

# **MY ARMY EXPERIENCES**

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My Army Experiences by Andrew Pohlmann

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**ANDREW POHLMANN**

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EXPERIENCES**





Gen. Lawton was killed in battle about four miles from Manila.

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MY  
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BY  
ANDREW POHLMAN

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*Gift of  
The Twentieth Regiment*

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## PREFACE.

In this book it is the purpose of the author to show both the bright and the dark side of the life of a private in the army, and that the abolishment of war can be accomplished providing we extend our efforts in the right direction.

The public can get a true conception of the evils in the army such as the evils connected with the issuing of rations only from one who has suffered from those evils for a term of three years and is no longer connected with the army. The truth can not be learned from those connected with the army for the reason that some are personally interested and others will not give correct information because they fear retaliation from higher authority. Neither can a correct opinion as to whether the army ration contains all the elements necessary to sustain the body be reached by eating one or several meals at an army mess for the reason that if the insufficiency is not very pronounced, it may require several weeks or months before the healthy body shows the effects of insufficient nourishment. Therefore such works as this must be brought forth to give the public reliable information.

Diplomatists, kings and a large part of the legislators of nations gain most of their experience while surrounded by wealth and aristocracy, and have not had the benefit of knowledge which comes up, and out, from under some dark cloud of oppression and can sometimes only be learned by lifelong association with the common class of people. Therefore works which proceed from such associations will help to secure the abolishment of war.





# My Army Experiences.

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## CHAPTER I.

### **BENEFITS AND DETRIMENTS OF THE REGULAR ARMY TO ITS YOUNG MEN.**

THE regular army is more than a war school. To serve one enlistment in the regular army is a training which will help a young man in any business which he afterwards undertakes, providing he has the will power to adhere to the right line of conduct, while in the army.

He learns habits of punctuality, as every soldier is required to be exactly on time at calls for duty.

Being often with a large army, he sees and becomes acquainted with so many different men that he soon learns how to judge quite correctly a stranger's character; consequently, when in business in after life, he is more shrewd in detecting a swindler.

In the army a young man learns how to be patient and persistent, which will help him in a determination to get the employment or business in which he expects to engage after his discharge from the army. All my army friends

✓ succeeded in getting employment at good positions after their discharge.

Army training teaches a young man how to help himself when in difficult situations. During my enlistment there were times when tools and material, such as saw, hammer, nails and bolts, were not at hand; yet we built rafts, storehouses and other necessities, by fastening the timbers together with strips of strong bark.

The army drills are such as will develop strength and endurance. It is of great benefit to young men to have a few years of such training. I have seen many awkward, stoop-shouldered young men transformed into splendid looking specimens of manhood by the army drills.

One of the most serious detriments to a young man in the army is the quality and quantity of the rations. During my enlistment I met men from all branches of the service, and by careful inquiry and my own experience I have come to the conclusion that there is more dissatisfaction and sickness caused by the rations than by many other causes. The complaint is, either the army ration for one man is not sufficient to keep him from hunger, or that a portion of the company rations are sold. The general opinion of the soldiers is inclined towards the latter.

The fact that sometimes rations are not all eaten after cooking is not always proof that there was a sufficient quantity, but more frequently proves the fact that either the cooking or the rations were not of a satisfactory quality. In the Philippine Islands, when we could not eat that which was given us at the company mess we