

# U.S. NAVAL BLOCKADE OF SANTIAGO

## Rear-Admiral W.T. Samspon

US Flagship New York, First Rate, Off Santiago de Cuba, 2 June 1898

The fleet off Santiago de Cuba will be organized during the operations against that port and the Spanish squadron as follows:

First Squadron—Under the personal command of the commander-in-chief: NEW YORK, IOWA, OREGON, NEW ORLEANS, MAYFLOWER, PORTER.

Second Squadron—Commodore Schley: BROOKLYN, MASSACHUSETTS, TEXAS, MARBLEHEAD, VIXEN.

Vessels joining subsequently will be assigned by the Commander-in-Chief. The vessels will blockade Santiago de Cuba closely, keeping about six miles from the Morro in the daytime and closing in at night, the lighter vessels well in shore. The first squadron will blockade on the east side of the port and the second squadron on the west side. If the enemy tries to escape the ships must close and engage as soon as possible and endeavor to sink his vessels or force them to run ashore in the channel. It is not considered that the shore batteries are of sufficient power to do any material injury to battleships.

In smooth weather the vessels will coal on station. If withdrawn to coal elsewhere, or for other duty, the blockading vessels on either side will cover the angle thus left vacant.

*Brooklyn Eagle* (27 July 1898), page 3.