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S I T U A T I O N

in case of

War with Spain.

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If unhappily a war should break out between the United States and Spain, the situation, under existing circumstances would be briefly, as follows:-

1st. Spain itself could be attacked. This would involve an unduly large expenditure of life and treasure; and the issue of such a campaign would be somewhat doubtful.

2d. Spain's possessions in the East could be attacked. This would require fewer men and less money, and the issue of a resolute campaign against the Philippines might be regarded as reasonably certain to be successful. Success there, however, would not be of great value to us, as it would not certainly bring the enemy to terms.

3d. Spain's West Indian possessions could be attacked. This campaign would require still less men and means as the West Indies are at our doors, and the transportation difficulties would be minimum.

It would not certainly bring the enemy to terms if we should occupy Cuba and Porto Rico, but it would throw upon the enemy the chief burdens of the continuance of hostilities; he being on the other side of the Atlantic, while we are practically at home.

The strategic relation of Cuba to the Gulf of Mexico is so close and intimate that the value of that island to the United States in a military and naval way is incalculable.

The third alternative is therefore selected and the method of attack is now to be considered.

The conditions surrounding Cuba as a theatre of operations are those most favorable to the United States.

From our nearness to the field of work we shall have an advantage probably in case of sudden war, and by the use of ordinary diligence we may complete many important movements before an additional home force of Spain can be brought into the theatre of action.

It is possible that the effective Spanish force in Cuba which could be collected to resist an advance after landing may be not far from 40,000 men. It was said that in January there were 45,000 men in and around the defenses of Havana and on February 14th a total force 150,000 of all arms.

In view of the fact however that there has been no claim advanced that the insurgents have had a greater force than 30,000 of all arms at any time, and the probability that during the late raid into the western provinces of the island they had not more than 6000 or 7000 all told, it is thought that the effective Spanish force in the field is probably less than the number given, viz: - 40,000

At the present time therefore :-

1st. We have probably 30 days in which to work before any considerable force from Spain, land and naval, comes upon the scene as a factor.

2d. During that time we shall have control of the sea without question; and in twenty days place upon the shores of Cuba, a force almost equal to that of Spain engaged offensively in the present campaign; and in the following twenty days can reinforce that number by 50,000

3d. When the home force from Spain, land and sea, arrives, our fleet will still be superior to theirs, and will welcome an engagement, but should not follow far to seek one, but should regard Havana as at all times the primary objective.

4th. Havana is the natural objective for obvious reasons. It is the Capitol. It is the nearest point on the Island to our bases. It is the commercial and military centre of the western half of the Island, which is the portion projecting into the Gulf of Mexico, and principally concerning us for strategic reasons.

The eastern half of the Island can, in the event of the present war, be safely left to the insurgents now actively contesting that region with the mother country, aided by our arms, money and countenance; and it is not probable that this section would be used as a landing place by the Spanish forces, nor in any way as their base.

Considering these conditions, we perceive that we should if possible occupy the western portion of Cuba, and capture Havana before the full strength of Spain can be exerted in the Island.

It is believed that our naval force cannot alone take and hold Havana as its harbor is commanded by forts in such a way as to make this impracticable. Its defenses must be turned by a land force, operating upon their rear and flank. Our first step therefore should be to effect a landing in force at some point near Havana.

The occupation of the Isle of Pines and a landing near Batabano (about 25 miles from Havana) offers many advantages, but involves a complete separation of the army from the fleet, and is therefore rejected; at least for the earliest part of the campaign.

The north shore is therefore selected for landing the troops, who will when ready, move towards Havana with their seaward flank

resting upon the fleet, which will move with them, keeping touch.

The Spanish troops now in Cuba, if dispersed judiciously ready for concentration, could be quickly assembled at any points within twenty miles of Havana, in sufficient force to menace seriously any attempt at landing. A point of disembarkation should therefore be chosen beyond that distance.

The vicinity of Matanzas to the eastward, and of Cabanas and Bahia Honda to the westward suggest themselves. The latter are chosen because railroad facilities for the enemy's quick concentration are fewer to the westward of Havana.

It is suggested that a slight feint be made at Cabanas, followed by a strong demonstration in the direction of Matanzas, lasting long enough to draw the enemy in that direction, and that finally, the real landing take place at Cabanas and Bahia Honda.

The question now presents itself of our naval bases, and points of embarkation for our troops.

Nearness to the theatre of operations being of prime importance we have to consider Key West, and Dry Tortugas, Tampa, New Orleans and Savannah.

Dry Tortugas is rejected as a depot, for the reason that, not being self defensible against naval raids, it will require too large a naval force to be kept there permanently.

Key West is selected as a temporary advanced depot near the front of operations for immediate supplies of coal, ammunition and provisions, and for slight repairs.

Tampa is selected as principal Naval Base and embarkation point, supplies to be rapidly concentrated there from New York, St. Louis and other great cities.

5.

The Spanish Naval force consists approximately of

Four Battle ships	Two armored cruisers.
Eight Cruisers.	Ten Gunboats.
Ten Torpedo Gun boats.	Thirty Torpedo boats.
Sixty small vessels.	

The United States Naval force consists of

Three Battle ships	Two Double Turret Monitors.
Nine old Single Turret Monitors	Two Armored Cruisers.
Eleven Cruisers.	Seven Gun Boats.
One Ram	One Dynamiter.
Seven Torpedo Boats.	

selves as follows: -

Blue vs Yellow

Blue force: -

~~4 A, 13 [#] A, 2 B, 8 C, 1 ram, 1 dynamiter, 6 T, 3 t, 6~~

~~scouts.~~

Yellow force:

~~6 A, 1 B, 5 C, 10 D, 10 T, 30 t.~~

War is declared September 1st.

The general naval and military plan will be to attack Cuba, and secure Havana first, afterwards the chief coast cities.

The ultimate object to be gained, may be supposed, for purposes of the solution, to be the establishment of Cuban autonomy, or a republic, and the cession of the Isle of Pines to the Blue.

Blue forces will govern the captured territory until after peace is declared, and the Cuban local government is firmly established.

The military force will be an advance corps of all the available regular troops, about 30,000 men, ^{note} a main body of 250,000 volunteers, enlisted for three years, or for the war.

The advance will concentrate at Tampa, and Charlotte Harbor ^{by} September 15th., and will sail for Cuba on that date.

The main body of 250,000 three years volunteers will collect at their several State Camps, and not later than October 1st.

100,000 ^{men} will concentrate at Tampa, Charlotte Harbor and Key West for the main attack on Havana, ~~by October 1st.~~

Note: It is supposed that the Company organization # ~~single units~~ ^{units} of the U. S. Army will be at once filled to 100 men making 40,000 men in all, of which 30,000 men will be available of the advance corps.

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(6)

New York
Maine
Columbia
Montgomery
Minneapolis
Dolphin
Cushing
Erickson

Details of ^{16th} expedition.

September 1st. a naval force of ~~2 B, 2 C, 2 D, and 2 E~~
^{sail from Hampton Roads to} will make a reconnaissance in force along the north coast of
Cuba in the vicinity of Havana; and to the westward, including
the Isle of Pines. ^{After which} they will be at Tampa, coaled and ready for
convoy duty by September 15th.

Convoy, ~~and attack on~~ Cuba.

Indiana
Amphitrite
Allanto
Cincinnati
~~Essex~~
Katahdin

~~2 A, 2 C, and 1 ram~~ will assemble at Hampton Roads, Sept-
ember 1st., and convoy the fleet of transports to their destination
^{Charlotte Harbor} Tampa and Cedar Keys, sailing by September 5th.

Texas
Miantouoh
Relief
Enterprise
Alliance
Vesuvius

~~The 2 A, 2 C, 2 D, and 1 dynamite~~ will proceed to Tybee
Roads, and convoy the transports there assembled to their desti-
nation, sailing by September 7th.

Two days will be allowed for coaling and watering at
Tampa and Charlotte Harbor.

September 15th. ^{convoy} the fleet will sail ^{for Cuba}.

Each of the unarmed vessels will be paired with one of
the mosquito Foltilla, or armed tugs.

The vessels carrying artillery detachments will have
as many pieces as possible, mounted and ready for action.

The Commander in Chief applies to the Navy Department for officers for the following duties.

Chief of Staff

Chief of Improvised Flotilla.

Military Aid.

Flag Lieutenant.

Flag Secretary.

Signal Officer, Aids etc.

Chief of Scouts,

Commander-----In charge of scouting vessels,
pilots, spies, etc. Headquarters on board
Yacht "Conqueror".

Commandant of Fleet Base at Tampa

Commodore

~~Captain-----~~. To be in command both afloat
and ashore.

Naval Aids to Commandant of Base

Captain -----

Commander-----.

Lieutenant-----.

Ensign-----.

Ensign-----

Boatswain-----

Gunner-----

Carpenter-----

Military Aids to Commandant of Base

~~Lieut-Colonel-----~~

Major -----

~~Captain-----~~

Lieutenant-----

Lieutenant-----

First Sergeant of Cavalry and 20 men.

Chief of Auxiliary unarmed vessels

Commander-----In charge of lighters, boats, scows, ~~divers and diving apparatus, dredging machines, pile drivers, etc., etc.~~ at the Base.

Lieutenant (Jr. Grade)

Boatswain-----Boatswain-----

Carpenter-----Carpenter-----

Captain of the Port

(one for each port of disembarkation)

Captain-----In charge ^{at} of the port of disembarkation.

Lieutenant-----Ensign-----Ensign-----

At mercantile centres for purchase of stores, fitting out vessels &c.,

Captain (or Commander), a Lieutenant and a Paymaster at each of the following ports:-Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Baltimore, Savannah, New Orleans.

In charge of floating Hospitals

Surgeon-----. Assistants, Surgeons -----

The Commandant of the Fleet Base will begin preparations at once for arrival of the troops and their speedy embarkation. The terminal R. R. facilities will be increased, wharves and railroad sidings constructed and channels dredged.

The Captains of the ports of disembarkation will prepare anchors and chains for moorings, pile drivers, lumber, dredgers, and car flat boats for wharves, etc.

Details of the Expedition.

September 1st a naval force of NEW YORK, MAINE, COLUMBIA, MINNEAPOLIS, MONTGOMERY, DOLPHIN, CUSHING, ERICSSON will sail from Hampton Roads to make a reconnaissance in force along the north coast of Cuba in the vicinity of Havana; and to the westward, including the Isle of Pines. After which they will be at Tampa, coaled and ready for convoy duty by September 15th.

Convoy.

INDIANA, AMPHITRIE, ATLANTA, CINCINNATI, ESSEX and KATAHDIN will assemble at Hampton Roads September 1st and convoy the fleet of transports to their destination, sailing by September 7th.

Two days will be allowed for coaling and watering at Tampa and Charlotte Harbor.

September 15th the convoy fleet will sail for Cuba.

Each of the unarmed vessels will be paired with one of the the mosquito flotilla, or armed tugs.

The vessels carrying detachments will have as many pieces as possible, mounted and ready for action.

One battery of artillery will be embarked on each of the transports carrying cavalry.

The convoy will consist of;

57 transports.

1 coal steamer For steam launch and mosquito fleet supply.

1 tank steamer- for steam launch and mosquito fleet supply.

35 mosquito flotilla.

35 large tugs ~~tugs~~ (armed)

*Andiana
Amphitrite
Jason
Ajax
Entrepren
Bancroft*

September 17th. the main assault on Cuba will be made.

About 5 p.m. September 16th. a naval force of 2 A, 2 men-~~itors, 2 D,~~ 6 Mosquito Flotilla will appear off Cabañas.

They will make an attack on the defenses of the port, remove torpedoes from the channel, and make a demonstration in the nature of a feint. Before daylight they will ~~sail~~ ^{withdraw} to the eastward, ~~leaving the two monitors at anchor off the bar.~~

The vessels of the convoy will be divided into two fleets

1st. One half of each arm ~~will be~~ on board the larger vessels, will proceed through the Tortugas Channel to Key West arriving before dark; and thence steam to the Cuban shore at a ^{about} cove ten miles east of Havana, where they will arrive before daylight. *Sept 17*

They will proceed to make a strong demonstration, shelling the beach, and making every visible sign of landing, even ~~to~~ sending in advance guard to gain a foothold on shore.

The demonstration will be kept up until ^{after} ~~near~~ ^{nearly} dark, when the fleet will withdraw and steam to the northward until out of sight of land and then to the westward ^{to} ~~and~~ effect a landing at Bahia Honda, during the night or the morning of Sept 18th

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The remainder of the convoy, in vessels drawing less than 14 feet will steam through the Boca Grande Channel about midnight September 16th. and arrive off Cabanas about noon Sept. 17th.

Landing will be made and entrenchments will be thrown up at once. The first division will reach Bahia Honda about ~~6 AM~~ ^{midnight}

The naval vessels will clear the channel and keep it clear until daylight when landing will be made.

September 18th The landing having been secured, the New York, Columbia, Montgomery Bancroft, Cushing and ten fast light draft armed yachts from the Mosquito flotilla will make a reconnoissance to the eastward as far as Cape Maisi. The Maine, Minneapolis Dolphin Raleigh, Erickson and ten fast light draft armed yachts from the Mosquito fleet. will make a reconnoissance along the south coast of Cuba. They will make a strong demonstration against the principle ports of the enemy and will search out and capture or destroy all the enemy's armed vessels. After cutting

9)

the cables off Santiago de Cuba both
forces will take station near Rockwell's
Bank to await news from the scouts
regarding the approach of the enemy's
convoy from Spain -

The next consideration will be the arrival of the Yellow reinforcement from Spain.

This ^{possibly} may be ready to sail about September 5th., with sufficient coal to reach Havana by the most circuitous route.

It is probable that the Yellow Convoy will make arrangements by which, through the Yellow scouts, it will receive information of any movements of the Blue Fleet, before it arrives in sight of any West Indian island, and make its plans for landing accordingly.

The Yellow convoy can reach this vicinity by September 20th., and it is important that the Blue Admiral should receive the earliest information. It is not ^{however} probable that it will arrive before Oct 1st and possibly not before Oct 10th.
The Reconnoitering Squadron, after completing ^{their} ~~its~~ duty along the north ^{and south} coasts of Cuba, and ~~sending one vessel~~ with the Coast Survey Steamer Blake to drag for and cut the cables south of San Jago de Cuba, will take station on the Rochelois Bank Hayti, (west of Port au Prince.)

The scouts will be ready to sail by September 18th., and

to take station as follows -

Fairfax off St Nicholas Mole

Valiant off Port au Prince

New York off St Lucia

Paris off St Thomas

City of Augusta off San Domingo City

Jamstown with Squadron off Rochelois Bank

Yorktown same

Conqueror same

They will communicate frequently with

the Consuls and will telegraph any information they may receive

- 1st to Port au Prince
- 2^d St Nicholas Mole
- 3^d San Domingo city
- 4 St Thomas -

If cable communication is interrupted they will steam to the fleet with their information -

The Blue Consuls at the following ports will be ordered to establish a lookout scouting service in the adjacent passages to report the presence of the enemy.

Cable messages are to be sent to

Port au Prince

1st. San Nicholas Mole

2nd. San Domingo City

3rd. St. Thomas.

The ten armed yachts accompanying the Squadron will scout between Port Plata and the Caicos Bank and in the Caicos Marigua, and Crooked Island Passages.

The Newark and Cyclone will be ordered to proceed to

St. Lucia for coal and orders.

The Marblehead will be ordered to proceed to St. Thomas for coal and orders.

The San Francisco will be ordered to the Canary Islands in search of the Yellow Convoy. If discovered, to steam to the nearest cable and coaling station, and cable the date of sailing for Cuba, and size of convoy. Then proceed to St. Thomas for orders.

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2^d St Nicholas Mole

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4 St Thomas -

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Cable messages are to be sent to

Port au Prince or
1st. San Nicholas Mole

2nd. San Domingo City.

3rd. St. Thomas.

The consuls at Trinidad, between Trinidad and Grenada, St. Lucia, between St. Lucia and St. Vincent; Martinique; etc. etc.

The Newark and Castine will be ordered to proceed to St. Lucia for coal and orders.

The Marblehead will be ordered to proceed to St. Thomas for coal and orders.

The San Francisco will be ordered to the Canary Islands in search of the Yellow Convoy. If discovered, to steam to the nearest cable and coaling station, and cable the date of sailing for Cuba, and size of convoy. Then proceed to St. Thomas for orders.

(19) 12

These vessels, Newark,
Castine,
Marblehead,
San Francisco

will be ordered to join the reconnoitering fleet at
~~the~~ rendezvous, *Rochele's Bank.*

The Nacooche and Tallahassee (Savannah Line) will fill
with coal and proceed to St. Thomas Island, and await orders from
one of the scouts.

The City of Savannah and the Chattahoochee will fill
with coal and join the fleet at Rochele's Bank.

The Chatham and Berkshire, (Merchants and Miner's Trans-
Co. Baltimore,) will fill with coal and take station 100 miles north
of Culebra and await orders from scouts.

The Tank Steamers American and Bremerhaven will fill
with fresh water; and steam, the first to St. Thomas, and the
other to St. Lucia; to supply the Paris and New York with fresh
water.

(13)

Detail of vessels required for the expedition

~~Detail of vessels required~~ For transport duty, tonnage, capacity as transports, &c , &c.

Vessels of less than twelve feet draught should compose at least, one half of this force; and ~~all vessels selected for this service will be equipped with one gun each.~~

The Captains will receive acting appointments as naval ^{Volunteers} officers; ^{if desired} and ~~one Ensign will be ordered to each, as executive and drill officer.~~

List of vessels.

For infantry - 25 regiments.

- ✓ Venezuela - - - 2037 tons, A and C Steam Navigation Co.
- ✓ Alamo - - - - 2237 " Mallory Line
- ✓ Comal - - - - 2251 " "
- ✓ Leona - - - - 2331 " "
- ✓ Nueces - - - 2465 " "
- San Marcos - - 2188 " "

City of Birmingham	2352	tons,	Savannah Steamship Co.
Kansas City - - - - -	2164	"	"
Orziba - - - - -	2334	"	N.Y. and Cuba Mail.
Yumuri - - - - -	2332	"	"
Algonquin - - - - -	2258	"	Clyde S.S.Co.
Iroquais - - - - -	2236	"	"
Allianza - - - - -	2205		Brazil Mail
Finance - - - - -	1920	"	"
Algiers - - - - -	1305	"	Morgan Line
Aransas - - - - -	679	"	"
Clinton - - - - -	718	"	"
Gussie - - - - -	576	"	"
Harlan - - - - -	707	"	"
Morgan - - - - -	537	"	"
Whitney - - - - -	768	"	"
Wm. G. Hewes - - - - -	765	"	"
Croatan - - - - -	824	"	Clyde Line
Delaware - - - - -	1279	"	"
Ozama - - - - -	766	"	"
Pawnee - - - - -	859	"	"
Fanita - - - - -	289	"	"
Maracaibo - - - - -	904	"	Atlantic & Caribbean S.N.Co.
Valencia - - - - -	1198	"	"
General Whitney	1198	"	Metropolitan S.N.Co.
Glaucus - - - - -	1206	"	"
Neptuna - - - - -	1137	"	"
Dessong - - - - -	892	"	"
Rover - - - - -	411	"	Bahama Line.
Stillwater - - - - -	510	"	"

William Crane - - - - 989 tons Merchants and Miners S.S. Co
 Alsenborn - - - - - 408 " N.Y. & Balto. Transporte Co
 New York - - - - - 498 " N.Y. Phil. & Norfolk R.R. Co
 William Lawrence - - 576 " Merchants and Miners S.S. Co.
 Ashland - - - - - 487 " Clyde Line.
 Colorado - - - - - 2022 " Mallory Line.
 Lampasas - - - - - 2237 " Mallory Line.

Cavalry; 5 regiments, 600 each - 3,000 men.

Elderado - - - - - 2562 tons South Pacific S.S. Co.
 El Mar - - - - - 2539 " "
 El Monte - - - - - 2562 " "
 El Paso - - - - - 2562 " "
 Excelsior - - - - - 2407 " "

not enough?

Artillery; 10 batteries, 175 each, 1750 men.

Concho - - - - - 2640 tons, Mallory Line
 C'y of San Antonio, 1204 " "
 Rio Grande - - - - - 2048 " "
 State of Texas - - 1328 " "

not enough?

Engineers; 5 companies, 100 each - 500 men.

City of Macon - - - 1447 tons, Savannah Line.

not enough?

Corps Transport; 153 wagons, 612 horses.

Merinda - - - - - 358 tons, Atlantic & Carribean S.N. Co
 City of Brockton, 1912 " Old Colony Line
 City of Taunton 2000 " "
 City of Fall River -1743 " "

Army Headquarters and Staff:

Mascot - - - - - 520 tons, Plant Line.

not enough?

In addition, ~~The~~

- Gate City - - - - 1112 tons, Savannah Line.
- H.M. Whitney - - - 1791 " Metropolitan S.S.Co.
- Alleghaney - - - - 1433 " "

will proceed to the Kennebec River for ice, and report at Key West without delay.

All vessels will be chartered at the ports where found as soon as they have discharged cargo.

to be used as a transport
Each vessel will take on board 45 days rations and forage for the number of troops she can accommodate, and 60 days rations for her officers and crew. They will fill with coal and

stores. The officers in charge of Branch Hydrographic Offices will be charged with the fitting out of the vessels needed and the purchase and inspection of the stores, forage etc. until the arrival of the officer regularly detailed for this duty.
who will

Vessels from Gulf ports will proceed to Tampa Bay and report to the Commandant of fleet base.

Vessels from Atlantic ports north of Cape Hatteras will collect at Hampton Roads and await convoy to Tampa.

Vessels from Atlantic ports south of Cape Hatteras will collect at Tybee Roads and await convoy.

Vessels from New Orleans and Atlantic ports north of Cape Hatteras, in addition to the supplies mentioned above will fill up spare cargo space with coal at New Orleans, Mobile, and Hampton Roads.

The colliers Burks, Reading, Lancaster, Williamsport, Harrisburg Pottsville, *of the Reading R. R. Co* and Lebanon will carry 11,000 tons of coal to Tampa, before September 10th