

# BEGINNING OF THE WAR IN EARNEST.

## The U. S. Forces Lost Heavily in Friday's Big Battle.

### DROVE THE SPANIARDS FROM THE TRENCHES.

Over 1,000 Killed and Wounded—Assaults and Repulses—Rumor That Cervera's Fleet Has Been Destroyed—Gen. Miles Says it was a Drawn Battle—Shafter Urges the Immediate Sending of Reinforcements—Hospitals Crowded With Sick and Wounded—The Spanish Version—Linares Wounded—U. S. Officers Killed—Sampson's Share in the Fight—It Begins to Resemble a Real War.

Washington, July 3.—The following despatch was received at the War Department: "Playa del Este, July 3.—Siboney office confirms statement that all the Spanish fleet, except one warship, destroyed and burning on the beach. It was witnessed by Capt. Smith, who told the operator. There is no doubt of its correctness. (Signed) Allan, signal officer."

"Playa del Este, July 3.—The destruction of Cervera's fleet is confirmed. (Signed) Allan, Lieutenant-Colonel."

An earlier despatch from Lieut.-Col. Allan, signal officer at Playa del Este, says that all the vessels of Cervera's fleet made a dash out of the harbor of Santiago to-day, and then, apparently before they were placed hors de combat, ran into the beach with one exception, grounded, and were blown up by the Spanish crews. "One ship started out to sea, and Col. Allan adds that our fleet is after her and will capture her in a few minutes."

#### TWO DAYS FIGHTING.

##### U. S. Version of the Struggle Before Santiago.

San Juan Hill, overlooking Santiago de Cuba, July 2.—After two days of the most terrific fighting, during which more than eight hundred of our men were killed and wounded, the American army is still outside Santiago, but is knocking hard at its gates. It is only a question of hours when it must get in. On all sides our batteries look down on the city, and are pouring an awful fire into the Spanish fortifications which face our men. The enemy lie in their entrenchments, struggling for every inch of ground. The Spanish soldiers are fighting like devils. Ours are forcing them constantly back, killing them by hundreds, and never yielding an inch that they have gained. Now and then outside the harbor Admiral Sampson's fleet thunders death at Morro Castle and the adjoining defences. The hills and the valleys also re-echo the roar of the big guns and the rattle and crash of musketry. The Morro is almost in ruins. Its batteries are all but silenced. The huge Spanish flag which floated so defiantly from the Morro and which was the only one in sight from the sea on the south coast, has been shot away, and there are great yawning holes in the masonry of the hillside defences.

#### THE SITUATION.

Six miles from the sea, at the head of what is practically a salt water lake, lies Santiago, surrounded on all sides by high mountains which rise straight up from the water. These mountains stand in ridges practically running parallel with the coast. Between the first and second ridges is the entrance of the harbor is Aguadores, which is south of the city itself. Southeast of Santiago, on the top of a hill, is San Juan, from which place this despatch is sent. A short distance north of the city is El Caney. Santiago is a walled city, and Aguadores, San Juan and El Caney are its outposts.

#### PLAN OF ATTACK.

It was decided to make the attack all along the line and to never stop the fighting until Santiago was taken. On Thursday the Yankees had the city practically surrounded. The plan of attack comprised a joint assault by the fleet and army on Aguadores, and a military attack alone on El Caney and San Juan, the fleet diverting the attention of the enemy by occasionally bombarding.

At 3 o'clock Gen. Lawton was on the Caney road, around the mountains. Gen. Duffield was at the railroad, with his troops in trains, while Gen. Wheeler went up the valley to the hillside ranch Poso. He planted Grimes' battery of four pieces there, 2,600 yards from the Santiago forts. Gen. Lawton's division was led by Gen. Chaffee's brigade, with Col. Ludlow supporting. Col. Miles' brigade supported Gen. Wheeler in the centre. Capron's battery was planted on a bluff a mile and a half from El Caney.

#### THE ATTACK BEGINS.

All was in readiness at daylight. The Spaniards did not discover the position of the Yankees till sunrise. Capron fired the first gun at 6 o'clock, and this opened the battle, which has been raging ever since. The report of the first gun re-echoed and re-echoed and then died away. There was no reply. Another shot followed, and then another. Still there was no reply. It looked as if the Spaniards would not fight. The Cubans believed that they were retreating. A thousand Cubans under Garcia and Demetrio Castillo hurried along the road to Caney el Poso to head them off. They were just in time to catch the fleeing Spaniards

at the Ducarance estate. There was a hot fight for a few minutes, and the Spaniards then went back to Caney, taking their wounded with them. The Cubans had nineteen wounded.

#### THE SPANISH BATTERIES.

Capron's battery damaged the town and the fortifications. As the twenty-eighth shot was being fired there was a whistling near the battery, followed by the explosion of a shell from the Reina Mercedes battery. Another and another followed, but the Spaniards did poor shooting. Their shells did not touch the battery, but fell on a house where some soldiers were, a distance away. The three shells wounded thirteen Cubans and eighteen Yankees. The duel became hot now. The Yankees fired quicker, now that they had a line on the fort. Every shot from their battery told, and so did many of the Spanish shells. Their firing showed much improvement, and their guns were handled in a masterly style. After an hour the firing ceased on both sides. Grimes' battery at El Poso had in the meantime opened firing across the gulch from the hill below San Juan. There was no reply until the tenth shot. Then the Spanish shells burst over the American line, all of them flying too high to do any harm to the battery.

#### CAUGHT A TARTAR.

For half an hour the shells from both sides whistled and shrieked. The Spaniards on the hill were surrounded by a cloud of yellow dust that was torn up by the United States shells. Still they fired, but, as usual, their shells went too high. In half an hour more the position became too hot for them. Their firing gradually became weaker, and then ceased. The battery was silenced, and there were no Spaniards in sight. The Tenth and First Regiments and the Rough Riders were ordered to make a detour and take the hill. Then began the real fighting. The Spaniards were not in sight, but there were hundreds of them in concealment. The Rough Riders marched through the gulch across to the slope whereupon the blockhouse opened fire again. One of their shells wounded Mason Mitchell, Cuban Trooper Long and Sergeant Devore. At the same time the Spanish sharpshooters began popping away, picking off men here and there.

#### TAKEN BY ASSAULT.

The Spanish fire grew hotter and hotter, and our men dropped two and three at a time. When they came to the open smooth ridge there was no protection. Bullets were raining down on them, and shot and shells from the batteries were sweeping everything. There was a moment's hesitation, and then came the order, "Forward, charge."

The Rough Riders acted like veterans. It was an inspiring sight and an awful one. Astonished by the madness of the war, the Spaniards exposed themselves. This was a fatal mistake for them. The Tenth Cavalry picked them off like ducks and rushed on, up and up. The more Spaniards were killed the more opened to take their places. The rain of shells and bullets coaled. Men dropped faster and faster, but others took their places. The shooting of the Tenth Cavalry was wonderful. Their ranks closed as fast as they were thinned. At last the top of the hill was reached. The Spaniards in the trenches could still have annihilated the Yankees, but the Yankees, daring dazed them. They wavered for an instant, and then turned and ran. As they ran our men coolly picked them off.

#### THE POSITION WAS WON.

and the blockhouse captured. Some of the guns also were captured, but not all of them. The men across the gulch cheered wildly, as they saw their comrades' victory. Gen. Lawton advanced, but was met by a hot rifle fire from the enemy in their entrenchments. Chaffee's Seventh, Seventeenth and Twelfth Infantry still had no artillery. On the extreme right our men spread out, getting the protection of the trees and bushes, and firing every time they saw a Spanish head. They were always advancing upon the outside line of trenches. The retreat of the Spaniards prevented a flank movement. Capron's artillery now resumed firing, its target being a stone fort in the town. Every shot went true, but the guns were not big enough to do the necessary work. They, however, made it so hot for the enemy that they had to leave several times. They always got back, though, before our infantry reached the fort. The force was then split, going in two directions at the same time. The fighting before they reached the town was nothing compared with their reception in the town. They were fired on from all sides by the enemy, who were concealed everywhere. The trenches in

view were filled with men, whose hats were visible. The Americans shot the hats to pieces, but killed none of the Spaniards, who had resorted to the old trick of placing their hats on sticks for our men to shoot at. The breastworks in the northeast corner of the town did the most damage. This position was not discovered for a long time. It fired a hot

#### ALMOST RESISTLESS FIRE.

upon our men. The Spaniards lay down to avoid it. The Spaniards had the range, however, and killed and wounded many of our men as they lay on the ground. The officers suffered particularly. General Chaffee dashed here and there, giving orders and calling on his men to fight for their lives and to help their country to win a victory. The battery was at last discovered, and that was the end of it. Every Spaniard who showed himself was picked off. The trenches ran with blood. Capron at the same time silenced the fort again. Now was the time for the Yankees to advance. With a yell they dashed in, led by their officers, right up to the forts. Then up the slope they went, still cheering, and captured the position with scarcely a struggle. There was one blockhouse left. Capt. Clark was detailed by Gen. Chaffee to take it with one company. He advanced under an awful fire up and over the entrenchments, and the battle was won.

#### THE SPANIARDS RETREAT.

in disorder. Every street leading out of the town was filled with the fleeing enemy. Of a hundred and twenty-five of them were captured. The Seventy-first New York, which had been following Gen. Lawton toward El Caney, found the road taken by the Twenty-fourth Regiment, who were using it as a firing line. The Seventy-first turned off and joined the Sixth and Sixteenth Regiments, the first division of the Fifth Army Corps. Col. Kent of the Sixteenth Regiment had a company of the Seventy-first stragglers put as pickers along the road, guarded by Capt. M. A. Rafferty, of Co. E, Seventy-first Regiment, who distinguished himself in the fighting. A Spanish blockhouse on a hill a mile away was giving trouble. The Sixteenth Regiment was sent ahead as skirmishers. The Sixth Regiment advanced on the left and the Seventy-first on the right to support the Sixteenth. Captain Rafferty's company held the right of the line of skirmishers. Half a mile of the hill was wooded, which afforded protection to our men, but the last half a mile was open, level land, where there was not the slightest chance to escape from the fire of the enemy.

#### BAD STRATEGY.

The skirmishers were half way across the open space, and it looked as though the capture of the blockhouse would be easy, when, without any warning, the whole hillside rained shot and shell upon the advancing line. The Spaniards had waited until there was no chance for our men to get back under cover before opening fire on them. The Seventy-first dashed out into the open, facing the fire of shrapnel that burst in their ranks, tearing holes four men deep, while Mauser bullets kept dropping the men. The boys never wavered. They closed their ranks as they were torn open. They marched a few steps, sweeping, deadly fire to the aid of the Sixteenth Regiment. The officers ran along the line, calling upon their men to keep cool and to move forward. They were in the most exposed position. Before they were half way across the field the Seventy-first had lost over seventy men killed and wounded. The fire grew more and more awful every minute. The enemy were behind breastworks and out of sight. The Yankees broke into a run and headed straight for Santiago. The Sixth Regiment came out after the Seventy-first in the face of the same fire. Their ranks were cut to pieces, but there was no flinching. Right into the teeth of it, on across the open, dashed up they ran, the whole body pouring their deadly fire into them. Half way up the hill our men caught sight of the enemy, and for the first time returned their fire at close range, with deadly effect. Capt. Rafferty's company was now leading. They dashed up the hill to its crest with bayonets fixed and charged on the trenches, driving the Spaniards out at the point of the bayonet and shooting them as they fled. They captured the blockhouse, and before they were through the hill was covered with dead Spaniards. The pits were also full of dead and wounded, who were thrown out by the Yankees. Three Spaniards were captured. After the Yankees had emptied the pits they occupied them themselves. Nearly every one of Capt. Rafferty's men was wounded. They held their pit for

an hour until the sharpshooters and the cavalry on the next hill made it too hot for them.

#### FORCED TO RETIRE.

Capt. Rafferty saw that he could not gain anything by holding to the captured position, so he withdrew his men over the crest and half down the hill, out of range of the Spaniards. With reinforcements from his own regiment he made a move to the left flank, his men crawling on their bellies till they got in position to concentrate their fire on the Spaniards on the other hill. They soon drove the enemy into their trenches, and held this position for three-quarters of an hour, while the Seventy-first, Sixteenth and Sixth Regiments moved around to the right and, in the face of another blinding fire, charged up the second hill, dislodging the Spaniards, driving them out of their trenches and capturing some prisoners and a stand of colors. The Spaniards who were driven off reformed in other trenches, and the battle went on for hours. The Spaniards tried to recapture their position, but were driven off again and again with heavy losses. The Yankees passed on, fighting, and drove them out of their trenches, the enemy leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

#### THE HORROR MAKER AGAIN.

It was at this point that the Spaniards showed themselves incapable of carrying on civilized warfare, and acted in a way which many thought called for reprisals. They deliberately fired on our wounded as they were being taken from the field, but, fortunately, despite their evil intentions, they did little harm. At the latest reports the steady advance of the Yankees had carried them to within half a mile of Santiago. On every hill-top around Santiago was a blockhouse and entrenchments. There were probably twenty, all told. The San Juan River runs at the foot of the San Juan hill on the far side from the city. There was a blockhouse on its bank. The Ninth Cavalry was sent to capture it, while the Seventy-First Regiment was doing its fighting. They adopted Indian tactics and sought shelter as much as possible, dodging from tree to tree, but always advancing. At 3 in the afternoon the First and Tenth Cavalry came up, and did the Rough Riders. Col. Taylor took the Ninth out and flanked the enemy on the left between our troops and the river. The Manigus was up to their shoulders. All the troops advanced into this. The enemy had recovered meanwhile and was sending

#### A HEAVY FIRE.

into our ranks. Men were dropping everywhere. Some one set up the old-fashioned rebel yell and the others took it up as one man. The soldiers leaped forward, charging and shooting, across the field to the river. The steep banks were muddy, but our men dashed and slid down them, yelling like mad. Across the stream they went and up the other side, the Spaniards pouring shot and shell into them at a lively rate. They could no more stop the advance, however, than they could have stopped an avalanche. The blockhouse, a hundred yards away, continued its fire, and contested every inch of the advance. The yelling and enthusiastic Yankees charged on the blockhouse, driving the enemy before them. They held their position for a while, but the enemy opened fire on them with heavy artillery from another hill. Now there was but one position left to carry, San Juan itself. The batteries there were heavy, and there were earthworks everywhere, besides a stone house, which was an important defence. The whole hill was filled with Spaniards. All day long a balloon was working in charge of Lieut. Maxwell. It was raised 200 feet, and from it Lieut. Maxwell was able from observation to pick out the enemy's position in the brush and to send word to the earth to aid the soldiers in driving them out. He located all the enemy on the San Juan hill. The balloon was fired on frequently, and finally it had to be withdrawn miles for safety. The hill was steeper than any that had already been taken, and there were more Spaniards on it with heavier guns, and the men knew how to use them.

#### CHARGING THE HILL.

The charge was the greatest of the day, and the most important, for the hill was the chief defence overlooking Santiago. Gen. Hawkins called upon our men to charge. The Spanish fire seemed irresistible, but the men did not flinch. With yells they charged up the hill. The merciless shells tore gaps in their ranks, but they went, inspired by Gen. Hawkins and their officers. Company E in front. Capt. McFarland was killed in the first moments of the rush. His company wavered a moment, and then Lieut. Carey jumped into the lead and yelled, "Come on, company E." The company dashed on, but a few minutes later Lieut. Carey was killed. Not only from the front, but from the side, the hottest kind of fire was directed against the Yankees, cutting their ranks to pieces. There was no time to get to the top of the hill when the Yankees dashed among the Spaniards, drove them out, and bayoneted and cut them to pieces. Captain Cavanagh planted the flag on the hilltop, and the sight of it caused unbounded enthusiasm. Our loss was fearful, but we had carried the position which commanded the city. The trenches were full of dead Spaniards. The hill once carried, the work of strengthening the position began immediately. The stone house was still to be captured. The men who were carrying the wounded, and who were under the protection of the Red Cross, were shot down without the slightest compunction by Spanish riflemen. The Yankees took 149 prisoners. The Second Massachusetts Regiment came up in the afternoon and aided in holding the position.

#### ORELIMAN'S TALE.

The Correspondent Caught a Bullet, but is Able to Tell the Story.

New York, July 3.—Mr. J. Creelman, a reporter, was desperately wounded, but dictated the following story of the fight: "The extraordinary thing in this fight, of all the fights I have seen, is the enormous amount of ammunition

fired. There was a continuous roar of musketry from 4 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The artillery kept up a steady fire on the fort and town, and finally demolished the fort. Several times the Spaniards were driven from it. Each time they returned to it, before the infantry could approach it. The Spanish fired from loopholes in the stone house, and furthermore were on the east side of the fort in trenches. They fought like devils. The fact was the fire came from heavy breastworks on the north-west corner of El Caney, where the principal Spanish force lay, with their hats on sticks to deceive. The enemy poured in a fearful fire. The seventeen regiments had to lie down flat. Even then the boys were killed. To turn the left of the Spanish position it was necessary to get the blockhouse. Gen. Chaffee detailed Capt. Clark, when the artillery had reduced the blockhouse, to approach and occupy it. Clark and Capt. Haskell started up. I had been on the ridge and knew the condition of affairs, and could show them the way. We got the wire cutters out to cut the wire in front of the Spanish trench. I jumped over the strands and got in the trench. It was a horrible, blood-splashed thing.

#### AN INFERNO OF AGONY.

Men lay dead, while others, with teeth gleaming and hands clutched at their throats, were crawling there alive. I shouted to them to surrender. They held up their hands. I ran into the fort, and found there a Spanish officer and four men alive. Seven lay dead in one room. The whole floor ran with blood. The walls were splashed with blood. Three poor wretches put their hands together in supplication. One had a white handkerchief tied on a stick, which he lifted and moved towards me. It was a perfect hogpen of butchery. The officer held his hands up. The others began to gray and plead. I took the guns from all and threw them outside the fort. I called some of our men to put them in charge of the prisoners. I then got out of the fort, ran around to the other side, secured the Spanish flag, and displayed it to our troops, who cheered lustily. Just as I turned to speak to Captain Haskell I was struck with a bullet from the trenches on the Spanish side. General Chaffee moved on the breastworks, and El Caney was ours. Banks, the colored sergeant of the Twelfth, raised the American flag.

#### ONLY 1,000 SPANIARDS.

General Chaffee says he was much astonished at the way the men were lost in the siege of the town, as it did not contain more than 1,000 Spaniards. Some twenty-five of these were killed, fifty were wounded, and 150 prisoners were taken. The killed and wounded on our side exceeded these figures. The Twelfth Infantry lost heavily. Lieut. Churchin, of the Twelfth, was shot through the breast in the company of First Sergeant Miller, who was killed, and of myself. The Spanish flag Mr. Creelman captured from the stone fort has been forwarded to the Journal by mail.

#### MUST HAVE HELP.

##### Shafter Says Reinforcements are Necessary to Succeed.

Washington, D. C., July 3.—The following despatch from Gen. Shafter was received to-day, and made public from the White House: "Playa del Este, July 3.—To Secretary of War, Washington. Camp near Sevilla, Cuba, July 3.—We have the town well invested on the north and east, but with a very thin line. Upon approaching we find it of such a character and the defences so strong that it will be impossible to carry it by storm with my present force. Our losses up to date will aggregate a thousand, but list has not yet been made. But little sickness outside of exhaustion from intense heat and exertion of the battle of the day before yesterday, and the almost constant fire which is kept up on the trenches. Wagon road to the rear is kept up with some difficulty on account of rains, but I will be able to use it for the present. Gen. Wheeler is seriously ill, and will probably have to go to the rear to-day. Gen. Young also very ill, confined to his bed. Gen. Hawkins slightly wounded in the foot during sortie enemy made last night, which was handsomely repulsed. The behavior of the troops was magnificent. Gen. Garcia reported he holds the railroad from Santiago to San Luis, and has burned a bridge and removed some rails; also that General Pando has arrived at Palma, and that the French Consul, with about 400 French citizens, came into his line yesterday from Santiago. Have directed him to treat them with every courtesy possible. Shafter, Major-General."

#### WAR NOTES.

The Kreuz Zeitung warns America that European neutrality might not be maintained if the Americans were to bombard Spanish ports. The Berlin National Gazette says: "With all their dislike of warlike complications, European states allow no trifling with their interests. No one menaces the American Union. Diplomacy has ever been excessively polite to the Yankees, but it has been assumed that they will respect the rights of others." The London Times compliments both sides on their bravery, but advises Spain to submit to Yankee demands. Augusta is said to have stated: "Though the American warships may destroy our squadron in the harbor, yet we will pursue the war. There are in Cuba 100,000 men ready to die in its defence, but they will not yield."

Secretary Long said to-day that Watson's fleet would be sent to the Spanish coast immediately.

"Now, look here," said the old man to the daughter, who had spent some time at the east. "I guess I can manage to stand it when you call a 50-cent piece a half-dollar, but when you speak of a slab as a slab I want you understood that I will permit no such language."

No woman who carries a watch is sure that it's correct.