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GREAT NAVAL BATTLE IN WHICH CERVERA'S SHIPS WERE DESTROYED



ON BOARD THE CALL-HERALD DISPATCH BOAT GOLDEN ROD, WITH ADMIRAL SAMPSON'S FLEET, OFF SANTIAGO, Sunday, July 3, via Port Antonio, thence to Kingston, Jamaica, Monday, July 4.—Scattered along the shore for a distance of ten miles to the west of Morro Castle now lie the armored cruisers and torpedo-boat destroyers that comprised Admiral Cervera's fleet. In a running fight of two hours these vessels, the cream of the Spanish navy, were almost annihilated this morning by the powerful ships of Admiral Sampson's fleet under the immediate command of Commodore Schley.

Admiral Cervera, after making as plucky a fight against overwhelming odds as is recorded in naval history, was compelled to surrender. He was taken as a prisoner of war, together with every man in his fleet not drowned or killed in action.

The Spanish admiral was wounded in one of his arms. His splendid ships, the Cristobal Colon (the flagship), the Vizcaya, Almirante Oquendo and Infanta Maria Teresa, and the torpedo-boat destroyers Furor and Pluton, lie on Cuban rocks, shell-ridden, smoking hulks.

Cervera, on the Colon, made the longest run toward liberty. He yielded to fate only in the face of death, and is a prisoner now on the Gloucester, which, before the war, was J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht Corsair.

As the Golden Rod steamed past the flagship after the battle I was informed by an officer on the deck that Admiral Cervera, with 1600 hundred of his men, had surrendered. Of the prisoners more than 400 of the crew of the Vizcaya were taken by the Iowa, Captain Evans.

Every vessel in Admiral Sampson's fleet went through the fierce engagement without injury. But one man in the American fleet was killed and two were injured.

From the very first of the fighting the little Gloucester was in the thickest of it. At one time she was pouring her six-pounder shells against the entire Spanish fleet, while the guns of Morro Castle were making her their target. She riddled the Spanish destroyers and fought the Vizcaya and Oquendo as fairly as if she were a battle-ship.

Magnificent beyond description was the bold dash by which Cervera attempted to get his fleet out of Santiago harbor. Cervera himself led the way with his flagship, the Cristobal Colon. It was to be a dash for liberty or death, and the Spanish admiral made the plunge with his eyes open.

Every Spanish Vessel Lost. The Admiral With 1600 Seamen Captured.

WASHINGTON, July 4.—The following bulletin from Commodore Watson was received to-night:

PLAYA DEL ESTE, July 3.—To the Secretary of the Navy: At 9:30 A. M. to-day the Spanish squadron, seven in all, including one gunboat, came out of Santiago harbor in columns and was totally destroyed within an hour, excepting the Cristobal Colon, which was chased forty-five miles to the westward by the commander-in-chief, the Brooklyn, the Oregon, and the Texas, surrendering to the Brooklyn, but was beached to prevent sinking.

None of our officers or men were injured except on board the Brooklyn Chief Yeoman Ellis was killed and one man wounded.

Admiral Cervera, all the commanding officers, excepting of the Oquendo, about 70 other officers and 1600 men are prisoners. About 350 were killed or drowned and 160 wounded. The latter are cared for on the Solace and the Olivette.

Have just arrived off Santiago on the Marblehead to take charge, while the commander-in-chief is looking out for the Cristobal Colon.

WATSON.

tion was the bold dash by which Cervera attempted to get his fleet out of Santiago harbor. Cervera himself led the way with his flagship, the Cristobal Colon. It was to be a dash for liberty or death, and the Spanish admiral made the plunge with his eyes open.

Sunday quiet rested over the entrance to Santiago. No signs

were visible about old Morro. Beyond and toward the city of Santiago all was still. After two days of fighting the armies of both nations were resting in their trenches. Off this way, for a distance of half a dozen miles from shore, the vessels of Sampson's fleet lay lazily at anchor.

Admiral Sampson, desiring to

ascertain the exact condition of the Spanish coast defenses about Aguadores, ordered the flagship to go that way. Weighing anchor the New York leisurely steamed off to the eastward. Idle thoughts occupied the minds of the men in the fleet. They were speculating as they had been for weeks when would come their

opportunity to get at the Spanish fleet in the inner harbor.

Suddenly, as a flash, at half past 9 o'clock, a vessel appeared near the entrance of the harbor. She was throwing out great black clouds of smoke and was pointing straight toward the American fleet. The ease of the American officers and sailors was rudely disturbed. They grabbed their glasses, scanned the harbor entrance and were amazed to discover that an armored cruiser was coming out.

In the absence of Admiral Sampson, Commodore Schley, from the Brooklyn, ordered the American warships to rush inshore. In a few moments it was seen the vessel emitting such a great cloud of smoke was the Cristobal Colon, Admiral Cervera's flagship. She had passed the wreck of the Merrimac and was making for sea at full speed. Before Commodore Schley and his men could recover from their surprise other clouds of smoke came into view beyond the Cristobal Colon.

With a rush fully equal to the Cristobal Colon the Almirante Oquendo came throbbing toward the open sea. Behind her came the Vizcaya, also at full speed, while the rear was brought up by the Infanta Maria Teresa and the two torpedo-boat destroyers Furor and Pluton. This stirring scene was so dramatic and so unexpected it quickly put the captain and every man of his vessel on his mettle.

"Cervera's trying to escape," was the cry that resounded through the fleet. Every American vessel quickly weighed anchor. The engines were started,

and one by one the great American warships made ready for the battle. Every man scampered to his gun, and the captains, knowing that Admiral Sampson had gone along the coast, eagerly watched the Brooklyn, Commodore Schley's flagship. In a few moments the Resolute was speeding to the eastward after the New York, but the advance of the Spanish fleet was so rapid that our men could not wait for Admiral Sampson to get back.

Just as the Cristobal Colon was poking her nose out into the open sea, Commodore Schley sent the Brooklyn madly rushing to the westward to head off Cervera's flagship. He ordered the Massachusetts and Oregon to follow after her, at the same time ordering the Indiana, Iowa and Texas to intercept the other vessels of the escaping fleet. Then began one of the greatest sea fights in history.

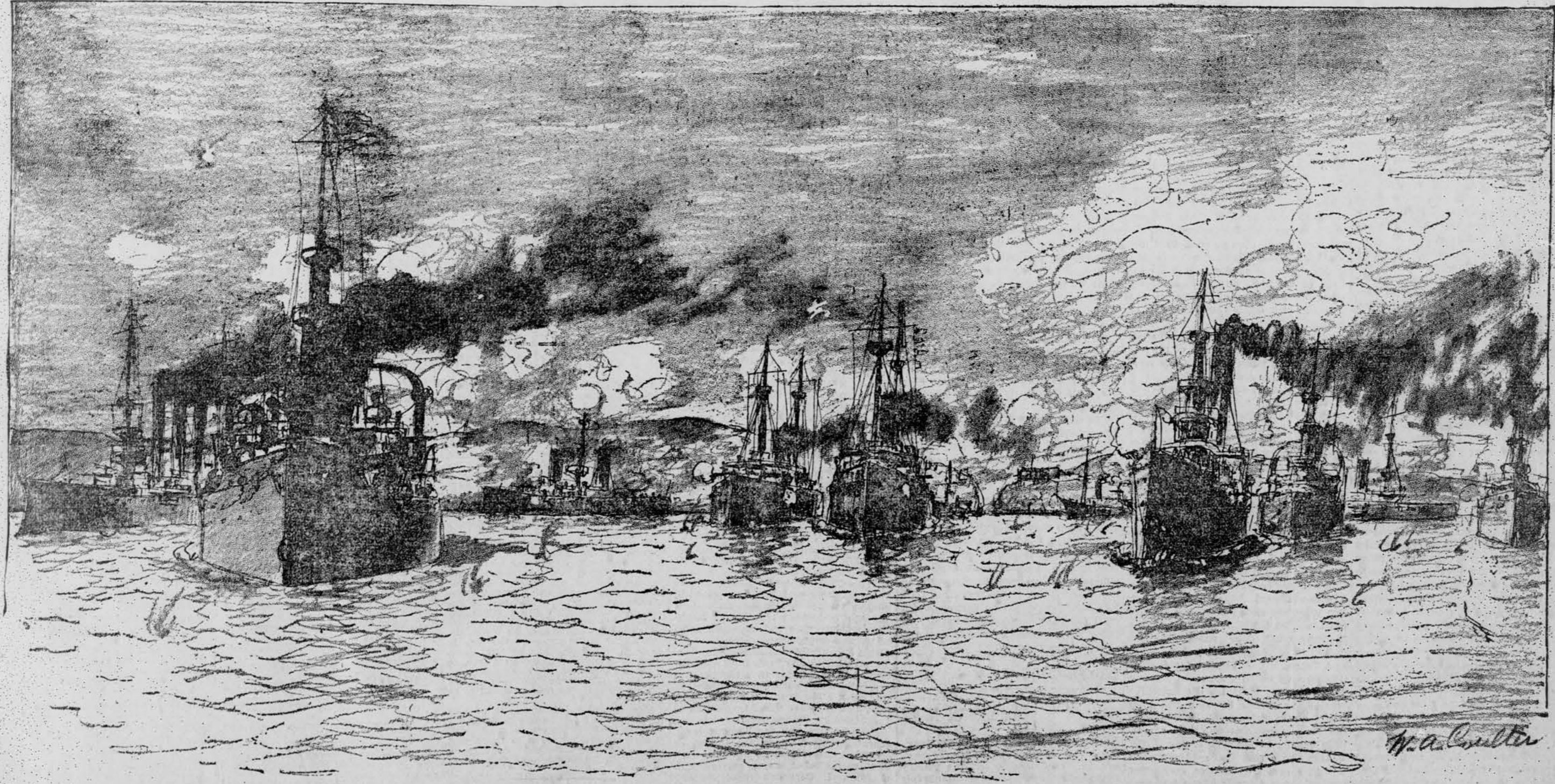
Admiral Sampson this morning set out to dislodge the Spaniards from their works at Aguadores, where the Michigan troops were repulsed on the line of the railroad Saturday morning while they were marching westward to seize Morro battery and blow up the fort after the fleet had driven the Spaniards from their guns.

Our torpedo-boats were not with the fleet, and when Admiral Sampson left Morro the battle-ships and cruiser Brooklyn were grouped off the harbor mouth.

It is not known whether Admiral Cervera had blown up the Merrimac or passed it in single column. His ship, the Cristobal Colon, glided out of the harbor and shot to westward, her two funnels and black bulwarks showing plain against the green of the hills, her pennant and Spanish red-and-yellow ensign in the lashing above.

In a few seconds the American fleet was in motion, the Indiana, which was closest, heading straight in shore to get a closer range.

The Spaniards opened fire with a 11-



SCENE OF THE NAVAL BATTLE OUTSIDE THE HARBOR OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA.