

"THE BATTLE OF PORTLAND"

Storm Cloud of Coming Hostilities Hanging Heavily Over New England Coast—Great War Game Being Played by American Fleet.

Special Correspondence.

Portland, Me., Aug. 10.—Just now the coast of Maine is fairly resonant with "war's alarms," and the storm cloud of coming hostilities hangs menacingly over the good city of Portland.

As the deployment of the great war game which is now being played along the New England coast Rear Admiral A. S. Barker, with a powerful fleet, will essay the capture of the city, which will be gallantly defended by Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee with a force of United States regulars and Maine militia. For this mimic battle, which will begin on Aug. 22 and end on Aug. 23, the preparations of both the land and sea forces have been going on for nearly a month. Indeed the maneuvers of the navy farther down the coast, the working out of various problems of scouting and tactical cruising and of offensive and defensive naval fighting, are, intended to prepare Admiral Barker's fleet for its attack on Portland, while General Chaffee and his aids have been strenuously at work preparing for the defense of the city.

Of course nobody knows the plan of campaign of either the offensive naval force or the defensive army force. To allow this to become public would be a flagrant violation of the rules of the game, but some general facts of the contest are known.

Immediately following the grand review of Admiral Barker's fleet by President Roosevelt and Secy. Moody off Oyster Bay on Aug. 17, the magnificent line of war ships, one of the most imposing that has ever been assembled

in time of peace in American waters, will steam away to the place of rendezvous, presumably Penobscot bay, preparatory to the joint army and navy maneuvers. One of the most conspicuous in the line will be the Kearsarge, fresh from her latest triumph, the famous trip from Portsmouth, England, to Newport in nine days. The other famous ships in the fleet will be the Alabama, the flagship, Illinois, the Massachusetts, the Indiana and the Texas. In the line will also be the protected cruisers Olympia and Baltimore, the tug Nina, Potomac, Iowa and Noxocot and the sailing ships Monongahela and Alliance. This is certainly a goodly array of sea fighters, more than one of them famous for heroic deeds in actual war. It would seem that they ought to be able to capture Portland without very much difficulty, but let it be remembered that Portland has a gallant defensive force under the command of a great soldier, who has been a hero in all our wars since 1831.

For the attack on Portland Admiral Barker will not employ all the ships of his fleet, but will select a formidable division of six battleships and two protected cruisers and such unprotected cruisers, gunboats and destroyers as he can use to advantage. He will be assisted by Rear Admiral Smith of the coast squadron, Rear Admiral Wise of the training squadron and Rear Admiral Coghlan of the Caribbean sea division. To determine the victory

a board of five arbitrators has been appointed and an elaborate set of rules has been adopted on which they will base their decision.

Of course there is much speculation as to which will win. Portland, which is now essentially an army post, where army society is in full sway, feels quite confident that the land forces will be more than a match for their naval assailants, while up at Bar Harbor, which is practically a naval station, where navy society rules, everybody is quite confident that the sea fighters will win.

By the way, the social features of the war game are not an unimportant part of the play. In this respect mimic war is decidedly different from actual war. The assembly of army officers and their families in Portland and of navy officers and their households at Bar Harbor is making things unusually lively on the Maine coast in a social way. The army and navy maneuvers are also the means of attracting hither many outside these circles, who seek cooling breezes and the demand for cottages and hotel accommodations has been unprecedentedly large.

One particularly pleasing feature of the large assembly of the military forces which the maneuvers call together is the meeting of old friends who have not seen each other for years. Life in the army is a sort of revolving circle, which brings the same people together now and then, and thus this is an occasion at which an unusually large number of acquaintances are renewed. The spirit of comradeship which exists between army people is very striking and pleasing. It matters little whether army men and women have met before. From the instant of meeting they are friends. Indeed the army is like a large family—strongly bound together by ties of common service. Most of the officers who are engaged in the maneuvers have their wives and daughters here. As it is impractical for the families to live in camp, they are located near by in hotels and cottages. Some of the cottages are of good size and accommodate several families, who keep house on a co-operative plan. There are many parties, tennis and croquet tournaments, and the bright gowns and uniforms, with the background of sunset, sun and flagstaff, present an attractive picture, not altogether suggesting the horrors of real war.

However, while the occasion is one of pleasant social reunion, much hard work is being done by officers and men in preparation for the culminating event of the maneuvers. There have been for a fortnight or more almost continuous target practice and drill in the features of attack and post defense, and earthworks have been thrown up at various defensive points, while "submarine mines" have been planted in the harbor. Some of the latter are exposed to view when the fall of nine foot tide water leaves them lying on the sand. Innocent enough they look, too, but the uninitiated of the war game will consider them a formidable part of the defense. But the work intended for the summer maneuvers is not the only work that is going on. Port McKimley, while one of the principal points of defense in the maneuvers, is being constructed as a permanent army post and will be used as winter quarters for a number of companies. Unlike the long used hollow square form, Port McKimley is laid out in the shape of a crescent. Located in the midst of the primeval forest, it will be an ideal army post.

Owing to the prevalence of fog and rain during the past few weeks camp life has not been particularly enjoyable. The tents remain dry within, for they are securely fastened with cords and tent pins and resist the wind beaten rains. More than that, ditches have been dug around every tent, so that the falling water is carried off instead of remaining to make the ground damp. Unless the soldiers buy tent floors at their own expense they have none, for the idea of the "powers that be" is that the conditions of life should be the same as though in an actual campaign. At first heating stoves could be found in very few tents. Now, however, if not all, companies are prepared with them. From the mimic war, which will simulate the real thing as nearly as possible, both the land and sea fighters are expected to learn many lessons which will be of far reaching value and importance. The maneuvers furnish opportunity for General Chaffee to train his forces in the general features of attack and defense of posts, how to use the search lights to best advantage in detecting the approach of an enemy, the most satisfactory method of conducting the work of defense and information, the utilization of commercial life saving and lighthouse stations and the practical application of wireless telegraphs and use of balloons.

Rear Admiral Barker's fleet will gain

valuable experience in obtaining the range of forts and batteries, how best to control its approach, the method of maneuvering under fire, the best formation to be used, the distance between the ships to be observed and whether it is desirable to use search lights from all the ships or from a few, leaving the remainder in darkness and firing at the targets illuminated. These are only a few of the many lessons, technical, but most valuable, which the

summer war game will teach the attacking fleet.

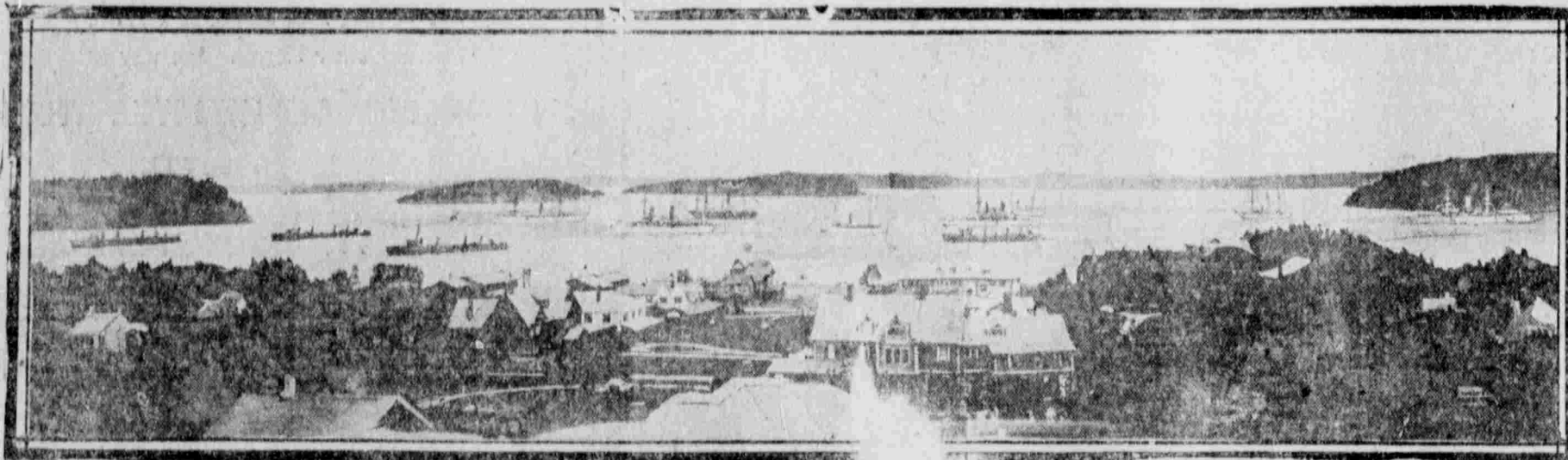
Altogether the bombardment and defense of Portland will do the offensive navy and the defensive army a world of good, and incidentally cover them both with more or less glory, while the beleaguered city will emerge from the smoke of the battle without a feather ruffled or a hair turned. Like the boy and the frogs, it will be fun for them and won't hurt Portland any.

Taken With Cramps.
William Kirmse, a member of the bridge gang working near Littleport was taken suddenly ill Thursday night with cramps and a kind of cholera. His case was so severe that he had to have the members of the crew wait upon him and Mr. Clifford was called and consulted. He told them he had a medicine in the form of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy that he thought would help him out and accordingly several doses were administered with the result that the fellow was able to be around next day. The incident speaks quite highly of Mr. Clifford's medicines—Elkader, Iowin, Acqua.

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"The only chirality that exists these days," said the humor philosopher, "is wild 'ol' polytechnic that sits on the corner awn him ladies over. Aw, bedad, he gets paid for it!"

BOMBARDING FLEET TO SEIZE PORTLAND, MAINE.

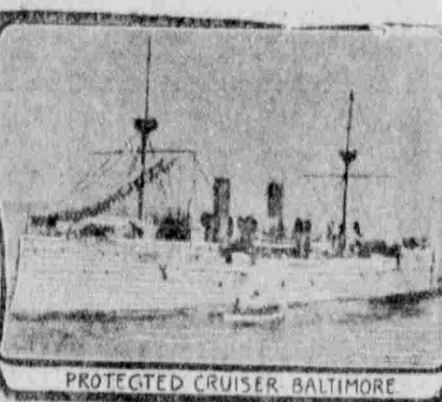


LOCATION OF SQUADRON.

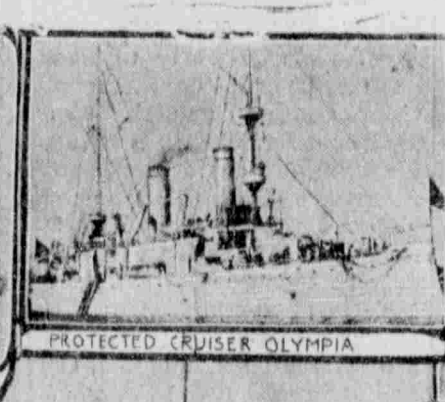
PORTLAND.



MAJ. GEN. CHAFFEE.



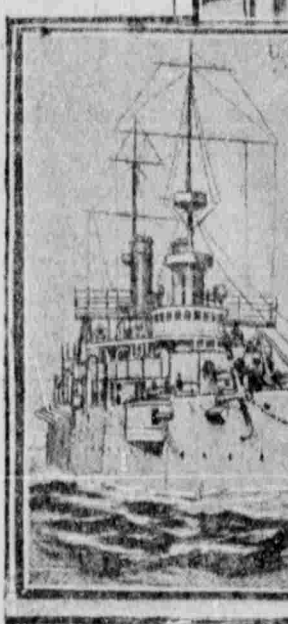
PROTECTED CRUISER BALTIMORE.



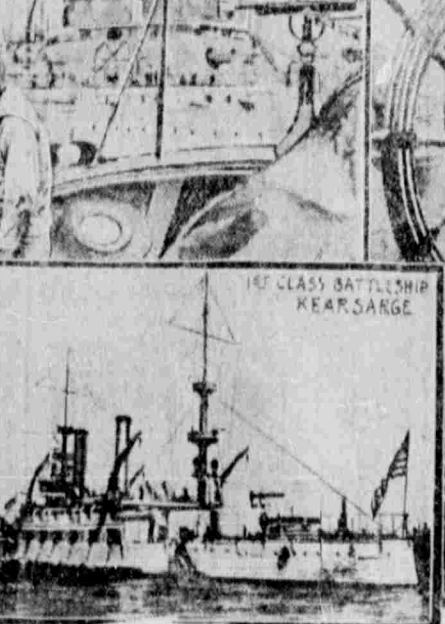
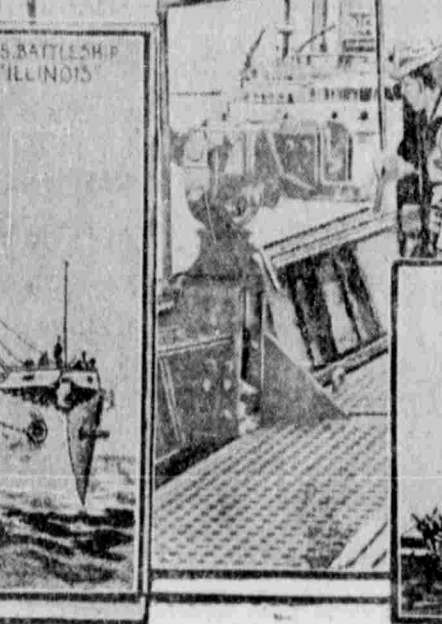
PROTECTED CRUISER OLYMPIA.



REAR ADMIRAL BARKER.



U.S. BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS.



U.S. BATTLESHIP KEARSARGE.



REAR ADMIRAL COGHLAN.

The great object of the attacking fleet in the coming maneuvers will be the attempt to capture Portland, Me., which will be made from midnight, Aug. 23, to noon, Aug. 29. Preparations will be made to resist attacks on forts by landing parties. All forts in the artillery district of Portland will be mobilized on a war basis. Gen. Chaffee will head the land forces, whilst Rear Admiral Barker will assist him in the defense of the port.

MONSTER ENGLISH CONCERTS

Talk about America being the land of big things! Musically speaking we are not "in it" with the English. At the "Union Jack" concert given in London last month the Albert Hall was packed with a monster audience which listened to a band that in itself was, as the London World remarks, an extraordinary sight, with the Queen's Hall Orchestra, the massed bands of the Foot Guards, the trumpeters and drummers, and the New Zealand band; while the white dresses, with red, white and blue sashes, of the Ladies of the Leeds Choral Union made an effective background. Then there was a huge drum "about nine feet high," which made an effect "as of heavy artillery" in Tchaikowsky's "1812" overture, which was played by all the instrumental forces under Mr. Henry Wood, who was "tremendously Napoleonic."

Bigger even than this affair was the triennial Handel Festival, which attracted 20,000 people a day, and at which the conductor, Dr. Cowen, was expected to preserve harmony among nearly 4,000 singers from about 20

towns, not to speak of the orchestra of 200. Under his baton, we are informed, florid passages did not sound like the gambols of a herd of elephants, and there were real pianissimos. Previous conductors, it seems, "seated from the assumption that a steady meszoforte, with occasional explosions, was all that could be aimed at in the way of expression, and that there was cause for devout thankfulness if the sopranos on the lowest tier and the basses in the tiers a quarter of a mile above them were not more than half a beat apart." This confession seems to indicate that bigness in music has its seamy side.

FOOTBALL IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

Football is to be encouraged in, or, rather, introduced into, the French army. "Pou-pou" miffette has been practically a stranger to outdoor sports. All he has had to do when on leave for the day has been to wander about the streets of his garrison town or sit slumped against a wall when it is not raining. He is now being taught to appreciate football. The game has so well caught on in the few regiments which have yet learned it that

colonels all over the country are thinking of providing their men with means of playing it. The little soldiers in their red trousers and gray helmeted caps, look rather funny when learning the mysteries of dribbling and setting. But if they do somewhat kick and snarl, they have plenty of agility, swiftness and go. The chief difficulty experienced by colonels anxious to develop a love of the king of winter games among their men is the question of ways and means. An original scheme is now afoot for providing the necessary equipment for football to as many regiments as possible. A sort of benefit association match is to be played this month between an English scratch team and a French eleven. The proceeds of the takings at the requisite "leather," goal posts, etc., for Pious footballers. The match ought to draw a considerable sum of money, as the English team will be a strong one including several ex-internationals.—London Telegraph.

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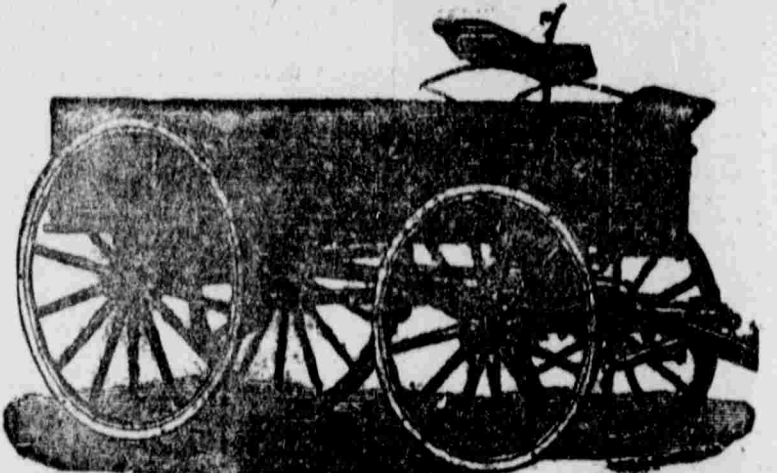
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