

## OUR NAVAL FORCE

The Subject of Discussion and Praise Among All Nationalities.

## ITS GREAT SUPERIORITY PROVEN

The Battle of Manila Planned in Detail Beforehand--The Plans Carried Out in the Utter Annihilation of the Spanish Fleet and Forts.

Our Fleet Adjourns the Fight for Breakfast--Fearful Execution of Our Guns on the Spanish Vessels.

Spanish Treachery Punished--A Cool Spanish Officer--Spanish Loss Heavy.

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Hong Kong, May 7.—The order of battle assumed by the Spanish was with all the small craft inside Cavite harbor behind stone and timber breakwaters and the larger ships cruising off Cavite and Manila. No patrol was established nor was a searchlight placed at the entrance of the bay.

On Saturday night the American ships crept inside the bay without being seen until the McCulloch's funnel emitted a spark. Then a few shots were exchanged with Corregido Island, but the fleet never stopped or slowed down opposite the city until dawn. The Spanish ships then opened fire, supported by the Cavite forts. The McCulloch remained at some distance and the enemy's shells passed but did not touch her. The cruiser Baltimore suffered the most of any of the American ships. Five or ten shots took effect on her, but none of her officers or crew was seriously hurt. Only a few slight injuries were suffered by the American fleet, the worst of which resulted from an explosion of ammunition on the deck of the Baltimore. The other ships of the fleet were practically unhurt.

One hundred and fifty Spaniards were killed and many were wounded. The cruiser Reina Christina was the worst damaged of the Spanish ships and it is believed that she will be scuttled. The other ships of the Spaniards were quickly riddled by the Americans' fire. Two torpedo boats from Cavite were quickly driven to return to that place for shelter.

The Cavite arsenal exploded and forty Spaniards were killed. The forts made a nominal resistance. The battery has never capitulated and the Spaniards ashore are still defiant.

**INTENSE SUSPENSE.**  
Washington, May 7.—A day of excitement such as today has not been seen in Washington since the days when reports came in of great victories during the civil war. Official and unofficial Washington was in a ferment and few of the employees in any of the departments could maintain their composure sufficiently to go on with their routine work. They were in an explosive state and at the great state, war and navy department buildings, the least sign of dispatches or the gathering of crowd of reporters were sufficient to cause them to drop their work and swarm in the corridors, clamoring for news. The excitement was contagious and senators and representatives mixed in the crowds that gathered around the navy headquarters and gazed wistfully at the big, hip currahs for Dewey and later to board of stentorian cheers from Theodore Roosevelt's room gathered everybody in the vast building to the east wing in time to witness the departure of the eastern contingent of the mounted riflemen. Mr. Roosevelt has said goodbye to the boys before they started at 2:40 this afternoon for San Antonio and the cheers was the means by which they took their leave. Mr. Roosevelt himself will follow Monday or Tuesday.

The state department has the honor of receiving the first news from the fleet. It came in the shape of a cablegram of three words from the United States Consul Wildman, at Hong Kong—McCulloch. The cablegram was the usual form in which naval movements are reported by cable. This dispatch was received by Third Assistant Secretary Crider, who had been on duty all night, at 4:40 o'clock this morning. The naval officials were promptly notified and awaited with intense interest the dispatch which was expected to surely follow from Commodore Dewey.

**DEWEY'S REPORTS.**  
About 9:30 o'clock Manager Marean, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, appeared at the department, bringing with him a sheet comprising four lines of the mysterious jargon which makes up the naval cipher. He handed this directly to Secretary Long, who gazed at it for a moment and turned it over to Lieutenant Whittelsey, one of the cipher experts of the navigation bureau, for translation into English. Then the secretary made a pretense of sitting down at his desk to transact other business, but it was plain to be seen that in spirit he had joined the anxious throng of newspaper men and officials who thronged the reception room and the corridors waiting for the news.

The naval cipher is one of the most complex in the world. The messages come in words of strange formation, taken from all languages. These words are turned by the translating clerk into groups of figures, and these in turn are resolved into their equivalent words in English. All this takes time, provides that naval officers who, upon the recommendation of the president, receive the thanks of congress may be advanced one grade. The president will do this in Dewey's case, which will put 1,000 additional in his pocket and jump him over the commodores, as well as over Acting Admiral Sampson.

Another boat bought. The navy department today bought another boat, the big steam yacht Dorothy, now at Cramp's yard at Philadelphia and built for McKean. She will be sent to Admiral Sampson's squadron or to Havana on blockade duty.

The embassies and legations Commodore Dewey's reports were read with great interest and served to renew the high tributes of the foreign authorities to the gallant American commander. The remarkable disparity probably was without a parallel in history. Now the Spaniards could have lost 150 killed and 250 wounded, while the American loss was confined to a few men slightly injured, is regarded by the foreign observers as clearly disclosing the utter worthlessness of Spanish arms. The ambassador of one of the great powers said it showed that the guns of the Spanish forts, as well as those on their ships were worthless, otherwise they would have inflicted at least some mortality upon the American sailors. "It recalls Solferino," said he "at that time France and Austria were at war. The range of the guns of the Spaniards was longer than that of the Austrians. That brought them together on unequal terms and the simple difference in the length of range of the French guns determined the outcome of that battle. So it is now. The Spaniards had longer range guns, but they had the modern strength and destructiveness while the Spanish guns evidently were antiquated and guns only in name. It serves to show that in the warfare of today a nation must have weapons of the most modern pattern, else it is at a terrible disadvantage and its men are left practically at the mercy of an enemy having all the latest appliances of destructive warfare. It is the lesson of Solferino over again and this time Spain learns it."

It was thought that the British embassy would receive direct advice but none came. The French, German and other foreign establishments were also lacking in direct advice. In all foreign quarters much concern was shown as to the effect of these reports. It was believed that the war of Madrid. It was believed it would add fuel to the flames already existing there and that little more was needed to overthrow the government. Sir Julian Pauncefote called at the state department during the day, but it was not in connection with the war. He came as dean of the diplomatic corps to meet Secretary Day on his return. Official notice was sent by the state department today to the ambassadors and ministers that Judge Day had assumed the duties of secretary of state, and the foreign officials will take early occasion to pay a formal call of respect to the new secretary.

**PRESIDENT'S CONGRATULATIONS TO DEWEY.**  
Formal announcement of the brilliant achievement at Manila was made by the president, through the secretary of the Navy Long. There was a large number of visitors during the day and to all the president either read or announced the substance of the cablegrams. There was mutual congratulations in the great victory which all declared to be the most remarkable in the history of naval warfare. Secretary Long by direction of the president sent the following reply to Dewey.

"Washington, May 7th, 1898.  
"Dewey, Manila.  
"The president, in the name of the American people, thank you and your officers and men for your splendid achievement and overwhelming victory. In recognition he has appointed you acting admiral, and will recommend a vote of thanks to you by congress."  
"LONG."  
Chicago, May 7.—The Chronicle has the following:  
Hong Kong, May 7.—Commodore Dewey's flag lieutenant, Thomas M. Brumby, arrived at Hong Kong this morning on the United States revenue cutter Hugh McCulloch, with the first official news of the greatest naval battle of modern times, that of Manila harbor. The official dispatches were at once forwarded by cable to the United States government at Washington.

The first connected story of the engagement was told by the officers of the McCulloch, who saw it and participated in it. He said that the Spanish fleet of ten vessels was wholly destroyed. The Reina Maria Christina flagship of the Spanish squadron, was the centre of attack at the beginning of the action and under the hot fire poured in on her from the American fleet she was soon burning from stem to stern.

Admiral Montojo, the Spanish admiral, was compelled to escape in a small boat to the Isla de Cuba, another of the Spanish vessels, and as soon as his flag was hoisted the guns of the American fleet were turned on it and in a few minutes it was destroyed. The admiral was again forced to escape in a small boat.

The defenses of Manila and its batteries, as well as those at Cavite, were silenced and beaten to the ground by the rain of shot and shell. The American battle line was led by the flagship Olympia and the cruiser Raleigh. The Boston, Baltimore, Concord and Petrel and the revenue cutter McCulloch followed. The American fleet in easy speed approached the Spanish ships, which were drawn out in two lines, the Reina Maria Christina, the flagship, in the center.

not touch her. The marksmanship of the Spanish gunners seemed to be wild from the outset and, meanwhile, the main ships of the American squadron were pouring in a deadly fire, doing great execution both in the Spanish fleet and in the Cavite fortifications on land.

The American cruiser Baltimore, at one period of the engagement received the brunt of the enemy's fire and suffered the most of any vessel in the American squadron. From five to ten tons of the enemy's shot took effect on the Baltimore, but none of her crew was seriously hurt.

As soon as the Spanish admiral left the Isla de Cuba, the fire was directed at the later mercilessly, every 8 inch gun on every ship joining those of the flagship. The Isla de Cuba was riddled. After a few rounds she was put out of action and almost before Admiral Montojo had had time to get his bearings he was driven out a second time. The Spanish cruiser Castilla burst into flames under the remarkable gunnery of Dewey's men. The American commodore then directed a hot fire against the batteries. This was a surprise to Admiral Montojo, who apparently thought himself secure under the guns of the Cavite fortifications.

Hong Kong, May 7.—When the American ships were nearing Baker Bay a sudden upheaval of the waters occurred a little distance in front of the leading ship and quickly following this a second water spout denoted that the Spaniards had fired a couple of mines or torpedoes, but their efforts to blow up the ships were unsuccessful.

A torpedo boat tried to creep along the shore, round the offing and attack the American fleet. The Spaniards, Nanshan and McCulloch, but was driven off and shot into bits. The Mindanao was run on to the beach and the other small craft retired behind the Mole. The fight started at 5:30 o'clock, was adjourned at 8:30 o'clock and resumed about noon. The finishing touches were given to Cavite by the Petrel and Concord at 2 o'clock. The Raleigh grounded twice in shallow water during the engagement.

The Spanish ships caught fire one after another or were driven to ground to save their crews. Commodore Dewey continued the fighting until the last vessel of the enemy had been destroyed. By that time the shore batteries were silenced and the American fleet had won a most remarkable victory. The American ships were kept under way to manoeuvre about the Spanish fleet. By this means much of the enemy's fire was rendered harmless. The spectacle of the American warships manoeuvring as if on parade, and at the same time directing a terrific fire at the enemy's ships and forts was a magnificent tribute to the skill and discipline of modern naval warfare.

The terms of capitulation are still unsettled. Commodore Dewey fears that the Spaniards will attempt a bombardment. The forts at the entrance to the bay capitulated, and were dismantled on Wednesday. The Americans cut the cables between the Spaniards and Manila to permit them to use it pending the surrender of the city, and it is, therefore, not known what is transpiring on shore.

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Hong Kong, May 8.—Among naval men, military men and civilians, Europeans and natives here today, there is only one subject of discussion, the terrible fire at the enemy's ships and forts of the American fleet under Commodore Dewey over the Spanish fleet commanded by Admiral Montojo, in Manila bay, on Sunday last.

**SPANISH LOSSES.**  
On the other hand, about 150 men are said to have been killed on board the Reina Christina, which was totally destroyed. Admiral Montojo, the Spanish commander, transferred his flag to the Isla de Cuba, when his ship caught fire, but the latter was destroyed also in due course of time. The Reina Christina lost her captain, a lieutenant, her chaplain and a midshipman by one shot which struck her bridge. About 100 men were killed and sixty wounded on board the Castilla. Indeed, some estimates place the number of Spanish wounded during the engagement at over 1,000.

Although the Krupp guns on the esplanade of Manila were fired continuously during the engagement, Commodore Dewey did not reply to them and the battery afterward hoisted a white flag in token of surrender. The terms of the capitulation were still unsettled when the McCulloch left Manila and it was said Commodore Dewey feared rioting upon the part of the insurgents if he attempted a bombardment of the remaining fortifications at Manila.

The forts at the entrance of the bay were dismantled on Wednesday, after they had capitulated. It is said the American commodore ordered the cable cut because the Spaniards refused to permit him to use it pending the complete surrender of the city. It is said that the Spanish ships did not get under steam until after the alarm was given. It is said also that the Spanish commander informed the governor general that it was advisable to surrender in the interests of humanity, as it was impossible to resist successfully, but that he and his men were willing enough to fight and die. Even when the Spanish flagship was shot half away her commander, though wounded, refused to leave the bridge till the ship was burning and sinking, her stern shattered by a common shell and her steam pipe burst.

The Petrel chased a gunboat up the river Pasig, and the Spanish captain came in a boat to negotiate a cessation of surrender. The American captain replied: "Unconditional surrender or fight." To this the Spaniard answered: "We are willing to fight. Please allow us to send for ammunition, because our store is exhausted."

On a proposal to the existing authorities to continue temporarily under the American flag, pending the termination of the war, the Spaniards delayed their decision and kept waiting to Madrid. The Americans requested the privilege of using the wire and when this was refused they cut the cable. The Esmeralda, from Hong Kong, arrived in the middle of the battle. During the adjournment for breakfast an American cruiser was detached to meet her, as it was believed she might be a Spaniard. When it was found that the new arrival was a British vessel, she was warned to keep away. The Esmeralda, therefore, moved up the bay ten or fifteen miles.

There are still two or three Spanish gunboats about the Philippines, but no resistance from them is probable. One recently captured an American bark. **MANILA EVACUATED.**  
Madrid, May 8.—11 a. m.—It is claimed that a message has been received here from Manila, announcing that the Spanish troops have retired from Manila, taking with them all their ammunition and stores. London, May 9.—The Hong Kong correspondent of The Daily Mail gives the following additional details: "There was an act of treachery on the part of a Spanish ship which lowered her flag and then fired at a boat crew sent to take possession of her. She did not hit the boat, but our guns were turned on her and tore her to pieces. She went to the bottom with all on board. Several vessels close in shore behaved in the same way and shared her fate. "The Spaniards had fought to their last gasp and now surrendered. They had been announcing that the Americans would kill every one in Cavite and when we landed a long procession of priests and sisters of mercy met the boat from the Petrel and begged our men not to injure the wounded in the hospitals. As a matter of fact, the Americans rescued some 200 Spaniards and sent them ashore. "All the Spanish vessels are destroyed, with 2,000 men. The Spanish estimate gives their loss at 1,000 killed and wounded. In the Reina Maria Christina, 200 men are believed to have been killed or drowned. "The officers of the McCulloch, with whom I conversed today, bear testimony to the bravery of the Spaniards. They particularly praised the gallant crew of the Castilla, whom they described as the bravest men ever sacked in battle. They consider the result of the fight a remarkable instance of the advantage of long range firing to the side which is better in artillery and marksmanship. "Private papers captured at Cavite (Continued on Eighth Page.)"