

explosion took place while they were asleep, so that they can give no particulars as to the cause.

The wildest consternation prevails in Havana. The wharves are crowded with thousands of people.

It is believed the explosion occurred in a small powder magazine. At a quarter to 11 o'clock what remains of the Maine is still burning. Capt. Sigbee and the other officers have been saved.

It is estimated that over 100 of the crew were killed, but it is impossible yet to give exact details. Admiral Manterola has ordered that boats of all kinds should go to the assistance of the Maine and her wounded.

The Havana firemen are giving aid, tending carefully to the wounded as they are brought on shore. It is a terrible sight.

Gen. Zolano and the other generals have been ordered by Capt. Gen. Blanco to take steps to help the Maine's crew in every way possible.

The correspondent of the Associated Press has been near the Maine in a boat of the cruiser Alfonso XIII and seen others of the wounded who corroborate the statement of those first asleep when the explosion occurred.

Capt. Sigbee says the explosion occurred in the bow of the vessel. He received a wound in the head. Orders were given to the other officers to save themselves, as best they could. The latter, who were literally thrown from their bunks in their night clothing gave the necessary orders with great self-possession and bravery.

At 1:30 o'clock the Maine continues burning. The first theory was that there had been a preliminary explosion in the Santa Barbara (magazine) of powder or dynamite below the water.

Admiral Manterola believes that the first explosion was of a grenade that was hurled over the navy yard.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The secretary of the navy received the following telegram from Capt. Sigbee:

"Maine blown up in Havana harbor at 9:45 o'clock and destroyed. Many wounded and doubtless many killed and drowned. The wounded and others are on board the Spanish man-of-war and Ward line steamer. Send lighthouse tender from Key West for crew and few pieces of equipment still above water. No one had other clothes than those upon him.

"Public opinion should be suspended till further reports. All officers believed to be saved. Jenkins and Merritt not yet accounted for. Many Spanish officers, including representatives of Gen. Blanco, now with me, and express sympathy. SIGSBEE."

The officers referred to in the above dispatch are Lieut. Freind W. Jenkins and Assistant Engineer Darwin R. Merritt.

From the wording of the dispatch the navy department thinks it is possible that they were on shore at the time of the accident.

Washington, Feb. 16.—While Secretary Long was with the President the following detailed dispatch from Captain Sigbee, commander of the Maine, was brought to him:

"Advise sending wrecking vessel at once. Maine submerged except debris, mostly work for divers now. Jenkins and Merritt still missing. Little hope for their safety.

"Those known to be saved are: Officers 24, uninjured, crew 18; wounded now on board Ward Line steamer, in city hospital and at hotel 59 so far as known. All others went down on board or near the Maine. The total list of missing is 253.

"With several exceptions no officer or man has more than part of a suit of clothing and that is wet with harbor water. Ward steamer leaves for Mexico at 2 this afternoon. Officers

saved are uninjured. Damage was in compartments of crew. Am preparing to telegraph list of wounded and saved. Olivette leaves for Key West at 1 p. m. Will send by her to Key West the officers saved except myself and Wainwright, Holman, Henneger, Ray and Holden; will turn over three uninjured boats to captain of port, with a request for safe keeping. Will Havana. SIGSBEE."

New York, Feb. 16.—A special to the Evening Telegram from Havana concerning the Maine disaster says:

James Rowe, ship's cook, was the least injured of any that were brought off while I was there. I asked him how it happened.

"I don't know," he replied, speaking with difficulty. "I turned in my hammock at 8 o'clock and heard three bells strike. I don't remember anything more until I felt myself turning over and over and falling heavily upon the deck through a mass of smoke. I got on my feet and worked my way on deck. When I got there the superstructure deck was dipping under water and I jumped overboard to keep from being drawn in the suction.

"I was picked up by a boat from the Spanish man-of-war. Four men were picked up by the same boat. They were Daniel Cronin, a landsman; Charles Berry, boatswain; Albert John, seaman, and Blomer, a landsman."

One poor fellow whose face was injured past all recognition was lying in a cot in the hospital. I asked him his name and he mumbled back through horribly swollen lips: "My folks would feel uneasy if I told you."

So far as I can learn now the explosion took place in the magazine used for the storage of gun cotton for the torpedoes. The vessel lies with her bows wholly submerged and only a part of her stern showing.

The explosion, which shook the city from one end to another, created the wildest excitement. All the electric lights were put out by the shock. Fire engines rushed madly from one quarter to another and no one knew for certain from which direction the explosion came.

Consul General Lee, who was at the hotel Inglaterra, received a telephone message from Gen. Blanco telling him that the Maine had been blown up. Gen. Lee hastened to the place where the cabinet is now assembling.

Vice Consul Springer has just assured me that all the officers were saved except Jenkins and Merritt, who are missing. Mr. Springer says at least 300 lives were lost. Capt. Sigbee was on deck when the explosion came. It was in the bow of the vessel. A sentry stationed at the bow was unhurt. He had seen nothing suspicious.

I have talked with some of the rescued officers and seamen. One officer whose name I could not learn, said of the explosion: "I was in my bunk. When I got on deck fire had started forward. There was a good strong breeze. The call for all hands on deck was promptly obeyed and the men and officers were perfectly cool. All possible efforts were made to check the fire but without avail.

"The flames spread rapidly and several explosions occurred. Magazines were burst open and explosives were thrown overboard. In half an hour it was apparent nothing could save the ship."

Key West, Fla., Feb. 16.—Last night was the most eventful ever witnessed at Key West. The excitement commenced shortly before 10 o'clock, when the report was made that the famous tug Dauntless had arrived at a point on the east coast and was taking on arms and ammunition for Cuba.

The celebrated little filibuster was reported to have arrived at Palm Beach simultaneously with a train load of men who would sail before any attempt could be made to detain her. The information was immediately conveyed to commanders of naval vessels in the harbor, who commenced to make preparations to intercept the filibusters.

The came the report that the battleship Maine had been blown up in the harbor of Havana. This news was first received by the commandant of the station, who in turn communicated the information to the several officers in command.

A telephone message was sent the commanding officer at the barracks. Meanwhile the news rapidly spread over the entire city and the cable office became the center of attraction. The fact that the two torpedo boats were getting up steam and made ready to sail added to the excitement.

A hurried conference was held between the several naval officers present and a line of action promptly decided upon. The torpedo boat Ericsson was the first to get under way. She steamed out with open throttles and headed for the westward. While not positively known where she has gone, the impression is that she has been dispatched to Dry Tortugas to notify Admiral Sicard of the disaster to the Maine.

The Cushing is puffing at her wharf ready to steam out and apparently only awaiting orders to proceed to Havana. Every government vessel in the harbor is getting ready to sail for Havana as soon as orders are received. The lighthouse tender Mangrove, under Commander Belder, has just left for Havana. The commander's son and daughter, who have been guests aboard the steamer, were hurriedly sent ashore.

As the minutes pass the excitement becomes intensified from the fact that nothing further has been added to the first meagre report regarding the disaster to the Maine. It is not known here what damage has been done, but the worst is feared, from the arrangements being made to relieve those who are supposed to have been injured.

The cable office is being besieged by naval officers, some of whom are awaiting dispatches, while others are seeking further news regarding events in Havana.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The news of the disaster at Havana spread rapidly over the city and the hotel lobbies and all public places were crowded with people eager to hear and discuss every particle of information as fast as it was received. The wildest reports were in circulation, both as to the number of fatalities and cause of explosion. Nearly every one seemed to suspect treachery on the part of Spain or its over-enthusiastic friends in Havana. Few would believe the explosion was the result of an accident.

Cooler heads expressed a willingness to wait for later news before forming conclusions.

President McKinley was greatly agitated when he heard the news and he expressed great sorrow for the sailors who lost their lives.

At the army and navy club there were groups of greatly interested officers, some of them showing their deep sorrow in every word and look for their acquaintances aboard the Maine.

There is much conjecture as to what course is being or will be pursued by the government.

The telegraph offices are besieged by friends of those known to be on board the Maine. Many of the officers and men have friends, some families, in this city, and some of the latter