

different to danger, fatigue and exhaustion and perhaps a little custom will reduce a man—a shell bursting within a few yards of myself, killing three men and wounding seven others, would not elicit passing notice, although men well known to all. The men immediately in the vicinity would simply remove the dead a few yards away under a tree, and the wounded under another tree for temporary treatment.

The dead I noticed were perfectly unrecognizable an hour afterwards. The stench arising from the unburied dead will be apparent when it was found impossible to bury them for three days. Another 8-inch shell fell within a few feet of us and shook the earth, but through some good fortune did not explode. We buried it. We attributed the large shells to Cervera's fleet, which was then in the harbor.

Many peculiar wounds occurred on the first day's fight, among them were two cases where the bullet was caught in the mouth, one through the cheek.

Another curious incident was, wounded men going to the rear, in their excitement, reported their entire regiment wiped out. That evening I got permission to go back down the road a few miles to recover my baggage and indispensable rations. It must be remembered first of all, that when we forced our way through the chaparral the day previous, we left the sharpshooters therein no means of escape, being then completely surrounded, troops before and troops behind them; therefore they made good use of their time and did us all the damage they could, which was considerable—even deliberately firing on our wounded and hospital corps and selecting doctors as good marks, and using in addition to the ordinary mauler bullets, a 50 caliber cartridge with brass-coated bullets. It was some time before we could properly locate this additional source of danger, they being ensconced in the thick trees and covered with some green material resembling the trees which made the not easily distinguishable; but as soon as their modus operandi was discovered, fully two or three hundred were removed from those trees, and in most cases never knew what struck them.

Well, as I said, I started down the road well armed in company with two or three other men and reached the before mentioned creek in safety, under the bank of which was established a temporary or "first aid," hospital—the upper bank adorned with a row of dead—then crossed the creek and proceeded down the road, but had not gone far when we received volley after volley of shots fired apparently at close range and directly at us, how any of us were not hit was a miracle—it getting dark and assuming "discretion the better part of valor," we wisely forebore investigation and proceeded onward. The road presented a fearful illustration of the havoc one day's warfare will cause. Baggage and kits strewn in all directions, looted by soldiers both U. S. and Cuban alike for the best of everything, rifles, ammunition, officers' clothing, little knickernacks and souvenirs placed in knapsacks and blanket rolls by mothers, wives and sweethearts strewn along the road for miles and contents of haversacks indiscriminately cast around—a dead man here, sometimes two or three, a dead officer there and numbers of dead horses been floating in the sun, which made the atmosphere felt. Finding our faithful guard with our baggage, I had no trouble in finding my own; but being wet through and cold through wading the river I decided to remain there over

night; I therefore made a good meal from the contents of my haversack consisting of hardtack and raw bacon supplemented with the contents of my canteen, then wrapped myself in a heavy rubber coat and made my bed on the baggage with the guard and one or two others. I had been asleep but a short time when I was excitedly awakened by the others saying, the Spaniards had broken over the hill and advising us to flee—what gave it some color was, there was considerable firing going on and numbers of men whom had previously gone up the road came running back pell mell—one shot through the hand (probably by sharpshooters). Shooting shortly after ceasing, we turned in again.

The following morning, reaching the hospital by the creek, I was generously invited to a good breakfast by one of the doctors which I gratefully acknowledged, laying low in the meantime to avoid stray bullets which were numerous, and shortly after joining my command, I learned that the excitement of the previous night was claimed to have been a night attack by the Spaniards, which, although creating some momentary confusion resulted in a loss to the Spaniards of some 3,000 men. Firing was resumed on the following day (Sunday). The night being occupied in improving our position. During the morning we heard above our own firing, some very heavy and rapid firing going on outside the harbor, (the destruction of Cervera's fleet taking place as we shortly afterwards learned), that settled things, for the present at all events, the first and most important phase in the settlement of hostilities. At noon a Spanish flag of truce was observed, the result being an armistice lasting a week.

Now, everything assumes a more peaceful attitude, the men in both armies no more afraid to expose themselves, they parade the tops of the trenches in full view of each other, being in some cases not more than 300 yards apart. The Spanish reveille intermingles with our own and music from the bands is occasionally heard. During this time Lieut. Honson and his brave men were exchanged. Shortly afterwards, our brigade being relieved we were moved a couple of miles or so nearer the right of the line and commanding a good view of the city and harbor.

On Sunday, the 10th, (coming to no good understanding in the meantime) the bombardment of the city commenced, our lines in the meantime having been gradually extended in a semi-circle around the city for about six or seven miles, rifles grinning out over the breastworks, in some cases not more than 18 inches apart; the city's water supply cut off and the city absolutely without provisions. We vacated the trenches in order to allow a battery immediately behind us to work over our heads, the commander of which, who was watching the effects of the shots, constantly exclaiming, "Good," "That's fine," or "That's immense," etc. Bombarding was resumed for a short time the following day, when another flag of truce practically ended hostilities as far as Santiago was concerned. The 14th July told us of the surrender, but not until the 17th was it officially accomplished, after Gen. Shafter had received the arms and ammunition; then we lined the entrenchments and immediately after our flag floated over the city, our batteries (then stationed in front of us) firing a "few de jolt," and the men cheering themselves hoarse, which, by the way, was the only occasion we were allowed any ebullition of feeling in the presence of the enemy on receipt of good news. During the preceding armistice we removed our camp a few hundred yards back over the brow of the ridge behind us as being nearer our other battalion

and more suitable, if exchanging for one infested with tarantulas and scorpions by the score was preferable to sleeping in mud and water continually. The snakes did not appear numerous, but were very large. Saw a few parrots, in one instance a parrot alighted on one of the men's shoulders and jabbered away in his ear in some foreign tongue, probably Spanish.

The Spanish fleet long since disposed of, the harbor was promptly occupied, by our own vessels when provisions and creature comforts commenced to arrive on a much more liberal scale, fresh beef, potatoes and bread, preserves and even wine for the sick and better tentage, and so forth—even tobacco, for which fabulous prices had been offered—a tablespoonful at a time for a while, or a square inch of chewing tobacco; but but nevertheless welcome after smoking coffee for a few weeks; I had managed to secure a little bloodstained package from a wounded soldier whom I assisted during the first day's fight—shot just above the heart, but I thought not fatally, and who insisted upon me taking it, knowing the value of tobacco and assuring me he had more should he require it.

Then the dreaded malarial fever presented itself, and which was fortunate in not developing sooner, seeming to take just about that time to germinate—attacking everyone more or less, respecting no one. A few died from exhaustion and dysentery, but with the present means of combatting the disease, nothing like the alarming mortality that occurred to the British over a hundred years ago. All was done that could be done to alleviate the sufferings of the sick in our camps, one officer I knew of spending as much as \$500 out of his private purse to that end so I understand. Cuban refugees would continually beset our camps for food, but had to be kept out of camp owing to rumors of yellow fever in El Caney, where the majority came from. The daily showers were pretty regular, and many of the men would avail themselves of the opportunity and take a shower bath, stripping off and securing their clothes in some dry place stand out in the showers and wash, or wash their clothes similarly, wringing them out and putting them on wet, drying very shortly in the burning sun which invariably followed. Our mail now becomes more regular, the delivery of which causes no little excitement; which reminds me, we discovered a white berry, the juice of which made excellent mucilage for sticking our letters.

We found the mango to be very good eating either raw or stewed in the form of jam—being warned against eating them to the contrary notwithstanding—anything in that line a soldier won't sample I'd like to see it. The natives eat them and sell them for that purpose.

We found the attitude of the Spaniards very friendly generally speaking, many would shake hands and express themselves as being glad the war was over and exchange souvenirs, the "machete" being the article most in favor with our men.

We managed to understand each other pretty well. Each man was furnished with a card before leaving Tampa with many of the words used in ordinary conversation in the Spanish language with the English pronunciation. The Spaniards were similarly informed by reference to their pocket handkerchiefs, in some cases the mechanism of their rifles was illustrated and described thereon. Many relics were to be found on the battlefield immediately after the fight. Mauler rifles not the least among them.