

The Flanking Attack of "YELLOW JACK"

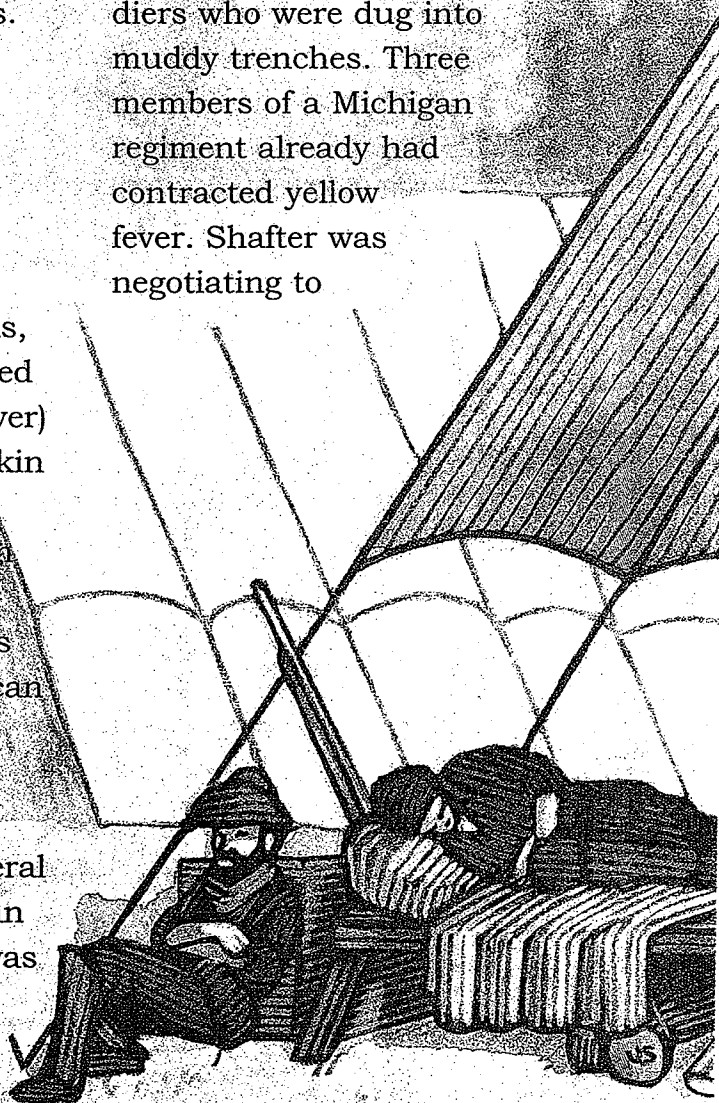
by Sylvia Whitman

In the early summer of 1898, American troops were on the brink of defeating the Spanish. But they quickly came under attack by a second, deadlier enemy — disease. In hot and humid Cuba, summer rains brought the outbreak of fevers.

Typhoid fever had been a problem for U.S. forces since they landed on the island. Its symptoms ranged from headaches to diarrhea. Malaria, a blood disease, weakened all it infected with its cycles of chills, fever, and sweats. Most dreaded of all, "Yellow Jack" (yellow fever) struck the liver, turning the skin of its victims a frightening yellow. They also suffered from severe muscle pains and vomited blood. Although epidemics had devastated several American cities in the 1800s, doctors knew little about this horrible disease.

Disease worried Major General William Shafter even more than the Spanish did. The enemy was

holed up in Santiago de Cuba. A direct attack on the well-defended city would cost many American lives. But so would prolonging the siege. Rain and sun alternately soaked and baked the soldiers who were dug into muddy trenches. Three members of a Michigan regiment already had contracted yellow fever. Shafter was negotiating to

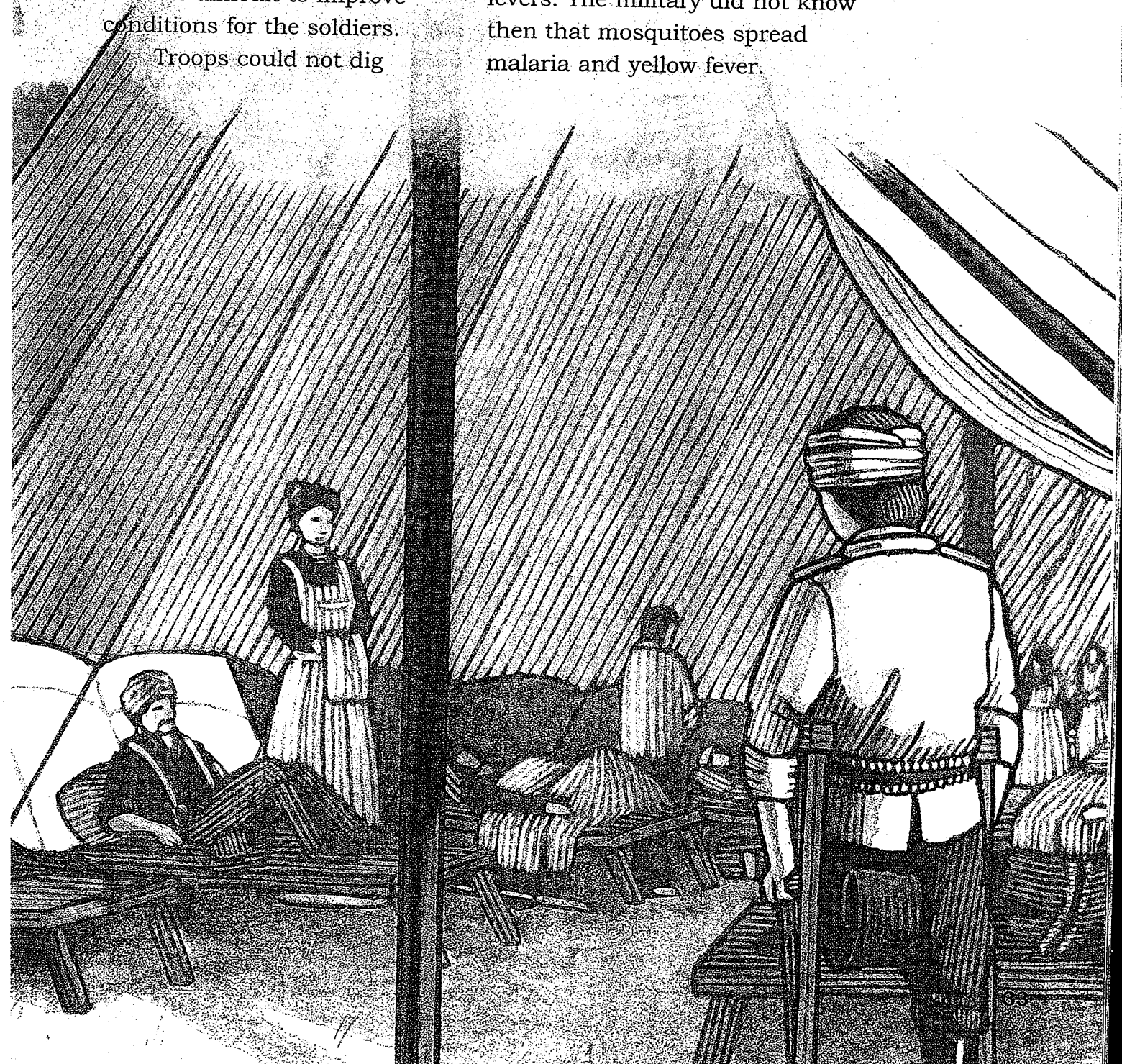


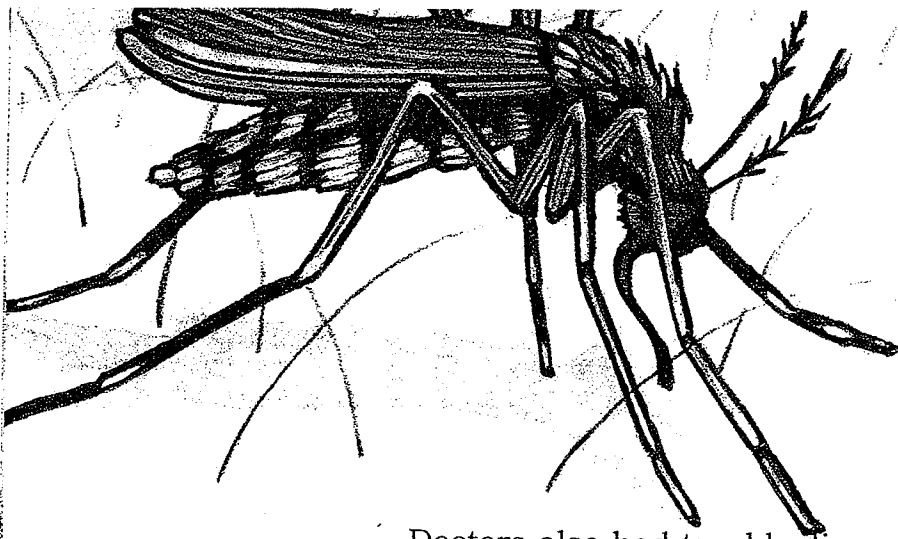
persuade Spanish general José Toral to surrender. "There is a good deal of nervousness throughout the army," Shafter cabled the War Department in Washington, D.C., "on account of the yellow fever, which is certainly among us."

Doctors rightly blamed typhoid fever on poor sanitation. But it was difficult to improve conditions for the soldiers.

Troops could not dig

good toilets without shovels. Daily rains turned camps into filthy mudholes. Infantrymen working in hospital tents often did not practice proper infection control. The Army replaced some men with trained female nurses. But cleanliness — even burning the uniforms and sheets of patients — did not stop the fevers. The military did not know then that mosquitoes spread malaria and yellow fever.






Doctors also had trouble diagnosing fevers. In their early stages, many of the fevers presented similar symptoms. "The sick are increasing at a fearful rate," wrote a lieutenant in his diary. The diseases caused morale to fall. The train to the hospital was nicknamed the "Yellow Fever Express" by the troops. By the end of July 1898, more than four thousand soldiers were on sick report. This number represented twenty percent of the American **expeditionary** force.

After the Spanish surrender that month, Shafter begged to be permitted to ship his men out of Cuba. The War Department refused. It feared an epidemic would spread to the United States. Besides, guards were needed for the Spanish prisoners. An inspector's report predicted that twenty to seventy percent of the Army might die: "The suffering and misery...cannot be overstated. We hear their moans at night.... They have no

change of clothing, no blankets, insufficient food."

Shafter called a meeting of his top officers. Together, they wrote and sent a letter of concern to Washington, D.C. They also leaked it to American journalists. Shocked newspaper readers pressured the government to bring home the troops.

More than twenty thousand soldiers were sent to a hastily built camp in Montauk, at the end of Long Island, New York. The different fevers took a terrible toll, though. They killed more than twice as many Americans as Spanish bullets did. The sicknesses also left others permanent invalids.

In 1900, the U.S. Yellow Fever Commission pinpointed the bite of the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito as the cause of the transmission of Yellow Jack (and malaria, as it turned out). That year, Havana alone recorded fourteen hundred cases of fever. Americans in Cuba supervised the poisoning of mosquito breeding grounds with oil and kerosene. After mosquito control, the number of fever cases dropped to thirty-seven for the entire island. 

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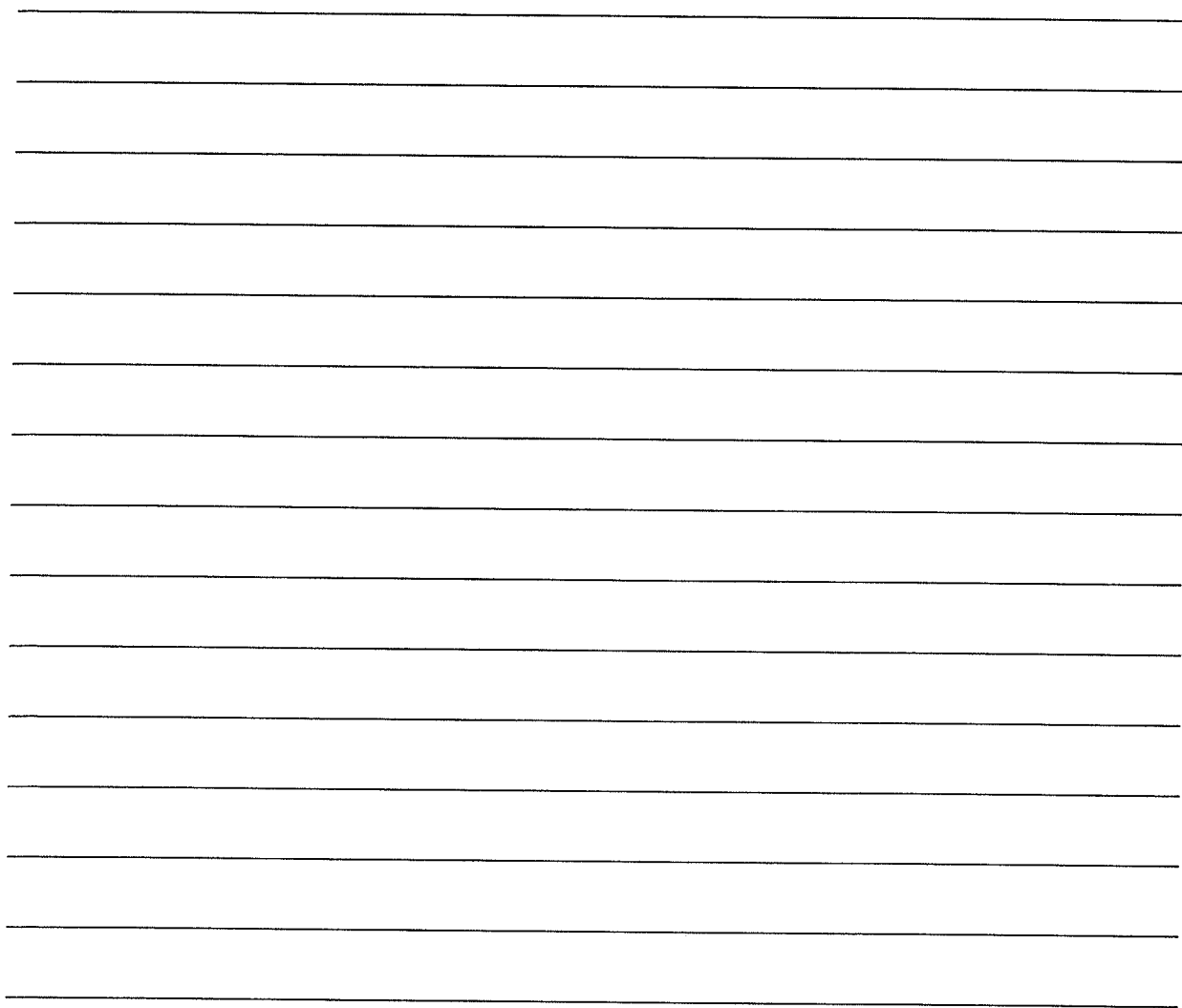
Expeditionary
means forces
sent ahead of
other troops for
military opera-
tions abroad.



“The Flanking Attack of Yellow Jack”

Directions: After reading the article, put yourself in the role of TV reporter and write a one-page script of a **news report** you would give from Cuba, talking about the problems with disease. Let your American viewers know what the conditions are, why they exist, and what is being done to improve things. You may want to include quotes or short interviews.

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Following the Spanish-American War, representatives from the United States and Spain met in Paris, France. From October 1 to December 10, 1898 — almost as long as the war itself — they worked on treaty terms. The treaty they drafted required Spain to give up Cuba. It gave Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States. The treaty also allowed the United States to purchase the Philippines for twenty million dollars.

The U.S. Senate did not ratify the treaty document until February 1899. The section of the treaty that allowed the United States to acquire the Philippines caused the most concern.

Those who argued against the treaty were called **anti-imperialists**. They felt that gaining territory without making plans for it to become a state was unconstitutional. Anti-imperialists, such as author Mark Twain, said that governing a foreign people without their consent went against the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. They also believed reforms at home needed more money and attention.

The people who were in favor of the treaty were called imperialists, or expansionists. They believed that the United States should continue to grow. Some thought the Filipinos could not govern them-

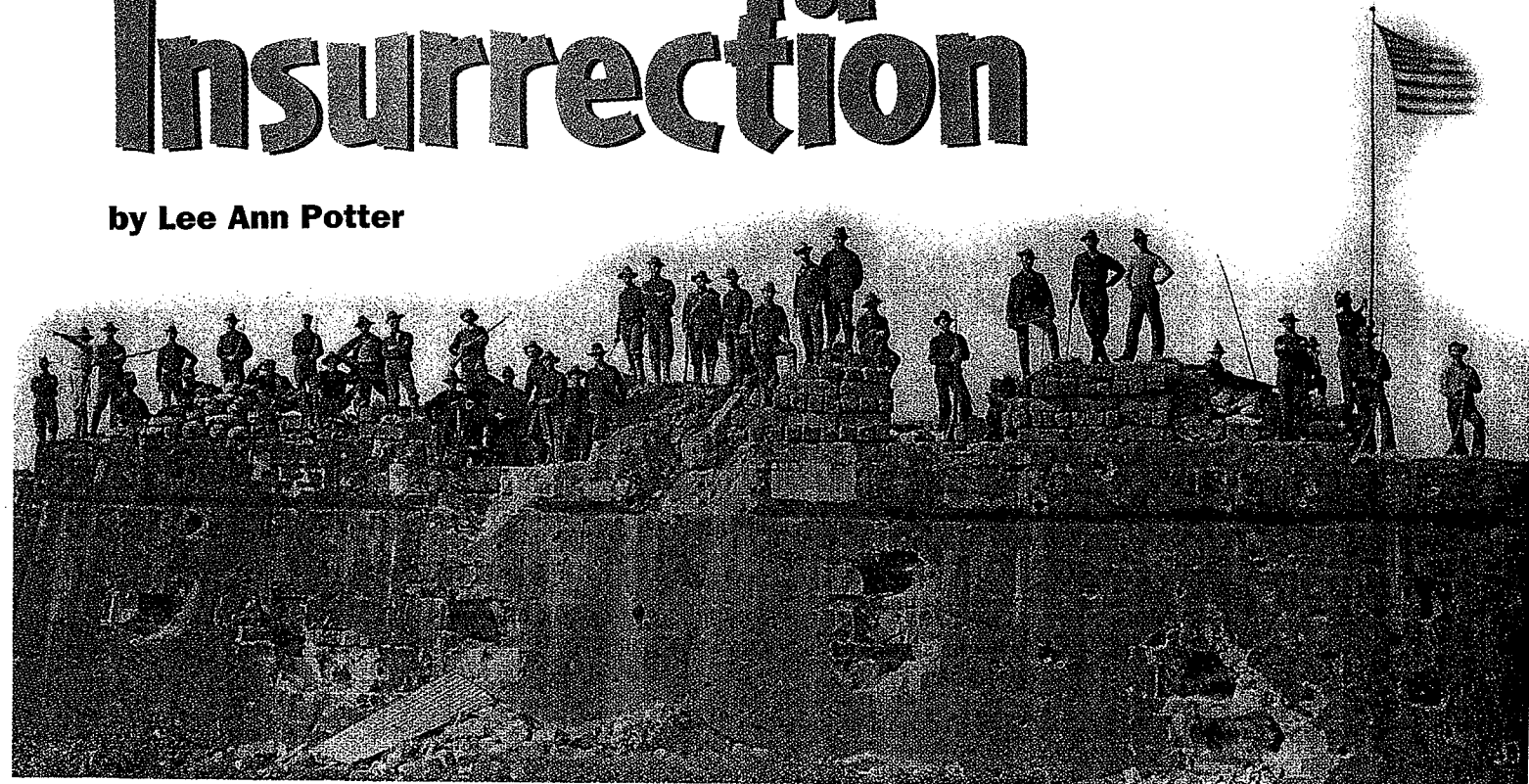
Anti-imperialists are against extending a nation's authority through the acquisition of territory.



U.S. troops landed in the Philippines on August 13, 1898, just as the Spanish-American War was ending. This photo shows U.S. troops in a Philippine fort that has been damaged by shellfire.

The Philippine Insurrection

by Lee Ann Potter



A preliminary peace agreement between the United States and Spain to end the Spanish-American War was signed on August 12, 1898. The official end of the war came on December 10 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

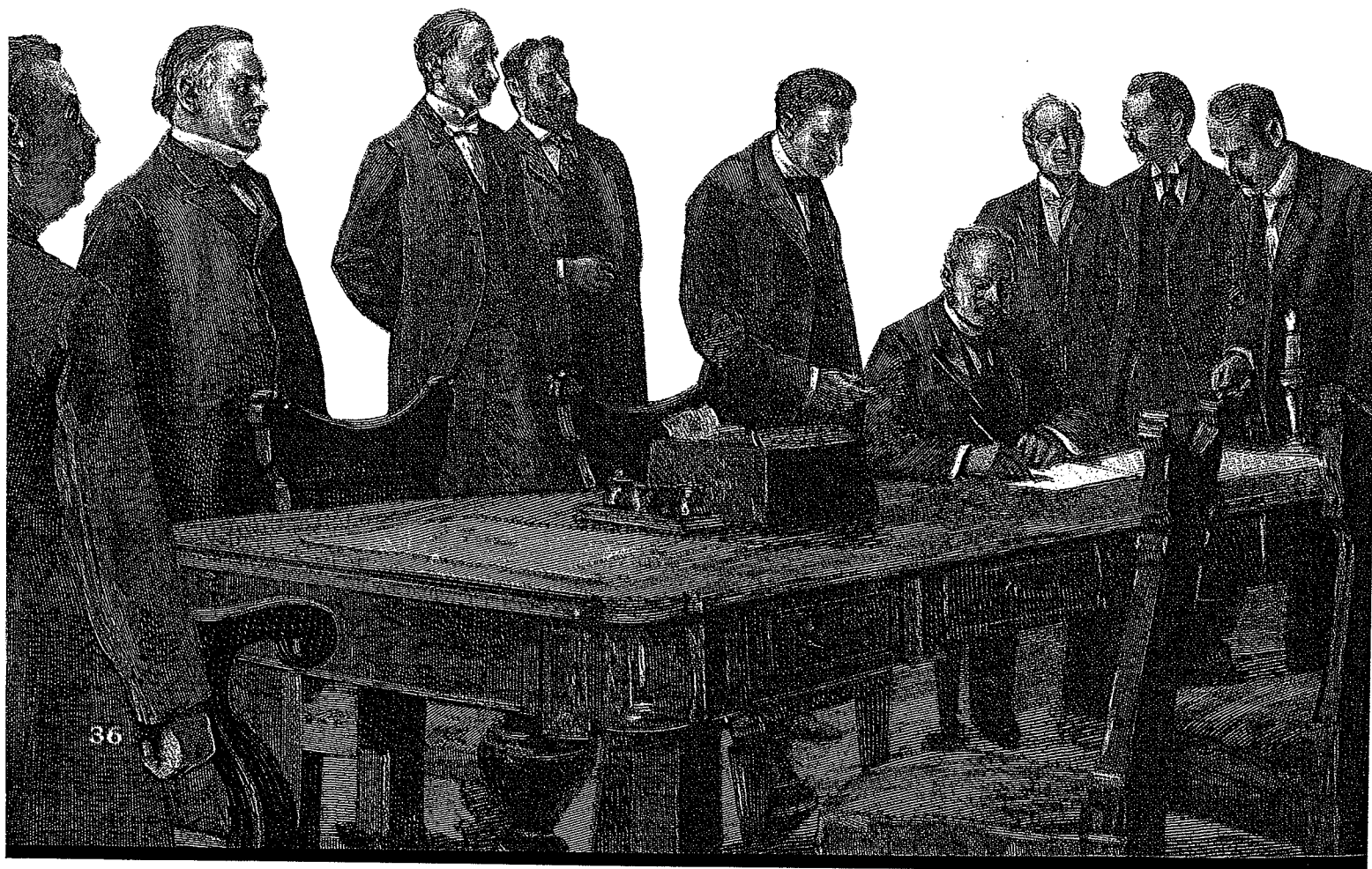
selves and needed America's leadership. Treaty supporters also feared that if the United States did not annex the Philippines, another country would. U.S. trade in the Pacific might suffer, too, some argued.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, a number of areas were claimed by both U.S. and Filipino troops. On February 4, 1899, a young American private fired on a group of Filipinos in one such area. Fire was returned, and a new war began. This time, the opponent was America's former ally.

Two days later the Senate ratified the treaty ending the Spanish-American War. When the treaty went into effect, the United States held overseas pos-

sessions for the first time in its history. America was no longer a land composed of a group of colonies. It had become a powerful nation with colonies of its own in just 122 years.

The Filipinos and the anti-imperialists still wanted the Philippines to be independent. There had been a rebellion against Spain in 1872. In 1896, a group of Filipino rebels, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, fought again for their independence from Spain. Later, Aguinaldo and his troops helped the United States in the Spanish-American War. During the war, when the Filipinos controlled most of their country, Aguinaldo declared the Philippines to be an



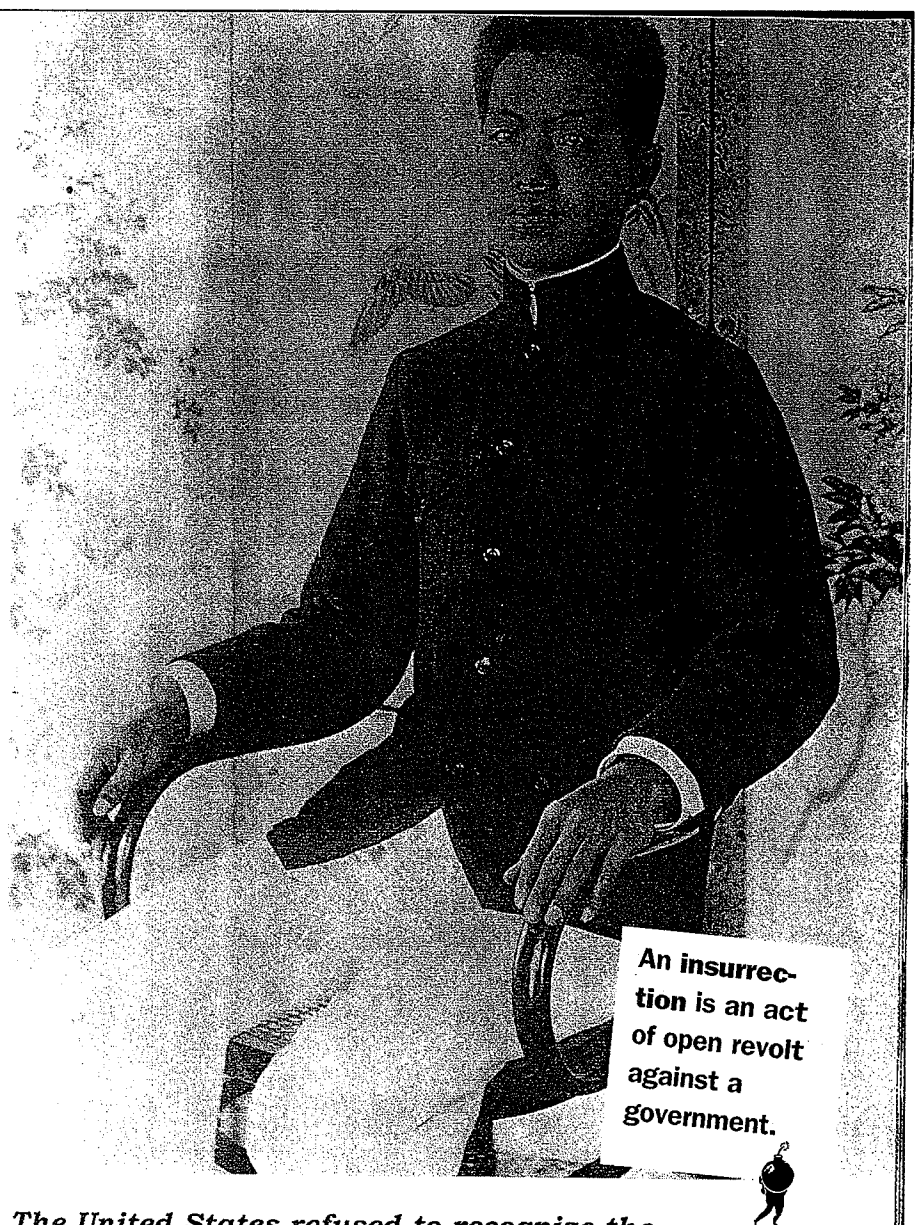
independent nation. With other Filipino leaders, he formally established the first Philippine Republic.

Many U.S. political and military figures did not want to recognize the new republic. They felt it was not representative of the Filipino people. After all, they argued, the right to vote was restricted to a tiny fraction of the population. Military leaders influenced elections. And in many areas of the land, there were no elections at all.

Aguinaldo led the Filipino fight for independence from the United States until he was captured in the spring of 1901. The Philippine **Insurrection** officially ended in the summer of 1902. Skirmishes and localized rebellions continued into the next decade, however.


Between 1898 and 1902, more than 125,000 Americans served in the Philippines. Approximately five thousand of them were killed. This was more than ten times the number of U.S. battle casualties in the Spanish-American War. The total number of Filipinos killed during the war is not known. It is estimated that their number greatly exceeded American losses.

On July 4, 1946, the United States gave political independence to the Philippines. Sixteen years later, the Philippines



An insurrection is an act of open revolt against a government.

The United States refused to recognize the new Philippine Republic founded in 1898 by Filipino leader General Emilio Aguinaldo. Aguinaldo eventually was captured by U.S. troops on March 23, 1901.

declared June 12 as its Independence Day. Filipinos chose to commemorate the day in 1898 when Aguinaldo declared independence from Spain. 

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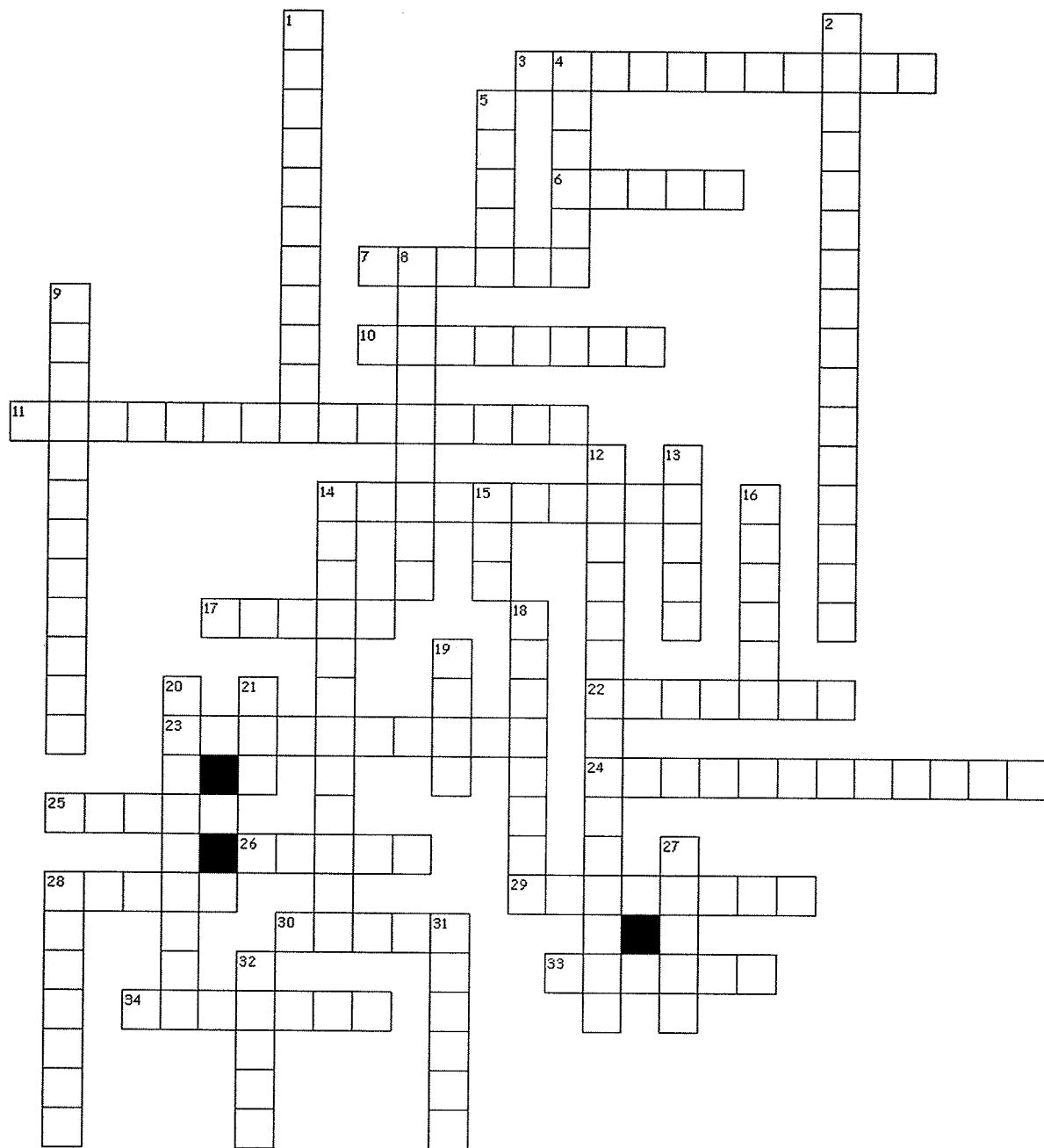
Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences

1. What were the terms of the treaty that ended the Spanish American War?
2. Describe the point of view of the anti-imperialists.
3. Why did the imperialists/expansionists want to annex the Philippines?

4. Describe the main goal of General Emilio Aguinaldo. Was he successful?

5. How many Americans served in the Philippines between 1898 and 1902? How many were killed?

Spanish American War



Directions: Use the articles in your packet and Section 2 of Chapter 23 to find the answers

Across

3. The United States purchased the _____ for \$20 million.
6. A term that means to incorporate one country or territory into another one
7. city in the Philippines
10. Carlos Manuel de _____ was a Creole planter who started a rebellion
11. Nickname for African American regiments of soldiers
14. Territory given to the United States by Spain
17. The Great _____ Fleet was a group of U.S. battleships
22. More than 5,000 American soldiers died of _____ and other diseases
23. The U.S. Marines first landed at _____ Bay.
24. Body of water that surrounds Cuba and Puerto Rico
25. The United States declared war on _____ 21, 1898
26. Country that controlled Cuba
28. A product grown and manufactured in Cuba and sold to the United States
29. Key Cuban city
30. Commodore George _____ was the commander of the Pacific fleet during the Spanish-American War
33. William Randolph _____ was the publisher of the New York Journal
34. The _____ Act set up a government in Puerto Rico

Down

1. Nickname for the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment
2. People who were against gaining territories
4. Capital city of Cuba
5. Jose _____ wrote articles and stories for newspapers as well as poetry and essays, all in support of Cuban independence
8. The Platt _____ allowed the United States to intervene in Cuba
9. An act of open revolt against a government
12. First and last name of the U.S. president during the Spanish-American War
13. General Maximo _____ helped lead a Cuban uprising in 1868
14. a nation whose independence is limited by the control of a more powerful country
15. The _____ Years War ended in a truce
16. General Valeriano _____ was sent to Cuba as governor to crush the revolt
18. People of European descent born in Spanish or French American colonies

19. An island in the South Pacific that is still a territory of the United States
20. General Emilio _____ led a group of Filipino rebels against Spanish control
21. Last name of the man who called the Spanish American War "...a splendid little war."
27. "Cuba _____!" was the cry for independence
28. Theodore Roosevelt gained fame in the battle for _____ Heights
31. Type of journalism that relied on sensational stories and headlines
32. American battleship that exploded mysteriously and sunk in Havana Harbor