

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS IN PUERTO RICO,

OFFICE OF CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER.

Rio Piedras, October 1, 1898.

Adjutant General,

U.S. Troops in Puerto Rico,

Rio Piedras.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of an inventory made on the 29th and 30th ult., of the armament of the fortifications at San Juan:

	Rifles, B.L., 15-c.m.	Mortars, wrought, iron, B.L., 24-c.m.	Mortars, cast, iron, B.L., 21 c.m.
"EL MORRO" FORTRESS:			
"Carmen" Bastion	2	1	
"El Macho" Bastion,	2	1	
"San Antonio" Bastion,	4		
"San Fernando" Battery			4
"Santa Helena" Water Battery,	3		2
"San Augustin" Battery,	2		2
"Santa Catalina" Battery,	1 (x)		
"Concepcion" Battery,	1 (x)		
"Escambron" Battery, 1898,		3 (x)	
"SAN CRISTOBAL" FORTRESS:			
"Princesa" Bastion,	2 (x)	2 (x)	
"Santa Teresa" Bastion,	2 (x)		
"San Pablo" Bastion,	3 (x)		
"Plaza de Armas",		2 (x)	
"El Macho" Battery,	2 (x)	1 (x)	
	24	10	6

Guns and mortars marked (x) are mounted on centre pintle carriages, the others are front pintles.

The 15-c.m. rifles are of steel with two light jackets and are of the models 1885, 1891 and 1893, manufactured in Trubia. The Breech

block has the interrupted screw, and the gas check is the old copper ring system. About 3100 projectiles were counted, principally common shells and armor piercing shells with a small percentage of shrapnel. Most of the projectiles have one broad smooth copper base ring or cabot, but 800 of the projectiles at the Santa Catalina Battery have two copper rings, and a few were found with a grooved base ring. The powder used is the black prismatic. All guns are mounted en barbette and the parapet is too high to admit of any but a very slight depression.

The 24-c.m. howitzer-mortars are stated to be of wrought iron and have a trunnion hoop shrunk on. They have the same breech system as the guns. Three hundred and fifteen (315) projectiles, mostly common shells and armor piercing shells, with a few shrapnel, were counted in the magazine. The powder used is similar to that for the guns.

The 21-c.m. mortars are old cast iron pieces, apparently converted with a steel lining and a wrought iron trunnion hoop. The rifling is on the "shunting" principle and studded projectiles are used. Two hundred and forty (240) of these projectiles were counted.

The guns, carriages, magazines, implements, etc., were all found to be in excellent condition. All bronze guns and obsolete material of any kind had been removed before the time of my visit.

Very respectfully,

James R. Roche
Lieutenant-Colonel, U.S.V.,

Chief Ordnance Officer.

October 1st, 1898.

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