

THE KEY POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE JAPS IN THE LAST FURIOUS FIGHTING



Ribbing Fort was one of the principal points of attack in the Japanese assault at the end of October, which failed after six days' desperate fighting. Considerable damage was then inflicted on the entrenchments and regular fortifications on the mountain. The importance of this position lies in the fact that the main fort is in the chain of great fortresses running round and forming the chief defence of Port Arthur's harbor. Ribbing, or Ribbing Fort, commands on the right hand side of the delta through which the railway runs into the town. It is on the northwest of the Keelwan forts and has a number of supplementary works. These are all essential parts of the Port Arthur coast for defence covering the old town.

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JAPS AND RUSSIANS FRATERNIZE AMID HAVOC THEY HAVE MADE

Peace Terms Make Garrison Officers Free, But Privates and Non-Coms. Are Prisoners of War—Wild Russian Talk About Recapturing Port Arthur—Russian Paper Charges British Warships Are Acting as "Official Spies" for Japs.

TERMS OF THE SURRENDER

Liberty to Officers on Their Parole—Twenty Thousand of Garrison Prisoners—Japs and Russians Now Fraternizing.

Headquarters of the Japanese Third Army, Jan. 2, via Pusan, Jan. 3.—At the conference held between the commissions of General Stoessel and General Nogi, at 1 o'clock Monday afternoon the terms of surrender were agreed upon, under which the Russian officers, both civil and military, will be allowed to march out, the military with arms.

The officers will be granted full liberty after giving promises not to take further part in the war.

The privates and non-commissioned officers of the garrison, to the number of 20,000, will be taken prisoners of war.

The surrendered fortress will be formally handed over to the Japanese Tuesday. The prisoners will march out Jan. 4. The opposing troops are fraternizing.

Statements on the subject as purely conjectural. The report that Japan will offer terms of peace is absolutely unfounded.

In all other well informed quarters in London the Associated Press received the assurance that the talk of mediation is entirely premature.

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The report attributing to France an intention to sound the European powers toward securing joint support for mediation is categorically denied. The officials reiterate that no steps whatever will be taken until one of the parties formally requests good offices. The authorities here have not received anything indicating that either of the belligerents desires mediation.

Russian Fire Against Kuroki Ceases.

General Kuroki's Headquarters in the Field, Jan. 3, via Pusan.—The Russian fire against the Japanese trenches has almost ceased during the past two days. Whether this is due to the news from Port Arthur or not is unknown.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 5.—2:30 a. m.—It seems now to be definite that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron will not attempt to reach Vladivostok. The decision has been reached that he will await the third Pacific squadron, on which work is proceeding night and day, and several ships of which are expected to be ready for service by the end of January.

It is by no means certain that Rojestvensky will return with his ships to European waters; he may await the third squadron off the coast of Madagascar and seize and make his base one of the uninhabited coral islands of Polynesia.

In view of the report that the Japanese intend to invest Vladivostok, General Batavoff, who has been interviewed, has expressed the opinion that if Vladivostok should be blockaded Rojestvensky would be compelled to return.

Many interesting incidents in connection with Port Arthur heretofore carefully concealed, are now common property. When the protected cruiser Boyarin was lost by going on the rocks, her captain, Sarytchoff, was subjected to considerable criticism.

He appealed personally to Emperor Nicholas for mercy, saying that if forgiveness he would sacrifice his life for his country. Thereafter Captain Sarytchoff volunteered on every occasion for the dangerous duty. He commanded the gunboat Glikak at Kinohov, and later a shore battery at Tigra Tail. Afterward the captain engaged in frequent sorties from the fortifications, and seemed to bear a charmed life, and received not so much as a scratch.

Emperor Nicholas is expected to return tomorrow to St. Petersburg, when a council of war will be held.

NOGI'S REPORTS ON STATE OF CAPTURED FORTRESS

Tokio, Jan. 4.—(Dressing)—The following report was received from General Nogi at 3 o'clock this afternoon:—

"Order is maintained at Port Arthur by the officers. The people are quiet.

"Our minute investigation was not finished until Tuesday night. The total number of inhabitants is about 35,000, of whom 25,000 are soldiers or sailors. The total number of sick or wounded is 20,000.

"Common provisions and bread are plentiful, but there is a scarcity of meat. There are no medical supplies. The Japanese are strenuously succoring the people. The

capitulation committees are pushing their respective work."

The weight of opinion in Japanese official circles seems to be against a hurried conclusion of peace, and doubt is expressed that the fall of Port Arthur will materially affect the situation.

One of several who discuss the question with the correspondents of the Associated Press today voiced the sentiment of the majority when he said:—

"We anticipate that the Russians will renew more determinedly than ever the effort to drive Field Marshal Oyama back, and that they will strive to gain supremacy at sea. We are preparing to defeat both these objects."

"The situation makes talk of peace futile."

STOESSEL'S SOBS SOUND IN LAST MESSAGE TO OZAR

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—General Stoessel's last despatch, dated Jan. 1, prior to the surrender of Port Arthur, details the Japanese attack of Dec. 31, and concludes as follows:—

"I shall be obliged to capitulate, but everything is in the hands of God. We have suffered fearful losses."

"Great sovereign, pardon us. We have done everything humanly possible. Blame, but be merciful. Nearly eleven months of uninterrupted struggles have exhausted us. Not one-quarter of the garrison is alive, and of this number the majority are sick, and being obliged to act on the defensive without even short intervals for repose, are worn to shadows."

FORMAL ENTRY INTO PORT ARTHUR JAN. 8.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army at Port Arthur, Jan. 4, via Pusan.—The formal entry of the Japanese into Port Arthur on January 8 will be an imposing spectacle. The Japanese officers will be given a banquet in the city on January 10. The reason for the surrender of the fortress is evident from a visit to Wantai Hill. The entire strength of the position lay in the main line of outer defenses.

The possession of Wantai gave the besiegers the key to the forts east of the city. The hills in the rear were not fortified and afforded a full cover for the assaulting forces.

Moscow, Jan. 4.—There was a demonstration in front of the Grand Duke Sargius' palace today. Crowds paraded the vicinity, stoned the Japanese officers, and shouting "Down with the war," palace and cried: "Down with the war."

London, Jan. 5.—The Daily Telegraph's Port Arthur correspondent telegraphs a picturesque account of the scene at the time of the negotiation of the capitulation of Port Arthur. He says:—

"It was a magnificently sunny day with a wonderful stillness reigning on the belligerent lines. A strange concert was rendered in the vicinity of the cottage where two white flags showed that the preliminaries were deliberating and comprising wondrous Chinese peasants, children and smiling Japanese 'Tommys,' all grouped around nine dismounted Cossack escorts, who carried on a gesticulatory conversation with the Japanese."

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CANADA'S LEADING MAIL ORDER PIANO HOUSE

January Piano Bargains

During the brisk holiday trade we have taken in exchange some very fine Pianos, both Upright and Square. Some are like new, and others are being thoroughly overhauled and will be sold at lowest possible prices, as we need the room they occupy.

Note the prices of a few:

- \$265 Heintzman, like new
225 D. W. Karn,
215 Palmer Piano Co. like new
185 Layton Bros. like new
50 Broadwood Baby Grand

Any of above shipped on approval for 10 days free trial. If not satisfactory we will pay freight both ways.

LAYTON BROS., Dept. 1, 144 Peel St., MONTREAL

Jan. 1, it was not generally known to the public of the invading army until Monday.

The surrender of the fortress at the present time came as a surprise even to the Japanese, as the desperate determination and courage of the Russian, even in the last assault, indicated that the struggle would be one to the bitter end.

The tremendous effect of the explosion which wrecked the Sunghai Mountain fort, the last of the forts guarding the main defences of the eastern fortified ridge, in which half of the defenders were killed and the remainder entombed or made prisoners, completed the disorganization of the defence.

The subsequent spirited assault by the Japanese upon the principal line of outer fortifications and the higher hills of the fortified ridge immediately after the capture of Sunghai Mountain fort, was met with feeble opposition, and the night of Jan. 1 saw the besiegers in possession of the upper line of the fortified ridge from East Keelwan Mountain to the western extremity.

Had the Russian fought as it had previously done, this would have at least taken days to accomplish and would have cost many lives.

ROJESTVENSKY'S FLAGSHIP SINKS

(Continued from page 1)

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—Emperor Nicholas returned this morning to Tsarsko Selo, fifteen miles south of St. Petersburg, from Minsk.

An extraordinary council is expected to be held at Tsarsko Selo immediately and it is believed that the whole situation will be reviewed. General Kurapatkin has been called upon to telegraph his opinion of the situation at home, which cannot be disregarded in considering the matter.

There is evidence that the revolutionary agitators have decided to take every advantage of the government's embarrassment, and the moderate liberals, who are trying to force the government's hand and compel the summoning of a national assembly, are beginning to double their efforts. Newspapers, despite the punishments inflicted on them, are speaking out with great boldness. Scurrilous regarding the consequences, they are using every pretext for savage criticism of the emperor's warning, continues to memorize the throne.

Consequently, in spite of the bold protestations of the official world that peace is possible, the opinion is held by many that the government may be forced to conclude peace with Japan in order to have free hands to deal with the internal situation. With the increasing complications, Mr. Witte, president of the ministerial council, looks up larger as the strong man to whom the Emperor will turn in the present crisis. It is remarked that the despatches from the front are absolutely silent on the subject of the fall of Port Arthur, indicating that the announcement had been withheld.

Russia on Eve of Revolution.

New York, Jan. 5.—A St. Petersburg despatch to the Sun says: Prince Troubetzky, president of the Moscow Zemstvo,

has written a letter to Prince Merzlyak, minister of the interior, defending the discussion of reforms by the Moscow Zemstvo which called forth the condemnation of the czar. Prince Troubetzky says: Russia is now in a state of anarchy. The revolutionary movement now proceeding is not a simple disturbance by the youth of the country. It is a movement which reflects the attitude of public opinion and it is very dangerous, even terrible, not only for the people, but for the emperor. It is, therefore, the duty of every true Russian subject to do what he can to prevent the impending calamity.

"I recently had the happiness to see the emperor, and I reported to him, truly and in all sincerity, the present state of public opinion. I tried to explain to his majesty that what is now proceeding is not a simple emotion, but a revolution. This Russian nation is being dragged into a revolution which she does not want and which may be prevented by the emperor if he shows confidence in his people."

"It is my strong belief that if the emperor will himself unite the national forces around him, he will relieve Russia from the terrors of an impending bloody revolution. If he will do so the nation will support his autocratic power."

"Under existing conditions, it is impossible to forbid the people from voicing their suffering. It is impossible to keep silence when the country is in a dangerous position."

Lay of the Pigskin Chaser

(With apologies to Kipling.)

A fool there was and he grew his hair (Given as you said it)

For a pigskin ball that was filled with air (And he who did it for a fancy fair)

But the fool had thought of it long and hard (Given as you said it)

Oh, the years we waste and the beers we drink (Given as you said it)

And our brain and our brawn, I wish, (Given as you said it)

Belong to a thing that never knows why (And he who did it for a fancy fair)

It is kicked all over the lot.

A fool there was and his coat he sported (Given as you said it)

For his roundhouse levers were somewhat bent (Given as you said it)

But a fool for his crime must find some rest (Given as you said it)

Oh, the lectures, mixed and the goals he missed (Given as you said it)

And the excellent piece he planned (Given as you said it)

For the real team that the boy couldn't make (And he who did it for a fancy fair)

The fool was stripped of his sweater fine (Given as you said it)

But he did not tuck and did not replace (At losing his place in the forwards' line)

For when springtime comes he may make (Given as you said it)

The people of St. Petersburg have received with composure the news, known to the rest of the world a day earlier, of the fall of Port Arthur.

The event had been anticipated, and under official direction the minds of the people were prepared to receive with resignation the announcement of the fact by the publication of despatches forwarded last week by General Stoessel, describing the straits to which the garrison had been reduced.

The expectation is some quarters that the surrender of the fortress would be followed at the capital by anti-war demonstrations, has not been realized. So far there has been any expression of feeling, it has been for carrying on the war with all the vigor possible.

At Tokio last night the surrender of Port Arthur was celebrated by a Russian procession and general illumination. The Japanese diet will formally express the thanks of the nation to General Nogi for his conduct of the siege.

Among Russian officials there is a feeling that any proposal of peace that may be made must be with the fact in view that, in order that peace may be lasting, Japan must recognize Russia's right to free transit of its ships through waters of the far east.

High Japanese officials declare that there is no probability of advances coming from "right" governments looking toward peace negotiations. In official quarters in St. Petersburg it is said that no tender of good offices from a third party would be accepted, and that any proposal for peace must come from Japan direct.

The terms of the articles of capitulation of the Port Arthur garrison signed by the commissioners representing General Stoessel and General Nogi has been made public. All Russian soldiers, marines and civil officials of the garrison and harbor are made prisoners; all forts, batteries, vessels, munitions, etc., are transferred to the Japanese in the condition in which they existed at noon of Jan. 3, violation of this clause to operate as an annulment of the negotiations, giving the Japanese army warrant to take free action; the Russian military and naval authorities are to furnish to the Japanese army an exact list of all fortifications, underground and submarine mines, a list of military officers, of ships, and the numbers of their crews, and of civilians of both sexes, with their race and occupations; and all public property, as buildings, munitions of war, etc., to be left in the present position pending arrangement for their transfer.

Officers of the army and navy are permitted to retain their swords and such of their personal property as is directly necessary for the maintenance of life, and with one servant each, may upon signing their parole not to take arms during the continuance of the war, return to Russia. Non-commissioned officers and privates will be held as prisoners. For the benefit of the sick and wounded Russians, the sanitary corps and the accountants belonging to the Russian army and navy will be required to serve under the Japanese sanitary corps and accountants for such periods of time as may be deemed necessary.

RUSSIAN PAPER ACCUSES BRITAIN

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—7:30 a. m.—The Novaya Vremya editorially declares that it has authoritative news that British warships are following Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron and reporting its position and movements to Tokio from each cable port reached.

The paper adds that the North Sea expedition has shown that Rojestvensky is a man whom it is dangerous to tamper with, and advises the British government to call off its "official spies," and thereby prevent the possibility of the occurrence "in the

Indian Ocean of an incident which would be regrettable alike to Great Britain, Russia and the whole of Europe."

STOESSEL HAD WORD FROM OZAR AND ARMY

Replies to Inquiries as to Aid Showed Him None Was to Be Expected.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3, 8 p. m.—General Stoessel, despite his determination not to surrender Port Arthur, realized the gravity of the situation following the capture of the Maitre Hill from which the Russian retired Dec. 6.

A despatch which came through a snow storm Dec. 18 with half of the Russian messengers, headed by Commander Mitzensoff, carried among other two important despatches. One of these was addressed to St. Petersburg asking what were the prospects of the arrival of the Russian second Pacific squadron and the other went to General Kurapatkin inquiring when relief from the Manchurian army would be likely. Both despatches stated that after another month Port Arthur's last defender would have fallen.

The authorities at St. Petersburg gave the required information and stated to General Stoessel that he had won the confidence of the government and that whatever he did would be accepted as being for the best.

Kurapatkin answered to the effect that he had his hands full, and was not able to promise early relief.

The replies were entrusted to a messenger personally known to the correspondent of the Associated Press. The messenger left six days ago, and it may be presumed that he experienced little difficulty in eluding the blockade, which had grown lax.

It is highly probable that the tidings he brought weighed materially with General Stoessel when he acquiesced in the wishes of his generals to surrender the fortress.

The Russians here claim to see a blessing in disguise in the fall of Port Arthur. They say the Russian second Pacific squadron can now wait until it is overwhelmingly reinforced, and that Kurapatkin will be able to manage his campaign with a single eye to his own success without making any false steps animated by a desire to relieve General Stoessel.

PEACE TALK

Heard at Tokio and Elsewhere, But Was Closed to it at St. Petersburg.

Tokio, Jan. 3.—5 p. m.—Some of the foreign dipomats here believe that there will be an early removal of efforts looking to the securing of peace. Outwardly the Japanese government gives no indications of its desires in that direction, but it is known that it is prepared to discuss the question and to make terms which are characterized as reasonable.

Those who predict a movement for peace declare that the Japanese emperor's commendations of General Stoessel and the determination of the Japanese to give honorable terms to the surrendered garrison will soften the blow to Russia and create an opening for the discussion of the question of peace.

The United States, Great Britain and France are named as possible direct or indirect intermediaries, though it is not impossible that Japan will broach the subject directly.

Must Come from Russia.

London, Jan. 3.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, said to the Associated Press today in reference to mediation:—

"I know nothing whatever about proposals for peace overtures. They must come from Russia. I have seen reports of President Roosevelt's desire to use his good offices for the purpose of ending the war, but so long as the views of the Russian government are unknown I do not see any opportunity for mediation or for the exercise of good office. I regard the

statements on the subject as purely conjectural. The report that Japan will offer terms of peace is absolutely unfounded.

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have arrived there being description of the terrible conditions in the hospitals at Port Arthur, which they say were worse than those of the battlefield. They relate how the Sisters of Charity, accustomed as they are to such scenes, sickened under these conditions, and flinched at their posts because of lack of nourishment.

"The wounded patients toward the end complained bitterly of what they called the heartlessness of the sisters, who grew so accustomed to human suffering, that they seemed to lose all sympathy for the victims."

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