

OUR ARMY ARRIVES

Gen. Shafter's 16,000 Troops Are Off Santiago.

CHOOSING A PLACE TO LAND

Sampson and Shafter Confer and Afterward Visit Garcia.

A Line of Transports Eight Miles Long Jostled Sampson's Fleet on Monday Noon—Spaniards Watched the Impending Fight from Morro's Heights—The Troops in Fine Health and Spirits—Our Fleet Can Certainly Protect the Landing of the Army, Which May Not Occur for a Day or Two—Garcia is on the Coast Ready to Co-operate with Us—The Vesuvius Fires Three More Shells, One of Which Destroys Part of a Powerful Battery and Knocks Down a House—The Merrimack Does Not Entirely Block the Harbor Entrance—Spanish Batteries Strengthened—A Report That Corvera Will Try to Escape.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, June 20.—With flags flying and the guns of Admiral Sampson's flagship booming a salute to the General commanding, the first American army of occupation sailed grandly up almost to within range of the guns of Morro Castle at 12:10 o'clock this afternoon. At the present moment the troops only await the word to land and march on Santiago.

The convoys and the big transports of the fleet presented an impressive sight. They stretched out over eight miles of the Caribbean Sea, gently moving with the ground swell, as though courtesying to the grim warships which have been so long awaiting their coming. Their decks were thronged with soldiers, whose eyes were directed shoreward to the picturesque land in which they are soon to meet the foe of their country in the clash and din of battle.

As the fleet sailed up the New York saluted Gen. Shafter, and the transports and their convoys then wheeled into single file and paraded past the warships, each vessel dipping her flag to Admiral Sampson as she passed.

The battleship Indiana was in the lead. She was followed by the gunboats Bancroft, Castine, Machias, and Annapolis, in the order named. After them came a number of the transports, which were in turn followed by a torpedo boat. Next in line were the rest of the transports, while the rear was brought up by the cruiser Detroit and the convoys Helena, Wasp, Eagle, Hornet, and several others.

Immediately after the arrival of the fleet the Admiral's launch put off from the New York and got Gen. Shafter and his staff, who were conveyed aboard the flagship. They were received by Admiral Sampson, who invited them to take lunch with him. While partaking of the lunch Gen. Shafter and his staff told of the trip from Key West, which was without incident of note. Then a conference was held between Admiral Sampson and his staff, Gen. Shafter and his staff, and Gen. Castillo and other Cubans on the question of landing the troops and their supplies and the attack on Santiago.

The men on the warships had almost given up hope of the troops coming here, and some of them did not hesitate to express their belief that no army existed that was intended to operate against Santiago. The news had come so often that the transports had started, only to be afterward denied, that the men can scarcely be blamed for doubting the intention of the Government to send military reinforcements.

When at daylight this morning the armed tug Wompatuck was sighted to the southward by THE SUN's despatch boat she was flying a signal on her foremast indicating that she was the bearer of despatches to Admiral Sampson. She was hailed by THE SUN's boat, which ran down to her and asked for information. One of her officers said that the transports were a short distance behind her and would arrive about noon.

Then the Wompatuck ran alongside the New York with the news of the approaching army, and soon the intelligence was signalled to the rest of the fleet, causing much joy aboard the warships. Everybody said: "Now we will do something." "This is the beginning of the end."

An hour later the long-looked-for auxiliary cruiser Resolute was sighted. A mariner aboard of her reported that the transports had been seen off Cape Maysl, the eastern extremity of Cuba, at 2:15 o'clock on Sunday. They were proceeding at the rate of six knots an hour, quite a slow speed, but rendered necessary by some of the slow-moving craft that formed part of the fleet.

As soon as Admiral Sampson had been informed of the nearness of the transports he despatched a torpedo boat to meet them. THE SUN's despatch boat went along, the transports were met twenty miles off shore,

and about fifteen miles east of where the warships were lying off Santiago.

When they were met the ships were all abreast, thirty-six in number, at regular intervals about a quarter of a mile apart. The line stretched as far as the eye could see. The sight was a beautiful one. Every ship was jammed to the rails, and there were men in the rigging and on the yards, waving their hats and cheering wildly. They were all eager to be told the news as THE SUN's boat approached closely to some of them.

As the fleet drew near to Santiago orders were given for a change of the formation, and the manœuvre was executed without a hitch. The sight from Morro Castle must have sent a chill down the backs of the Spaniards who were watching the arrival of the troops from the parapets with glasses. All hands were cheering and waving hats and flags as the transports passed by the ships of the fleet and circled out to sea. The line went about eleven miles off shore, when the ships were to directly in front of the castle, shore batteries, and the entrance of the harbor.

Capt. Taylor of the Indiana told a SUN reporter that the flotilla and the convoys started on Wednesday and saw nothing until Sunday, when they sighted an English merchantman off Cape Maysl, at the eastern end of Cuba.

Ackerman, chief petty officer of the Rodgers, which was being towed, got caught in the towline on Sunday, and was swept overboard and lost. The Rodgers threw a life preserver and put out a boat, but failed to save Ackerman. He was a valuable officer and a good swimmer, and was soon to be married.

Off Guantanamo this morning the Rodgers put in and reported the approach of the expedition to the Marblehead. Commander McCalla, two SUN reporters, and the torpedo boat Porter went out and paid their respects to the Indiana. The troops and sailors cheered when told of our marines' victorious landing.

Admiral Sampson explained the whole situation at the conference on his flagship, and laid before the council all the facts that had been gathered by our own men and reported by Cubans. Admiral Sampson had been fully informed of many important facts by Gen. Calixto Garcia and his staff, Col. Collazo, Col. Valiente, Capt. Portuondo, Lieut. Machado, Gen. Lore and his chief of staff, Lieut.-Col. Melarses, and two other officers, Lieut.-Col. Hernandez, and Major Bueno, all of whom visited the flagship Sunday. Gen. Garcia had just returned to the neighborhood of Santiago, conveying arms and ammunition landed by the Americans for the use of the insurgents.

While the conference was going on the transports stood well out to sea, where they were perfectly safe from shots from shore, and the soldiers aboard of them gazed curiously at the old Morro, so battered by the warships, and the land batteries on either side of the entrance to the bay.

After the conference between Admiral Sampson and Gen. Shafter the two officers went aboard the steamer Segurancas and were taken to Aserradero, twenty-two miles west of Santiago, where Gen. Garcia and his force are encamped.

Here Admiral Sampson and Gen. Shafter went ashore and had a long conference with Garcia. What plans were arranged for the landing of our forces could not, of course, be learned. Admiral Sampson and Gen. Shafter returned to the fleet in the evening. Gen. Garcia strongly advised that the troops be distributed among several landing places east and west of Santiago.

After the arrival of the troops this afternoon a bright fire and a cloud of smoke were seen above Morro.

The officers of the blockading ships were greatly puzzled at this manifestation. Cubans arriving this evening from the interior reported as THE SUN's despatch boat left to file this despatch that Admiral Corvera was expected to make a desperate attempt to get out of the harbor to-night.

Admiral Sampson's battleships are close by, and hopeful that the Spaniards will make the attempt.

There was noticeable activity on the fortifications to-day, but no firing.

All the fighting ships and transports were ordered to remain outside the blockade patrol to-night.

The hospital ship Solace has proved a great success. The marines who were wounded in the engagements about Camp McCalla, Guantanamo Bay, are all getting well, and the doctors say that most of them will be on their feet and able to fight again in about fifteen days. The sea air has probably had much to do with their speedy progress toward recovery.

It may be a day or two before it is decided where the landing of the troops will be made. There is no question of the ability of the fleet to protect the landing wherever it shall be made.

The last shooting from the fleet took place at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, when the Vesuvius threw three more of her 500-pound shells on the ridge west of Santiago. One of these awful missiles destroyed a portion of the powerful western battery which has given so much annoyance to the fleet since the blockade of the port began. The other two shells went over the ridge of hills, and their effect was not seen. The Vesuvius was one mile off shore when she fired. Besides injuring the

battery, the first shell knocked down a house on the hill.

It is now officially admitted that the sunken Merrimack does not block the entrance to the harbor, and also that the shore batteries at Santiago have been greatly strengthened. It is believed that some of the guns from Admiral Corvera's vessels have been taken ashore and mounted on the hills.

The Spanish at Guantanamo seem to have subsided of late. Nothing of any moment is occurring there, and the marines practically have the field to themselves.

Cuban scouts, who have been through the woods in the neighborhood of Camp McCalla, estimate that fully 300 Spaniards were killed in the three days' fighting there. The Spaniards made no attempt to bury their dead, and the marines had no time to do it for them. As a result, it is not possible now to go within two miles of the valley where the biggest fight took place. Thousands of buzzards hover over the valley gorged to repletion with the awful food war has brought to them.

STORY OF THE JOURNEY.

Experiences of Our Soldier Boys During the Week at Sea.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

WITH SHAFER'S EXPEDITION, OFF SANTIAGO, June 20.—The anxiously looked for American army of invasion has at last arrived off this place after a comparatively uneventful voyage.

The troops are eager to get ashore, it now being seven days since they left Egmont Key, off the coast of Florida. Few of the men have had any sea experience, and they dislike exceedingly their close confinement aboard the troopships.

There is, however, little grumbling among them. They were extremely fortunate in having had pleasant weather nearly all the time so that few of them suffered from seasickness.

At the time of sending this despatch nothing definite had been decided as to the time or place where the troops would be landed.

The correspondent of THE SUN accompanied the fleet on the steamer Olivette, which has been converted into a hospital ship. She did not start with the troopships, but caught up with them before they had proceeded any great distance.

On Thursday morning the Olivette was at the head of the widely stretched out procession. The sight was a magnificent one. There were thirty-seven vessels in the fleet, exclusive of the eleven warships which were conveying the expedition.

The progress of the fleet was slow, as the faster vessels had to run at reduced speed in order not to get away from the slower ones. The spectacle presented by the slowly moving vessels, guarded by the warships in every direction, was an impressive one.

Among the vessels keeping a close watch for the enemy were the Indiana, Bancroft, Helena, Hornet, Ericsson, Porter, Annapolis, and Castine, forming a squadron more than sufficient to deal with any of Spain's free ships should there be any of them in West Indian waters.

Altogether, the vessels formed the greatest flotilla of troopships ever sent at one time to a foreign country by any nation in the world.

The vessels proceeded without trouble of any kind in the positions assigned to them. As darkness set in they would become invisible, as only one of them, the former Ward liner Segurancas, having on board Gen. Shafter and his staff, was allowed to show any lights.

This made navigation necessarily very difficult, as every precaution had to be observed to prevent collisions.

On Friday Romano Keys, directly north of the city of Puerto Principe, were sighted. This was the first view the men had of Cuba, and it seemed to prophesy the near ending of the voyage, which by this time had become most tedious and uninteresting.

The Olivette began to take sick men on board on Saturday. During that day fourteen soldiers suffering from slight attacks of typhoid fever and measles were transferred to her.

Some difficulty was experienced in transferring the men at sea, but the work was accomplished with as little discomfort as possible to the sick men. There were no deaths on any of the transports. Three of the typhoid patients are members of Roosevelt's rough riders.

The work of transferring the men occupied four hours, during which time all the vessels of the fleet hoisted.

On Sunday there was quite a little sea running, and many of the horses and mules died. Their bodies were quickly thrown overboard to become food for the sharks, while the space they had occupied added to the comfort of those remaining.

The facilities on the transports for handling animals were poor, and if further shipments are made, other methods will have to be adopted.

There was nothing worthy of note during the rest of the voyage. During the entire trip a close lookout was kept, particularly at night, for vessels of the enemy, but none was seen. Shortly after noon on Monday the entire fleet was off Santiago.

Heavy shipments from Poland. Carloads of Poland water arrive daily at the New York depot, 3 Park place, near Broadway.—Ad.

IN TOUCH WITH SHAFER.

DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH THE INVADERS.

Capt. Allen Succeeds in Opening a Cable Station at Guantanamo and Will Run a Cable to the Landing Place of the Santiago Expedition—Delicate Work Done.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Having been assured of the safe arrival of Gen. Shafter's command off the coast of Santiago province, the Government expects to hear very soon that a landing has been effected and the protection of Admiral Sampson's guns. That this information was not received to-day may be due to the fact that the cable is now being landed at Calmanera and the station being established. Although the Administration officials in Washington have an idea of the manner in which the landing is to be accomplished, the plans for the debarkation having been formulated generally in advance, no definite information has been received in regard to the details of the landing. Only the facts that the troops have arrived at their destination and that Gen. Shafter and Admiral Sampson conferred have reached Washington. The means by which this information was received is gratifying to the Government.

Under censorship of an officer of the United States Signal Corps, cable messages will be sent hereafter from Washington and Guantanamo at the discretion of the Government. The negotiations to obtain the use of the Guantanamo cable cost more than a month of constant effort by the officers of the army Signal Corps under Gen. Greely. Gen. Greely was ordered by the Government several weeks ago to open negotiations through the proper channels with the cable line of the United States, in order that all arrangements for prompt communication might be completed by the time the invading force in Santiago province should have accomplished a landing.

The task was difficult, and the efforts of the Signal Corps were nearly nullified on several occasions by the premature publication of facts connected with the negotiations. It was necessary to avoid any implication in the proceedings which would give offence to the French Government, but the Government was not entirely neutral in the relations of the United States and Spain. At the same time the most rigid precautions had to be taken to guard against the transmission of matter over the cable which might prejudice the interests of the United States in the war. It was required at the outset that no cables should be used as a means of communication in communicating between Hong Kong and Manila should be allowed to exist.

The negotiations with the French Cable Company, controlling the line between Guantanamo and Hayti, were at last successful, and a dispatch from Capt. James Allen was received by Gen. Greely yesterday, sent by the Guantanamo cable, informing him that he had the end of the line on board a French ship, and that he hoped to establish the regular cable office on shore on Tuesday.

The second message to be sent over the line was in reply to a communication from Washington. Capt. Allen was informed that the President desired to know if the troopships under Gen. Shafter had arrived at Santiago. Capt. Allen replied that he had not seen the ships, but that he would communicate with Capt. McCalla of the cruiser Marlborough on the subject. Late last night a message was received from McCalla announcing that the troopships had arrived off Santiago yesterday morning. Before noon, he said, Gen. Shafter had gone on board the steamer New York, and was at the time of cabling in consultation with Admiral Sampson.

The army and navy officers are delighted with the arrangements for telegraphic communication between Washington and Guantanamo. The cable station will be established at Calmanera, near the end of the railroad which extends from that place up the west side of the bay to Guantanamo.

Arrangements have been made with the Hayti Cable Company by which messages sent over the line from the War Department to Santiago will be transmitted to New York promptly. So perfect are the arrangements for telegraphing that a message filed in Calmanera can be delivered to the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy within fifteen minutes. The same promptness will be had in sending messages in the opposite direction.

Capt. James Allen of Major-General Miles's staff will act as press censor at Calmanera, and the most rigid censorship will be exercised. The French authorities will be allowed to transmit commercial messages only.

When Col. Allen started on his present expedition to establish communication by cable between the south coast of Cuba and the United States he took with him on board ship about fifty miles of cable for the purpose of laying a telegraph line from Calmanera to Aguadorea, a place about five miles from the cable line, and only a few miles east of Santiago. If the American troops succeed in making a landing at Aguadorea, the place selected for the purpose, the Government will wish to avoid the delay in telegraphic communication which would be occasioned by the necessity of sending messages from the cable station at Calmanera. If the War Department feels confident enough that the line can be protected it is possible that an overland telegraph line will be established between Aguadorea and Calmanera instead of a submarine cable.

WAR NEWS BY DIRECT CABLE.

Prospect of Getting the News from Cuba Through Many Hours Earlier Now.

At the offices of the Commercial Cable Company it was said yesterday that it was not known what arrangement had been made between the United States military and naval authorities and the French West Indies Cable Company, which controls the cable between Hayti and Guantanamo.

"As a matter of fact," it was said, "it is altogether likely that no definite agreement has been made. The French cable people are understood to be willing that the United States should use their lines. The terms and conditions have not been likely left open. If the terms and conditions are not settled there may be a repetition of the Manila cable incident. The people there simply declined to operate their Manila-Hong Kong line until they learned where they would stand after the war. The Manila cable, I observe, is not operated yet."

The cable ran from Santiago to Guantanamo about a week ago. The line was cut some time ago. From Guantanamo it crossed to Hayti, landing at Mole St. Nicolas. That stretch, which was also cut, is the one which has just been spliced and is now used by the United States signal officers at Guantanamo Bay. From Mole St. Nicolas there is a line under water to Cape Hayti. Thence there is a direct American wire to New York of the United States and Hayti Telegraph and Cable Company. At each station, Mole St. Nicolas and Cape Hayti, the message has to be taken down and repeated to the next one. The wire is a single one for each way, and the message is sent over it at a time. The operators on the French line are Frenchmen and are wont to have difficulty with English despatches, also in understanding the peculiar desire that an American has for haste. From Cape Hayti to New York the message is sent by the direct American wire to New York of the United States and Hayti Telegraph and Cable Company. 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