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WOOD RIVER TIMES

HAILEY, IDAHO.

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THE BOMBARDMENT

HOW THE OUTSIDE FORTS WERE SILENCED.

Very Accurate Firing—The Fortifications Hit at the Second Fire—Egyptian Officers Settling a Good Example.

OFF ALEXANDRIA, July 12.—The Ras El Tin Palace took fire at the beginning of the bombardment and was still burning at the time this dispatch was sent. The men were called for on board the Invincible at 1 p. m. to go ashore and spike the guns at Fort Mex. Although the work was dangerous, as troops might have been lying behind the fort, there were plenty of volunteers. Twelve men were chosen and placed in charge of three officers. The landing party were obliged to swim through the surf. The party landed unopposed, and after bursting the guns with gun cotton, returned without any casualties.

The Penelope was struck five times and one gun disabled. The Independence was hit many times but only six shot penetrated her armor. The Monarch was not hit, owing to her moving about. After the fight was over the whole fleet drew off from the shore and the vessels approached each other.

NEW YORK, July 13.—The Herald special, dated on board the Invincible, has these details: At half-past 6 quiet order was passed around the deck to load with ammunition shell and a gleam of satisfaction shone on the men's faces. At 7 o'clock the signal was made to Alexandria to open the ball by firing one gun. A heavy boom came across the water. Then there was an anxious pause—would the Egyptians answer, or would they evacuate the forts? No sound came from Fort Ada, but on the batteries opposite we could see men loading their guns. They would fight. The order was given to commence independent firing and a signal was run up for the fleet to begin a general engagement and a deafening salvo from five nine-inch guns went from the side of the Invincible, while overhead ten Vordenfeldt guns in the tops swelled the din which burst forth from all the ships.

The bank of smoke that at once arose from our ship prevented me from seeing the results of our fire, but from the tops, it was seen that the shells had struck rather low and the sights were raised from 1,350 to 1,500 yards. The Monarch and Penelope had both worked close at hand and the roar of their heavy guns, the ceaseless rattle of their Gatling and Nordenfeldt machines, and the rush of rockets which the Monarch was discharging, added to the sound of our guns, made up a deep, continuous din, which it is impossible to describe, and was most bewildering to hear. In any momentary interval the sound of guns from the other division of the fleet told that they also were hard at work.

Hardy, a midshipman, posted in the maintop, signaled the direction of the strike of the shells and the accuracy of the fire improved. Meantime the enemy's shots were coming thick and fast, their aim being directed chiefly against the Penelope and Inflexible. They were firing principally round shot. Twenty minutes after the first gun was fired over Fort Rohal our braces were shot away. Immediately after a shot penetrated forward, a splinter wounding a stoker severely. At this time they appeared to have got our range pretty accurately and round and conical shot whistled thickly between the masts. I went round the ship and found the men fighting the main deck guns, all stripped to the waist. Between each shot they had to sit down and wait until the smoke cleared. They were very anxious to know the result of their work and asked eager questions of me as to what could be seen above, but I could tell them little, for the smoke hung like a veil between us and the shore.

To-morrow we go in to engage the forts within the harbor. Outside of

us are mercantile ships and foreign war vessels, most of whom will re-enter the harbor after we have destroyed the last of the threatening forts.

Over Alexandria lies a cloud of battle, partly caused, no doubt, by the smoke of the guns, which the wind has not yet blown clear of the town, and partly from that arising from the burning palace.

No message of news has reached us from the town, and we know nothing of what is passing there, what losses have been suffered, or what feelings have been excited among the soldiers or the populace by the events of to-day. The last which reached us before the fight commenced was to the effect that the Nationals were cutting the wires with India and were considering the advisability of blocking up the Suez canal.

The events of to-day show that the determination expressed by Arabi and his party to oppose the fleet to the death has not so far been a vain boast. I think they fought their gang to the last, but the fire of the fleet was so crushing and our metal so superior as to make their resistance ineffective.

They appeared to possess no shells, which was fortunate for us, for had they used these instead of round shot, the casualty would have been much larger. As it is, our success, though not bloodless, has been achieved at a much smaller cost than could have been expected from the formidable nature of the forts we had to attack.

The most interesting incident was a fight between the gunboat Condor, commanded by Lord Charles Berafast, with the Agemi fort. This little vessel went close under the guns of the fort and opened a tremendous fire, but was unable to silence it. The Admiral then signaled the other gunboats to assist in the engagement.

This morning the whole fleet drew off shore and approached each other. Their first day's work is complete, and the whole line of batteries outside the harbor of Alexandria have been destroyed.

LONDON, July 12.—A dispatch from the Eastern Cable Company's ship off Alexandria, sent at 11:40 this forenoon, says the Inflexible and Temeraire opened fire this morning on Monieriff, the fort which, during the night, had been repaired. Three shots greatly damaged the batteries. A signal has just been given to cease firing. The Achilles has just been sighted steaming toward the fleet.

Admiral Seymour telegraphs that the party from the Invincible which landed to destroy Fort Mexas burst three and spiked six guns in the fort.

The wounded include Lieutenant Jack, severely injured, Lieutenant Davies and Midshipman Lumsden, slightly injured.

OFF ALEXANDRIA, July 12 (1:30 p. m.)—A steamer is approaching the fleet with a flag of truce.

The Standard correspondent sends the following: One of the officials from Dervish Pasha, who brought the letter from the Ministry to Seymour offering to dismount the guns, informed me that he and many others were not sorry that hostilities had begun, as it was the only way in which the end could be made and the fate of the two parties, viz: the one in favor of the Khedive and the other of Arabi Bey and anarchy, could be decided. The officials were conveyed ashore after Seymour had given them his decision in writing.

At 6:30 a. m. an order was passed to load with shell, and satisfaction was shown on the faces of the sailors. The wind and sun were both in the enemy's favor. It was some time before the smoke lifted enough to afford a glimpse of the shore. As nothing could be seen from the deck a midshipman was posted in the maintop to signal the direction of the shells and the accuracy of the firing improved.

The Times correspondent at Alexandria, describing yesterday's bombardment, particularly mentions the

deadly effect of the electric broadsides from the ships which attacked the Pharos and Rosentin forts. The Inflexible, being the furthest westward, was able to shell the Mexas fort with one turret and the Rassetin forts with the other. After all the enemy's guns were silenced the men-of-war continued shelling the fortifications and used shrapnel, probably at the retreating soldiers.

The Egyptian officers set a good example to the men, frequently jumping upon the parapets to see the effects of their fire.

A party of marines which landed from the Invincible to blow up the Jert Mex saw several dead inside the fort.

A correspondent on the Invincible telegraphs that the boats and batteries on the sea wall are a heap of ruins. The Egyptians stuck to their guns until the forts were crumbling. The aim of the Egyptian General was chiefly against the Penelope and Invincible, and they fired principally round shot. Their elevation was bad, the Invincible being seldom hit.

OFF ALEXANDRIA, 1:30 p. m., July 12.—A flag of truce is also displayed from town.

LONDON, July 12.—A correspondent on board the Helicon sends the following: The loss of the Egyptians must be dreadful. A number of shells repeatedly struck the works just about the guns and threw up vast volumes of yellow dust. It was often thought that the guns must have been demolished, but they appeared uninjured when the smoke had cleared. The funnel of the Superb is pierced and the plate below her foremast torn away. One of the boats of the Inflexible is useless and the other badly damaged. The Inflexible bore the full brunt of the west end of Rassetin fort for three and a half hours. The Sultan has a shot clean through her mainmast and another through her funnel. The harem adjoining the Rassetin and the adjacent rifle tower continued to burn all night.

A dispatch from Admiral Seymour, sent at 2 o'clock this afternoon, says: "There was no response to to-day's firing. A flag of truce was hoisted at noon at the arsenal where the Minister of War and the official divan are. A gunboat under a flag of truce proceeded at once to open communication."

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