

Story of Aguinaldo's Capture.

The following is the story of Aguinaldo's capture as it appeared in the New York Herald:

General Frederick Funston told today the dramatic story of the capture of General Emilio Aguinaldo. His recital was in the form of a statement in the third person.

"The confidential agent of Emilio Aguinaldo arrived February 28 at Pantabangan, in the province of Nueva Ecija, Northern Luzon, with letters dated January 11, 12 and 14," he said in his statement. "These letters were from Emilio Aguinaldo, and directed Baldermero Aguinaldo to take command of the province of Central Luzon, supplanting General Alejandrino.

"Emilio Aguinaldo also ordered that four hundred men be sent him as soon as possible, saying that the bearer of the letters would guide these men to where General Aguinaldo was.

"General Funston obtained the correspondence of General Aguinaldo's agent and laid his plans accordingly.

"Some months previously he had captured the camp of the Insurgent General Lacuna, incidentally obtaining Lacuna's seal, official papers and a quantity of signed correspondence. From this material two letters were constructed, ostensibly from General Lacuna to General Aguinaldo.

"One of these contained information as to the progress of the war. The other asserted that, pursuant to orders received from Baldermero Aguinaldo, General Lacuna was sending his best company to President Emilio Aguinaldo.

"His plans completed and approved, General Funston came to Manila and organized his expedition, choosing seventy-eight Macabebes, all of whom spoke Tagalog fluently. Twenty wore insurgent uniforms, and the others the dress of Filipino laborers.

"This Macabebe company, armed with fifty Mauser rifles, eighteen Remingtons and ten Krag-Jorgensens, was commanded by Captain Russell T. Hazard. With him was his brother, Lieut. Oliver P. M. Hazard, both of the Eleventh United States cavalry.

"Captain Harry W. Newton, Thirty-fourth infantry, was taken because of his familiarity with Casiguran Bay, and Lieut. Burton J. Mitchell, Fortieth infantry, went as General Funston's aide.

"These were the only Americans accompanying the leader of the expedition.

"With the Macabebes were four former insurgent officers, one being a Spaniard and the other three Tagalogs, whom General Funston trusted implicitly.

"General Funston and the American officers wore plain blue shirts and khaki trousers. They carried each a half blanket, but wore no insignia of rank. The Macabebes were carefully instructed to obey the orders of the four former insurgent officers.

"On the night of March 8 the party embarked on the United States gunboat Vicksburg. It was originally intended to take cascoes from the island of Polillo and to drift to the mainland,

but a storm arose and three of the cascoes were lost. This plan was abandoned.

"At two a. m., March 14, the Vicksburg put her lights out and ran inshore twenty-five miles south of Casiguran, province of Principe. The party landed and marched to Casiguran. The Americans had never garrisoned this place, and the inhabitants are strong insurgent sympathizers.

"Having arrived there the former insurgent officers, ostensibly commanding the party, announced that they were on the way to join General Aguinaldo, between Pautobagon and Baler; that they had surprised an American surveying party, and that they had killed a number, capturing five. They exhibited General Funston and the other Americans as their prisoners.

"The insurgent presidente of Casiguran believed the story. Two of the Lacuna letters, previously concocted, were forwarded to General Aguinaldo at Palanan, province of Isabela.

"General Funston and the others were kept imprisoned for three days, surreptitiously giving orders at night.

"On the morning of March 17, taking a small quantity of cracked corn, the party departed on a ninety-mile march to Palanan. The country is rough and uninhabited, and provisions could not be obtained. The party ate small shellfish, but was almost starved.

"Wading swift rivers, climbing precipitous mountains and penetrating dense jungles, they marched seven days and nights, and on March 22 had reached a point eight miles from Palanan.

"They were now so weak that it was necessary to send to General Aguinaldo's camp for food. General Aguinaldo dispatched supplies and directed that the American prisoners be kindly treated, but not be permitted to enter the town.

"On the morning of March 23 the advance was resumed. The column was met by the staff officers of General Aguinaldo and a detachment of General Aguinaldo's body guard, which was ordered to take charge of the Americans.

"While one of the former insurgent officers conversed with General Aguinaldo's aid, another, the Spaniard, sent a courier to warn General Funston and the rest, who, with eleven Macabebes, were about an hour behind.

"Having received this warning, General Funston avoided General Aguinaldo's detachment and joined the column, avoiding observation. The Tagalogs went ahead to greet General Aguinaldo, and the column slowly followed, finally arriving at Palanan.

"General Aguinaldo's household troops, fifty men in neat uniforms of blue and white and wearing straw hats, lined up to receive the newcomers. General Funston's men crossed the river in small boats, formed on the bank, and marched to the right and then in front of the insurgent grenadiers. The Tagalogs entered the house where General Aguinaldo was.

"Suddenly the Spanish officer, noticing that General Aguinaldo's aid was watching the Americans suspiciously, exclaimed: 'Now, Macabebes, go for them!' The Macabebes opened fire,

but their aim was rather ineffective, and only three insurgents were killed. The rebels returned the fire.

"On hearing the firing, General Aguinaldo, who evidently thought his men were merely celebrating the arrival of reinforcements, ran to the window and shouted: 'Stop that foolishness! Quit wasting ammunition!'

"Hilario Placido, one of the Tagalog officers and a former insurgent major, who was wounded in the lung by the fire of the Kansas regiment at the battle of Caloocan, threw his arms around General Aguinaldo, exclaiming: 'You are a prisoner of the Americans.'

"Colonel Simeon Villia, the rebel chief of staff, Major Alambra and others attacked the men who were holding General Aguinaldo. Hilario Placido shot Colonel Villia in the shoulder. Major Alambra jumped out of the window and attempted to cross the river. It is supposed that he was drowned. Five other insurgent officers fought for a few minutes and then fled, making their escape.

"When the firing began General Funston assumed command and directed the attack on the house, personally assisting in the capture of General Aguinaldo. The insurgent bodyguard fled, leaving twenty rifles.

"Santiago Barcelona, the insurgent treasurer, surrendered without resistance.

"When captured General Aguinaldo was tremendously excited, but he calmed under General Funston's assurance that he would be well treated. General Funston obtained all of the rebel leader's correspondence, showing that he had kept in close touch with the subchiefs of the insurrection in various parts of the archipelago.

"It was also discovered that General Aguinaldo, on January 28, had proclaimed himself dictator. He had been living at Palanan for seven months, undisturbed, except when a detachment of the Sixteenth infantry visited the town. On that occasion the entire population took to the mountains and remained there until the troops retired.

"General Aguinaldo admitted that he had almost been captured before, but he asserted that he had never been wounded, adding: 'I should never have been taken except by a strategist. I was completely deceived by General Lacuna's forged signature.' He feared he might be sent to Guam, and he was quite glad to come to Manila.

"Palanan was guarded by numerous outposts and signal stations. During the fight none of the Macabebes was wounded.

"The expedition rested March 24 and then marched sixteen miles the following day to Palanan bay, where General Funston found the Vicksburg, which brought him to Manila. Commander Barry, of the Vicksburg, rendered General Funston splendid assistance.

"General Aguinaldo, who talked freely of past events, said he supposed General Trias would proclaim himself dictator, evidently not knowing that General Trias had surrendered. He behaved courteously and gave no trouble.

"General Funston says Aguinaldo is

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