

# MATANZAS FIRED UPON

## Engagement Lasted a Half Hour.

### SPANISH RETURNED THE FIRE

Great Damage Done to the Fortifications of the Cuban Port—Believed There Was Also Loss of Life—No Damage Done to American Warships.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Matanzas, April 29.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor this afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which pounded in the forts must have caused loss of life to the Spaniards, though nothing is known definitely.

The engagement commenced at 12:57, and ceased at 1:15. The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda.

A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship, and this was also shelled.

About 12 8-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short.

About five or six light shells were fired from the half-completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York, and the others fell short. The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries, having been accomplished.

In the neighborhood of 300 shots were put on land from the three vessels from a range of from 4,000 to 7,000 yards.

Rear-Admiral Sampson, when asked if he was satisfied with the result, said:

"Yes, I am. I expected to be."

The half-completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently blown up by the shells.

All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship throughout the engagement, and when they were firing at the shortest range, nearly every shell took effect.

The forts which were bombarded were on a low-lying point, and were considered merely earthworks. They did not make a good target, yet when the big guns were fired at the shortest range, portions of the forts could be seen flying in the air at every shot.

The flagship returned to Havana, and the Puritan and Cincinnati were left on the Matanzas station.

### Department Not Informed.

Washington, April 29.—So far as could be learned, the officials of the administration were not notified of the bombardment of Matanzas yesterday afternoon. The navy department keeps a telegraph office open in the building all night and a confidential official remains at the department all night to translate the messages as received. There was considerable business done over the wires till the early morning hours, but none of the dispatches were sent either to the White House or to the secretary of the navy.

### BOMBARDMENT OF HAVANA.

#### Not the Present Purpose of the Government.

Washington, April 29.—The war situation is substantially this:

The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana, with no present purpose of bombarding or drawing the fire of the shore batteries. The strategic purpose of an effective blockade of the Cuban coast is being accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the authorities here. There is no indication that a part of the fleet will be withdrawn for the purpose of affording additional protection to North Atlantic ports.

No word had come to the department up to the close of office hours of the arrival of the Montserrat at Cienfuegos. The officials are inclined to believe that if she has gotten into port she did so before the blockade of Cienfuegos had begun.

The very fact that the Madrid officials have rather ostentatiously declared that the Spanish fleet has sailed to bombard the cities on the North Atlantic coast is taken as a certain indication at the navy department of the utter improbability of such a movement. If this were contemplated, the Spanish officials would be the very last to make their purpose public.

The navy department, as yet, has made no arrangements for the care of prisoners taken by our warships, but the legal officers of the department think they should be sent to Boston naval prison.

### TO GUARD THE COLUMBIA.

Auxiliary Naval Vessel Will Be Stationed at the Mouth.

Washington, April 30.—It is the intention of the navy department to have one auxiliary naval vessel stationed at the mouth of the Columbia river for its protection, or in case of necessity. The probable candidates are that one of the merchant vessels which have been negotiated for on the coast will be used for this purpose, or some vessel that can be readily obtained on the Columbia. She will probably be armed with six pounders and rapid-fire guns. The Oregon naval reserve will probably be mustered in for service as her crew, as it is desired that men familiar with the river and Pacific Northwest be in command or in position to render service on board the cruiser.

### MINES IN THE COLUMBIA.

Governor Lord Officially Notified of Their Existence.

Salem, Or., April 30.—Governor Lord today received from Adjutant-General Corbin, at Washington, the following telegram:

"The secretary of war requires me to inform you, in reply to your telegram of the 23d inst. instructions have been sent to engineer officers to plant mines in rivers and harbors. Regulations for navigation of friendly vessels have been approved and published by the secretary of war."

The governor desires that all persons concerned take notice of the facts in the telegram.

### READY FOR THE SIEGE

Porto Rico Warehouses Are Full of Provisions.

St. Thomas, West Indies, April 30.—Porto Rico advices received here today say that four Spanish gunboats are at San Juan de Porto Rico. They are being painted black or possibly dark gray.

Martial law has been proclaimed in Porto Rico, and it is being enforced in a tyrannical manner. Crowds of people are leaving for the interior, and the capital is almost deserted by the civilian population.

The military are most actively engaged in preparing for defense. Thirty torpedoes have been planted in the channel. In addition, an old steamship has been sunk across the harbor entrance, the buoys in the channel have been altered and from Monday last, after the news of the blockade of Havana reached there, accompanied by a report that the Cuban capital had been bombarded, all lights were ordered extinguished at night. The French residents, when these advices left San Juan, were seeking refuge in the French cruiser Admiral Rigault de Genouilly.

An American sugar estate, it is announced, was plundered after the receipt of the news of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States. The British consul at San Juan, who has charge of American interests, has cabled to his government requesting that a British warship be sent to that port.

Spanish steamers landed at Maguez, 70 miles from San Juan, Tuesday, a quantity of arms and ammunition, and there was a similar landing of supplies at San Juan Tuesday. Besides this, about 50,000 tons of provisions were landed at San Juan Sunday last. The warehouses of Porto Rico are reported to be full of provisions, and the Spanish authorities say they can stand a siege of two months.

All their coast lights have now been ordered to be extinguished.

### FRANCE IS NEUTRAL.

Official Notice Has Been Received of the Proclamation.

Washington, April 30.—The French embassy today received a cablegram from Paris announcing that a decree of neutrality between the United States and Spain has been issued, and that a detailed copy will be forwarded by mail. On receipt of the dispatch, the French ambassador, M. Cambon, wrote to the state department informing it of France's neutrality. The cable notice is brief, stating only that the decree follows the treaty of Paris of 1856.

The state department has also been informed that Mexico, Argentine Republic, Corea and Belgium have proclaimed neutrality. Corea's neutrality is considered important, owing to her proximity to the Philippines.

The state department has heard nothing from Germany, but this causes no apprehension, owing to the strong assurances Germany has given that she will observe strict neutrality between the belligerents. This assurance was conveyed to Ambassador White, and is looked upon as practically equivalent to a formal declaration of neutrality. Germany, Austria and Portugal are the last of the important European nations to declare their attitude.

### Powder Works Destroyed.

Easton, Pa., April 30.—The town of Dover, in Morris county, N. J., and the country within a radius of 20 miles was startled this afternoon by a series of terrific explosions, the first of which occurred at 2:10 o'clock. The explosion occurred in the Atlantic Powder Company's works, and the plant is now a mass of ruins. Six workmen were killed and four others were seriously injured, some probably fatally.

# MANGROVE'S CAPTURE

## Seized the Big Spanish Liner Panama.

### HAD PROVISIONS FOR HAVANA

Captain Everett's Threat to Sink the Spaniard Brought It to a Stop—The Panama Carried Two 12-Pounders, But Did Not Use Them.

Key West, April 28.—The lighthouse tender Mangrove puffed proudly into Key West harbor this morning with the richest prize of the war thus far. The captive was the Panama, Captain Quevedo, a big trans-Atlantic liner, and an auxiliary cruiser of the Spanish navy, which has been plying of late between New York and Havana. She had 29 passengers, including three women, one Frenchman and one Mexican, and a crew of 72. As the Panama carried two 12-pounders, she could easily have annihilated the little Mangrove, and as the latter came into the harbor with her prize, there was not a craft that did not salute her.

The Mangrove, under Lieutenant-Commander William H. Everett, was cruising along the Cuban coast, navigating by Ensign Palmer, shortly before 6 o'clock last evening, about 20 miles north of Havana. At 9:45 she sighted the Panama. When the latter came within range, a shot from one of the Mangrove's 12-pounders was sent across her bows, but the Spaniard ignored the challenge and went on. Another shot followed without result, but the Mangrove was drawing nearer the stranger, who calmly proceeded on her course, apparently without any intention of running away.

When the third shot was fired, the Mangrove was within 100 yards of the Panama, and Lieutenant-Commander Everett shouted to the deck officer that if she did not surrender he would sink her. The Mangrove's officers admit that they expected the enemy's 12-pounders to open on them in response to the threat, but the Spaniard promptly came to.

Ensign Dayton, the senior officer of the Mangrove, boarded the prize. The battleship Indiana had seen the capture, and meanwhile drew up to the Mangrove, giving her a lusty cheer. Lieutenant-Commander Everett reported to Captain Taylor, of the battleship, and the latter put a prize crew aboard the captive. They then proceeded to the flagship, where a formal report was made, and Rear-Admiral Sampson ordered Lieutenant-Commander Everett to convey the prize to Key West.

The Panama is of about 2,800 tons, and her passengers were mainly Spanish refugees fleeing from New York and other points to Havana. The Panama carried a valuable cargo of general merchandise, including a large quantity of corn. Much of it was meant to provision the Spaniards in Cuba, and the cargo, with the ship itself, undoubtedly makes the richest prize thus far taken. Under the regulations, however, the battleship Indiana will share in the prize-money, as she was in sight when the capture was made.

The entire fleet have been on the lookout for the Panama for several days, as she was due at Havana yesterday or today.

If the pace set by the vessels of the North Atlantic squadron in the taking of prizes be long maintained, Spain's merchant marine is destined to need reconstructing from the ground up before the war closes. During the five days since hostilities opened, 11 prizes have been brought in, and there is a prospect that several other Spanish vessels now in Gulf waters will also be captured.

The gunboat Newport brought in the Spanish sloop Paquette and the Spanish schooner Pireno, Cuban coasting vessels, captured off Havana this morning. These captures, following upon the Mangrove's clever achievement, have roused the people here to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

New York, April 28.—Agents of the captured Spanish steamer Panama say the vessel and cargo are valued at over \$250,000.

### FAMINE IN HAVANA.

The City's Supply of Beef Has Given Out—All Prices Have Advanced.

New York, April 28.—A correspondent of the World sends the following Cuban advices via Key West:

Havana is completely out of beef, although large shipments are expected from Mexico.

All necessities of life have gone up to prices never heard of, and if something is not done at once, many will perish of hunger.

Families of means have stored large supplies of stores in their houses.

All Cuban families leaving are urged to stay, the offer being that they will be respected and protected.

Blanco has issued orders to arm all men, and the order is being obeyed.

### WAS IT A SPANIARD?

Bungling Attempt Made to Blow Up Torpedo Boats.

Portland, Or., May 2.—A bungling attempt to set fire to the shop or freight-carrying workmen on torpedo-boats 12 and 13 was made under the wharf of the Wolf & Zwicker iron works about 11 o'clock last night.

While nothing could be learned of the perpetrator, a Spaniard or a Mexican who was seen hanging about the place all day and who had been several times ordered away is suspected by the police.

The late workmen, who were just quitting the building, were startled, as the whistle blew, by a dull report apparently just below the wharf on which the torpedo-boats are building, which shook the structure to its foundation. The Madison-street bridge night watchman also heard the detonation and saw a blinding flash directly under the torpedo-boats.

Three of the workmen seized lanterns and hurried beneath the wharf. Just as they reached the ground, a second report, like that of a shotgun or revolver, was heard, and they saw a light flash for an instant, but that was all. Groping about by the dim light of their lanterns, they were unable to find anything which could have made an explosion, and they finally decided to abandon the quest till daybreak.

The Spaniard whom the police suspect of having set off the explosion, either with the deliberate purpose of blowing up the torpedo-boats or setting fire to the building, or thinking to terrify the contractors, had been slinking about the place all day.

Whatever was the purpose of the man who set off the explosion, he failed to do any more harm than to set the town agog, for the wharf and boats were unscathed.

### ALLEGED GERMAN NOTE.

Rumor That She Will Not Permit the Bombardment of Manila.

Madrid, May 2.—A great impression has been produced here by a rumor that the German government has issued a note declaring that it will not oppose the landing of troops in the Philippines but will not permit a bombardment, owing to the important German mercantile interests in all the towns of the island. Germany's omission to declare neutrality is held to be the cause of the rumor.

Japan has requested permission for Japanese naval officers to watch the operations in the Philippines from the Spanish headquarters.

The United States fleet is not expected to reach Manila until Tuesday. The Spanish fleet has been divided in two. It will be reinforced by a large auxiliary cruiser.

According to dispatches from Manila, the Vos Espanola describes the port of Manila as impregnable. The paper also says that the forts of Malabon, Sud Malabon, Paster, Mirallas and St. Lucia Pilar bristle with guns, chiefly Krupp's.

### PORTUGAL'S NEUTRALITY.

Officially Announced in a Proclamation in Lisbon.

Lisbon, May 2.—The official gazette today publishes the neutrality decree of Portugal in the war between Spain and the United States.

It is similar to the decree issued at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, and contains the following six articles:

First—Forbidding the equipment of privateers in Portuguese waters.

Second—Forbidding the entry of privateers into Portuguese waters.

Third—Permitting belligerents to make a short stay in Portuguese ports.

Fourth—Defining legitimate trade as regards the belligerents and forbidding trading in goods considered contraband of war.

Fifth—Warning Portuguese and foreigners in Portugal against actions contrary to the security of the state.

Sixth—Refusing protection to any infringers of the decree.

### COST OF THE WAR.

Sum Needed for Additional Army Expenses.

Washington, May 2.—The secretary of the treasury today received from the secretary of war estimates of deficiencies in appropriations for the expenses of the war for the remaining two quarters of the present fiscal year, aggregating \$34,019,987. In his letter, Secretary Alger says that the acts of congress approved April 22 and 26, 1898, authorizing the enrollment of a volunteer army and placing the regular army on a war footing, will necessitate this increase for the organization, support and maintenance of the new forces.

This estimate, which will be transmitted to congress, is entirely independent of the allotments made by the president to the war department out of the \$50,000,000. This will indicate that up to July 1 next (two months) the increased expenditures on account of the war will be approximately \$90,000,000.

The Spanish government officials are bewildered at the attitude of Great Britain. They believe the government and people of Great Britain hold divergent opinions, and that the official acts of Great Britain are due to a secret compact with the United States.

### DEWEY'S FLEET.

Asiatic Squadron Goes to Manila to Secure a Base of Operations.

Washington, April 29.—As to the imminence of a naval battle off the Philippine islands, the naval authorities here seriously doubt whether the Spanish fleet will make a stand against the American ships. Their reason for this belief is that the Spanish fleet is very inferior to the American force under Admiral Dewey. The department, therefore, is satisfied that the Spanish will not do battle on the high seas with Admiral Dewey, but will remain in port to secure the protection of the batteries of Manila, and the department is not expecting an engagement for about two days. Without giving an explanation for setting this time, the department allows it to be surmised that the estimate is based on its knowledge of Admiral Dewey's whereabouts.

There is no certainty that there will be an engagement at all in the immediate future. The main purpose of the American expedition is to seize and hold some suitable Spanish territory in the Philippines as a base of operations. It is thought this can be done without attacking Manila at all, by seizing some convenient point on the islands.

The Spanish fleet at the Philippines may resist the United States fleet for a short time, with assistance of the guns from the Spanish forts, but otherwise the American vessels would make very short work of the Spanish squadron.

### SAILED FOR THE WEST.

Spanish Squadron to Bombard Northern Ports of the United States.

Bayonne, France, April 29.—According to a letter just received here from Madrid, dated Tuesday, a Spanish squadron, consisting of four iron-clads and three torpedo-boat destroyers sailed for the United States yesterday. It was rumored that the squadron was to steam directly across the Atlantic and bombard northern ports of the United States. The port from which this squadron sailed is not mentioned. It was said, however, that a second squadron, consisting of four iron-clads and two cruisers, was being formed at Cadiz. Its destination was unknown.

### HIS FIRST INFORMATION.

Surprising Ignorance of a British Skipper Stopped by the Flagship.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Havana, April 28.—The first news from Havana reached the squadron this evening, when the British steamer Lurline was stopped by the flagship. The Lurline is commanded by Captain Tucker. She hails from London, and was bound from Havana for Bermuda. She has 200 cabin passengers on board, besides a cargo of horses and sugar. She is the first boat known to have left Havana since last Friday, when the blockade was commenced.

She was seen coming out from El Morro about 5 P. M., and was about six miles from land before the New York started on her trail. Smoke poured from the flagship's smokestack as she rushed through the water to cut off the stranger, who was going at a good pace.

Lieutenant Marble was sent on board by Captain Chadwick. The Cubans on the deck shouted "Hurrah!" and waved their hands at the New York. Captain Tucker gave satisfactory proofs of the Lurline's identity. He said the people in Havana did not know that the war was in progress. The English consul-general had said nothing to him, so the captain alleged, about the war or the blockade. When asked what explanation was given in Havana for the appearance of the American ships outside El Morro, Captain Tucker said he had not bothered his head about it, and had not heard any one talking on the subject.

It is the opinion of this correspondent that the very little reliance can be placed on Captain Tucker's story.

The El Morro batteries were believed to be firing at something about 5 P. M., but it was impossible to ascertain definitely whether this was so or not.

The news from Matanzas, Cardenas and Mariel is meager, but it indicates that the blockade has been firmly established at those ports.

The Oregon Nearing Montevideo.

Chicago, April 29.—A special to the News from Washington says: The navy department has received word that the battleship Oregon was spoken a few hundred miles below Montevideo. The vessel was booming along under forced draught, and making good speed. She will stop at Montevideo for coal, and will proceed to Key West with all possible haste. The officers are not concerned for her safety.

Letter From an Oregon Apprentice.

Tacoma, April 29.—Mrs. Susie Peters, of this city, today received a letter from her son, who is an apprentice on the battleship Oregon. The letter is dated Callao, Peru, and says they are on the lookout for Spanish torpedo-boats, and expect to see one. He says a Spanish warship left Callao three days before the arrival of the Oregon. The latter expected to leave Callao as soon as she finished coaling.

Maine factories sold \$250,000 worth of wooden shoe pegs in 1897.