

THE RUSSIANS BLEW UP DESTROYER AT CHEFOO

Took Effective Steps to Prevent Vessel Falling Into the Hands of the Japanese.

Ship Had Carried Dispatches for the Czar From Military and Naval Commanders at Port Arthur—Is Stoessel Ready to Abandon Fight?

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army before Port Arthur, via Fushan, Nov. 15.—It is reported that a wounded Japanese officer, General Stoessel, has been confined in a hospital, that he refused to relinquish the command of the garrison, and that he has issued orders to the troops to die at their posts rather than surrender.

The Japanese now believe that the garrison has almost reached the limit of human endurance. The conditions in the fortress are such that the Japanese are confident that they will soon be able to capture it.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army before Port Arthur, Nov. 14, via Fusan, Nov. 15.—(Delayed)—Spies and Russians who have been captured report that the garrison at Port Arthur has been reduced to a few hundred men.

The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy, which was blown up by the Japanese in the harbor of Chefoo, after having eluded the blockade of Port Arthur, is reported to have been destroyed on November 3rd.

London, Nov. 16.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent with the Japanese army at Port Arthur, describing the attack of the Japanese on the eastern fortified ridges on November 3rd, says: "The terrific and continuous bombardment night and day from October 27th to October 30th was a masterpiece of modern practice, quite beyond criticism."

With appalling rapidity countless bursting shells mingled their smoke into a mass of vapor lines, and the air was gleaming with flashes of fire, the climax being reached at 1 o'clock with a tremendous fire of shrapnel across the northern breastworks of the fortress.

Suddenly every gun ceased fire and the Japanese infantry rushed out from their parallels on the hills had ceased reverberating with the thunder of the cannonade, from seven separate quarters against the Rihlung, Keekwan and Panlung fortified ridges. The attack was simultaneously developed without a single preparatory feint fully 4,000 troops dashed out pell-mell with fixed bayonets, waving standards and sending the air with shouts of "Banzai!"

The correspondent details how the various Japanese attacks were checked by the big mortars and the terrible Russian fire which rapidly depleted their ranks, notwithstanding a clever covering fire of Japanese machine guns.

It was almost remarkable, but fully substantiated the surmises of their ability to withstand the fire of the heaviest Japanese ordnance, and the use of smaller projectiles. It is estimated that the day's bombardment cost the Japanese \$200,000, representing nearly 20 per cent. of the cost since the opening days of the siege in August.

Before half an hour elapsed, and after losing 600 men, the Japanese abandoned the attack against the south Keekwan fort.

By 4 o'clock the Japanese fire had diminished in intensity and the assaults ceased shortly before sunset, when fire broke out.

In the new town of Port Arthur, and at the mouth of the Japanese opened a shrapnel fire on the eastern ridge to cover the retirement of their isolated assaulting column, whose situation was precarious.

The Russian consul officially notified the Tao Tai that the destroyer had been driven towards Chefoo in a heavy sea, and that it has been decided to disarm her because her machinery had been disabled.

This is looked upon as some quarters here as the throwing of a transparent veil over the purpose of the vessel's visit.

The torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy was of 240 tons displacement, was 200 feet long and had a speed of 20 knots. Her armament consisted of one 12-pounder and three 3-pounders. She had two torpedo tubes. She was launched in 1901.

Russian Destroyer Arrives at Chefoo. Chefoo, Nov. 10.—Noon.—It is rumored that the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy, which was blown up by the Japanese in the harbor of Chefoo, after having eluded the blockade of Port Arthur, is reported to have been destroyed on November 3rd.

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This rumor cannot be confirmed, but it is obvious that only dispatches of the highest importance would impel Gen. Stoessel to risk the loss of a warship by sending her out upon such a mission.

The captain of the Rastoropy has notified the Chinese authorities that he will disarm. It is believed that this decision was arrived at after communication with St. Petersburg.

There is reason to believe that Japanese hopes of capturing the fortress, although a steamer which has just arrived saw no Japanese war vessels.

The Rastoropy brought a number of dispatches of the highest importance to Gen. Stoessel. In one of the dispatches it is stated that while a Japanese destroyer was laying mines on November 14th, she was surprised by the battleship Retzivan and sunk.

DISPATCHES HAVE REACHED THE CZAR. St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—Dispatches from Gen. Stoessel, commander of the Russian military forces at Port Arthur, and Rear-Admiral Wiro, in command of the Port Arthur squadron, brought by the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy to Chefoo, have reached the Emperor but have not been made public.

The great importance of the information is apparent from the fact that the torpedo boat destroyer was deliberately sacrificed in carrying it to the fortress of the beleaguered garrison.

The only word that has reached the admiralty is a telegram from the captain of the Rastoropy, reporting his arrival with official dispatches.

An attempt of the Japanese to repeat the Ryshtel incident in these waters is denied. The captain reports that the Rastoropy will be disarmed and handed out to prevent the possibility of the Japanese entering the harbor and forcing her out.

The commander of the Rastoropy, in an interview of his adventurous voyage, said: "I left Port Arthur at midnight in a blinding snowstorm. The boat was navigated through the dangers of floating mines without a mishap.

On reaching the open sea we saw a Japanese cruiser and some torpedo boats in the distance. We were steadily pushed through the storm with lights extinguished and passed them unnoticed. We reached Chefoo without any mishap of any kind."

The commander of the torpedo boat destroyer was optimistic with reference to the fate of the vessel. He declared "all the reports of the Japanese capture of the Rastoropy are unfounded."

The former Russian governor of Port Dalny, Mr. Sakharoff, died recently at Port Arthur of cholera. He was 60 years of age.

The Associated Press later learned from a high placed general, who was with the Emperor this afternoon, and who knows the contents of Gen. Stoessel's message, that all the talk about Gen. Stoessel asking for instructions to surrender is absolutely false.

Consider the authority, the general's words are not only a reflection of the view of the Emperor himself. The general further stated that the Russian report was all the more ridiculous, as several vessels had broken the blockade and provisioned the garrison.

He added: "General Stoessel also knows that the second Russian squadron is on its way."

CONFIRMS REPORT THAT STOESEL IS WOUNDED. London, Nov. 16.—According to a dispatch received here from Chefoo, by a news agency, Commander Plan, of the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy, which reached that port this morning from Port Arthur, confirmed the reports that Lieut.-General Stoessel, commander of the Russian military forces at the fortress, is wounded but says General Fock is quite well. The commander added that there was sufficient supplies of food, ammunition and coal at Port Arthur to last a year.

SAPPING TO DISLODGE RUSSIAN TROOPS. Headquarters Third Japanese Army, in Field Before Port Arthur, Nov. 4, via Fusan, Nov. 14.—By a general attack on the eastern fortified ridges on October 30th, the Japanese gained the most of the principal forts. These were wider, deeper and stronger than had been supposed, and were defended by caponiers or galleries running north of the Keekwan forts.

The galleries were captured after most desperate fighting underground. The Russians still hold parts of the fort, but the Japanese are engaged in sapping to dislodge them, after which the capture of the fort should be easy.

The casualties on the Japanese side in this engagement were 1,000. The casualties in the attack of the Japanese on the fortress on October 31st were 1,500. It was an unsuccessful assault.

The powerful east Keekwan fort was gained, but the Russians were nevertheless able to re-occupy the Japanese down to the foot of the hill.

The Japanese are now sapping toward the crest of the hill. The capture of this fort would give the Japanese an artillery position from which they could sweep the ridges.

THE BALITIC PLEBET USSES UNEASINESS. London, Nov. 15.—Judging from Tokio dispatches and statements by Japanese officials, the question of Russian intervention in the Pacific is giving rise to some uneasiness in Japan.

PROBABLY WORK OF INCENDIARY

BRANDON WAREHOUSE AND DOOR WAREHOUSE BURNED

Loss Estimated at \$20,000—Youth Succumbs to Injuries Sustained While Playing Football.

(Associated Press.) Winnipeg, Nov. 16.—The Raf Portage Lumber Company's sash and door warehouse at Brandon was completely destroyed by fire last night, the flames completing their work of destruction shortly before midnight.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, but it is believed to have been of an incendiary nature. The loss is about \$20,000. The insurance is not known yet.

Died From Injuries. Winnipeg, Nov. 16.—Westley Kennedy, youngest son of Rev. D. M. Kennedy, Methodist pastor at Treherne, is dead from an injury to his leg sustained while playing football.

Winnipeg, Nov. 16.—With twenty polls out of fifty heard from in Mackenzie constituency, Cash, Liberal, leads with 520, the votes being Cash, 1,488; Patrick, Conservative, 319; Gabron, 3.

Man Missing. Winnipeg, Nov. 16.—John Robertson is supposed to have lost his life in the Lake of the Woods. He was in charge of Mr. Mather's lumber camps at Vermilion Bay, Ont., and was brother of Angus Robertson, manager for Mr. Mather at Keewatin.

NORTH SEA INCIDENT. Russian Embassy Is Represented at the Inquiry. Hull, Nov. 15.—Dr. Herbert Woodhouse will represent the Russian Embassy at the inquiry into the loss of the Russian ship, the Dugger Bank, which was sunk in the North Sea incident.

Lord Selborne's Advice to Britons—St. Petersburg Newspapers Resent Speeches by Ministers. London, Nov. 15.—Lord Selborne, first lord of the admiralty, speaking at Bristol last night and referring to Russia's having granted Great Britain's just demands said the crisis just experienced was an occasion for the country to take stock of its defensive organization.

It was useless, Lord Selborne said, for a business man dealing with its liabilities to mind matters. Instead of a vast stock of impassive country separating the two empires, Russia has two railways starting at the Afghanistan frontier only a matter of 400 miles from the Indian railway in Manchuria.

A suggestion by the Russian consul that the shelling was due to the trawlers failing to stop when blank shots were fired and the fact that the lights were extinguished on at least one trawler is considered here to be in some degree explained though not to excuse the attack by the Russians.

CAPTAIN'S SUICIDE. Put Bullet Through His Heart While on the Voyage to New York. Boston, Nov. 14.—Frank S. Israel, commander of the United Fruit Company's steamer Admiral Dewey, which reached port yesterday from Jamaica ports, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart on board his vessel last Thursday, when in the vicinity of the Bahamas.

ATLANTIC FARES. Terms of Settlement of Rate War Agreed Upon by White Star Company. Liverpool, Nov. 15.—At a meeting yesterday of the Atlantic line officials of the White Star, presided over by J. Bruce Ismay, president of the International Mercantile Company, the terms of settlement at the rate war just reached in Berlin were approved and passenger rates were ordered to be immediately raised to their normal level.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION. King of Portugal Will Probably Name Fifth Member if Admirals Fail to Agree. St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—The King of Portugal, it is believed here, will be selected to name the fifth member of the international commission which is to inquire into the North Sea incident in the event that the four admirals fail to agree on the selection of the fifth member.

LORD AND LADY MINTO. Civic Presentation at Ottawa—Their Excellencies Leave for Quebec. Ottawa, Nov. 16.—The civic farewell and presentation to Lord and Lady Minto took place at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Their Excellencies left at 4:30 by a special train for Quebec. Sir Wilfrid Laurier left today for Quebec. He has gone to see Lord and Lady Minto take their departure. The Premier will return on Saturday and will have for California on Monday.

NATURE REVOLTS AGAINST HIGH LIVING and it has set its seal to it by adding to man's ailments the scourge of diabetes. Eminent medical men until recently proclaimed it a "no cure" disease, but South American Indian Cure has knocked down their pet fallacy and has proved itself master of kidney disease in all its forms. Relief in 6 hours—110.

WILL STRIVE DOWN

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

INSPECTION OF FRUIT. Committee of Horticulture Board Reports on Complaints Made.

J. R. Anderson, of the department of agriculture, has handed to the committee a report regarding the inspection of fruit in Victoria, a matter which has been raised at a meeting of the board of horticulture on August 6th, 1903.

The committee reported that the appointment of G. C. Wilkinson as an inspector of fruit, a matter which was raised at a meeting of the board of horticulture on August 6th, 1903, had been delayed until now.

The committee also suggested that the fruit inspectors should be selected from among the fruit growers and not from outside the province.

Under the heading of "The fruit inspectors should be selected from among the fruit growers and not from outside the province," the committee expressed the opinion that the picking of fruit for export was becoming more and more important.

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