HOW TO GET AT SPAIN.

Cuba, Not the Peninsula, the Real Objective.

The Many Vulnerable Points of the Beleaguered "Pearl of the Antilles."

BY CAPTAIN GEORGE L. KILMER.

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Put into plain English, the first problem before the United States in the Cuban crisis is not to make war upon the whole Spanish nation, but upon Spanish Cuba. This is in line with the policy originally laid down in the declarations by the president and the respectable utterances of congress. Therefore the broad strategy for military movements may be found very simple. Our possessions give us sure foothold for land and naval forces within striking distance of the chief Spanish towns on the island of Cuba. The region now controlled by the patriots has been reached again and again during this war by filibustering expeditions, and in previous wars of the same character various parts of the island under Spanish control have been up to a certain point successfully invaded by allies from outside.

In the Lopez insurrection that chieftain landed at Cabanas, 40 miles west of Havana, with a few hundred Americans, and marched to the interior, repulsing the Spaniards sent to intercept his march. Making its way into Pinar del Rio, the expedition came to grief because of its lamentable weakness. On another occasion he landed at Cardenas, east of Havana. During the Ten Years' war General Jordan, the ex-Confederate, landed at Mayari, on the northwest coast, with 300 men, having in charge arms and ammunition for 8,000 soldiers, besides some cannon. While marching toward the interior Jordan was attacked, but repulsed the Spaniards and carried the expedition through to the seat of the insurgent government at Guaymara, where he gave a sound thrashing to a force of Spaniards sent against him. What has been done can be done again, and it should be borne in mind that where the filibusters have had at best only a few hundred men in any expedition the first invading force now will number at least 10,000. It will have naval backing at the time of landing and a secure base for interior operations.

There are indications that the government is preparing to eventually invade the northwestern portion of the island. In that case the army will advance toward Havana from the west, getting the Spaniards between two fires, as the patriots hold the east and are within a few miles of Havana. If General Miles can succeed in firmly planting 10,000 men where Jordan put his 300, the fate of Havana is sealed even should the navy not fire a shell. With the Americans on one side and the patriots on the other the Spaniards will have a chance to make good their Quixotic boast to die in their tracks rather than give up Cuba.

What line of strategy will be adopted once the forces are face to face cannot be conjectured. The Spaniards boast that they desire pitched battles, and they will surely be accommodated. Their leaders will be tied down by old traditions of the service, while ours have been emancipated, and it is sure to come to pass that the cry will go up from the dons that American generals violate every rule of war in their generalship. That was the charge brought against Napoleon in Italy, and he kept on violating the antiquated rules until he had the whole of Europe under his thumb.

The importance of keeping a strong reserve naval force at Key West is evident, and in the uncertainty as to the movements of the Spanish fleet it cannot with safety be allowed to separate. How and when it will come into action and to what strategic uses it will be put depends on the results of the initiative. It requires a much larger force on sea as well as on land to carry a position by attack than to hold it against attack.

It would prove a thankless task for the American navy to be tied up to the defense or blockade of Cuban or Puerto Rican ports for any length of time. What it longs to do is to wipe out the Spanish navy, and the Spaniards may be slow about steaming up to the Yankee guns quiescently for that fate. So it will be fair to come speedily to a campaign of naval strategy. One side will seek to draw the other into favorable position for a decisive battle. Warfare is no longer a matter of challenge, with the combats fought out under fixed rules. Yankee sailors have been taught to drive ahead after their object. If the enemy stands, they go at him. If he runs, they chase him, and if he breaks in confusion they smite hip and thigh. No standing off and saluting with the phrase-book in hand, "Gentlemen, will you have the goodness to fire?" The watchword for every ship commander is, "When in doubt, fight!"

Commodore Schley is reported to have outlined the course to be pursued by the flying squadron. He would dash into any Spanish fleet he could come up with, throw it into confusion and badly cripple it, then away. This view of the situation means that the enemy's navy is to be the objective. All depends on the willingness of the Spaniards to accept battle. Nelson waited two years to draw the French navy into the campaign which ended in its destruction at Trafalgar. If Spain should decide on a waiting war and compel us to force the fighting, then the next objective after we get our way on the island of Cuba would be an armament able to threaten another vital point which the Spanish navy would seek to defend. A menace of Puerto Rico might have that effect, but if Spain is the weak power she has been called it would be bad strategy for her to risk her navy for the defense of anything on this side of the water. That is to say, she might defend them best by waiting until she could get our navy on the fin. In that event probably everything except Cuba would be restored to her.

The fighting tactics, once the fleets come together, will be of the boldest kind if the navies are to justify their cost. Modern fleets are made up for line of battle fighting, and the long range guns of today will allow of long distances. But it is not human nature for a people with the traditions of the American navy to stand off and indulge in target practice. Should the Vizcaya land a shell in the bowels of the Indiana or the Pelayo pierce the armor of the Texas those Spaniards will be marked for retaliatory blows and will get them if their antagonists have to close in and deliver them in the face of a rain of shots. With a ship under them having a head of steam on able to move into the ring of the enemy's champions the Yankee sailors will submit to no holding.

Another element which will make for hot fighting is the fact that all the great ships have their individuality and are the pride of their officers and crew. They'll never hand off from a scrap until the particular ship has done the best there is in her. It will be with them as it was with Nelson at the battle of Copenhagen when the quaking chief admiral of the British fleet hoisted the signal, "Leave off action"—in other words, retreat. When Nelson's signal officer called out the unwelcome message, the off-hem exclaimed: "Leave off action? Now, d—n me if I do!" In the thunder of a hot naval battle sailors with the spirit of Paul Jones and Perry and Farragut will pass small risk of court martial by failing to see or hear the orders to leave off action. They'll be in the rumpus to fight and not retreat.

If the dogs of war, when once let loose, go at it with Napoleonic swiftness, they'll come to a reckoning in sight in the West Indies just to rub Spain off every foothold for bases. That was Grant's plan for settling the Cuban question in his day, and our navy may remain in observation only off Puerto Rico, waiting for some crisis in the Cuban campaign to determine questions of larger strategy.

Torpedo boats can cut little figure in the plans at this stage. Their utility is as uncertain as that of the Monitor when she steamed out to tackle the Merrimac. They have been tried and found wanting in reliability as well as in precision. With the spirit of Farragut the sailors will take to the waves at the outset, saying, "D—n the torpedoes!"

Spain's problem will be the question of coal, as that of the north in the civil war was one of bread for the invading army on its long marches into the exhausted plains for battle. Prosecution on the part of Spain must necessarily cause this government to broaden its plan of warfare. It will wage war against other of Spain's colonies than Cuba in order to secure for its ships bases of supply and to keep Spain from using the bases herself. But no grand objectives, until some great event changes the situation, in Cuba, and the problem before the strategists rests upon these three points:

Feeding the starving Cubans,
Equipping Gomez's insurgent army,
Driving the Spaniards out.

THE MAN IN THE FIGHTING TOP.

There is one spot on board the modern man-of-war that is still the most exposed position in time of battle, and that is the top, or military mast, as it is now designated. The man stationed there knows that grim death hovers all about him; that there is no other post so full of deadly peril. He is a hero, or he would shirk his duty and rebel from fear. In other parts of the ship he has some chances to ten of escaping danger. There he has only a single chance in a million. He stands, in the targets for shot and shell, with a thin plating before them that is scarcely protection only against a small rifle bullet or a glancing shot from a rapid fire gun. There they handle small caliber machine guns, and citizens usually support them. Their work is to cripple the mosquito vessels and "hornets" and to sweep the deck and superstructure of the antagonist with a rain of deadly missiles, picking off the officers and subordinate commanders, acting, in fact, as the sharpshooters of the navy. But they are not let alone. A steady fire of bullets is directed against them. Huge projectiles are thrown at them, and possibly one rightly aimed may bring down the mast with its unfortunate tenants to the deck amid a crash that will bury them in shattered pieces of iron and steel, mutilating them beyond recognition.

ROGER P. BARNUM.

A Surgeon's Sang Froid.

Dr. Jules Pean, the celebrated French surgeon who died in Paris the other day, was a man of some peculiar habits as well as of many brilliant qualities. One of the former was his custom of appearing at his clinics dressed as for a dinner party, wearing a cutaway coat bearing his ribbon of the Legion of Honor, white open waistcoat, black trousers and a silk hat (feather boa). The sang froid which he displayed while performing the most difficult and delicate operations was wonderful. He would talk incessantly, but never hesitated for an instant and, it is said, never made a mistake.

He made many discoveries in the domain of operative surgery of the highest practical value. His method of preventing hemorrhage by clamps was the discovery in which he himself took the most pride. He served for 25 years as the chief surgeon at the St. Louis hospital, and his lectures there were attended by crowds of students from all parts of the world. An English surgeon once paid him $5,000 for a single operation, and his income was said to be about $200,000 a year.

Court chaplains when they preach before the German emperor must condense the sermons so that they can be delivered in 15 minutes. Long sermons, he says, make him weary.

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SEVERAL OF THE UNIQUE ADJUNCTS OF MODERN WARFARE

Legal Aspects of Modern Warfare.

Customs of war and laws of war are not prescribed in any legal code. They are determined by precedents having the authority of antiquity, general acceptance, reasonableness, etc. Once incorporated in a treaty, they are binding so long as the treaty stands. In the matter of bombardments rules vary, perhaps for the simple reason that this method of warfare is in ordinary circumstances frowned upon by the whole civilized world. Military men themselves, whose training teaches that military necessity knows no law, with one voice condemn bombardment as a cruelty not to be thought of except in peculiar cases.

In modern times bombardments are introduced at certain stages of a siege conducted against a fortified point. The object is to terrify the civilians into compelling their governor to surrender. Preliminary procedure depends upon the circumstances. At Charleston in the civil war, after months of siege, the Federal commander at last had guns trained upon the city. He demanded from its military commander a full surrender of the city and its fortifications within four hours under penalty of bombardment. The position did not reach General Beauregard, the Confederate commander, until the time had expired. Meanwhile a gun opened and continued firing until disabled. General Beauregard sent a vigorous protest against this action, and, according to his own statement, the bombardment was suspended for two days to enable the citizens to remove the women and children and the decrepit persons from the danger line.

At Fredericksburg the Federal commander summoned the civil authorities to surrender the town and gave 18 hours' notice for the removal of noncombatants.

A FLAG OF TRUCE.

Mystic Language Of War Signals.

Signaling is one of the most important devices used as an adjunct of warfare. The signal service in the army is almost a venerable institution, and its methods have long been firmly established. The corps is a highly efficient body of men.

The various systems now in use by the signal corps include flags, lights, the heliograph, lanterns, telegraphy and telephony, and all these may be operated easily and to great advantage from a captive balloon. The heliograph is an instrument by means of which communication is had by flashes and dots of light thrown from the surface of a mirror and naturally is of utility only during hours of sunshine. The same heliograph is given to the same instrument in the geodetic service. The semaphore is a mast with two arms, similar to many of the railroad signal posts. It is an apparatus for conveying signals by the disposition of hanging lanterns, flags and oscillating arms. In other words, it is a combination of all other means of communicating information outside of human speech.

Signaling with an illuminated balloon is a picturesque feature of the work of the signal corps. Two captive balloons are allowed to ascend to a height of a few hundred feet above any intervening obstacles. They may be a few miles apart, or 40 or 50 miles from one another. From them sun flashes are made during the day, and at night messages are transmitted by means of illumination inside the balloons with incandescent electric lights. The alternating illumination and darkness are arranged in accordance with a prearranged code.

While war ballooning is still largely experimental the results have been eminently satisfactory.

SIGNALING FROM A BALLOON.

The Deadly Little Machine Gun.

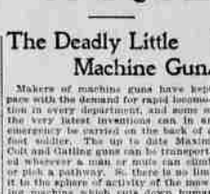
Makers of machine guns have kept pace with the demand for rapid locomotion between the different bodies of the armed forces in the United States or in Cuba and on the ocean.

Carrier pigeons fly at a rate varying from 38 to 55 miles an hour. This means that a message from a ship 200 miles at sea might be sent to the home loft in from four to five hours. The training of homing pigeons has reached the highest point of efficiency under the auspices of both our war and navy departments. The birds may be released from a ship at the moment of giving battle.

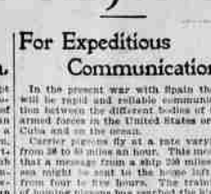
On land there will be the telephone, whose wires can be strung with great facility adjacent to the field of battle, reaching from headquarters to other objective points, and its companion, the portable telegraph, in the absence of the regular poles and lines, will be used for more remote positions and to convey necessary orders or news or requests for additional troops to distant cities, by connection with the regular telegraph service, and thus reach the departments at Washington.

Cuban cavalry will compete with the messengers on horseback in bearing orders and commands or in relays for gaining career or assistance from armed forces stationed some distance away, where the use of neither telephone nor telegraph is feasible. The bicycle as a means of locomotion will undoubtedly be largely used by special corps of infantry and in some cases by cavalrymen, where the employment of horses is less practicable.

In rapidity, durability, reliability and efficiency the world has never seen such a variety of messengers and means of dispatching messages as have existed under our governmental control in complete detail, force and arrangement.



A RIFLED BATTERY.



CARRIER PIGEONS ON A MONITOR.

For Expeditious Communication.

The Protection Of a War Fleet.

The most elaborate precautions are taken for the protection of our fleet against surprises by lurking torpedo boats, or "cheasers," at night. In the daytime naturally there is no particular necessity for more than the ordinary sharp outlook, although the torpedo nets surrounding the ship's sides at about water level are kept in position continually when the vessel is at anchor or when it is making its way up a narrow channel. Then the torpedo tubes have their especial use. On a foggy day the patrol boats burn fuses as they keep on their rounds.

But at night, when there are no searchlights, broad, long and continuous flash from bow and stern, from port and starboard, gilding the waters and lighting up the area they touch with a brightness that is penetrating.

SEARCHLIGHTS ON A WARSHIP.

The glare is so vivid that objects can be seen with startling distinctness, every line and wrinkle in a face, the buttons on a man's coat and the lettering on the band of a sailor's hat being discerned more readily than by daylight.

The torpedo patrol boats are darting to and fro, with a never ceasing movement, in and out, burning lights, firing rockets, and with them as companions, but stylishly aloof in the contrary direction, are the patrol boats of the mosquito fleet. As all the vessels of the fleet are thus surrounded by moving lights and are continuously flashing their electric eyes, the surrounding scene is in a blaze of light.

First Aid to The Wounded.

Experience has shown that lives are lost and useless injury inflicted upon soldiers for lack of simple means to extend first aid. The soldiers have gone into this war provided with an individual pocket case containing ligatures, bandages, surgical cotton and other dressing material for wounds. A new form of litter carrier will also be introduced where the ground will permit. This consists of a litter frame supported above a single wheel.

The United States army had litter now in vogue weighing 30 pounds and may be rolled and carried on the shoulder when not in use. In default of a regulation stretcher one may be improvised readily from a blanket lashed to two poles, and still simpler is that formed with two coats and four muskets. The rifles are passed through the sleeves and lashed together in lieu of poles. The first aid to be given a wounded man is to stop the flow of blood in case he has been shot through the arteries. This can be done quickly by a cord or strap or even a stout bandage or handkerchief wound tightly above the wound and drawn until the passage of blood is completely checked.

The next stage from the field of fighting is to the ambulance station, where, if not too hard pressed, all wounds are examined and dressed by a competent surgeon. On the journey from the field to the ambulance station and from there to the field hospital the litter bearers move so as to save the wounded soldier from jarring and also take care to keep his face in the direction they are moving. It is not possible to save a victim from pain, but the ready appliances may at least save life. At the field hospital a corps of surgeons are at work preparing the wound for the journey to a general hospital.

UNICYCLE LITTER.

No Food Pills In The Present War.

"There will be no pills in this war. You can rely on that if you think of enlisting," said a commissary of subsistence in the United States regular army the other day. "Feed a man on a pill and he looks like a pill." The means that condensed food, except potatoes and rations, will not be provided by the government. It will doubtless be found in private supplies, especially condensed milk and preparations of milk, chocolate, beef and coffee. These are luxuries in camp and are comparatively easy of transportation. Experiments in emergency rations have been going on for years, with the result that the board conducting them, after a fair trial, rejects everything with which the American soldier is not familiar.

As a result of the labors of that board the emergency or campaigning ration for the United States army, whether regulars or volunteers and militia under government orders, is as follows: Per diem, 16 ounces of bread, 16 ounces of bacon, 4 ounces of peas, 4 ounces of coffee, half an ounce of tea and half an ounce of pepper and salt.

This is the maximum emergency ration, and its weight is 32 to 34 ounces. On a fighting expedition troops can start out with five rations per man, and if the pressure is great the soldiers can be made to last ten days. The pea meal for soup is the only article of so called prepared food on the list.

Various kinds of canned goods, meat pastes, pemmican and predigested foods, cheese and preparations of the kola nut are rejected from the government ration, but there will be no interdiction on their use by those who choose to provide them. The ration adopted is suited to a tropical climate and in season, when possible, rations of onions and potatoes will be furnished to ward off scurvy.

LUXURIES IN CONDENSED FORM.

though both suggestions are wide of the mark. Drugs are unknown, and from 10 to 14 pounds of food is given once a day.

The largest proportion of single persons is found in Ireland and Scotland and the smallest in the United States. In Ireland 87 per cent, in Scotland 6 per cent and in the United States 5 per cent of the population are single.

INTERESTING FACTS.

Of the 11 emperors and empresses of Russia between Peter I and Alexander III four have been assassinated.

About Walla Walla, Or., the cutworm is so plentiful that young ones are run over in the road and the production of the crops demands united effort and hard work by the farmers to exterminate them.

Glasgow, Ky., recently advertised the sale of two negroes who were persistent vagrants. It was the first procedure of the kind since 1865. The law orders the sale of their services for the term of their sentences, the purchaser being obliged to feed, house and clothe them.

At 66 years of age a French Canadian widow in Montreal has been obliged to have her oldest son, aged 42 years, the first of 26 children she has borne, arrested for abusing her.

There could not possibly be a whiter city than Cuba unless it were built of stone. As you near the coast you see in front of you a white mass which appears to be floating upon the water. The first thought for a foreigner is that he is in sight of an iceberg.

The oldest firearms were used in China. The Chinese were fighting with guns at a time when the Europeans used bows and arrows.

The oldest sailing craft in the world is the so called Godstad ship, a viking vessel which was discovered in a sepulchral mound on the shores of Christiania fiord. It is 1,000 years old.

The owl's eyes have no muscles by which they can be moved, but extraordinary flexibility in the muscles of the neck enables the owl to move his head with incredible rapidity in any direction.

The United States is ahead of all other countries in the art of making artificial teeth. A recent computation makes the number of artificial teeth fabricated here as high as 6,000,000 annually.

Postage stamps came into existence about 60 years ago. In 1866 there were about 500 varieties in existence.

It is often supposed that lions are drugged or starvated with food prior to going through their performances.