

LANDING OF TROOPS IN PORTO RICO

Successfully Accomplished at Guanica

After a Slight Skirmish With Spanish Troops.

Forty of the Enemy Killed, but No Americans Hurt.

All the Transports With General Miles in the Harbor—The Spanish Flag Lowered and the Stars and Stripes Raised.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—The War Department at 11:30 p. m. posted the following: "St. Thomas, July 26, 9:30 p. m. "Secretary of War, Washington: Circumstances were such that I deemed it advisable to take harbor of Guanica first, fifteen miles west of Ponce, which was successfully accomplished between daylight and 11 o'clock. Spaniards surprised. The Gloucester, Commander Wainwright, first entered the harbor; met with slight resistance, fired a few shots. All the transports are now in the harbor, and infantry and artillery rapidly going ashore. This is a well protected harbor. The water is sufficiently deep for all transports and heavy vessels to anchor within 200 yards of shore. The Spanish flag was lowered and the American flag raised at 11 o'clock to-day. Captain Higginson, with his fleet, has rendered able and earnest assistance. The troops in good health and the best of spirits. No casualties.

"Major General Commanding Army."

BOMBARDMENT AWAITS ARRIVAL OF MORE WARSHIPS.

[Copyrighted, 1898, by Associated Press.] ST. THOMAS (D. W. I.), July 26. (Evening)—The United States cruiser Columbia has just arrived here from Puerto de Guanica, Porto Rico, via Cape San Juan.

While off the latter point she spoke the United States monitor Terror and the gunboats Annapolis and Wasp, giving them orders to join the fleet at Puerto de Guanica immediately.

Ponce will not be bombarded until the rest of the warships arrive. At the request of Major General Miles, the Associated Press dispatch boat Cynthia II. will take to Puerto de Guanica to-night three guides to General Miles. P. C. Hanna, formerly United States Consul at San Juan de Porto Rico, will also be a passenger by the dispatch boat.

LANDING AT GUANICA.

Was Effectuated After a Skirmish With Spanish Troops.

[Copyrighted, 1898, by Associated Press.] PORT GUANICA (Island of Porto Rico), July 25, 2 p. m. (via the Island of St. Thomas, D. W. I., July 26, morning).—The United States military expedition under the command of Major General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army of the United States, which left Guantanamo Bay during the evening of Thursday last, July 21st, was landed here successfully to-day, after a skirmish between a detachment of the Spanish troops and a crew of thirty belonging to the launch of the United States auxiliary gunboat Gloucester, formerly J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht Corsair. Forty Spaniards were killed, and no Americans were hurt.

The troops were pushed forward promptly, in order to capture the railroad leading to Ponce, which is only about ten miles east of this place. From Ponce there is an excellent military road running eighty miles north to San Juan.

The whole of General Brooke's force, with the New Orleans, Annapolis, Cincinnati, Leyden and Wasp, are expected here within twenty-four hours. The ships left Guantanamo Bay suddenly on Thursday evening, with the Massachusetts, commanded by Captain Higginson, leading. Captain Higginson

was in charge of the expedition, which consisted of the Columbia, Dixie, Gloucester and Yale. General Miles was on the last named vessel. The troops were on board the transports Neuces, Lampasas, Comanche, Rita, Union, Stillwater, City of Macon and Specialist. This was the order in which the transports entered the harbor here.

The voyage from Guantanamo Bay to this port was uneventful. At noon yesterday General Miles called for a consultation, announcing that he was determined not to go by San Juan Cape, but by the Monana Passage instead, land here, surprise the Spaniards, and deceive their military authorities. The course was then changed, and the Dixie was sent to warn General Brooke at Cape Juan.

Port Guanica has been fully described by Lieutenant Whitney of General Miles' staff, who recently made an adventurous tour of Porto Rico. Ponce, which is situated ten or fifteen miles from this port, is to the eastward, and a harbor place to take. In addition, the water at Ponce is too shallow for the transports to be able to get close in shore. Then again, Ponce itself is some little distance from where the troops would have been able to land if that point had been selected for the disembarkation of the expedition.

One advantage of this place is that it is situated close to the railroad connecting with Ponce, which means of transportation our troops hope to secure to-day.

Early this morning the Gloucester, in charge of Lieutenant Commander Wainwright, steamed into Guanica harbor in order to reconnoiter the place. With the fleet waiting outside, the gallant little fighting yacht braved the mines which are supposed to be in the harbor, and found that there were five fathoms of water in close to shore.

Guanica is surrounded by cultivated lands. In the rear are high mountains, and on the beach nestles a village of about twenty houses. The Spaniards were completely taken by surprise. Almost the first they saw of the approach of the army of invasion was the announcement contained in the firing of a gun from the Gloucester, demanding that the Spaniards haul down their flag, which was floating from a flagstaff in front of the blockhouse standing to the east of the village. The first couple of three-pounders were fired into the hills right and left of the gun, purposely avoiding the town, lest the projectiles hurt women or children. The Gloucester then wore to within about 600 yards of the shore and lowered a launch having on board a Colt rapid-fire gun and thirty men under the command of Lieutenant Huse, who was sent ashore without encountering opposition. Quartermaster Beck thereupon told Yeoman Zacey to haul down the Spanish flag, which was done, and they then raised on the flagstaff the first United States flag to float over Porto Rican soil.

Suddenly about thirty Spaniards opened fire with Mauser rifles on the American party. Lieutenant Huse and his men responded with great gallantry, the Colt gun doing effective work. Norman, who received Cervera's surrender, and Wood, a Volunteer Lieutenant, shared the honors with Lieutenant Huse.

Almost immediately after the Americans were fired on the Gloucester opened fire on the enemy with all her three and six-pounders which could be brought to bear, shelling the town, and also dropping shells into the hills to the west of Guanica, where a number of Spanish cavalry were to be seen hastening toward the spot where the Americans had landed.

Lieutenant Huse then threw up a little fort, which he named Fort Wainwright, and he had the wire in the street in front of it in order to repel the expected cavalry attack. The lieutenant also mounted the Colt gun and signaled for reinforcements, which were sent from the Gloucester. The Associated Press dispatch boat Cynthia II. was the only boat in the harbor, except the Gloucester.

While the Mausers were peppering all around, Lieutenant Commander Wainwright called to the Associated Press correspondent, and said: "They fired on us after their flag was down and ours was up, and after we had spared the town for the sake of the women and children. The next town I strike I will blow it up."

Presently a few of the Spanish cavalry attacked those who were fighting land in the streets of Guanica, but the Colt barked to a purpose, killing four of them. By that time the Gloucester had the range of the town, and the blockhouse, and her guns were spitting fire and the doctor and Paymaster helping to serve the guns. Soon afterward white-coated gallant cavaliers were seen climbing the hills to the westward, and the foot soldiers were scurrying along the beach from the town.

By 9:45 a. m., with the exception of a few guerrilla shots, the town was won, and the enemy was driven out of its neighborhood.

The Red Cross nurses on the Lampasas and a detachment of regulars were the first to land from the transports.

After Lieutenant Huse had captured the place he deployed his small forces into the suburbs. But he was soon reinforced by the regulars, who were followed by Company G of the Sixth Illinois, and then by other troops in quick succession.

All the boats of the men-of-war and transports were used in the work of landing the troops, each steam launch towing four or five boats loaded to the rails with soldiers. But everything progressed in an orderly manner, and the General's headquarters, the Gloucester, and the auxiliary gunboat Gloucester, formerly J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht Corsair. Forty Spaniards were killed, and no Americans were hurt.

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coconut palms. Many head of cattle and a large number of horses have been driven into the mountains by their owners. Some of them will be captured. Ponce is the second city of the island, has a splendid harbor, and will make a good base of operations.

There are fifteen large coasters this afternoon at Guanica Bay, but only two barges were captured. It is likely that the Spanish garrison from Ponce may try to surprise our people to-night, but it will only be an affair of outposts. The town of Ponce is sure to fall shortly before the combined attack of our army and navy. The main fighting when San Juan is reached will be along the line of the splendid military road leading from Ponce to San Juan. But every precaution will be taken to lessen our casualties, even to the use of the street shields of which a supply was brought with the expedition.

The health of the troops is excellent, except among the Massachusetts men. They have been packed on the Yale for about fifteen days, and thirty cases of typhoid fever have developed among the soldiers. Parker of the Sixth Massachusetts died on Friday, and was buried at sea. Later in the day the Dixie spoke the boat of the Associated Press. It was then about 9 o'clock at night, and the commander of the Dixie said he had been in command around the island of Porto Rico, and had not seen any man-of-war or transport, except the New Orleans, which was blockading the port of San Juan.

A heavy gale was blowing, causing the dispatch boat to take nineteen hours in making the 125 miles to St. Thomas. The Associated Press boat is the only dispatch boat with the fleet.

AT GUANTANAMO.

The Main Body of Sampson's Fleet in the Bay Coaling.

GUANTANAMO BAY (Santiago de Cuba), July 26.—The Prairie arrived here from Nipe Bay last evening, and reported all quiet. The Spaniards last night sunk the Spanish gunboat Sandoval, which has been lying near Calmanera. This is looked upon as being a gross breach of the terms of surrender, which the Spaniards there had knowledge of, especially considering the fact that food was being sent to the United States navy into Calmanera.

First Sergeant of Marine Kinne of the New York went north yesterday on the Texas to get his commission as Second Lieutenant of Marines. This is almost the only case of such promotion on record in this branch of the service.

The Montgomery left yesterday evening. It is difficult to see how the large party of Spanish troops at Holguin can fall to surrender very soon, although reinforced by the Spanish forces from Gibrara. Holguin is one of the commanding points in Eastern Cuba, and the surrender of its garrison will be an important event in the war. News from there is expected shortly, and upon it will depend some of the plans of our commanders.

The Vixen and Suwanee returned to Santiago yesterday morning conveying the prize ships brought here for destruction.

The main body of the fleet is here coaling and cleaning as well as the facilities of the bay permit. The Texas will leave for New York shortly, in order to undergo repairs. The movements of the fleet under Rear Admiral Sampson's command, except those engaged in the Porto Rico expedition, depend upon the decisions of the authorities at Washington, and the impression is growing among the naval officers of high rank in Cuba, and that it is not advisable to send a fleet to Spain without previously enabling the ships to undergo thorough preparation, including going into drydock in several cases.

The list of vessels in Guantanamo Bay includes the New York, Brooklyn, Iowa, Indiana, Oregon, California, Detroit, Newark, Yankee, Yankton, Hornet, Ericsson, Rogers, Wampatuck, Samoset, Vesuvius, Celtic, Vulcan, Alvarado, five colliers and one transport.

A Boston light steamer arrived here yesterday, loaded with fruit. In consequence of a request upon the part of Admiral Sampson, but the steamer refused to sell any of the fruit and each ship was given a supply of fruit which was appreciated.

No news has been received here from Porto Rico.

Colonel Ewers, who was sent by General Shafter to receive the surrender of the 5,000 Spanish troops at Guantanamo, arrived here Sunday night with two of General Toral's officers, and proceeded to Calmanera and Guantanamo yesterday. The Colonel is expected to return last night. It is said that 1,700 of the Spanish troops at Guantanamo garrison are on the sick list. After they have surrendered the work of tending the sick, feeding the healthy and maintaining order among the prisoners will probably devolve upon the navy.

The Nipe Bay engagement was quite hot, but there were no casualties on the American side. The Spanish gunboat Jorge Juan was riddled by our shells. It is believed that about 200 men deserted from her after opening the valves.

A bulletin just issued in regard to the investigation of the navy's bombardment of Santiago de Cuba says: "Twelve houses were completely wrecked inside and one house was burned. Sixteen 8-inch shells struck within the three blocks of the Calle de Marien. These excavated the ground to a depth of about four feet and about ten feet in length. It is judged from the fact that many of them struck near the water's edge that a number of shells must have gone into the bay. Army officers have stated that thirty or forty went beyond the northern edge of the bay into the Spanish lines.

A dozen or more of the shells had not exploded. In four of them the base had been simply blown out. In one case a 4-inch shell, which was probably a stray shell fired during the demonstration at Aguadores on July 1st, had gone through a tree and had exploded in the ground beyond.

"When the severe effect of the 8-inch shells is considered, it is a matter of congratulation that it was not necessary to continue the bombardment longer and fire 13-inch shells, as the squadron had prepared to do. The effect of these latter would undoubtedly have been of a most disastrous character to the town. The board has completed its investigation, and will make a detailed report later."

WASHINGTON, July 27.—To-day's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$265,377,345; gold reserve, \$189,764,080,

DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S SQUADRON.

Report of Rear-Admiral Sampson

On the Battle at the Entrance to Santiago Harbor.

Lays Particular Stress Upon the Fighting of the Gloucester.

Says Her Skillful Handling Merits the Commendation of the Navy Department—Praises the Good Work of the Battleship Oregon.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—The Navy Department to-day made public the reports of Admiral Sampson, Commodore Schley, Captain Clark of the Oregon and Captain Evans of the Iowa, on the battle of July 3d, which resulted in the destruction of Cervera's squadron. They are as follows:

"United States Flagship New York, first rate, off Santiago de Cuba, July 15, 1898.

"Sir: I have the honor to make the following report upon the battle, with the destruction of the Spanish squadron commanded by Admiral Cervera, off Santiago de Cuba, on Sunday, July 3, 1898.

"The enemy's vessels came out of the harbor between 9:30 and 10 a. m., the head of the column appearing around Cayo Smith at 9:31, and emerging from the channel five or six minutes later.

"The positions of the vessels of my command off Santiago at the moment were: Flagship New York, four miles east of her blockading station, and seven miles from the harbor entrance. She had started for Siboney, where I intended to land, accompanied by several of my staff, and go to the front to consult with General Shafter for a discussion of the situation, and for a more definite understanding between us of the operations proposed, which had been rendered necessary by the unexpectedly strong resistance of the Spanish garrison at Santiago. I had sent my Chief of Staff on shore the day before to arrange an interview with General Shafter, who had been suffering from heat prostration. I made arrangements to go to his headquarters, and my flagship was in the position mentioned above when the Spanish squadron appeared in the channel.

"The remaining vessels were in or near their usual blockading positions; distributed in a semicircle about the harbor entrance, counting from the eastward to the westward, in the following order: The Indiana about a mile and one-half from shore, the Oregon, the New York's place between these two, the Iowa, the Texas and Brooklyn, the latter two miles from the shore, west of Santiago. The distance of the vessels from the harbor entrance was from two and one-half to four miles, the latter being the limit of day blockading distance.

"The length of the arc formed by the ships was about eight miles. The Massachusetts was left at 4 a. m. for Guantanamo for coal. Her station was between the Iowa and Texas. The auxiliaries Gloucester and Vixen lay close to the land, and nearer to the harbor entrance than the larger vessels, the Gloucester to the eastward and the Vixen to the westward. The Ericsson was in company with the flagship, and remained with her during the chase until ordered to discontinue, when she rendered very efficient service in rescuing prisoners from the burning Vizcaya. I enclose a diagram, showing approximately the positions of the vessels as described above.

"The Spanish vessels came rapidly out of the harbor, at a speed estimated at from eight to ten knots, and in the following order: Infanta Maria Teresa (flagship), Vizcaya, Cristobal Colon and the Almirante Oquendo. The distance between these ships was about 500 yards, which means that from the time the first one became visible in the upper reach of the channel until the last one was out of the harbor an interval of only about twelve minutes elapsed. Following the Oquendo at a distance of 1,200 yards came the torpedo-boat destroyer Pluton, and after her the Furor.

"The armored cruisers as rapidly as they could bring their guns to bear opened a vigorous fire upon the blockading vessels, and emerged from the channel shrouded in the smoke from their guns.

"The men of our ships in front of the port were at Sunday quarters for inspection. The signal was made simultaneously from several vessels, 'Enemy's ships escaping,' and general quarters was sounded. The men cheered as they sprang to their guns, and fire was opened probably within eight minutes by the vessels whose guns commanded the entrance. The New York turned about and steamed for the escaping fleet, flying the signal, 'Close in toward harbor entrance and attack vessels,' and gradually increasing speed, until toward the end of the chase she was making sixteen and one-half knots,

and was rapidly closing on the Cristobal Colon. She was not at any time within the range of the heavy Spanish ships, and her only part in the firing was to receive the undivided fire from the forts in passing the harbor entrance, and to fire a few shots at one of the destroyers, thought at the moment to be attempting to escape from the Gloucester.

"The Spanish vessels upon clearing the harbor turned to the westward in column, increasing their speed to the full power of their engines. The heavy blockading vessels, which had closed in toward the Morro at the instant of the enemy's appearance, and at their best speed, delivered a rapid fire, well sustained and destructive, which speedily overwhelmed and silenced the Spanish fleet. The initial speed of the Spaniards carried them rapidly past the blockading vessels, and the battle developed into a chase, in which the Brooklyn and Texas had the start in the advantage of position. The Brooklyn maintained this lead until the Oregon, steaming with amazing speed from the commencement of the action, took first place. The Iowa and Indiana had done better, but not having the speed of the other ships, were directed by me, in succession, at about the time the Vizcaya was beached, to drop out of the chase and resume blockading stations. These vessels rescued many prisoners. The Vixen, finding that the Spanish vessels were not to be put her between columns and remained there during the battle and chase.

"The skillful handling and gallant fighting of the Gloucester, to the admiration of every one who witnessed it, merits the commendation of the Navy Department. She is a fast and entirely unprotected auxiliary vessel—the yacht Corsair—and has a battery of light rapid-fire guns. She was running about two miles from the entrance to the eastward, and immediately started out, firing upon the large ships. Anticipating the appearance of the Pluton and the Furor, the Gloucester was stowed, thereby gaining more rapidly a high pressure of steam, and when the destroyers came out she steamed for them at full speed, and was able to close to short range, where her fire was accurate, deadly and of great volume. During this fight the Gloucester was under the fire of the Socapa battery.

"Within twenty minutes from the time they emerged from Santiago harbor the career of the Furor and Pluton were ended and two-thirds of their people killed. The Furor was beached, and sunk in the surf; the Pluton sank in deep water a few minutes later. The destroyers probably suffered much injury from the fire of the secondary batteries of the Indiana, Iowa and Texas, and yet, I think, a very considerable factor in their speedy destruction was the fire at close range of the Gloucester's battery.

"After rescuing the survivors of the destroyers the Gloucester did excellent service in landing and securing the crew of the Infanta Maria Teresa.

"The method of escape attempted by the Spaniards—all steering in the same direction and in formation—removed all tactical doubts or difficulties, and made plain the duty of every United States vessel to close in immediately, engaging in pursuing the ships, which was promptly and effectually done.

"As already stated, the first rush of the Spanish squadron carried it past a number of blockading ships, which could not immediately work up to their speed, but they did not stop heavily in passing. The Infanta Maria Teresa and the Oquendo were probably set on fire by shells fired during the fifteen minutes of the engagement. It was afterward learned that the Infanta Maria's fire main had been cut by one of our first shots, and that she was unable to extinguish the fire. With large volumes of smoke rising from their lower decks aft, these vessels gave up both fight and flight, and ran in on the beach—the Infanta Maria Teresa at about 10:15 a. m., at Nima Nima, six and one-half miles from San Juan, and the Almirante Oquendo at about 10:30 a. m., at Juan Gonzales, seven miles from the port.

"The Vizcaya was still under the fire of the leading vessels; the Cristobal Colon had drawn ahead, leading the chase, and soon passed beyond the range of the shells of the leading American ships. The Vizcaya was at noon set on fire, and at 11:15 she turned in shore and was beached at Acerraderos, fifteen miles from Santiago, burning fiercely, and with her reserve of ammunition on deck already beginning to explode.

"The about ten miles west of Santiago the Indiana had been signaled to go back to the harbor entrance, and at Acerraderos the Iowa was signaled to 'Resume blockading station.' The Iowa, assisted by the Ericsson and the Hist, took off the crew of the burning American ships. The Gloucester rescued those of the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo.

"This rescue of prisoners, including the wounded from the burning Spanish vessels, was the occasion of some of the most daring and gallant conduct of the war. The ships of the Oregon came aft, their guns and reserve ammunition were exploding, and it was not known at what moment the fire would reach the main magazines. In addition to this, a heavy surf was running just inside of the Spanish ships. But no risk deterred our officers and men until their work of humanity was complete.

"There remained now of the Spanish ships only the Cristobal Colon, but she was their best and fastest vessel. Forced by the situation to hug the Cuban coast, her only chance of escape was by superior and sustained speed. When the Vizcaya went ashore the Colon was about six miles ahead of the Brooklyn and the Oregon, but her spurt was finished, and the American ships were now gaining upon her. Being the Brooklyn and the Oregon came the Texas, Vixen and New York. It was evident from the bridge of the New York that all the American ships were gradually overhauling the chase, and that she had no chance of escape.

"At 12:50 the Brooklyn and the Oregon opened fire and got their range—the Oregon's heavy shells striking beyond her—and at 1:10 she gave up without firing another shot, hauled down her colors, and ran ashore at Rio Turquino, forty-eight miles from Santiago.

"Captain Cook of the Brooklyn went on board to receive the surrender. While his boat was alongside I came up in the New York, received his report and placed the Oregon in charge of the wreck to save her, if possible, and directed the prisoners to be transferred to the Resolute, which had followed the chase.

"Commodore Schley, whose chief of

staff had gone on board to receive the surrender, had directed that all the personal effects should be retained by the officers. This order I did not modify. "The Colon was not injured by our firing, and probably is not much injured by beaching, though she ran ashore at high speed. The beach was so steep that she came off on her side, and the sea. But her sea valves were opened and broken treacherously, I am sure, and after her surrender, and despite all efforts, she sunk. When it became evident that she could not be kept afloat, she was pushed by the New York bodily upon the beach. The New York's stem being placed against her for this purpose—the ship being handled by Captain Chadwick with admirable judgment—and sank in shoal water and may be saved. Had this not been done she would have gone down in deep water, and have been to a certainty a total loss.

"I regard this complete and important victory over the Spanish forces as the successful finish of several weeks of arduous and close blockade, so stringent and effective during the night that the enemy was deterred from making the attempt to escape at night, and deliberately elected to make the attempt in daylight. That such was the case I was informed by the commanding officer of the Cristobal Colon.

"It seems proper to briefly describe the manner in which this was accomplished. The harbor of Santiago is naturally easy to blockade, there being but one entrance, and that a narrow one; and the deep water extending close up to the shore line, presenting no difficulties of navigation outside of the entrance.

"At the time of my arrival before the port—July 1st—the moon was at its full, and there was sufficient light during the night to enable any movement outside of the entrance to be detected. But with the waning of the moon and the coming of dark night there was opportunity for the enemy to escape, or for his torpedo boats to make an attack upon the blockading vessels. It was ascertained with fair conclusiveness that the Merrimac, so gallantly taken into the channel on June 3d, did not obstruct. I therefore maintained the blockade as follows: To the little ships was assigned the duty, in turn, of lighting the channel. Moving up to the port, at a distance of from one to two miles from the Morro—dependent upon the condition of the atmosphere—they threw a searchlight beam directly up the channel, and held it steadily there. This lighted up the entire breadth of the channel for half a mile inside of the entrance so brilliantly that the movement of small boats could be detected. Why the batteries never opened fire upon the searchlight ship was always a matter of surprise to me, but they never did. Stationed close to the entrance of the port were three picket launches, and at a little distance farther out three small picket vessels—usually converted yachts—and when they were available, one or two of our torpedo boats. With this arrangement there was at least a certainty that nothing could get out of the harbor undetected.

"After the arrival of the army, when the situation forced upon the Spanish Admiral a decision, our vigilance increased. The night blockading distance was reduced to two miles for all vessels, and a battleship was placed alongside the searchlight ship with her searchlight trained upon the channel, in readiness to fire the instant a Spanish ship should appear.

"The commanding officers merit the greatest praise for the perfect manner in which they entered into this plan and put it into execution. The Massachusetts, trained upon the channel, was sent that morning to coal at Guantanamo, like the others, had spent weary nights upon this work, and deserved a better fate than to be absent that morning.

"I enclose for the information of the Department copies of orders and memoranda issued from time to time, relating to the manner of maintaining the blockade.

"When all the work was done so well it is difficult to discriminate in praise. The object of the blockade of Cervera's squadron, when fully accomplished, was each individual bore well his part in it—the Commodore in command of the Second Division, the Captains of ships, their officers and men. The fire of the battleships was powerful and destructive, and the result of the Spanish squadron was in great part broken almost before they had got beyond the range of their own forts.

"The fine speed of the Oregon enabled her to take a front position in the chase, and the Cristobal Colon did not give up until the Oregon had fired upon her shell beyond her. This performance added to the already brilliant record of this fine battleship, and speaks highly of the skill and care with which her admirable efficiency has been maintained during a service unprecedented in the history of vessels of her class.

"The Brooklyn's western headlocking position gave her an advantage in the chase which she maintained to the end, and she employed her fine battery with telling effect.

"The Texas and the New York were gaining on the chase during the last hour, and the Oregon would have been the Brooklyn or the Oregon would have speedily overhauled the Cristobal Colon.

"From the moment the Spanish vessel exhausted her first burst of speed the result was never in doubt. She fell, in fact, far below what might reasonably have been expected of her. Careful measurements of time and distance give her an average speed, from the time she cleared the harbor mouth until the time she was run on shore at Rio Turquino, of 13.7 knots. Neither the New York nor the Brooklyn stopped to couple up their forward engines, but ran on the chase with one engine getting steam, of course, as rapidly as possible on all boilers. To stop to couple the forward engines would have meant a delay of fifteen minutes, or four miles in the chase.

"Several of the ships were struck. The Brooklyn more so than the others, but very slight material injury was done, the greatest being aboard the Iowa.

"Our loss was one man killed and one wounded, both on the Brooklyn. It is difficult to explain this immunity from loss of life or injury to ships in a combat with modern vessels of the best type, but Spanish gunnery is poor at the best, and the superior weight and accuracy of our fire speedily drove the men from their guns and silenced their fire. This is borne out by the statements of prisoners and by observation.

"The Spanish vessels, as they dashed out of the harbor, were favored with the smoke from their own guns, but this speedily diminished in volume, and soon almost disappeared.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

SPAIN HAS SUEVED FOR PEACE.

Not Indirectly Through the Powers, But by Direct Appeal to President McKinley.

The Proposition Submitted by the French Ambassador.

It Was Confined to the One Essential Point of an Earnest Plea That Negotiations Be Opened Terminating the War.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—The Spanish Government has sued for peace, not indirectly through the great Powers of Europe, but by direct appeal to President McKinley. The proposition was formally submitted to the President at 3 o'clock this afternoon by the French Ambassador, M. Jules Cambon, who had received instructions from the Foreign Office at Paris to deliver to the United States Government the tender of peace formulated by the Spanish Cabinet. At the conclusion of the conference between the President and the French Ambassador, the following official statement was issued from the White House:

"The French Ambassador, on behalf of the Government of Spain, and by direction of the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented to the President this afternoon at the White House a message from the Spanish Government looking to the termination of the war and the settlement of terms of peace."

"This was the only official statement made public, but it sufficed to put at rest all conjecture, and to make it clear and definite that at last Spain had taken the initiative toward peace. Although peace rumors have been current almost daily here since the war began, not one of them had the shadow of foundation, and until the French Ambassador received instructions from Paris, late last night, no overtures of any kind had been received.

Shortly before midnight last night a dispatch to the French Embassy made it known to the Embassy that the Ambassador would be charged with the important mission of opening peace negotiations in behalf of Spain. The complete instructions, including an official letter from Duke Almodovar de Rio, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, were received this morning. Thereupon M. Thiebut, First Secretary of the Embassy, called at the State Department and asked that an hour be appointed for a call by Ambassador Cambon to the President. The purpose of the call was not stated. It was arranged at the White House that the call should be made at 3 o'clock. M. Cambon first went to the State Department, where he was joined by Secretary Day. They then proceeded together to the White House.

The call lasted about half an hour, and after the first formalities had been executed by M. Cambon the talk became general and quite informal. The President, the Ambassador and the Secretary of State discussed the outlook for a conclusion of hostilities.

The proposition submitted by the Ambassador acting for the Spanish Government was quite general in terms, and was confined to the one essential point of an earnest plea that negotiations be opened for the purpose of terminating the war and arriving at terms of peace.

The communication of the Spanish Government did not suggest any specific terms of peace, nor was any reference made to Cuba, the Philippines, Porto Rico or other Spanish possessions. The evident purpose of the Madrid authorities was first to learn whether the United States would treat on the subject of peace, and after to take up such terms as the two parties might suggest. Neither was there any suggestion from the Spanish Government that an armistice be established pending the peace negotiations. It seemed natural, however, from the proposition that formal peace negotiations be entered upon, that pending their conclusion a cessation of hostilities would occur.

Owing to the importance of the communication, the Ambassador used the usual diplomatic procedure of reading the communication from the original in French, the translation being submitted by M. Thiebut. In the conversation which followed the reading of the proposition neither the President nor the Ambassador entered into the question of the terms of peace. The instructions of the Ambassador had been confined to the one essential point of opening peace negotiations, and it was evident that the President desired to consider the proposition at this moment before giving any definite reply. It was finally determined that the President would consult the members of his Cabinet concerning the proposition, and after a decision had been arrived at M. Cambon would then be invited to the White House for a further conference.

(Continued on Sixth Page.)