

# A FIERCE BATTLE ON THE YALU RIVER

## Fighting Raged for Six Days, and Resulted in Victory for the Mikado's Army --Left Flank of Muscovites Turned, and Charge by Japanese Resulted in Capture of Key to Position Held by Russians, Who Retreated--Japanese Casualties About 700--Russian Loss of 800--Antung Evacuated and Burned by the Russians.

reached the Washington government from its agents in the field indicated that two great armies would meet before May 1st, and that what has heretofore occurred was nothing more than mere outpost skirmishes and collisions between scouting parties. It is believed now, however, that the weather conditions in Manchuria have improved sufficiently to favor the movements of troops and artillery, and that the two vanguards have consequently come together a few days in advance of the expected date.

### AWAITING NEWS.

Japanese Officials Believe Kourapatkin Will Vigorously Oppose Advance Into Manchuria.

London, April 30.—Officials of the Japanese legation expect news of the fighting on the Yalu river early next week.

The information, despite Russian statements to the contrary, leads them to believe that Gen. Kourapatkin intends to vigorously oppose the Japanese advance into Manchuria in its earliest stages. The advance, it is believed, is now on the verge of being made.

### VIEWS OF OFFICIALS.

While News of Battle Is Not Confirmed It Is Regarded as Possibly True.

London, April 30.—Later.—The Japanese legation up to the present has received no confirmation of the reported Russian forces on the Yalu river, but the officials think it possible. The main body of the Japanese army is believed to have traversed the mountains between the Yalu and the sea, with the object of taking the Russian forces near the mouth of the river in the rear. The legation is of the opinion that the Russian army posted at the mouth of the Yalu were merely in the nature of a feint.

### LEFT MOUTH WOUNDED.

Japs at Mouth of Yalu Fired on Russians, Who Retreated to Mountains.

Tokio, April 30.—Admiral Hosoya, commander of the third squadron, reports that on the morning of April 29th the gunboats fired on the enemy at the mouth of the Yalu river, but the Russians did not reply.

Later a flotilla of small ships, armed with cannon, opened fire on the enemy at Sandakou, and the latter returned to the mountains, leaving many wounded. The Japanese had no casualties.

### MASSING FORCES.

Concentration of Japanese Troops Along the Yalu River Still Continues.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—The Japanese troops are still concentrating in the neighborhood of the Yalu river, but nothing of particular moment has thus far been reported.

The Emperor received a telegram from Gen. Kourapatkin, under today's date, as follows:

"General Zassalitch reports that the night of April 28th and 29th passed quietly. Small bodies of Japanese are moving on the right bank of the Yalu, at the mouth of which steamers are arriving."

"On April 28th, at about 2 in the afternoon, Japanese columns were seen going from Yonampou towards Wiju, and a party of Japanese scouts was seen on a mountain to the southward, off Sindiagu."

"The Japanese have not yet undertaken any active operations."

### WITHOUT NEWS.

It is thought that Japs Have Not Attempted to Bombard Vladivostok.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—The absence of telegrams from Rear-Admiral Yezenski this morning is regarded at the admiralty as proof that the Japanese have not attempted to bombard Vladivostok.

It is understood that Vice-Admiral Choukniki, now commanding the naval cadets school, will succeed Vice-Admiral Skrydloff as commander of the Russian Black Sea fleet, and that Admiral Korsakoff will succeed Admiral Choukniki.

### CZAR'S EXPLANATION.

Why Applications of Foreigners to Serve in Far East Are Refused.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—An official announcement is gazetted today explaining that the Emperor is refusing all applications of foreigners for permission to serve as volunteers in the Far East because he considers that the life and strength of the individual belong above all to his native country.

London, April 30.—The Observer says he understands that the Japanese legation has received a long dispatch confirming the reports of fighting on the Yalu river, but the contents of the dispatch are not available.

On the Yalu.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—An official dispatch has been received at headquarters concerning affairs on the Yalu up to April 30th. It is as follows:

Official reports received during the last few days state that on April 22nd a movement was seen among the Japanese troops on the Yalu, small detachments moving on the left bank. On April 23rd larger bodies concentrated opposite Wiju, and the Japanese proceeded to cross by small detachments. About two companies with a small body of cavalry crossed at Siao Fei Ussakou. From the evening of April 24th onward reports began to come to the effect that the enemy was preparing to cross the Wiju at Turen Cheng and Tshao Chen Ling.

On the following day the Japanese endeavored to throw bridges across the eastern arm of the Yalu, opposite Turen Cheng and Siao Fei Ussakou. Towards 3 o'clock in the afternoon they occupied the island of Somalinda and spent the night of April 26th on an island north of Sandakou. The Japanese, who numbered 15,000, were received by the fire of our light cavalry, who, being numeri-

cally inferior, took boats and crossed to the right bank, whence they kept up a lively fire, sheltered by a sharp ascent. Our light cavalry lost the chief of the detachment, Lieut. Somonoff, and 18 men, who were killed, but their severe fire at short range against the Japanese in close formation, must have inflicted considerable loss.

At 3.30 a.m., April 29th, by their firing on the island opposite Turen Cheng, our guns destroyed the bridge across the eastern branch of the Yalu towards the island of Somalinda, forcing the Japanese to continue their passage of the river by pontoons south of Wiju. About midday a detachment of Japanese with a battery of artillery began a march upon Turen Cheng, but meeting with the fire of our artillery, they retired in disorder and confusion towards the place of their passage. The Japanese batteries did not have time even to come into action.

At 9 o'clock in the evening of April 27th some of the battalions of the Japanese crossed the Yalu, the general of Matsoosoo over the eastern branch of the river.

The night of April 27th and 28th passed quietly. On the morning of April 28th our scouts reported that the Japanese had occupied an island opposite the village of Sandakou, having advanced posts on the left bank of the river. Our troops continued to occupy their position on the right bank of the river.

"Wait."

St. Petersburg, April 30.—All news from the front indicates that the armies of General Kuroki and General Oku, comprising about 100,000 men, are being rapidly pushed forward and will be thrown across the Yalu as speedily as possible. Japanese transports have also appeared at the mouth of the river, supported by a few warships will assist in the operations. The Japanese seem to be following closely the tactics pursued during the China-Japanese war, having already occupied Kullen Cheng, above Antung, where they crossed in 1895.

The opening of serious land fighting is considered to be not far distant. Although the Japanese are now crossing at several places above Wiju, a heavy movement of troops may not begin for several days.

While the Russian plans never contemplated a strong resistance to the Japanese in the Yalu, it is evident the latter made a show of defence of the river and some surprise is manifested even here that practically no attempt was made to impede the enemy's forces.

In explanation of this, it is significantly intimated by members of the general staff that General Kourapatkin has some secret plans that the Japanese may soon find themselves in a trap. General Kourapatkin's skill as a strategist is a thing in which the Russian army reposes a blind faith. "Wait until the detachment," officers of the general staff say.

They consider that General Kourapatkin as a tactician approaches real genius. It is estimated that it will take the Japanese at least a week to bring over their men and baggage and to prepare for an advance upon the first Russian force, which is strongly posted near Geng Huan Chong, 50 miles west on the Peking road. The general staff does not believe it will be possible for the Japanese to deliver a frontal attack on this position, the country being exceedingly difficult and favorable of disastrous ambushes. The members of the staff are inclined to think the Japanese may try a flanking movement to the northward, but say it they do so, it can only be a diversion, owing to the bad condition in which the roads will be for a fortnight.

While it is admitted the Japanese may be able to land at several places on the peninsula, and even cut the railroad, it is believed that they will not care to take the risks involved in such moves.

Vice-Admiral Togo could easily hold the Russian fleet in port during the disembarkation of the Japanese troops, but to insure their safety, it is believed he would be compelled to maintain constantly a superior force outside the harbor to prevent the possibility of the Russian fleet joining the Japanese base and cutting off their communications, leaving them to sustain, unsupported, a land attack.

Admiral Biryloff, in command at Kronstadt, emphatically denies the report of an alleged attempt on the part of a stranger to blow up the battleship Alexander III.

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Toiko, May 1.—11 a.m.—Advices from the front say that Japanese forces began an attack on the Russians on the Yalu river last Tuesday.

The battle was continued Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

A decisive struggle is anticipated today (Sunday).

On Thursday the Japanese effected a crossing of the Yalu and secured a lodgment on the right bank of the river.

The fighting on Saturday was at long range, and there was a duel with heavy guns across the river. Fighting was resumed at daylight today (Sunday).

The Russian force is estimated at 30,000 men. The Japanese loss is reported to have been small thus far.

### ENEMY'S FLANK TURNED.

General Attack Began Yesterday—Gunboats Assist the Army.

Toiko, May 1.—2 p.m.—Advices received here state that the 12th division of the Japanese were forced across the Yalu river above Wiju just before dawn Saturday morning.

The second pontoon bridge across the river near Wiju was completed at 8 o'clock on Saturday night.

The Imperial guards of the second division crossed during the night.

The Russian left flank has been turned, and a general attack began at dawn today.

Nearly all the Japanese batteries on the south bank of the river and a flotilla of gunboats co-operated with the army.

The Japanese have the advantage of numbers, and they are confident of routing the enemy.

### HOLD KEY TO POSITION.

The Japanese Troops Have Captured Chiu Tien Chen.

Toiko, May 1.—3 p.m.—The Japanese today captured Chiu Tien Chen, eight miles north of Antung, which is regarded as the key to the Russian position.

It is expected that the Russians will retreat to Feng Huan Cheng, which is on the road to Liao Yang.

### RUSSIANS FLED.

Charge by Japanese Resulted in the Occupation of the Enemy's Lines.

London, May 2.—A dispatch to the Central News from Seoul says that after the Japanese charge, which resulted in the occupation of the Russian lines at Chiu Tien Chen, the Russians fell back in confusion.

The Japanese, the dispatch continues, have now secured a firm hold on the Manchurian side of the Yalu.

### WORK OF GUNBOATS.

Japanese Flotilla Silenced the Fire of the Enemy—Two Engagements.

London, May 2.—The Japanese legation gave out today an official dispatch from the admiralty at Tokio, reporting an engagement between Japanese warships on the Yalu and the Russian shore batteries. It reads as follows:

"The captain of the gunboat Maya reports that a flotilla, consisting of the gunboats Maya and Uji and some torpedo boats, ascended the Yalu on May 1st, bombarding the enemy's positions.

"While they were returning, the enemy's artillery suddenly attacked the torpedo boats. The latter silenced the enemy, after a severe engagement, lasting 30 minutes, and the flotilla returned to Yonampou. There were no casualties.

"Our armed launches reached Antung the same morning and repulsed the enemy's infantry and artillery after 30 minutes of sharp firing and fighting.

"A native says that the enemy fled from Antung after setting fire to it."

### THE RUSSIAN RETREAT.

Official Account of the Fighting Issued by the General Staff at St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, May 1.—The general staff have issued the following account

Toiko, May 1.—7 p.m.—After five days of fighting, largely with artillery, the first Japanese army, under Gen. Kuroki, has forced a crossing of the Yalu river, and to-day, with a gallant infantry charge covering a frontage of four miles, it drove the Russians from Chiu Tien Cheng and the heights on the right bank of the Hoer Alda river, which enters the Yalu from the north almost opposite Wiju.

The Japanese turned the left flank of the Russian position and in the battle of to-day they swept away the front intrenched by the Russians to check their onward movement.

The present position of the Japanese is a dominating one and they may force the abandonment of the defenses erected by the Russians at Antung and other points lower down the river.

Gen. Kuroki began the movement on Tuesday by ordering a detachment of the Imperial Guards' division to seize the island of Kurito, which is in the Yalu above Wiju, and a detachment of the second division to seize the island of Kinteto, below Wiju, where they established their headquarters.

One battery of Japanese artillery which had taken a position on a hill east of Wiju fired three volleys at Kosen, and at noon of Thursday the Russian batteries behind Chiu Tien Cheng shelled Wiju, wounding one Japanese soldier with shrapnel.

On Friday the Russians resumed the bombardment of Wiju, firing at intervals throughout the day. The Japanese artillery did not respond to this fire.

### THE CASUALTIES.

Toiko, May 2.—7 p.m.—A supplemental report from Gen. Kuroki, covering Sunday's fighting, says: "The Russians made two stands. The enemy's strength included all of the third division, two regiments of the sixth division, one cavalry brigade, about 40 quick-firing guns and eight machine guns.

"We have taken 28 quick-firing guns, many rifles, much ammunition, more than 20 officers, and many non-commissioned officers and men as prisoners."

"I am informed that Major Kashtalinsky, commanding the third East Siberian Rifles brigade, and Lt.-Gen. Zassalitch, commanding the second Siberian army corps, were wounded.

"Our casualties number about 700, and the Russian loss is more than 800."

### BURNED TOWN AND RETREATED.

Toiko, May 2.—11 p.m.—The Russians were forced to abandon Antung yesterday. They retreated to Feng Huan Cheng after burning the town.

The Japanese now control the estuary of the Yalu river.

### OF LITTLE AVAIL.

In Spite of Fortified Position Russians Were Compelled to Retreat.

London, May 2.—Various opinions are expressed this morning regarding the importance of the Japanese victory at the Yalu. It is considered in some quarters that it was not likely that Russia would hold the right bank of the Yalu, except for tactical purposes, and that the success of the Japanese will greatly increase their prestige.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent says: "The Russian position at Chiu Tien Cheng from a fortified position in spite of every advantage entailed by modern arms."

The news of the very serious losses did not reach London in time to appear in the morning papers, and these losses are not yet mentioned from Russian sources.

A dispatch from Mukden says Gen. Kourapatkin arrived there on Sunday morning and left in the afternoon. His designation is not stated.

### WERE OVERWHELMED.

Car's Soldiers Unable to Withstand the Attack of the Japanese.

St. Petersburg, May 2.—At 2.30 this afternoon the Associated Press was informed that beyond the fact of the retreat of the Russians before the overwhelming superiority of the Japanese on the Yalu river, no details have been received since the report of General Zassalitch, commander of the second Siberian army corps, yesterday, of the retreat from Chiu Tien Chen to Antung.

It is quite possible the loss on both sides in the week's fighting may reach the figures given by the Japanese, as the reserves were not brought up to support the Russian position at Chiu Tien Chen, where the fighting was the heaviest. The Russians made a special effort to hold as long as possible the heights of Chosen, on an island opposite Chiu Tien Chen, whence their guns commanded a considerable stretch of river to the south, but a Japanese battery on a hill above Wiju dominated the position which the Russians eventually were forced to relinquish, thus losing the key to the river.

The desperate character of the struggle there may have been due to the necessity of gaining time for the withdrawal of the Russian detachments above and below.

Gen. Zassalitch was in command of the Russian Yalu, which extended along a front of over thirty miles, with reserve supports fifteen miles back. The whole, according to the best information obtainable, did not exceed 17,000 men. What was the actual force engaged is not known at present, though probably it was not more than 5,000 men, if it was that large.

No confirmation has yet been received of the reported capture of 28 Russian quick-firing guns or the wounding of General Zassalitch, as Gen. Kashtalinsky, in command of the third division East Siberian troops at the Yalu river, or the burning of Antung. It is confirmed that a village of thatched huts was set on fire by a shell.

The statement that the Russians have fallen back so far as Feng Huan Cheng

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"The Japanese troops at Litaven and Khussan retreated, partly to the Yalu and partly northward."

"Conspicuous gallantry was displayed by the light infantry of the 10th and 12th regiments under Lieut. Yantchi."

"At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 29th of April a Japanese force, of 1,500 infantry with twelve guns, began to cross the river at Ambikhe and Schogpoudy near Ambikhe. There was a small Russian detachment, under Lieut.-Col. Gousser, which was compelled to retire under the sustained fire of two Japanese batteries of six guns each. Four men were wounded, and Lieut.-Col. Gousser was struck on the head and left arm. Our mountain guns were unable to return the enemy's fire on account of the excessive range and reinforcements were sent to the detachment with orders to drive the Japanese beyond the Yalu."

"Gen. Mitchenko reports that Japanese warships at the mouth of the Yalu on April 29th opened fire on our troops, the cannonade lasting 20 minutes. No damage was done."

"All is quiet in Yankou."

"On April 30th from 10 in the morning until 5 in the evening the Japanese shelled our position at Chiu Tien Chen from their batteries on the left bank, where they had posted twenty-four field guns and twelve 120 millimetre siege

guns, which were cleverly mounted in masked earthworks. They fired a minimum of two thousand projectiles. Our troops stuck stubbornly to the position at Chiu Tien Chen."

"On the morning of April 30th the Japanese recrossed the Yalu at Sindiagu, attacking our troops posted on the heights near the village of Khussan and turning our left flank. Owing to the great superiority of the Japanese forces we retreated to a position near the village of Potietinsky."

"Our losses at the Chiu Tien Chen position were Lieut. Pakhaloff, killed, and Lieut.-Col. Mahler, commanding a battery of the sixth artillery brigade, seriously wounded in the head. Capt. Vorobieff, Sapojnikoff and Atrochenko and Lieut. Philadelphiaff, wounded; Lieut. Rantropoff, of the 22nd regiment, was seriously wounded in the head on the pontoon near Khussan."

"Our losses in men have not yet been definitely ascertained. It is only known so far that three were killed and nine wounded."

The general staff account of the operations of the Yalu river to-day is as follows:

"At 4 o'clock this morning the Japanese field batteries and 4.7 guns, opened a terrific fire on our positions at Chiu Tien Chen and on our troops posted near Potietinsky."

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