

AMERICAN FORCE TAKES LEGASPI.

Eye-Witness Gives an Account of
the Fighting There.

VALUE OF WARSHIP'S AID.

Order Naval Gunners Cover Perfectly
the Advance of Landing
Troops.

[Early Dispatches.]

On Board the Steamer Venus, Legaspi, Luzon, January 23.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Five companies of the Forty-seventh Volunteer Infantry, aided by the gunboat Nashville, today fought their way into the native towns of Legaspi and Albay. We had five men slightly wounded. Forty-five dead Filipinos had been counted by nightfall, and we are carrying for dozens of their wounded. Shells from the Nashville ignited two warehouses filled with baled hemp. These fires could not be put out and 8,000 bales with a total valuation of \$120,000 were destroyed by nightfall.

SHOOTING BLACKS LIKE RABBITS.

After the fighting was over and men had time to talk, an officer said: "This is what I've been waiting thirty years to see. The shooting down of black men as if they were rabbits."

The distorted, shattered and bloody bodies of our former enemies lie in two rows in Legaspi's principal street, two blazing warehouses glare and roar in the darkness, and the American soldiers are stumbling through the village streets working to get settled for the night.

Company H, F, G, E and C, of the Forty-seventh came back on the Hancock from Manila to Sorsogon. For conveyance from Sorsogon to Legaspi these companies were transferred to the local steamers Venus and Castellano, accompanying the expeditions as transports, and late yesterday afternoon the two vessels conveyed by the Nashville with General Kobbe on board sailed from Sorsogon Bay for Legaspi, Sorsogon on the west and Legaspi on the east side of the southern extremity of Luzon island. The run between the two ports is about 110 miles by sea, though not more than ten miles over land.

The insurgent soldiers who abandoned Sorsogon to us three days ago had ample time to come over to Legaspi and swell the ranks of the guerilla here, granting of course, that they did not prefer the greater security of the mountains.

INSPECTING A HOSTILE TOWN.

Early this morning the Venus, closely followed by the Castellano, with the Nashville an hour and a half behind them, steamed into Albay Bay and three miles off Legaspi waited for the warship. Legaspi, on the coast, and Albay a mile and a half inland, are at the base of the Mayon volcano. On the southern edge of Legaspi and at Albay, as the ships steam in, there is a steep hill used as a lookout station. Here can be seen, with the aid of binoculars, a Filipino flag. There are no flags over the warehouses of the town, and these two facts point to a possible resistance to our landing. We have heard that General Paman, a Chinese half caste, commands here, and that he will fight. At 7:45 the Nashville passed us and steamed close into the beach. She examined the shore and from the Venus we could see a long line of black sand trenches to the right of the town, also between the stone warehouse in the center of the village there were other trenches and heavy stone walls. The trenches were crowded with men, some with rifles and some with spears. They were watching the actions of our vessels closely, but no shot was fired on either side. The Nashville's inspection of Legaspi was long and careful.

The English gunboat Plover came in behind us, this morning, and followed the Nashville close to the beach. Her big white flag swung out in the breeze, telling those on shore she was not of our party, but merely a neutral and inactive spectator.

ORDERS TO LAND.

At 9:45 the Nashville came alongside the Venus and General Kobbe, mounted on the Nashville, gave the order to land. Major Shipton, commanding the battalion on board, "Move your ship into the first wharf and land your men."

There is deep water off Legaspi, and coasting steamers can swing their sterns into one of the several bamboo docks in front of the hemp warehouses. But the captain of the Venus demurred. He had seen the trenches lined with Filipinos, he had seen gallant officers giving orders concentrating their soldiers into positions from which they would have his vessel under a cross fire if he landed at the wharf, and he explained that it was impossible to get into the dock with less than one hour's backing and hauling; further, that his stern lines had to be taken ashore and made fast to sand anchors well upon the beach; that his crew would be shot to pieces if he attempted to land; in short, landing there and then was out of the question.

Meantime a boat from the Plover had gone to the Nashville to run there to the beach. Her mission was to remove any Englishmen who might be in the town from the danger of the threatened fighting. There were two Englishmen in Legaspi, but the Filipinos declined to allow them to leave. Then the Plover's boat returned and during the subsequent fighting the English remained half a mile out of the bay.

WHY THE CAPTAIN DEMURRED.

Captain Bradley, quartermaster captain of the Hancock, was on board the Nashville with General Kobbe. He was sent to the Venus to learn why that ship did not back into the dock as directed. The Spanish captain of the Venus again explained how long this operation would take and Captain Bradley went back to the Nashville to report. From him it was learned that the Filipinos had removed the plank from the docks, leaving only the bamboo stringers; this they had seen from the Nashville.

Soon Captain Bradley returned, saying that the landing would be made at a point about half a mile down the beach, to the north of Legaspi and about 500 yards beyond the end of the heavy sand intrenchments; that this landing party would advance into the town and that the Nashville would shell the enemy's works in front of our men as they came along the beach.

Then there was much talk and details on board the Venus as to the arrangements for the landing. The four companies were loaded into our own three available boats, and the two boats sent over from the Nashville to help in the landing.

AMERICANS ON SHORE.

Our men embarked on our starboard side, the side of the ship exposed to the enemy's trenches, only six hundred yards away. The enemy missed a splendid opportunity to do great execution to our soldiers. But they have



SENATOR SPOONER, AUTHOR OF THE SPOONER BILL RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINES.

The bill of which Senator John C. Spooner of Wisconsin is the author provides that when the instruction ends the government of the islands, until otherwise provided by congress, shall be vested in such person and persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion.

missed many such, first and last, so we are accustomed to taking these risks. Our landing party pulled away toward the Castellano, which had taken up a position opposite the point where the landing was to be made. Here our five boats were joined by two from the Castellano and the landing party was composed as follows:

About thirty men from company H, Captain Bentley commanding; forty men from company G, Captain Simmons commanding; twenty men from F, under Lieut. Murphy; fifteen from E, under Lieut. Smyer, and about sixty men from C, under Captain Bishop. Major Shipton commanded the landing party and was accompanied by Captain Bradley and Lieutenants Conroy and Gisser, of the Forty-third volunteer infantry.

At 25 minutes past ten it could be seen through the fine, mist-like rain that the seven landing boats were close to the beach. Then we looked ashore to discover a numerous detachment of Filipinos moving to the north behind the trenches, evidently intending to repel the advance of our landing party into the town. At that instant the Nashville opened fire on the trenches with shrapnel at 800 yards range.

NAVY COVERING THE ADVANCE.

From this time until the end of the fighting at 10:15 p.m., the Nashville kept up an almost continuous fusillade of shrapnel and rapid fire guns, directed against the trenches and fortified positions on shore. Her gunnery was excellent, her shots always falling just in front of the advancing Americans, and while some came alarmingly close to our boys among the stone warehouses, no American was wounded by the fire.

She cleared out the thick trenches of the town before our men reached there, and after all was over she elevated her guns and dismounted two insurgent cannon on a hill behind the town.

Her work was of the greatest help in occupying Legaspi. Without her there would probably be a different story to tell. Our landing party was under fire the moment they struck the beach, but the Filipinos' aim was high. Our men crossed a river nearly up to their armpits, and then formed in three columns to enter the town. It was the first engagement, and the Filipinos' usual tendency to bunch themselves when under fire. It was most difficult for the officers to direct them to deploy as skirmishers.

These northern trenches face the beach, perhaps sixty yards from high water. Behind them runs a straight road lined each side with nipa shacks, and leading into the town. Behind the road is a narrow swampy lagoon running parallel to the beach and beyond the lagoon is a thick growth of nipa palms. From the trenches to the far side of the lagoon the distance is about 150 yards.

RUSH THE TOWN.

Our men came into town rapidly. The column on the left came down the beach outside the trenches. The lagoon forced the column on the right to join

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DISPELS EFFECTUALLY
COLD, HEADACHES, FEVERS
OVERCOMES & FEVERS
HABITUAL CONSTIPATION
TO GET PERMANENTLY
ITS BENEFICIAL EFFECTS.

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Englishman's go-down. We found several more as we walked up the streets in the direction where our enemy had fled. More soldiers arrived from the Venus and Capt. Betts, with a detachment of E company, raised the American flag over Legaspi.

On the lookout hill south of the town were two Filipino flags. Capt. Shipton, with three companies, went up and lowered them. There was no resistance to this movement, the hills, though entrenched, having been abandoned. Here were found old muzzle-loading cannon, two of them dismantled by the Nashville's fire.

Fatal Landslide. Vancouver, B. C., March 12.—No overland train has arrived here since Saturday, all traffic being suspended by mud and snowslides in the interior. Heavy snowslides are reported from the Selkirk mountains, carrying down trees and immense rocks, sweeping away the cut bank truss bridge, 150 feet long, between Bear creek and Six-Mile creek.

From London comes the news of an even more serious disaster. A landslide at noon demolished six houses in the lower part of the town, burying one of the tenants, William McLeod, beneath the mass of debris which crushed the houses as if they had been egg shells. Three other occupants of the dwelling, Mrs. H. Nash, Mrs. William Pegg and J. E. Lovatt, were seriously injured, half a dozen others sustaining less severe injuries.

Another Murderer Acquitted.

Butte, Mont., March 12.—Edward Gillman of Hamburg, Pa., was tonight acquitted of the murder of Dan Sullivan. The murder occurred Christmas night in the washroom of a miner's boarding house. Sullivan had abused Gillman the night before. Gillman armed himself next day and going to the washroom shot Sullivan, killing him instantly. The defense was that Sullivan had made threats against Gillman, who thought the latter was armed. The verdict was a surprise to both the prosecution and the defense.

A few minutes after his acquittal Gillman, his wife, sister and father took a carriage and drove for the Great Northern depot, where they took the express for the East. They expected violence at the hands of Sullivan's friends. When the trial began a few days ago a brother of Sullivan tried to shoot Gillman in the court house, but was disarmed before he could fire.

PLAGUE IN HONOLULU.

Total of 62 Cases, with 53 Deaths.—No New Patients Since Feb. 22.

Washington, March 12.—A summary of bubonic plague cases and deaths in Honolulu recorded by the Hawaiian board of health from December 12th last to Feb. 21st has been furnished to the marine hospital service by Surgeon Carmichael in a report received from him dated Feb. 24th. It shows a total of sixty-nine cases, of which fifty-three were fatal and nine recovered. The deaths include twenty-eight Chinese, seven Japanese, fifteen Hawaiians and three whites. The doctor adds: "No new cases have been reported in Honolulu since Feb. 21st. One case was of the pneumonia type in the detention camp at Kahului on the 15th of Feb., which was fatal on the 19th. No more new cases have occurred in the town. No new cases have been reported from Hilo."

A new rat quarantine wharf has been constructed on the east side of Honolulu harbor. It is built on copper heated piling, surrounded by water, and is well isolated.

Machinists Get Wages Advanced.

Columbus, O., March 12.—The striking machinists, after conceding the right of employers to employ non-union men on equal terms, if such men insisted upon the employers signing a contract with the union. At a meeting last night the Columbus Metal Manufacturers association conceded all the demands of the machinists, in so far as wages and hours of labor are concerned, but refused to sign a contract with the union, and as an ultimatum declared that they would deal with the machinists only as individuals.

Here we got a hot fire in reply at very close range, and one of our men was wounded. But this move drove the Filipinos out of their shelter and they had to run the hundred feet in the open and dive into the shelter of the trench. To do this, they were exposed to a cross-fire from our men at both ends of the Englishman's warehouse, and it was like shooting rabbits. From the Venus we could see the white figures dart out from the side of the lumber shed, we heard the shots from our men, and then saw the Filipinos drop. Some lay still, others crawled into the trench, while the remainder apparently were not hit. The soldiers in the trench fired upon our men whenever they could, and at the angle of the west wall, Bradley was wounded in the hand. The Filipinos in the trench soon saw their position was untenable and they would have to vacate. They began running out that end of their trench nearest the company's warehouse and farthest from our soldiers and so around the western end of this building to the protection of it. This gave them an exposed course of some 20 yards in plain sight of our men at the west end of the Englishman's warehouse, only 75 yards away. First, they ran singly, then in pairs, and many were killed.

AN OFFICER'S ESCAPE.

The last man to go out of the warehouse, only 75 yards away, was an officer. He glanced at the dead at his feet as twenty of our men fired at him in vain. This was about the last of the fighting. At 10:15 our men from the north and south ends of the Englishman's warehouse ran across the trenches and on up to the town, and at 1:15 the first party from the Venus landed. In the V-shaped trench were 25 dead and wounded men, and there were five in the open corridor of the

TERMS OF PEACE ASKED BY BOERS.

England Will Give Nothing but
Destruction of the Republics.

GERMANY REFUSES TO ACT

Other European Powers Will Not Favor Republics—Message from the United States.

[Early Dispatches.]

London, March 12.—Except in the case of Germany, the replies of the powers to the Boer appeals for intervention are not yet known publicly here, but it is quite certain that Austria-Hungary and Italy will decline to interfere, and there is no apprehension that anything will come of the overtures of the two republics.

A dispatch from Lourenco Marques announces the arrival there of Mr. Fischer, the Orange Free State secretary, and Mr. Woolmer, a member of the Transvaal executive council. It is not known whether they are bound on a mission to London countries or to Sir Alfred Milner. Mr. Woolmer is in President Kruger's confidence.

All the morning papers take the line that the government will decline to open negotiations with the Boer republics except upon the basis of complete surrender, and will also make it perfectly clear that nothing in the shape of foreign intervention will be tolerated.

The Standard says: "There is an idea in some quarters that on arriving at Bloemfontein, Lord Roberts will issue a proclamation which will leave little doubt as to the future of the republics."

The Times says: "President Kruger and President Steyn should have counted the cost before they made war. They played for a great stake and have lost. Until they are ready for unconditional surrender they may save themselves the trouble of sending communications to her majesty's government."

"We are glad to see that it is understood in the United States as well as on the continent that any proffer of mediation will be distinctly repugnant to this country. It would be wholly inadmissible, and the Dutch minister at Washington is entirely mistaken in supposing we would listen to such proposals if only they came from a nation 'on terms of cordial intimacy with us.' We mean to settle this controversy ourselves, and in our own way."

BALFOUR'S REPLY.

London, March 12.—In the house of commons today Mr. Balfour, the first lord of the treasury and government leader, replied to a question as to whether, consistently with public interests, he could state the essential conditions on which alone the government would entertain peace proposals from the South African Republic, provided that papers in this connection would shortly be presented to the house of commons.

Being asked if there was any foundation for the report that President Kruger had addressed a communication to the government, Mr. Balfour reiterated his promise that papers bearing on this subject would be presented to the house within a short time.

DESTROY REPUBLICS.

It is learned that the papers promised by Mr. Balfour will be presented tomorrow and will conform in every respect to the cable by the Associated Press Friday last, that the peace rumors were founded on the fact that President Kruger had appealed to Lord Salisbury for a cessation of hostilities, setting forth at length, by cable, the terms which he was willing to accept, and also that the cabled dispatch to the premier was signed by President Steyn as well as by President Kruger.

Lord Salisbury's answer is exactly as given by the Associated Press at the same time, namely, that the advances had met with an emphatic rejection at the hands of Lord Salisbury, who also said that no such attempt to retain the independence of the republics could be considered for a moment by the British government.

Leonard H. Courtney, M. P., and others, in behalf of the South African conciliation committee, will, nevertheless, urge Lord Salisbury to make peace now that the British arms are triumphant on the basis of equal rights to all whites and disarmament, leaving the two republics' national life within their own borders.

GERMANY REFUSES.

Durban, Monday, March 12.—The Transvaal having appealed to Germany for mediation or intervention in the war with Great Britain, Germany, has replied that she declines to interfere, as she is no way concerned in the conflict.

Berlin, March 12.—With reference to the report that the Boer republics are suing for peace, the Berliner Tageblatt writes: "There has been no indication that any great power is inclined to fulfill President Kruger's wish and to intervene. Anyway this new fledged love of peace is a sign that both presidents are 'the war lost.'"

The Frankfurter Zeitung prints a private letter from Heidelberg, in the Transvaal, the writer of which says that at the most nearly three-fifths of the Boer forces are kept in the field, and the others continuously receive home leave. The writer declares that there is an abundance of food in the two republics and the blacks continue their farm labors without disturbance.

UNITED STATES ACTS.

Paris, March 12, 6:45 a. m.—The Gaulois publishes the following from its London correspondent: "According to good authority, President Kruger and President Steyn have not made a formal proposition of peace but have asked the British government, through the United States, the conditions it would accept for the opening of negotiations on the basis of the independence of the republics."

"President Kruger is alleged to have said that he would accept mediation, but the United States government, in transmitting this communication, took care to declare that it did not assume the responsibility for the initiative in mediation."

The London correspondent of the Matin says: "I learn that United States Ambassador Choate received last evening a long and important cable from the United States relative to South Africa, which he will communicate today to Lord Salisbury."

Injunction Against Boycott.

Butte, Mont., March 12.—Judge Knowles of the United States court today handed down a decision in the noted Chinese boycott, which has been pending in court for several years. He made permanent the injunction against labor unions and labor leaders who had for years prosecuted a boycott against the Chinese and all employers of Chinese. It is understood that claims for damages will now be presented to the federal government by the Chinese minister.

To Ladies

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Jan. 13, 1900.

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