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FIRST NAVAL BATTLE.

Spain Suffers Crushing Defeat From Our Asiatic Fleet.

TWO OF HER SHIPS SUNK.

Admiral Dewey Enters the Harbor Under Cover of Night--Two Battles Fought. One Spanish Vessel Blown Up--Two Others are Burned--Spaniards Sink Other Vessels to Prevent Their Capture.

Madrid, May 1.—An official dispatch from the governor general of the Philippine islands says: "Our squadron occupies a good, strategical position at Cavite. The equipping of volunteers continues. We are ready to oppose any debarkation and to defend the integrity of the country."

6:30 p. m. Advice from Manila say that the American squadron under Commodore Dewey appeared off the bay of Manila at 5 o'clock this morning and opened a strong cannonade against the Spanish squadron and forts protecting the harbor. The Spanish second class cruiser Don Juan de Austria was severely damaged and her commander was killed. Another Spanish vessel was burned. The American squadron retired, having also sustained severe damage.

A second naval engagement followed, in which the American squadron again suffered considerable loss and the Spanish warships Mindano and Ulloa were slightly damaged. During this engagement, the Cavite forts maintained a steady and stronger fire upon the American squadron than in the first engagement.

Admiral Bermejo, the minister of marine, has expressed himself as highly pleased with the heroism of the Spanish marines, and has telegraphed congratulations to Admiral Montojo and the various crews of the Spanish squadron under fire of superior warships.

9 p. m. The following is the text of the official dispatch from the governor general of the Philippines to the minister of war, Lieutenant General Cavite, as to the engagement at Manila: TWO SPANISH SHIPS DESTROYED.

"Last night, April 30th, the batteries at the entrance to the fort announced the arrival of the enemy's squadron, forcing a passage under the obscurity of the night. At day break, the enemy took up positions, opening with a strong fire against Fort Cavite and the arsenal."

"Our fleet engaged the enemy in a brilliant combat, protected by the Cavite and Manila forts. They obliged the enemy with heavy loss, to maneuver repeatedly. At 9 o'clock the American squadron took refuge behind the foreign merchant shipping on the east side of the bay."

"Our fleet, considering the enemy's superiority, naturally suffered a severe loss. The Maria Christina is on fire and another ship, believed to be the Don Juan de Austria, was blown up. There was considerable loss of life. Captain Cadarzo, commanding the Maria Christina is among the killed. I cannot now give further details. The spirit of the army, navy and volunteers, is excellent."

"The news from the Philippines has produced greatly increased enthusiasm, especially in view of the fact that the American squadron was obliged to retreat."

"Notwithstanding the severe damage the Spanish ships sustained, naval officers here consider that further operations by the American squadron will be conducted under great difficulty, owing to their having no base

where they can repair and recolor or obtain fresh supplies of ammunition."

Another account says the Mindano and Ulloa or Ullao were severely damaged in the second engagement.

Midnight. An official telegram received at a late hour from the governor general of the Philippines says: Admiral Montojo has transferred his flag to the cruiser Isla de Cuba from the cruiser Reina Maria Christina. The Reina Maria Christina was completely burnt, as was also the cruiser Castilla, the other ships having to retire from the combat and some being sunk to avoid their falling into the hands of the enemy."

El Heraldo de Madrid says that Admiral Montojo changed his flagship during the engagement or between the two encounters in order to better direct maneuvers. In this way he escaped the fate of the commander of the Reina Maria Christina.

The second engagement, according to El Heraldo was apparently begun by the Americans, after landing their wounded on the west side of the bay. In the latter engagement, the Spanish Mindano and Ulloa suffered heavily. Minister speak of "serious, but honorable losses."

London, May 1.—It is reported here that yesterday the American squadron at the Philippines was defeated and lost five ships. The report is as yet unconfirmed. It originated in a telegram received by the agent of the Compania Transatlantica.

London, May 1.—Midnight. The second section of Madrid dispatch reporting the engagement of Manila bay has just been received here. It shows that there was serious fighting off Cavite. Admiral Bermejo, according to the dispatch, has wired congratulations to the Spanish navy on the behaviour of the warships against superior forces.

No confirmation has been received here of a dispatch from Madrid as to the fighting at the Philippines from any source. Neither the Reuter Telegram Company nor the Times, nor The Daily Mail, hitherto the only source of direct information from Manila, has received a word on the subject.

SCHEME FOR PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE. London, May 1.—Evening News publishes a dispatch from Hong Kong saying that it is said the insurgent leaders have submitted to Commodore Dewey a scheme of Philippine independence embracing free trade.

SPAIN'S CRUSHING DEFEAT. While it is quite clear that the Spanish squadron has suffered a crushing defeat, the dispatches leave unclear the intensely interesting question whether the American squadron has suffered material damage.

All news thus far comes from Spanish sources, but it seems evident that Commodore Dewey has not captured Manila. Unless he is able to make another attack and capture the town he will be in an awkward position, having no base upon which to retire and to refit. Probably, therefore, the United States squadron will be obliged to make for San Francisco as the entrance to Manila bay was heavily mined with torpedos. Commodore Dewey displayed great pluck and daring in making for the inner harbor. According to private advices received from Madrid, the United States cruisers Olympia, Raleigh and two other vessels, the names of which are not given entered the harbor.

No dispatches give details as to the vessels actually engaged on either side. It appears to be incorrect that the American ships finally anchored behind the merchantmen on the east side of the bay. It should be the great side. Probabilities point in the direction of the second engagement having occurred through the Spaniards trying to prevent the landing of the American wounded.

Reliable details cannot be had until Commodore Dewey's squadron is able to communicate with Hong Kong. There is, however, a suspicious frankness about the Spanish dispatches that savors of a desire to break unpleasant news to the Spaniards. It is not unlikely, therefore, that Commodore Dewey may be able to renew the attack.

THE ENGAGEMENT TERRIBLE. Madrid, May 1. via Paris, May 1.—A dispatch has been received by the

Spanish ministry of marine saying that the American fleet was obliged to retreat after a terrible engagement off Manila. The dispatch says the Spanish losses are heavy and that the American ships were severely damaged.

Washington, May 1.—The following is a list of the two fleets engaged:

- UNITED STATES SHIPS. Olympia, First class; Protected cruiser, 5,800 tons; launched 1882; speed 21 knots, battery, four 8 inch rifles, ten 6 inch rapid-fire guns, fourteen 6 pounders, six 1 pounder and four machine guns. Baltimore, second rate, 4,600 tons; speed, 20.6 knots; battery four 8 inch six 6 inch rifles, four 6 pounder rapid-fire, two 2 pounders, two 1 pounders; two 18 inch torpedoes, one 14 inch and two machine guns. Boston, second rate, 3,189 tons; speed 15 knots; battery two 8 inch, six 6 inch rifles, two 6 pounder rapid-fire, two 3 pounders, two 1 pounder, two 1 inch and two machine guns. Raleigh, second class; speed 19 knots; battery, one 6 inch and ten 5 inch rapid-fire rifles, eight 6 pounders, four 1 pounders and two machine guns. Concord, third rate, 3,000 tons; speed 17 knots, battery six 8 inch, two 6 pounder rapid-fire, two 3 pounders, one 1 pounder and four machine guns. Petrel, fourth rate, 890 tons; speed 13 knots; battery, four 6 inch guns, two 3 pounder rapid-fire, one 1 pounder and four machine guns. McCullough, revenue cutter. Zafiro, supply vessel.

THE SPANISH FLEET. Reina Maria Christina, 3,520 tons; built 1886; speed 17 knots; battery six 6 inch Howitzers guns; two 2.7 inch and three 2 inch rapid-fire rifles; six 1/4 inch and two machine guns. Castilla, 3,242 tons; built 1881; battery four 5.9 inch Krupp rifles, two 4.7 inch, two 2.3 inch, four 2.5 inch rapid-fire and two machine guns. Velasco, 1,352 tons; battery; three 5.8 inch Armstrong rifles, two 2.7 inch Howitzers, and two machine guns. Don Antonio de Ulloa and Don Juan de Austria, each 1,130 tons speed 14 knots, battery four 4.7 inch Howitzers; two 2.2 inch rapid-fire, two 1.5 inch and two machine guns.

General Lezo and El Cano, gun vessels 524 tons; built 1885; speed 11.5 knots. The General Lezo has two Howitzers rifles of 4.7 inch calibre, one 3.5 inch, two small rapid-fire and one machine gun; the El Cano, three 4.7 inch guns, two small rapid-fire and two machine guns. Marques Del Duero, dispatch boat, 500 tons; one smooth bore 6.3 inch calibre, two 4.7 inch and one machine gun.

Isla de Mindaro, Compania Transatlantica, both small gunboats. They are of 1,030 tons displacement and carry four 4.1 inch Howitzers. The small guns and two machine guns. Isla de Mindaro, compania Transatlantica, of Cadiz, armed as cruiser, length 376, beam 42.3; gross tons 4,195; speed 13.5.

London, May 2.—The Madrid correspondent of The Financial News telegraphing this morning, says: The Spanish ministry of marine claims that the Spanish fleet because the Americans were forced to retire behind the merchantment. Captain Cadalso (or Cadarso) in command of the Reina Maria, went down with the ship. The Spaniards fought splendidly, the sails refusing to leave the burning and sinking Don Juan de Austria. There is the greatest anxiety for further details.

Madrid, via Paris, May 2.—The time of the retreat of the American squadron behind the merchantmen was 11:30 o'clock a. m. The naval bureau at Manila sends the following report, signed "Montajo, Admiral."

"In the middle of the night the American fleet entered the bay and before day break appeared off Cavite. The night was completely dark. At 7:30 o'clock the bow of the Reina Maria Christina took fire and soon after the poop also was burned. At 8 o'clock my staff I went on board the Isla de Cuba. The Reina Maria Christina and the Castilla were then entirely enveloped in flames. The other ships having been damaged retired into Baker bay. Some had to be sunk to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. The losses are numerous, notably Captain Cadarso, and a priest."

Madrid, May 1. Noon.—All is quiet here; but, the festival organized for tomorrow promises to be an unusual demonstration from General Blanco saying that of the liberation of Spain and France, and of the naval "victory" of Spain at Callao, Peru, in 1866, while interest in the event is heightened by the hope of the Spaniards that the Spanish fleet will be victorious over the United States fleet, commanded by Commodore Dewey, thus giving them a triple celebration. The mayor of Madrid has issued a manifesto, inviting all the inhabitants of this city to participate in the celebration. He says: Spain is engaged in a struggle to repel the justifiable attempts of the yankees to rob her of her rights in Cuba, but the yankees will not find it an easy task to conquer a race whose history during twenty centuries has been notable only for warlike exploits.

ANOTHER PRIZE CAPTURED. The government has received a cablegram from General Blanco saying that the American warships blockading Cienfuegos have captured a Spanish merchant steamer. A colonel, a surgeon, six officers and three noncommissioned officers who were on board the steamer were detained as passengers of war, but the civilian passengers were liberated.

London May 2.—The Madrid correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing Sunday says: "The Americans were pillaging the steamer Argonaut, seized off Cienfuegos and carrying a quantity of arms and ammunition, when three Spanish gunboats went out and compelled them to withdraw."

Key West, May 1.—The government

tug Leyden brought in today the small Spanish schooner Mascote, captured near Havana yesterday by the torpedo boat Foote. She is a small coaster. The vessel and cargo is worth about \$2,000 loaded with fruit and was bound for Havana. She is a very insignificant prize.

General Emilio Nunez and Colonel Baldemere Acosta have just arrived on the Mascote. General Nunez is very anxious to confer with Rear Admiral Sampson and leaves tonight for the fleet.

Madrid, May 1.—An official dispatch from Havana says: "An American ship has bombarded a battery at the entrance of Cienfuegos, but was driven off by three of our gunboats which put the harbor in another direction. We sustained some slight damage. Other men-of-war have threatened the Mariel coast. Troops have gone to its defense."

10 p. m. Admiral Bermjo minister of marine, joined the Spanish council this evening and informing his colleagues that the Spanish force had gained a victory in the Philippines. He asserted that he found difficulty in restraining his joyful emotions.

The official dispatch does not mention the destruction of any American vessels, although it says that the United States squadron finally cast anchor in the bay behind the foreign merchantmen.

11:30 p. m. The town is greatly excited by the serious news from the Philippines and there is an immense gathering in the Calle de Sevilla. The civil guards on horse back were called out to preserve order and all precautions have been taken. There is much muttering but up to the present nothing serious has occurred.

SPANISH DEMONSTRATIONS AT GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar, May 2. 2 a. m.—A popular demonstration was made in the Spanish lines last night. Over 6,000 persons paraded the streets with torches and flags, and cries of "viva Espana" were heard on all sides. The Spanish troops took part in the demonstration and many military and civil bands marched in the parade. A large symbolic castle representing Spain was prominent feature.

London, May 2.—The Havana correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing this morning, says: Captain General Blanco has determined upon a desperate defense of Havana. In Matanzas 10,000 soldiers are engaged day and night in throwing up earthworks and encompassing the entire city within the segment of a great circle.

ARMY TO INVADE CUBA. More Troops to Arrive at Tampa—Indications That They Will Move in Ten Days. Jacksonville, Fla., May 1.—A special to The Times-Union and Citizen from Tampa, Fla., says: General Shafter, who is looked upon as the officer who will have charge of the army of occupation, gave an audience this evening to several newspaper men. In the course of the conversation the question of counter signing war correspondents' passes was brought up. General Shafter said that he would not assume command for a week or ten days, as he would be busy with other matters and would take up the subject in ample time. This practically settles two very important matters. First, that General Shafter will command the army in Cuba, and, second, that the troops will not leave here for Cuba for ten days at least. The General, while he has come to the conclusion on the subject, will be inclined to limit the number of accredited war correspondents to as small a number as possible.

Four regiments of infantry from Chickamauga, Mobile and New Orleans, arrived today, being the First, Tenth, Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth. Seven train loads made up of ninety-five cars, have been reported from points along the Plant system and will have arrived here before morning. The trains are bringing the equipment of the artillery and cavalry, horses, stores etc. One hundred additional pack mules came in with the first regiment this morning.

It is reported tonight that a dispatch has just been received here, the contents of which indicate that 5,000 men of each arm, and as many Cubans here as desire to accompany them will leave on Tuesday and that the steamships Olivette and Florida of the Plant Line were officially inspected today to ascertain if their capacity is sufficient for that number of troops. Matanzas is mentioned as the destination. This story can not be verified.

A Quiet Day at Key West. Key West, May 1.—The day has been very quiet, no news from the fleet or the outside world being received.

Miss Clara Barton and her Red Cross aids came ashore from the relief steamer State of Texas this morning and attended church. The 800 marines on the transport Panther remained huddled on the steamer's deck in the roasting sun. The Amphitrite, the Montgomery and the Newport sailed this morning in the direction of the fleet.

The harbor regulations, which take effect tonight, forbid vessels to enter between the hours of 8 o'clock in the evening and 4 o'clock in the morning. A patrol has been established which will instruct vessels how to pass through the mine fields.

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GREAT REJOICING

In Washington City Over Admiral Dewey's Victory Over the Spanish Fleet.

PEOPLE WILD OVER THE NEWS

How the News is Received by the Officials—A Load of Anxiety Taken Off Their Minds—The Bulletins Read at the White House With Eagerness—Likely to Put an End to the War—Spain to Give Up Cuba Rather Than Lose the Philippines Too—Effect of the Victory on the Balance of the European Powers.

Washington, May 1.—Washington is rejoiced tonight. Not since the dark days of the great civil conflict of a third of a century ago have the people of this city been so profoundly moved by war news as they were this evening.

The first battle in the Spanish-American war has been fought and victory lies with Admiral Dewey's squadron under the stars and stripes.

That was enough to set the people of Washington almost in a frenzy of enthusiastic rejoicing. For days they, in common with the people throughout the country, have been awaiting news from the Philippine islands, as everything pointed to a battle at Manila that might be a decisive conflict of the war. When the news came indicating a great victory for the American squadron the enthusiasm of the people was let loose and the streets of the city have rung with cheers throughout the night.

The first news of the battle received in Washington came in a brief cablegram to the Associated Press from Madrid about 8 o'clock this evening. As night worn on the cable continued to sing the news of victory for the squadron of Admiral Dewey and the interest grew into tremendous excitement. Ordinarily Washington is the quietest of cities on Sunday, but as bulletin after bulletin was posted in front of the newspaper offices, each successive one conveying information more gratifying than its predecessor, the crowds in the streets became uproarious. Good as well as bad news spread rapidly.

By 10 o'clock the streets were crowded with people, all discussing one exciting topic of the hour. Hundreds gathered in front of the bulletin boards and every scintilla of news—and it was all glorious—was received with enthusiastic cheers. While victory had been expected, the news of it—coming as it did from Spanish sources—gave vent to the patriotism of the people which has been pent up for days. It was a spontaneous outbreak of patriotic feeling that scarcely knew bounds. Admiral Dewey's name was on every lip and his praises were sung in the rejoicing of the people.

Thus far no official advices have been received by the government; but the Associated Press dispatches were transmitted to the president and officials of the administration as rapidly as they were received. The president in company with several of his advisors read the bulletins in the library of the White House early in the evening, but later in the night he went to his office on the second floor of the executive mansion where, until a late hour, he continued to pursue every dispatch with deepest interest. The news was evidently of the most gratifying character to him, but no statement could be obtained at the executive mansion concerning the battle or its possible consequences.

Officials of the navy department were reticent in discussing the conflict in the absence of official information but they made no pretense of concealing their great gratification. Secretary Long declined to comment upon the subject, but it was evident that he felt relieved. It has been known for days at the navy department that a conflict at Manila was inevitable and while no great effort was made to express, there was yet a deep concern in the heart of every official. Tonight's news removes a great weight from the minds of all.

Navy and army circles, after manifesting throughout the day the greatest eagerness for news from the Philippines, received with intense joy the advices telling of the victory of Admiral Dewey's fleet. Their satisfaction that the defeat of the Spanish had been overwhelming was strengthened by reason of the news coming almost wholly from Madrid, and they were unrestrained in expressing their gratification upon the signal triumph of the American forces.

At the Army and Navy Club a large company has gathered and read and commented upon the story of the engagement, as it was presented in the bulletins of the Associated Press. At the club, down town, at their homes and wherever seen, the officers were free in giving vent to the pleasure they felt at the news and declaring the confidence which they had entertained throughout that the American ships, their officers, and men would demonstrate their superiority over the Spanish fleet in the Philippine waters. The absence of any statement of specific injury to the American vessels in the Madrid advices, was construed as convincing indication that they had not suffered appreciable injury and this was especially pleasing to the naval students of the news. Not only was the preservation of the American ships and men considered in its happy outcome, but it was commented upon as indicating clearly that Admiral Dewey and his associate officers and the men under their command had discharged

splendidly their several duties, in directing and executing the fight. In this connection it was pointed out as little less than marvelous that the American squadron escaped without severe injury, because, notwithstanding the disparity in the naval forces, the Spanish fleet, should have been able to inflict severe damage to its foe before itself being destroyed. Its failure to do so was explicable only upon the hypothesis of perfect and swift work by the Americans.

WHAT THIS VICTORY MEANS. An opinion freely expressed tonight by naval officers is that the very decisive victory of Admiral Dewey's fleet will mean probably an early end to war without further naval battles of importance. The American fleet, it is suggested, is now supreme in the waters within Spain's own borders, and indications were strongly towards the slipping of the Philippines from her control. It was said that only by quickly yielding to our demands in Cuba could this loss possibly be averted. Spain, it was argued, was confronted with a situation which promised naught save disaster in case she elected to force more fighting. The superiority of our fleet has been demonstrated in the Pacific, and the same, it is contended, would be inevitable in the Atlantic in case the clash comes from whatever point of view considered the policy of more fighting upon the part of Spain, promised nothing but more Spanish misfortune. Navy officers think this view must prevail with the Spanish government and believe an end of the war, upon the basis of Cuban independence, is to follow soon and that too, without further notable opportunity for the American navy to prove its power and distinguish itself.

Judge McComas, senator-elect from Maryland, after expressing his joy over the result of the conflict, expressed the hope of the expected result of the campaign at Manila when he said that it was likely to have a tremendous effect not only in Spain, but throughout Europe. He expressed the belief that it would turn the tide of European sentiment towards the United States. The idea advanced by Judge McComas was expressed by others tonight. It is regarded by some as likely that the decisive victory gained by Admiral Dewey's squadron may open the eyes of Spain to the seriousness of the conflict upon which she had entered. In official circles it is regarded as almost certain that trouble of a most critical kind will confront the Sagasta government should the Spanish people have been led to believe that their navy was invincible and the bitter disappointment that will ensue over the result of the first engagement of the war is likely to precipitate an internal dissension, if not a revolution.

Another result of Admiral Dewey's victory, it is thought, may be action on the part of the powers of Europe to induce Spain to abandon what is regarded as a hopeless contest for her. Representations may be made to Spain that she would better relinquish her hold upon Cuba than to risk losing all of her West Indian possessions and the Philippines as well. It is believed to be not unlikely that the representations will indicate that, since Spanish honor has been satisfied by a conflict in which she now yield to the inevitable and accept the good offices of the powers to bring about an adjournment.

In the dispatches from Madrid the statement was made that Admiral Dewey effected a landing on the west side of Manila bay for the men of his ships who were wounded in the engagements. It was suggested in official circles that this landing had a two-fold purpose. It was not only that the wounded might have better care than they could receive on shipboard, in the face of other probable engagements, but also to carry out what was known to be Admiral Dewey's purpose to effect a junction with the insurgents as soon as possible. The insurgent forces practically surround Manila on the land sides of the city and with the intention of securing control of Manila as soon as possible Admiral Dewey was to obtain a footing on the island at the earliest practicable moment. As soon as the junction of the American and insurgent forces, the one on sea and the other on land, is effected, a demand is likely to be made for the surrender of the city, and, in the event of a refusal, a combined attack would be made upon it. The result of such an attack, in the absence of a Spanish fleet and effective shore batteries, seems a foregone conclusion.

No news of a definite character is given concerning the loss sustained by Admiral Dewey's squadron and it is scarcely likely, in the opinion of experts of the navy, that authentic information will be received until Admiral Dewey has opportunity to communicate officially with the department. It is regarded as probable that immediately after the engagements of today Admiral Dewey sent the revenue cutter McCullough back to Hong Kong with dispatches and that the first information will come from that point. The distance from Manila to Hong Kong is a trifle over 600 miles and it will take the McCullough about two days to make the trip.

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