



Rear-Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, who won the naval battle of Santiago and has been persecuted ever since for doing it.

TWO NAVAL HEROES

DEWEY'S OPINION

EXONERATES SCHLEY

Naval Court of Inquiry Files Surprising Report Not Contained in
by Admiral Dewey.

The report of the Schley court of inquiry was promulgated by Secretary Long on the evening of Dec. 13th. Admiral Benham and Admiral Ramsey concur in the first. This is also signed by Admiral Dewey, who agrees with his two colleagues as to the findings of fact. Admiral Dewey, however, files a parallel report giving his conclusions, which differ materially from those of his colleagues. While Benham and Ramsey opine that Schley should be condemned on 11 counts of the precept, Admiral Dewey puts on record his opinion that Schley did as well as possible under the circumstances and is entitled to the full glory for the results he accomplished. Following are the two reports.

THE COURT'S FINDINGS

Opinion: The turn of the Brooklyn to starboard was made to avoid getting her into dangerous proximity to the Spanish vessels. The turn was made toward the Texas, and caused that vessel to stop and back her engines to avoid possible collision.

Admiral Schley did injustice to Lieutenant-Commander A. C. Hodgson in publishing only a portion of the correspondence which passed between them.

Commodore Schley's conduct in connection with the events of the Santiago campaign prior to June 1, 1898, was characterized by vigilance, dilatoriness and lack of enterprise.

His official reports regarding the coal supply, and the coaling facilities of the flying squadron, were inaccurate and misleading.

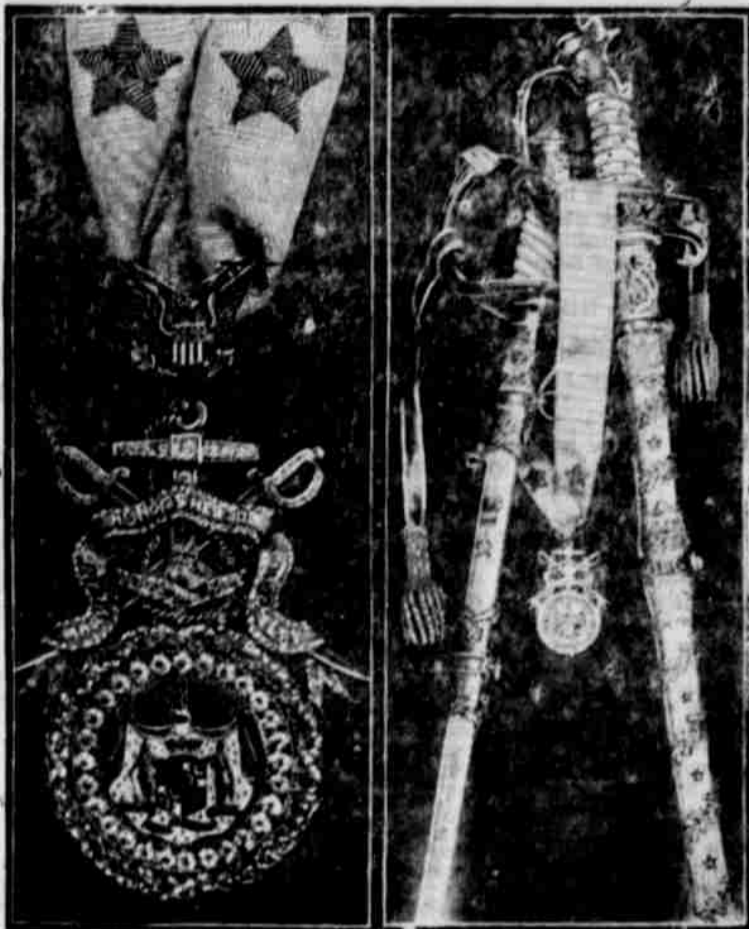
His conduct during the battle of July 3, was self-possessed, and he encouraged, in his own person, his subordinate officers and men to fight courageously.

GEORGE DEWEY,
Admiral U. S. N., President.
SAMUEL C. LEMLY,
Judge-Advocate-General U. S. N., Judge-Advocate.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S OPINION

In the opinion of the undersigned the passage from Key West to Cienfuegos was made by the flying squadron with all possible dispatch. Commodore Schley having in view the importance in arriving off Cienfuegos with as much coal as possible in the ship's bunkers.

The blockade of Cienfuegos was effective. Commodore Schley in permitting



Some of Rear-Admiral Schley's swords and medals.

DEWEY AND SCHLEY

It makes no difference that Admirals Benham and Ramsey drew their astounding conclusions from the testimony brought out before the Schley court of inquiry. If their heads are shaped that way, it is their misfortune and they are to be pitied, not condemned, because nature has not endowed them with better head pieces.

The people have read the testimony and the verdict is practically unanimous, exonerating Schley of the malicious charges brought against him. No man is infallible, and he may have made mistakes, but he GOT THERE, and it is results that count.

Dewey's action in this matter will do much to restore him to the popular favor he enjoyed before he got married. He has shown that in his broad common sense and contempt for meanness and trivial technicalities he is in touch with the American people. As the Oregonian says, "Your Uncle George is all right."

SCHLEY'S COUNSEL SAYS

CASE IS NOT ENDED

Leader Ravaor showed keen disappointment when the findings of the court of inquiry were communicated to him. He announced that he will counsel Admiral Schley to fight the case to a finish by every appeal that is possible. He said:

"I would prefer now not to say anything in connection with the opinion. I think the country will almost unanimously accept Admiral Dewey's judgment. The testimony was so overwhelming upon almost every one of the specifications in favor of Admiral Schley that I must confess I am utterly at a loss to understand upon what facts or upon the evidence of what witnesses the other two members of the court reached their conclusion.

"I am absolutely satisfied that the opinion of the two judges is at total variance with the opinion of the country, and this will not by any means terminate the controversy. I shall advise the Admiral to fight it to a finish, to open it by every appeal that is possible, congressional or otherwise, and I believe that the sentiment of the whole country will uphold him in his resolve not to let the judgment stand."

DEWEY'S VERDICT

WILL BE ACCEPTED

When the purport of the two Schley reports was made known to him, Capt. Parker, Schley's junior counsel, said:

"Admiral Dewey, better than any one else in the world, was qualified to judge this case. He is the one man living, besides Admiral Schley, who conducted a campaign and fought a battle with modern ships, under modern conditions. He probably found there was a difference between theory and practice, and judged Schley in the light of his own experience. The two other members of the court were high-minded men of the highest character, and men who would not misjudge knowingly or willingly. They never had the experience the Admiral had, and probably did not see things in the same light as he did. We shall leave the matter to the judgment of the people of the country, confident that in the just popular mind the findings of Admiral Dewey will be sustained."



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