

The North Carolinian

VOL. XXV. NO. 16.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1898.

PRICE \$1.00 A YEAR.

ADMIRAL CERVERA RUSHES TO HIS DOOM

Eager to Escape From the Harbor of Santiago, he Heads his Squadron Past the Sunken Merrimac, Flying Straight into the Jaws of Death.

SPANISH ADMIRAL A PRISONER OF WAR

He Made as Gallant a Dash for Liberty as has Ever Occurred in the Annals of Naval Warfare, and Fighting Every Inch of his way, Even When his Ship was Ablaze and Sinking, Vainly Sought to Escape his Inevitable Doom.

BEACHING THE VESSELS

The Enemy Ran Their Flaming Ships upon the Rocks, and, Escaping to the Shore Amid the Thunder of Quick Succeeding Explosions, Threw Themselves Upon the Mercy of Their Captors, who Sent a Guard to Protect Them from the Murderous Cuban Hiding in the Bush and Treated them With Every Consideration that Could be Accorded Such Gallant Foes.

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Ten miles west of the entrance of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, Sunday, July 3, 4 p. m., by the Associated Press dispatch boat Wanda, to Port Antonio, Jamaica, Monday morning, July 4, via Kingston, Jamaica, July 4, 4:45 a. m.—Admiral Cervera's fleet, consisting of the armored cruisers Cristobal Colon, Almirante Oquendo, Infanta Maria Teresa and Vizcaya, and two torpedo boat destroyers, the Furor and the Pluton, which had been held in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba for six weeks past by the combined squadrons of Rear Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley, lies today at the bottom of the Caribbean Sea, off the southern coast of Cuba. The Spanish admiral is a prisoner of war on the auxiliary gunboat Gloucester (formerly J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht Corsair), and 1,500 other Spanish officers and sailors, all who escaped the frightful carnage caused by the shells from the American warships, are also held as prisoners of war by the United States navy. The Spaniards, when they found they would be permitted to live, adapted themselves comfortably to the situation, rolled their cigarettes and began playing cards among themselves.

The American victory is complete, and according to the best information obtainable at this time, the American vessels were practically untouched, and only one man was killed, though the ships were subjected to the fire of the Spaniards all the time the battle lasted.

BOLD DASH FOR LIBERTY.

Admiral Cervera made as gallant a dash for liberty and for the preservation of his ships this morning as has ever occurred in the history of naval warfare. In the face of overwhelming odds, with nothing before him but inevitable destruction, or surrender if he remained any longer in the trap in which the American fleet held him, he made a bold dash from the harbor at the time the Americans first expected him to do so, and fighting every inch of his way, even when his ship was ablaze and sinking, he tried to escape the doom which was written on the muzzle of every American gun trained upon his vessels. The Americans saw him the moment he left the harbor, and commenced their work of destruction immediately. For an hour or two they followed the flying Spaniards to the westward along the shore line sending shot after shot into their blazing hulls, tearing great holes in their steel sides and covering their decks with the blood of the killed and wounded. At no time did the Spaniards show any indication that they intended to do otherwise than fight to the last. They showed no signals to surrender, even when their ships commenced to sink and the great clouds of smoke pouring from their sides showed they were on fire. But they turned their vessels toward the shore, less than a mile away, and ran them on the beach and rocks, where their destruction was soon completed. The officers and men on board they escaped to the assistance of boats sent from the American men of war, and threw themselves upon the mercy of their captors, who not only extended to them the gracious hand of American chivalry, but sent them a guard to protect them from the murderous bands of Cuban soldiers hiding in the bush on the hillside, eager to rush down and attack the unarmed, defeated, but valorous foe. One after another the Spanish ships became the victims of the awful rain of shells which the American battleships, cruisers and gunboats rained upon them, and two hours after the first of the fleet had started out of Santiago harbor their cruisers and two

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torpedo boat destroyers were lying on the shore, ten to fifteen miles off Morro Castle, pounding to pieces, smoke and flame pouring from every part of them and covering the entire coast line with a mist which could be seen for miles. Heavy explosions of ammunition occurred every few minutes, sending curls of dense white smoke a hundred feet in the air and causing a shower of broken iron and steel to fall in the water on every side.

The bluffs on the coast line echoed with the roar of every explosion and the Spanish vessels sank deeper and deeper into the sand or else the rocks ground their hulls to pieces as they rolled or pitched forward or sideways, with every wave that washed upon them from the open sea.

Admiral Cervera escaped to the shore in a boat sent by the Gloucester to the assistance of the Infanta Maria Teresa, and as soon as he touched the beach he surrendered himself and his command to Lieutenant Morton and asked to be taken on board the Gloucester, which was the only American vessel near him at the time, with several of his officers, including the captain of the flagship.

The Spanish admiral, who was wounded in the arm, was taken to the Gloucester and was received at the gangway by her commander, Lieutenant Commander Richard Wainwright, who grasped the hand of the gray breasted admiral, and said to him:

"I congratulate you, sir, upon having made as gallant a fight as was ever witnessed on the sea."

Lieutenant Commander Wainwright then placed his cabin at the disposal of the Spanish officers.

At that time the Spanish flagship and four other Spanish vessels had been aground and burning for two hours, and the only one of the escaping fleet which could not be seen at this point, was the Cristobal Colon, but half a dozen curls of smoke far down on the western horizon showed the fate that was waiting her. The Cristobal Colon was the fastest of the Spanish ships, and she obtained a lead over the others after leaving the harbor and escaped the effect of shots which destroyed the other vessels. She steamed away at great speed with the Oregon, New York, Brooklyn and several other ships in pursuit, all of them firing at her constantly and receiving fire themselves from her aft guns. There was no possibility whatever for her escape, and while her fate is not definitely known at this hour, it can be readily imagined from the words of Captain Evans, of the Iowa, who returned from the westward with 340 prisoners from the Vizcaya just as the Associated Press dispatch boat was leaving the Spanish flagship.

GAVE THE COLON SHEOL.

In answer to an inquiry, he shouted through the megaphone: "I left the Cristobal Colon far to the westward an hour ago, and the Oregon was giving her hell. She has undoubtedly gone down with the others, and we will have a Fourth of July celebration in Santiago tomorrow." Captain Evans, who had been in the thick of the engagement up to the time he took the Vizcaya's officers and crew from the shore, said that to the best of his knowledge not one American ship had been struck.

The torpedo boat Eriasson, which also returned from the westward at about the same time, made a similar report, saying it was believed no man was injured on board the American ships, though another report had it that one man was killed on board the Brooklyn, which could not be verified as this dispatch was sent.

There is no means of telling now what the Spanish loss was, but it is believed to have been very heavy, as the prisoners in custody report their decks strewn with dead and wounded in great numbers, and besides, there is a statement that many bodies could be seen fastened to pieces of wreckage floating in the sea after the fight was over. A large number of the Spanish wounded were removed to the American ships.

There can be no doubt that Admiral Cervera's plan to escape from Santiago harbor was entirely unexpected by Admiral Sampson, and the best evidence of this is the fact that when the Spanish vessels were seen coming out of the harbor, the flagship New York was seven miles away steaming to the eastward toward Juraguá, the military base nine miles east of Morro.

The New York was out of the fight altogether at every stage, but she immediately put about and followed the other vessels in the race to the westward and overtook them in

time to join in the chase for the Cristobal, after the other Spanish vessels had been destroyed by the Brooklyn, the Oregon, Iowa, Massachusetts, Indiana, Texas, Gloucester and other ships of the fleet. Commodore Schley's flagship, the Brooklyn, had her usual position at the extreme western end of the line, ten miles from the New York and Texas. As a matter of fact the entire American fleet was much further off shore than usual when the Spaniards made their appearance this morning.

With the exception of the bombardment yesterday morning, which resulted in knocking down the flag on Morro Castle and the supposed silencing of batteries, which opened fire again this morning, as usual, the navy had done little recently to attract interest here, and the officers and crews themselves were watching the developments of the operations being conducted by the army, which had succeeded in reaching the very gates of Santiago after an enormous loss in killed and wounded in the fighting of the past two days. It was not believed that Admiral Cervera would attempt to escape from his perilous position at this late day, but it was supposed that he would keep his ships in the harbor to shell the advancing American army, and if Santiago fell he would blow up or sink them before permitting them to be captured by the fleet lying outside.

The Spanish Admiral's real plans, however, were plainly not anticipated. He accepted the one chance open to him—that of running the gauntlet of the powerful men-of-war lying in front of the harbor and saving his ships for future service, by dashing out of the trap in which he found himself and going to some other field of operations.

There seemed to be but one chance in a hundred that he would be able to make the move successfully, but he took that chance, and while great piles of naval architecture now ground to pieces on the rocks a few miles from where he started tell the mournful story of his failure, there are none who applaud his conduct more than the American officers and seamen who sent his ships to destruction.

PASSING THE MERRIMAC.

It was about 9 o'clock this morning when the flag ship Infanta Maria Teresa moored under the wall of Morro Castle and steamed out to sea. She was followed by the Cristobal Colon, Vizcaya and Oquendo and last by the torpedo boat destroyers Furor and Pluton. The lookout on the vessels which were lying five or ten miles off the entrance to the harbor sighted them immediately. Most of the American cruisers were at the usual Sunday morning quarters without thought of anything as surprising as the Spanish fleet getting past the sinking collier Merrimac, which they had been deluded into believing effectually blocked the exit. There was great excitement at once, and very rapid action along the American lines. The signal for full speed ahead was run from bridge to engine room of every ship, and the entire fleet commenced to move in shore toward the Spanish, and the great twelve inch and smaller batteries on the other vessels fired shot after shot at long range. As the ships ran in towards the shore it soon became evident that the Spaniards had not come out to make an aggressive fight, for they turned to the eastward as soon as they had cleared the harbor and started on their race for safety, at the same time answering shots at the American ships as fast as the men could load and fire the guns. The Brooklyn, Massachusetts, Texas, Oregon and Iowa were nearer the Spaniards than any others of the American vessels, but still most of them were too far away to get an effective range. They crowded on all steam, however, in preparation for the chase, never stopping their fire for one moment. The Gloucester, a fast little yacht that cannot boast of any heavier battery than several six-inch and three-pounders, was lying off Aquadores, three miles east of Morro when the Spaniards came out. At first she joined in the attack upon a large vessel and then held off some, Captain Wainwright concluding to reserve his efforts for the two torpedo boat destroyers in the rear. The Gloucester steamed after them when they appeared and chased them to a point five miles west of Morro pouring shot after shot into them all the time. Her effort bore abundant fruit for to her belongs the credit for the destruction of both of the destroyers. She fired 1,400 shots during the chase and it was not long before both destroyers were on fire and plainly disabled. Notwithstanding this they both returned to the Gloucester's fire and a rain of small shells fell all around the yacht. The Furor evidently determined that she would not stand the fire any longer and she put about and headed back for Santiago. Then the Gloucester simply smothered her with shots from her rapid fire guns and running like the wind forced her to turn around and again head westward. Smoke commenced to rise from the Furor's sides and she put in towards the shore. Before she had gone far what was left of her crew abandoned her and took the boat, reaching shore later.

FLOATING MASS OF FLAMES.

By that time she was a mass of flames and was drifting about helplessly. The Pluton was in the same distressed con-

dition and was also headed for the shore, running alongside of a low bluff, where she soon pounded to pieces and finally broke up completely. It was a most dangerous landing place for her crew and but about half of them reached the shore. The Gloucester did not go any further west but lay off shore and sent in a boat to the assistance of the crews of the destroyers. It did not take the flames long to reach the Furor's magazines, and there were two terrific explosions, probably of the gun-cotton on board of her, which blew holes in her bottom; her stern swung immediately, and as it settled in the water her bow rode straight into the air, and she went to the bottom in perpetual oblivion, giving out a hissing, scolding sound as she disappeared below the surf. Meantime the larger American ships were gaining on the Spanish cruisers, and a storm of shots was passing between the pursuers and the pursued. The American fire was so rapid that the ships were enveloped in thick clouds of smoke, and it was impossible to tell at a distance which vessels were doing the greater execution. The Brooklyn and the five battleships were keeping up an incessant fire upon the Infanta Maria Teresa, the Vizcaya and the Almirante Oquendo, and the latter were returning it bravely, though with no success. The Spanish gunners seemed unable to get their range, and many of their shots were very wild, though a number of them fell dangerously near to the mark. The guns of the battery just east of Morro also took part in the game, and their shells fell around the American ships. Many of them struck the upper works of the fleeing Spaniards and must have resulted in killing and wounding many of their men. The Spanish ships had now reached a point about seven miles west of Morro and a mile or two beyond the place where the Furor was burning and the Pluton lay broken in two against the cliff. The flagship and the Oquendo were the first to show signals of distress. Two 13-inch shells from one of the battleships had struck the Maria Teresa at the water line, tearing great holes in her side, and causing her to fill rapidly. The Oquendo suffered about the same fate, and both ships headed for a small cove and went aground 200 yards from the shore, flames shooting from them in every direction. The officers and crew must have been aware of the fate of

MAGAZINES EXPLODE.

They must have been aware of the fate which seemed to be before them, but it was not until the ships were on fire and enveloped in flames and smoke that the men ceased firing.

The Gloucester, after sending a boat ashore to the Pluton steamed along the coast to where the armored cruisers were stranded and went to their assistance. There was danger from the magazines, and many of those on board jumped into the water and swam to the shore, though a number were unable to reach the small strip of sandy beach in the cove and were thrown against the rocks and killed or drowned.

Many of the wounded were lowered into the ship's own boats and taken ashore, but this task was a most difficult one.

The Gloucester had all her boats and seamen swim through the surf with a line from the Maria Teresa making it fast to a tree on the shore. The wounded were taken to the Gloucester as rapidly as possible, and the lower deck of the yacht was soon covered with Spanish sailors, mangled in limb and body by the bursting of shells.

The Gloucester's crew gave the wounded men every attention possible. The shore was soon lined with those who had escaped from the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo. There were still men on both vessels when the fire commenced to reach the magazines and the boxes of ammunition lying on the decks. A dozen or more explosions followed.

CAPTURE OF THE COLON.

Off Santiago de Cuba, Monday, July 4.—6 p. m.—The Associated Press despatch boat Cynthia II, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, Tuesday morning, July 5, 2 p. m.—After a chase of sixty miles to the westward the Brooklyn, closely followed by the Oregon, overhauled the Cristobal Colon after she had run ashore and had hauled down her flag. Capt. Cook, of the Brooklyn, went on board of her, and the commander of the Spanish armored cruiser came forward to surrender and was taken on board the New York, which came up an hour after the Brooklyn and Oregon had completed the capture of the Cristobal Colon. The latter was not seriously damaged, though she was struck several times by shots from the Brooklyn and Oregon.

SPAIN ADMITS DEFEAT.

Madrid, July 5.—8 p. m.—Senor Sagasta, the Premier, has announced officially that Admiral Cervera's squadron has been defeated, that the Almirante Oquendo was burned and the Infanta Maria Teresa sunk and that Admiral Cervera himself is a prisoner of war. The dispatch containing the information has not yet been fully deciphered.

SPAIN PAINFULLY IMPRESSED.

The Effect of News of Destruction of Cervera's Fleet.

London, July 5.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says: "Dispatches received from American sources describing the destruction of Admiral Cervera's squadron, which the morning papers considered wild exaggerations and consequently held back, have now been published in special editions. They are generally regarded as substantially true and have produced a most painful impression among all classes, but there is perfect tranquility. I perceive no symptoms of dangerous popular excitement."

THE PRESIDENT'S COURTESY.

Cervera Will be Allowed to Communicate With His People.

Washington, D. C., July 5.—A graceful courtesy was today extended to the captured Spanish Admiral, Cervera, by the President. Through General Greeley, chief signal officer, permission was sent

CERVERA'S BLUNDER.

Off Santiago de Cuba, July 4.—Afternoon, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, July 5 per the Associated Press dispatch boat

Another Brilliant Victory

The Wasp, Hornet and Wampatuck, of the Maine Fleet, Cover Themselves With Glory.

Off Santiago de Cuba, July 3, via Kingston, Jamaica, 11:55 p. m., July 3.—On the morning of July 1, the Wasp, Hornet and Wampatuck destroyed a Spanish gunboat near Cape Cruz. On the afternoon of the same day these members of the Mosquito fleet destroyed another war vessel at Manzanillo. At the latter place a hot engagement ensued between the three small American craft and nine Spanish vessels supported by land batteries and troops ashore.

One large Spanish torpedo boat was disabled, three Spanish boats were seriously injured and a pontoon full of Spanish troops was sunk, the enemy escaping in boats.

Cynthia II, via Kingston, Jamaica, Tuesday, July 5.—Noon.—Admiral Cervera held a consultation with his officers before sailing out of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, and by a small majority the move was agreed upon. The minority said that destruction was sure as many of the firemen had mutined and the best men in the fleet were worn out by serving the guns in the shore batteries.

Early on the morning of the sortie careful observations were taken of the sea, east and west. Admiral Cervera decided upon taking the westward course with Manzanillo, Cienfuegos, or if possible Havana, the port to be reached. He would have gone east, but for the sighting of a large transport fleet off Siboney and the assurance that a convoy of war vessels was still with the transports.

As a matter of fact, there is no war vessel larger than a converted yacht, except the New York that could have obstructed Admiral Cervera's escape eastward.

Naval men here are sure that the Spanish vessels could have disabled or sunk the New York and escaped had the eastward course been chosen.

THANKS OF THE NATION.

The President Congratulates Sampson on His Victory.

Washington, July 4.—The following messages were sent to Admiral Sampson today by the President:

To Admiral Sampson, Playa del Este: You have the gratitude and congratulations of the American people. Convey to your noble officers and crew through whose valor our honors have been added to the Americans, the grateful thanks and appreciation of the nation.

PROMOTIONS IN ORDER.

Washington, D. C., July 4.—Adjutant General Corbin sent the following telegram to General Shafter this afternoon: "As soon as you can do so, advise by telegraph me your recommendations for promotions."

This action was taken at the instance of the President and Secretary Alger.

CERVERA'S FIRST STATEMENT.

Would Rather Lose His Ships at Sea Than in the Harbor.

Off Santiago de Cuba, July 4.—Via Port Antonio, Jamaica, July 5, per the Associated Press despatch boat Cynthia II, via Kingston, Jamaica, July 5—10:30 a. m.—The first and only statement concerning the recent naval battle made by the Spanish commander, Admiral Cervera, was to a correspondent of the Associated Press on board the battleship Iowa. It was as follows:

"I would rather lose my ships at sea, like a sailor, than in a harbor. It was the only thing left for me to do."

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The Hornet was temporarily disabled, but the casualties on the American side were three men slightly scalded by escaping steam.

The Spanish loss in troops and sailors is believed to be large. The Wasp and Wampatuck returned to Santiago de Cuba and were sent to Guantanamo today for repairs.

Rear Admiral Sampson warmly congratulated Lieutenants L. Yang, J. Helm, and C. W. Gungen, the commanders, respectively of the Wasp, Hornet and Wampatuck for their bravery and the successful tackling of such superior force.

Cervera to communicate with his family in Spain by cable. Permission was also granted to other Spanish officers to use the cable to transmit personal messages to friends in Spain. The messages will be, of course, carefully censored and nothing will be allowed to pass that would be of assistance in any manner to the enemy.

ALL HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

Secretary Long Telegraphs Sampson His Congratulations.

Washington, D. C., July 4.—Secretary Long today sent the following telegram to Admiral Sampson:

"The Secretary of the Navy sends you and every officer and man of your fleet, remembering equally your dead comrade, grateful acknowledgements of your heroism and success. All honor to the brave. You have maintained the glory of the American navy."

"JOHN D. LONG."

WITH SHOUTS AND CHEERS.

News of the Great Victory Thus Received at Camp Cuba Libre.

Jacksonville, Fla., July 4.—The news of the great victory was received with great enthusiasm among the troops at Camp Cuba Libre. Shouts and cheers are in the air, and the only thing that the boys are sorry about is that they were not there to participate in the struggle. A very pleasing incident occurred at camp during the morning when Col. Doves, of the Forty-Ninth Iowa regiment, marched with his band and a number of his men to the Fourth Virginia regiment, where a visit was paid to Col. Barker. Patriotic speeches were made by both colonels, showing the good feeling that exists, while the boys cheered and the Iowa band played Dixie.

GENERALS' CONGRATULATIONS.

Hope the Fall of Santiago Will be the Next Good News.

Washington, July 5.—In response to telegrams sent by Adjutant General Corbin to the commanding generals at Chickamauga and Tampa, concerning the destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet, the following have been received:

"Chickamauga, National Park, Ga., July 3, 1898. Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C.: "We are glad to hear the news of the destruction of the Spanish fleet, and hope the fall of Santiago will be the next good news. The gallantry of the army and navy is unequalled."

"JOHN R. BROOKE."

"Major General Commanding," "U. S. Camp, Tampa, Fla., July 5. Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.: "Telegram No. 1, received. Glorious news; happy congratulations."

"COFFINGER, Major General."

CONGRESS TO THANK SCHLEY.

Joint Resolution Introduced by Representative Berry.

Washington, July 5.—Representative Berry, of Kentucky, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, today introduced the following joint resolution:

"Joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Commodore Schley, U. S. N., and the officers and men under his command. "Resolved, that the thanks of Congress and of the American people are hereby tendered to Commodore Schley, U. S. N., and the officers and men under his command, for their heroic and distinguished conduct in destroying the Spanish fleet in Cuban waters on the third of July last."

The resolution was referred to the Naval Affairs Committee.

Mr. Berry in speaking of his resolution said: "I propose that the object to whom the glory attached will be recognized. Schley is the real hero of the incident, and he and the band of officers and men under his immediate direction are the ones who achieved the victory and all honor should be given them."

CIVIL WAR THREATENS.

It is Said that Spain is Arming for Internecine Strife.

London, July 6.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Tuesday night, says: "Disorder is spreading among the military; the crowds in the city are getting riotous, and everywhere signs are apparent that the population is arming for civil war. Marshall Martinez Campos, and the Captain General of Madrid have held long consultations as to ways and means of preserving order."

LOOK FOR A RISING IN SPAIN.

London, July 5.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, reports that unusual precautions are being taken with a view to a possible rising in Spain.