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TROOPS REACH SAMPSON.

Eight Hundred Marines, who Left Key West Three Days Ago, Understood to Have Arrived.

With This Force, Admiral Sampson Will be Able Immediately to Take Possession of Points in the Neighborhood of Santiago, and Hold Them for U. S. Occupation.

Other Troops Can be Landed Forty Now—Report that Lawton Landed Marines at Cuzimaria Believed in Washington—Naval Officers Found that the Navy Was the First to Occupy Territory in Cuba—No News Given Out of the Tampa Expedition, Though It is Believed to be Well on the Way to the Destination in Cuba.

Washington, June 8—It is believed positively that the first reinforcements to Sampson's fleet have arrived today off Santiago. These are the 800 marines under the command of Lieut. Colonel Huntington, who sailed three days ago from Key West on the steamer Panther.

These marines had been encamped on the beach at Key West for several weeks undergoing the most severe drill and military training. They are reported not for distribution among the fleet, but as a landing force pure and simple.

Naval officers are confident that with this small force will Sampson be able immediately to take possession of such points in the neighborhood of Santiago as may deem necessary to serve as a base for the occupation if the enemies United States troops when they arrive. With the marines in possession of the heights and the Spanish troops with their backs covering the country behind, there will be a little danger in effecting the landing of the larger force.

Thus far no official information has reached the navy department of the Santiago expedition other than the report that some Cuban insurgents had by the officers that he found Lieut. Colonel Huntington and his command safely ashore at Guantanamo and that they are still in possession of a strong position. It is considered by the officers that he will be able to hold the place until more troops can be landed to assist in extending the lines across the peninsula.

It is said that the transports were to remain up and take under convoy a number of the more formidable naval vessels.

Assuming that the transports off Santiago yesterday morning at sunrise took the right course to make their way to Key West today. Some of them may be expected to arrive in port in the morning hours, and, in having them under cover, Sampson will be able to land the 800 marines on the shore of the island. It is probable that the final start from Key West will not be made before to-morrow.

Considerable signs of astonishment were exhibited in the army offices when the Associated Press bulletin came from Key West giving the information that there were Spanish troops at Guantanamo. The Spanish troops were not at all in the thought of the officers of the regular army who are officers. Nevertheless, it is clear that the department is still in some doubt as to the exact whereabouts of all the Spanish troops. Yesterday it was reported that a number of men had gone from Santiago to the Cuban coast in small sailing vessels. The naval officers who have of these boats, telling their men to land at points far from the Spanish troops, and to make their way to Santiago by land. They admit that it would be difficult task for a months to run the Spanish lines, but they say it would be a little easier to effect the landing on the other side of the city.

There is no special information has reached the navy department of the Sampson