DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Monday, - - - June 13, 1898

FROM ENSIGN PEARSON.

He Writes a Letter Home Describing the Great Naval Battle at Manila.

THE BAY WAS ENTERED AND VICTORY WON

To the Zafiro, Which Was Under Command of Ensign Pearson, Belongs the Distinction of Having Cut the Cables.

The "News" is enabled today to publish a letter written from Manila Bay on May 4th, three days after the great "—" Dewey victory over the Spanish fleet. The writer is Ensign Pearson of Draper, Utah, who is about to be promoted by the people of this state with a gold and silver medal issued for the soldier number in which he acquitted himself in the memorable contest. While the letter does not contain very much that has not already been published it is full of interest, coming as it does direct from the scene of conflict and having been written by a participant in one of the most startling feats in the fight, the transport which Admiral Dewey purchased from the Swedish, and which was under Ensign Pearson's command, cut the cable over which so much apprehension was felt for a time. That same was an small distinction. The letter was to Ensign Pearson's parents, brothers and sisters, and is as follows:

S. S. Zafiro, Manila Bay,
May 4, 1898.

Dear Families:—I believe I last wrote you from Hongkong about April 24th. We having been detached the gunboat of Hongkong, an English port, gave us the usual time of forty-eight hours to leave. We went on April 26th to Mirs Bay, a small bay in China about twenty-five miles from Hongkong. April 27th the fleet of white vessels sailed for Manila, the capital of the Philippine islands. On the evening of April 30th we were about sixty miles from the entrance to Manila Bay, on which is the city of Manila. The entrance to the bay was known to have forts on both sides and to have mines laid to explode when we went in. That evening the admiral informed the boys that he was going into Manila Bay, and that night school midshipmen and lights were to be put out and officers and men were to stand by their guns ready for the forts or any of the Spanish ships that might be out. We steamed along and about midnight the boat ship passed the forts unseen, and some of the others passed unobserved, for the forts finally saw that a fleet had come in and at once opened fire. We were on the last ship. Some of the last ships returned the fire. Our ships sped along as fast as possible, the forts firing and our ships returning it. This was between 12 and 1 a.m. on May 1st. None of our ships were hurt and probably the fort ships suffered. It was dark night. About a dozen (12) shots were fired. Luckily only one fort fired at us and no torpedoes were exploded. We all got through the entrance safely, and then steamed up the bay toward Manila.

About daylight, May 1st, the fleet had anchored off Cavite, the Spanish naval station near Manila city. We were

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Trains Leave. Salt Lake.	Trains Arrive. Salt Lake.
10:30 a. m.	9:45 a. m.
2:15 p. m.	1:30 p. m.
4:15 p. m.	3:30 p. m.
6:10 p. m.	5:25 p. m.
8:00 p. m.	7:15 p. m.
11:45 p. m.	10:45 p. m.

Sundays last train leaves Dollar 8:15 p. m.

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now observed and soon the forts there as well as those at Manila fired. We are one ship. The two ships of each division are ahead of the flagship. We were loaded with coal and supplies, got out of the bay. The other ships turned back to Manila and Cavite and we went on alone. We have mastered the Rio Negro and chase for the Zafiro of the Sulu and Spanish islands. We have coaled and got the forts, we skirt behind another bay to get very close to the forts. We have to go very slow and we can see the Spanish ships. When we first passed the forts they turned around and commenced firing again. We got in range of the Spanish ships and we commenced firing on them. We passed two ships, one on a small bay at the mouth of Barcelorto and only the Zafiro and Raleigh engaged, which we passed a number of times.

While our ships had passed the forts they turned and commenced firing on us and then again and again, in all they engaged us four times. Spanish gunboats and land batteries in range of our ships. Our ship was hit four times, one shot was at our ship at once, after one and a half hours hard fighting we had sunk all the Spanish ships in sight, and we went back to Cavite anchorage. The Spanish ship had been sunk, one was on fire and another was aground. We had lost no men, and our ship was not hit, and we had gone through the war safe and sound. The ships had withstood a great deal of shot and shell, and we had not one scratch on our ship or men.

While our ships had passed the forts they turned and commenced firing on us. We had passed the forts and Spanish craft and had taken a small gunboat, which we passed a number of times