

The Somerset Herald.

HOW DEWEY DID IT.

First Authentic Report of the Battle of Manila Harbor.

Written by the N. Y. Herald's reporter on the flagship Olympia.

MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, May 1, Via HONG KONG, May 7.

One Spanish flag flies in Manila bay to-day. Not one Spanish warship floats, except as our prize.

More than two hundred Spanish dead and five hundred to seven hundred wounded, attest to the accuracy of the American fire.

Commodore Dewey attacked the Spanish position at Cavite this morning. He swept five times along the line, and scored one of the most brilliant successes in modern warfare.

That our loss is trifling adds to the pleasure of victory without detracting from its virtue. The number of hits our vessels received proved how brave and stubborn was the defense made by the Spanish forces.

Miraculous as it may appear, none of our men were killed, and only eight were wounded. Those who were wounded suffered only slight injuries.

Commodore Dewey arrived off Manila bay last night and decided to enter the bay at once.

With all its lights out the squadron steamed into Boca Grande with crews at the guns. This was the order of the squadron, which was kept during the whole time of the first battle. The flagship the Olympia, the Baltimore, the Raleigh, the Petrel, the Concord, the Boston.

It was just 8 o'clock, a bright moonlight night. But the flagship passed Corregidor Island without a sign being given that the Spaniards were aware of its approach.

Not until the flagship was a mile beyond Corregidor Island was a gun fired, then, one heavy shot went screaming over the Raleigh and the Olympia followed by a second which fell further astern.

The Raleigh, the Concord, and the Boston replied, the Concord's shells exploding apparently exactly inside the shore battery, which fired no more. Our squadron slowed down to barely steerage way and the men were allowed to sleep alongside their guns. Commodore Dewey had timed our arrival so that we were within five miles of the city of Manila at daybreak.

THE SPANISH SQUADRON SIGHTED.

We then sighted the Spanish squadron, Rear Admiral Montijo, commanding, off Cavite (pronounced Kavsetay, with accent on the "vee"). Here the Spaniards had a well equipped navy yard called Cavite arsenal. Admiral Montijo's flag was 3,500-ton protected cruiser Reina Christina, the protected cruiser Castilla, of 3,200 tons, was moored ahead, and astern to the port battery and to seaward were the cruisers Don Juan de Austria, Don Antonio de Ulloa, Isle de Cuba, Isle de Luzon, Quiros, Marquis Delonero and General Lezon. These ships and the flagship remained under way during most of the action. With the American flag flying at all their mast heads, our ships moved to the attack in line ahead with a speed of eight knots, first passing in front of Manila, where the action was begun by three batteries mounting guns powerful enough to send a shell over us at a distance of five miles. The Concord's guns boomed out a reply to these batteries with two shots. No more were fired, because Commodore Dewey could not engage with these batteries without sending death and destruction into the crowded city. As we neared Cavite two very powerful submarine mines were exploded ahead of the flagship. This was six minutes past 5 o'clock.

DEWEY DID NOT FEAR SUBMARINE MINES. The Spaniards evidently had misjudged our position. Immense volumes of water were thrown high in the air by these de-

stroyers, but no harm was done to our ships. Commodore Dewey had fought with Farragut at New Orleans and Mobile bay, where he had his first experience with torpedoes. Not knowing how many more mines there might be ahead, he still kept on without faltering. No other mines exploded, however, and it is believed that the Spaniards had only these two in place.

Protected by their shore batteries and made safe from close attack by shallow water, the Spaniards were in a strong position.

HOT SHOT FROM THE DONNS.

They put up a gallant fight. The Spanish ships were sailing back and forth behind the Castilla, and their fire was too hot. One shot struck the Baltimore and went clean through her, fortunately hitting no one. Another ripped up her main deck, disabled a six-inch gun and exploded a box of three-pounder ammunition, wounding eight men. The Olympia was struck abreast the gun in the wardroom by a shell, which burst outside, doing little damage. The signal halyards were cut from Lieutenant Brumbay's hand on the after-bridge. A shell entered the Boston's port quarter and burst in Ensign Dodridge's stateroom, starting a hot fire, and fire was also caused by a shell which burst in the port hammock netting. Both these fires were quickly put out.

Another shell passed through the Boston's foremast, just in front of Captain Wildes on the bridge. After having made four runs along the Spanish line, finding the chart incorrect, Lieutenant Calkins, the Olympia's navigator, told the commodore he believed he could take the ship nearer the enemy, with lead going to watch the depth of water. The flagship started over the course for the fifth time running within two thousand yards of the Spanish vessels. At this range even six-pounders were effective, and the storm of shells poured upon the unfortunate Spanish began to show marked results. Three of the enemy's vessels were seen burning, and their fire slackened. On finishing this run Commodore Dewey decided to give the men breakfast, as they had been at the guns two hours with only one cup of coffee to sustain them. Action ceased temporarily for nearly thirty-five minutes at seven o'clock, the other ships passing the flagship and cheering lustily. Our ships remained beyond range of the enemy's guns until ten minutes of 11 o'clock, when the signal for close action again went up. The Baltimore had the place of honor in the lead, with the flagship following and the other ships as before.

The Baltimore began firing at the Spanish ships and batteries at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock, making a series of hits as if at target practice. The Spaniards replied very slowly and the commodore signalled the Raleigh, the Boston, the Concord and the Petrel to go into the harbor and destroy all the enemy's ships. By her light draft the little Petrel was enabled to move within one thousand yards. Here firing swiftly, but accurately, she commanded everything still flying the Spanish flag.

Only a few minutes later the shore battery in Cavite sent over the flagship a shot that nearly hit the battery in Manila, but soon the guns got a better range and the shells began to strike near us or burst aboard from both the batteries and the Spanish vessels. The heat was intense and

REMEMBER THE MAINE.

men stripped off clothing except their trousers. As the Olympia came nearer all was as silent on board as if the ship had been empty except for the whir of blowers and the throb of engines. Suddenly a shell burst directly over us.

"Remember the Maine," arose from the throats of five hundred men at the guns.

This watchword was caught up in turrets and fire rooms where every seaman or fireman stood at his post. "Remember the Maine" had rung out for defiance and revenge. Its utterance seemed unpremeditated, but was evidently in every man's mind, and now that the moment had come to make adequate reply to the murder of the Maine's crew, every man shouted what was in his heart.

The Olympia was now ready to begin the fight. Commodore Dewey, his chief staff commander, Lambertson, and aide and myself, with Executive officer Lieutenant Reese, and Navigator Lieutenant Colkins, who coned the ship admirably, were on the forward bridge. Captain Gridley was on the conning tower, as it was thought unsafe to risk losing all the senior officers by one shell. "You may fire when ready, Gridley," said the Commodore at forty minutes past five o'clock. At a distance of 5,500 yards the starboard 8-inch gun in the forward turret roared forth a compliment to the Spanish forts. Presently similar guns from the Baltimore and the Boston sent 250-pound shells hurrying toward the Castilla and The Reina Christina for accuracy. The Spaniards seemed encouraged to fire faster, knowing exactly our distance, while we had to guess theirs.

SHOT FLEW THICK AND FAST.

Their ship and shore guns were making things hot for us. The piercing scream shot was heard often by the bursting of time fuse shells, fragments of which would lash the water like shrapnel or cut our hull and rigging.

One large shell that was coming straight at the Olympia's forward bridge fortunately fell within less than a hundred feet away. One fragment cut the rigging exactly over the heads of Lambertson, Reese and myself. Another struck the bridge gratings in line with it. A third passed just under Commodore Dewey and gouged a hole in the deck.

Incidents like these were plentiful. Our men actually cowered at being exposed without returning fire from all our guns, but all laughed at danger and chatted pleasantly. A few nervous fellows could not help dodging mechanically when shells would burst straight over them, or close aboard, or would strike the water and pass overhead with that peculiar, spluttering roar made by a tumbling rifle projectile. Still the flagship stood in the centre of the Spanish line, and, as the other ships were astern, the Olympia received most of the Spaniards' fire. Owing to her deep draught Commodore Dewey felt constrained to change his course at a distance of 4,000 yards and run parallel to the Spanish column.

"Open with all guns," he said, and the ship brought her port broadside bearing. The roar of all the ship's 5-inch rapid guns was followed by a deep diapason of her turret 8-inchers.

Soon our other vessels were equally hard at work, and we could see that our shells were making Cavite harbor hotter for the Spaniards than they had made the approach for us.

Other ships were also doing their whole duty, and soon not one red and yellow ensign remained aloft, except on a battery up the coast. The Spanish flagship and the Castilla had long been burning fiercely and the last vessel to be abandoned was the Don Antonio de Allos, which lurched over and sank.

THE SPANISH FLAG HAULED DOWN.

Then the Spanish flag on the arsenal staff was hauled down, and at half past twelve o'clock a white flag was hoisted there. Signal was made to the Petrel to destroy all vessels in the inner harbor, and Lieutenant Hughes, with an armed boat crew, set fire to the Don Juan de Austria, Marquis Duero, the Isle de Cuba and the Correo. The large transport Manila and the many tug boats fell into our hands.

"Capture or destroy Spanish Squadron," were Dewey's orders. Never were instructions more effectually carried out. Within seven hours after arriving on the scene of action nothing remained to be done.

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