



A Great Battle is Raging At Santiago Since Early Morn

PLAYA DEL ESTE, Province of Santiago, July 1.—A general assault on Santiago by the land and sea forces of the United States began at dawn this morning. The Vesuvius used her dynamite guns with good effect,

Washington is Notified that the Fight is On.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—Signal Officer Allen telegraphs that the fighting is becoming furious at Santiago. Sampson's fleet has hotly engaged the forts.

Secretary Alger received the following dispatch from Shafter, dated 9:45 this morning.

"Camp at Sevilla, Cuba.—Action now going on, but firing light and desultory; began on right near Caney, Lawton's division. He will move on the northeast part of the town of Santiago. Will keep you fully advised of progress."

Secretary Alger expressed confidence in our forces, which are well armed and in a position to give a good account of themselves. Shafter has his artillery well placed.

ALL WASHINGTON IS GREATLY EXCITED

Officials are Confident That Shafter Will Win the Day at Santiago.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—The battle has begun. This was the startling news conveyed in a dispatch received from General Shafter at 10 o'clock this morning. Brief as it is, it told the whole story of the first shots of the long-expected crash at arms, probably the first great land engagement of the war. It sent a thrill through official circles from the highest to the lowest. Secretary Alger was the first to read it. The news spread through the corridor and a wave of awe-like agitation and expectancy took hold of every one. A great crowd of correspondents stood about the bulletin boards, messenger boys dashed off with dispatches, clerks, men and women, turned from their desks and gathered at the doorways.

Before Secretary Alger started to the cabinet meeting, he spoke of the fact that sufficient time had elapsed to permit Shafter to get his army well concentrated and thrown out to good battle formation. The secretary felt that our forces were on the aggressive. Word had previously come that the artillery which had been brought to the front was well placed.

General Miles received a copy of the dispatch soon after it arrived. He had anticipated it, for only a few hours before a dispatch came from General

Breckinridge, inspector-general of the army, stating the spirit of the troops was high and they were eager and expectant for action. Miles also received another dispatch this morning from Shafter's headquarters, which says a big military balloon is now high in the air and giving an opportunity for observation over a great sweep of country. This in itself was of value to our troops. The officials showed every disposition to keep the public completely advised of actual occurrences.

According to Shafter's report, the attack on Santiago was begun by the second division of the Fifth army corps, commanded by Brigadier-General Lawton.

A report was in circulation here this afternoon that Santiago had been captured, but at 2:45 p. m. General Corbin said there were no dispatches here to confirm the rumor.

A dispatch received in the cabinet meeting from Colonel Allen, in charge of the signal station at Playa del Este, said the fight was growing furious in all directions. At the time at which he sent the telegram eight Americans and nine Cubans had been wounded. The Spaniards were shelling the Americans as they advanced, and Sampson's fleet was hotly engaging the forts. The dispatch was received by members of the cabinet with much enthusiasm, one of them remarking that the sight must be inconceivably grand and that he would very much like to have had a hand in the fight. No doubt was expressed that our forces would win the day.

and the insurgents occupying positions within about 2000 yards of the city. Food is growing scarcer.

The Matsushima reports also that when she left Manila harbor there were five German and four British warships there.

BERLIN, July 1.—The following dispatch has been received from Hong Kong:

According to trustworthy intelligence from Manila, the Spanish governor-general has made arrangements for a meeting with Admiral Diederich (commander of the German naval forces in the Far East), in order to propose in behalf of the Spanish government that Manila should be handed into provincial charge of a neutral commander. The proposal was rejected by Diederich, in view of the American blockade.

SITUATION AT MANILA THE SAME

Insurgents Were Two Thousand Yards From the City June 27th—American Troops Had Not Arrived.

HONG KONG, July 1.—The Japanese cruiser Matsushima arrived here today from Manila, which port she left on the afternoon of Monday, June 27th. She reports that the American transports had not then arrived.

The situation was unchanged, the Spaniards continuing to erect defenses

CAMARA IS OFF TO MANILA

Fleet Has Actually Passed Through the Suez Canal.

MADRID, July 1.—According to a dispatch today by the Spanish minister of marine, Admiral Camara, in command of the Spanish fleet recently at Port Said, has passed through the Suez canal, apparently on his way to the Philippines.

LONDON, July 1.—Officials of the United States embassy discredit the Madrid dispatch saying that Admiral Camara has passed through the Suez canal. They say he had not entered the canal this morning.

PORTO RICO THE NEXT OBJECTIVE POINT IN THE CAMPAIGN

Following the Fall of Santiago de Cuba an Army of Invasion will be Sent to Capture Spain's Second Valuable West Indian Possession.

New York, July 1.—A Times special from Washington says:

The Porto Rican expedition, which is the next number on the war program after the surrender of Santiago, is to be led by Major-General John R. Brooke, now commanding the First army corps at Chickamauga, who will be made military governor of the island after its capture.

Having provided for the forwarding of sufficient reinforcements to General Shafter to insure his being able to take Santiago when he gets ready to move his full army against it, the administration again is turning its attention to the details of the invasion of Spain's other valuable island possession in the West Indies, with a view to being prepared to fall upon it the moment Linares and Cervera have capitulated. The plans have so far progressed that General Brooke has been selected to command the army of invasion, and has been ordered to get his corps, composed of twenty-seven regiments of volunteers, ready to move to Tampa within a week

or ten days. From there they will be sent to Santiago, preparatory to the movement on San Juan, which will be made from Southeastern Cuba as a base. The designation of General Brooke for the Porto Rican enterprise is in accordance with his own wishes.

With the American army in possession of Santiago it will be made a sort of base for the movements on Porto Rico. Being but a little out of the way from the direct route from Florida to Porto Rico, it is admirably suited, army authorities say, for a half-way station between Tampa and San Juan.

With General Merritt in the Philippines and Brooke in Porto Rico, it will remain for the other ranking major-general of the regular army, General Miles, to lead the main expedition against Havana when the time comes for the final movement to drive the Spaniards out of Cuba.

Unless Spain surrenders sooner, it is believed that General Miles will be entrusted with this notable service in deference to his place as commanding general of the army and in recognition as well of his fine record as an Indian fighter in days gone by.

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