

**CAMPAIGN OF THE FIRST
TROOP PHILADELPHIA
CITY CAVALRY APRIL
25-NOVEMBER 11, 1898**

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Campaign of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry April 25-November 11, 1898 by James Cooper

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JAMES COOPER

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OF THE
First Troop
Philadelphia City Cavalry

APRIL 25—NOVEMBER 11

1898

JAMES COOPER

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For all that is good in this little book acknowledgment is due to Captain John C. Groome, Lieutenant J. Frank McEalden, Lieutenant J. Willis Martin, Sergeant John Wagner, Jr., Sergeant Robert E. Glendinning, F. B. Neilson, T. Wallis Huidkoper, Hugh Craig, Jr. and the publisher. They have provided the photographs and practically all the material used. Many passages are taken entirely from letters and other writings of these Troopers. The writer's personal observations merely covered the time of the Troop's stay at Mt. Gerbuel, Camp Alger and Newport News.

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CHAPTER I.

THE CALL TO ARMS.

WHEN the members of the First Troop of Philadelphia City Cavalry were summoned to prepare for the annual inspection, on April 23rd, 1898, there was but one great topic of conversation among the people of the United States. Early in February, the U. S. Battleship *Maine* had been destroyed by an explosion in Havana harbor, and two hundred and forty-eight American sailors had lost their lives. A board of naval officers, after daily sessions for seven weeks, had decided that the destruction of the vessel was not due to an accident; confirming the popular opinion that the blowing up of this vessel was an act of Spanish treachery. Both branches of Congress were debating measures regarding American intervention in the Cuban rebellion, which the natives of that island had successfully carried on against Spanish rule for three years. The question of the hour was whether war with Spain was at hand.

That the annual inspection of the Troop occurred just at this time was merely a coincidence—six months before the plans had been made. Nothing