

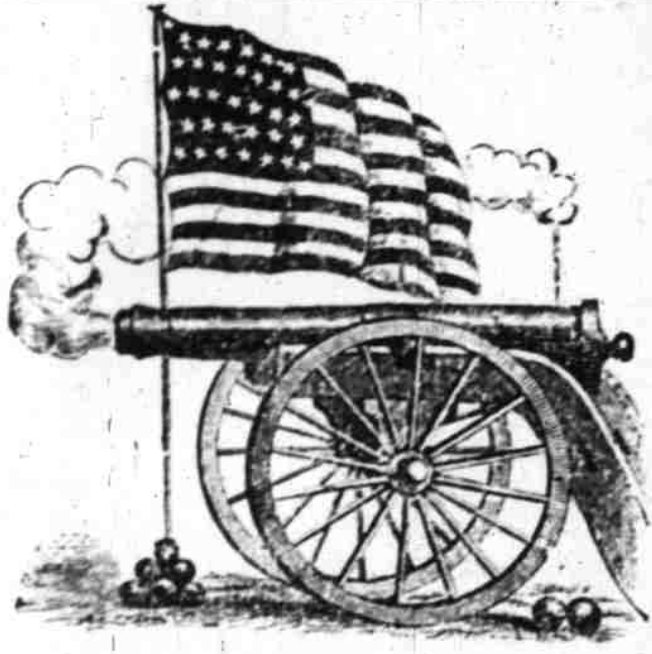
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NUMBER



BATTLE IN CUBA.

FOUR AMERICANS KILLED.

Thirteen Hours Fighting at Guantanamo.

ASSISTANT SURGEON GIBBS KILLED.

The First Battle on Cuban Soil—The Marines Assaulted by Spanish Guerrillas in a Savage Manner—Ships in the Harbor Try to Aid the Men on Shore.

On Board the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, Off Guantanamo, Sunday, June 12.—Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Huntington's battalion of marines, which landed from the transport Panther, on Friday and encamped on the hill guarding the abandoned cable station at the entrance to the outer harbor of Guantanamo, has been engaged in beating off a bush attack by Spanish guerrillas and regulars since 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The fighting was almost continuous for thirteen hours, until 6 o'clock this morning, when reinforcements were landed from the Marblehead.

Four of our men were killed and one wounded. The advance picket, under Lieutenants Neville and Shaw, are unaccounted for.

Among the killed is Assistant Surgeon John Blair Gibbs, of the regular army, whose father fell in the Custer massacre. His home was at Richmond, Va., but he had been practicing in New York, and he entered the service since the war began. He was a very popular officer. The others killed are: Sergeant Charles H. Smith, of Smallwood; Private William Dunphy, of Gloucester, Mass., and Private James McColgan, of Stoneham, Mass. Corporal Glass was accidentally wounded in the head. The splashes of blood found at daylight at the position the Spaniards occupied indicate fatalities, but their comrades carried off the killed and wounded.

The engagement began with desultory firing at the pickets a thousand yards inland. Captain Spicer's company was doing guard duty and was driven in, finally rallying on the camp and repulsing the enemy at 5 o'clock.

The bodies of Privates McColgan and Dunphy were found, both shot in the head. The large cavities caused by the bullets, which, inside a range of 500 yards, have a rotary motion, indicate that the victims were killed at close range.

The bodies were stripped of shoes, hats and cartridge belts and horribly mutilated with machetes. When they were brought in the whole battalion formed three sides of a hollow square about the camp on the hilltop. Below in the bay were the warships at anchor. Inland from the hill camp is a deep ravine, and beyond this are high hills. The adjacent country is heavy with a thicket growth.

The sky was blanketed with clouds, and when the sun set a gale was blowing seaward. Night fell, thick and impenetrable. The Spanish squads concealed in the chapparel cover had the advantage of the Americans on their edge furnishing fine targets against the sky and the white tents. The Spaniards fought from cover till midnight, discoverable only by flashes, at which the marines fired volleys. The repeaters sounded like crackers in a barrel.

The Marblehead launch, a Colt machine gun in her bow, pushed up the bay enflaming the Spaniards, and it is thought that some were killed. The marines trailed much blood to the water's edge and there lost it. The sharks are numerous in the vicinity.

The ships threw their search lights

ashore, the powerful electric eyes sweeping the deep tropic foliage and disclosing occasionally skulking parties of Spaniards. It all resembled a transformation scene at the harbor.

Each discovery of the enemy was greeted by the crack of carbines along the edge of the camp ridge, or by the long roll of the launch's machine gun, searching the thickets with a leaden stream. Shortly after midnight came the main attack. The Spaniards made a gallant charge up the southwest slope, but were met by repeated volleys from the main body and broke before they were one-third of the way up the hill, but they came so close that at points there was almost a hand to hand struggle. The officers used their revolvers. Three Spaniards got through the open formation to the edge of the camp. Col. Jose Campina, the Cuban guide, discharged his revolver, and they, turning and finding themselves without support, ran helter skelter down the river side of the hill. It was during this assault that Assistant Surgeon Gibbs was killed. He was shot in the head in front of his own tent, the farthest point of attack. He fell into the arms of Private Sullivan and both dropped. Surgeon Gibbs lived ten minutes, but did not regain consciousness.

The surgeons of the hospital corps then removed their quarters to the trenches about the old Spanish stockade north of the camp. The attacks were continued at intervals throughout the rest of the night, with firing from small squads in various directions.

Forward morning the fire slackened. Dawn is the favorite time for attack, and as the east paled, the marines, lying on their guns, were aroused. Some were actually asleep, as they had had no rest for 48 hours, and tired nature could no longer stand the strain. But no attack came.

Three new 12-pound field guns, which could not be used during the night, for fear of hitting our own men, shelled several squads of Spaniards after daylight. They dived into the bushes like prairie dogs into burrows as the shells broke over their heads in the gray dawn.

Lieutenant Colonel Huntington and Major Cockrell gave high praise to the nerve and steadiness of officers and men, especially the young ones, as the engagement was a baptism of fire for a large majority. The men were in darkness and in a strange land, but they stood to their posts with courage and fortitude and there was no symptom of panic.

The marines, though exhausted, were eager for more fighting, promising to inflict heavy punishment. They complimented the daring of the Spaniards with characteristic camp profanity.

Today the amplest precautions have been taken, and as the Dauntless was leaving reinforcements were landing from the Marblehead. A stormy time was expected.

The new campaign uniforms prove satisfactory and are almost invisible at a distance of 200 yards. The Lee guns caused several accidents in drawing cartridges. Corporal Glass shattered his hand.

Despite the loss of men, who are keenly regretted, the marines rejoice that they have been engaged in their first fight on Cuban soil. They sailed from New York the day war was declared and expected to land within a week at Havana. Since then, until they landed on the shore of Guantanamo Bay, they had been cooped up on the Panther, and they had begun to fear that the troops would beat them after all.

A Graduate of the University of Virginia.
NEW YORK, June 13.—John Blair Gibbs, who is reported killed at Guantanamo, was 40 years old, single and lived alone. At his late home in this city, he is said to have been a graduate of the University of Virginia. He lived and practiced medicine here for about four years. Two months ago he received the appointment of acting assistant surgeon, and was ordered to Key West.

Over 100 Clerks Discharged.
Washington, June 11.—The largest clerical reduction in the pension bureau for some years was effected today, by the dismissal of over 100 clerks and a number of the corps of special examiners. The action follows a reduction of the appropriation.

FIRST LETTER FROM DEWEY.

NOTHING ESCAPED HIM.

List of The Ships Sunk and Burned.

REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF MANILA.

The Admiral Gives a Clear Statement of What Happened—Praises the Conduct of His Officers and Men.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—The Navy Department to-day made public the following letter, received from Admiral Dewey this afternoon, being its first mail advices from him since he reached Manila:

Flag-ship Olympia, Cavite, May 4, 1898.

The squadron left Mirs Bay on April 27th. Arrived at Bolinao on the morning of April 30th, and finding no vessels there, proceeded down the coast and arrived off the entrance to Manila Bay on the same afternoon. The Boston and Concord were sent to reconnoitre Port Subic. A thorough search of the port was made by the Boston and the Concord, but the Spanish fleet was not found. Entered the south channel at 11:30 p. m., steaming in column at 8 knots. After half the squadron had passed a battery on the south side of the channel opened fire, none of the shots taking effect. The Boston and McCulloch returned the fire. The squadron proceeded across the bay at slow speed and arrived off Manila at day break. Was fired on at 5:15 a. m. by three batteries at Manila and two near Cavite, by the Spanish fleet anchored in an approximately east and west line across the mouth of Baker Bay, with their left in shoal water in Canacao Bay. The squadron then proceeded to the attack, the flagship Olympia, under my personal direction, leading, followed at a distance by the Baltimore, Raleigh, Petrel, Concord and Boston, in the order named, which formation was maintained throughout the action. The squadron opened fire at 5:41 a. m. While advancing to the attack two mines were exploded ahead of the flagship, too far to be effective. The squadron maintained a continuous and precise fire, at ranges varying from 5,000 to 2,000 yards, counter-marching in a line approximately parallel to that of the Spanish fleet. The enemy's fire was vigorous, but generally ineffective. Early in the engagement two launches put out toward the Olympia with the apparent intention of using torpedoes. One was sunk and the other disabled by our fire, and beached, before an opportunity occurred to fire torpedoes. At 7 a. m. the Spanish flagship Reina Christina made a desperate attempt to leave the line and come out to engage at short range, but was received with such galling fire, the entire battery of the Olympia being concentrated upon her, that she was barely able to return to the shelter of the point. The fires started in her by our shell at this time were not extinguished until she sank.

The Spanish batteries at Manila had kept up a continuous report from the beginning of the engagement, which fire was not returned by this squadron. The first of these batteries was situated on the south mole head, at the entrance to the Pasig river. The second on the south basin of the walled city of Manila, and the third at Malate, about one-half mile further south. At this point I sent a message to the governor general to the effect that if the batteries did not cease firing, the city would be shelled. This had the effect of silencing them.

At 7:35 a. m. I ceased firing and withdrew the squadron for breakfast. At 11:16 a. m. I returned to the attack. By this time the Spanish flagship and almost the entire Spanish fleet were in flames. At 12:30 p. m., the squadron ceased firing, the batteries being silenced, and the ships sunk, burnt and deserted. At 12:49 p. m. the squadron returned and anchored off Manila, the Petrel being left behind to complete the destruction of the smaller gun boats, which were behind the point of Cavite. This duty was performed by Commander E. P. Wood, in the most expeditious and complete manner possible.

The Spanish lost the following ves-

sels: Sunk—Reina Christiana, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa; burnt—Don Juan de Austria, Isla de Luzon and Isla de Mindanao (transport); captured—Rapido and Hercules (tugs) and several small launches.

I am unable to obtain complete accounts of the enemy's killed and wounded, but believe their losses to be very heavy. The Reina Christiana alone had 150 killed, including the captain, and 90 wounded. I am happy to report that the damage done to the squadron under my command was inconsiderable. There was none killed and only seven men in the squadron slightly wounded.

Several of the vessels were struck and even penetrated, but the damage was of the slightest and the squadron is in as good condition now as before the battle. I beg to state to the Department that I doubt if any commander-in-chief was ever served by more loyal efficient and gallant captains than those of the squadron now under my command. Capt. Frank Wildes, commanding the Boston, volunteered to remain in command of his vessel, although his relief arrived before leaving Hong Kong. Assistant Surgeon Kindleberger, of the Olympia, and Gunner J. C. Evans, of the Boston, also volunteered to remain after orders detaching them had arrived. The conduct of my personal staff was excellent. Commander B. F. Lamberton, chief of staff, was a volunteer for that position and gave me most efficient aid. Lieutenant Brumbay, flag lieutenant, and Ensign W. P. Scott, aide, performed their duties as signal officers in a highly creditable manner. The Olympia being short of officers for the battery, Ensign H. H. Caldwell, flag secretary, volunteered for and was assigned to a sub-division of the 5-inch battery. Mr. J. L. Stickney, formerly an officer in the United States navy, and now correspondent for the New York Herald, volunteered for duty as my aide and rendered valuable services. I desire specially to mention the coolness of Lieutenant C. G. Calkins, the navigator of the Olympia, who came under my personal observation, being on the bridge with me throughout the entire action, and giving the ranges to the guns with an accuracy that was proven by the excellency of the firing.

On May 2nd, the day following the engagement, the squadron again went to Cavite, where it remains. On the 3rd the military forces evacuated the Cavite arsenal, which was taken possession of by a landing party. On the same day the Raleigh and Baltimore secured the surrender of the batteries on Corregidor Island, paroling the garrison and destroying the guns. On the morning of May 4th, the transport Manila, which had been aground in Baker Bay, was towed off and made a prize.

NO PEACE FOR SPAIN.

Can Continue The War in Cuba for Two Years.

MADRID, June 11.—The campaign inaugurated by some of the foreign newspapers in favor of peace between Spain and the United States is not approved here. According to the opinions of several generals Spain is capable of continuing the war in Cuba for two years, even under the most unfavorable circumstances. Therefore they add, it is useless to talk of peace, unless it implies a return to the status quo ante bellum.

The government, it is added, has not received any suggestions of peace from the powers, and in political circles it is declared that if such a suggestion were received the government would politely decline to entertain it on the ground that Spain had decided to pursue the war to the bitter end.

A good many people who have made haste to criticize, will doubtless feel conscience-stricken on reading Secretary Alger's exhibit of what the government has done in the way of preparing for war in a comparatively short time. The work done has been of an enormous volume, and the system which has characterized it is remarkable. It is a record that might well be the envy of the world. There is nothing in the past history of the great military countries to match it.—Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Walter R. Henry, of Charlotte, has been appointed bank examiner.

SAILING OF THE TROOPS.

LEAVING TAMPA FOR CUBA.

ALL OFF AFTER MANY DELAYS.

After the Vessels Had Put Out the First Time, They Were Called Back by Orders—One Ship, Outrunning the Messenger Got Almost in Sight of Cuba.

TAMPA, Fla., June 14.—After weeks of waiting and preparation the first army of invasion to sail from the eastern shores of the United States, finally departed under the command of General Shafter, this morning at 9 o'clock. The fleet of transports consisted of 35 vessels, four tenders and fourteen convoys. These are all now upon the Gulf of Mexico, headed to the southward until they pass Key West at least. Should the destination be Cuba, they will continue their present course until Cape Antonio, at the west end of the island, is doubled, when an easterly course will be sailed until they reach the vicinity of Santiago.

It has been definitely decided that if this expedition lands in Cuba at all, the place of debarkation will be on the south coast near Santiago. As already stated actual embarkation of the troops began on Monday, June 6. The work proceeded diligently until late on Wednesday afternoon, when after the departure of several transports, an important order came calling a halt in the proceedings. The Castine was dispatched to overhaul the disappearing transports and recall them. All came back but one, the City of Washington. It has been subsequently learned, however, that this vessel had outstripped the messenger until the coast of Cuba was actually sighted. What gives color to this is the fact that neither the Washington nor the Castine returned to her anchorage at Port Tampa until Saturday.

Like a wet blanket came the order to halt. Cheerfulness was displaced by keen disappointment. Two questions were on every tongue, "Has Spain surrendered?" "Has our fleet met with a reverse?" The former met with the readiest belief, many believing the words in the order, "indefinitely postponed," meant peace. Those who followed each event closely were assured that such was not the case.

Newspaper men were confidentially told on Friday night that they had better go aboard. The following day it was openly talked that the sailing would occur on Sunday noon.

The rush of the previous Monday was repeated. General Miles and his staff went to Port Tampa Sunday morning at 6:30 to deliver parting instructions. During a heavy rain squall on Saturday night at 8 o'clock, while the transports were straining at their cables and the wind was shrieking through the riggings, the little tug Captain Sam steamed up from ship to ship megaphoning in deep tones the order, "Stand ready to sail at daylight." Above the roar of the storm wild cheers were heard and a bright flash of lightning revealed the soldiers standing in the rain waving their wet hats and hurrahing.

General Miles and his staff from a private car, far down the pier, could witness all the scenes of the embarkation. From this point of vantage messengers went scurrying, while uniformed dignitaries hovered near during the entire day. The busy piers were lined with transports. The docks were an ever-changing scene of box cars, flat cars, stock cars, baggage and express cars. Most of these were crowded with soldiers who were cheered until their ears ached and who cheered in turn until hoarse.

The Boat That Caused the Scare.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., June 11.—The German steamship Constantia, whose appearance off the capes last night, caused the sensational rumors as to Spanish warships lurking in that vicinity, arrived here today. The Constantia is bound from New Orleans to Hamburg and came to this port for coal.

Scrofula, hip disease, salt rheum, dyspepsia and other diseases due to impure blood are cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.