

# THE BATTLE OF SANTIAGO

## Captain F.E. Chadwick, USS NEW YORK

US FLAGSHIP NEW YORK, First Rate, Playa del Este, 4 July 1898

I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by this ship in the action of yesterday, during and following the sortie of Admiral Cervera's squadron.

The ship had started at 8:50 for the Army landing at Siboney, the commander-in-chief having an appointment with the general commanding the Army. A few minutes after the crew had been called to quarters for Sunday inspection, firing was heard, and a ship was seen leaving the harbor entrance. The helm was at once put over, the crew called to general quarters, signal "close in toward the harbor entrance and attack vessels" made, orders given to spread all fires and the ship headed back for the enemy, whose ships were seen successfully coming out at a high speed.

The nearer ships had immediately engaged, and by the time we were off the entrance one, the flagship, was already afire and was soon ashore; the INDIANA and GLOUCESTER were actively engaged with the torpedo boats; this ship fired some four inch shells at the one nearer the port, toward which she was already headed and seemed attempting to return, but she was already practically out of the fight.

This ship stood on in chase of the *CRISTOBAL COLON*, with ahead of us the BROOKLYN, OREGON, TEXAS and VIXEN, the OREGON being much nearer in shore of the two headmost ships, but not in gunshot. It was evident, however, that the *COLON* would give us a lengthy chase and at noon the crew left quarters and went to dinner. About 12:50 the OREGON opened fire and some of her shells were observed to strike beyond the *COLON*; this made her capture a foregone conclusion, and shortly after 1 o'clock she turned in toward shore and soon struck her colors. She had been beached at a small inlet known as Rio Torquino. By the time we arrived a boat was alongside her from the BROOKLYN, and Captain Cook, the boarding officer came alongside this and reported. This ship then sent a boat to take possession, the commanding officer going in one boat. I was received by the commodore of the squadron, the captain, Captain De Navio don Emilio Moreu and Captain De Nalo of the first class Don Jose de Parodes y Chaeon (which latter had been civil governor of Santiago and had only just been attached to the squadron). I arranged for the transfer of the crew and officers, a division to each ship present and the engineer force to be left aboard.

At 11 PM the flagship returned to Santiago, leaving the TEXAS and OREGON in charge of the prize.

Though the ship was not able to come to action with any of the larger ships on account of her distance to the eastward, every nerve was strained to do so and all was done that could be done; our speed had rapidly increased, so that we were going sixteen knots at the end.

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