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The Spanish Army in the Caroline Islands.: Geographical Notice-Military Expeditions-Recent Events-Battles of Oua and Ketan

Don Francisco J. de Mota ^a & Lt.-Col. J. C. Dalton R.A., D.A.A.G.

^a Capt., Spanish Artillery. Translated
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THE SPANISH ARMY IN THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

Geographical Notice—Military Expeditions—Recent Events—Battles of *Oua* and *Kélan*.

By Don FRANCISCO J. DE MOYA, Capt., Spanish Artillery.

Translated by Lt.-Col. J. C. DALTON, R.A., D.A.A.G.

TRANSLATOR'S REMARKS.

THE article from which this is translated appeared in the "Memorial de Artilleria" for August, 1891. Unfortunately, it was unaccompanied by a map, and as the subject deals with a part of the world but very little known, a map is doubly necessary to illustrate and explain the letter-press. I have, therefore, prepared a simple map to show the *Caroline* Group, and an inset of the island of *Ponapi*, or *Ascension*, which was the scene of the sanguinary fighting herein recorded. The original article contained many typographical errors which I have endeavoured to correct; but there are a few names mentioned which I have failed to trace on any map.

J. C. D.

December, 1891.

I.

THE *Caroline* Islands or *New Philippines*, situated in the most northerly part of Oceania, were discovered by Magallanes, A.D. 1521. They are divided into three clusters: the Western, Central, and Eastern, and form an extensive archipelago of more than 500 islands, classified into 48 principal groups.

Situated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean they lie to the S. of the Mariana Islands, E. of the Philippines, and N. of New Guinea.

The geological conditions of the ground are of similar formation to those of the Philippines, of which they form a part in the Spanish possessions in Oceania. The extensive and endless series of islands and islets disseminated in the sea, but with identical orographic and climatic conditions, indicate to the enquiring investigator the presence of the Ancient Continent, destroyed by volcanic phenomena, to whose incessant action, and to the action of the sea, its soil, which is rich in basaltic groups and reefs of coral, is partly due.

The relative position of each of these islands cannot be exactly determined, but the total area of this group, which is one of the richest and most important in Micronesia, amounts to some 50,000 square leagues (about a million and a half square miles) lying between the 135th and 180th degrees of E. Longitude (meridian of San

Fernando), and between the Equator and the 12th degree of N. Latitude, some 3,000 miles from Manila.¹

Amongst the principal groups may be cited those of *Yap*, *Ualan*, *Iogolu*,² *Tugulo*,³ *Arrecifes*,⁴ *Ponapi*, *Uluti*, *Seniavin*, *Duperrey*, *Iukunor*, *Nukuor*, *Namuluk*, *Pimipenta*,⁵ *Ulebi*,⁶ *Tarugui*,⁷ and the Archipelagos of *Marshall*, *Gilbert*, and *Mulgrave*.¹

The population belongs to the Malayan or Papuan race, of the same religious faith and customs as all the Oceanic populations; organised in isolated governments, mostly dependents of petty kings, of whom the most important resides in *Iamurech*.⁸ The number of inhabitants is over 70,000.

The conditions of civilisation of the tribes contend with the backwardness of the regions. The North Americans and Germans, who, for a long time past, have been watching these seas, have altered the native character considerably, causing it to be educated far above our atmosphere, and replacing the bows and arrows characteristic of the country by the modern rifle.

Up to now this archipelago, like those of the *Mariana* and *Palaos*, has produced nothing for Spain, which country has, almost ever since the discovery of these islands, left them to their own resources, with the exception of those occupied by the Spanish detachments from *Guajan*.⁹ The geographical position of this part of Oceania is the true key of the Pacific, and is destined to become most important, both for Colonial security and for trade between Asia and America. The day is not far distant when the Panama Canal will be opened, a circumstance which most certainly has not escaped the notice of European policy, and is shown, by the ambition of England and Germany to establish there their missionaries in order to obtain passively that which they never could by force. Of this method of conquest, a melancholy proof is the loss of the Spanish possessions in *North Borneo*, ceded to England in March, 1885, by the Protocol of *Jolo*, through which England obtained an extent of 50,000 square kilometres (19,320 square miles), now covered by the splendid possessions of *Labuan*, *Sandakan*, and *Caya*, the centre of the commercial life of the island, and a station dangerous to the future of Spanish Micronesia.

The climate of the Caroline Islands is mild, and the produce the same as in the Philippines. The prevailing winds are the N.E., from November to June, and the W. from July to October.

¹ The German-Spanish Agreement of 17th December, 1885, fixed the limits within which Spain can exercise jurisdiction as between 133° and 161° Longitude E. of Greenwich, and from the Equator to 11° N. Latitude.

² Or *Truk*.

³ Or *Pinglap*.

⁴ Or *Providence Island*.

⁵ These I cannot trace.

⁶ ? *Wolea* or *Ulie*.

⁷ Other important groups not mentioned in this list are *Palaos* (or *Pellew Islands*); *Lamotrek* (or *Swede Islands*); *Enderby Islands*; *Hall Islands*, &c.

⁸ ? *Lamotrek Island*.

⁹ *Mariana Group*.—J. C. D.

The Group of *Yap* consists of six islands. The most important, which gives its name to the group, was explored 6th January, 1858, by Alvaro de Saavedra, and is the largest and most important in the western part of the archipelago. Its soil is fertile and hilly, especially in the extreme north, the heights reaching 160 to 170 metres (525 ft.) in the *Buray* range. Its circumference amounts to fifty-four English miles, and the safest port is that of *Tomil*, lying between Capes *Tomil* and *Rull*.

The Island of *Ualan*, discovered 14th September, 1529, by the same Captain, is one of the most fertile in the archipelago, and has splendid anchorages. The ground is undulating, the hills being covered with a rich and luxuriant vegetation. From their structure and analysis they point to volcanic origin. In the central part, and commanding the entire coast, rises the peak of *Teyua* (? *Mt. Crozier*), some 700 metres (2,297 ft.) above the sea level.

The Group of *Hogolu* (or *Truk*), also explored by Saavedra, is made up of forty islets, of which only the centre ones are inhabited; they are equally fertile and luxuriant. Its surface is undulating and the islands in the centre of the group are loftier than the others; the circumference of the largest being about forty English miles. The position of the principal island, *Hogolu* (? *Ruk*, or *Moan*), is 9° 21' N. Latitude (? 7° 21') and 15° E. of the Island of *Guajan*.¹

The Island of *Ponapi*, one of the *Seniavin* Group, was discovered in A.D. 1542, by Ruy Lopez de Villaldos. The group is made up of sixteen islands, of which *Ponapi* is the largest, and some seventy English miles in circumference. The surface is very undulating, and the greatest heights are to be found in the east, where there is a mountain 950 metres high (3,117 ft.), and towards the north, which ends in a huge rocky peak with an elevation of 335 metres (1,098 ft.).

M. de la Gravière, who ascribes the discovery of these islands to the Russians, A.D. 1828, states that it was in this Island of *Ponapi* that the crew of the "La Pérouse" met with such a disastrous fate.

The Islands of *Duperrey*, discovered in A.D. 1545, are composed of three small low islets covered with dense forest, called *Mongol*,² *Ugai*, and *Aura*.

The Group of *Lukunor*, explored A.D. 1550, is made up of ninety islets, the most notable being that which gives its name to the group, owing to its fine semi-circular port, *Kamisso*, which affords safe anchorage, sheltered from the prevailing winds.

The Group of *Nukuor*, discovered at the same time as above, is composed of twelve small low islands, mostly inhabited.

The *Lamurech*³ Group, also discovered at the same time, is the residence of one of the principal petty kings (*reyezuelos*), and is composed of a considerable group of fertile and mountainous islands, with some good ports.

¹ Some 7° E. of *Guajan* would be nearer the mark.

² *Mokil*.

³ ? *Lamotrek*.—J. C. D.

The Group of *Ulebi*¹ was visited A.D. 1686 by the pilot, Francisco Lezcano, who counted up to twenty islands, most of which are inhabited.

We can maintain truthfully that all the islands, or the majority of those which compose the Caroline Archipelago, including those called the *Marshall* and *Gilbert* Islands, were discovered and explored by Spaniards during the whole of the sixteenth century, and beginning of the seventeenth. The want of means of communication, and the absence of obligation on the part of the Spanish Government to proceed to occupy them, caused the English and American explorers to appropriate, during their voyages, the right of conquest, as we see by many foreign geographers, who have kindly given to many islands the names of the naturalists who have explored their soil, or of the vessels which have anchored in their waters.

II.

The Caroline Islands have never been completely abandoned since their conquest, as is shown by the fact that the Government of the Archipelago has at times dispatched scientific and military expeditions for various reasons, and definitely occupied the islands A.D. 1700. Amongst these expeditions, the following are especially worthy of mention :—

- (1) That of 1526, under Toribio Alonso de Salazar, composed of two boats and fighting men, who, after visiting some of the islands on the Western side, put in at *Palaos*, where they left missionaries.
- (2) In 1529, under Alvaro de Saavedra.
- (3) In 1543, under Ruy Lopez de Villabolas.
- (4) In 1565, under Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.
- (5) In 1595, under Pedro Fernandez de Quiros.
- (6) In 1686, under the pilot, Francisco Lezcano, who gave the name by which they are known (Caroline Islands) in honour of King Carlos II.
- (7) In 1697, organised by the Jesuits.
- (8) In March, 1708, by the same, with missionaries of the Order and twenty-five soldiers; but neither of these two last arrived at their destination, owing to difficulties of navigation.
- (9) In 1709, organised in *Cavile*² by the experienced pilot, Miguel de Elorriaga, composed of two missionaries and thirty soldiers.
- (10) In 1710, under sergeant-major D. Francisco Pradilla, with ninety native soldiers and four Jesuit missionaries, which disembarked in the island of St. Andrew, or *Sonrosol*. This expedition made the first map of the Archipelago, and gave the first martyrs to the Faith.
- (11) In 1712 the Jesuit Father Rafael Serrano organised another

¹ ? *Ulie* or *Wolea*.

² In the *Island of Luzon*, near *Manila*.—J. C. D.

expedition, composed of thirty soldiers and four missionaries, in the hope of rescuing what remained of the former expedition in *Sonrosol*; but the vessel (*patache*), which was commanded by the famous D. Blas de Lezo, was wrecked in the rocks of *Marinduque*, and the whole party was drowned.

- (12) In the same year, 1712, the ship which led the "*Real Situado*" to the Mariana Islands succeeded in disembarking in the above-mentioned island (*Sonrosol*), and heard from the natives of the glorious martyrdom of our mission.
- (13) In 1731 the Jesuit Father Antonio Cantova organised an expedition of four Jesuit missionaries and twenty native soldiers, disembarked in the *Yap* Group, where they definitely established themselves, and commenced their work of Christianising.
- (14) Following this expedition, another left *Manila* in May, 1733, under the Jesuit Father Victor Ubalteco, consisting of a religious mission with forty native soldiers and one Officer. This party disembarked in the island of *Talalep*,¹ and heard of the disastrous fate of Father Cantova and his companions.

III.

In some of these islands the spirit of adventure has gone so far as to found factories and establish missions, as in the island of *Ponapi*.

This fine island, which, from its importance and position, may be considered as the capital of the eastern part of the archipelago, is situated 7° N. Latitude, and 158° 15' Longitude (E. of Greenwich), and is in shape somewhat elliptical, the major axis being some 17 kilometres (11½ miles) long.

In the year 1852, four missionaries proceeding from North America, disembarked here, and were so successful that ten years later they had become absolute masters of the greater part of the archipelago, in which they had 5 missions, 12 ministers, 13 evangelisers, and 23 native masters; 43 schools, with about 4,000 members; 3 upper schools, besides a quantity of elementary schools, with an attendance of 2,000 pupils. There are, moreover, in *Oua*,² 250 Christians, a printing office for reformed propaganda, and a fleet of small vessels for the necessities of the Colony.

There were not wanting Spanish missionaries; but owing to the competition with the Americans, who had greater advantages, their work was made more than difficult; it was impossible.

International events at home, in 1875 and 1885, obliged the Spanish Government to establish regular forces in that part of its dominions, the Governor of the island at this time being D. Isidro Posadillo, Captain in the Navy, who, at the head of a mission of Capuchins and fifty of the Philippine Disciplinary Corps, took official possession of the island, his only support on which to fall back being the "*Maria*

¹ *Falalep* (*Uluti* Group).

² *Oa* on east coast of *Ponapi*.—J. C. D.

de Molina," a useless vessel (pontoon) which had taken three months to make the voyage that an ordinary ship can do in about twelve days.

What happened in the island? It is difficult to say. General opinion seems to aver that the rivalry between the Catholic and Protestant missionaries caused the conflict, which fermented amongst the natives the desire to rebel, the result being that in one and the same day the Spanish soldiers and priests, as well as the foreign ministers and settlers, were massacred.

We will detail the events which occurred. - On June 30th, 1887, the *Kanacas* (natives) whom Posadilla had to work in the Colony disappeared from the works, and on his enquiring through an interpreter the motive for this desertion, he was informed by the petty kings "That though the Governor might be Governor, they were kings there, and could do more." These words left no doubt as to the attitude of the *Kanacas*, so Captain Posadillo ordered Alferez (Ensign) Martinez, with twenty-four men, to punish this insolence.

This small force encountered the rebel tribe near the town of *Jocoy*,¹ where, at the first shots fired, twelve of the Disciplinary troops went over to the enemy, leaving the gallant Martinez alone with twelve men. He and his men made a desperate resistance, all (except one) dying heroically on the battle-field. One soldier alone survived the massacre; and badly wounded, and worn out, was able to bring the fatal news to the Spanish Colony.

Captain Posadillo, irritated at the news of the treason and defeat, harangued the force under his command, and at once set out in search of the rebels at the head of the forty men who remained, and was obliged, after a sanguinary struggle, to retire to Government House with only half his force.

In view of the serious state of affairs and fear for the future, Posadillo at once arranged for the embarkation on board the "*Maria de Molina*" of the Missionary fathers, the women and children, whilst he himself, with the diminutive force left to him, entrenched himself in his position and awaited the onslaught of the rebels. On July 2nd, 1887, he was attacked by the *Kanacas* in force, and with great bravery held his post during the 3rd and 4th, after which, want of men, rest, and ammunition, determined him to embark on the ship, by which means, on the morning of the 5th, favoured by a torrential rain, and believing he had not been observed, he effected his retreat, and gained a boat which was awaiting him on the beach; but hardly was he embarked when a considerable number of *vintas* (natives) threw themselves against the fugitives, who had to engage in another titanic fight, which in spite of the disproportion in numbers would not have been so disastrous, had not the boat, which in the ardour of the contest was left without a helmsman, struck on the reefs, on which the slaughter was terrific, only two natives succeeding in gaining the ship by swimming.

In this memorable and desperate contest, the brave Captain Posadillo, mortally wounded in the chest with four bullets, defended

¹ Not marked on map.—J. C. D.

himself like a hero, and finally succumbed to the hatchet blows of the infidels. The valiant Dr. Cardona, who had joined the detachment on hearing of the defeat, and who, though seriously wounded, attended to the soldiers before himself, died heroically with his chief.

The resistance of the Spaniards, nevertheless, lasted some hours; and the night of the 5th July, 1887, came to cover with its gloomy pall that day so disastrous in Spanish history. At daybreak on the 6th, the Spanish Ensign no longer floated over the Caroline Archipelago, and half-a-dozen badly wounded men, and a few terrified and prostrated missionaries and defenceless women found themselves on board the ship, struggling to get to land, ashamed of their impotency.

It is not our object here, when relating these events, and showing up the abandonment of our forces in our Southern possessions, to suggest the energetic measures which are necessary, and which evidently do not consist in isolated expeditions of 100 men, and therefore, we continue our narration.

Subsequent to these unfortunate events, which in addition to the irreparable loss above quoted, involved the country in fresh diplomatic troubles (with Germany), another sanguinary occurrence happened in the same island. Lieutenant Porras, who commanded the post, and twenty-seven soldiers were surprised while in the act of constructing a fort, and barbarously assassinated by the *Metalanim*¹ tribe.

IV.

The attitude of the population of the islands towards the Spanish arms could not have been more hostile; it was absolutely necessary to vindicate the honour of the Spanish Flag, and the Government, recognising this, organised a military expedition in *Manila* of 400 men under the command of D. Isidro Perez de Soto, Colonel of Infantry, with Major Victor Diez Martinez of the Artillery, as second in command. The force was made up of one company of the 2nd Battalion of Peninsular Artillery under Captain Monasterio, with Lieutenants Fandos, Sergio, and Bebrean (attached); two companies of Native Infantry of the 68th and 73rd Regiments under Captains Sastre and Abriat, and one company of Marine Infantry under Captain Vazquez.

This expedition embarked at *Manila* on August 15th, 1890, on board the war cruisers "*Velasco*" and "*Ulloa*" and the merchant steamer "*Salvadora*" with munitions and victuals for the campaign, and picked up at the island of *Jolo* the company of the 74th Regiment under Captain Romerales, thus bringing up the total strength of the force to 100 men. On the 1st September, 1890, the expedition arrived at the Island of *Ponapi* and disembarked, being joined by the company of the 71st Regiment under Captain Vilches, which garrisoned the island. It was settled at a council of war, that the *Metalanim* tribe should be punished first of all, as they had massacred the Spaniards.

¹ Island of *Ponapi*.—J. C. D.

The most logical plan would have been to attack the town of *Oua* by sea, in order to get at the rebel tribe which was strongly entrenched some 11 kilometres ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles) from the settlements, and therefore, rendering an expedition by land exceedingly risky. The country in which the rebels were, was absolutely unknown, and they were defended by a thick forest full of natural obstacles.

Colonel Soto, in opposition to the general opinion, decided to operate by land, and therefore, on the 13th September, 1890, leaving one company of infantry in the settlement, he took command of all the forces and marched in search of the enemy. When only $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles on their way, the column found it necessary to cross the forest; paths had to be cut with hatchets; a heavy rain descended and spoilt all the month's provisions, and after a terrible night spent in the forest, during which the downpour continued, the worn out column was forced to return to the settlement.

In view of this *fiasco* and the practical demonstration of the impossibility of operations by land, the column next embarked, and on the 16th September, 1890, disembarked on the beach of *Palitipao*,¹ and under the protection of a cannonade from the ships took up positions and camped in the *bajais* (*sic*) which had been abandoned by the natives. On the night of this date, Colonel Soto, who had shown signs of anger and moodiness since the affair in the wood, and also considered his military reputation damaged because he had promised to take the expedition by land without having succeeded, committed suicide by firing off his revolver into his mouth while lying down on his camp bed. This unexpected affair caused the expedition to be re-embarked in order to take the opinion of the senior Naval Officers who decided to march on *Oua*, where according to news, the rebels were entrenched. On the night of the 18th, the town of *Oua* came in view, the natives being entrenched on the shore. The bombardment by the ships prepared the way for the disembarkation which was effected on the morning of the 19th, Captain Monasterio being in command of the company of Artillery, and Lieutenant Terraza and Attaché Panfil being with another half company. These latter had arrived a few days previously in the "*Antonio Muñoz*." Then the companies of the Native Infantry, Regiments Nos. 68 and 73, and the company of Marine Artillery disembarked, and in water chest-deep, advanced to the attack of the enemy's trenches, which, situated all along the shore, opened a brisk fire with slings and muskets. The result was that after six hours of fighting under the worst conditions, the Spaniards captured the trenches with a loss of twenty killed and wounded.

The chief glory of the day fell to the artillery led by Capt. Monasterio, and Lieutenants Fandos, Sergio, Terraza, Cebrian, and Panfil, who assaulted and took the enemy's position at the point of the bayonet under a hail of bullets.

The enemy, disorganised, fled for the town, taking refuge in the buildings and Protestant church from which, notwithstanding its white flag, they opened a lively fire, but were soon dislodged by the

¹ *Pillapletao* River.—J. C. D.

victorious troops, losing altogether in the two actions over 100 killed and wounded.

This important military operation terminated with the complete occupation of the territory of *Oua*, the buildings of which, as well as those of *Harra*,¹ *Chalapap*,² and the Protestant convent were devoured by flames; the entrenchments on the beach, mostly composed of great trunks of trees protected by deep ditches, being also destroyed. The following distinguished themselves in this engagement, viz., Captain de Beltran de Lis (infantry), who was badly wounded, the Capuchin Father Augustin de Arriñes, Chief of the Mission of *Metalanim*, the Portuguese Guido Cristian Barbu, and the German subject Herr Narmu, Port Officer.

On September 25th, 1890, the "*Antonio Muñoz*" left *Ponapi* bearing the official despatches and conveying the wounded. The Spanish troops who returned to *Santiago de la Ascension*³ agreed while awaiting orders from *Manila* to fortify the town, so as to make it a fixed base, and a Defence Committee was organised.

The Spanish force was 500, as opposed to 700 *Kanacas* who fought at *Oua*, who, supplied with repeating rifles (*fusiles repetidores*) and swivel guns ("*Lantacas*" ó *pedreros*), occupied an advantageous position, whilst the Spaniards had to manœuvre on a muddy beach. In the action of the 19th the enemy lost over 100, including the Chief *Chaulik* killed, and four other chiefs wounded.

Soon after the capture of *Oua*, the North American corvette "*Alliance*" arrived in the waters of *Ascension* (*Ponapi*), having been sent by the United States Government to protest on behalf of the missionaries and merchants against the burning of their possessions. Señor Cadalso replied in patriotic and suitable terms.

On November 1st, 1890, another expedition embarked in *Manila*, consisting of 200 men, composed of half a company of Peninsular Artillery, under Captain Aguado, and one company of Native Infantry, No. 74.

It arrived at *Santiago*⁴ on the 14th November, and made a reconnaissance on shore along the *Guiti*⁵ road as far as the confines of *Metalanim*, which was successfully shelled by the navy; and on the 16th two columns of attack were organised, the first composed of Captain Monasterio's company of artillery and two companies of the line, all under Captain and Brevet-Major Diez de Rivera of the Artillery; the second was composed of Captain Aguado's company of artillery, one of infantry, and Colonel Serrano's company of marines. The plan of campaign was that the 1st column should advance and attack in front the town and fortifications of *Ketan*,⁶ situated in the centre of *Metalanim*, on the river *Pitapitam*,⁶ whilst Colonel Serrano's column was to enter by the forge to hem in the enemy, entrenched to the number of 1,500 in the stockades (*cotas*) of *Ketan*; signals

¹ *Haru*.

² Not on map.

³ Not marked on map. Probably the chief town of *Ponapi*.

⁴ Not on the map.

⁵ *Pillapletao River*.—J. C. D.

being agreed on to ensure a simultaneous attack on the 22nd November.

The columns therefore embarked, the first for *Oua*, in the steamer, "*Cebu*," and the second for *Metalanim*, in the cruisers, "*Velasco*," "*Ulloa*," and "*Manila*," in order to commence operations.

The column under Captain Diez de Rivera, disembarked at 10 A.M., assembled on the beach and advanced on the morning of the 22nd, at 5 o'clock, arriving at 9.30 in view of the town of *Machichao*,¹ where the *Kanacas* had established their trenches. These were taken by assault, the artillery in the van, after a struggle which was maintained for three hours; the Spanish losing fourteen men and Captain D. José Vilches of the infantry, who was mortally wounded in the chest when leading on his men, and died four days later.

Having completely dislodged the enemy from these positions, and having destroyed the town, the column continued its march with the assistance of the compass, the only means of orientation in this unknown country, and encountered at 4.30 P.M. in a clearing of the wood, before the town of *Ketan*, the formidable *cotas* (? stockades) of which commanded the country round. These were defended by two lines of fire, and established on high and thick loop-holed walls, constructed of trunks of trees and stones, and defended by deep ditches full of hidden rocks.

The position of the Spanish force before the action, which was the fiercest and most sanguinary in the whole campaign, was as follows:—In front the enemy's fortifications: on the left, the sea, of which the prolonged low and unknown reefs rendered the approach of the Spanish ships dangerous: and on the right, the wood which the force had crossed.

The column of Colonel Serrano, which was to have disembarked on the evening of the 22nd November, 1890, did not do so until 4.30 A.M. on the 23rd, employing row-boats, steam launches, and canoes, under command of the second officers of the "*Ulloa*," and "*Velasco*," with the subaltern officers and midshipmen detached for this service. The boats, however, got aground, and the water being too deep for the troops to wade ashore, the disembarkation had to be made in the island of *Tamban*,² and the column had to cross the rocks, guided by a *Kanaca* prisoner, to whose help it was due that the expedition did not fail. This "contretemps" caused fourteen hours' delay, and entailed fatal consequences for the Spanish troops, and postponement of the glory hoped for, because Captain Diez de Rivera, impatient at not getting the signals agreed on, fretting at his passive situation, and his personal courage causing him to underestimate the difficulties of the undertaking, threw his column against the *Cotas* of *Ketan*, making three brilliant bayonet charges, which, notwithstanding that he reached the ditches, were unsuccessful, owing to the impregnable nature of the work and the numerous force opposed to him, who maintained a hot and incessant fire from muskets and guns.

¹ *Mijiao*.

² Not on map.—J. C. D.

In this furious and unequal combat, Lieutenant D. Coperino Fandos y Perez of the Artillery, met a heroic death, being mortally wounded by a bullet in the chest; moreover Lieutenant D. Emilio Sergio y Castro, and First Surgeon Cabezas were seriously wounded, two other Officers slightly wounded; the losses in all amounting to eighty-three killed and wounded. In this action all alike were distinguished by personal valour and warlike enthusiasm. More than three parts of the casualties were in the company of artillery which began the attack; the brave Captain Monasterio, who together with his valiant Lieutenants, gave a noble example to their men, escaping miraculously.

Lieutenant Castorino of the Infantry, who was contused, was detailed to select a strategical point to retire on, and the column under Captain Diez de Rivera, who was ever to be found at the post of danger, was forced to relinquish the attack, in order to collect its dead and wounded, and encamped on a small hill to await Colonel Serrano's column.

In this critical situation, without any means of alleviating the wounded, and without food, the night of the 22nd was passed, the troops being thirty-six hours without food after this sanguinary fight.

At 4.30 A.M. on the 23rd, they heard the bugles of the other column; at 6 a.m. they heard on their right, several rifle and cannon shots, which were the signals agreed on, and by 8 P.M., had joined Colonel Serrano's column, which had assaulted and taken the *Cotas* of *Ketan*, with the loss of twenty-five killed and wounded, the rebels being completely dispersed, and losing four guns and a quantity of arms and ammunition.

In this action which crowned the Spanish campaign against the *Metalanim* tribe, Captain Aguado's company of artillery was the first to enter the *Cota*, receiving the eulogiums of the commander of the column; Colonel Serrano bore himself brilliantly in this affair, and remained in *Ketan* for three days, until he had completely rased the town and defences, taking ample revenge on the *Kanacas*, the remnant of whom, fugitives and persecuted, succeeded in rallying after losing more than 200 men.

On the 20th November, 1890, the wounded were sent back to the settlement, where they still remained five days under provisional treatment for want of means, until they were conveyed to *Manila* in the steamer "*Urano*."

In the sanguinary combats which have been above attended to, noble heroic actions were innumerable. Only those who have served in those parts can realise the hardships and sufferings which have to be undergone. The first enemy is the climate, the next the unknown and unhealthy nature of the ground, and the greatest, the want of means of communication, of housing, victualling, and ambulance service. The wounded of *Oua* and *Ketan* were some twenty odd days under provisional treatment, owing to want of *matériel* and *personnel*, and this notwithstanding the self-abnegation of the surgeon to the expedition, D. Anacleto Cabezas, who was seriously wounded in the hand, when his services were most needed. The Government rewarded handsomely those who had undergone such sufferings by

