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# RUMORED CAPTURE OF PORT ARTHUR

## The Report Comes From Nagasaki--Kouropatkin Not Likely to Give Battle at Liao Yang.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4.—Gen. Kouropatkin's official details of the fighting on July 31st at Simoucheng, say that only a division and a half were engaged. The report does not mention the losses of guns, neither was Lieut. General Alexieff in command, as stated in the dispatch from Tokio yesterday. Gen. Alexieff, who commands the fifth Siberian division of Gen. Stakelberg's corps, was posted on the other side of Haicheng on July 31st.

The war office does not intend to publish the name of the actual commander at Simoucheng for reasons of military expediency. The war office desires to respect the Japanese to resume their advance for several days. They are probably awaiting the marching up of a strong column from Newchwang to the southeast. It is evident that the cause of great satisfaction to the general staff here.

### REPORTS THAT JAPS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE.

London, Aug. 4.—A dispatch to a news agency from Anshunhan, half way between Haicheng and Liao Yang, says: "The Japanese advance is being conducted with great energy against the Russian army. The Russian main forces continue their retirement northward, but the cavalry has checked the Japanese, threatening a flank movement."

The Daily Mail this morning has the following from Newchwang, under date of August 1st: "The Russian garrison at Simoucheng, which has been in the hands of the Japanese since the beginning of the war, has been destroyed and blown up near Sancha, and the crew, with the vessel's guns, have started for Liao Yang. Two Japanese gunboats left Monday to reconnoitre the position of the Simoucheng and were fired on."

### JAPANESE ACTIVITY AROUND PORT ARTHUR.

Tokio, Aug. 4.—The Russians being abandoning Haicheng on August 2nd, the Japanese occupied Newchwang the same day.

It is felt here that the critical hour at Port Arthur is fast approaching, but the public is ignorant of the hour when the final assault will be made, and also of the details of the work already done around Port Arthur. It is believed that the fire from the Japanese batteries will compel the Russian fleet to leave the harbor and accept battle from Admiral Togo.

It is becoming proverbial that the Japanese infantry will go anywhere, and will refuse to retire, no matter how great their losses may be. It is believed that Port Arthur could have been taken before this time with a heavy sacrifice of life, but it is evident that the military leaders are working to effect the reduction and capture of the fortress with the minimum loss of life. There will be no charges of great masses of infantry until the artillery has finished the task of silencing the Russian guns.

A story is current that the Emperor has expressed the wish that the capture should be effected with the smallest possible sacrifice of life, hence the care and precision taken by the Japanese in approaching the Russian defenses and the extensive use of the larger engine of war with which to clear the way.

### STORY OF ANOTHER FIGHT PROBABLY TRUE.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5.—3.10 a. m.—The fact that there is no further news from the front beyond Gen. Zassalich's account of the fighting at Simoucheng on July 31st, bears out the Associated Press's explanation that the Japanese are halting to bring up supplies, especially ammunition, of which a modern engagement entails an extravagant expenditure, and without which it would be impossible for a victorious army to follow up its success. The estimate of the loss of over 1,000 men, agrees with the figures in a related dispatch from Liao Yang, referring to the same fighting and which also says that the Russians were fully prepared to hold their positions when ordered to retire, which was carried out in perfect order.

The tropical heat continues and there have been many sunstrokes. The receipt of Gen. Zassalich's dispatch gave rise to further fighting around Haicheng, and several press dispatches were sent off describing a fresh battle between the forces of Gen. Zassalich and Gen. Oku. There is no justification for these reports.

### NOW WITH JAPANESE ARMY IN FIELDS.

Newchwang, Aug. 4.—Field Marshal Oyama, commander-in-chief of the Japanese forces in Manchuria, and General Kodama, chief of staff, left Kailashan yesterday and have established headquarters in the field with the army.

French Consul Agent A. Kreuter was arrested last night in a Russian house, where he was mistaken for a spy. After a short detention he was released.

PROBABLY CUT OFF BY GEN. NODZUY'S FORCES.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5.—3.10 a. m.—The fact that Gen. Kouropatkin's recent dispatches do not mention Gen. Stakelberg or Gen. Zaroubieff, leads to the supposition here that their forces to the southwest have had their communications cut by Gen. Nodzu's army.

DETAILS OF THE RECENT FIGHTING.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4.—The Emperor has received the following dispatch from Lieut. Gen. Sakharoff, dated Aug. 3rd: Lieut. Gen. Zassalich reports the following details: "In the fighting of July 31st the operations of the Japanese on the east front on July 30th convinced me that they were making an attack with their main force on our south front, near Oupinshan (Simoucheng), towards Dapozissa and Khalailaantou.

"From dawn on July 28th we heard cannonading on our right flank, which obliged me to hurry down to the south front where, at first from a battery and later from a range of hills, I directed the course of the fight. Our batteries began to fire at the first favorable auspices for us. The first report I received was from Lieut. Col. Solomsky, who informed me that he was being held in his position, although he had many wounded. I ordered at first two companies, and then a battalion, to reinforce him, although he did not ask for support.

"Simultaneously with the attack on the heights, the centre of our position, the Japanese directed an attack against Major-Gen. Mitshenko's detachment and against our right flank.

"The beginning of the fighting showed that the Japanese were not only out of their positions, but absolutely prevented from retreating. Our batteries sustained no loss and were able to develop their fire at their leisure.

"At 10 o'clock I received the following report from Lieut. Col. Solomsky: 'The Japanese turning movement has been stopped, the enemy sustaining enormous losses. We have many wounded. Capt. Golitsinsky was killed. The wounded included two officers and a surgeon. I am making a firm stand.'

"Simultaneously with the receipt of this report it was seen that our detachment had evacuated three crests of the mountain range. It was evident that Solomsky had too strong a force to cope with and had been obliged to give ground somewhat. He continued, however, to hold his position.

"The fusillade continued on our right flank without becoming threatening. Our artillery continued to crush the enemy's artillery fire, although the Japanese had brought mountain and field guns into action.

"At 3.40 p. m. I received a report that a regiment posted at the extreme right flank had retired from its position in the mountains, having had its flank turned. Six disabled guns were abandoned. Two officers were killed and two wounded. The commander of a battery was injured.

"Before this had happened the Japanese had placed two more batteries on the left of those which had previously taken up their position there, and with their batteries on the extreme left they began to bombard our battery as well as to enfilade the right flank of our formation. This was the cause of the destruction of our battery and the serious loss of troops on our right flank.

"The battery was completely shattered, but at the beginning of the action we succeeded in saving our guns, while four other guns were completely destroyed. Of these four, however, two had been spiked and abandoned owing to lack of horses.

"With the view of distracting the attention of the Japanese from our right flank, I directed Col. Lepetzat at 5 o'clock, when the heat had diminished, to order the soldiers to take off their equipment and assume the offensive. To support this offensive movement I ordered our batteries to open a hot fire on the ridges held by the Japanese. The fire of this point was murderous and the Japanese again sustained many killed and wounded.

"One attack, in open order, astonished all beholders. Our men, in this formation, advanced swiftly across the principal mountain range, rushing on

### CASUALTIES IN THE BATTLE OF SIMOUCHENG.

Tokio, Aug. 5.—11 a. m.—The Russians left 700 dead on the battlefield at Simoucheng, while the Japanese casualties during the same battle aggregated 800.

The Japanese captured six guns at Simoucheng and two guns at the engagements which took place at the Yangse and Yashulitai passes.

### RUSSIANS RETREAT FROM HAICHENG.

Haicheng, Aug. 2.—The Russians have been obliged to retire from here, as the Japanese were working around them from the east to cut them off from Liao Yang.

The fresh Japanese troops disembarked at the port of Newchwang and advanced on the other flank.

The main concentration of the Russians is now about Liao Yang.

The Japanese form a semi-circle of about 60 miles around the Russian positions. As this dispatch is filed the order for the troops to retire has been given.

### EVACUATION IS CONDEMNED BY MANY.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5.—The temper of the Russian troops, in view of continued retreats, is perhaps accurately reflected by the following brief message sent by the Associated Press Russian correspondents from Liao Yang: "The orders to evacuate Haicheng are condemned by many. It is heart-breaking to be constantly falling back, but there must be an end of this retrograde movement. A little more patience to advance only requires manliness."

### JAPANESE TROOPS LAND AT NEWCHWANG.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5.—A special dispatch to the Bourge Gazette from Liao Yang says: "According to a Chinese report the Japanese landed 5,000 men at the port of Newchwang on July 31st, and the first disembarkment of troops is proceeding."

### MANY OF WOUNDED ARRIVE FROM FRONT.

Liaokang, Aug. 5.—Trains filled with wounded men are arriving daily from the front. Many of them are proceeding to the Red Cross hospitals here. Two red cross hospitals have been opened here, and one private hospital has been established by the wife of Governor Moller. The prices of food have doubled recently.

### RUSSIANS DRIVEN FROM STRONG POSITIONS.

Gen. Kuroki's headquarters near Motien Pass, July 22, via Seoul, Korea, July 23.—From the brief official reports arriving the fighting on July 19th was as follows: "On July 17th the Japanese attacked a superior force of the enemy occupying the strongest defensive works. The attacks resulted in forcing the Russians to retreat along the roads northward and westward, in bringing the right Japanese line ahead some and in clearing the way for the Japanese advance. The Japanese flanked the Russians on both sides, spreading a comparatively small force into long lines.

"The Japanese loss was 1 officer and 33 men killed and 15 officers and 350 men wounded. One company lost all of its officers. Three Russian officers and 65 men were taken prisoners by the Japanese. According to the officer's accounts, the Russian loss was several hundred.

"The bodies of more than 200 Russians lying in the sand on the beach, some covered ambulance wagons could be seen hurrying about within their lines all day.

"To-night no Russians are visible from Motien Pass, and the Japanese troops have undoubtedly possession of the valley.

### RUSSIAN STEAMERS WILL CARRY COAL.

Constantinople, Aug. 5.—It is announced here that Russia has notified the Dardanelles of some volunteer fleet steamers laden with coal. Russia has given assurance that the vessels will show the character of merchantmen throughout the voyage.

### THE REMAINS OF THE LATE GENERAL KELLER.

Liao Yang, Aug. 5.—Lieut. Gen. Keller's body arrived here on August 2nd, accompanied by his son. Burial services will be held here, and the body will be then sent north by rail.

### SURVIVORS TELL OF THEIR EXPERIENCES.

Ohofoo, Aug. 4.—Two one survivors of the British steamer Hipsing, which was sunk by a Russian torpedo boat in Pigeon Bay on July 10th, arrived here today on board the German steamer Sultana. Among the survivors are three Europeans. They state that Wolf Hill fort was taken by the Japanese army before Port Arthur on July 28th.

The hardest fighting was done to the right of Motien Pass in the valley approach, which the Japanese line of defence, which they believed would hold a Russian contingent, consisting of a regiment

### PREPARING FOR THE FINAL STAND.

Chefoo, Aug. 5.—5 p. m.—Thirty refugees arrived to-day on junks from Port Arthur, which place they left August 1st. The departures of all divisions from Port Arthur is said to be due to the exhaustive preparations for a final stand against the Japanese.

Ohofoo is being taxed to provide for the unusual influx of travellers. The

### GOOD HOTELS IN THE CITY ARE ASSIGNING THREE OR FOUR TO A ROOM, AND THE OVERFLOW CONTINUES TO ACCEPT SQUALID QUARTERS ELSEWHERE.

attempted to advance through the valley to take the Japanese position by a flanking movement or from behind the pass, but was repulsed after an action lasting until sunset, when the Japanese troops abandoned the pursuit, and the Russians, who stubbornly contested the ground as they were forced back, marched away towards the town of Gaboo. One Japanese company lost all of its officers in this action, and a sergeant-major was finally in command.

The expansion of the Russian troops from the valley leading to Motien Pass was greatly assisted by a Japanese force consisting of a battalion of infantry and several guns sent from a Japanese brigade stationed on the left of Motien Pass, which attacked the Russians on their flank, menacing their rear and line of retreat.

On the morning of July 17th the Japanese outpost line protecting Motien Pass was entrenched on the lower ridge, where the fight occurred on July 4th with a few pickets stationed ahead. Major-Gen. Okawaki, expecting attack, had ordered the outpost, confronted by a superior force, to withdraw to the main line of defence on the highest ridge, a quarter of a mile across at the widest, and a large body of infantry advancing in the darkness at about 2.30 a. m., and retired according to instructions.

When firing began about 3 a. m. the Russian line facing the Japanese trenches was more than a mile and a quarter long. They occupied the temple and the road leading directly right to Motien Pass, leading nearly parallel with the Japanese position for a few hundred yards with a deep chasm, a quarter of a mile across at the widest, separating the two forces, also a wooded hillside in front of the pass.

The fighting along this line was severe for more than four hours. Comparatively few Japanese were killed. The Russians were unable to employ artillery here although they were using a battery in another fight on the right; and afterwards in the valley, during the retreat, they fired a few shots.

The fog lifting about 7 a. m. enabled a Japanese battery stationed on a height to reattack the attacking force effectively.

The Russians later began to retreat when the Japanese threatened their road of retreat, which was still further endangered by the advance of another detachment of Japanese on their left.

The Russian officers had collected their companies for retreat in close formation as usual, making their splendid retreat. Their ranks were splendidly formed against the brilliant green shrubbery.

Several shells burst among the retreating troops, scattering them into temporary confusion, and as the Japanese from their trenches saw a dozen men moved down by a single shell, they stopped shooting, and loudly shouted "Banzai!"

From 10 a. m. until noon the Russians slowly and doggedly retreated down the valley, and gathered in close solid bodies with rear guards deploying to envelop their retreat.

The shrubbery was so dense with frequent clumps of trees to furnish cover that rapid pursuit was impossible. No matter how closely the Russians maintained their formation with admirable discipline.

Some prisoners taken say that yesterday before the anniversary of the taking of the Siping Pass and a lucky day in the Russian calendar, the soldiers had entered the fight in the highest spirits, confident of victory, and as European troops, determined to prove their mettle. It was evident that the Russians expected to occupy the pass, because they had struck their tents and packed all their camp baggage in wagons, long trains of which followed the army.

Yesterday was intensely hot, and the wounded of both armies suffered fearfully. In the sand on the beach, some covered ambulance wagons could be seen hurrying about within their lines all day.

To-night no Russians are visible from Motien Pass, and the Japanese troops have undoubtedly possession of the valley.

### THE PRIZE COURT CONSIDERING CASES.

Vladivostok, Aug. 4.—Having disposed of the Arabia case the prize court will now take up the cases of the ships which were captured by the Japanese. Admiral Togo's flagship, however, signalled a refusal, and the junk proceeded alone. Later the refugees were taken on board of the German steamer Sulberg, which reached port to-day.

### SKRYDLOFF INSPECTS RETURNING CRUISERS.

Vladivostok, Aug. 5.—Vice-Admiral Skrydloff yesterday inspected the Russian cruisers which recently returned from the raid in the Pacific, thanking the officers and men, and especially warmly praising the engineers, going down into the stokeholds to distribute rewards. Vice-Admiral Skrydloff presented 25 cases of beer to the crews.

### ONE REGIMENT LOST EIGHT HUNDRED MEN.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5.—2.15 p. m.—Detailed reports reaching the war office from Gen. Kouropatkin's general staff show that the Russian losses on July 30th, 31st and August 1st, did not exceed 4,000. The Japanese are believed to have lost at least an equal number.

The Japanese fleet, which was returning from the raid in the Pacific, is being inspected by the Associated Press, it appears that most of the Russian losses were sustained on Saimatsza road and between Simoucheng and Haicheng.

The two divisions of the late Gen. Keller's corps did not make serious resistance at Yangse Pass, falling back on Liao Yang, and were completely routed.

Similarly, Gen. Stakelberg's and Gen. Zaroubieff's troops retreated upon Anshunhan half way between Haicheng and Liao Yang, without heavy fighting or loss.

The greatest number of casualties was sustained by Gen. Hirschelmann, who with the ninth European division held Kachiatou and Yushan Pass on the Saimatsza road. The fighting there was of the most desperate and bloody character. A single regiment lost 25 per cent, or 800 men before withdrawing toward Anoping.

Another point where a most stubborn resistance was made was at Nanga Pass, between Simoucheng and Haicheng, which was held by Gen. Zassalich, who had been placed in command of a newly formed corps, including the Siberian and European divisions. He was making a splendid fight until he suddenly discovered that the Japanese gunners were firing his batteries. He ordered that Zassalich in this case was not to blame.

The information that Zaroubieff had achieved a victory to retire had not reached him yet with his own orders of the withdrawal of the Russian support of the right, and consequently he allowed the Japanese to take up a new position, and daily unmask batteries and overwhelm the Russian gunners, who made desperate efforts to remove their pieces, but were compelled to leave six of them behind.

There has been no further fighting of any importance since August 1st, according to the latest reports received by the war office. In the opinion of the general staff both sides need a rest after fighting three days in terrible heat, and the officials here are inclined to believe that the Japs will not be able to resume their advance for several days.

### JAPANESE TOOK MORE THAN 100 PRISONERS.

London, Aug. 5.—3.05 p. m.—A dispatch to the Japanese legation from Tokio announced that Gen. Kuroki estimates the Russian casualties at the battle of Yushan Pass and Yangse Pass as at least 2,000. The Japanese captured 8 officers and 149 men, 2 field guns, many rifles, etc.

### FIGHTING LASTED FOR TWO DAYS.

Tokio, Aug. 5.—It is now estimated that the Russians lost 2,000 men in the fighting at Simoucheng. The Japanese captured 100 bodies in the valleys through which the Russians fought and retreated. The Japanese captured six guns, five hundred and thirty three prisoners. A detachment of the Russian medical corps, captured by the Japanese, was returned to the Russian lines. The Japanese loss at Simoucheng amounted to 800 men, including eight officers killed and 24 officers wounded.

When the Hipsing began to sink the Chinese on board rushed for the boats and the Europeans were compelled to swim. Finally they were rescued by the torpedo boat and were spangled with

### FORSAKE THE ASSUMPTION OF THE OFFENSIVE ON THE PART OF THE RUSSIANS. GENERAL KUROKI TELEGRAPHED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE GRADUALLY REINFORCED UNTIL THEY HAD FOUR DIVISIONS. THE CENTER MOVED ON TO THE LINE AND TO ANPING, WHICH IS THIRTEEN MILES FROM LIAO YANG. BEFORE THE SIMOUCHENG FIGHT, ON JULY 29TH AND 31ST, THE RUSSIANS LEFT AT YUSHANLIU, SHOWED SIGNS OF ACTIVITY; THE ADVANCE GUARD OCCUPIED CERTAIN HEIGHTS IN FRONT OF THE MAIN POSITION.

When it became evident that the Russians were conducting their forces, Gen. Kuroki determined to attack before the movement was completed. He started his army on July 30th, sending his right against Yushanliu, his left to Yangtsing, a separate detachment keeping in touch with the right wing, which moved against the Russian left at Yushanliu. The country at this point is a succession of hills and dales, disadvantageous to the attacker. The Russians showed great ingenuity in entrenching and defending their positions. Frontal and flank attacks were delivered simultaneously against the Russians at Yushanliu at dawn of Sunday, the Japanese artillery first clearing the way for the infantry. This position was captured but the general advance was delayed to await the success of the Japanese left column, which had attempted repeatedly to retake their former positions at Yushanliu, but the Japanese repulsed them every time.

The Japanese left column encountered the Russian army of the enemy at Pining and repulsed it. Later a separate detachment of Japanese troops flanked and pursued a heavy detachment of Russian troops which was retreating from Pining. The topographical conditions of the country prevented the completion of this flank movement.

The fighting at Yangtsing began at dawn of Sunday, July 31st, when the Japanese drove back the Russian outpost companies and took possession of their positions. The Russian artillery was ineffective here. The heights of Yangtsing were held by the Russians with four battalions. A flanking column had scaled some heights and won the Russian range, and at 11 o'clock the Japanese artillery was strengthened.

During the afternoon the infantry pressed forward and by entire lines of the Russian range, and the Japanese assisted stubbornly. The battlefield was a most difficult one upon which to manoeuvre, and the Japanese were unable to dislodge the enemy.

The troops of the Mikado slept in battle formation when the coming of night suspended hostilities. Fighting was resumed on Monday, but the Russians were repulsed. The troops were specially repulsed.

Gen. Kuroki estimates the Russian casualties at 2,000.

### TURNED FLANK OF RETREATING RUSSIANS.

Washington, Aug. 5.—The Japanese legation has received the following cablegram from Tokio, dated to-day: "According to a detailed report received from Gen. Kuroki, one of the heaviest reverses which befell the enemy during the engagement at Pining, five miles south of Yushanliu, where our detachment turned the flank of the retreating Russians. Our detachment consisted of three infantry regiments with four guns. On the afternoon of the same day the Russians approached the scene of the battle-field with Red Cross flags for carrying away the wounded, which was permitted, stopping our firing."

A second dispatch reads as follows: "General Oku sends the following additional report concerning the attack of last Sunday on the Oumshing: 'Our casualties in this engagement reached 500, of which 194 were killed and 600 were wounded. We buried one honor about 700 of the enemy's dead. We captured six field guns, many rifles, shells and large quantities of flour, barley, ammunition, etc.'

"General Kuroki reports that our casualties in the engagement of Yushanliu and Yangtsing reached 900, including forty officers. The enemy's casualties are estimated at 2,000 at least. We captured 8 officers, 149 men, two field guns, many rifles, tents, shells and several other things."

### REPORT THAT JAPS HAD BEEN REPULSED.

Mukden, Aug. 5.—It is reported here that the Japanese attacked the Russian position at Anshun, midway between Haicheng and Liao Yang, on August 2nd, and were repulsed with heavy loss. The Russian casualties are not known.

### JAPS SHELLS FAIL TO REACH CITY.

Ohofoo, Aug. 5.—(Evening).—Exhaustive interviews with refugees from Port Arthur, who arrived here to-day, elicited nothing materially changing previous stories of the general situation. While the guns of the fortress were employed during the three days of fighting, the fortress itself was not attacked directly. The Japanese steamer Newchwang carried artillery from Newchwang as well as sixty-five thousand shells of various sizes.

The refugees say that the 12-inch shells which hit the Japanese gun on the mountain was not fired from the battery mounted on Porpikogah hill. The shell struck a magazine and created havoc.

The refugees declare that the 12-inch guns on board the warships had no difficulty in reaching Wolf's mountain,

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