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Miles Fooled Spaniards

There was a beautiful contrast between the first landing on the soil of Puerto Rico and the first landing of General Shafter's army at Baiquiri.

In an hour after Lieutenant Hughes and his bluejackets from the *Gloucester* and the men of Battery B, Fifth Artillery, had landed and driven the *guardia civile* out of Guanica the town was as much an American village as Marin, Mass.

American telegraph wires were hanging from the roofs, American soldiers were gathering starfish along the shore and American music was being played by the Sixth Massachusetts band in the plaza.

There was no confusion, no conflict of authority between the army and navy officers, as there was at Baiquiri. Rows of white tents stretched all over the level lowlands and camp fires burned on all the surrounding hills. The inhabitants returned to find their homes guarded by friendly sentries. Nothing has been touched. No one's house or grounds has been invaded.

It was a masterly, well ordered occupation, and while the Spaniards were hurrying with forced marches to San Juan Point the army and the commander-in-chief had arrived at Guanica, and had come to stay. General Miles had made no secret of the fact that San Juan Point was his objective point. He had advertised the fact all over the States. He had cabled it from St. Thomas, where there may be French sympathizers with Spain. He had sent General Wilson and his transports in that direction as Wolseley sent Sir William Hawley to Ismailia while he went to Tel-el-Kebir, and then, having concentrated the attention of every one on San Juan Point, General Miles landed his force at Guanica.

(Source: *FultonHistory.com*,
<http://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2014/New%20York%20NY%20Herald/New%20York%20NY%20Herald%201898/New%20York%20NY%20Herald%201898%20-%206124>)