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FORTS AND DOCKS DESTROYED

Russian Midshipman Says Fortress and Town Were Almost Completely Wrecked When He Left Port Arthur--Majority of Survivors of Siege Are Sick or Wounded--Officers and Officials Will Be Permitted to Return to Russia on Parole--Stoessel Criticised for Blowing Up the Warships.

Tokio, Jan. 3.—The Russian and Japanese commissioners appointed to arrange the terms of the capitulation of the Russian forces at Port Arthur signed the compact of surrender at 9.45 o'clock last night.

CONDITIONS ACCEPTED BY THE RUSSIANS.

Tokio, Jan. 2, 10 p. m.—The text of Gen. Nogai's telegram announcing the capitulation of the Russian forces at Port Arthur is as follows: "The plenipotentiaries of both parties concluded their negotiations to-day at 4 o'clock. The Russian commissioners accepted on the whole the conditions stipulated by us and consented to capitulate. The document has been prepared and signatures are now being affixed. Simultaneously with the conclusion of negotiations both armies suspended hostilities. "It is expected that the Japanese army will enter the city of Port Arthur tomorrow."

STOESSEL'S LETTER.

Tokio, Jan. 2, 10.30 a. m.—General Stoessel was prepared to discuss terms of capitulation reached Tokyo early this morning but was not made public until 10 o'clock.

The news is just reaching the general public and it is expected that the day will bring ample evidences of popular joy. Gen. Nogai, commanding the forces before Port Arthur, reports as follows: "At 5 o'clock on the afternoon of January 1st the enemy's bearer of a flag of truce came into the front line of our position south of Shushihing and handed a letter to our officers. The same reached me at 9 o'clock at night. The letter is as follows: "Judging by the general condition of the whole line of hostile positions held by you, I find further resistance at Port Arthur useless, and for the purpose of preventing needless sacrifice of lives I propose to hold negotiations with reference to capitulation. Should you consent to the same you will please appoint commissioners to discuss the order and conditions regarding capitulation, and also appoint a place for such commissioners to meet the same appointed by me. "I take this opportunity to convey to your Excellency assurances of my respect.

(Signed) STOESSEL. "Shortly after dawn to-day I will dispatch our bearer of a flag of truce with the following reply addressed to Stoessel: "I have the honor to reply to your proposal to hold negotiations regarding the conditions and order of capitulation. "For this purpose I have appointed as commissioner Major Gen. Ijichi, chief of staff of our army. He will be accompanied by some staff officers and civil officials. They will meet your commissioners January 2nd, noon, at Shushihing. The commissioners of both parties will be empowered to sign a convention for the capitulation without waiting for ratification, and cause the same to take immediate effect. Authorization for such plenipotentiaries shall be signed by the highest officer of both the negotiating parties, and the same shall be exchanged by the respective commissioners. "I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to your Excellency assurances of my respect.

(Signed) NOGAI. REACHED LIMIT OF HUMAN ENDURANCE. Chiefso, Jan. 3.—Midnight.—Commander Kartov of the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Vlast in an interview with the Associated Press correspondent to-night said: "Port Arthur falls of exhaustion—exhaustion not only of the men, but of men. The remnant of the garrison left had been doing the work of heroes for five days and five nights, but yesterday they reached the limit of human endurance. In the casements of the forts, one saw everywhere faces black with starvation, exhaustion and nerve strain. You spoke to them, but they did not give any answer, only staring dumbly. The lack of ammunition would not have suggested the seeking of terms. Scant ammunition had long been common in the fortress, and during the past month many of the forts had nothing with which to return the fire of the enemy. "The Russians sat in the casements firing not more than once to the two hundred shots sent by the Japanese. When the assault came they repulsed

the enemy with bayonets. But the men themselves having existed for three months on reduced rations, were so worn that it is marvellous they stood the final strain so long. "Yesterday Gen. Stoessel would fight. His wound, which was received early in the siege, had been bothering him, but his determination to fight while one man stood had not been diminished. "But we cannot fight," said his generals. "Our men cannot move. They keep standing. They cannot see the bayonets at their breasts. We can order, but they cannot obey. "Then you generals fight," said Stoessel, closing his fists. "He seemed fanatical on the subject, but finally he was brought to see reason by the insistence of his subordinates, who sometimes with broken voices urged the step which all dreaded so long. "I am sure that Port Arthur would have sought terms a month ago had it not been for Gen. Stoessel, who, with bulldog tenacity, steadily refused to permit such action to be taken. He had told his Emperor that he would never surrender, and he meant to keep his word. "The greatest loss suffered by Port Arthur occurred a fortnight ago, when Major-General Kondratiev was killed. He was a man who had been in the greatest star in Port Arthur. When his death became known the emotion of the soldiers was plainly noticeable. "Gen. Nogai has taken Port Arthur with his artillery and his tunnels. His rifle bullets were seldom found to be of any use. We constantly endured a bombardment fiercer than was ever before seen. We, who came here to-day, do not know the terms of surrender suggested by Gen. Stoessel to Nogai, nor the exact date when he left Port Arthur even before the messenger had been dispatched. "The general impression is that Gen. Stoessel has proposed that the army shall go free and that he alone be made the prisoner. "Even this concession seemed to wrench the sturdy man's heart. "We still have some ammunition and some guns on Lioai mountain, but that mountain is not adapted for the best defence from the land side, and the Japanese would find its capture easier than the other tasks they have attempted. Tiger's Tail peninsula has to be similarly vacated, and Golden Hill has been without ammunition for three months. "It is a simple story. Had the ammunition held out, the fortress would have been held indefinitely. For months we held Port Arthur by bayonets alone, until flesh and blood could do no more. When men fell there were no others to replace them. This the garrison was unable to do. The 293-Metro hill alone cost us 5,000 men. The capture of that hill was the beginning of the end. "In personal combat the Japanese are greatly inferior to the Muscovites. One Russian could take care of three Japanese in a bayonet fight, and some of our soldiers have records vastly higher than this. The Japanese are good, brave soldiers, although I have little liking for them. "I cost the Japanese 80,000 men to take the fortress, while some say they have lost over a hundred thousand. The number of our own dead is not known even to the high officials. "The fighting has been merciless. When Bilhing mountain was taken, 500 men were not able to emerge, so fast came the Japanese. The Russians tried to emerge by the use of their bayonets in the face of the guns—by bayonets alone. The Japanese did not give them a chance to become prisoners, but the men would have preferred death anyway. "One peculiar incident of the siege was fort No. 3, where for three months the Japanese occupied one part of the fort while the Russians occupied the other. They fought ceaselessly, assaulting each other and mining and counter-mining."

warehouses, docks and everything valuable. When I left Port Arthur the fort was almost completely wrecked. The warships died hard. Several explosions were necessary. To complete the Wrecking of Them. The Sevastopol after catching fire exploded and turned turtle. The harbor entrance is blocked with sunken ships. The only navigable craft now at Port Arthur are the hospital ships Kasan and Moncal. "You need expect no more ships from Port Arthur, as these were unable to leave on account of the blocking of the harbor. "Col. Reiss represented Gen. Stoessel in the negotiations for surrender. A table was spread with wine and food at the Eagle's Nest, and the envoys treated each other with great courtesy, which quickly melted into informal good fellowship. Each complimented the other on the bravery of their forces. "The statement is a false one. There remained 5,000 fighting men at Port Arthur is misleading. Of a majority of these half are sick or slightly wounded. There has been for some time no proper bandages, and wounds have been dressed with hemp. "The news that Gen. Stoessel was prepared to treat for surrender was received by the soldiers with the greatest relief. Feeling of Utmost Relief. For the past month severe wounds have been gladly received by the soldiers because they were allowed to rest. When the men were not fighting they were tunnelling on half rations. The bombardment of the last day was so terrific. Everybody remarked that even Gen. Stoessel must see the futility of further resistance when our guns were unable to reply. "We might have surrendered a month ago with the highest honor. That resistance has continued effectively since it is scarcely less than a waste of time. "It is a mere handful of broken men who surrendered and a debris-strewn desert, which the Japanese gain. Not one of Port Arthur's magnificent public parks remains. "The feeling when Gen. Stoessel took the unwelcome step was generally one of relief. The soldiers for whom one year ago they had fought and died are rejoicing that they will soon see their families."

GENERAL STOESSEL SHARPLY CRITICIZED. Tokyo, Jan. 3.—A m. Gen. Stoessel is being sharply criticized for destroying the Russian warships, attempting to sink the Russian fleet, and dispatching the torpedo boat destroyers to Chefoo subsequently to his offer to surrender the fortress. The Nichi Nichi says that while Gen. Stoessel made a gallant defence, his action in blowing up the ships after he had offered to surrender leaves a lasting bluish upon his military reputation. His action, however, was a waste of energy and leaves no room for an extension of the treatment of his action commensurate with the reputation won by the bravery and gallantry of his defence. The Russian officers, who are now being paroled, are paid with that of Gen. Stoessel. The Ijichi characterizes Gen. Stoessel's action as mean and unlawful, and says that it should deprive him of any military honors at the hands of his captors. The Ijichi also revives the charges of Red Cross violation at Port Arthur, and declares that no treatment would be too severe in fixing the terms of surrender. The Ijichi compares the action of the Emperor of Japan with that of Gen. Stoessel.

SAYS RUSSIANS WILL RETAKE PORT ARTHUR. Paris, Jan. 3.—According to the semi-official advice received by the foreign office regarding the terms for capitulation of Port Arthur signed last night, the Russian officers will be permitted to return to Russia on parole, the officers retaining their side arms. The capitulation terms indicate that the Russian rank and file of the garrison of Port Arthur, will come to Japan as prisoners.

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REPORTED REFUSE OF THE JAPANESE. Mukden, Jan. 2.—A heavy cannonade and rifle fire commenced on the Russian centre this morning and continued during the day. It is reported here that the Japanese attacked in an effort to break the centre, but were driven back with great loss.

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which for six months has had engaged there over 100,000 troops, and practically her entire navy. This fact compelled Field Marshal Oyama to fight the battle of Liau Yang shoreward. Now the entire navy is free to prepare to meet the Russian second Pacific squadron, and to attend to the Vladivostok squadron. A heavy force of troops will be immediately available for service in Manchuria, and this possibly will allow the undertaking of the independent enterprises.

RUSSIANS STUNNED BY NEWS OF SURRENDER. St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—The public seems stunned by the announcement of the fall of Port Arthur, which the government authorized this morning in the shape of the publication of foreign telegrams. Little had been done to prepare the people, and the impression produced, despite the heroic nature of the defence, was almost stupefying.

What will be the immediate effect of the announcement on the internal situation is not to be seen, although it is fully expected to be followed by big demonstrations on the part of the elements, which spare nothing to embarrass the government.

The authorities, with heads lowered for the blow, accepted it with dogged Russian courage and the stubborn resolve that the end was a long way off. Nevertheless, although this moment had been anticipated and discounted, it remained for the actual event to bring home a full realization of the great change produced in the military situation by the release of the men and guns at Port Arthur for the reinforcement of Field Marshal Oyama, and the indefinite prolongation of the war and appreciation that no decisive victory is even then possible without control of the sea.

It is affirmed, although positively denied at the admiralty, that it has been decided that the government cannot now take any chances with Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron in order to insure superiority over Admiral Togo.

In view of the situation Emperor Nicholas is now on his way to St. Petersburg, where he probably will have an immediate consultation with his advisers, but both the war office and the admiralty all talk of the possibility of peace at such a time meets with nothing but expressions of indignation.

THE SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION EXHAUSTED. St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—Gen. Stoessel's dispatches by way of Chefoo to the general staff relate how the powder in the fortress of Port Arthur gradually became less safe and more critical, the ravages of scurvy increasing enormously, and the casualty lists, already considerable from the Japanese assaults and bombardments.

Towards the end of the year the supplies of ammunition completely gave out, there was 14,000 sick and wounded in the hospitals and 8,000 fresh casualties coming in daily. The general reports state that at the end of the siege he had only 10,000 men under arms, the remainder of the original garrison having been killed or disabled.

KNOWS NOTHING OF THE PEACE RUMORS. London, Jan. 3.—The Associated Press is informed by the foreign office that the British government has heard nothing officially of the intention of Japan to propose peace to Russia through the American government. The foreign office added that it was very recently officially informed that Russia would not consider any proposals for peace at present. It was quite evident that the British government continues skeptical regarding the prospects of a peace.

Article 7.—The Japanese army, considering the gallant resistance offered by the Russian army, as being heroic, will permit the officers of the Russian army and navy, as well as the non-combatants belonging thereto, to carry swords, and to take with them private property directly necessary for the maintenance of life. The previously mentioned officers, officials and volunteers who will sign a written parole pledging that they will not take up arms and in no wise take action contrary to the interests of the Japanese army until the close of the war, will receive the consent of the Japanese army to return to their country. Each army and navy officer will be allowed one servant, and such servant will be specially recruited on signing the parole.

Article 8.—Non-commissioned officers and privates of both army and navy, and volunteers shall wear their uniforms and make their tents and necessary private property, and commanded by their respective officers shall assemble at such places as may be indicated by the Japanese army. The Japanese commissioners will indicate the necessary details thereof.

Article 9.—The sanitary corps and the accountants belonging to the Russian army and navy shall, under the Japanese while their services are required for the caring of sick and wounded prisoners during such time; such corps shall be required to render service to the Japanese army.

Article 10.—The treatment to be accorded to the residents, the transfer of bonds and documents relating to property and finances, and the detailed files for the enforcement of this compact will be embodied in a supplementary compact.

Article 11.—One copy each of this compact shall be prepared for the Japanese and Russian armies and it shall have immediate effect upon signature hereof.

RUSSIAN LOSSES DURING THE SIEGE. Chefoo, Jan. 3.—Some interesting statistics concerning the defence of Port Arthur have reached here. Originally the army numbered 35,000. Eleven thousand have been killed, 16,000 are wounded or sick, and 8,000 remained in the forts, of which over 2,000 were unable to fight.

During the siege 26.5 per cent. of the garrison were put out of action. This remarkable loss was due to wounded men returning to the front. Cases have been recorded where men have gone to the hospital four times, returning convalescent to the front.

The number of officers killed was proportionally greater than to any battle known in history. The Russians estimate that the taking of the fortress cost Japan \$100,000,000.

Gen. Stoessel doubts the determination next to surrender Port Arthur, realized the gravity of the situation following the capture of 203-Metro hill. The salt-bow which came through a storm on December 16th with half-frozen men, was carried, among others, two important dispatches. One of these was addressed to St. Petersburg asking what was the prospect of the arrival of the Russian second Pacific squadron, and the other went to Gen. Kouropatkin asking for relief from the Manchurian army. Both dispatches 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 Gen. Stoessel that he had won the confidence of the government, and that whatever he did would be accepted as being for the best. Gen. Kouropatkin 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, who is personally known to the correspondent of the Associated Press. It is highly probable that the findings he brought weighed heavily with Gen. Stoessel when he acquiesced in the wishes of his generals when they proposed the surrender of the fortress.

TRANSFER OF WAR MATERIAL TO JAPANESE. Tokyo, Jan. 4.—Gen. Negi reports to the army department that on January 3rd the commissioners of both the Japanese and Russian armies concluded their conference, and that from the morning of January 4th the actual transfer of war materials at Port Arthur as property of the Japanese government commenced.

The Japanese captured 25,000 prisoners at Port Arthur. The total number of inhabitants is 35,000, of whom 20,000 are sick.

The Jiji discussing the capture of Port Arthur reviews the price paid in lives, and says: "We ought to keep Port Arthur in our hands so long as our Empire exists. Port Arthur is the key to the peace in the Far East, and it is our duty to keep the key in our hands." The Emperor of Russia has cabled to Gen. Stoessel saying that the giving of his parole or the alternative of imprisonment is optional with the officers.

RUSSIANS WILL LEAVE PORT ARTHUR TO-MORROW. Headquarters of the third Japanese army, via Pusan, Jan. 4.—The request of the Russians for food, medicines and physicians for their sick and wounded has been granted.

Tsao, Ontar and Tsingkot forts were taken over by the Japanese at noon to-day. The date on which the Russian prisoners of war will be marched out has been delayed until January 7th.

TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS OF BESIEGED SOLDIERS. London, Jan. 4.—The Daily Mail Chefoo correspondent says that Russian officers, who have arrived there, bring descriptions of the terrible conditions existing in the hospital 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 ordeals, sickened under their posts because of lack of nourishment.

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

The correspondent adds: "Medicine and doctors were scarce, and the shrieks and groans of the wounded, mingled with the curses and yells of men who were undergoing operations without anaesthetics, made it a perfect inferno."

AN OBJECT LESSON TO BOTH ARMIES. St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—The press here contains absolutely no additional news of the war, but the papers with one accord praise the heroic work of the Port Arthur garrison, and say its record furnishes an object lesson to both Russia and Japan.

After bestowing a tribute on the defender the Novoye Vremya says: "The unpreparedness of the fortress, which now stands confessed before the world, reads as a lesson on what Russia must do and how she must change her method to achieve victory." It also shows Japan what she has undertaken when such enormous losses are entailed in capturing even a small empty-handed garrison, driven to the last ditch. Russia has had eleven months of hard but valuable experience in the art of war under the new conditions imposed by modern technical requirements. It has been costly training, but will be valuable.

In an even more strongly worded article the Russ says: "Had the Japanese been able to cut off the last train which reached Port Arthur the blockade would have found the fortress even worse prepared. Well may those remembering heroes say: 'We have done our duty, but you people of St. Petersburg and of Russia, have you done all you could and should have done?'"

The Russ concludes: "Russia cannot afford to quit during a losing fight. The time has now come for every one to put a shoulder to the wheel and redouble our efforts in the Far East." The paper

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