

DECISIVE BATTLE IS RAGING

Greatest Artillery Duel of World's History Now in Progress Near Mukden---Japanese Under Oku Turn Russian Right And St. Petersburg Admits That Fate of Kuropatkin and His Army Hangs in the Balance---Oyama Again Sacrifices Pawns on the Battlefield Chessboard---Nogi's Port Arthur Veterans Accomplish the Miraculous Until Utterly Exhausted--The Crisis at Hand

Giant Armies Lock in Battle

Snow-Covered Plain Near Mukden Scene of Unprecedented Artillery Duel.

Japanese Advance Line Extends For Seven Miles--Gains Won at Awful Price.

Tactical Programme of Liao Yang Duplicated With Success at Mukden.

MUKDEN, March 6.—(Noon.)—An artillery duel has been raging here since morning to the westward of Mukden, and the Japanese shells are exploding within three miles of the Imperial tombs.



GENERAL KUROPATKIN

practically the only shelters in this open plain, are receiving particular attention from the gunners.

Mukden, March 3.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—The beginning of the withdrawal of the Russian right flank on March 2, precipitated a battle at Chantan, west of Sandepas, when the right flank was ordered to fall back fighting to Taetzatu, near Nantaru.

The Japanese attacked Chantan from Sandepas simultaneously with an astounding advance from Liaoyang, the impression being that the Simnintin railway was being employed by them as a line of communication.

The fighting at Putloff hill and on the centre closed at dark on Thursday, when it was confined chiefly to the west, where the Japanese are occupying Simnintin. Two companies also dashed up the Mukden roads from Tichang, which have been in touch with the Japanese advanced posts for two days.

Mukden, which was thrown into confusion, recovered today when it became known that the Japanese had been repulsed.

The prisoners captured showed that the Imperial guards division, formerly of General Kuroki's army, with a few other troops, made the two attacks of the last sixty hours on the Russian centre, which have already been reported, and kept up a furious demonstration while the Japanese flanks pushed back the Russian right and left flanks.

The Russian casualties on March 1 and 2 are reported to have been one hundred in the centre, while the Japanese are believed to have lost more than 1,000. Information obtained indicates that only three divisions of the Japanese army were engaged, and it is

believed that a formidable force of Japanese is on the way to Tle Pass.

Mukden, March 4.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—Refugees are arriving here from Simnintin and the region north of the Hun river.

Occasional discharges of artillery are heard to the southwest this morning, and it is reported that the Japanese have fallen back from the position they held when the battle was fought on March 3.

With Russian Headquarters, Huan Mountain, March 3.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—At nightfall yesterday (Thursday) flashes in the sky disclosed that a bombardment was in progress along the eastern mountain position.

The Japanese made two infantry charges against Putloff hill the night of March 3, but were repulsed with small Russian loss.

Fighting continues at Kantayindan, Holatsai and Katou pass along the entire line.

Mukden, March 5.—(Noon.)—The rumble of carts in the streets of Mukden is drowned by the roar of battle, which is raging northwest, west and southwest of the city a few miles away between General Nogi's Port Arthur veterans and the hastily assembled army interposed by General Kuropatkin to defend the city and railroads.

The night of March 3 the enemy made four determined attacks against our position at Housintu-potza and Tungshiatun. All were entirely repulsed.

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REPORTS FROM JAPANESE SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE RUSSIAN RIGHT FLANK, SOUTH-WEST OF MUKDEN AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE RAILWAY, HAS BEEN COMPLETELY TURNED BY THE JAPANESE FORCES UNDER THE IMMEDIATE COMMAND OF GENERAL OKU.

TO THE EASTWARD GENERAL KUROIKI IS DIRECTING A VIGOROUS ATTACK WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY AGAINST STRONGLY FORTIFIED RUSSIAN POSITIONS.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN IS SAID TO BE CONCENTRATING A STRONG FORCE IN FRONT OF GENERAL KUROIKI AND GENERAL NOGI.

IT STILL SEEMS PROBABLE THAT GENERAL KUROPATKIN WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RETIRE TO THE PASS, WHICH APPEARS TO BE A NECESSARY MOVE.

ST. PETERSBURG HAS WORD THAT AFFAIRS LATTERLY HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE BETTER FOR THE RUSSIAN ARMS, AND THE TACTICS OF FIELD MARSHAL OYAMA IN SACRIFICING MANY OF HIS SOLDIERS IN AN ATTACK ON IMPREGNABLE POSITIONS ON THE CENTRE AS A MERE DIVERSION WHILE THE REAL BLOWS WERE BEING STRUCK ON THE FLANKS, IS BELIEVED BY RUSSIAN MILITARY OFFICERS TO HAVE BEEN WANTON SACRIFICE.

THE CRITICS ALSO POINT TO THE ATTENUATION OF THE JAPANESE LINE AS AN ELEMENT OF PERIL FOR OYAMA, AND OF HOPE FOR KUROPATKIN.

THE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN HEAVY, BUT EVEN ESTIMATES ARE LACKING.

OYAMA REPORTS TIGHTENING CORDON

Japanese Are Making Heavy Gains--No Time to Investigate Spoils of Victory.

TOKIO, March 5.—(3 p. m.)—Field Marshal Oyama is continuing his great drives around both flanks of the Russian army. His front is now a huge bow, the base on the Shaike river, the right arm reaching a point east of Fushan, and the left arm extending to a point west of Mukden. He is steadily tightening the great cordon of men and steel.

"The night of March 3 the enemy made four determined attacks against our position at Housintu-potza and Tungshiatun. All were entirely repulsed.

"In the district east of the railway the enemy was encountered frequently, and small attachments were repulsed.

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infantry, 33,000 cavalry, and 35,000 artillery, with 1,504 guns. This estimate does not include troops at Vladivostok and other garrisons, railway guards and other employees. The grand total east of Lake Baikal is estimated at seven hundred thousand men.

London, March 6.—The German steamer Nubia, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mail at Hongkong, reports having sighted two Japanese squadrons on Saturday one hundred miles southeast of Hongkong. The first squadron, comprising nine battleships and cruisers, was seen at 2 o'clock in the morning going at full speed, with all lights out, and the second squadron of fifteen large warships was sighted in the afternoon.

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KUROPATKIN ADMITS ADVANCES

Names Points Occupied by the Enemy Without Admitting Their Significance.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 5.—The advanced guard of the Japanese left army were five and a half miles off Mukden station Saturday, according to a telegram from General Kuropatkin given out today. Other Japanese had captured Suchuzia and Lanshanpa the same day, while their attacks on Putloff hill and thirteen fierce assaults on Kandoesan were repulsed. The commander-in-chief's despatch, which was dated March 4, is as follows:

Kuropatkin Reports "Friday night was quiet on the western flank. On Friday a detachment of our forces on the Mukden-Simnintin road met and fought a body of the enemy advancing from the westward. Gun firing has been audible since morning in the direction of Suchuzia."

"All is quiet on the centre, excepting in the Shaike zone, which the Japanese attacked during Friday evening, and the tenth attack was repulsed, without succeeding in damaging the entanglements."

"The Japanese guard during Friday continued its attacks on Kandoesan, and the tenth attack was repulsed at 4 o'clock this morning. The Japanese corpses being piled high against our earthworks, were repulsed, without succeeding in damaging the entanglements."

"The enemy's attack against Gatau pass position was suspended towards Friday evening, but a renewal of it is expected."

"Their operations on our left flank were also suspended Friday evening, and it was noticed that the Japanese troops opposite Kidzidu were falling back."

"Major-General Schatloff and Colonel Gurko were among Friday's wounded."

"Today (Saturday) the advanced guard of the enemy which is enveloping our right flank was noticed between the Mukden-Simnintin road and the Hun river, five and a half miles from Mukden station."

"The Japanese today captured Suchuzia, but have not advanced further."

"They also captured Lanshanpa after heavy fighting."

"The Japanese advance to Shaike station was commenced at 5 o'clock this morning, but has been suspended. The enemy has been driven back by volley firing by our advance guard."

"Two Japanese attacks on Putloff hill at 11 p. m. Friday night, and one at 4 o'clock this morning, were repulsed."

In a later despatch of the same date General Kuropatkin says:

"The enemy renewed the attack on the Kandoesan position, but were beaten back at 8 o'clock this morning with great loss. Altogether the Japanese delivered thirteen charges. The attacks have since been suspended."

"Two attacks on the Kutilini position at 7 o'clock this morning were repulsed."

"The night and day were comparatively quiet on our extreme right. Our detachment Kuchitzu (about twenty-two miles east of Liaoyang) advanced somewhat during the night."

THE PROTEST OF THE LAMB

China Mildly Objects to Neutrality Violation--Japanese Reply.

TOKIO, March 5.—It is understood that China has lodged a protest against Japan, alleging infringement of Chinese neutrality by the occupation of Simnintin. The government has not indicated its attitude, but it is expected that the reply will declare that Japan is bound to preserve the neutrality of China as long as Russia does, but that the precedent of the Russians in occupying Simnintin created a condition of belligerency there, and that the operation was strictly in the nature of a military necessity for the protection of the rights and interests of Japan.

General Oku Looks for Fighting "On a Grand Scale."

General Oku's Headquarters in the Field, March 4.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—Late yesterday the Japanese occupied the second line of the Russian right defences, two miles northward of Benschu, and fighting on a grand scale is expected.

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Kuropatkin's Fate in Issue

Victory or Defeat Contingent Upon Outcome of Battle of Mukden Plain.

Extreme Extension of Japanese Line Gives Russians Chance to Strike Fatally.

Mikado's Generals Stake All Upon Success of Attack--Nogi's Men of Iron.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 6.—(3:25 a. m.)—The fate of General Kuropatkin and his army hangs in the balance today, dependent upon the result of the fighting almost on the outskirts of Mukden.

According to latest reports this morning, the fighting went well for the Russians, who beat back the wave that threatened to roll over Mukden as it had over the fortifications of Port Arthur; but nothing is known as to what is going on beyond the line of break-



GENERAL KUROPATKIN

ers—whether part of General Nogi's force is in full career for Tle Pass, or whether the Japanese have staked all in a cast against Mukden. The imminence of the peril on the west wing has withdrawn attention from the operations on the centre and left, where the fighting has been extremely heavy, and on the left especially, where the Japanese gains are sufficiently great to cause apprehensions to themselves.

Military critics here point out that the Japanese have put themselves in a critical position by the extreme extension of their lines, having themselves open, as they did at Liaoyang, to the possibility of a most effective counter stroke, and probably defeat, if General Kuropatkin should be able to launch a column against

The Weak Link in the Chain. In other respects the situation also resembles that at Liaoyang, the Japanese making a costly demonstration to hold the Russians in their fortifications on the centre, and throwing away the lives of thousands in order to give the flanking force an opportunity to administer a telling blow.

A feature of all accounts of the fighting reaching St. Petersburg is the emphasis laid on the awful carnage. There is reference after reference to dead piled high on the ground over which an attack was delivered, strewn about in all directions, and seen from sight, and even being used by the Japanese to construct hasty entrenchments.

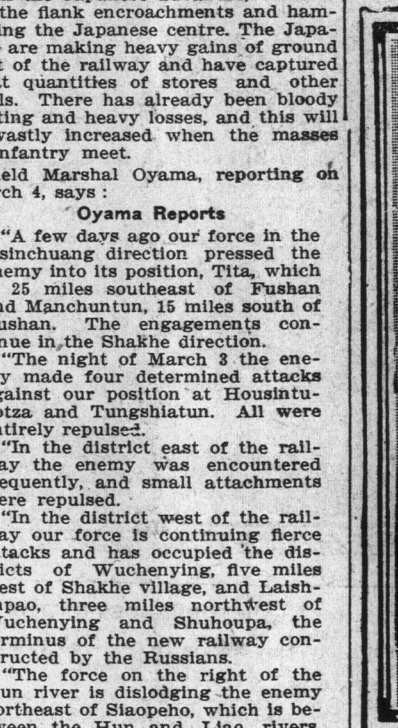
The Russian losses in both flanks are conceded to be enormous, but it is claimed that the defenders of the centre suffered comparatively little by the Japanese bombardment and the beating off of the Japanese attack.

The attacks delivered by General Nogi's soldiers were marvellous in view of the forced marches which they made for 24 days, recalling the records of Stonewall Jackson's "Foot Cavalry." They entered the battle with the greatest dash and fought day after day with vigor, but those of them who were taken prisoners dropped to the ground, utterly exhausted and hardly able to speak. They had not eaten for two days, which accounts for their utter fatigue.

General Kuropatkin's line of communication has not been touched, although it is in extreme jeopardy. His right flank is bent so sharply backwards that it may necessitate the abandonment of the Putloff and Noyorod hills to which the Russians are still firmly clinging. The Russians' left has also been so sharply repulsed that the correspondent compares the entire position to the letter C. The Japanese possibly are

Pushing Northward at Tangents with both flanks. A hopeful sign is the postponement until tomorrow of the grand council of war, which was to have met at Tsarskoe-Selo today. This lends color to the reports that the general situation has somewhat improved. The council was called to discuss the retirement on Tle Pass, but the action of the Japanese has made a successful retreat far more difficult than at Liaoyang, where but one flank was rolled back.

A flood of despatches came through today, but they were mostly old, referring to the fighting on the left flank and General Linvitch's losses, which have been already described.

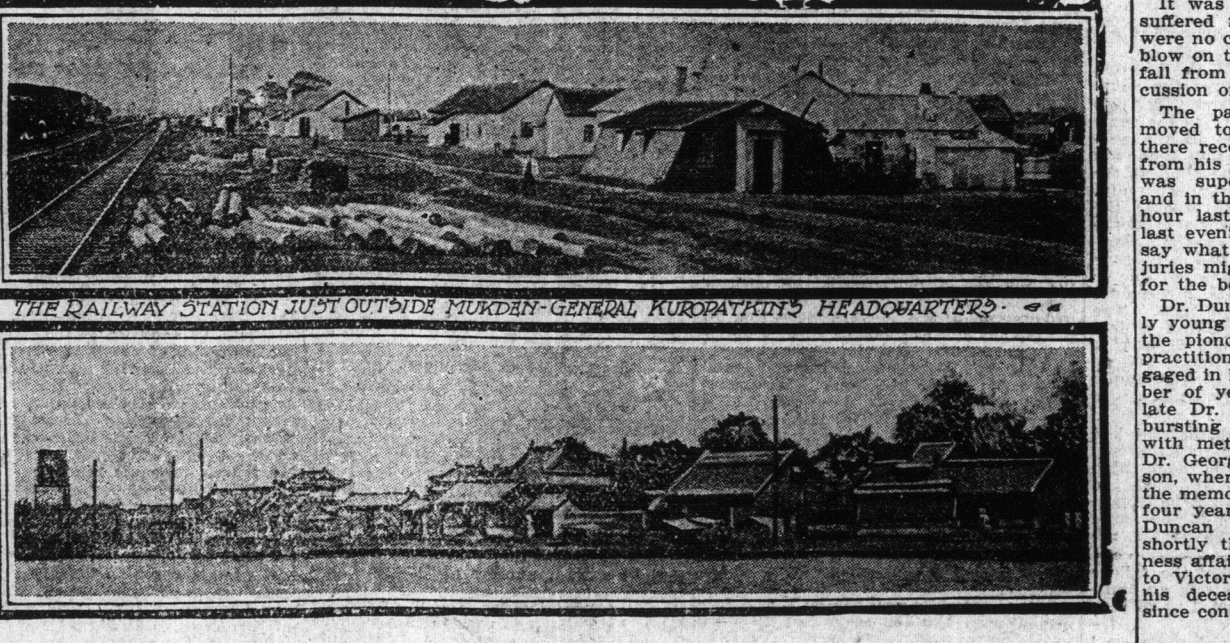


FIELD MARSHAL OYAMA

PERIL OF THE TACOMA.

Short of Coal and Imprisoned in Ice, Her Position is Precarious.

TOKIO, March 5.—It is expected that the steamship Tacoma, which is short of coal, and unless she is speedily taken to Vladivostok or some other port, she is in danger of becoming helpless.



THE RAILWAY STATION JUST OUTSIDE MUKDEN--GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S HEADQUARTERS.