

# The Spanish-American War (1898)

*"We meet here to pay glad homage to the memory of our illustrious dead; but let us keep ever clear before our minds the fact that mere lip-loyalty is no loyalty at all, and that the only homage that counts is the homage of deeds, not of words. It is but an idle waste of time to celebrate the memory of the dead unless we, the living, in our lives strive to show ourselves not unworthy of them. If the careers of Washington and Grant are not vital and full of meaning to us, if they are merely part of the storied past, and stir us to no eager emulation in the ceaseless, endless war for right against wrong, then the root of right thinking is not in us, and where we do not think right we cannot act right."*



**Theodore Roosevelt (1848-1919)**  
**26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**  
April 27, 1900

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**January 24, 1898** – The *USS Maine* arrives in Havana harbor in Cuba on a "friendly" visit. Three weeks later, on February 15, 1898, the *Maine* is shattered by two separate explosions and rapidly sinks. This incident leaves 254 seamen dead, and 59 sailors wounded. Eight of the wounded later die.

After the disaster, U.S. newspapers are quick to place responsibility for the loss on Spain. A U.S. Navy court of inquiry concludes that the ship was sunk by a mine, but it could not fix responsibility upon any person or persons, including the government or military forces of Spain. (Later studies indicated a possibility that the *Maine* sank as a result of a coal bunker fire adjacent to one of its ammunition magazines.)

However, the loss of the *Maine* turns American popular opinion strongly in favor of war with Spain. Hundreds of editorials demand that the *Maine* and American honor be avenged. Soon the rallying cry is everywhere: "Remember the *Maine*! To hell with Spain."

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*The **USS Maine** rested on the floor of Havana Harbor until 1911. Eventually the wreck was recovered and then sunk at sea. She now rests at 3,600 feet. However, many artifacts from the ship were recovered and given to towns, cities and organizations across the country.*



*Among the mementos recovered from the **USS Maine** is her bow scroll, now located in Davenport Park on the corner of Main Street and Cedar Street in Bangor, Maine. The scroll was cleaned and refurbished during the centennial and is considered by many to be one of the most remarkable artifacts from the ship.*

*The silver service from the **USS Maine**, on permanent loan from the U.S. Navy, is currently on display in the dining room of the Blaine House in Augusta.*



*Recovered by divers after the ship was sunk, the soup tureen and two serving dishes are decorated with pine cones and tassels and the Great Seal of the State of Maine.*

*Several Maine citizens honored the contributions of military personnel during this period of American engagement abroad:*

**My grandfather, Albert J. Yager, served on the *USS Kentucky* during the Spanish-American War.**

*Gail Bogdanski, Sangerville*



**Horace E. Moore, my grandfather, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Artillery in the Spanish-American War.\***  
*John E. Moore, Brewer*

*\*He served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Heavy Artillery, U.S. Army.*

*Horace E. Moore*

NAME <i>Moore, Horace E.</i>		ARM OF SERVICE <i>Btry B</i>		PAGE	
RANK <i>Private</i>		AGE <i>22</i> FT. <i>5</i> IN. <i>6 1/2</i>		COMPLEXION <i>Light</i>	
ENLISTED <i>July 11, 1898</i>		WHERE ENLISTED <i>Shawhegan, Me.</i>		EYES <i>Blue</i>	
BORN <i>Mattawamkeag, Me.</i>		REMARKS <i>2</i>		HAIR <i>Light Brown</i>	
LEFT SERVICE <i>March 3, 1899</i>		HOW LEFT SERVICE <i>Hon. dis. &amp; M.C.</i>		OCCUPATION <i>Laborer</i>	
APPROPRIATED		WHERE LEFT SERVICE <i>Savannah, Ga.</i>		YEARS	
LEFT SERVICE		HOW LEFT SERVICE		WHERE LEFT SERVICE	
SERVED IN <i>Enrolled in Btry "B," trans. to Btry D, July 20, 1898.</i>					
REMARKS <i>Paid bounty July 26, 1898, \$22.00. Relative: Flora Moore, Foxcroft, Maine</i>					

*Summary service record card of **Horace E. Moore**, Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Heavy Artillery, U.S. Army, Spanish-American War. –Maine State Archives*

**I am voting in honor of my grandfather, William Joseph Stephens, who fought in the Spanish-American War. He died in WWI with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Yerpis, France.**

*Carl H. Smith, Falmouth  
 Served in Vietnam era*

**I pay tribute to William Winders, who served in the Spanish-American War. He was over 100 years old when I took care of him as a visiting nurse in Denver, Colorado, over 30 years ago.**

*Elizabeth F. Wisecup, Windham*

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**Cpl. Harry G. Carey, my grandfather, was born in the Isle of Jersey, England. He came to the U.S. with his family and became a U.S. citizen on October 15, 1890. He "enrolled" in Company M of the 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment of New York in 1898 for two years or "during the war" and was promoted to rank of Corporal on November 28, 1898 in Caguas, Puerto Rico. He was awarded**

**the New York State Decoration for Service and was "mustered out of the Regiment" on March 31, 1899.**

*Constance J. Footman, Durham*

**May 1, 1898** – Commodore George Dewey leads a naval victory in Manila Bay in the Philippines.

**May 21, 1898** – U.S. Navy takes control of Guam.

**June 29, 1898** – Skirmish between U.S. and Spanish troops near Santiago, Cuba.

**July 1, 1898** – Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba. Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders win notoriety. Roosevelt returns to U.S. a hero.

**July 3, 1898** – Spanish fleet destroyed off Santiago Bay, Cuba.

**July 25, 1898** – U.S. forces land in Puerto Rico.

**August 12-13, 1898** – Spain agrees to armistice.

**December 10, 1898** – Treaty of Paris is signed.