

"The Enemy Cleared Out," Says Oyama Jap Flanking Armies Above Tie Pass: Kuropatkin Asks to Give Up Command

Japanese Continue to Drive Russians Northward—
Muscovite Casualties 90,000 and 40,000 Prisoners.

Two Russian Corps Left to Guard Line May Have Been Annihilated.

London, March 12. — Today's dispatches only confirm the completeness of Kuropatkin's defeat. The Russians are nearing their Tie Pass positions, and St. Petersburg admits that even the remnants of the army are in danger. It is reported that Oyama's flanking armies are already in touch above Tie Pass, and if this proves correct, even a greater disaster than is now apparent may follow. Emperor Nicholas has summoned a war council for tomorrow, at which the whole situation will be considered.

Tie Pass, Manchuria, March 12. — The Russians are nearing their Tie Pass positions. Japanese detachments continue a northwest movement from Mukden.

Enemy Cleared Out.

Tokio, March 12, 11 a.m.—Army headquarters makes the following announcement:

"All our forces have advanced north, pursuing the enemy in all directions and inflicting heavy damage and they have defeated the enemy who attempted resistance at various places.

"Our forces have completely cleared the enemy out of the districts, 25 miles north of Mukden and on Sunday were still pursuing them. The Russians abandoned countless carts of supplies and ammunition in the district for 13 miles from the vicinity of Kaoliun, south of Chulitok, west of the railway and 16 miles north of Mukden.

"No time has yet been had to count them.

"One of the colors captured belonged to the One Hundred and Sixty-third Regiment from the Vilna district, which had been engaged in three previous wars.

"Our Simintin garrison has arrested a paroled Russian officer from Port Arthur, who broke his parole at Shanghai and proceeded to Simintin.

"Additional stores intended for the Russians have been seized at Simintin."

MAY BE A SEDAN YET

Jap Flanking Armies in Touch Above Tie Pass.

St. Petersburg, March 12, 1:30 p.m.—No further Russian news was received from the front this morning, but the magnitude of the catastrophe is now apparent to all here. The war office admits that even the remnants of the army are still in danger. Field Marshal Oyama holds a magnificent strategic position.

It is reported that Japanese flanking columns are in touch above Tie Pass and that there may be a Sedan there. No adequate estimate of the losses has been furnished, but with the units captured on the left unaccounted for, the killed or wounded already total 65,000. The war office does not even know accurately what units are captured.

Czar Calls War Council.

St. Petersburg, March 12, 5:45 p.m.—Emperor Nicholas has summoned a war council for tomorrow, at which the whole situation will be considered.

NEEDS MENTAL REST

Kuropatkin Asks Permission to Hand Over His Command.

London, March 12. — The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times says: "Gen. Kuropatkin has asked the Emperor's gracious permission to hand over his command, alleging that he is in urgent need of physical and mental rest.

"I learn on the best authority that Japan twice has approached Russia through informal channels on the subject of peace negotiations, but that in each case the proposal failed because Japan demanded an indemnity and a pledge that Russia would not keep warships in the Pacific for 25 years.

"The Japanese insistence on indemnity convinces the Russian Government that her pecuniary resources are exhausted, and that by continuing the war only a few months longer Russia will get better terms.

"When Kuropatkin heard of the capture of Kiosan, on March 10, and realized he had delayed retreat too long, one desperate chance remained. It was to sacrifice his artillery by massing the batteries so as to paralyze the enemy. The Russian gunners did their duty and saved what is left of Kuropatkin's army."

Kaulbar's Narrow Escape.

St. Petersburg, March 12. — Little additional information was vouchsafed at the war office today. General Linevitch's army, although its units were scattered and confused, got off with the fewest losses. General Kaulbar was the heaviest loser, leaving 28,000 prisoners in the hands of the Japanese. Kaulbar himself with the remnants of his army, had a narrow escape. When the Japanese drove

their wedge across the railroad above Mukden he just managed to pull clear by withdrawing south of the city and then moving northeastward into the mountains barely in time to avoid General Kuroki's columns which were already at the Hun River bombarding Fu Pass. According to the latest advice General Kaulbar is being pursued and has not succeeded in extricating himself from the mountains.

General Meyendorff, commander of the First Army Corps, was wounded in the shoulder.

Russians Were Misled.

New York, March 13. — A St. Petersburg dispatch to the Times says: The story of the defeat at Mukden and the dreadful retreat to Tie Pass is a conglomeration of piecemeal. It shows that the Russians were misled and outmaneuvered at every point. They were misled about the numbers and disposition of the Japanese armies and were misled about the direction whence the next blow would come.

Yet Gen. Kuropatkin seems at one time to have realized the critical nature of the situation, for on March 8 he began the gradual removal of impediments. Had he then ordered a general retreat, as he intimated he would do on that day in a telegram to the czar, the disaster might have been averted. History will say what inducements or motives prompted him to remain.

The Crowning Disaster.

His crowning blunder was the weakening of the line from Fushun to Mukden. He apparently forgot that the

Russians were able to cross the Hun River on the ice. This enabled Gen. Kuroki to break through the positions of the First and Fourth Siberian Corps.

Gen. Kuropatkin realized his mistake when he heard of the capture of Kiosan on March 10. He immediately ordered his armies to retire, but the Japanese swarmed from east to west, and placed batteries commanding the line of retreat.

Two Corps Wiped Out.

It was a "sauve qui peut" over the plain bordering the Mandarin road. The first fugitives reached Tie Pass, 40 miles distant, within 30 hours. Stakelberg's and Zarubalev's corps were left to guard the line from Mukden to Fushun. It is feared that they have been captured or annihilated. Tserpitsky's, Biderling's and Topornitsky's corps, Kuropatkin himself led in a desperate attempt to drive back Nogai, sustained terrible losses.

London, Monday, March 13. — While General Kuropatkin has apparently succeeded in saving more of his artillery than seemed possible, his losses in men, ammunition and commissariat supplies in the battle of Mukden are far greater than earlier reports indicated, and even that portion of his army which he succeeded in extricating from the positions around Mukden is still in serious danger. The Japanese generals, realizing that with a little more speed they could have inflicted a crushing defeat on the Russian army after the battle of Liao Yang, determined not to again allow an opportunity to pass, and are following after the defeated and sorely tried Russian forces. While a small portion of Kuropatkin's army has reached Tie Pass, the greater part of those who escaped from the battle of Mukden are still struggling northward, being at last accounts between 12 and 15 miles from their goal, and the Japanese, flushed with victory and reinforced by fresh men, harassing them from all sides. Even should the remnants of the army reach Tie Pass it is hardly possible for it to make a stand against the overwhelming force opposing it, especially as the Russians must be worn out and weakened by the loss of men, guns and ammunition. It is likely that Kuropatkin will fall right back to Harbin with what he can save, and wait there for the reinforcements that St. Petersburg already has promised him. A possible obstacle to this plan is General Kama-mura's army, which has not yet been located, and which may also be heading for the northern capital. General Kuropatkin admits 1,190 officers and 46,891 men are now responding to roll calls. This is rather vague. It may or it may not include the thousands of wounded who have been sent north, and again it may not include the losses suffered by the third army, with which the commander-in-chief was not in communication for some time. The figures given by the Japanese war office appear more reasonable, namely, 40,000 prisoners, 25,500 left on the field, and 90,000 killed or wounded, the latter

figure, of course, including the dead found by the Japanese. The Russian losses, therefore, total over 100,000 men, or more than one-third of the whole army. The fact that the Japanese report the capture of only 60 guns indicates that Kuropatkin at the last moment succeeded in sending a considerable portion of his artillery northward on the railway. The Japanese losses up to this morning were reported as 41,222, not including the army which pushed north between Mukden and Fushun.

Tokio, March 12, 6 p.m.—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 touch at Tie Pass. The Russians evidently are confused and are possibly are short of food and ammunition, and it is believed here they will be unable to resist a strong attack. The summer campaign, if it increases the extent of the Russian disaster. It will require months to re-supply and reorganize the Russian armies. Estimated casualties given by captives reach 40 per cent. The artillery losses were especially heavy. The captured guns have not yet been counted, but the number of captured stores and munitions are valued at millions of dollars. This loss materially adds to the crippling of the Russian army.

The Japanese people are receiving the details of the victory with calmness. The other cities are exceedingly quiet, and the recent admonition to the people to refrain from spending money in celebrations and to devote their savings to war charities is being universally obeyed. The Japanese press editorial articles, in discussing the possible effects of the victory upon the Russian war effort, are unrelentingly continue the vigorous prosecution of the war, and has no suggestion to make for peace, or indirectly, in the general elation over the success of the Japanese a general source of satisfaction is the velocity with which the fighting operations were carried out, the quick seizure of advantages and the speed made in pursuit of the Russians. After the summer campaign, a general admission of the truth of the repeated criticism that the Japanese army had failed to make a general advance, a determination was made to redeem the shortcomings. During the recent operations against the Russians the Japanese have made a general advance of 40 miles in one day, greatly adding to the achievement of the victory. Captives taken in this last campaign make the number of prisoners now held by Japan 75,000. Their care is becoming a very expensive problem. The Government is making plans to remove all military prisoners to islands, probably in the Indian Sea, and it is possible that all the captives will be removed there.

Tien Tsin, March 11, 11:05 p.m.—It is reported that Tie Pass is practically undefended and another great action is regarded as probable.

Gen. Kuropatkin has said: "We must push the advantage home and give no respite until a crushing defeat has been administered."

Kuropatkin Takes Blame.

St. Petersburg, March 12. — It is declared that the moment that Gen. Kuroki's wedge, aided by the Austro-German forces, broke through the failure of several Russian organizations to occupy appointed positions, drove itself deep into the Russian ranks, the responsibility for the disaster was placed upon the shoulders of Gen. Kuropatkin, who was on the point of launching a momentous counter-stroke, but where or how it was to be carried out was not decided. Gen. Kuropatkin has telegraphed to Emperor Nicholas assuming himself all the responsibility for his defeat, making no excuse in the direction of the Russian command. The Russian general, who was on the point of launching a momentous counter-stroke, but where or how it was to be carried out was not decided. Gen. Kuropatkin has telegraphed to Emperor Nicholas assuming himself all the responsibility for his defeat, making no excuse in the direction of the Russian command. 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