

DEAD STREW THE FIELD NO TIME TO REST SEE END OF WAR EVENTS COMING NOT OUT OF WOODS

RUSSIAN LOSSES IN BATTLE RUN HIGH IN THOUSANDS

Thirty Thousand Russians Taken Prisoners, Along With Innumerable Trophies—Stubborn Pursuit Goes On.

TOKIO.—Field Marshal Oyama, reporting says:

"Prisoners, spoils and the enemy's estimated casualties against our forces in the Shakhe direction follow, but the prisoners, guns and spoils are increasing momentarily. The prisoners number over forty thousand, including General Naohmoss. The killed and wounded are estimated at 90,000. The enemy's dead left on the field number 26,500. The spoils include two flags, about sixty guns, 60,000 rifles, 150 ammunition wagons, 1,000 carts, 200,000 shells, 25,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 25,000 bushels cereal, 27,500 bushels of fodder, forty five miles of light railway outfit, 2,000 horses, twenty three car lots of maps, 1,000 cart loads of clothing and accoutrements, 1,000,000 rations of bread, 70,000 tons of fuel and 60 tons of hay, besides tools, tents, bullocks, telegraph, wire and poles, timber, beds, stoves and numerous other property.

"No report from the Singking direction has been received." The battle has been officially named the battle of Mukden.

A dispatch from Japanese military headquarters announces the estimate of the number of prisoners captured up to and including Friday at 20,000. Since that time the number has been briskly increasing and the total will exceed 30,000. The dispatch continues:

"Reports from the chiefs of the medical corps of all the armies have been received from February 26 to March 12. Our total casualties at that time were 41,222."

Field Marshal Oyama, reporting under date of Saturday night, says: "All our forces advanced to the right of the Hun river and vigorously pursued the enemy in all directions. We reached a line thirteen miles north of the Hun river the afternoon of March 10. On March 11 we continued a vigorous pursuit. Our force advanced north from the vicinity of the Pu river, and immediately after its departure engaged with a large column of the enemy retreating north. After a hand-to-hand battle we surrounded and captured the column. In the vicinity of Mukden a remnant of the enemy continues a hopeless resistance or is surrendering. Clearing operations are progressing. The enemy's dead are massed everywhere and we have been unable to inter them as yet. At this minute investigation of the losses inflicted at several places has not been finished, but the enemy's killed, wounded, prisoners and spoils are enormous. The spoils of clothing and provisions are in great piles, resembling hills. We have been unable to investigate yet."

The Japanese pursuit of the Russian armies continues, and a resumption of heavy fighting in the vicinity of Tie Pass is anticipated. The Pass, which is naturally strong, has been extensively fortified, and it is thought the Russians will rally there in an endeavor to check the Japanese.

The rapidly advancing Japanese already are in both touch at Tie Pass. The Russians evidently are confused and exhausted and possibly are short of food and ammunition, and it is believed here that they will be unable to resist a strong attack.

Succeeding field reports increase the extent of the Russian disaster.

It will take five months to resupply and reorganize the Russian armies. Reports of casualties given by captives reach 40 per cent. The artillery losses were especially heavy. The captured guns have not yet been counted, but the numerous captured stores and munitions are valued at millions of dollars. This loss materially adds to the crippling of the Russian armies. The Japanese people are receiving details of the victory with calmness. Tokio and other cities are exceedingly quiet and the recent admonition to the people to refrain from spending money in celebrations and devote their earnings to war charities is being universally obeyed.

The Japanese press editorials, in discussing the possible effects of peace on victory, declare Japan will continue the vigorous prosecution of the war and has no suggestion to make to Russia, directly or indirectly.

EARLY BATTLE AT TIE PASS RECORDED PROBABLY

POSITION NOT TOO STRONG

UNLIKELY TO BE DISPLACED FOR THE TIME BEING.

Question of Successor Lies Under Consideration—Peace The All-Ferocious Subject at St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Russia's "grand army," with the exception of the thousands killed or taken prisoners on the plains and mountains around Mukden, is gathering slowly behind the fortifications of Tie Pass, which were built as a refuge before the battle of Liao Yang, and is feverishly engaged in the work of reorganizing and further strengthening its lines. According to the general staff the main body already has completed its retreat and the rear guard southward is falling back slowly, keeping in touch with the pursuing columns of Japanese. In the complete absence of further information it is difficult to say whether the pursuit is slackened or is being conducted by only a portion of the Japanese, and military officials here hope that, as after the battle of Liao Yang, Field Marshal has paused to give his weary troops a momentary breathing spell, while extending his railroad and other lines of supply to his new position and preparing for the next blow.

To the Russian army every minute is now valuable, and the footsore and disheartened detachments have been given scarcely an hour's rest before being set to work with spade and pick improving the defenses of Tie Pass. It may be, however, that even now they are being turned out of these positions. Rumors are current that a wide eastward flanking movement, which was begun before the battle, is still moving and on the other side it is feared that columns are moving north of Fakoman to take a position in the Russian rear.

General Kuropatkin still holds command. An officer of the general staff said that he probably will not retire until some semblance of order has been restored. The question of his successor is still undetermined.

There are indications that the food supply at Tie pass is none too large, immense quantities having been burned at Mukden and Russian correspondents telegraph that they have had nothing to eat for two days. The troops, however, probably are faring better. The commissariat arrangement worked admirably during the battle and even at the height of the fight the soldiers received warm food.

Telegrams from the Russian side, though inadequate as a basis for any detailed estimate of the Russian losses, show that they have been extremely heavy, enough to cripple offensive operations for many months. General Kuropatkin admits that 50,000 wounded were carried off, but says nothing as to how many killed, wounded and prisoners were left behind, and from his picture of a little handful of two officers and 150 men of the imperial rifles marching off, led by their gallant colonel, clinging to their standard, can be derived some idea of the losses sustained by the regiments that bore the brunt of the fighting. The exploit of the six hundred at Balakava pales besides this. Even the losses in the "bloody angle" of the Wilderness and in the battle of Antietam are scarcely comparable.

Another tragic picture of the retreat is pictured in connection with the retirement of General Rennenkampff's detachment from Ouenpusa, with barely one-third of its original strength—the brave soldiers breaking down and sobbing and kissing the blood stained ground which they had been ordered to relinquish.

The losses of officers is said to have been especially heavy and many of the higher and more capable officers were killed.

The Associated press has received from a correspondent with General Rennenkampff's headquarters descriptions to the Tsinkhetchen operations, the difficult retreat on Ouenpusa and the stubborn defense of the positions there by this hardy vanguard of the first army.

BANK AND FLEET IN RUSSIA SEE CHEERLY HOPES FOR IT

MUKDEN'S FALL FINAL

JAPANESE HANGING ON TO THE DEFEATED MEN.

Extent of Disaster Unknown Even at St. Petersburg, But Early Negotiations for Peace the Expectation.

ST. PETERSBURG.—General Kuropatkin has sent the following dispatch to Emperor Nicholas.

"Last night began the retreat of all our armies. During the night there was no fighting, but a heavy cannonade."

ST. PETERSBURG.—"Last night all our armies commenced to retreat."

The greatest defeat in the history of the Russian-Japanese war was made known in St. Petersburg but only in the paltry eight words from General Kuropatkin to Emperor Nicholas which were flung about the streets in newspaper extras and passed from mouth to mouth.

Two thoughts formed instantly in the minds of everyone, and two words were on every lip—surrender—peace—the former dreaded, the latter hoped for. General Kuropatkin is no maker of phrases; his words never are quoted like the famous "all is lost save honor," but his laconic messages hide more than probably any other two sentences in the literature of war.

St. Petersburg knows nothing of the extent of the disaster, not even the lines of Kuropatkin's retreat; whether the route to Tie Pass is still open, whether he is endeavoring to cut his way through to safety or whether, as many of the pessimists believe, he has taken to the mountains. If it be the latter he will inevitably be hemmed in and starved into surrender, as Marshal Baxaine was at Metz.

The dispatch has been studied as closely as was ever the most abstruse text of scripture over which dogmatists have worried, and from the word "all our armies" the optimistic draw the deduction that the bulk of the Russian forces got away clear, the commander-in-chief sacrificing, however, the devoted rear guard, who flung themselves as sacrificed also, it is conceded or either hand, the greater part of his heavy artillery and specially the siege guns and enormous quantities of supplies and munitions.

Of the present situation of the army whether it is utterly routed or merely beaten, or the proportion of Russians left in Japanese hands, or of the prospect of the escape of the remainder, St. Petersburg at this moment knows less than the smallest hamlet in America. Since the Associated press Mukden dispatch was filed at 5 o'clock Friday morning no dispatch save the brief official announcement of the retreat has come from the Russian army, General Kuropatkin's preceding dispatch, giving the last details as to the positions of the army having been written at 9 o'clock Thursday evening.

The members of the general staff, when asked for information, said: "We know nothing. We hope he will bring the army off safely, but we do not know how he will do it. We only know he has commenced to retreat, that is all."

Everyone now is discussing peace, which many of the staunchest advocates of the war bureaucrats and officers, now declare to be inevitable. It openly is bruted that Rojestvensky's fleet has been recalled and is now on the way homeward.

Outwardly St. Petersburg takes the defeat unconcernedly. A stranger in the streets would never know that armies defending the honor and prestige of Russia had just sustained a crushing reverse. There were no crowds, no demonstrations, no changes from the ordinary street life. Newsboys were hawking extras on the streets—mere dodgers with three lines of General Kuropatkin's dispatch surrounded by wide margins of blank paper—but there was nothing to indicate that the extra were more important than those in which for a year General Kuropatkin's dispatches have been issued.

SIGNIFICANT DISPATCH COMES FROM SEAT OF WAR

TIME PUT AT TWO WEEKS

THE STOCK OF PROVISIONS RUNNING LOW

Fighting Known to Be Going On But Russians and Japanese Reports at Variance—Stocks in Favor.

ST. PETERSBURG.—In a long dispatch from General Kuropatkin, the commander-in-chief of the army in Manchuria gives details of various attacks by the Japanese the last few days, and the Associated press correspondent at Mukden indicates a continuation of the artillery duel, but neither report throws any light upon the rumored intention of General Kuropatkin to withdraw northward, which has been the gossip of St. Petersburg for the last two days.

A private dispatch received concludes with this significant sentence: "The Siberian railroad, which is being worked to its full capacity by purely military traffic, is about to have a further burden imposed upon it, namely, that of feeding the resident non-combatant population. The stocks of provisions in Irkutsk and other towns in Siberia were not as large as usual at the beginning of the winter, and are now running low. The government has been informed that provision must be imported by railroad or that the town will be face to face with famine within a fortnight. This will necessitate some delay in the forwarding of military supplies, which are sorely needed at the present moment."

According to semi-official note the manager of the Chinese western railway denies that the bridge between Tie pass and Kalynen has been destroyed. The manager declares that traffic is not interrupted.

General Stoessel, who was given an audience of the emperor, was received by his majesty with a cool reception which he was given by several of the newspapers and military factions. General Stoessel is being feted by society. A large dinner was given in his honor after his return from Tsarskoe Selo.

No steps have been taken yet towards an investigation of the surrender of Port Arthur, but the whole matter will soon be placed in the hands of a commission of inquiry in order to clear up the circumstances in dispute.

The position of General Kuropatkin's army is regarded as being more of less critical. The real turning movement which General Kuroki is operating in the mountains forty miles eastward of Mukden seems to be making progress, and at the same time Field Marshal Oyama is also rolling back the Russian left while pounding away at the Russian center with heavy high power guns. Poutiloff and Novord hills have been subjected to a continuous three days' bombardment, followed by an infantry attack, the main Russian lines being forced to retire two miles to their shelter trenches. Some of the Russian newspaper correspondents anticipate an attempt to take the hills by storm.

General Kuropatkin is making desperate efforts to check Kuroki, one of whose columns has succeeded in working around the extreme Russian left, and reinforcements have been dispatched in a northeasterly direction. General Rennenkampff is slowly retiring fighting, taking advantage of the broken hilly country and contesting every inch of ground.

While the Japanese are evidently making progress there is nothing yet to indicate that Field Marshal Oyama will succeed in inflicting a decisive blow—even if he forces Kuropatkin to abandon Mukden. According to the reports current which are not, however, confirmed by the war office, the withdrawal of stores and supplies from Mukden is already well under way. The war office insists that no matter what the result of the remainder of the action the Japanese have again been too slow and that Kuropatkin has made sure of his line of retreat.

JAPANESE TRYING TO CUT OFF RUSSIAN RETREAT

General Rennenkampff Said to Be in Close Quarters—Possible Peace Move in Turning Back of Russian Fleet.

General Kuropatkin is giving ground before the armies of Japan and he abandoned positions south and southwest of Mukden, hoarding such of his supplies as he could not carry with him. The Japanese artillery is thundering the very gates of Mukden, which position the Russians still hold, but which they are admittedly prepared to evacuate, changing their base to Tie Pass which is forty miles north of Mukden. So far as the retreat has progressed it has been orderly. What the Japanese may have in store for the defeated army on its retirement northward remains to be disclosed. There are reports that General Rennenkampff, the foremost cavalry general of the Russian army in Manchuria, has been cut off on the east from the main force and Japanese troops in considerable numbers are said to be already in the vicinity of Tie Pass. The retirement unquestionably cost the Russians dear in the matter of supplies and heavy guns. Neither commanders nor correspondents have yet ventured to estimate the number killed or wounded in the eleven days of fighting. The Russian casualties in the fighting Tuesday on the left flank are said to have been fully 7,000.

MUKDEN.—The Russians are retiring from the lines of the Shakhe river. Japanese are north of Mukden and advancing against the railroad at Unguntan. A fight is raging two miles west of the railroad and projectiles reach the railroad.

A large number of Japanese and Chinese spies have been captured during the last three days within the Russian lines. The former were especially bold. A Japanese officer in full uniform was captured inside the position of the Russian batteries.

For several days the Japanese have been throwing proclamations inside the Russian lines and circulating them in Mukden warning the inhabitants of the approaching bombardment of Mukden and predicting the capture of the city by March 15.

PARIS.—A dispatch to the Temps from Tananarivo, capital of the island of Madagascar, says the entire Russian fleet has left the waters of Madagascar on its return to Jibuti, French Somaliland.

HAMBURG.—Shipping circles are not surprised at the refusal of the Russian fleet to the Red Sea, since recent events here indicate that the Russian government is undecided with reference to further attempts to send the fleet to eastern Asiatic waters. The chartered steamer St. Ninian, which was enroute to Batavia with coal for the second Pacific squadron, returned here the other day upon orders from the Russian government. The recent media about the laying of Hamburg-American Steamship company vessels further emphasizes Russia's irresolution.

LONDON.—No confirmation has reached London of the report that Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron is returning from Madagascar to Jibuti, nor are there any dispatches printed in the morning newspapers throwing further light on the position of affairs in Manchuria. Should the report concerning Vice Admiral Rojestvensky be confirmed it will be regarded here as a strong indication of Russia's desire to arrange terms of peace with Japan.

The Times St. Petersburg correspondent says that General Kuropatkin received considerable reinforcements a few days ago and that it is hoped these fresh troops will stave off a crushing defeat and enable his retreating army to remove stores and guns.

TOKIO.—The great battle in Manchuria raged along the entire enormous front. The Japanese were generally victorious and they drove the Russians from a series of important positions. By nightfall it seemed imperative that General Kuropatkin would have to withdraw his shattered legions to a complete disaster. Indeed it appeared impossible for him to effect a retreat without heavy losses of prisoners, guns and stores.