

VOLUNTEER WITH A BIBLE LAYS DOWN HIS RIFLE

**And D. Burr Jones of Omaha Re-
turns to Former Scenes of War
With Mission of Peace.**

**Man Who Just Missed Firing First
Shot of the Filipino War Has
Big Missionary Field.**

ONCE a Nebraska volunteer, following the American flag through the Philippines on a mission of war; now a traveling secretary of the Young Men's Christian association, again going through the Philippines, but this time on a mission of peace, talking of the Christian religion instead of leading his squad on the firing line, carrying a bible instead of a rifle.

This is the metamorphosis of D. Burr Jones, an Omaha boy, who went through the Spanish-American war with the First Nebraska in the Thurston Rifles as a corporal; who has been boys' secretary of the Young Men's Christian association here for three years past, and who left Thursday last for the headquarters of his new field at Ilo-Ilo, Isle of Panay.

His new position is with the army and navy department of the Young Men's Christian association, and he was appointed and sent out by the international committee at New York. His position is that of traveling secretary of the southern department of the Philippines, which means the supervision of all army Y. M. C. A. work in all of the islands except Luzon. His territory embraces the islands of Mindanao, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Masabate, Layte, the Sulu archipelago, and the numerous small islands thereabout, and is three-fourths of the whole land area. He succeeds Z. C. Collins, who has done a wonderful work in that field, and who has been sent to Manila. He sails from San Francisco June 1, and after a two weeks stay in Manila, will go south to his new station arriving in July.

As a boy, Mr. Jones attended the Omaha View school. From there he went to work in down town offices as office boy and clerk. He was the first clerk of the Commercial club. Finding the need of more education, he went a year to the academic department of Beloit college at Beloit, Wis. After that, he was a law student, and worked in a law office by days and attended the Omaha Law school by nights for two years, or until the Spanish-American war broke out.

With the Rifles in the War.

Having a liking for military life, he joined the Thurston Rifles, and had belonged to that company two years before the war. With it he went to the San Antonio tournament, and to the various encampments during that time. And with the company he went to the Philippines.

The first baptism of fire for the young soldier was at the attack on Manila preceding its capture from the Spaniards on August 2, 1898. He and Pat White and Fred Green, all well known here, were shooting their old Springfields in a lively manner over the top of a breastwork. Suddenly something happened. A three-inch shell from a Spanish cannon came directly at them, and struck the breastworks less than a yard from their heads. A minute later they found themselves stunned and shaken, dragging themselves out from under an avalanche of Luzon soil thrown into the trench with them, and found a great gap in the breastwork in front of them. Luckily not a man was injured, but the corporal found that a piece of shell had broken off his rifle hammer, and put the gun out of service. Going over to the body of Private Lewis, the first Nebraska man killed, he picked up the dead man's gun, and continued the fight.

After the capture of Manila there was no fighting until the Filipinos broke loose the night of February 4, 1899. That night Jones was corporal of the guard, and with another corporal had the choice of outposts, Nos. 1 or 2. He took No. 1. In a short time the corporal of No. 2 was taken sick, and Grayson was made acting corporal. Before the evening was over it became Grayson's luck to fire the first shot, and to kill the first Filipino of Aguinaldo's insurrection. So it was Jones' luck, by a chance, to miss firing the first shot, but he had plenty of chances to fire subsequent shots.

Sickness broke in on him for a short time, but the corporal was out to get into a big part of the heavy fighting, and was in all of the engagements of the company from Malolos to San Fernando. He was at Marquina, where Colonel Stotsenberg was killed.

Christian Work Attracts Him.

While hiking around Luzon as a soldier, and mingling with other soldiers, both on the march and in camp, Corporal Jones thought of the good work that could be done by active Christian workers, not only as spiritual advisers, but rather to provide wholesome recreation, both mental and physical, for their leisure hours, and thus unconsciously lead them to be better men. So strongly made up was his mind that he should make it his duty to take up this work, that upon his return from the Philippines with the First Nebraska, with his record of honorable service, he began making preparations to return.

It took a little time to get things in motion just as he wanted them, but in a few months, he secured a position with the Young Men's Christian association here, as membership secretary, and began his training. In a short time he was made secretary of the boys' department, and there, for three years, his success as an organizer and a teacher was shown. The department built up under his management and the boys liked him.

Early in May of this year, Mr. Jones went to the international Young Men's Christian association convention at Buffalo, and hoped there to attach himself to the army and navy department. The state secretary of New York saw that he was doubly qualified, and arranged for him a position at Governor's Island, N. Y., which Mr. Jones intended to hold a year before asking for assignment to foreign service. But then W. P. Miller, international army and navy secretary, sent for Mr. Jones, and asked him to go along to the Philippines, and he has gone. As a remarkable fact, on the same transport will go A. W. Gilbert, who fought with Company B of Fullerton, in the First Nebraska, in the Philippines, and who now goes from an assistant secretaryship at Warren, Pa., accompanied by his wife and baby, to become Young Men's Christian association secretary of the English speaking legation guard at Peking, China.

Will Be Field Marshal.

The duties of Mr. Jones will be to travel from post to post, and work with the soldiers; to help them form reading clubs, bible classes, study clubs, athletic organizations, and to otherwise provide for their healthy, mental, moral and physical well being, during their idle hours. Thus the chaplains are greatly assisted, and encouragement is given by the officers, because of the better health and discipline and greater content that follows. Thus Mr. Jones is thrice armed with his enthusiasm, his knowledge of Young Men's Christian association work, and his experience with soldier habits, army customs, and local conditions in the Philippines.

Three times in less than as many years

has the Omaha Young Men's Christian association furnished workers for the foreign field. George I. Babcock, a Nebraska born and bred man, and a graduate of the state university, left the position of educational director to become general secretary of the railroad Young Men's Christian association of the city of Mexico; W. Lockwood, jr., left to become assistant general secretary of the city association at Shanghai, China; and now Mr. Jones goes to the Philippines. In addition, Sam Anderson left here last fall to become treasurer of the American college at Brut, Syria.

So the Omaha Young Men's Christian association is proving itself to be a good training school.