

NAVAL LESSONS OF THE WAR

Conclusion Drawn by the Officers of the Texas from Their Experiences.

BATTLESHIP STILL HOLDS FIRST PLACE

Important Parts Played by Rapid-Fire Guns, Searchlights, Smokeless Powder and Torpedoes in the Operations of the Right Stuff.

"The big ship with big guns and the men who know how to fight on it, is the one that can do the business," said Captain "Jack" Philip, soon to be Commodore Philip, in his cabin on the famous fighting machine Texas.

"It is not for me, however, to attempt to settle conclusions which naval experts will probably draw from the sea fighting of the Cuban coast. I am not a naval expert, only a ship's captain. I will say, though, that the magnificent ship, the battleship, can fight and follow, too, the tremendous value of the main battery and the destructive force of rapid fire guns, have been demonstrated beyond question.

"It has been said that the Texas has been put out of date by the recent improvements in battleship construction and appliances, but if there have been more than made up of the spirit of the men, and I think that the record of the Texas will stand with that of any of the other ships that took part in the fighting around Cuba.

"In regard to such lessons as are to be drawn from the actual test of the guns or the other appliances on the ship, Lieutenant Heller, the navigating officer, and Lieutenant Bristol, the executive officer, are better qualified to speak than I am."

Value of Secondary Battery.

Lieutenant L. C. Heller, the navigator of the Texas, was standing by a six-pound rapid-fire gun mounted in the officers' mess room. His conversation soon showed that he is an enthusiastic believer in the usefulness in action of a considerable secondary battery.

"If there is any one lesson that has been made more clear than another by this war," he said, "it is that our ships should have plenty of the smaller caliber rapid-fire guns in the make-up of their armament.

"It was the rapid-fire guns that poured into the Spanish ships on the shore at Santiago. Put a six-pound shell here," opening the breech of the Hotchkiss gun by a dexterous pull of the lever as he spoke, "glance through the breech sight at the cone just ahead of the trigger here and the mischief has begun. Ten minutes and these shells, each charged with enough explosive material to set a ship on fire, can be pumped into the target, aimed with substantial accuracy to scatter death and destruction on an enemy's decks. So great is the saving of time effected by the rapid-fire gun that the ammunition in one magazine—powder, shell, fuse and primer—thirty or more shells can be fired from these guns in action in sixty seconds with the same period.

"The effect on the enemy of this raining of explosives can be imagined. Only the Spaniards can tell exactly what it is. Splinters flying in all directions, explosions at every turn, and a starting up in half a dozen different places of the secondary battery, which the Spanish ships of Cervera burned for three or four days? If the Spanish ships had been especially constructed to receive the most possible damage from rapid-fire guns, their arrangement could not have been better calculated. With their fine boats and elaborate woodwork, they were easy food for the flames which the small caliber guns started in every quarter by splintering the woodwork into kindlings. Of course, American ships and guns, American officers and gunners didn't have the opportunity to prove what they can do in a good, square, standup fight. The Spanish have not learned much in the last 400 years. Their gunnery was wretched, their fine armored cruisers didn't show what armored cruisers are really capable of in a fight, and in a fight they will not be much of an addition to our fleet if saved, such was the effectiveness of the American gunnery.

Battleships Hold First Place.

"Still I am of the opinion, in spite of the fact that the Spanish cruisers were not the best representatives of their class and in spite of the fact that the Texas held the palm, that the battleship still holds the palm. If any changes in the construction of the battleship are to result from the experiences of this war, I should say that there ought to be an increase of speed power and a strengthening of the secondary battery. In this respect Manila and Santiago must rank together. The heaviest guns that Admiral Dewey had were eight-inch rifles, and as in the case of Cervera's fleet, the burned and shivered bones of Manila's numerous squadrons lying in Philippine waters, are witness to the efficiency of the secondary battery."

"Of what value are military balloons for observation purposes on board?" "So far as I know, the project of sending up a balloon from the ship's deck for observation purposes was not tried. It is true that the fleet carried one or two of these balloons, but I do not think they were ever tested by actual operation. The idea does not seem to me to be practical. From what I have heard from the stationary balloon used on shore, about all it did was to draw the enemy's fire and to concentrate it where it did considerable harm.

Dangers of Woodwork.

"One great positive lesson of the war is the danger of having too much woodwork about a fighting ship. That was the undoing of the Spanish vessels. They were ablaze especially in tropical waters like those around Cuba, that there wouldn't be much left in them after a short experience of it. Unquestionably, however, the new war ships will have less and less wood in them to mitigate the dangers from fire and flying splinters.

Eczema.

Mr. H. T. Shobe, 2704 Lucas Ave., St. Louis, Mo., says: "My daughter had Eczema, which covered her head and spread to her face. She was treated by physicians and taken to celebrated health springs, but only grew worse. Many patent medicines were taken, but without result, until we decided to try S.S.S. A dozen bottles cured her completely and left her skin perfectly smooth. Not a sign of the dreadfulness disease has ever returned."

S.S.S. For Blood

(Swift's Specific) is the only cure for Eczema, and all other obstinate blood diseases. Valuable books mailed free by Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Ga.

that the ship owes much of her splendid record.

A year and a half ago the Texas was so much out of date that naval men hardly counted her an effective part of our fighting establishment. Since then her interior mechanism has been almost entirely remodeled from plans drawn by her officers, so that in the essentials of a fighting ship it seems worthy to stand beside any of its sisters. In fact, the second rate battleship Texas, which is not supposed to be in the same class as the Indiana, Oregon, Iowa and Massachusetts, is today, in the light of its actual movements, better calculated perhaps than any other vessel of the navy to stand for a demonstration of up-to-date sea fighting.

As the 12-inch guns which form the main battery of the Texas were operated before Lieutenant Haessler made his improvements in the arrangement of the fighting mechanism, they had to be trained by hand and aft or abeam before they could be loaded. It was they had to be moved into the position from which it was desired to fire them. By this laborious process they could be fired once in about eight minutes. Lieutenant Haessler's plans practically changed the entire arrangement of the interior of the gun turrets, but his greatest improvement was a controlling valve which enables the big guns to be fired once in a minute and twenty-nine seconds. The power by which the twelve 12-inch guns are fired is now furnished by four large hydraulic pumps in the reduction of the turret. The difference in effect of half a dozen 850-pound shells thundering against an enemy's sides where only one could have been fired before need not be dwelt upon.

Electricity Not Fairly Tested.

"Electrical appliances on the modern war ship and in the various auxiliaries of up-to-date warships," said Lieutenant Bristol, "cannot be said to have had a fair trial as yet. Certainly they have not been of any great use in either of our big sea fights, although this is not saying that they might not be of the greatest importance under other circumstances. Before war was considered a serious possibility eminent electricians made forecasts of many new, strange and valuable uses to which electricity would be put in the next contest between civilized nations.

"Ships were to be blown up while sailing over mine fields unconnected by wires with shore battery. They were even to photograph themselves on a chart in the shore room of an operator, who would then send a direct current to the mines through salt water. The electric wires were to project through the air to drop on the deck of a ship and destroy it. Electricity was to be their propelling as well as their guiding force. Now what of all this has been realized? What have we learned of mines and torpedoes? About all that is practical as the lesson from the mines in Santiago and Guantanamo harbors, of which the one on our deck is a specimen, is that submarine mines ought to be taken up and inspected at least once a month by those who consider a serious possibility eminent electricians made forecasts of many new, strange and valuable uses to which electricity would be put in the next contest between civilized nations.

"The father wrote a friend: 'I have heard of the cold-heartedness of the army surgeon, but never expected it to be visited upon the pride of my life, my own dear boy, who was laboring under a fever and had become a surgeon. I am heart broken. I can write no more.'

Governor Holcomb has been appealed to and put in possession of the facts and it is said will demand an investigation.

Like the Exposition.

Lieutenant Harding, Second Nebraska, visited the Omaha exposition during his absence from the regiment. Before war was considered a serious possibility eminent electricians made forecasts of many new, strange and valuable uses to which electricity would be put in the next contest between civilized nations.

Private Bird J. Chapman of Company A has been transferred, at his own request, to Company D.

Sergeant Clifford R. DeMott of Company E has been discharged in favor and will return to his home in Nebraska.

Private E. S. Chadwick of Company E, having been discharged from the service at his own request, left yesterday for his home in Nebraska.

Quite a number of furloughs are being granted in this regiment. From six to eight men from each company are going home to spend from ten to fifteen days.

Captain Soderquist of Company A has had application for a ten days' leave of absence and expects to go to his home in Nebraska.

Private Blinkhorn of Company G and Private Charles Messenger ran a fifty-yard foot race on Sunday afternoon which was won by Private Messenger, although he had just come from the hospital.

Company M has received information that the remains of Private Richard Sprague had reached Wood River, Neb., and is to be interred there.

A special train was run from Omaha to Island, Neb., to accompany the friends of the deceased who desired to attend the funeral.

Musician Boehm of Company M is setting drum major in place of Theodore Naff, who is ill.

Private Fred Schlottfeld of Company M, who is a clerk at division headquarters, has been granted a three days' furlough and is spending the time in Chattanooga.

trivance which has proved of effectual use in the recent operations. Its utility, like that of the searchlight, the great value of smokeless powder and the effectiveness of the magazine battery, are so well established in this war quite as unmistakably as the force of the big gun and the destructiveness of the secondary battery. But the wonderful new mine cables, boats running on wheels at the bottom of the ocean, the flying torpedoes and the currents of electricity projected along a column of water, of which we read before the war, are as much in the future as ever."

IN CAMP AT CHICKAMAUGA

Daily Doings of the Second Nebraska Infantry and of Colonel Grigby's Rough Riders.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Aug. 16.—(Special Correspondence.)—There have been some very interesting disclosures in this treatment of patients in hospitals at Camp Thomas. A prominent army officer gave The Bee correspondent a case in point of negligence of hospital department. A young man from Nebraska named Erskine M. Barnes, brother-in-law of the clerk of the supreme court of Nebraska, is in this sick at Camp Thomas and was finally sent to Fort McPherson, near Atlanta. His father wrote to the hospital at Camp Thomas and finally located his son at Fort McPherson. He then wired Fort McPherson as to the condition of his son and received a telegram stating that he was not there. He continued to get telegraphic reports for three days that his son was not at Fort McPherson and finally, after three days, he received word that his son was there. The fever stricken boy had gone for three days without any kind of medical attention. The other circumstances before war was considered a serious possibility eminent electricians made forecasts of many new, strange and valuable uses to which electricity would be put in the next contest between civilized nations.

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Private John G. Maher quietly passed a petition among several of the companies of the regiment asking that the regiment be mustered out of service.

Captain A. G. Fisher and Lieutenant L. A. Dorrington of company H, Second Nebraska, were entertained at General Colby's headquarters Monday night in royal style.

The company stands that were conducted by individuals have all been closed as a health precaution. The regimental exchange was required to bury a large stock of pies, cookies, etc., and will not be allowed to sell them any more.

The New Arrivals—

Are crowding us for room—and as we've had a full house at our \$1.48 Oxford sale we're going to continue it another week—This sale includes all the season's latest styles and colors—that have been goods sellers at \$2.50 and \$3—you want to make a note of that fact that these are new styles—we've a table full of pointed toe Oxford at \$1.00—but those at \$1.48 are the latest out—Our customers have found out that when we advertise a cut—a cut has been made and that we have the shoes to sell at the cut prices—Come tomorrow before the sizes are broken.

Drexel Shoe Co.,

Omaha's Up-to-date Shoe House.

1419 Farnam Street

Here You Are—

A good washing machine for \$2.98—does all the work—we've just received a new invoice of the celebrated "Stranstray" steel ware for which we are sole agents for Omaha—The teakettles even haven't a seam in them—No. 8 granite iron teakettle Monday for 45c—Come Monday if you want one at that price—Our line of pocket cutlery and scissors is worthy of your notice—A traveler's sample line just added gives us a larger assortment than any other store in Omaha—we always did sell cheap.

A. C. RAYMER,

WE DELIVER YOUR PURCHASE.

1514 Farnam St.

Issue of all passes and furloughs has been stopped until after the review tomorrow.

Private Soldier Describes the Battles Near Santiago.

Field Day at Chickamauga

Soldiers Have a Little Diversion from the Routine of Camp Duties.

CHICKAMAUGA PARK, Aug. 20.—The field day exercises on Snodgrass field today, for which preparations have been in progress for some time, are being witnessed by practically the entire Camp Thomas army and hundreds of civilians. The exercises are the first of a series decided upon by General Breckinridge to furnish sport and diversion and athletic training for the men.

The officials, judges and timers, are all officers. Scores of soldiers participate in the contests. Music is furnished by the First Missouri band. The lists of events follow:

Track Events—100-yard run; 880-yard walk; 440-yard run; 220-yard run; 880-yard hurdle; one-mile run; relay race, four men, regimental team; five-mile bicycle road race.

Field Events—Running high jump; standing sixteen-pound shell; pole vault; putting broad jump; tug of war, five men, regimental team; running broad jump; wrestling.

Military Events—Half-mile horse race, (beats), open to officers and enlisted men; musical drill; exhibition rough riding; mile and a quarter steeplechase (ten obstacles), open only to mounted officers riding own mounts.

The regiment or artillery brigade score will be the greatest number of points in field and track events, according to the scale below, a suitably inscribed trophy is awarded.

Scale of Points—First, five points; second, three points; third, one point. The number of points for each field or track event is limited to two for each regiment or artillery brigade. Prizes awarded to first and second in each event.

HE BROUGHT IN TWO OFFICERS

Mistake Made by a Man Who Wanted to Open a Bank Account.

An American of color dropped into one of the prominent banks of the city yesterday for the purpose of making a \$25 deposit. It was apparently his first acquaintance with a well banking establishment, for it was only after making various and divers inquiries that he navigated toward the proper window and safely arrived there. He stated the object of his visit, plucked down his money and was handed a certificate of deposit by the clerk, who gave him the following instructions as he nodded toward the president's desk:

"Have it signed by that officer." The prospective depositor departed and the clerk paid no more attention to him. Fifteen minutes later the colored man came into the bank with two policemen in tow and went directly to the same window. By this time another clerk had supplanted the first, and he looked on with astonishment and expectancy at the trio that confronted him.

"What is it?" he finally asked. "You done told me to hev an offer sine dis paper an' I done hev two of 'em," responded the colored man with a happy grin, as he laid on the counter a check and certificate of deposit before the eyes of the bank clerk. The clerk examined the certificate in astonishment and finally said with a decided ring of suspicion in his tones:

"Where did you get this?" The colored man did his best to explain, but his efforts were far from satisfying the clerk, while the two coppers began to eye him with a professional glare. At this critical stage of the proceedings the clerk who had issued the certificate of deposit arrived and the situation was explained to him. He burst out laughing and explained the mistake of the would-be depositor, who imagined that a policeman was meant when he was told to have his certificate signed by an officer. This he was corrected by the president's desk, where the certificate was signed, and he departed with the worried look wiped off his face.

PENSIONS FOR WESTERN VETERANS.

Survivors of Late War Remembered by the General Government.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Pensions have been issued to the following: Issue of Aug. 9.



Writes from the Trenches

Private Soldier Describes the Battles Near Santiago.

Captain Rowell is Blown to Atoms

Frank C. McCune Tells His Experiences in the Trenches Without Food or Water and Sleeping in the Rain.

Frank C. McCune, a son of John W. McCune of 1410 North Twenty-fifth street in this city, enlisted at Salt Lake City last May for the Second Infantry, U. S. A., which was formerly stationed at Omaha. He was employed as a treasurer's office of the Oregon Short Line at Salt Lake before his enlistment, and was well known in this city. He was at Santiago during the fiercest fighting near that point, and has written to his friends a description of the hardships which the private soldier passed through during that campaign, which is probably as correct a statement of the conditions that prevailed there as has been prepared from the standpoint of a man down in the trenches. The letter is as follows:

"IN CAMP (Outside Santiago), Sunday, July 12.—The white-winged dove of peace is over our camp now and last night we were moved back from the trenches and pitched our 'dog tents' for the first time since our arrival here. An sitting here with a cool breeze blowing and the sun shining brightly will be going on in a moment. The fellows are laughing or chewing the rag, and everybody is in a merry mood. We were out for four or five days in the trenches, and slept in the mud at night and during the day. Will give a little of my experiences as lying in a ditch.

"We swung off to the left (our position) and, opening out to a skirmish line, took hill at the double, and not a shot from our side. Well, it was a pretty sight from the trench, to see the enemy's batteries and trenches of the enemy being in full view. We opened fire on a battery at 1,000 yards and after we got to firing forgot all about the rest of the world. We were coming over. We silenced that battery all right, but lost several men, then took a position over on our right and opened on the rifle pits of the Spaniards. We plugged away at them for nearly fifteen minutes, then their big batteries got our range and shelled us out. We retired just behind the hill and put up our tent. The rain came down hard and it was a pretty sight to see the mud and the rain coming down hard on us. We were coming over. We silenced that battery all right, but lost several men, then took a position over on our right and opened on the rifle pits of the Spaniards. 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