

OFF FOR CUBA AT LAST

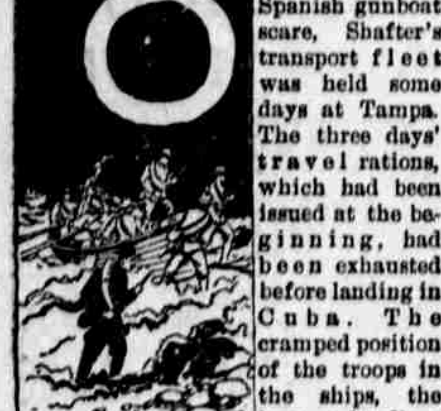
A Soldiers' Story of Shafter's Santiago Expedition.

TOLD AT MONTAUK'S CAMPFIRES.

Shafter's Plan For Landing—Coast Cleared by Warships—Landing at Daiquiri and Siboney—Confusion in Getting the Outfit Ashore—Young's Cavalry to the Front.

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II.



WING to a Spanish gunboat... Shafter's transport fleet was held some days at Tampa. The three days' travel rations, which had been issued at the beginning, had been exhausted before landing in Cuba. The cramped position of the troops in the ships, the long and tedious voyage under a tropical sun, sapped the vitality and energy of the soldiers and they were not by any means in a condition to do their best immediately on reaching the field of action.

All of this has a most important bearing upon the conduct of the soldiers and their efficiency at the time of extreme trial in front of the Spanish blockhouses and trenches around Santiago. Any account of the Santiago campaign which starts with the assumption that Shafter's army was in the normal condition of an army when it set out along blind trails and through the dense jungles which intervened between the seashore and the heights about the city will convey no adequate idea of the sufferings, the hardships, the persistency under difficulties, as well as of the glorious achievements and unparalleled courage of the heroes of Santiago.

It was of prime necessity to keep the army under cover of gunboat fire while it was landing and for some time afterward, or at least until the forces were well in hand on land and outposts established for defense. There is but one road running into Santiago from the east which communicates with good landing places on the coast. Accounts of the condition of this road vary. General Shafter says that it was very narrow and in many places not better than a trail. Other officers, particularly those connected with the artillery and transport department, speak of it as an execrable roadway. Statements to the contrary have been published, claiming that it is a fair country road over which a farmer would run no risk with a full load of hay, that some one in authority had a hobby for pack mules, and for that reason wagon transportation was neglected.

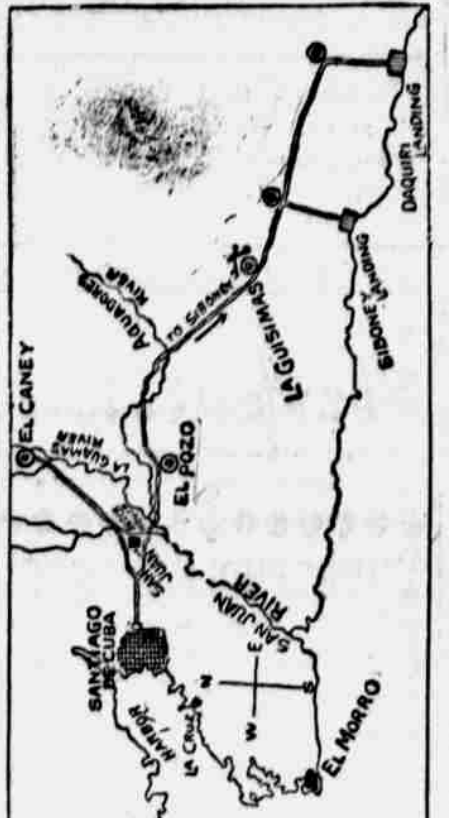
The landing was effected at Daiquiri and Siboney on June 23 and 25. As a rule the troops disembarked while the transports were from one mile and a half to two miles offshore. Some idea of the confusion attending the landing may be gained from the experience of Lieutenant Parker with his Gatling battery. Parker had an order from Shafter to land at once and get his outfit to the front. That was on the evening of June 22. The Cherokee, upon which the battery made the trip from Tampa, was warped along the iron pier at Daiquiri, and Parker seized a government pontoon to use in transferring his outfit to shore. He was stopped by a young officer, who claimed to control the pontoons, and who said that in spite of Shafter's order that the Gatlings should "not be smashed in doing it." While this parley was going on a general officer rode up and entered the Cherokee to put to sea again so that some other ship might come up to the pier. For another day the Cherokee, with Parker's guns on board, lay in the shoaling. It is said that at that time the steamer Alamo had on board a tire cargo of pontoons, which had not been landed. On the 25th the Gatlings were taken off the Cherokee by a light draft steamer and were put upon the shore where Lieutenant Parker was warned by the engineers that the roads to the front were impassable. A little later it was demonstrated that Parker's Gatlings were as effective as anything in the whole fighting outfit.

the Spanish tiger a clear view of the opening events of the actual campaign is best gained by following its movements. The brigade landed at Daiquiri on the evening of the 23d and the morning of the 24d of June. It was composed of two squadrons each of the First and Tenth (colored) regular cavalry and First volunteers, or rough riders, all dismounted.

General Young's orders were to take position on the left of Lawton's infantry division, which had already landed. The troopers had no rations. During the voyage they had exhausted the three days' travel rations supplied them. Soon after landing part of the command received ordinary rations, which the men placed in their blanket rolls, as the cavalrymen carried no haversacks. After landing his command General Young sent an aid on board the steamer where General Wheeler was for further orders and received instructions to move out five or six miles and select a camp for his own brigade, screen and cover the landing and relieve the jam there. The cavalry bivouac was near the mouth of a stream, the water of which was already polluted by the infantry camps above. After getting rations for one squadron each of the First and Tenth and all of the rough riders, also ammunition for his Hotchkiss guns, General Young moved out on the 23d, and, finding Lawton's troops occupying all the desirable camps, passed on until he reached Lawton's advance post. There he learned of an engagement the night before between Cubans and Spaniards.

Meanwhile General Wheeler had come ashore at Siboney and reached Lawton's advance position. General Young reported to Wheeler, who said that he was glad that Young had come up. He (Wheeler) had been out with General Castillo, the Cuban, and looked over the Cuban position. Being very tired, he was about to lie down and asked General Young to get an account of the affair from Castillo. Castillo said that he had met 2,000 Spaniards at a point near Savilla. He thought they had retired after the battle, but General Young got information that they were being re-enforced. As there was a good camp ground beyond the scene of the skirmish, Young decided to go forward, reconnoiter and develop his front.

From Castillo's description Colonel Rivera, of Young's staff, made a sketch of the region around Las Guasimas. Be-



ing in advance of his command, General Young sent another aid, Captain Smedburg, to the rear to bring up his full force and the Hotchkiss gun. The hour set for the movement was 5 a. m. on the 24th.

General Castillo had indicated a trail from Siboney, leading over a hill south of the main road between Siboney and Santiago, and forming a junction with it at Las Guasimas. The ridge crossed by the trail is very high. General Young decided to send the rough riders over the trail and with the regulars and Hotchkiss battery move along the main road. The plan was to make a simultaneous attack with two columns. It was explained to General Wheeler. Las Guasimas was a pass where the Spaniards expected to check the American advance. It is down grade from there to Santiago.

Castillo was to support Young with 800 Cubans, and the general asked him to start at 5 a. m., and if he couldn't go along himself send a staff officer who would be able to translate and convey commands. The Cubans not being up on time, at 5:30 a. m. Colonel Rivers went to Castillo's camp to say that the column was ready to march to battle. The Cuban sentinels would not allow Colonel Rivers to awaken Castillo, so he came back without the Cubans, reaching Young at 5:45. Young then moved out, sending his aids, Rivers and Smedburg, with Colonel Wood, commander of the rough riders. The aids were to report to their chief the conduct of that column and give any assistance needed as representatives of the commander. Captain Mills, adjutant general of the brigade, went forward with the regulars. The Cubans had outposts beyond the point where the order of battle was made. There were small parties of Cubans at different points along the road.

Captain Mills reached the advance Cuban outposts and sent for General Young to come up, indicating how he would keep hidden from the Spaniards. He doing so. From that point the general could see the Spanish position at Las Guasimas. There were Spaniards massed north of the pass upon which the regulars were advancing, protected by some stone piles. After sending the situation to his glass General Young explained to the commanders of his squadrons what they were to do and gave them orders to advance on Las Guasimas in battle order.

A ROYAL SPORT.

WILD TURKEY SHOOTING AS IT USED TO BE.

Always Called Good Game—A Sly and Knowing Bird—Tricks of the Trade. How Turkeys Are Trapped—Benjamin Franklin's Idea of the Turkey.

The turkey, like Thanksgiving day, with which he is inseparably associated in the American mind, is, in the language of a proud Yankee, "one of the institutions." It had been domesticated and bred in the old world before the pilgrim fathers landed on Plymouth Rock, presumably by the Spaniards, who captured specimens in Mexico and transported them to Europe. In every part of the American continent except the frigid regions of the extreme north the earliest settlers found the turkey in its wild state. The species of fowl which was regarded as so toothsome at the first American Thanksgiving was the bird of today in its unenlightened condition.

The pioneers of all parts of the United States where there were extensive tracts of forest found wild turkeys in great abundance, and even in the days when deer were plentiful no hunter scorned this bird as unworthy of his prowess. Wild turkey hunting was and yet is a royal sport wherever the bird exists. He is considered noble game and, like the deer and the buffalo, has rapidly disappeared from many of his former haunts before the march of civilization. He is now seldom found in his native state except in the larger forests of the great north and northwest, the brush lands of Arkansas and the Indian territory and the jungles of semitropical Florida.

Within the memory of many sportsmen turkey hunting was considered great sport in southern Indiana and Illinois, and the writer, who is "one of the trade," has brought down more than one of the proud birds by the skillful use of his father's ancient, long barreled rifle. The methods of taking the turkey all require the exercise of ingenuity. The bird is timid and regards man as his natural enemy. It is and has been since the turkeys of the country first observed that a man with a gun produced great noise and much slaughter among them impossible to get near enough to render a shot certain of results without approaching the game under cover.

When turkeys were plentiful in the great wooded tracts of the Ohio and the Mississippi valleys, the hunters in the daytime sought for their roosts, which were easily found by means of the flocks. Then he concealed himself within easy range of the place and awaited sunset, when a large flock would approach the place and one by one fly up to the almost horizontal branches on which the birds prefer to roost. A shot at that time would put an end to the sport. The hunter must wait until the last of the flock has mounted the perch and the twilight has so deepened that he can but just fix by his vision the muzzle sight of his rifle in the little nick of the one nearer the breach. If he remains out of sight, he may be able to secure two or even three birds ere the darkness puts an end to his sport. Then he gathers up his game and goes home to return long before the cock crows, for at break of day his turkeys will leave that roost never to return. If he is careful, he may get two more of the flock as a result of his early morning visit.

Then comes another ruse of the hunter, by the skillful exercise of which he may be able to inveigle two or three more of the turkeys to their death. In the wing of each turkey is a hollow bone that can readily be transformed into a whistle, the note of which, when properly blown, very closely resembles the call of a turkey. Not far away and well concealed lies the "daylight murderer's accomplice." As soon after their flight from the perch as the turkeys discover that all has become quiet and the gobblers have mustered up a little courage, they begin calling for the purpose of collecting the remnant of the flock preparatory to a permanent departure from the scene of the massacre. The second hunter softly answers with his whistle, and the chances are great that he will by often responding to the inquiring cry lure the turkey within range of his gun. A sharp report, repeated over and again by the echoing hillsides, a flutter of wings in a death struggle on the ground, and the forest is again wrapped in silence.

After an hour of waiting the hunter sounds his call, then listens for a faint response. If none is heard, he ventures again. A third effort is likely to elicit an answer unless the turkeys have become so terrified by the last shot that by common impulse they have fled precipitately alone or in very small groups. If they have hidden themselves in clumps of bushes or the tops of fallen trees to which the withered foliage is still clinging, the hunter may get another shot.

The third method is to entrap the birds. A strong pen of logs or rails is erected in the wood, and a trench with an easy descent beneath the foundation piece is dug deep enough to admit no larger turkey without crowding in the trench. A little corn is strewn, and the turkeys walk along eating or looking for something to eat as they go until all of them are within the pen. Then they become alarmed and go tearing around the inclosure with their heads erect and chirping as loudly as they can. They never lower their heads enough to discover that it is as easy for a sensible bird to get out as for a foolish one to get in, and as the pen is securely covered the turkeys remain there until the clever trapper comes and puts a persimmony end to their dire plight. Benjamin Franklin once deplored the fact that the turkey had not been selected as the bird of freedom, but it is probably best that the Yankee did not make this high-headed, foolish creature the symbol of his liberty.—Jeweler.

FLOWERS AND LEAVES.

Some Appropriate Decorations For Thanksgiving Day.

The woman who converts her house into a sort of green bower, with avenues of palms and the like, may be creating a pretty effect, but she is not arranging an appropriate decoration for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is an American festival, and exotics are out of place if one desires to preserve the American spirit in her decorations. Those hardy flowers which might grow out of doors in American yards are the best suited to Thanksgiving ornamentation, and of these the chrysanthemum is naturally first.

That obliging flower comes in almost every possible shade now and can be made to harmonize with any scheme of color decoration. It is as white as a snowdrop; it is tawny yellow and pale yellow; it is reddish brown and clear red; it is pluk; it is soft lilac. Each of these colors comes in numberless sorts of blossoms—big ones, with tightly curled leaves, and little ones, with straggling, ragged leaves. No woman can despair of beautiful results who uses plenty of chrysanthemums.

A glass bowl full of the starry white blossoms set on a table of polished mahogany or deep red cherry is most effective. A bowl of dark red ones glowing in fine contrast to the polished oak of a library table is beautiful. Mantels on which plants full of blossoms are set are lovely if blossoms of one color are chosen. The deep yellow ones with edges darkening to brown are particularly good for this massed style of decoration.

One woman, who appreciates the value of cheesecloth, has covered the wall above her fireplace and mantelshelf with dark red cheesecloth gathered rather fully. On the center of the mantel itself she has arranged to have a low, big bowl of white chrysanthemums, while old fashioned glass candelabra at each end will add to the glittering, bright effect.

Smilax is not to be despised in decoration. Chandeliers and window frames may be wreathed with it, mantel mirrors half hidden beneath a latticework of it, and streamers of it suspended from available picture frames. Of course the cool, feathery green is not particularly appropriate for Thanksgiving decoration, but it serves as a delightful background for warmer, more glowing floral effects.

Besides chrysanthemums, which by their size and profusion at this season of the year lend themselves particularly to Thanksgiving decoration, there are baradin, with its coral, pink and red blossoms, roses of all descriptions, violets and the like. The woods still have trailing vines of red and bronze pine boughs and cones, brilliant leaves and dusky berries. The clever woman makes use of these profusely in decorating her house at Thanksgiving, and they seem particularly appropriate.—New York World.

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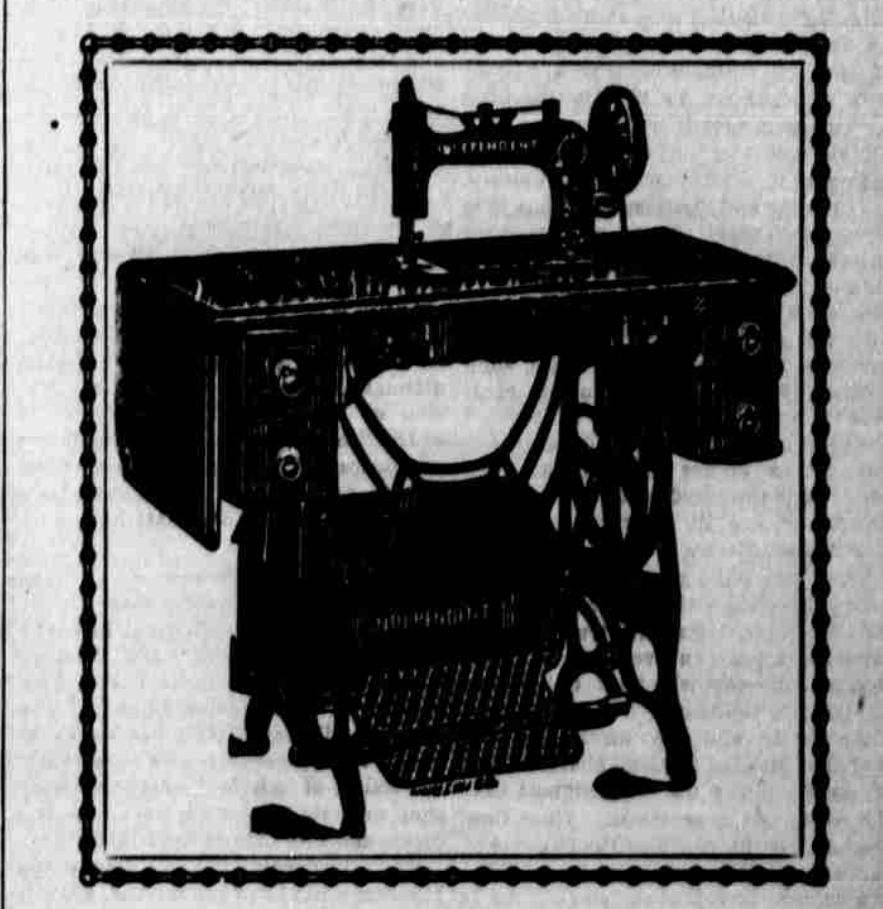
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