THE EVENING PAPER IS THE PAPER OF TODAY, THE MORNING PAPER IS THE PAPER OF YESTERDAY.

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GREAT BATTLE HAS BEGUN

Attack Upon Santiago Began at 7 o'clock This Morning---Fighting Furious All Along the Line.

Lawton's Troops Advance to Santiago Suburbs--Cervera's Fleet Fires on the Troops--Sampson's Batteries in Full Play on the Harbor Defenses--Americans Driving Spaniards.

Washington, July 1.—Secretary Alger has received the following despatch from Gen. Shafter, dated at 1 p. m. today:

"Camp at Sevilla, Cuba, July 1.—After two days going on, but being light and necessary, it began on the right of our army. Lawton's division. He will report in person at 2 o'clock. Lawton's division is the southeast part of the town of Santiago. Will keep you fully advised of progress.

"SHAFTER."

"Major General Commanding."

Secretary Alger directed Adjt. Gen. Corbin to notify Mr. President of receipt of Shafter's message, and the President will be kept constantly advised of all news.

Secretary Alger left for the cabinet meeting at 11 o'clock, saying that nothing more had been received since Gen. Shafter's first despatch.

The secretary expressed confidence that our forces are and armed and in good position to give an account of themselves. Gen. Shafter has artillery with planed. While Secretary Alger is at the White House all despatches received are being sent there direct.

Playa del Rey, July 1, 11:30 a. m.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—A general assault on the city of Santiago de Cuba by the land and sea forces of the United States began at 7 o'clock this morning. Gen. Lawton advanced and took possession of Caney, a suburb of Santiago.

Morro Castle and the other forts at the entrance of the harbor were bombarded by our fleet. The Vesuvius fired six dynamite guns with good effect.

The Spanish fleet in the harbor fired on the American troops who were very close to the city.

Hard fighting is going on. The American line was in progress at 11 o'clock.

Nine wounded Cubans have been brought in.

Washington, July 1.—The battle has begun. This was the startling news received in a despatch received from Gen. Shafter at 10 o'clock this morning.

Short as it is, it lets the whole story that the first shots of the long expected crash are about, probably the first of a general land engagement of the war, was under way.

It was a thrill through official circles from the President to the clerks. Secretary Alger hurried to the cabinet meeting with the news. Calls upon Secretary Long were made to find out the exact position of the navy, and the Secretary hurried to the White House to take the latest word to the President. Word was sent to the President at his cottage on Delaware avenue, carrying the original despatch. He was at his cottage when the despatch was received and then started for the White House. Until then very hopes of his heart knew that the decisive hour was at hand.

The news spread through the city fast and it was received with joy and expectancy took hold of every one. A great crowd of correspondents straggled about the bulletin board, movers and men flocked off with disappointed looks, and women turned from their duties and gathered at the doors.

Meanwhile, Secretary Alger remained at his desk while the hour crept on and no word came. Then he hurried to the cabinet meeting. Secretary Long followed his colleague with the news that no word had yet come from the navy. The secretary said he had sent word to the commanders of the fleet to keep him fully advised of the progress of the fight, and he was sure they would do so. As the secretary started to the cabinet meeting he spoke with enthusiasm of the fact that definite news had at last come to hand, and that the long expected battle was at last in progress. The secretary said that he was sure that the army was now ready to strike and that the navy was ready to strike with the army. Word had come from the Shafter despatch received this morning that the troops had been ordered to the front and was moving.

Gen. Miles, commanding the army, remained at his office to receive the news as it came in and arrived. He has anticipated a long and a hot battle. He has expected it for over a fortnight. Today he has been in frequent receipt of the army bulletins, and he knew that the troops had left the city of El Caney and had gone out to Santiago and that they were near and at close quarters.

Gen. Shafter's despatch indicated that reports had been received by him of the fight. State has received another despatch sent after the one received this morning, from Shafter, which was received late last night. It was not known that any such despatch was coming, and it was a surprise to the world and was welcomed by the officials as a sign that the wires were working. This is the substance of the despatch: Shafter reported that he was at Baiquiri, ready to land troops. Brave reports had been received from the army. Shafter said he was in a position to land a force of 6,000 men within a mile or more of the city of Santiago. He asked the operation of a landing be made at Daiquiri, which is from 25 to 30 miles west of Santiago.

Gen. Miles had been come war bulletins in successive notices of advance and action during the day. Orders were issued to the troops in Porto Rico to be prepared for what so long was anticipated. Gen. Miles received a question of cavalry on the road this morning, and he said he was sure that the time was ripe for the cavalry to be in the present war and the time was ripe for the cavalry to be in the immediate day would give us in the shape of all the Spanish troops, the place of Santiago, the capital of Cervera's squadron, and the possibly the capture of Cervera's fleet.

After the first announcement of that fact was published the time crept slowly with nothing from the field to answer the intense anxiety to which every one was wrought. The Spanish fleet was well known and well known you continually advised of the great preparations for a battle, and it was generally thought that there would be news in the White House while the cabinet was in session, and this added to the tension which was already intense. The officials showed every disposition to keep the public completely advised of actual occurrences.

According to Gen. Shafter's report the attack on Santiago was begun by the second division of the fifth army corps commanded by Brig. Gen. R. W. Lawton.

The division consists of three brigades as follows:

First brigade, commanded by Col. J. J. Van Horn, Twenty-Fourth U. S. Infantry and the Second Massachusetts Infantry.

Second brigade, commander unknown, supposed to be Col. Bates, First U. S. Infantry, Fourth U. S. Cavalry and Twenty-fifth U. S. Infantry.

Third brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. A. R. Chaffee, Seventh U. S. Cavalry, Twelfth U. S. Infantry and Twenty-fifth U. S. Infantry.

There it appears that the entire division, which formed the headline in the battle, is composed entirely of regular troops, and of the best and most experienced troops in the service. The Twenty-fifth Infantry is the only one of the regiments of colored troops in the army, and it is well known that it is composed of veteran troops, many of them having served in the Indian campaigns of the past.

The division was chosen for the important and responsible duty of opening the battle by the capture of Caney and the Spanish outworks on the road to Santiago. Lawton's command was marching Santiago in the rear, while the other two divisions of the army were battling around the city. The fifth corps is composed of two divisions, the second division being composed of the Second and Third brigades of regulars, and the Second and Third brigades of volunteers, under command of Brig. Gen. Duffield.

Gen. Lawton's division is composed of the First and Second brigades of regulars, and the First brigade of volunteers, under command of Brig. Gen. Ludlow.

The Spanish understood as early as last night that the Americans were close enough to shell the city, and they knew that the time was at hand when the fate of Santiago and the Spanish fleet in the harbor would be decided by the fortune of war. It is known that the Spanish troops were moving toward the city of Santiago, and it was thought that they would be there in force. It was also known that the Spanish had been busy fortifying the city, and that they had brought up all the available troops they could command to the city of Santiago.

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Gen. Miles, commanding the army, received a report that the Spanish had left Santiago and had gone out to the front and was attacked