

## ADMIRAL DEWEY MAY BE IN DANGER

### Spain Desperately Anxious to Recapture Manila and Probably Planning to Throw Its Whole Naval Force Into An Effort To Do So.

## A NAVAL BATTLE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN FOUGHT

### Within the Last 48 Hours, But There Is No Reliable News As Yet To Hand Confirming the Report—The Alleged Engagement Off the Mole St. Nicholas Is Still Discredited.

## IT IS NOW DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT CERVERA SHOULD BE CAUGHT UP WITH

### If Allowed to Form a Junction With Admiral Camara's Spanish Reserve Squadron the Two May Succeed in Throwing a Superior Naval Force Against Admiral Dewey at Manila, and the Result Might Prove Anything But Desirable to the American Forces There—It Will Be Several Weeks Before Dewey Receives Reinforcements From the United States, Although the "Charleston" Has Already Sailed and Other Expeditions Leave Frisco This Week—Schley and Sampson Are Undoubtedly Hot On the Trail of Cervera's "Disappearing Squadron." If They Have Not Already Engaged Him in Battle, and Important News is Believed to be On the Way—The Rigid Censorship at Key West Prevents the Printing of Definite News Bearing On the Movements of the American Warships In Cuban Waters—Invasion of Cuba Is Not to be Postponed for Any Length of Time—U. S. Troops May Be Landed in Cuba This Week and the North Carolina Volunteers May See Actual Service In a Short Time.

In yesterday's paper The Morning Post printed a rumor to the effect that a battle had been fought off the Mole St. Nicholas, in which twelve Spanish and two American warships had been sunk.

At the same time the statement was made that the report lacked confirmation and was discredited to a large extent by naval and other authorities. Washington despatches received yesterday bear out this view, and yet there is left a possibility of some truth in the rumor, which justifies further allusion to it, as more definite news of a battle somewhere Saturday or yesterday is certainly expected by the Navy Department.

#### WHAT NAVAL OFFICERS SAY.

Washington, May 22.—The despatch from Cape Haitien announcing the meeting of American and Spanish ships was discredited at the Navy Department last night. It was insisted that no news relating to a battle had been received, although it was evident that information of some nature was momentarily expected. A prominent official of the department stated positively that there was no American squadron in the vicinity of the Mole St. Nicholas, and that, so far as the department has any knowledge, there were no Spanish ships there.

The Mole St. Nicholas is a port on the western coast of Haiti, in the Windward Passage, and about opposite to Cape Maysi, which is on the eastern end of Cuba. If Admiral Cervera left Santiago, as is claimed, and passed northward through the Windward Passage, he might have had a brush with the American cruisers on guard there. This is the only possible foundation for the story. The American cruisers would, in all probability, be the New York, Minneapolis, St. Louis and Yale. The Oregon may be somewhere in the same neighborhood, on her way to join Sampson, but this is not definitely known.

The despatch bears upon its face the evidence of being nothing more than a rumor. There are not twelve Spanish ships in the West Indies. If the alleged engagement had been placed on the coast of Newfoundland, the situation might be different, for anywhere from six to eighteen Spanish ships are nightly heard from upon that coast. The fact that the despatch had not been confirmed from other points also tends to throw doubt upon it.

#### A BATTLE SOMEWHERE

is evidently believed to have been fought, if the guarded remarks credited to prominent naval officials indicate anything.

Secretary Long and the members of the Board of Naval Strategists anticipate news of a battle hourly—news of a battle which has probably already been fought, although they discredit the Haitian rumor.

The Post may be able to announce it before this issue of the paper goes to press, but at the hour these lines are written nothing more definite than the speculations contained in the above and the following despatches can be given.

#### EXPECT CLAIMS OF A SPANISH VICTORY AGAIN.

The first reports of the battle in question, like those first received from Manila, may be expected to again claim "a great Spanish victory."

Owing to the probable distance of the battle from American news centers, the first reports are likely to come from Madrid, which is still in direct cable communication with Cuba, and in this event a Spanish victory will undoubtedly be claimed.

But watch numerous newspaper despatch-boats accompanying both Sampson and Schley, including the first re-

presentative of the New York Sun, which furnishes The Post with its reliable war news, with fast scout-ships near the scene of a battle, carry official despatches, the truth will be chronicled within a very short space of time after the encounter. Assurances are given that this government will place no obstacles in the way of the immediate publication of the facts, but, on the contrary, will aid in promulgating the news. The utmost confidence is felt in the ability of the ships of either Sampson or Schley's squadron to vanquish the Spaniards, although a repetition of so one-sided a victory as that of Manila Bay is not anticipated.

#### THE INVADING ARMIES.

North Carolina yesterday started her first regiment to Tampa, and thus the Old North State, which has already given the first life in the naval war, now furnishes one of the two first regiments of volunteer land forces which will form a part of the first expedition of troops to invade Cuba, the great body of which will be composed of regular troops.

The Morning Post has a representative with the First Regiment North Carolina Volunteers, who will keep the readers of this paper posted in regard to events of local interest concerning our boys, in addition to the regular admirable war news wired through our usual channel every night, and the readers of this paper, in the future, as in the past, will get all the news worth printing, and get it quick.

Indications still point to an early invasion of Cuba, and the North Carolina boys may be in the thick of the fight in Cuba next week.

The army of invasion is rapidly getting into shape to move upon Cuba. Fifteen or twenty thousand troops will first be landed, and these will be reinforced without delay by additional men up to 75,000 or more. A base of operations and supply has been fixed upon and will be held, with the cooperation of the navy, pending the complete occupation of the island.

Besides a land force of 15,000 to 17,000 men which will go to the Philippines, the Monterey, probably the most formidable of all monitors, has been ordered to join Admiral Dewey's squadron, and leaves San Francisco in advance of the troops.

The administration is disposed to give some credence to the report that Spain will endeavor to regain the Philippines, and it is for this reason that the Monterey has been sent to Manila. Regret is expressed that the reinforcements to Admiral Dewey have been unavoidably delayed.

#### TROUBLE FOR ADMIRAL DEWEY.

Spain Starts a Squadron to Manila Today, it is Announced.

London, May 22.—It is announced in cablegrams received here today from Madrid that Admiral Dewey is likely to be attacked at Manila by a Spanish squadron at an early day, and speculation has it that Cervera's and the reserve Spanish squadron (the latter under command of Admiral Camara) may both sail for the Philippines and make a desperate effort to recapture those islands.

A special despatch to the London Morning Post reads: "The Spanish squadron, destined for the Philippines, will sail on Monday."

This despatch comes by the way of Gibraltar from Madrid. [The Morning Post yesterday printed a Madrid cablegram stating that Admiral Camara had left Madrid for Cadiz to resume command of the reserve squadron, which would sail under sealed orders. In view of the above despatch this movement becomes doubly important.]

#### THE CADIZ AND VERDE FLEET.

Minister of Marine and Admiral Camara Arrange Naval Plans of Spanish Navy.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—Senor Aunon, Minister of Marine, and Admiral Camara have concerted future naval plans which were submitted to a special meeting of the Spanish cabinet today.

Senor Aunon went to the Palace this evening to submit to the Queen Regent maps and plans of Santiago, where the fleet is considered to be in perfect safety.

Camara will go to Cadiz about the middle of the week. His squadron will consist of the Pelayo, the Emperor Carlos V, Alfonso XIII, and the despatch boats Patricia and Rapido, three destroyers (recently built in England), several torpedo-boats, and seven auxiliary cruisers, drawn from the mercantile marine.

This arrangement will still leave for the coast defense the two iron-clads, Numancia and Victoria, and four wooden cruisers and a number of gunboats.

#### CADIZ FLEET TO ATTACK DEWEY.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—It is reported that the Cadiz squadron will sail tomorrow for the Philippines, although the report from Gibraltar states that its destination is Cuba.

#### WHAT BLANCO SAYS ABOUT THE FLEET.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Key West, Fla., May 22.—In a letter from Havana, received here by a member of the Cuban Junta, General Blanco is quoted as saying that when the Spanish fleet reaches Havana Admiral Cervera will be in a position to sail again. If he wishes, or fight the American squadron.

The prevailing idea among the Spaniards is that the city will not be bombarded at present by the Americans, because the Spanish fleet is near and might catch them between two fires.

#### SPANISH FLEET GOING TO MARTINIQUE?

By Cable to The Morning Post.

St. Pierre, Martinique, May 22.—There is much speculation here regarding the movements of the Spanish squadron under the command of Admiral Cervera.

Reports are in circulation today, said to come from the Spanish consul at Fort de France, that the Spanish warships are to return to these waters to meet the colliers, which are now due here.

This may be true, but the Spanish Consul is not regarded as good authority on the present or future movements of his country's warships, as he knows the reports given out by them concerning these vessels, and he cabled to the United States, and he may spread misleading reports.

The government still refuses to let the Spanish destroyer Terror, or the ambulance ship, or supplies of coal from the British steamer Twickenham, which arrived recently at Fort de France with a cargo of coal intended for the Spanish vessels.

It has several times been reported that the Terror and the Alicante were about ready to sail, but they nevertheless still remain at Fort de France, the former being ostensibly employed in repairing her boilers.

The Alicante changed her moorings again today, and the departure of both vessels is now momentarily expected.

#### NOW IT IS AT SANTIAGO.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—El Liberal denies that Cervera's squadron has left Santiago, and says that it believes the warships are likely to remain there.

#### SAMPSON AT SANTIAGO TO-DAY.

And if Cervera Is There a Battle Will be Fought Before Night.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, May 22.—In the absence of information that the fleet under Cervera has left Santiago de Cuba, the administration officials are hopeful that the wily Spanish commander is still at that port.

They are expecting news of a big naval engagement, and are confident that it will occur within twenty-four hours (if it has not already occurred), if Cervera does not make another quick retreat.

Great confidence is felt at the Navy Department that the departure of the Spaniards from Santiago de Cuba will be known within fifteen hours after they have sailed, so officials feel certain that Cervera was at Santiago de Cuba early this morning.

The general understanding here is that one of the divisions of Sampson's fleet, either under his personal command or that of Commodore Schley, will be off Santiago tomorrow morning.

The report that the Spanish fleet has "gone home," and that the entire fleet was badly off for coal and provisions, has encouraged the department in the hope that Cervera will be detained until the American squadron has reached the southern Cuban port.

#### ANOTHER SPANISH SQUADRON.

Is Being Formed and It Appears to be a Considerable One.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Gibraltar, May 22.—The Governor has decided not to allow warships passing through the Straits here to be reported.

The Spaniards are preparing what they call the "third squadron," consisting of the Princesa de Asturias, now at Cadiz; the Cardinal Cisneros at Ferrol; the Numancia and Victoria, which are being newly armed and engaged at Ferrol, and the torpedo-boats Maria Melina, Marquer Victoria, Alvaro and Bazan.

Unless America moves quickly she will have the foregoing vessels to contend with, besides the squadrons of Admirals Cervera and Camara.

The latter will start in a few days probably for the Antilles, and not the Philippines.

#### THE COLUMBIA PUTS TO SEA.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

New York, May 22.—The cruiser Columbia put to sea this afternoon under sealed orders.

## LOCATE SPAIN'S FLEET

### Cervera May be Trying to Elude the American Fleet Again and Schley and Sampson Are After Him.

## PROBABLY HAVING A LIVELY HUNT

### Cervera Evidently Not Anxious to Fight and the Whereabouts of His Aggregation of "Disappearing" Vessels Are Believed to Have Left Santiago, by the Public—What the Information of the Naval Authorities Is Has Not Been Given Out—Can He be Trying to Get to Martinique After Forming a Junction With Admiral Camara's Reserve Squadron?

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, May 22.—Where is Cervera and his "disappearing fleet" of Spanish warships?

This is the question which still stumps the general public, and if the United States naval authorities are in a position to answer it, the people have not at this hour been taken into their confidence.

The cablegrams from Madrid, via London, hinting at the attempt of the Spanish "reserve squadron," under command of Admiral Camara, who is stated to be anticipating the formation of a junction with Cervera's fleet, to sail for Manila and attempt to wrest the Philippines from Admiral Dewey, attracts great interest and causes no end of speculation as to the possibilities involved in such a program.

All the warships have left Key West. Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley have gone on a lively hunt of the Spanish fleet. The whereabouts of the unknown "reserve vessels" is the effect that they left San Juan, but the War Board is accepting the Madrid bulletins with considerable allowance. In the meantime, the entrance to Havana harbor is being carefully guarded and there is no question that all arrangements are being made for a prompt invasion of Cuba.

If the Navy Department received any news yesterday it did not take the public into its confidence. No bulletins or any kind were issued. Leading State Department officials who might be expected to hear some news through the Consuls at West Indies ports, asserted positively that not a single despatch had been received. At the same time there seems to be an impression that either Sampson or Schley is going to be able to locate the enemy. If this belief proves to be founded on fact, a naval engagement ought to come before long. Just where the fight is to take place and under what circumstances it will occur, does not appear certain. In deed, the only statement obtainable at the Navy Department is that the Spaniards are to be caught if possible, and that the detail of force sent against it is ample to insure victory for the American navy.

#### CERVERA NO FIGHTER.

Admiral Cervera could have had a fight long before this had he desired one. It is very evident that he is not hunting nor—at least not with Sampson or Schley or Watson at the present time.

He was undoubtedly informed, when at Martinique, of the presence of the American warships at San Juan, but instead of heading in the latter direction he went sailing off to Curacao. While at the latter port he was undoubtedly informed through cable message sent by Spanish agents in the West Indies, that Admiral Sampson's fleet was moving westward along the northern coast of Haiti and Cuba, and this gave him the opportunity to slip across to Santiago without fear of encountering opposition. It would be thoroughly in accord with the Spanish policy for Cervera to leave Santiago as soon as he suspected he was being pursued into that port.

There are some experts who think that he has never been in Santiago, and that both the despatches announcing his arrival and his departure were not based on truth. This is hardly probable. There is little doubt that the Spanish fleet was at Santiago, and it is equally reasonable to believe that it will get away from there before it can be trapped. In all likelihood the Spanish fleet was again on the seas last night with its destination a profound secret. It may be met upon the seas and it may not.

There has been some question as to the reason why Admiral Sampson returned to Key West. The return was necessary because the magazines of his fleet were empty. The three hours' bombardment at San Juan almost depleted the stock of ordnance, and the Admiral was in no condition to meet the enemy. This defect has been remedied, and the fleet is once more in excellent fighting condition. There is a possibility that the Americans and the Spaniards will meet in the neighborhood of Cienfuegos. At any rate, the plans of the war board are said to be very complete for keeping the Spanish ships in the Caribbean Sea and that the lines are being gradually tightened around the enemy.

#### NO DELAY IN CUBAN INVASION PROGRAM.

It is believed that the Spanish fleet will be destroyed or driven away within [Continued on Page 4.]

## GOOD NEWS FROM N. C. BOYS

### First Despatch From Post's War Correspondent

### Reports the Boys All Well at Columbia, S. C., Last Night and In the Best of Spirits—Great Reception by 5,000 People

### at Charlotte, While at Durham a Big Crowd and a Brass Band Greet Them.

Special Telegram to The Morning Post.

Columbia, S. C., May 22.—11 p. m.—The trains of the Southern Railway conveying the First Regiment of N. C. Volunteers arrived here tonight after an eventful journey through our native State during the day, there having assembled at every station of prominence large crowds of well-wishers to greet and say good-bye to "the boys off to the war."

At Durham over 2,000 citizens, headed by a brass band, gave us a rousing greeting.

At Greensboro and Salisbury great crowds were assembled at the depots, and at Salisbury Lieutenant Smith had 40 gallons of hot coffee served to the boys.

But Charlotte led the other towns in turning out, almost en masse, to greet us. Over 5,000 citizens, representing all classes of people, were at the depot to greet the soldier boys and say God-speed to them.

It is reported on the train tonight that we will camp thirty-five miles out from Tampa.

The engine of the second section broke down at Jamestown, and it was necessary to send to Greensboro for another locomotive.

This delayed the second train for an hour.

#### LATER—ORDERED TO JACKSONVILLE.

Special Telegram to The Morning Post.

Columbia, S. C., May 22.—Midnight—Colonel Armfield has just received instructions from Washington to take the First Regiment to Jacksonville, Fla.

Orders were issued probably before we left here, that 10,000 troops visible to send more there until some of those now there get away. It is probably to our advantage to go to Jacksonville first, as under existing conditions it is the more preferable place for a camping ground, with better water available, etc.

#### INVADING CUBA ALREADY.

### Troops Sent on the "Florida" Last Wednesday, But Press Censor Would Not Allow the Fact to be Wired Newspapers.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Macon, Ga., May 22.—From information which reached here today, it can be stated with absolute accuracy that the invasion of Cuba has already begun.

Last Wednesday the transport Florida left Fort Tampa with several hundred Cuban volunteers, bound for some point in Cuba.

The censorship at Tampa prevented news of the departure being sent out to the newspapers.

#### STILL CRAVING INTERVENTION.

### The New Spanish Ministry Think Europe Would Intervene Were the Powers Not Atrid of Precipitating a Greater War—In Other Words They Might Have to Fight Great Britain.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—In an interview today Senor Capdepon, Minister of the Interior, said:

"The new ministry has no illusions. It knows Spain's weakness and poverty, as compared with the strength and wealth of the United States, but the country is in the position of a duellist bound to defend his honor against gross insults of a more powerful antagonist. "Spain knows the moral sympathies of the powers are with her, and that they only hesitate to interfere because their interference might lead to a greater war."

#### RUSSIAN BEAR IS FRIENDLY

### As Well as the British Lion, and Wants It Understood—Another Fool Announcement of Spain Entering a Franco-Russian Alliance.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—Your correspondent has received a letter from Madrid which says that certain members of the new government are spreading the assurance that Spain is about to enter into a Franco-Russian alliance. All this is credited by a large section of the Spanish public.

The diplomatic circle, however, knows that it is absolute fiction. That it is another of those impracticable dreams of Spain's public men, with which they delude the nation and themselves, instead of grasping practical politics.

Diplomats know that Russia has taken the full and final decision not to identify herself with any anti-American pressure.

The chief concern of her representatives abroad is to prevent England from succeeding in appearing as America's only friend.

#### Secretary Long Leaves Washington Temporarily

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, May 22.—Secretary Long left last night for Higham, Mass., whither he has also taken Mrs. Long, whose health is by no means good. Mr. Long will return to the city by Tuesday, and in the meantime Assistant Secretary Allen will be Acting Secretary.

## ENSLION BAGLEY TRAPPED

### The Winslow Not Crippled by a Masked Land Battery But By Two of the Three Spanish Gunboats.

## TRAINED THEIR GUNS THROUGH TREES

### Which Concealed Them From the Sight of Those On Board the American Vessel—They Were Afterwards Destroyed by the Wilmington's Fire and a Large Number of Spaniards Were Killed, Thirteen by One Shell—Story of a Cuban Refugee Who Was in Cardenas at the Time and Witnessed the Battle and Who Arrived at Key West Yesterday.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Key West, Fla., May 22.—Erne Castro, a Cuban refugee, who was Cardenas on the day the Winslow was out to pieces while trying to capture a Spanish gunboat, arrived in Key West this morning, he having been picked up off Cardenas yesterday.

His story of the affair explains the trap which the Spanish set for the torpedo-boat.

It will be remembered that the motive for the attack was a desire to capture three little Spanish boats, which had been trying for several days to lure the American ship into the mined channels of Cardenas harbor, by rushing out and then coming back as soon as they had drawn the fire of our ships.

On the morning of the fight the Winslow went to the "underground" harbor, where was one of the gunboats moored against the wharf, surrounded by a lot of shipping. The other two gunboats were not in sight.

The Winslow was ordered in to cut out this boat, and as soon as she came within range of the wooded point jutting out to the left of the shipping, shells began hailing about her.

The Americans have thought this the came from a battery masked in the trees on this point, and this explanation is the one which has been concocted and published, but Castro says not.

According to his statement the other two gunboats were on the other side of the point, with their guns trained through the trees, which concealed them from the sight of the approaching Americans.

These two boats, which did the deadly work, whereby Bagley was killed, he says, were finally destroyed by the Wilmington's fire.

Most of their crews were killed or wounded.

One of the difficult things the Americans had to contend with in silencing the enemy's fire was that no smoke was visible from the guns.

It was thought that the reason for this was that they were using smokeless powder. But it is more probable that it was due to the fact that the gunboats lay beyond the stretch of trees in which the Americans thought the batteries were located.

Castro says the port of Cardenas along the water front is almost totally wrecked. All the wharves were burned, and the Spanish Casino, a large building used as the headquarters of the infantry, was also destroyed.

The troops and citizens all fled the town, the railroads running special trains into the interior.

Thirteen soldiers were killed by one shell as they fled along the street.

The supposition was that the Americans were attempting a landing, and after the ships ceased firing the soldiers returned to stand them off.

#### THEY STICK TO THE LIE.

### Now "Officially" Announced That the American Warships Sailed Under False Colors.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

Madrid, May 22.—An official despatch from Havana says that American warships entered the bay of Guantanamo on Thursday last flying the Spanish flag.

This has caused general indignation, and the Madrid press protests against that which it stigmatizes as "cowardly and contrary to laws of war and honor."

#### The Regiment of Rough Riders.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

San Antonio, Tex., May 22.—It appears to be settled that the rough riders will not leave here in much less than a week. The regiment is already thoroughly organized, but a week of steady drilling will be of the utmost value to the men. The distribution of carbines and six-shooters among the rough riders has about been completed. The men have also been supplied with machetes. The machete was chosen for the regiment instead of the regular cavalry sabre, not only because it is a more terrible weapon, but because it can be used to great advantage by the troops in slashing their way through the underbrush in Cuba.