

Company D. 10th Reg't Inf'ty
Presidio, S. F., Cal.,
March 20, 1904.

Major Geo. W. Stewart:

My dear Sir:

Your letter, in reply to mine of last week, was the kind that makes a fellow feel encouraged in holding an honorable ambition, and it makes one put forward one's best efforts to "make good" when given such support.

A letter to our Congressman from Private Beville's civilian friends will have far more weight with him than a communication directly from Private Beville, who can claim but an introduction acquaintance. I don't know but that it would be good judgment for me not to push my cause at all in person. I will let you advise me as to that. I want him to know that my ambition is legitimate and that I did not expect to hide a past record of "irregularity"; nor did I do it because I couldn't do any thing successfully as a civilian. You see I have always been of temperate habits.

and have never used liquor nor tobacco in any form.

Educationally I have full junior (or third year) standard at the University of California. I quit College to enter the Volunteer service in 1898.

I served two full years as a cadet at the U. C. our officer being a first lieutenant in the U. S. A. My advancement was in accordance with the best standing of under classmen, and my grading was "excellent." The first year was as a private and the second year was as a Corporal. I was recommended for promotion for the succeeding year. It was then I enlisted in the Volunteer army. My Enlistment with the volunteers was dated, I believe, from April 21st, the date of declaring war to December 16, 1898, the date of mustering out of the 6th Cal. Volunteer Regiment. I was made Corporal on June 10, 1898, and served in that capacity until mustered out as above stated, my record was "Excellent." My record with the N. S. C. dates from June, 16, 1896 until the spring of 1902. I was promoted Corporal immediately after the Company E's re-organization in April 1899. Being two years at college, one year in volunteer army and a year in the Country (from June 1901 until mustered out) my drilling with

Company E. was principally between April 1897 and June 1, 1901. Between those dates I was rarely absent without leave from regular drills and meetings. My enlistment in the Regular army dates from February 19th 1904 to date, less than a month, and I have been recommended already by the 1st Sergeant for promotion to a Corporal-ship. During my ~~reced~~ enlistment I have never been reprimanded by a superior officer, neither as a Cadet, N. S. C., volunteer, nor ^{as} a regular to date.

As a rifleman, I was champion of the U. C. Cadets and hold the highest medal. In the N. S. C. I qualified for a gold medal in 1897, 1899, 1900, meaning a score of 45 or over out of 50 or 63 or over out of 75. I went to Sacramento in 1900 and competed for state honors. If I remember ^{rightly}, there were 67 qualifications with over 60 in attendance. I secured the first medal ~~for~~ the highest score and have it with me now.

Next month we will have Target practice and I hope to make a good accounting.

I thank you for your interest in me and hope I have given accurately all the information you desire.

Yours most sincerely
Private Paul Baxter Beville