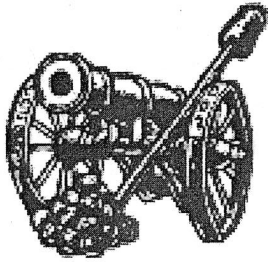


BATTLE OF MŌ'ILI'ILI

JANUARY 7, 1895



In 1895, two years after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the establishment of the Republic of Hawaii, a civil war or counter-revolution took place. Over a span of three days, Royalists forces, with the goal of reinstating Queen Lili'uokalani to the throne, clashed with the Republic Army. This was the last major military operation attempting to restore the Hawaiian Monarchy.

At the urging of Lt. Sam Nowlein, former Head of the Royal Guard, Charles T. Gulick, a former royal advisor, and William H. Rickard, a sugar planter of British parentage, Royalist forces were led by Col. Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox. Wilcox was a former member of the Legislature of the Kingdom of Hawaii and had studied at the Royal Military Academy in Italy.



Robert Wilcox

The Republic of Hawaii was led by President Sanford Ballard Dole, Minister of Foreign Affairs Francis March Hatch, and Marshal of the Police Forces, Edward Griffin "Holy Terror" Hitchcock.



Edward Hitchcock

THE BATTLE OF MŌ'ILI'ILI

On the second day of the Hawaiian Civil War, January 7, 1895, President Dole declared martial law. Royalist forces led by Lt. Nowlein rendezvoused with Col. Wilcox's forces at Diamond Head to march together on Honolulu. Lt. Nowlein planned to capture Punchbowl which was held by Company C of the National Guard as it housed an artillery battery with enough firepower to cover all of Honolulu.

Marshal Hitchcock, of the Republic Police Forces, deployed men and artillery to stop the Royalists' march. Two Republic units met at San Souci Beach. One detachment was sent to the rim of Diamond Head to attack the Royalist forces from above, while the remaining forces with artillery fired from below. After several casualties, Col. Wilcox ordered a retreat to Wai'alae, keeping along the Ko'olau Mountains. During the retreat, Lt. Nowlein's unit engaged a Republic unit at Mau'umae and took their position. While the Royalist forces moved through Wai'alae they were bombarded with cannon fire from the ship 'Eleu, just offshore of Waikiki.

As the Royalist forces progressed towards Honolulu they engaged Company F of the National Guard and another unit of Republic forces at Mō'ili'ili. The Royalists dug in and held their position in Mō'ili'ili until continual artillery fire from Republic forces led some of the Royalists to surrender, allowing Col. Wilcox, Lt. Nowlein, and others to escape into Mānoa.

