafter, if the badge has not been found, application for a duplicate may be made by the soldier's immediate commander.
7. The badges and ribbons herein prescribed and the bars from which the badges are suspended, will be furnished by the Quartermaster's Department and will be issued gratuitously to enlisted men and at cost price to officers. Gratuitous issue to enlisted men of ribbons for badges will be limited to one ribbon for each badge during an enlistment and two sections of each ribbon for service coat per year. And issue of ribbon in excess of this allowance will be charged to the soldier at cost price.

Neither badges nor ribbons will be worn by officers suspended from rank and command or by enlisted men serving sentence of confinement of more than five days. [962064, M.S.O.]

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

ADNA R. CHAFFEE

Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff.

Official:

F. C. AINSWORTH,

The Military Secretary

GENERAL ORDERS

WAR DEPARTMENT

No. 5.

Washington, January 12, 1905

In accordance with the provisions of General Orders, No. 4, January 11, 1905, War Department, campaign badges of the patterns in the office of the Quartermaster General will be issued as follows:

- (a) Spanish campaign badge: To be issued to officers and enlisted men who served ashore in the Island of Cuba between May 11, 1898, and July 17, 1898; in the Island of Porto Rico between July 24, 1898, and August 13, 1898, or in the Philippine Islands between June 30, 1898, and August 16, 1898.
- (b) Philippine campaign badge: To be issued to officers and enlisted men who served ashore in the Philippine Islands between February 4, 1899, and July 15, 1903.
- (c) China campaign badge: To be issued to officers and enlisted men who served ashore in China with the Peking Relief Expedition between June 20, 1900, and May 27, 1901.

Lists of officers and enlisted men entitled to these badges will be forwarded to The Military Secretary of the Army, as directed in General Orders, No. 4, January 11, 1905, War Department. Separate lists will be made for each badge in the accompanying form. [962064, M.S.O.]

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

ADNA R. CHAFFEE

Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff.

Official:

F. C. AINSWORTH,

The Military Secretary

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL,
WASHINGTON,

The Acting Secretary of War, (213708)
War Department.

July 24, 1906,

Sirs:-

I have the honor to return herewith papers relating to campaign medals referred to me for report by your direction and invite attention to the replies to questions of the Military Secretary. In addition I desire to submit for your information the following report upon the manufacture of these medals:

The General Staff, by direction of the Chief of Staff, took up a proposition to provide medals to indicate service in the Spanish War, the Philippines Insurrection, the China Relief Expedition, and for holders of Certificates of Merit. The report was dated November 23, 1904, and in it the matter was discussed at length, and submitted therewith were designs for each medal, specifications as to dimensions, colors of the ribbons, inscriptions and engravings upon each of the medals, etc. On January 11, G.O. 4, W.D., 1905, and on January 12, G.O. 5, W.D., 1905, were issued establishing these medals and providing how they and the service ribbons should be worn, etc., etc. These provisions as well as those as to whom should be entitled to the medals have been somewhat modified by subsequent orders. (See G.O. 123 and 143, W.D., 1905.)

On January 19, 1905, the report of the General Staff and other papers relating to these medals were referred to this office. Among the papers was an opinion of the Judge-Advocate General that, while it was not proper to issue "medals" except by authority of Congress, it was proper for the President to authorize the issue of "badges" as part of the uniform and that they could properly be supplied by the Quartermaster's Department from the appropriation for Clothing and Equipage.

I at once took up the matter of the manufacture of these medal according to the designs and specifications submitted, first corresponding with leading manufacturers of this class of goods to determine the proper alloy, and just what should be embodied in the specifications to insure the furnishing of a medal of good material, artistic engraving, excellence of finish, etc., etc., in fact one that would be a credit to the Department to furnish and prized by the recipient.

The Chief of Staff estimated that about 33,000 of the badges would be required, and that the cost including the ribbon would be about 15¢ each, so that probably \$5,000 would provide all required. Estimate was made by this office of careful consideration of all available data that about 200 Certificates of Merit, 5,000 Spanish War, 21,000 Philippine Insurrection, and 1,000 China Relief Expedition medals would be required, and in the proposals it was stipulated that the number contracted for could be increased or diminished 50 per cent, as it was difficult to

determine just how many of those originally entitled to the medals remained in the service, and to such only could they be issued if enlisted men or ssold if officers.

After all the details of specifications were determined upon, by direction of the Chief of Staff bids were asked for furnishing the badges, bars, ribbons, and engraving, and offers were received from five concerns. Upon opening the bids submitted, the lowest bidder was found to be the Wm. H. Horstmann Co., of Philadelphia, which offered to to furnish the medals, etc., for \$12,843.50. This from information gained while considering the details of the specifications was well known to be much too low an offer to allow good work, a proper alloy and the supply of a badge of the appearance and artistic design it was desired and desirable to furnish. But the next bidder's offer was \$21,352.00, while that of Bailey, Banks & Biddle Co., who submitted altogether the most artistic treatment of the designs and sample medals of the best appearance was \$22,848.00. The highest bid was \$35,400 for the medals exclusive of the engraving provided for, to do which in accordance with the report approved would make the cost considerably in excess of \$40,000. After consultation with thee Chief of Staff, the conclusion was reached that inasmuch as the lowest bid was by a reliable concern, able to comply with the legal requirements, award could not under the law be made to a higher bidder, even though it was known that the offer of the low bidder was such as showed what it did, too close a margin if not actual loss, while the other was a price at which excellent work and material could be furnished. The Horstmann Co. was cautioned that no inartistic treatment of the designs or inferior work or material would be allowed, but insisted that the medals would be supplied at the offer made and be in every way satisfactory. Award was therefore made to them.

The designs submitted by the General Staff were crude and inartistic and contained entirely too much of detail for medals of the size proposed. After several efforts, Horstmann & co. failed to make acceptable engravings of the designs because largely of the fault mentioned, and this office requested authority to increase the size of the medals, which was opposed by the General Staff and disapproved by the Acting Chief of Staff. At this point thee matter remained for a time in abeyance.

Sometime during the early part of the present year, I think it was, Mr. F. D. Millet, became interested in the matter of these medals and after consultation with the Secretary of War was requested to take the matter up with me with a view to securing suitable and artistic designs for these medals. The drawings as submitted by the General Staff, as well as the reports, specifications, etc., were turned over to him and he in conjunction with several other prominent American artists, after a careful study of the subject, submitted the designs published. While Mr. Millet consulted the Secretary of War and myself regarding thee medals at various stages of the work, as aa matter of fact the views of himself and his associates were largely those which governed, their high professional standings and the care they were exercising being sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the designs.

In the meantime, it being evident that Horstmann & Co. could not handle the matter satisfactorily, Mr. Millet, at my request, took up the question of engraving the dies with the Engraver at the Philadelphia Mint and after the designs were sufficiently completed to begin work he informed this office and I requested the Secretary of War to request the Secretary of the

Treasury to authorize the work done at the Mint. The designs were turned over to the Engraver by Mr. Millet, June 18, and on June 23, this office made request to the Secretary of War to take the matter up with the Secretary of the Treasury, on June 25 the Assistant Secretary of War made the formal request to the Secretary of the Treasury, and on June 29 that latter advised the Secretary of War that directions to proceed with the engraving had been given and it would be proceeded with as soon as the designs were furnished the Engraver. As Mr. Millet had already done this, it is presumed the engraving has begun.

By the authority of the Secretary of War, the contract with the Horstmann Co. has been abrogated, the Department making good the expense to which they had been in endeavoring to produce a medal from the designs submitted.

Mr. Millet is at present in Europe and he informed me that while there he would examine into the matter of military medals particularly and would also endeavor to learn the best place to secure the ribbons. Some work yet remains to be done on the designs for the reverses, the obverse designs only being as yet turned over to the Engraver at the Mint.

Referring now to the designs in the accompanying clipping, it is regretted that Mr. Millet is not within each reach, that they might be submitted to him and his opinion of them had. It may be stated however, that he and his associates had under consideration the idea of different shapes for each medal, but after investigation decided this to be inappropriate, inasmuch as among civilized nations the round form was the universal style for campaign medals. It must be remembered that these are campaign medals not decorations nor the insignia of any order of knighthood or nobility, which would be more the idea conveyed by distinctive shapes. Furthermore, it occurs to me that the shape suggested for the Philippine Insurrection medal is simply a modification of the badge of the 8th Army Corps which went out of existence long before the time of service of a great many officers and enlisted men entitled to wear this badge. The same may be said of the proposed shape Spanish War medal. That is an adaptation of the 5th Army Corps badge, appropriate enough for those who served in it and already adopted as the insignia of the Society of the Army of Santiago, while it would be particularly inappropriate, in fact improper, for a large number having service in the Spanish War not with the 5th A.C., particularly those whose title is based upon service in Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands, and Cuba after the capture of Santiago. The shape proposed for the Indian Wars medal, while very neat and appropriate for a watch charm or similar ornament does not appeal to me, at least, as appropriate for a medal.

So far as the shape proposed for the Merit medal is concerned no objection occurs to me, but Mr. Millet and his associates who studied and perfected the designs may have strong and well-founded ones. The argument of the anonymous writer in favor of the cross is very well put, but it must be remembered that this is not an attempt to imitate the Victoria Cross or any other decoration. The suggestion that the inscription on the reverse be changed from "For Merit" to "For Bravery" is opposed. This medal does not necessarily denote bravery but is for merit in a much wider significance. It is to be presented to those enlisted men who have received the already established "Certificate of Merit", and to confine it to bravery alone would often be

incongruous. For bravery we already have the Medal of Honor and it is not believed the Merit medal should be made to invade the province of that medal.

It was determined, among other things, that no engraving would appear on the face of the medals, that is, nothing would be engraved on the medals after being struck. This was for the reason, as explained by Mr. Millet, that everything of that kind detracted from the artistic appearance of the medal as well as destroying the finish, and was in fact never placed upon medals of this class. Therefore, whatever was finally determined to be appropriate in the way of inscription, etc., would be stamped into the edges of the medals. The objection to this engraving also lies against the proposition to engrave the Merit medal what the act for which given may be. Besides it is understood that is shown by the certificate of which the medal is a complement.

It is obvious that no design for these medals could be adopted that would not meet criticism from some one, while in those adopted the Department has secured the thoughtful produce of artists of high standing, it is therefore earnestly hoped and strongly recommended that no further change be directed.

Very respectfully,

[signed Charles F. Humphrey]

Quartermaster General, U.S. Army.

Q.M.D.-D.

7 enclosures.