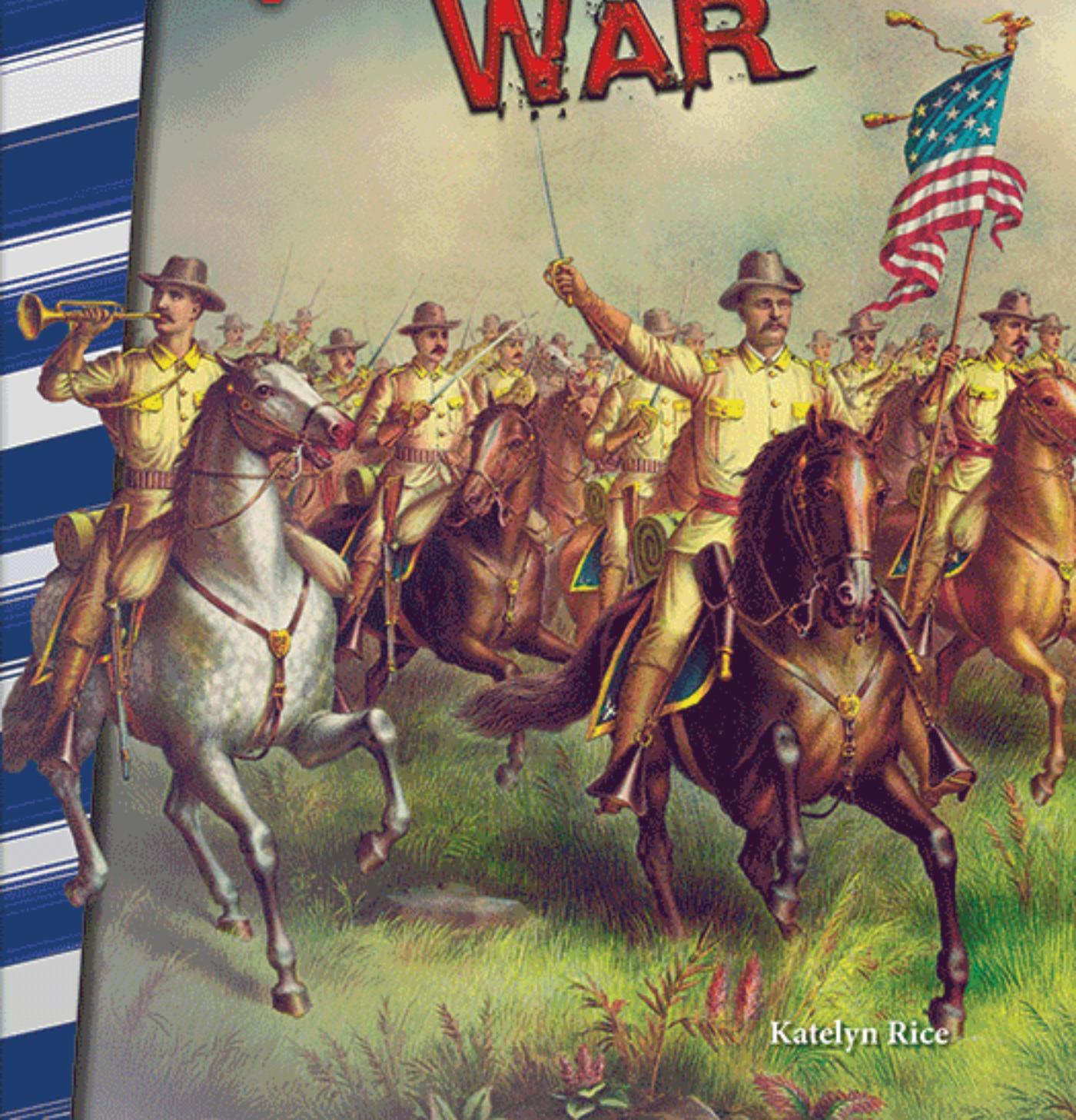


The Spanish-American WAR



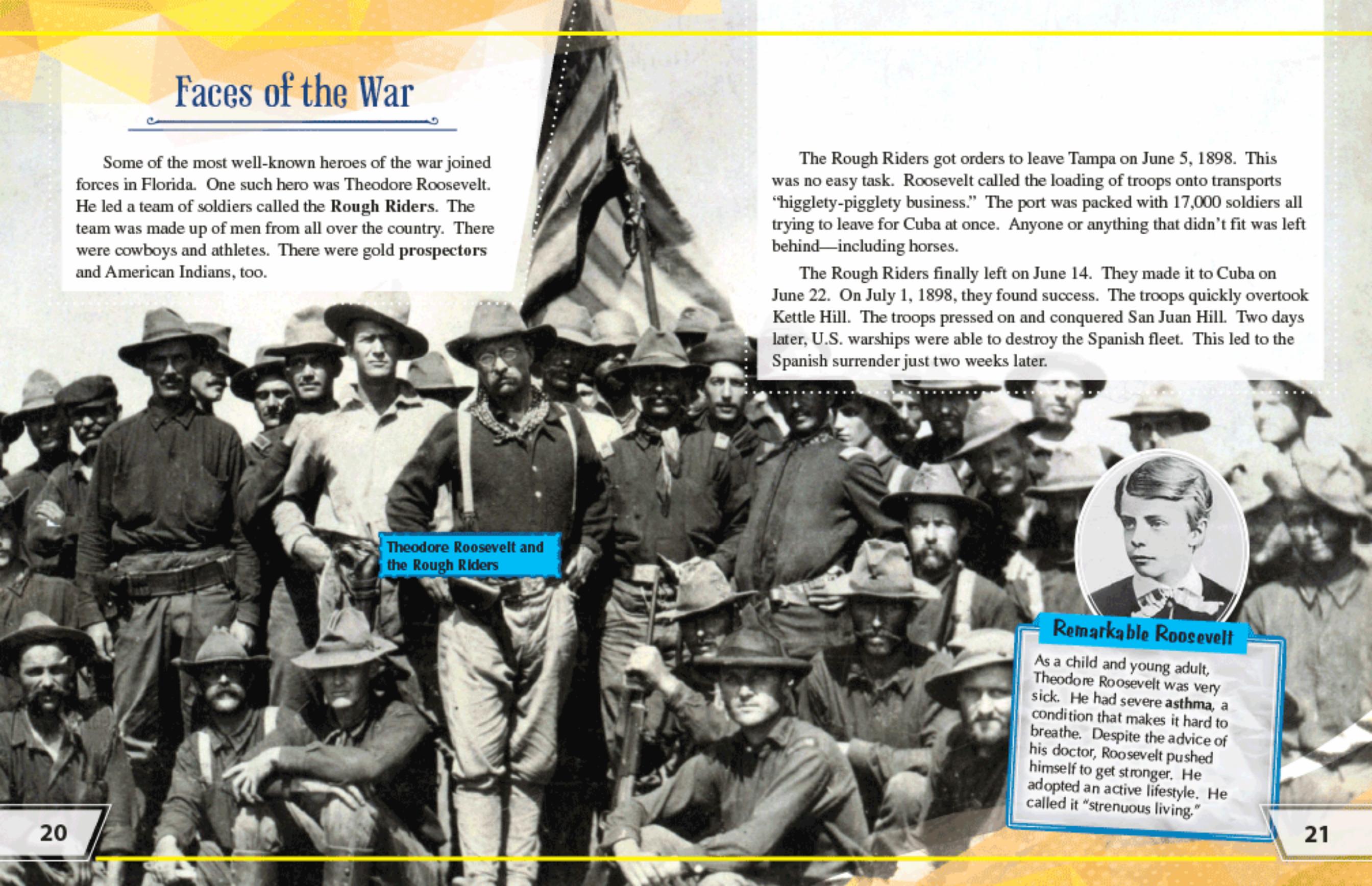
Katelyn Rice

Faces of the War

Some of the most well-known heroes of the war joined forces in Florida. One such hero was Theodore Roosevelt. He led a team of soldiers called the **Rough Riders**. The team was made up of men from all over the country. There were cowboys and athletes. There were gold prospectors and American Indians, too.

The Rough Riders got orders to leave Tampa on June 5, 1898. This was no easy task. Roosevelt called the loading of troops onto transports “higglety-pigglety business.” The port was packed with 17,000 soldiers all trying to leave for Cuba at once. Anyone or anything that didn’t fit was left behind—including horses.

The Rough Riders finally left on June 14. They made it to Cuba on June 22. On July 1, 1898, they found success. The troops quickly overtook Kettle Hill. The troops pressed on and conquered San Juan Hill. Two days later, U.S. warships were able to destroy the Spanish fleet. This led to the Spanish surrender just two weeks later.



Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders



Remarkable Roosevelt

As a child and young adult, Theodore Roosevelt was very sick. He had severe **asthma**, a condition that makes it hard to breathe. Despite the advice of his doctor, Roosevelt pushed himself to get stronger. He adopted an active lifestyle. He called it “strenuous living.”

The Spanish-American War

Objectives

- Explain events, ideas, or concepts in a historical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (LAFS.4.RI.1.3)
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. (LAFS.4.W.1.2)
- Describe the effects of the Spanish-American War on Florida by creating a radio news report. (SS.4.A.6.4)

Materials

copies of both sides of the *Rough Riders* photograph card; copies of the historical background information (page 36); for optional use, copies of the student glossary (page 91)

Discussion Questions

- Describe what you see in the photo. When do you think it was taken?
- Where do you think this photo was taken? What clues did you use?
- What do you think the people in this photo are doing? Use evidence from the photo to support your answer.

Using the Primary Source

Display the *Rough Riders* photograph card. Ask students the discussion questions above. Then, tell students that this photo was taken on July 14, 1898. It shows a group of cavalymen known as Rough Riders in Tampa, Florida.

Distribute copies of the historical background information (page 36) to students. Read the text aloud as students follow along. For reference, there is a student glossary (page 91).

Discuss how having troops arrive in Tampa affected the city. Have students brainstorm items these troops would need during their stay. Then, have students sort their ideas by categories such as food, clothing, and shelter. As a class, discuss how new businesses and roads helped Tampa grow very quickly. Then, have students write and perform a radio news report describing the economic impact on Tampa and its citizens.

As a final activity, have students complete various activities from the back of the photograph card.

Extension Idea

Have students research the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers during the Spanish-American War. Have them present their findings on a poster and share it with the class.

The Spanish-American War *(cont.)*

Historical Background Information



In the 1800s, tensions rose in Cuba. Cuba is a country just south of Florida. At the time, Cuba was ruled by Spain. Cubans had been fighting the Spanish for a long time. They wanted their independence. In 1896, Spanish leaders put rebels in reconcentration camps. There was little food in the camps. Disease spread quickly. But, if people did not show up to the camps, Spanish leaders killed them. When Americans heard about this, they were appalled.



In 1898, American leaders sent a ship to Cuba. The USS *Maine* sat in the harbor. Suddenly, it exploded and sank. Hundreds died. Many blamed Spain. After that, the United States declared war on Spain. The Spanish-American War had begun.



Before the United States entered the war, many Cubans came to Florida. They wanted to escape the fighting and live in a safe place. Some of these immigrants joined the fight against Spain. They formed the Army of the Cuban Republic.



Another group joined the fight, too. The Buffalo Soldiers were a group of black soldiers. They fought bravely. They helped achieve many American victories in Cuba.



Theodore Roosevelt started a cavalry group called the Rough Riders. They were the first volunteer cavalry in the Spanish-American War. Men came from all over the United States to be part of the Rough Riders.



The Rough Riders and many other troops met in Tampa in 1898. At that time, Tampa was just a small town. Altogether, there were 30,000 troops. The people who lived there were excited about this. This meant big money! The soldiers needed food. They needed supplies for their camps. Tampa business owners could sell these things. The small town grew fast.



Lakeland was a small town, too. At times, there were too many troops in Tampa. So they used Lakeland to house overflow troops. It had a direct railroad to Tampa. This made travel to the port easy. It also had a good water supply. Only 1,000 people lived in Lakeland in 1898. But, the people in Lakeland did not like having the army in their town. They fought with the 9,000 troops who came there. Many of these conflicts were between black soldiers and the white Lakeland residents.



Other port cities in Florida helped the war effort, too. Troops went to Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West to train. The U.S. Navy kept its headquarters in Key West.



The war did not last long once U.S. troops arrived in Cuba. The Spanish surrendered and hurried to leave. The Spanish-American War lasted less than four months. It started on April 25 and ended on August 12. American troops left through port cities in Florida. They also returned there. This helped these cities grow.

Name _____ Date _____

Two Accounts

Historical Background Information

The Battle of Natural Bridge was the second largest battle fought in Florida during the Civil War. It was a key victory for the South.

Activity

Directions: Record facts and information about the Battle of Natural Bridge in the chart below. Include details from the historical background information on the left and details from *Ruth's Diary* on the right.

The Battle of Natural Bridge	
Secondhand Account (Historical Background Information)	Firsthand Account (<i>Ruth's Diary</i>)
Details	Details

Ruth's Diary

RUTH'S DIARY—LETTER NUMBER NINE. 375

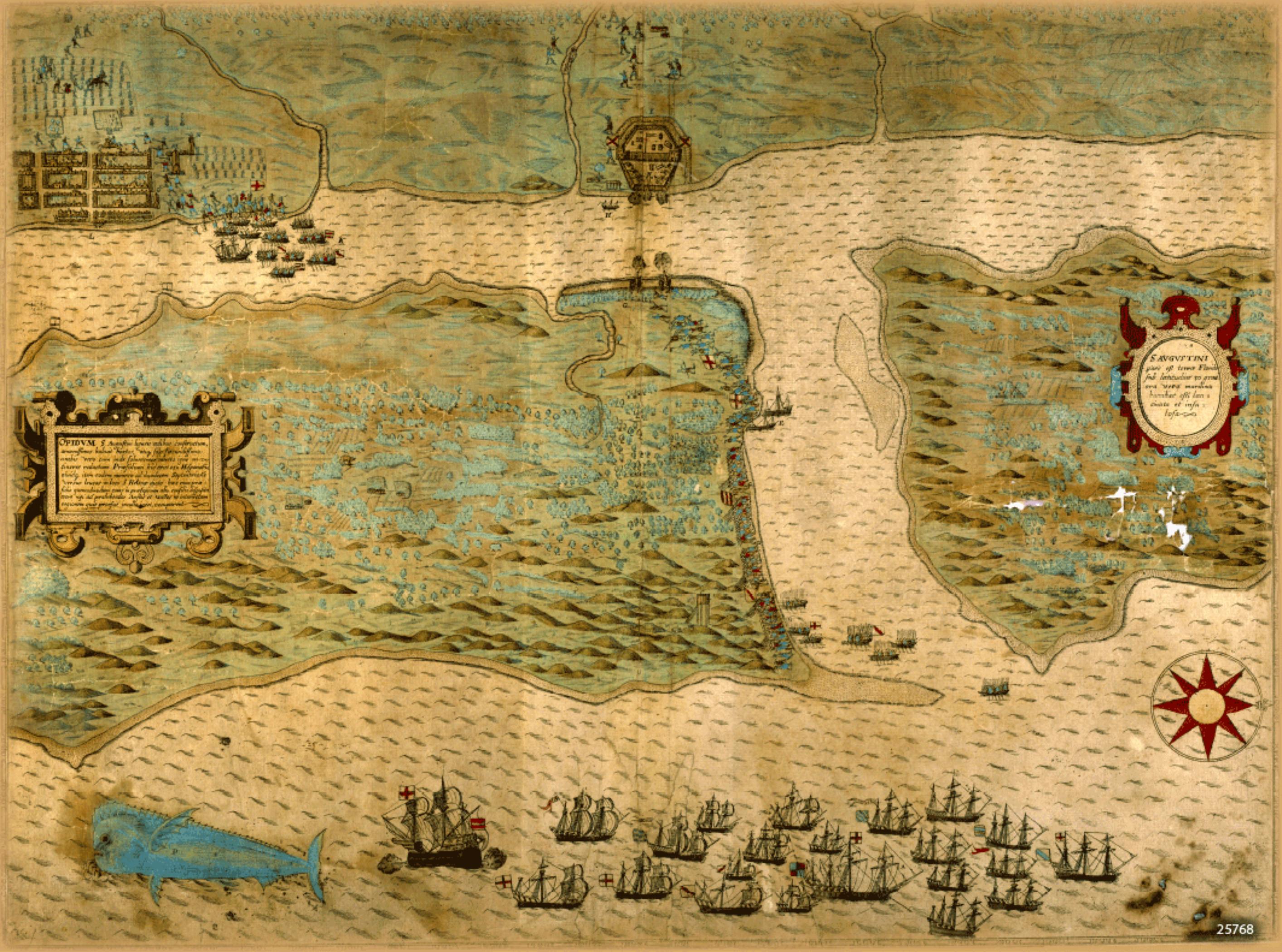
As nurses to the sick, as angels of charity, as patient and beautiful household deities, accepting every sacrifice with unconcern, and lightening the burden of war by their art and blandishments and labor proper to their sphere, the dear women of the South deserve to take rank with the highest heroes of the grandest days of antiquity."

Such praise is sufficient to make all women resolve to be martyrs of work and self-abnegation. And in this case it is as well deserved as bestowed.

* * * * *

Our evergreen hills have resounded again to the roar of cannon, which came suddenly in the night; its brazen throat sending echo after echo over the country, signaling the planters, militia, or "home-guards," to defend the land. A courier from St. Marks brought news that the enemy were landing in great numbers at the Light-house on the Bay. The cavalry were there, and kept them back until artillery and infantry could support them. Every old man and young boy that could handle a gun went forth, and companies from adjoining counties were soon in the field. The cadets of the college (boys of twelve), shouldered their muskets like veterans, and followed with the confidence of inexperience, which is usually more zealous than wise; but sometimes the one is needed more than the other. The enemy, two thousand five hundred strong, (white men and negro deserters, with a few United States soldiers) under Gen. Newton, arrived at the bridge of Newport, on the St. Marks River. Not being able to cross under the fire of our men, they moved up to the "Natural Bridge," where the actual fight took place. Gen. Sam Jones, the commander of our force of six hundred, is said to have conducted the engagement with great coolness and tact, often turning the fire of the artillery himself where he saw it would be most effective. After five hours of close conflict the news of "victory" came to our little city, which was most cheering, as the suspense had been intense; the more so, that we could hear the report of guns throughout the battle, and the hurrying to and fro of couriers had excited an anxiety not to be described, knowing, as we did, that a failure to repulse the invaders below would bring them to our doors. The firing continued from tree-tops, and from behind houses, until Gen. Newton could get into his boats, and under their guns. Numbers of the killed were thrown by themselves into the St. Marks River, which, with those left on the field, their loss is estimated to be three or four hundred, and we have forty prisoners. The loss on our side is only three killed, and some slightly wounded. It was a gallant defense on the part of our people, and if it accounted for any

Source: State Archives of Florida



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S. AUGUSTINI
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