

THE BATTLE OF SANTIAGO

Captain J.W. Philip, USS TEXAS

USS TEXAS, Off Santiago, 4 July 1898

In accordance with the requirements of Article 437, Navy regulations, I respectfully submit the following statement in regard to the part the TEXAS took in the engagement with the enemy yesterday.

At daylight on the morning of the 3^d the TEXAS stood out from entrance to harbor, taking day blockading position about three miles from the Morro (the Morro bearing NNE).

At 9:35 the Morro bearing N by E 12 E., distant 5,100 yards, the enemy's ships were sighted standing out of the harbor. Immediately general signal No. 250 was made; this signal was followed by the IOWA's almost at the same time.

As the leader, bearing the admiral's flag, appeared in the entrance, she opened fire, which was at 9:40, returned by the TEXAS at range of 4,200 yards, while closing in. The ship leading was of the *VIZCAYA* class and the flagship.

While warmly engaged with the third in line, which was abreast and engaging the TEXAS, our fire was blanketed for a short time by the OREGON forging ahead and engaging the second ship. This third ship, after a spirited fire, sheered inshore and at 10:35 ran up a white flag; we then ceased fire on the third and opened fire with our forward guns at long range (6,600 yards) on the second ship (which was then engaged with the OREGON), until 11:05, when she (enemy's second ship) sheered into the beach on fire. At 11:10 she struck her colors, we ceased fire and gave chase with BROOKLYN and OREGON for the leading ship until 1:20, when the *COLON* sheered into beach and hauled down her colors, leaving them on deck at foot of her flagstaff. We shut off forced draft and proceeded at moderate speed to close up.

I would state that during this chase the TEXAS was holding her own with the *COLON*, she leading us about four miles at the start. The reports of the executive officer and the surgeon are transmitted. I have the pleasure of stating that the entire battery of the TEXAS is in a most excellent condition and ready for any service required by the commander-in-chief; especially calling attention to the efficiency of the two turret guns, due to the alterations recently made by Lieutenant F. J. Haesler of this ship.

The bearing and performance of duty of all officers met with my entire approval.

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