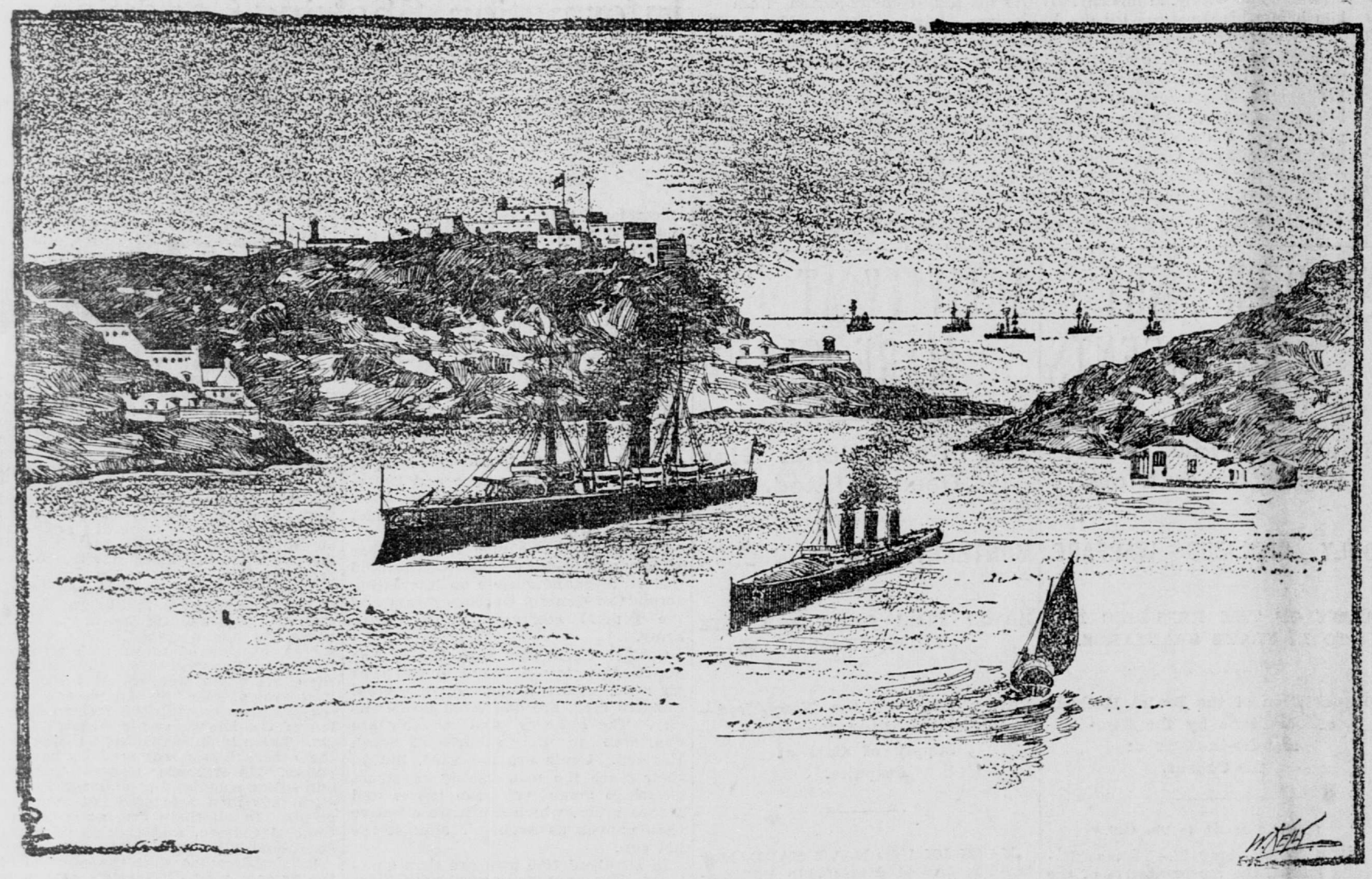


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HAVANA'S DEFENSES ARE SOON TO BE BOMBARDED



VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOR OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, LOOKING SEAWARD. This Shows the Morro Castle on the Left and Socapa Point on the Right, With the Spanish Cruiser Vizcaya and the Torpedo Destroyer Furor in the Foreground and the American Men-of-War in the Distance Watching the Entrance.

HAVANA IS SAMPSON'S OBJECTIVE MAY SAIL FROM CADIZ TO MANILA

ON BOARD THE HERALD-CALL DISPATCH BOAT ALBERT F. DEWEY, OLD BAHAMA CHANNEL, May 25 (via Key West, Fla., May 26).—Judging from the recent movements of Admiral Sampson's fleet the United States naval authorities no longer have any anxiety concerning the Spanish Cape Verde squadron. After a game of hide and seek along the northern coast of Cuba, which consumed several days, the prow of the flagship New York and her consorts are again turned westward, presumably to threaten Havana, or, perhaps, to take a prominent part in the long-delayed invasion of Cuba.

That Admiral Sampson should turn back at this seemingly critical juncture indicates that Admiral Cervera has helped our navy out of its dilemma by putting himself into a neat pocket at Santiago de Cuba and handing the key to Commander Schley. At any rate the most formidable danger yet met by the United States naval forces in this war has apparently come to an end for lack of an object.

Admiral Sampson has massed a powerful fleet to crush the enemy only to learn that the enemy has kindly crushed himself. The cruise of Sampson's fleet has already occupied six days, including the time occupied in getting our ships together. As the sun rose on Monday the wind abated some. Ten miles off Havana early Monday morning a cluster of spars and smoke indicated the whereabouts of the fleet. As the Dewey approached we could make out the New York, Indiana and nearly all the gunboats on the Havana blockading station. The monitors had disappeared. The cruiser Montgomery had come up from Key West and Commander Watson had transferred his pennant to her from the Mayflower. After long continued signaling the New York about 11 o'clock turned and headed eastward along the coast. The Indiana fell in just behind and then the Mayflower, Newport, Vicksburg and Wilmington.

Slowly the line of warships steamed along with the Dewey in their wake. Cojimar was passed, then Matanzas and then Cardenas light was given a wide berth to the south. At Cardenas, a big black cruiser came cracking along from the northwest and joined the procession. It proved to be the New Orleans, just from the north. She was followed by the gunboat Machias. At last the fleet was off on its mission. In the teeth of a gale, which covered the decks with spray. During the night, which was another stormy one, the Dewey lost sight of the fleet. No lights were shown, and we were warned not to come too near. When dawn of Tuesday came not a ship was in sight, but about noon the entire fleet was made out dead ahead going along at an easy, slowly moving westward.

gait. During the night the fleet had come up with the monitors Puritan and Miantonomah, which had been sent ahead owing to their slow speed, and the torpedo boats Ericsson and Rodgers. This force was soon augmented by the arrival of the cruisers Montgomery and Marblehead, and it began to look like a real fleet, bent on real business. On Tuesday afternoon the big gunboat Wasp came up from the west and delivered dispatches to the admiral. As the fleet moved eastward red and white signal lights suddenly flashed from the signal yard of the New York, and all the other vessels immediately answered. As the warships rocked gently on the swell of the waves the signal lanterns swayed gracefully with their strings and constantly changing lights. The intense gloom seemed accentuated by the flag-ship's electric signals and nothing of the vessels could be seen except the moving lanterns. Like fiery specters of the night they moved away on the scout for the Spanish fleet. Gradually the lights winked their mysterious message and went out and then there was left not a trace of the fleet.

All Wednesday morning the fleet lopped along to the westward, idly retracing its path. The position was at the junction of old Bahama and Santaren channels, and seemed well chosen to intercept an enemy who sought passage to the Atlantic coast of the United States. The morning passed in this manner, the fleet not moving more than five knots an hour. The cruiser New Orleans about noon deserted her place with the flying division and went alongside the New York. After an interchange of signals at close range the New Orleans turned and disappeared eastward, going at a sixteen-knot gait. Shortly after the Vesuvius steamed ahead in the direction of Key West, after taking some dispatches from the flagship. The Monterey of the afternoon was broken by the arrival of the monitor Amphitrite in tow of the transport Panther. They turned and followed the fleet westward along the Cuban coast. The Dewey left the fleet this afternoon it was just off Key Francis, where it commanded three channels, but it was

BATTLE-SHIP OREGON WILL FIRE THE FIRST SHOT AT OLD MORRO

While Schley Holds Cervera's Fleet in Check Sampson Will Begin Active Hostilities.

CALL OFFICE, RIGGS HOUSE, WASHINGTON, May 26.—Now that the Administration is fully convinced that Commodore Schley is in a position to keep Cervera's fleet locked up or to destroy it, Admiral Sampson is to be directed to begin at once the bombardment of the fortifications that protect the harbor of Havana. Simultaneously a force of 25,000 or 30,000 men will make a land attack upon the Cuban capital. Only the capture of the Cuban capital, either by surrender or reduction, will put an end to the siege.

These details of a new plan of campaign were decided upon to-day at the White House during a council of war, in which the members of the Naval War Board, Secretary Alger, Secretary Long and General Miles participated.

A dispatch was received to-day from Hayti, stating that the Spanish fleet had left Santiago and had gone to Cienfuegos. It was reported in Washington that the War Board was summoned to the White House immediately upon the receipt of this cablegram, and that our naval plans were completely upset.

It was very apparent that important news of some kind had been received from the West Indies, for General Miles and the War Board were hurriedly summoned by telephone. It is said to-night, however, that if there was at any time to-day a disposition at the Navy Department to credit the Haytian report later advice must have been received, for this evening there was the same confidence. Naval experts declare that it would have been impossible for Cervera's vessels to have eluded Schley, and that they could not have sailed before his vessels arrived before the harbor without being observed by our scouting cruisers, three or four of which were patrolling the south coast of Cuba, between Cienfuegos and Santiago.

The War Board's confidence that Cervera is imprisoned in the harbor is best shown by the fact that at the White House conference to-day a hydrographic chart of Santiago harbor was exhibited. This showed that the narrowest point in the channel, near the harbor's mouth, is less than one-sixteenth of a mile in width, while there are only five fathoms (thirty feet) of water, there being barely a sufficient depth to accommodate the passage of a modern man of war drawing 27 feet. This is between Estrella battery on the east side of the harbor and Canovas Point on the west side, and is only a half mile from the open sea. It would, therefore, be possible for one or two of our battle-ships standing out to sea to prevent the enemy's egress.

This having been settled to the satisfaction of all present it was decided to push the Cuban military expedition. Different reports seemingly reliable have for the last day or two located Admiral Sampson's squadron off Havana and before Santiago; but the truth probably is about half way between these extremes. He was known to have sailed east from Havana on Monday morning and the supposition was that he sailed south through the Windward Passage and joined Schley at Santiago.

It appears now that he has been cruising in the old Bahama channel, off the northeastern coast of Cuba, where he could be within easy sailing distance of either Havana or Santiago and at the same time intercept Cervera's squadron should it by any possible means elude Schley and strike for our Atlantic seaboard.

But now that Schley has the hostile fleet locked up, Sampson will return to Havana and immediately commence the bombardment of Santa Clara and Morro Castle batteries. By the time they are reduced the 25,000 or 30,000 troops now ready for embarkation will be landed in Cuba.

It is believed there will be no immediate invasion of Porto Rico. It was at first suggested that Sampson while in the Bahama channel should be directed to return to San Juan and complete the work he was engaged in when the presence of Cervera's fleet in West Indian waters called him hurriedly home to mobilize.

It was argued that Spain would not send her reserve fleet across the Atlantic with Cervera's locked up and her only remaining base of supplies (San Juan) destroyed. This plan may yet be adopted, although at the White House conference to-day it was agreed that it would be better to mobilize as large an army as possible in Cuba without sparing any troops for Porto Rico at this time. This would leave San Juan open for the reception of Spain's reserve fleet, and it was argued it, too, might possibly be locked up.

A naval officer said to-night: "It would be strange indeed if after annihilating Montijo's fleet at Manila and bottling up Cervera in Santiago we should succeed in imprisoning Admiral Camara also."

A report reached Washington to-night from Key West that a vessel arriving there had heard heavy firing in the vicinity of Havana. It is not probable that our blockading vessels would begin a bombardment until Admiral Sampson returns.

Besides it is understood here that the Oregon will be allowed to fire the first shot at Morro Castle when the bombardment begins as a reward for her gallant cruise around the Horn.

At last accounts the big battleship had arrived at Key West from Jupiter Inlet, Fla.

ADMIRAL CERVERA IS SURELY TRAPPED

There is No Possibility of the Escape of the Fleet From Santiago.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Naval officers are now turning their attention to inquiries whether it is possible for Admiral Cervera to get out of Santiago harbor. They hold that this maneuver is impossible, and being so, the career of the Spanish admiral is at an end, so far as it constitutes a menace against our ships. The British commandant that Admiral Hornby, in 1855, had escaped with his entire fleet from a harbor under similar conditions, and that Admiral Cervera should be able to make his escape when he gets ready to do so, is just the contrary. It is pointed out that Admiral Hornby escaped from an open bay, while Admiral Cervera must come through a channel about 300 yards wide, on which the American

searchlights will play constantly. It is said that this is not mere conjecture, but that naval maneuvers were carried on at Key West and Tortugas a few months ago which furnish a positive demonstration that Admiral Cervera cannot make an exit without being discovered.

An officer who was on board one of the American ships during the Tortugas movement says a sham night attack of torpedo-boats was made upon the big battle-ships and cruisers. The latter were given no notice of the projected attack and there were no extra guards such as the American ships now maintain. But every torpedo-boat engaged in the attack was discovered long before it was within striking distance of the cruisers and battle-ships. One of the attacking torpedo-boats was so bewildered by the searchlights that it nearly ran into a cruiser.

The lesson drawn from this attack was that a sally by the enemy was impossible, owing to the modern methods of discovering an approach. It had shown also that the attacking fleet could not get within range, although they had come with the range of the guns of the ships attacked. It is said that these maneuvers at Tortugas and Key West practically represent the situation before Santiago. If Cervera sent out his torpedo-boats as scouts they would be detected before they had done any damage and destroyed by the small gunboats. The American ships would have the advantage of concentrating their entire fire upon one small passage.

A night battle is quite unusual in naval annals, but it has occurred. The Constellation fought the Revenge at night, the engagement continuing for six hours in the darkness, during which the main mast of the Constellation was carried away and the ship crippled. It is believed that if Admiral Cervera attempts to escape he will choose the night for this movement.

On the other hand naval officials are discussing the means the American commander may adopt to make exit impossible. In the blockade of Chesapeake the Spanish fleet was bottled up in the channel entrance, cutting off ingress and egress. A few old hulks would serve the same purpose in the present case. There is difficulty in getting such old craft and the sinking of derelicts at proper points in the channel would be attended with great danger. They must be towed to position, subjecting those in charge to the danger of mines and torpedoes. There is also the guns of Morro Castle to be guarded against. It is understood, however, that Morro Castle has no searchlights, so that a night operation of this character could be executed without the Spaniards being made aware of it. Taking every thing into account naval officers feel that Admiral Cervera committed a fatal blunder in being trapped at Santiago and that there is no fear the trap will prove inadequate to hold the Spanish warships.

AMERICANS MUST HAVE PATIENCE

If They Desire a Naval Battle Before Invading Cuba, So Says Sagasta.

NEW YORK, May 26.—A Madrid dispatch states that Sagasta says there will be no fight at Santiago unless Cervera desires it. The Americans will find the Santiago forts and ships very different from those destroyed at Manila. If the Americans are waiting for a naval battle before attempting to invade Cuba they will need, he says, considerable patience.

NEW YORK, May 26.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Spain's Ambassador at Paris has informed the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that Manila is the prospective destination of the squadron mobilizing at Cadiz. From an official source in France this report was received by the authorities to-day. The statement was coupled with the announcement, however, that the information was laid before the French Minister by the Spanish Ambassador under instruction from the Ministry which recently went out of office, and that as the new Ministry was leveling considerable criticisms at the work of its predecessor, the plan as have been changed.

In any event, according to information received, it is extremely doubtful if the fleet can be got in a condition to sail under another week, and probably longer time will be necessary to put it in satisfactory condition.

The machinery of several vessels is reported to be out of order on account of lack of skilled men. The battery of the armored cruiser Carlos V is also not in satisfactory condition. Workmen are employed day and night in making the necessary repairs, and every effort is being made to get the ships away from Cadiz as quickly as possible.

Naturally the report that the Spanish Government had informed France that the destination of its fleet was Manila was the cause of some comment in official circles, but until further information came regarding the decision of the new Ministry the authorities do not propose to waste very much time in worrying over the matter.

In view of the bottling up of the Spanish fleet in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba the authorities say that it would be absurd for the Spaniards to send their reserve squadron to the far east and they believe their plans will not be carried out notwithstanding the information was given to the French Government. The action of Spain in keeping France informed of the movements of her fleet aroused a good deal of suspicion, and it is believed to be indicative of good relations existing between the two governments.

With the Monterey and the Charleston attached to his fleet, Rear Admiral Dewey, it is believed, will be able to take care of the Spanish squadron if sent against him, and meantime the

PROHIBITS THE EXPORTATION OF ARMS

HONGKONG, May 26.—Acting for the British Government, Governor Sir Henry A. Blake issued to-day in the Gazette an extraordinary decree prohibiting for six months, from May 28, the exportation from the colony of arms, ammunition, gun powder or naval and military stores, unless by special permission, granted under local ordinance. This is a continuation of the proclamation issued on November 25, last, owing to the importation into China of supplies from Hongkong for secret societies. It has no special significance in regard to the Spanish war, but it will hamper the Philippine insurgents in obtaining supplies.

No Action on Spain's Note.

NEW YORK, May 26.—A dispatch from London says: The powers have decided that no action shall be taken on Spain's recent note requesting them to protest jointly against the Cuban blockade.

SCHLEY'S SHIPS IN CIENFUEGOS HARBOR.

KEY WEST, May 26.—Five ships of Commodore Schley's squadron entered the harbor of Cienfuegos on Tuesday and steamed all around it without drawing the fire of any Spanish battery. Then the warships filled their bunkers with coal.

This news was brought here by a torpedo-boat, which came to Key West from Cienfuegos at full speed, bringing dispatches from the Commodore. On the day before entering Cienfuegos harbor the fleet established communication with the insurgents, for whose use 30,000 rounds of ammunition were landed. The insurgents were found in need of shoes, and thirty pairs were contributed to them by the American sailors.