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No. 61

MAKING A CHART

Commander Wainwright Explains How It Was Done

PUT HEADS TOGETHER

Navigators of the Squadron Harmonized Their Conflicting Views as Far as Possible and Let It Go at That

Washington, Oct. 8.—Commander Richard Wainwright was the chief witness before the court of inquiry today. He identified the official chart of the Navy Department prepared by the associated navigators, and said that it was prepared after much consultation and discussion. The aim of the board of navigators, he testified, was to reconcile the differences as harmoniously as possible, and that where any dispute arose as to the accuracy of a vessel's position in the battle, the wishes of the navigator of that particular ship were followed. This made the official chart a record of estimated bearings, he said, rather than of known locations at any specified moment.

The finished map, Commander Wainwright testified, represented a compromise on the various conflicting views, none of the navigators agreeing to all that the chart showed. He said that they were not satisfied with the distance between the Brooklyn and the Texas, unless it was the navigator of the Brooklyn, and he was not certain that Hodgson was satisfied. All of the navigators, however, signed the official report.

Lieutenant Dyson also took the stand again today, and an effort was made to show that the Brooklyn's boilers were not worked on the morning of July 3, and that not all of her engines were in working order. He admitted on cross-examination that the boilers of the New York were not worked up. The Brooklyn made only 14 or 15 knots during the chase. She made 20 1/2 to 21 on her trial trip with all engines and boilers in use. The Brooklyn was able to make the necessary speed. All of his estimates as an expert were made from the logs of the vessels.

Lieutenant Bristol, of the Texas, was on the stand this afternoon. He did not see the loop of the Brooklyn, and so was unable to make reply to the question of the court as to whether Schley's flagship was in danger of being rammed by a Spanish vessel.

Lieutenant Folger was again called to the stand when the court resumed its sitting this morning. He was asked by the judge advocate in regard to a conversation he had with Commodore Schley at the blockade of Santiago.

The witness said that toward the evening of May 21 there was a heavy rain storm, so severe that he feared that Cervera had gotten out. He said he went on board the Brooklyn the next day, thinking it his duty to tell Commodore Schley of his observation on the blockade maintained by the Japanese at Wei Hai Wei during the Ohio-Japanese war. Captain Folger said he told Schley that the Japanese maintained a circular blockade, which he regarded as preferable to the plan of steaming back and forth in front of the harbor. A circular blockade, he said, would prevent the enemy from getting out without being seen. He said Schley apparently did not agree with him.

Lieutenant Commander Hodgson was recalled to correct his testimony. He made a number of verbal corrections in the printed report of his testimony, but did not alter any of the material facts. In regard to the letter which he had written applying various uncomplimentary epithets to the editor of the New York Sun, he said, in explanation to the court, that he was sorry that he had so far lost his temper as to write such a letter, but that it was written under great provocation. The witness went on to say in this regard that what he especially criticized was the charge of cowardice against Commodore Schley in the statement that he had turned and run to the southward 2,000 yards away from the Spanish vessels.

Commander Wainwright, in his testimony describing the various positions of the vessels during the engagement of July 3, said:

"When I was appointed the board of navigators had a chart before them which determined the positions of the ships of the blockading squadron at various times and different periods, starting from the time the Spanish ships came out to the time when they went ashore. There was a great deal of discussion as to their relative positions. It was impossible to get positions by bearings, and nothing could be gotten but relative positions. The distances we knew were somewhat incorrect. The final decision of the board was to reconcile them as far as possible. It would have been impossible to get the bearings even if we had had a correct chart. The chart which we adopted gives a general idea of the positions of the ships during the different periods of the battle."

"How were opinions in regard to differences of bearings and range reconciled?"

A.—So far as practicable, when there was any difference we took the position assigned by the navigator of that particular ship. Otherwise it was a matter of discussion.

"Q.—As a result all the members of the board signed the chart as it is?"

A.—Yes, all the members agreed that the chart showed the most probable positions we could obtain. I will say further that so far as I know none of the members of the board were satisfied with all the positions.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Rayner. In answer to the latter's questions he said that the positions of our ships when the Spanish vessels came out of the harbor was not established by known bearings, but by estimated bearings.

In answer to a question from Captain Lenny the witness said that the chart was drafted as a compromise. None of the navigators agreed to all of the positions and distances which it showed. Lieutenant Bristol, the watch officer of the Texas, in the course of his testimony, described the positions of the Texas, the Brooklyn and the Iowa at the time the Spanish ships came out and the movements of the Texas.

The witness did not see the loop of the Brooklyn. In the chase he said the Oregon nearest to her.

The inquiry continued without material change in the testimony heretofore produced. During Lieutenant Bristol's testimony there were some remarks to enlighten the seriousness of the proceedings. Mr. Rayner referred to the Cienfuegos blockade in one of his questions. "I don't call it a blockade," said Lieutenant Bristol.

"What do you call it?" Mr. Rayner asked.

A.—We were just lying off the port. Anything could have come in and gone out at night without our seeing it, unless it came very close to us.

Another jump was made to Santiago. Mr. Rayner referred to it. Bristol's previous testimony was that the blockading vessels went 3 1/2 miles to one side of the harbor entrance and five miles on the other side in patrolling at night.

"Did they go farther west than Cuba?" asked Mr. Rayner.

"Yes," said the witness with emphasis.

"Did they go farther east than Agadores?"

"Yes," with greater emphasis.

Mr. Hanna objected to the practice of Mr. Rayner in leading the witness to the statements of other witnesses to show that they disagreed with him, and Mr. Rayner responded with reference to Mr. Hanna as "my learned and solemn friend," and withdrew the question relating to Captain Folger's testimony that the blockading ships did not go as far to each side of the harbor as Lieutenant Bristol has testified.

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Deas Writes a Hot Letter to Senator Hanna

HE KNOWS HIS RIGHTS

At Least He Thinks He Does and Intends to Maintain Them—Indignantly Resents Hanna's Officiousness

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"I have just received your remarkable letter from Cleveland, O., under date of October 5. The arbitrary steps which you have taken to appoint Mr. John G. Capers to fill the vacancy on the State of South Carolina, occasioned by the death of Hon. E. A. Webster, has not only surprised but startled me. I solemnly protest against this unwarranted interference against the rights of the Republican executive committee of the State of South Carolina, and further propose to resist your appointment in every legal way possible. Such a high-handed proceeding will be resented by the committee of which I am chairman. As a matter of principle I propose to lead in the movement. I would like to call your attention to the precedents already established in Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Dakota and also, to my personal knowledge, in South Carolina. The loyal Republicans of the State will consider the appointment an outrage."

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About one-fourth of the fifty old and twenty new witnesses were called by the commonwealth and answered and a postponement on motion of the commonwealth was granted till tomorrow.

The defendant, Powers, although broken in health by his long confinement, is still an exceptionally handsome and intellectual looking man and dresses immaculately. The trial of the case will occupy the full three weeks of court, if indeed it can be finished in that time. Commonwealth's attorney Robert Franklin is assisted in the prosecution by Tom Campbell of New York, Col. John K. Hendrick of Paducah and B. G. Williams of Frankfort. The defence includes Judge J. C. Simms, R. C. Kincaid and Judge Jere Morton.

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The American consul at Constantinople, accompanied by an envoy of the missionary society, Missionary Haskell, who arrived at Sofia October 5, will proceed at once to where Miss Stone is held captive and deposit the first installment of the ransom.

The suspicion grows that the abduction of Miss Stone was inspired by the Turkish revolutionary society known as the Macedonian committee, in the hope that the United States would compel the sultan himself to pay the ransom and thereby actually contribute to the fund of his enemies.

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