

MOSQUITO FLEET

THE LITTLE PEORIA HAS HER FIRST BATTLE

IT PROVES A HOT TIME

REINFORCED BY THE HELENA, FORMS ARE DESTROYED

GEN. GOMEZ MEETS THE MEN

Supplies of All Kinds Landed for Use of the Insurgents—Gomez Writes a Letter

Associated Press Special Wire

KEY WEST, Fla., July 14.—Those champion filibusters, the Florida and Fantia, under convoy of the little gunboat Peoria, have landed the largest and probably the last expedition sent to aid the insurgents. It was a task beset with peril and difficulty, costing one man his life and wounds to half a dozen more.

Capt. Jose Manuel Nunez, brother of Gen. Emilio Nunez, was killed. Winthrop Chandler of New York was shot through the right elbow and five Cubans suffered trifling injuries. How many Spanish lives answered for this will never be known, but there were enough to balance the score.

The debarcation was effected on July 3d at Palo Alto, on the southern coast of Cuba, but the fighting occurred before then.

The Peoria's First Battle

To the Peoria, one of the newest acquisitions to the mosquito fleet, goes the full glory of the achievement. The Peoria was until lately a pilot boat at Philadelphia. The Florida and Fantia left Key West on Saturday, June 25th, under the convoy of the Peoria, commanded by Lieut. T. W. Ryan. On board the steamer were 30 Cuban, under Gen. Nunez, 50 troops of the Fifth United States cavalry, under Lieut. Johnson and Ahearn, and 25 Rough Riders, under Winthrop Chandler, brother of Col. William Astor Chandler. The cargoes included the horses of the cavalrymen, with forage; two dynamite guns, with 150 50-pound projectiles; two full batteries of light and heavy 3-inch rifles, with 1500 cartridges for the same; 4000 Springfield rifles, with 50,000 cartridges; 200 Mausers, with 200,000 cartridges; 200 Colt's revolvers and 21,000 cartridges, 1475 saddles, 450 bridles, 652 infantry uniforms, including 5000 pairs of shoes and blankets, shirts, hats and hammocks, and over 5000 pounds of provisions, including bacon, cornmeal, coffee, sugar, beef, beans, hard tack and canned corn.

A Spanish Ambuscade

At Las Lunas, near the mouth of the Tallabacoa river, the expedition found a large fort, built of railroad iron and surrounded by earthworks. The Peoria ran boldly in and fired several shots from her 3-inch guns, but without response and no signs of life. Here a scouting party, made up of 15 volunteers, under Winthrop Chandler, and as many Cubans, under Capt. Nunez, was sent ashore. The Peoria took a position within short range of the fort to prevent a landing or cover a retreat, to protect the landing party, and the small boats headed for shore. They reached it 500 yards east of the fort. The boats were beached and their occupants cautiously scrambled toward the brush. At almost the very moment they set foot on the sands, the fort and entrenchment burst into flames and shot and shell screamed about the little band of invaders.

Capt. Nunez was stepping from his boat when a shot struck him between the eyes, and he went down, dead. Chandler fell with a broken arm. The men safely gained the thicket and replied with a sharp fire directed at the entrenchments. Meanwhile the Peoria set all her guns at work and rained shells upon the fort until the enemy's fire ceased.

Hard Fight for Life

A retreat was ordered, and the party rushed for the boats, but volley after volley came from the shore and they were compelled to throw themselves into the water and paddle along beside the boats with only their heads exposed above the ships were reached. The Spanish had the range, however, and five Cubans were wounded, though none seriously.

The Peoria opened her guns on a grove of cocoanut palms from which the Spaniards had been sending in a hot fire, and must have killed many Spaniards, for her shells struck and sank the boats, and the wreckage of the adversary's ships glancing it. When the small boats reached the ship it was dark. Then the discovery was made that besides Captain Nunez, whose body was left on the beach, there were missing Chandler, Drs. Lund and Abbott, Lieutenant Agramentis and two Cubans. It was reported that Chandler had been mortally wounded and was kept afloat in the bushes along the shore by the two doctors.

Rescue Parties Sent Ashore

No less than four rescue parties were sent ashore during the night. Toward morning Lieutenant Ahearn, in charge of one of these, found Chandler and his companions. Chandler's wound proved to be in the right elbow. After sunrise Agramentis and his Cubans were discovered and brought off. The next day the gunboat Helena arrived and Friday morning she and the Peoria steamed in toward Las Lunas, which the Spanish had been vigorously fortifying. Lunas is connected by rail with Sancti Spiritus, a town of considerable size, and reinforcements and artillery had been rapidly coming in. Range buoys had been placed in the bay, but, avoiding these, the ships drove into close range and opened fire.

Bombardment of Las Lunas

The Spaniards had several Krupp field pieces of three and four inches mounted on earthworks along the water front, and they began a vigorous but ill-directed reply with shell and shrapnel. The fire of our ships was most accurate and destructive. The Spanish gunners fired but fifteen or twenty shots before their guns were flying in the air, their earthworks a mass of blood-stained dust and their gunners running for their lives. Both the Peoria and the Helena were struck several times, but no one on either ship was injured. As they withdrew several buildings on shore were in flames.

That afternoon both ships again turned their attention to the fort an entrenchments at the mouth of the Tallabacoa river and for half an hour poured a wicked fire upon them. The Spaniards had been largely reinforced during the day and some 500 rifles had been mounted near the fort. These replied to the American fire, but



"YOU'RE NEXT"

—New York Herald.

A HEARTY WELCOME

NEW YORK TROOPERS GIVEN A RECEPTION

Pavilion at San Francisco Crowded. Thousands Join in Singing "America"

SAN FRANCISCO, July 14.—Six more companies of the First North Dakota Volunteers arrived on this side of the Bay from Oakland this morning. They were escorted to the Red Cross headquarters, where breakfast was served, after which, headed by a reception committee, a platoon of police, the Tennessee Regimental Band, the soldiers marched to the Mechanics' Pavilion, where a public reception was held in honor of the regiment. The New Yorkers who arrived here yesterday spent last night at Camp Merritt, and this morning marched to the pavilion, where they joined the men who arrived this morning.

The pavilion was very prettily decorated with the national colors and at the western end a large American flag was draped. Two tables stood across the western end of the officers. There were seats for 1500. The tables were decorated with flowers and American flags.

It did not take long for the soldiers and their hosts and hostesses to get acquainted. The ladies were cheered, California was cheered, the committee was cheered and everything and anything that came to the minds of the men was cheered.

One of the features of the reception was the singing of "America" by the companies. The Tennessee and Seventh California bands consolidated and everybody stood and sang "America." A few patriotic airs were played and the reception terminated with "Auld Lang Syne" and "Home, Sweet Home."

The men then buckled on their accoutrements and having had a proper introduction to San Francisco marched to Camp Merritt.

Gen. W. H. L. Barnes was the president of the occasion and had general charge of all the arrangements. The reception committee consisted of Col. C. M. Kline, Col. H. P. Bush, Philip L. Fisher, A. J. Delamar and J. P. Mein.

SOME OF THE HARDSHIPS ENDED BY THE VOLUNTEERS BEFORE SAN FRANCISCO

NEW YORK, July 14.—Private James Carroll, Company M, Seventy-first Regiment, who was wounded in the battle near Santiago, July 1st, and who arrived here on the steamer Kansas City, said last night:

"If the people here only knew what the boys have to suffer, they would be interested in anybody else in this country. With the awful rains that chill through the night and the sun that blisters all through the day, they have not a minute of rest. It is misery to live there. I only had a little of it, after all, and while I'll have more as soon as I'm able to go home again, it is only because it is my duty that I will go.

"One of the worst experiences I had was when we were on outpost duty on June 30th, the day before the bombardment. We had been soaked through with rain and broiled with the sun for a dozen times. It was through ground that was boggy with the rains and through cactus plants that jagged and caught us seemingly at every point on the way. Although our orders were to make all haste possible, we found it all we could do to travel three-quarters of a mile in an hour.

"The natural difficulties were not the worst, either. "Our marching had been discovered by the Spanish guerrillas, and while we could not see them, they made their presence felt. They skulked through the chaparral and kept up a fire which gave us not an instant of security. Every now and again some of the boys would be wounded. The firing kept up all through the night, which showed that we were pursued by those villainous bushwhackers.

"All the time we thought we saw their shadows as they skulked along in the brush that made our march a hell, but which protected them. Their numbers we could not tell, but judging from the way that the bullets came whenever we reached an opening, they must have been considerable. When we were not in the open the plan was to pick us off, and, unfortunately, they succeeded in so many cases that we could only do the best we could.

THE SEVENTH STAYS

FOURTH AND FIFTH MANILA EXPEDITIONS MADE UP

BRIG. GEN. OTIS' COMMAND

Southern California Boys Not Mentioned in the Assignments. Another Expedition

Associated Press Special Wire SAN FRANCISCO, July 14.—The transport steamer City of Puebla and the Peru received their complement of troops today, and tomorrow, unless contrary orders are received from Washington, the two steamers will sail for Honolulu and will arrive there in time to participate in the ceremony of annexation.

Major-General Otis, commanding the fourth fleet of transports, will make the Puebla his flagship. Brigadier-General Harrison Gray Otis will also sail on this vessel. The officers and troops which will embark on the Puebla are:

Major-General E. S. Otis and his staff, Brigadier-General H. G. Otis, all of the remaining companies of the Fourteenth United States Infantry, recruits of the first and second battalions of the Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments, enlisted men of the First North Dakota Volunteers, the First Idaho Cavalry, and members of the hospital corps, a total of 843 men.

The troops to go on the Peru consist of a squadron of the Fourth United States Cavalry, light batteries of the Sixth United States Artillery, a detachment of the Third United States Artillery, a detachment of the signal corps under Captain Russell, a detachment of volunteers, medical officers and members of the hospital corps. In all there will be 1783 officers and men to embark.

It is generally understood that the Puebla and Peru will remain at Honolulu after coaling to await the arrival of the other vessels of the fourth fleet, the Pennsylvania, Rio de Janeiro and St. Paul, though from present indications the last three vessels of the fleet cannot get away for at least a week or ten days, which means that we get a hot volley from the Spaniards that made us stop from the very force of impact, but the stop was only momentary. The boys kept on and won.

THE MINES IN HARBORS

Will Be Removed or Exploded—Can Easily Be Replaced

WASHINGTON, July 14.—In compliance with the determination of the Cabinet to order the removal of the submarine mines sunk in harbors and rivers before the war, General Wilson, Chief of Engineers, has addressed the following letter to all engineer officers under whose jurisdiction these works of defense rest:

"The Secretary of War has ordered that whenever the interests of commerce shall so demand, the submarine mines now placed in various rivers and harbors along the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts shall be removed or exploded.

"You are authorized to remove or explode, as in your judgment will be best for the interests of the service whenever the interests of commerce so demand, the submarine mines in the various rivers and harbors under your charge.

It is intended that the cables, junction boxes, anchors, casemate appliances, etc., shall remain in position, and that you shall have ready at each harbor the necessary mine cases, explosives, etc., so that mines to replace those removed can be laid immediately upon receipt of telegraphic instructions from the War Department, and withdrawing the charges, the utmost care must be observed, as it is possible that the friction arising from unscrewing the plug might cause an explosion.

"Should you deem best in the interests of the service to explode the mines in position, you are authorized to do so, and to have ready at each harbor sufficient materials to immediately replace them.

"In firing the mines you are requested to personally superintend the operation and to carefully observe the result in each case, so that the information gained, which will be of great value in the future, may be carefully collated in the interest of the science of war.

"You will please notify by telegraph the Chief of Engineers and the Division Engineer of your division whenever you are ready to explode the mines, so that they may have the opportunity of being present, and should their other important public duties permit.

"In all this work you are requested to use the utmost care to see that the harbor or river in the vicinity of the mines you propose to explode is absolutely clear of vessels when the explosion takes place, and to be more than careful on every possible point in case it is your intention to take up the mines and remove the charges.

"The views of the Torpedo Board in reference to removing the charges have been requested and will be communicated to you.

"Whenever the mines now placed do not in any way interfere with commerce they need not be removed."

Coulter Dry Goods Co. Ladies' Wrappers and Waists Removal Reductions. Broken lines and odd sizes, etc., have been still further reduced in order to clear the department of all surplus merchandise. The chances of the hour are worth coming to see. Both Wrappers and Waists are of fine wash materials, made in the latest style. It will pay you to spend a few moments in this department today and tomorrow, even if you do not wish to spend a penny. August Fashion Sheets and McCall Patterns now in. COULTER DRY GOODS CO. Corner Spring and Second Streets

COOL TRAIN ROBBERS

TWO MEN HELD UP BY EXPRESS TRAIN NEAR HUMBOLDT

Dynamite Used to Blow Up the Express Car and Later on the Safe. Poses in Pursuit

RENO, Nev., July 14.—Passenger train No. 16, east bound, was held up last night one mile east of Humboldt. The express car was blown up and the safe blown open. The robbers escaped. It is not given out how much they secured.

When the train arrived at a point one mile east of Humboldt, a negro and a white man covered the engineer with guns, stopped the train and going back to the express car they blew it up with dynamite, almost destroying the express packages. Covering Messenger George Hughes, they blew open the safe and rifled it of its contents, which were but a trifle, and decamped. The train went on to Winnemucca, where the damaged car was set out and express matter aged car was taken to a box car, and proceeded east.

It is rumored here that the negro has been arrested. A strong posse from Winnemucca is in pursuit. It is thought the robbers boarded the train at Reno at 8:35 last night.

Another Account WINNEMUCCA, Nev., July 14.—The first and most daring train robbery for years on the Truckee division of the Southern Pacific occurred at 2 o'clock this morning one mile east of Humboldt. Two masked robbers held up the east-bound express train, No. 1. The engineer, Wickland, and Fireman McDermott were taken off the engine and compelled to go to the express car. The robbers climbed over the tender and covered them with a revolver and Winchester. The robbers blew open the express car door with dynamite and also blew the safe open. The car was completely demolished. The amount secured is not known. No one was hurt in the explosion. Sheriff McNeil of Humboldt county and a posse is in close pursuit, and it is believed the robbers will be captured, as they only had a few hours' start of the officers.

Fireman McDermott said: "A mile east of Humboldt we heard a noise as if the engine was being worked. I went out to see what was going on and looking up saw two men climbing over the coal. One had a rifle which he pointed at me, and the other covered the engineer with a pistol. They kept us covered until we reached the gangway. One of them told the engineer to stop the engine. He did so, and the man told me to get off and go with them. "I asked if I could put on the injector so that the engine would not burn up, and I was told I could. They kept the guns on us while they waited. They bid us leave the engine and followed us to the express car. After firing a few shots in the ground they told us to knock on the door of the car and to tell the messenger who we were and not to shoot.

"We did, and the one with the pistol knocked on the door and called to the messenger to open the door. Instead of opening the door the messenger put out the door and told us to get out. The messenger then put a small stick of giant powder under the door and touched it off, saying 'I guess that will fetch him.' The door was partly blown open. They called the messenger again. This time he came to the door, but they sent him back to light the lamp. He was told to get out of the car and was a good fellow. After the passengers came out of the car the robber climbed in and placed a large dynamite cartridge near the door of the safe and after lighting the fuse jumped out and went ahead as far as the engine and walked back to the train. The robber then came back and placed a large dynamite cartridge near the door of the safe and after lighting the fuse jumped out and went ahead as far as the engine and walked back to the train. The robber then came back and placed a large dynamite cartridge near the door of the safe and after lighting the fuse jumped out and went ahead as far as the engine and walked back to the train.

"The engineer, messenger and myself were told to join hands and walk ahead. After walking away from the train a short distance we were told to halt, and the robbers shook hands with us and saying 'Adios' disappeared in the darkness. We went back to the train.

"One of the men was of medium height with reddish hair and beard, and the other was shorter and very dark. They were both cool and seemed to know what they were about."

Messenger Hughes did not know how much there was in the safe. There was not much in the treasure box.

LEUTENANT HOBSON'S FUTURE His Old Commander Advises Him to Remain a Constructor

NEW YORK, July 14.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Commodore Highborn, Chief Constructor of the navy, sent the following letter to the hero of the Merrimac at Santiago:

acquisition through your professional attainments. All expectations have been surpassed, and I again congratulate you on the performance and the brilliant future before you.

Commodore Highborn, while aware of being placed in the position of exerting any influence in the matter, is exceedingly anxious that Hobson shall not be transferred to the line of the navy, but shall retain his position in the construction corps, where his remarkable ability may be utilized to the best interests of the service.

The young constructor, before he joined Admiral Sampson's fleet, had already demonstrated his conspicuous capacity in ship designing, and, while the navy is rich in brave officers, with the increased number of ships and the strength of the navy, it is believed that Constructor Hobson has a greater career before him as a constructor than as a commander. His opportunities for impressing his individuality upon the navy are thought to be much greater in the staff than in the line. As he has up to this time given no intimation that he desires a transfer, it is not believed that he will consent to abandoning his profession.

TO MADRID FROM MANILA The Usual Misleading Statements as to the Situation

MADRID, July 14, 8 a.m.—The Cabinet at its meeting yesterday discussed the question of strengthening the resources of Spain and of finding the means for the necessities of the moment.

An official dispatch from the government has received a communication from General Toral, the Spanish commander at Santiago, with reference to the capitulation of that place. Such a communication, it is expected, would go to the Captain-General, who is competent to decide.

A dispatch from Governor-General Augusti, dated from Havana, says the steamer San Domingo has arrived at Varo Punta from Mexico with provisions and letters saying that Pinar del Rio has been bombarded and set on fire by an American warship.

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Now It's The Indiana All the Warships Claim the Credit for Destroying Cervera's Fleet

NEW YORK, July 14.—August Keller, one of the gunners aboard the battleship Indiana, has written to his brother Charles in Newark, N. J., a letter which throws some light on the battle which resulted in the destruction of Cervera's squadron.

According to the young gunner the Indiana played a leading part in the fray. He says that the fight lasted two hours, and that the Indiana whipped the Vizcaya and the two torpedo boats, Furor and Pluton. One of the Indiana's shells, which "railroad trains" went clear through one of the torpedo boats, exploding instantly afterward and sending the boat to the bottom.

Toward the end of the battle, when the Vizcaya was all but vanquished, the tars in the Indiana's turret got together and scratched on one of the shells in big letters this inscription: "Remember the Maine." The shell was run into the breach and the gun carefully sighted. Every marine held his breath as the lanyard was pulled. A tremendous cheer rang out as the great projectile crashed into the stern of the Vizcaya, tearing it to pieces and setting the vessel on fire.

Keller says the Indiana's crew took on board more than 300 prisoners, most of them badly wounded and nearly all stained with blood.

CARRIED THE MEASLES Oregon Troops Leave the Disease in Honolulu

HONOLULU, July 8, via Victoria, B. C., July 14.—C. Van Hamm and Miss Bernice Young, a daughter of Alexander Young of Oakland, Cal., were married June 30.

W. J. Coon, who is supposed to be at the head of an extensive smuggling ring, was arrested yesterday with 800 lbs of opium in his possession. Coon was released on \$1000 bail.

There are several mild cases of measles in Honolulu. It is stated by President Smith of the board of health that all the cases are traceable to the Oregon regiment of troops which arrived here the steamer Australia with the first expedition to Manila.

Sailed From Cervera PORTSMOUTH, N. H., July 14.—The United States auxiliary cruiser St. Louis sailed for Annapolis at 6 o'clock this morning, having on board Admiral Cervera and other Spanish officers captured at Santiago on July 2.

Died From His Injuries SANTA CRUZ, Cal., July 14.—Charles Ross, who was injured in the explosion yesterday, died last night.