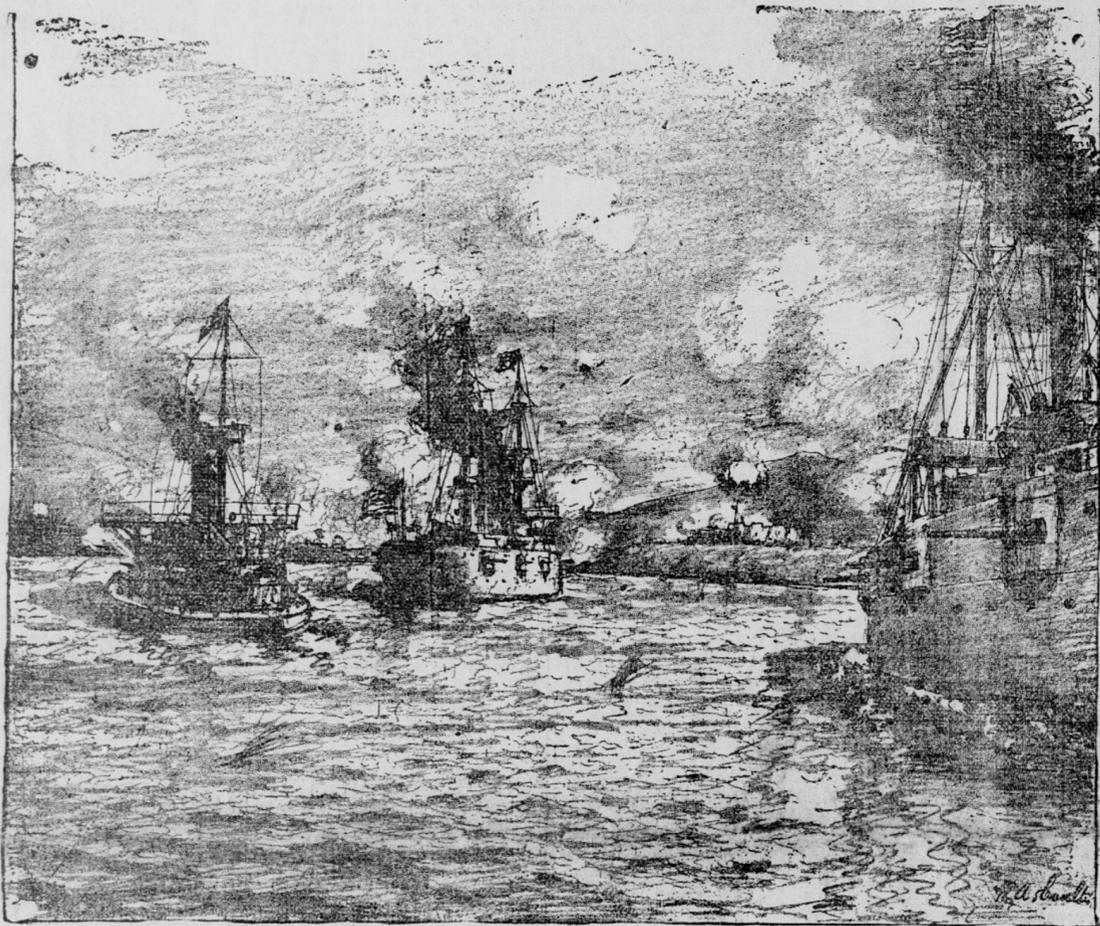


MANY KILLED AT MATANZAS THE CITY ALMOST RUINED BY THE AMERICAN GUNS



THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE WAR.

Engagement at the Mouth of Matanzas Bay on Wednesday Last Between the American War Vessels New York, Cincinnati and Puritan and the Spanish Forts on Both Sides of the Entrance, in Which the Latter Were Entirely Silenced, With a Loss of 100 Men.

ALL CUBA NOW IS AT THE MERCY OF SAMPSON'S FLEET

All Who Can Get Away Leaving Manila Before the Coming of Dewey's Squadron.

General Shafter Will Lead the Army of Occupation That Is to Be Thrown Into the Pearl of the Antilles Next Week.

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HAVANA (via Kingston, Jamaica), April 28.—The shelling of Matanzas yesterday by the American squadron caused much damage to the city. Many were killed and wounded. One-quarter of the town is said to be ruined.

THE EXODUS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The Navy Department does not expect news from Admiral Dewey and the Pacific squadron before Saturday.

LONDON, April 29.—The Hongkong correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Thursday, says: "There are no advices from Manila as to the whereabouts of the American fleet. Large sums are being paid by people anxious to leave Manila.

"The strictly neutral attitude hitherto observed by the public toward the Hispano-American dispute has been changed by the absurd proclamation of the Governor of the Philippines, and public opinion is now favorable to the United States.

"The China Mail says: 'The proclamation will go far to alienate the last vestiges of sympathy for the Spaniards,' and the Daily Press says: 'English sympathy is naturally on the side of America.'"

According to a dispatch from Singapore to the Daily Mail the French steamer Saigon and the Spanish steamer Espano have arrived there from Manila, both crowded with refugees.

THE GUNS OF SAMPSON'S FLEET FIRED AT MATANZAS' BATTERIES WERE HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

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ON BOARD the Herald-Call dispatch-boat Somers N. Smith, Key West, Fla., April 28.—That rare and almost unheard-of thing, an exclusive report of bombardment, has been accomplished by the Herald-Call without any effort of an unusual character on the part of its war correspondents.

The Herald-Call's dispatch boat Somers N. Smith is sharing with the lucky ships of the fleet the honors of the day.

The navy is delighted that the Herald has scored so handsomely, because the Herald is the navy's favorite newspaper, and wherever naval officers have gone to-day the Herald's correspondents have

been congratulated on their magnificent "beat."

It was not luck that gave the Herald-Call this long lead of all contemporaries. It was merely the pursuit of a systematic plan of campaign.

While rivals called in their pickets from the blockading fleet the Herald-Call continued all efforts, despite the discomforts that the hellish commotion in the gulf stream causes occupants of small boats, and the day the Matanzas batteries were peppered saw both of the Herald-Call's dispatch boats with the fleet.

One boat, the Albert F. Dewey, came into Key West to bring the routine news and get coal, while the Somers N. Smith, the pride of the Pensacola pilots, whose boat she is, remained on guard.

When the flagship went to Matanzas the Somers N. Smith followed her.

The correspondents on board had no intimation from the admiral or any one else that he contemplated firing a shot that would be heard around the world. I had a long conversation with Admiral Sampson just before the flagship started, and no hint fell from his lips that the powerful blockade might be broken.

So that it was a fair field for all newspapers, and the Herald was lucky enough to be in at the death.

After the engagement the Herald-Call boat offered to bring in the admiral's dispatches, and waited with the flagship for letters from all the ships engaged, and for Richard Harding Davis'

HAD ORDERS TO RETURN THE FIRE OF SPAIN'S GUNS

Rear-Admiral Sampson Knew What He Was Doing When He Silenced the Batteries at Matanzas.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Hostile shots from American guns will hereafter reply to the barking of Spanish weapons mounted on the fortifications of Cuban ports other than Havana. It was in accordance with instructions giving him discretionary authority to return the fire of Spanish batteries that Rear-Admiral Sampson bombarded yesterday the fortifications of Matanzas. These instructions were formulated by the Naval War Board and approved by Secretary Long.

Spain can blame herself for the destruction of the Matanzas batteries. Had the guns at that point not fired upon the torpedo-boat Foote while she was steaming along the coast the bombardment might never have occurred.

Rear-Admiral Sampson reported several days ago that the Foote was fired on by a masked battery. The Cincinnati, hearing the boom of guns, went at once to her aid, but Captain Chester, believing the orders of the department did not permit him to return the fire, simply directed the Foote to get out of range.

Rear-Admiral Sampson's report was at once referred to the War Board, which gave him this:

"With the exception of those in Havana you are given discretionary authority to return the fire of any Spanish batteries. Keep your vessels out of range of Havana guns until further orders."

Secretary Long announced at the close of office hours this afternoon that he had received no official report from Sampson. The Herald's magnificent description of the bombardment was received with the greatest interest by American authorities, and in lieu of official reports was regarded as most interesting.

It is the expectation of the department that Rear-Admiral Sampson will telegraph to-night or to-morrow, and his report will be at once laid before the War Board. The intelligence officers on board the ships which participated in the fighting will be required to give in as much detail as possible the result of the bombardment, in order that the War Board may determine its effect upon the plan they are preparing.

Profound ignorance is professed by the authorities as to the reason of Admiral Sampson's reconnaissance in Matanzas harbor, but they say he must have desired to retaliate for the firing on the Foote and also to destroy the batteries which were being erected for the protection of the port.

SHAFTER WILL LEAD AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION

Fifteen Thousand American Regulars Will Be Landed in Cuba Next Week, Probably at Matanzas.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Brigadier-General William R. Shafter arrived in Washington last night and spent the day in consultation with officials of the War and Navy Departments with regard to the expedition which he is to lead to Cuba as soon as possible. It has been determined to land next week a body of 15,000 regulars at a port to be decided upon as available from the point of view of naval and military expediency.

It has been understood until to-day that the port to be selected would be Bahia Honda or one of the other harbors to the eastward of Havana and outside the trocha.

The Herald's news of the reduction of the batteries at Matanzas by Admiral Sampson's fleet may, however, materially affect the plans of the War Department, and the possibility of Matanzas being made the base of the first land operations was considerably discussed here to-day.

The troops to compose this expedition will be the four regiments now at New Orleans under command of Colonel Overshine, the infantry brigade under Colonel Van Horn at Chickamauga and General Wade's command at Tampa.

The port at which these troops will be embarked is not yet decided upon, but General Wade's division will undoubtedly set out directly from Tampa and the other forces will be transported from either New Orleans, Mobile or Pensacola.

General Shafter will garrison the ports on the northern coast of Cuba as fast as they are reduced, and will establish communication with the insurgents under Generals Maceo and Gomez. He will also take with him a large and efficient force of commissaries, who will arrange for the transportation and distribution of supplies to the concentrados.