

SIXTY THOUSAND KILLED OR WOUNDED

Appalling Losses in the Rival Armies, Which for Eight Days Have Been Struggling for Supremacy South of Mukden.

Kouropatkin's Casualties Will Exceed Forty Thousand—Six Thousand Five Hundred Russians Buried by the Japanese—Oyama Reported to Have Failed in Attempt to Cut Off Retreat of Muscovites.

he are responsible. At the same time the supporters of General Kouropatkin argue that whatever may be the direct outcome of the last few days' fighting it is not likely to be an irretrievable disaster to the Russian army. It is pointed out that even if General Kouropatkin were forced to advance against a better judgment he is too good a general to have undertaken an aggressive movement which he did not feel strong enough to carry through without leaving open a road for retreat, and that while the Russian forward movement may be an absolute failure so far as relief of Port Arthur is concerned, and Kouropatkin may lose front and guns, this is the worst that can happen.

If General Kouropatkin succeeds in keeping the alignment of his forces and the Japanese do not succeed in breaking up or cutting off any considerable portion of his army he will not be in a much worse position even if he should be forced to retreat than he was before the advance began.

Dispatches from the front give a vivid picture of the desperate character of the fighting along the whole line. The Russian platoon again have been forced to engage in hill fighting, which is not to their liking. There have been the most inaccessible positions, which leave no question of the resolution and gallantry of the Russians. Guns have been captured and resistance in force hand captured, the inevitable accompaniment of a great battle, has flooded the trenches and drenched the armies without allaying the desperate conflict.

The latest word from the field of battle is the Mukden dispatch to the effect that the Russian loss is estimated at 15,000, which together with today's casualties will make the total probably exceed the figures at Liao Yang and make the Russian rank as one of the bloodiest in history.

It must be borne in mind in reading the descriptions by correspondents at the front that some of the phases in their point of view have already been discounted by official or later news; but taken as a whole they present a vivid panorama of the situation at the front, and are of great value, where the heaviest Russian attack was planned to be delivered. From that quarter the news is less full and satisfactory than from other quarters, but it is not to be taken as an indication that the Russian advance upon the main Japanese position at Bensiuh has been checked.

Our left is engaging them. "During the morning of October 14th two battalions and a battery of Russian troops attacked us at Manchuyangtun. We successfully repulsed them."

RESERVE DIVISIONS ARE NOW ENGAGED.

London, Oct. 15.—A dispatch to a news agency from Tokio, dated to-day, says that after the result of Friday's sanguinary fighting the centre column of the Japanese left army succeeded in partly occupying Shabou. The Russian main body fell back on the mountainous districts east of the railway. The Russians around Bensiuh have fled north-easterly. The Japanese last night, the dispatch adds, engaged three Russian reserve divisions under the personal command of General Kouropatkin. The fighting in this quarter was resumed this morning. Vital importance is attached at Tokio to the engagement at this point.

The Japanese victory south of Mukden, according to the Standard Chinese correspondent, has had a decided impact upon the Far East than any victory of the war.

RUSSIANS SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO ROUT.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—1.10 p.m.—Unofficial reports from the battlefield are more encouraging this morning. There has been no rout, but there is no question that the Russians have fallen back twenty miles.

According to private advice, dated Mukden at 6.30 last night, Gen. Kouropatkin checked the Japanese advance yesterday at the Shabou river. He crossed the river and is holding a line along the north bank extending from west of the railroad eastward to Bensiuh.

THE VICTORY OF JAP LEFT ARMY.

Field Headquarters of the Second Japanese Army, Oct. 13.—5 p.m. via Fusan, Korea, Oct. 15.—Fuller division reports give increased importance to the victory achieved yesterday by the left army.

Twenty-four Russian guns were captured when the retreat began, together with many rifles.

The Russians lost heavily in counter attacks, the Japanese loss being much smaller.

The advance continued all day, the Russians retreating before it.

RUSSIANS TAKE AN IMPORTANT POSITION.

Mukden, Oct. 14.—(Delayed in transmission.)—News has been received here that the Russian left column has taken an important position at the eastern columns has overcome the desperate resistance of the Japanese and captured Tumen pass, which opens a direct road to the right bank of the Japanese main positions at Tumen.

If the report is true Gen. Kouropatkin's plans have succeeded and the Japanese have taken the Japanese in flank with their main force. One more effort, it is asserted, and the Japanese must retreat with heavy loss from the Shabou river or run the risk of being cut off from the army front and annihilated. But, it is added, it must be remembered that flanking movements are double edged and cut both ways. In any case the decisive moment appears to have arrived.

CAPTURED PASS, BUT AT FEARFUL COST.

At the Russian front, Oct. 13, by way of Mukden, Oct. 15.—The Japanese offensive began on Tuesday, along the whole line.

The heaviest work was on the Russian extreme right, where the fighting for the possession of the Shabou river and Tumen pass did not cease until midnight. The Russians succeeded in capturing the latter, though at fearful loss.

The position at Bensiuh is still further toward the Taisie river, held by the Toms regiment, was furiously assaulted and the regiment lost heavily.

The Toms regiment retreated to itself from a seemingly hopeless position and succeeded in effecting its retreat.

The Russians sunk to most of their positions heroically on Tuesday, except at the Schill river.

On the morning of Wednesday the Japanese renewed the attack, preparing the way for their infantry with an artillery bombardment.

At noon the Russian right began falling back, but the attacks upon the Russian centre and left weakened perceptibly.

The artillery fire slackened in the evening, but the rifle fire continued with unabated intensity throughout the night.

The Japanese today (Thursday, October 13th) renewed their attacks, and the battle proceeded with varying success, but on the whole the Japanese, as the Russians continued to give ground.

The Russian wounded are being sent north to Harbin.

RUSSIANS MAY DRAW ON CHURCH FUND.

London, Oct. 15.—A Russian correspondent to the Times reports a rumor that the Russian treasurer has approached the Holy Synod with a view of drawing upon church property for the needs of war.

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA.

New York, Oct. 15.—A London special to the Times, says that the London Times Russian correspondent says that military activity is even more noticeable in Southern Russia. Every effort is being made to send off the regiments of the Eighth Army Corps with the minimum of delay.

The military transport authorities estimate that the through carrying capacity of the Siberian railway during the next two months will be 85,000 men and the necessary stores per month. On that basis Russia will be able by April to detain in Manchuria the last contingents of 150,000 men from European Russia, or 200,000 men if the transport of general supplies could be temporarily reduced.

In the meantime the railway system of Southern Russia is disorganized by the diversion for war traffic of locomotives and cars, so that only about 150 grain laden cars are now delivered daily at Odessa, whereas the grain traffic ought to be in full swing.

THE DEATH OF A RUSSIAN COMMANDER.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—Special dispatches from Chetoo reports that the commander of the Russian submarine fleet, in the harbor of Pao, recently has been killed and that many sailors have been wounded.

POSSIBLY REFERS TO THE REPORTED WRECKING OF A RUSSIAN WARSHIP BY THE JAPANESE LAND BATTERIES.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—According to special dispatches received here General Kouropatkin had a narrow escape during the force fighting of Wednesday night and Thursday for the possession of Tumen pass, and the possible loss of a Russian warship by the Japanese land batteries.

KOUROPATKIN HAD A NARROW ESCAPE.

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With his staff, he was personally directing the fight at this point. Orderlies were constantly galloping up with reports from other parts of the field and carrying dispatches to and from the telephone and telegraph stations, which were working behind the hills. This attracted the attention of the Japanese, who cleverly unmasked some batteries, the shells from which burst all around the distinguished group, compelling General Kouropatkin to shift his position hastily and seek shelter.

It is understood that Gen. Kouropatkin, when the battle commenced again, designated Lieut. General Skalaroff and Lieut. General Bildekoff to succeed him in the command in the event of his being disabled.

JAPS BAYONETTED WHILE THEY SLEPT.

Mukden, Oct. 15.—One of the bloodiest episodes of the desperate fighting between the Shabou river and Tumen pass, the last three days occurred at the village of Endotula, west of the railway, and on the neighboring heights, east of the railway.

The Japanese had been driven out of these positions with terrible losses, but on October 13th they concentrated such a murderous artillery fire on the village that it became necessary for the Russians to withdraw, the railway, however, being held.

The same evening the Russian commander gave imperative orders to occupy Endotula. The Zarski regiment, without firing a single shot, marched under cover of the darkness and bayoneted several battalions of the Japanese, many of them died as they slept.

A few Japanese escaped and sought shelter in stacks of Chinese corn, but the Russians, carried away by the frenzy of revenge, rushed on the survivors and literally tore up their bodies with bayonets heroically on Tuesday, except at the Schill river.

Another action in some cases were commanded by a sergeant after all the officers had fallen.

One officer, his face streaming with blood, limped up to a general, who was furious.

"Where is your company?" asked the general.

"This is the one in 'left' replied the officer. "It was like a slaughter house."

The artillery fight Wednesday was the fiercest of the war. The Japanese handled their guns superbly and chose splendid positions. Their guns seemed to have every range measured. They would concentrate the fire of 200 guns first on one place and then on another.

Some of the Russian regiments were literally shot to pieces.

The bombardment reached a climax at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Japanese tried to envelop and break through the Russian left wing.

JAPS CONTINUE TO PURSUE RUSSIANS.

Tokio, Oct. 15.—8.30 p.m.—As a result of the bloody battle of October 14th, the Russians left 2,000 dead on the field which they lost. Field Marshal Oyama estimates the Russian losses at over 30,000.

The fighting continued all along the entire line to-day, and the end is not near. It seems to be impossible for the Russians to rally, and they probably will be pressed back across the Shabou river.

Gen. Kouropatkin's southern advance has been beaten back and his army is in retreat. He is now fighting doggedly so as to space the Russian army from an utter rout.

Field Marshal Oyama's triumphant troops have driven the Russians north to the line along the Shabou river. They are vigorously pressing the pursuit, and

probably will inflict further severe damage on Kouropatkin's forces.

RUSSIANS FIGHT WITH DIMINISHED ARDOR.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 16.—(2 a.m.)—The latest report from the front brings the story of the great battle of Saturday morning when the fighting at Shabou was renewed with animated vigor. The Russians are holding their position there and apparently neither they nor the Japanese are making any advance. All accounts agree that the battle of Liao Yang is already being overshadowed in fierceness and the number of casualties. It is now the sixth day of the desperate fighting, and the issue is still in the balance.

The feeling in St. Petersburg is one of extreme gloom and depression. The lack of official news, the unbroken checking of Gen. Kouropatkin's aggressive movement and the enormous Russian losses in men and guns compared with the optimistic reports from Tokio, all combine to prepare the public for anything. Nevertheless, the reports of the newspaper correspondents at the front, while admitting the heavy losses of the Russian troops and their retreat beyond Shabou, report that the soldiers are fighting with undiminished ardor. One dispatch hints at extremely encouraging news from the eastern front, but it is not possible to accept it as true.

There is a noteworthy absence of bitterness against Kouropatkin and his belief is prevalent that he is compelled to assume the offensive. There is an inclination to regard him as the victim of circumstances, and to believe that he personally assumed command of three divisions in order to cover the retreat from Mukden.

ANOTHER ESTIMATE OF RUSSIAN LOSSES.

Tokio, Oct. 16.—9 a.m.—The latest advice is that the Russians left 4,500 dead in front of Gen. Kouropatkin's army.

The Russian losses, therefore, are estimated at 20,000.

MOWED DOWN BY FIRE OF JAPANESE.

Mukden, Oct. 15.—A Russian correspondent of the Associated Press, in his report of the war, says that the Japanese struggle was resumed to-day at daybreak with every promise of another day of stubborn combat. It is now the sixth day of the war, and the history for the stubbornness and tenacity shown by both sides.

The fighting Friday morning was resumed at 6 o'clock. We again advanced from Shabou, capturing the advanced positions held by the Japanese by brilliant attacks by the Epifanovsky and the other hand, however, if the Russian second line positions, but here fierce artillery fire compelled our troops to halt and a desperate artillery duel was commenced.

"Five Japanese guns were silenced, every gunner being killed and their infantry support also being driven back. The guns stood in plain view, but it was impossible for us to take them. Two battalions which were ordered to secure the Japanese guns advanced in the face of a terrible cannonade and rifle fire from the Japanese, but they were unable to capture them. It was, however, an impossible task, as the Japanese made repeated desperate advances in the hope of securing the guns, but each time were driven off, and towards nightfall we removed the guns safely."

"Our artillery action was beyond praise. Throughout the day the service of the guns and the accuracy of the fire was splendid. An entire battalion was mowed down while attempting to advance against Huanichuan. It drove the enemy northward, and on October 14th, at 11 p.m. it majestically held the heights in hand."

"The centre column, after defeating the enemy posted at the south of Shabou, occupied the positions which had been holding. A portion of the centre column which was directed against Linchopao, co-operating with a portion of the left column, fought a fierce battle and at 4 p.m. stormed and captured Linchopao. Our forces are now chasing the enemy."

The Russian forces holding Linchopao consisted of a regiment of artillery with two batteries of artillery, and this force is now retreating toward Sagan. The left army occupied Wafukiatun at noon yesterday, dislodging four or five battalions of Russian infantry and several batteries of artillery and embarking upon a submarine counter attack.

REPORTS FROM THE JAPANESE ARMIES.

Tokio, Oct. 15.—Lengthy reports from the front were received to-day and published to-night say:

"The Japanese had been driven out of these positions with terrible losses, but on October 13th they concentrated such a murderous artillery fire on the village that it became necessary for the Russians to withdraw, the railway, however, being held.

The same evening the Russian commander gave imperative orders to occupy Endotula. The Zarski regiment, without firing a single shot, marched under cover of the darkness and bayoneted several battalions of the Japanese, many of them died as they slept.

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successfully repulsed by our left column.

The strength of the enemy opposing the left column was fully four regiments of infantry with ten batteries of artillery."

The reports continue: "From October 10th to October 13th the result of the continuous fighting has been favorable in every direction, while the enemy's strength was always superior. Not only was the enemy defeated, but he was vigorously pursued by the one force pressing him against the left bank of the Hun river and inflicting upon him heavy loss. The guns captured number over thirty, and the prisoners taken number several hundred. Thus the object of the enemy has been completely frustrated, and his offensive movement has ended in final failure.

"The corpses left by the enemy at different points are too numerous to be exactly counted. The enemy's loss cannot be easily ascertained, owing to the continuance of the fighting, but they must exceed 30,000. The trophies, besides the guns, include an enormous quantity of ammunition wagons and rifles. They are still uncounted. The Russian corpses left on the field between October 10th and 13th and buried by us exceeded 2,000 in number. The bodies left after the fighting of October 13th are numerous.

"Our casualties October 14th and 15th were fifteen officers killed, 43 wounded and 1250 men killed and wounded. The enemy defeated by the Shienkuang garrison October 10th appears to have halted at Fintshuan. According to prisoners, the Russian force formerly stationed at Lutahotai lost 60 killed and wounded. The Japanese loss was three officers and a few men wounded."

RUSSIANS MAY NOT STOP AT TIE PASS.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 17.—9.45 a.m.—The official veil to-day was lifted from the ghastly tragedy around Shabou, but the official account, supplemented by numerous press dispatches, leaves much uncertainty as to the situation.

From the fragmentary bits of information at hand it is impossible only to conclude that the costly withdrawal and retreat from Liao Yang is being duplicated on the main front, but that the Russian desperate fighting and heavier losses.

Gen. Kouropatkin's story leaves the Russians still "reluctantly holding" the north bank of the Shabou river, but the general belief that this is only the desperate finale of one of the greatest military dramas of history, and that the Russian army as a whole is retiring, after Mukden, having suffered at the most conservative estimate a loss of 30,000.

Of the left flank, which was one of the most important points in the line of battle, absolutely nothing is heard, which leaves the inference that it is not in a situation to communicate with the remainder of the army.

All the wounded are being carried to Harbin, further north. It is understood that the correspondents also

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Artillery from the centre and infantry from the left army are harassing the Russian retreat.

General Oka has attacked the main strength of the Russian right base at Chien pass and Changtson, and is now operating to block the Russian retreat along the railroad.

Official confirmation of the above is not obtainable.

TERRIBLE LOSSES IN RIVAL ARMIES.

Tokio, Oct. 16.—There is a strong appeal for peace in the appalling tragedy which is now under enactment in Manchuria. Both armies have fought ferociously for a week, and desperate fighting still continues.

It is probable that the rolls of casualties will be largely increased. The preliminary reports indicate that about 60,000 of heavy sides, the larger portion being Russians, have been either killed or wounded since the armies closed in combat.

Even the Japanese, to whom the great victory is of paramount importance, is shocked by the slaughter of their enemies.

The Japanese people are receiving the news from their field of battle calmly, and there can be heard no shouts proclaiming their victory. Few flags are displayed. Later a jollification may be held, but many feel that no demonstration should be made.

A prominent Japanese said to the Associated Press correspondent to-day: "We have won a sweeping and decisive victory which may prove to be the salvation of our country, but we regret our own losses and the terrible slaughter of our own forces have inflicted on the enemy. We regret still more the necessity which has been forced us to engage in this war."

A telegram received from the Manchurian headquarters late to-day reports that the fighting has ceased on the front of the right and the centre armies, but that it continues before the left army. The report is as follows:

"The front of the right and centre armies has become quiet, but at the front of the left army fierce cannonading continues. In the direction of Litientum the army is inactive. Our force under Yamada captured one gun and two ammunition wagons during the attack on the heights of Santokangtzu on the night of October 15th."

RUSSIANS TEN MILES SOUTHWEST OF MUKDEN.

Mukden, Oct. 16.—There was a lull in the battle yesterday but fighting has continued to-day on the right.

The army is certainly of here on ten miles. It will be able to extricate itself, but a bigger battle than that of Liao Yang.

The Russians are attacking on the right to-day.

MORE GUNS TAKEN BY GEN. OKU'S ARMY.

Tokio, Oct. 17.—It is reported here that Major Takasato's battalion captured fourteen guns at Santokangtzu on October 16th. This makes a total of 34 guns captured by Gen. Nodai's centre army since October 14th.

TEN THOUSAND BODIES LEFT ON THE FIELD.

Tokio, Oct. 16.—Gen. Oku reports that the found and buried 2,000 Russian after the battle of October 14th.

Field Marshal Oyama estimated the Russian dead left on the field, including the fighting of the 15th, at over 10,000.

RUSSIAN LOSSES WILL EXCEED FORTY THOUSAND.

Tokio, Oct. 16.—It is reported here that the reports of the great battle which continue to arrive from the front the most striking feature is the terrible record of the Russian dead.

Before the severe fighting on October 14th General Oku's army alone recovered and buried 2,000, making the total number of Russians buried by the Japanese since October 14th to date, 6,500.

Applying the usual calculation and making reasonable allowances for the fighting of the 15th, the Russian losses will exceed 40,000.

Fragmentary reports of Japanese casualties are coming in. General Oku, up to the morning of October 14th, lost 3,500 men. Estimates of the total Japanese losses are not possible but they are small in comparison with the frightful losses of the Russians.

Reports dispatched yesterday from the field are following chronological order.

The main force of the right army, which was captured October 14th, continues to offer a stubborn resistance.

The centre army has reached its objective and has been heavily engaged since the morning of October 15th, but resistance. The centre column is advancing against Lamuntun and is attacking that position. The enemy has six batteries between Shabou and Santokangtzu, which are vigorously shelling the attacking column and our position at Linchopao, but the bombardment is not strong enough to prevent the advance.

"On October 11th the left column of the centre army lost 261 killed and wounded.

The casualties to ourselves and the Russians and the number of trophies by the left army follow:

During the five days, from October 10th to 15th inclusive, our casualties were about 2,500 killed or wounded, officers included.

During the four days from October 10th to 13th the number of corpses left by the enemy and buried by us reached 2,000. The enemy's dead after the battle of October 14th were very numerous. The prisoners taken numbered 80.

The principal trophies were 30 guns and many rifles, uniforms, etc.

There are some forces of the enemy on the right bank of the Shabou river in front of the main strength of the right and centre armies, but no battle on a great scale has occurred.

The forces of the enemy at Shabou and Lamuntun on the left army have been offering a stubborn resistance, but have been dislodged and their positions have been captured.

"On the afternoon of the 15th a force of the enemy appeared near Santokangtzu and continued to offer resistance until sundown, portions of our centre and left armies engaging them."

BATTLE RESUMED NEAR MUKDEN TO-DAY.

Berlin, Oct. 17.—11.51 a.m.—Col. Gaedke, the war correspondent of the Telegraph, telegraphs from Mukden that when he left the battlefield yesterday at 3.30 p.m. a general engagement was in progress which was not decided, although not unfavorable for the Russians.

The battle opened at 7 o'clock in the morning, twelve miles south of Mukden. At 2 p.m. he heard heavy artillery firing in the mountains eastward, where he understood Gen. Stokoberg was attacking the Japanese right flank.

An immense number of wounded were arriving at Mukden on this, the eighth day of the fighting. The weather was fine.

Col. Gaedke sent another dispatch dated Saturday, which was detailed at

GREAT SACRIFICES OF RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

Mukden, Oct. 16.—(Evening.)—The first to die of the south-western front were the men who were tired out and food has been insufficient, every available man and gun are being used. The troops have behaved most gallantly, hurrying themselves

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repeatedly against impregnable positions. The heavy storm of October 14th added to the misery of the troops. There is some depression, but still tenacity among the men. There has been great sacrifice of officers.

The plain covered by the retreating Russians is covered with bursting shells and the breeches of guns as stokers shoot coal into furnaces. Howitzers are used by the eastern army.

The Russian guns have superior range and burst shrapnel at 6,000 yards.

There is a scarcity of reliable maps. Two divisional commanders have had their chief staff officers, the one being killed, and many commanders have met death heroically leading their regiments.

Shrapnel fell near Gen. Kouropatkin. He showed desperate energy and was in the darkest remained hopeful.

The Japanese must feel the strain, but there was a cessation of hostilities on Saturday. Neither side can stand such days, the ferocity of the battle being the eastern army.

The Russians are now fighting as a matter of pride. Manchuria is forgotten. They feel that they cannot stop that the Russian army is retreating.

This evening the Japanese seemed nearer. Fires are burning to the south about 12 miles from here. The eastern army is retiring without fighting.

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