

"Fighting Bob" Evans Tells the Story Of the Sinking of Cervera's Fleet From the Standpoint of a Naval Man

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.) Of Santiago de Cuba, July 7, by the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, July 8, 3:40 p. m.—The battleship Iowa was the first ship to see the Spanish fleet coming out of the harbor. A moment later her crew was at general quarters and at 9:33 a. m. a gun was fired to attract the attention of the fleet. Captain Evans' account of the battle, as told in the cabin to a correspondent of the Associated Press, is intensely interesting. He said: "At the time general quarters was sounded the engine bell rang 'full speed ahead,' and I put the helm to starboard and the Iowa crossed the bows of the Infanta Maria Teresa, the first ship out. As the Spanish admiral swung to the westward the 12-inch shells from the forward turret of the Iowa seemed to strike him fair in the bow and the fight was a spectacle. "The Iowa from this moment kept up a steady fire from her heavy guns, hoisting all the time to keep the Infanta Maria Teresa on her starboard bow and hoping to ram one of the leading ships. "In the meantime the Oregon, Indiana, Brooklyn and Texas were using excellent work with their heavy guns. "In a very short space of time the enemy's ships were all clear of the harbor mouth and it became evidently impossible for the Iowa to ram either the first or the second ship, on account of the speed. "The range at this time was 2,000 yards from the leading ship. The Iowa's helm was immediately put hard to starboard and the entire starboard broadside was poured into the Infanta Maria Teresa. The helm was then quickly shifted to port and the ship went across the stern of the Teresa in an effort to head off the Oquendo. All the engines were driving at full speed ahead. A perfect barrer of shells from the enemy passed over the smokestacks and superstructure of the ship, but none struck her. "The Cristobal Colon, being much faster than the rest of the Spanish ships, passed rapidly to the front in an effort to escape. In passing the Iowa, the Colon fired two 6-inch shells fairly in our starboard bow. One passed through the cofferdam and dispensary, wrecking the latter and bursting on the berth deck, doing considerable damage. The other passed through the side of the water line within the cofferdam, where it still remains. "As it was now obviously impossible to ram any of the Spanish ships on account of their superior speed, the Iowa's helm was put to starboard and she ran on a course parallel with the enemy. Being then abreast of the Almirante Oquendo, at a distance of 100 yards, the Iowa's entire battery, including the rapid-fire guns, was opened on the Oquendo. The punishment was terrific. Many 12- and 8-inch shells were seen to explode inside of her and smoke came out of her hatches. Two 12-inch shells from the Iowa struck the Almirante Oquendo at the same moment, one forward and the other aft.

The Oquendo seemed to stop her engines for a moment and lost headway, but she immediately resumed her speed and gradually drew ahead of the Iowa and came under the terrific fire of the Oregon and Texas. "At this moment the alarm of "torpedo boats" was sounded and two torpedo boat destroyers were discovered in the starboard quarter at a distance of 4,000 yards. Fire was at once opened on them with the after battery and a 12-inch shell cut the stern of one of the destroyers squarely off. As the shell struck, a small torpedo boat fired back at the battleship, sending a shell within a few feet of my head. "Well upon the advancing cruisers, splitting shots at one and then another, was the little Gloucester, shooting first at a cruiser and then at a torpedo boat and hitting a head wherever she saw it. The marvel was that she was not destroyed by the rain of shells. In the meantime, the Vizcaya was slowly drawing ahead of the Iowa and for the space of fifteen minutes it was given and taken between the two ships. The Vizcaya fired rapidly, but wildly, not one shot taking effect on the Iowa, while the shells from the Iowa were tearing great rents in the sides of the Vizcaya. As the latter passed ahead of the Iowa she came under the murderous fire of the Oregon. At this time the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo leading the enemy's column, were seen to be heading for the beach and in flames. The Texas, Oregon and Iowa pounded them unmercifully. They ceased to reply to the fire and in a few moments the Spanish cruisers were a mass of flames and on the rocks with their colors down, the Teresa flying a white flag. "The enemy's crew stripped themselves and began jumping overboard, and one of the smaller magazines began to explode. "Meanwhile the Brooklyn and the Cristobal Colon were exchanging compliments in lively fashion at an apparently long range, and the Oregon, with her locomotive speed, was hanging well on the quarter to salute him, and I stood waiting to welcome him. As the ship was placed on the deck the men presented arms. Captain Eulate slowly raised himself in the chair, saluted me with grave dignity, unbuckled his sword belt, and holding the hilt of the sword before him, kissed it reverently with tears in his eyes and then surrendered it to me. "Of course, I declined to receive his sword, and as the crew of the Iowa saw this, they cheered like wild men. "In the meantime thirty officers of the Vizcaya had been picked up, besides 272 of her crew. Our ward room and steering officers gave up their state rooms and furnished food, clothing and tobacco to those naked officers from the Vizcaya. The paymaster issued uniforms to the naked sailors and each was given all the correct beef, hard tack and coffee he could eat. The war had assumed another aspect. "As I knew that the crews of the first two ships wrecked had not been visited by any of our vessels, I ran down to them. I found the Gloucester with Admiral Cervera and a number of his officers aboard and also a large number of wounded, some in a frightfully mangled condition. Many prisoners had been taken on shore by the fire of the Cubans. The Harvard came off and I requested Captain Cotton to go in and take off the

granting of peace to the nations now engaged in deadly warfare." The archbishop will himself preach in the cathedral Sunday morning, his theme being this proclamation by the president. "SPANISH PRIVATEERS Washington, July 8.—Representative Lewis of Washington was at the navy department today consulting officials regarding the reports of the operations of Spanish privateers along the Pacific coast, who are said to be after the gold workers on their way home from the Yukon country. He saw Assistant Secretary Allen, and was informed by him that the Philadelphia, which ordinarily might be available for scouting duty to intercept the privateers, was destined for Honolulu and also that many of the best vessels of the coast had been taken by the government for transport purposes. Mr. Lewis feels that the government will take such steps as are necessary for the protection of the people on the coast and those returning from the north. "JOHN BRAGS ON JOHNATHAN London, July 9.—The weekly newspapers today, in discussing the war, all pay glowing tributes to the American navy. Even the Saturday Review says: "It is impossible not to feel a certain pride in these achievements of men of our own race. Every Englishman, too, will remember that it was the possession of this same quality, the fine marksmanship which the Americans displayed, which gave us victories both on land and on sea. Every one of us, too, and something peculiar and noble happened in this fight, which showed in a far higher way the kinship between the two peoples. 'Don't cheer,' shouted Captain Pullip, 'the poor devils are dying.' "It seems to us that this expression of tender, sympathetic humanity is just as fine as the 'Kiss me, Harry,' of the dying Nelson. "The Spectator, in a long article on the same subject, says: "The first thought of all Englishmen is that the American fleet did its work splendidly. The whole performance of Admiral Sampson's fleet was in accordance with the best traditions of Anglo-Saxon navies, and every Englishman has read of their wars with a flush of pride. There was the same old hard pounding as the Elizabethan sea-dogs used, the same mixture of readiness, daring, cunning and reckless dash. The moral aspect of what was almost the first, and of what may be the last, best action between the Spanish and English fleets, is very much alike. In both cases it was the man behind the gun who, in the last resort, won the battle. "The battle shows that the American navy is a far more efficient fighting machine than we had been led to believe. We knew it already, and realized that what stuff the boys' whips are made. They, however, did not know it on the continent, though they apparently know it now. "Washington, July 9.—Paymaster Stanton of the army has recommended to Secretary of War Alger the appointment of twenty-five additional paymasters for the volunteer arm of the service. There are now on the rolls seventy paymasters in the regular army, but this force is inadequate for the work at hand.

member of the committee on naval affairs also said: "There is no difference of sentiment. I imagine about the necessity or the desirability of obtaining smokeless powder for the army and navy. The committee on naval affairs, however, has favored the communications of the department in this respect but it was impossible at the break in point of the war to lay in a stock of the powder sufficient for all purposes, as the output was too limited and there was too limited and there was too heavy a demand for it from other quarters. "The chairman of the committee on the senate committee on naval affairs, said: "The question of providing smokeless powder for the navy is one to be dealt with within the department. We have given to the department every dollar they have asked for. I have no doubt they are doing the best they can in that respect. "Senator Hanna, a member of the committee on naval affairs, said: "I am decidedly in favor of smokeless powder. I think the question of the kind of powder to be used in the navy is a matter to be acted upon by the ordnance department. They have the funds to furnish the millions of war." "The trouble is that there are but two places in the United States prepared to make the smokeless powder the government has adopted and they had just started on it for the government when the war came on. We had just worked out a formula for smokeless powder, the best in the world and had started to make it when the war broke out. We undertook to prepare a formula which would eliminate the extreme dangerousness of ordinary smokeless powder. The Dupont Powder mills in Delaware, and the California Powder mills have started to manufacture it, but when the war broke out they were not prepared to furnish a sufficient quantity for the use of our army and navy. I had thought that some had been bought abroad. The secretary asked for \$1,000,000 for that purpose and after the \$500,000 he had said \$200,000 would do. 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