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H. O. STEVENS, Victoria, B. C., March 23rd, 1904.

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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1904.

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THE TORPEDO BOATS FOUGHT ALL NIGHT

Russian Account Says They Kept Up a Running Fight with the Japanese Until Early Wednesday Morning--The Sinking of a Battleship and Destroyer.

St. Petersburg, April 15--5:52 a.m.--Rumors are current here that Vice-Admiral Togo sent in a number of steamers on the night of March 31st, and succeeded in sinking several of them and in blocking the channel of Port Arthur.

The date referred to by the correspondent in the above dispatch, March 31st, is probably according to the old style calendar, by which the event would have taken place on April 12th, according to the new style calendar.

Plunged in Grief. St. Petersburg, April 14--The official bulletin conveying the intelligence of the loss of another torpedo boat destroyer and the accidental crippling of another battleship was almost as severe a blow as the loss of the Petropavlovsk yesterday, and plunged the whole town into a new grief.

After the official bulletins had been issued this afternoon there was talk of the possibility of the destruction of the Petropavlovsk having been caused by a submarine boat, but this received little credence in official circles.

The exact character of the injuries to the Petropavlovsk is not yet known. The battleship sank two and a half minutes after striking the mine.

The Sinking of Battleship. St. Petersburg, April 14--The Associated Press obtained to-night what is practically the official version of the sinking of the battleship Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur, and it clears up, to a great extent, the mysterious features of that vessel's destruction.

Retiring before the advance of a superior Japanese fleet, the Russian squadron approached the entrance to the harbor. It was shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning, and most of the officers and members of the crew were at breakfast on the flagship.

At about 8:30 o'clock there was a terrific explosion of the boilers, followed a few seconds later by a detonation which was heard in all directions, those falling into the water, the muzzles, huge gaps were torn in the hull of the ship and the water rushed in. The centre of gravity having been shifted, the ship rolled on her side and sank.

All information tends to prove that a mine was responsible for the destruction of the battleship. The scene below will never be described as so far as known, not a single person on deck succeeded in escaping. The hot steam which scalded the men on deck indicated what must have been the character of the death met by those in the engine room.

The men on deck were thrown in all directions, those falling into the water swimming and grasping the wreckage floated up in the vortex caused by the sinking of the ship.

The remainder of the squadron immediately stopped and lowered small boats, and torpedo boats steamed as quickly as possible to the rescue of the survivors.

Rear-Admiral Uriu's statement that Vice-Admiral Togo's fleet was responsible for the sinking of the Petropavlovsk is the opinion entertained by the general staff. There is a disposition in some circles here to raise a controversy as to whether the explosion occurred inside or outside the battleship.

The Emperor this evening appointed Vice-Admiral Skrydloff, commander of the Black Sea fleet, successor to the late Vice-Admiral Makaroff as commander-in-chief of the Russian navy forces in the Far East, and has telegraphed him to direct from Sebastopol to Port Arthur and assume command there. Yassili Verezhagin, the famous Russian painter of war scenes, was Vice-

Admiral Makaroff's guest on the Petropavlovsk. It is reported that he was lost with the ship. Nicholas T. Kravtchenko, the well-known Russian literary man, who was acting as correspondent of the Associated Press at Port Arthur, it is believed, went down with the battleship. Telegrams to him remain unanswered.

The exact number of Vice-Admiral Makaroff's staff on board the ship when she sank is unknown. She had a complement of about 650, of which 52 were saved at last accounts.

Was Ship Torpedoed? London, April 15--A news agency dispatch from Port Arthur, by way of St. Petersburg, says that after a fierce fight between torpedo boats on the night of April 12th, the squadron went out in the morning into the roads and took up combat with fourteen large Japanese vessels. At 10:20 in the morning, as the result of an explosion, the battleship Petropavlovsk sank with her crew.

The dispatch then gives a partial list of those saved from the vessel. Rear-Admiral Prince Oukolovsky is declared that advice from both Russian and Japanese sources indicates that the battleship was torpedoed. Admiral Makaroff, the correspondent says, was enticed outside and the Japanese submarine boat sank him.

The Japanese squadron, consisting of about 20 ships, remained in sight until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Petropavlovsk was surrounded by the three Japanese torpedo boat destroyers and sunk.

The Japanese boats then withdrew and the Japanese squadron appeared on the horizon, whereupon the Russian squadron left the roadstead, steering in the direction of the enemy's ships, which retired.

Soon, however, the Japanese reappeared with a formidable force of about a score of warships. The Russian squadron returned to the roadstead and took up a position in line of battle, ready to receive the enemy.

The sudden explosion which destroyed the Petropavlovsk occurred almost immediately thereafter, and the battleship went to the bottom. Grand Duke Cyril and Capt. Jakovliff, the commander of the Petropavlovsk, four officers and some 50 men were saved.

The battleship Pobieda was damaged amidships, and went into the inner harbor, where she anchored.

The enemy's vessels, which were formed in two divisions, disappeared in the course of the afternoon.

The fresh breeze, which was blowing throughout Wednesday, developed into a gale towards night.

ENGAGED ALL NIGHT. Russian Torpedo Boats Were Unable to Shake.

Port Arthur, April 14--1:40 p.m.--The division of the Russian torpedo boats which put to sea on Tuesday night, kept up a running fight with the enemy until Wednesday morning, when the cruiser Bayan steamed out to aid the torpedo boat destroyer Bezstrashni, which was crippled and unable to shake off the Japanese attack.

The Bayan drove the enemy off, but the Bezstrashni sank at 7 a.m.

The Japanese torpedo boats withdrew, but almost immediately six Japanese warships appeared on the horizon. Admiral Makaroff ordered the squad-

ron out to meet them, and the Japanese retired, but almost immediately reappeared, reinforced until the fleet consisted of sixteen or seventeen warships.

The Russians put back to the roadstead and formed a battle line, when at precisely 10 o'clock, without warning, the Petropavlovsk blew up and sank.

The Pobieda received a breach amidships and retired to the inner harbor, where an examination proved that her injuries were not very serious.

Grand Duke Cyril, Capt. Jakovliff and Lieut. Hakovsky, Midshipmen Siflitse, Janish and Hakomloff were rescued.

Reports as to the number of seamen saved are conflicting, one placing the number at 32 and another at 57.

They were rescued by the torpedo gunboat Gaydamak.

The cause of the destruction of the Petropavlovsk has not yet been ascertained.

HEARD FIRING. There May Have Been Another Engagement Off Port Arthur on Thursday.

Chefoo, April 15--2 p.m.--Admiral Tash, in command of the Chinese cruiser squadron, reports that he heard intermittent firing in the direction of Port Arthur all day yesterday (Thursday).

SINKING OF BATTLESHIP. Russian Officials Deny It Was Result of Being Struck by Torpedo.

St. Petersburg, April 15--The naval department has information confirming last night's report that the Japanese have succeeded in blocking the entrance of the harbor of Port Arthur.

Grand Duke Boris is being brought back to Russia, by command of the Emperor. At the Vladimir Palace the correspondent of the Associated Press was informed this morning of the receipt of a reassuring telegram from Liao Yang, where the Grand Duke has arrived with his brother Boris.

The admiralty authorizes the Associated Press to deny Vice-Admiral Togo's claim that the Japanese sank the Petropavlovsk in a fight off Port Arthur. The official declare positively that there was no naval engagement, excepting the torpedo boat destroyer fight, either preceding or following the loss of the battleship.

Russia has formally acceded to Japan's request, made through the United States, to allow 600 Japanese refugees and the Japanese consular staff of the Island of Sakhalin (in the North Pacific) to return to Japan.

They will be taken off in a neutral ship, which will be arranged for by the Washington authorities.

GRAND DUKE'S ESCAPE. Swept From Battleship and Was Picked Up by One of the Destroyers.

St. Petersburg, April 15--A telegram from Grand Duke Boris to Grand Duke Vladimir, dated at Liao Yang, yesterday, gives Grand Duke Cyril's account of his escape from death in the disaster to the Petropavlovsk.

According to his story Cyril fell at the moment of the explosion to the port side of the bridge, and from there he lowered himself to the deck. He was then swept away by an immense wave, and sank to a considerable depth, but succeeded in regaining the surface. By his own efforts he caught a floating fragment of the Petropavlovsk's launch, to which he clung for about ten minutes when he was picked up by the destroyer Bezstrashni.

UNCONFIRMED RUMOR. That Grand Duke Cyril is Dead--Last Telegram He Was Improving.

St. Petersburg, April 15--3:25 p.m.--Persistent rumors that Grand Duke Cyril is dead, but the representative of the Associated Press cannot secure any information. On the contrary, Lieut-General Prince Galtsine, master of the Grand Duke Vladimir's household, is the Associated Press authority for the statement that the telegram received this morning reported the condition of the Grand Duke Cyril as being better.

their Port Arthur attacks are given color by a statement credited to a retired naval officer in this city. He declares it to be the only way in which one can account for the succession of disasters met by the Russian ships.

"It is incredible," he said, "that ships which undoubtedly have charts of the mines aboard should be blown up by them. One of the first things Vice-Admiral Makaroff did when he reached Port Arthur was to survey the harbor and locate the mines. 'What is the sense of these constant bombardments if they are not feints made in order to entice the Russian ships out. Theories that the Petropavlovsk struck her own mines or that the Japanese planted a mine during a night attack are untenable, and we know that the Japanese have submarines. A United States naval officer landed at the Wring dock, an apparently unused wharf in a Japanese town, before the war, and saw a submarine surrounded on three sides by high fences, so that it was visible only from the water side. Before he had an opportunity to examine it, Japanese soldiers on guard drove him away. They were so angry and so highly indignant that he should have caught sight of the boat at all.'

JAPANESE REPORT. Rear-Admiral Says Torpedoes Were Responsible For Sinking of Battleship.

Paris, April 15--The Japanese legation says Rear-Admiral Uriu's report shows that Japanese torpedoes sunk the Petropavlovsk and damaged the Pobieda, and declares that the reports that submarine boats did the damage are incorrect, as the Japanese fleet had no submarine boats. The Japanese legation pays a high tribute to the late vice-admiral.

St. Petersburg, April 15--A telegram from Admiral Alexieff from Port Arthur to the Emperor says: "From 9:15 o'clock this morning to midday the Japanese fleet, in two divisions, bombarded the fortress and the town alternately from the Liao Tshin promontory, firing 155 projectiles.

"The Russian squadron, including the battleship Pobieda, replied from the anchorage by a plunging fire. The battleships also participated.

"The losses on land were seven Chinese killed and five soldiers, and three Chinese wounded.

"The Russian warships sustained no damage and there was no loss of life there."

That Vice-Admiral Togo has not given up hope of further damaging the Russian ships, now that there is little possibility of their going to sea, is shown by his bombardment of Port Arthur. In order to drop a shell into the harbor or city a high angle is necessary. This is the reason the Japanese took up a position at Liao Tshin. Other bombardments were from the same point, which at the time did not seem to be within the range of the Russian batteries.

The abandonment of Vice-Admiral Makaroff's policy of taking the fleet to the outer roads to the rear of the harbor is shown in the report of Vice-Admiral Alexieff that his ships fired over the hills.

Information which has slowly reached St. Petersburg has modified the opinion at first prevailing concerning the original cause of the destruction of the battleship Petropavlovsk. There is gradually developing a disposition to admit the possibility that, after all, Japanese torpedo boats may have dropped mines at the entrance to Port Arthur. An official remark to the Associated Press is: "It would be far better if the ship was actually blown up by the enemy's mine instead of by a Russian mine. The helplessness and would properly arouse the Emperor's displeasure. The former, while it would speak volumes for Japanese craftiness, could not readily be avoided. On dark nights it would be almost impossible for the searchlights of the batteries to pick up the torpedo boats, however carefully manipulated.

Even should it be finally established that a Japanese mine destroyed the Petropavlovsk, it will not affect the general appreciation of Vice-Admiral Makaroff's high qualities.

The Damaged Pobieda. St. Petersburg, April 15--The injuries to the Russian battleship Pobieda are declared to be slight. The explosion which injured her took place just at the water line. The opinion expressed at the admiralty is that the Russian ship, floating on the surface of the water and which may have been fired during the torpedo fight.

There are now only two undamaged battleships, the Peresviet and the Sevastopol, in the harbor at Port Arthur, but some of the damaged vessels have been repaired.

Rumor of Reverse. London, April 16--The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Standard makes a rumor to the effect that Vice-Admiral Togo's fleet escorted a Japanese landing of troops to the westward of the Yalu river. When 12,000 men had been landed the Russian troops, who were concealed, suddenly attacked them, driving them back to the ships with heavy losses in men and guns.

Japs Placed Mines. Kobe, Japan, April 15--It is asserted in naval circles here that the Japanese arranged to lay thirty mines at the entrance to Port Arthur and then enticed the Russians out. The mines were placed in position and Port Arthur was bombarded on April 13th. Several Russian warships besides the Petropavlovsk were damaged.

Condolences. Washington, April 15--Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, having formally expressed to the President the condolence of his government upon the accident, sustained by the Missouri, the President in turn personally expressed his deepest sympathy for the loss sustained by the Russians in the death of Makaroff, whose comrade he was during

in escaping to a near-by refuge. The report does not mention any loss of life, nor does it give the cause of the fire, but the recent political unrest in the Korean capital leads to fears that the destruction of the palace was the work of the rebellious element.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA. Reports From Vienna State That There Is Considerable Unrest.

New York, April 15--A cable to the Times from Vienna says: "Under reports are afloat regarding the situation in Russia, but no confirmation of them has been received save an account of a bomb outrage in St. Petersburg, and reports of demonstrations against the czar by workmen in Khar-koff. All accounts agree that the Russian state of mind is depressed both for military and financial reasons, while the czar is said to be inclined to despondency. Fancy doubtless plays a large part in these reports, but as Vienna has been in comparatively close touch with St. Petersburg since the commencement of the war, it would not be surprising if the present forebodings possess some foundation in fact."

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Admiral Makaroff and the sinking of the Petropavlovsk.

Wireless Telegraphy. Washington, April 15--The Russian government has given notice that newspaper correspondents using wireless telegraphy will be treated as spies and shot.

THE BOMBARDMENT. According to Russian Accounts One of Japanese Cruisers Was Damaged.

Port Arthur, April 15 (Delayed in transmission).--At six o'clock this morning a small Japanese squadron appeared on the horizon and soon drew off, but at about 10 o'clock a hostile fleet, numbering 23 vessels, was again sighted. They formed in two divisions, one taking up a position beyond Cape Liao Shang, the southern extension of the peninsula on which Port Arthur is situated, shelling the shore and the Tiger peninsula, while the other bombarded Golden Hill and other batteries from a point opposite the roadstead.

The fire was continued intermittently until 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The Russian ships replied with an inferior fire and made good practice, one shot damaging a Japanese cruiser.

According to some reports, two Japanese ships were injured. There was no danger to the forts or the town.

Some Japanese were killed and a few Chinese and Russians were wounded.

AWAITING TOGO'S REPORT. Official Advice Have Not Been Received From Japanese Commander.

Tokio, April 16--Noon--Vice-Admiral Togo's report of the seventh attack upon Port Arthur is eagerly awaited here, although no misgivings are felt on account of the delay. It is believed that Vice-Admiral Togo is aware that serious damage was inflicted on the Russians on Wednesday last and that he has decided to remain and vigorously renew the assault in the hope of dealing a final blow to the Russian fleet.

The reason for detaching one torpedo flotilla on Thursday last has not been revealed, but it is probable that it carried orders to Rear-Admiral Uriu to bring up his squadron or to send either colliers or an additional supply of ammunition.

THE LOSS OF BATTLESHIP. Mystery Not Yet Cleared Up--Speculation as to Cause of Disaster.

St. Petersburg, April 16--1:05 p.m.--The mystery of the sinking of the battleship Petropavlovsk has not been cleared up. That she touched a mine placed by Japanese torpedo boats during the night is not officially admitted, but there is a growing disposition in unofficial quarters to accept this as possibly the true explanation. That the mine was laid by a ruse of the Japanese is generally believed, although some speculation is indulged in which may almost be described as fantastic. For example, the possibility of the introduction of an infernal machine into the coal bunkers as an explosive as an explanation of the explosion which undoubtedly occurred on board the battleship. The only thing affirmed with absolute certainty is that it was not a Japanese shell, as no fighting was in progress.

All the papers sketch the theory of the destruction of the Petropavlovsk having been caused by a submarine boat except the Novoe Vremya, which indignantly rejects the idea that the ship was blown up by a Russian mine, contending that the Petropavlovsk was not a mine-baiter and that she was struck by torpedoes fired from submarine boats, affirming its conviction that the two Japanese cruisers which approached with the fleet for the first time on this occasion brought with them a couple of English or American submarine boats, and hinting that they might have been manned by British sailors.

There is considerable criticism at the meagerness of the official dispatches, some of the papers strongly appealing to the Emperor for full, complete information, saying the Empire and people are ready to make sacrifices and are strong enough to accept any news, even the worst. Complaints are also made at the absence of newspaper telegrams from correspondents at the front, arguing that it will weaken popular interest in the war.

One of the highest authorities at the admiralty makes the following statement to the Associated Press: "You can deny, with absolute assurance, the reports that the enemy was in any way responsible for the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. Makaroff never left the harbor without dragging for mines, and the Petropavlovsk's boilers blew up. They were of the old Scotch type. We also consider it quite likely that an unexploded Whitehead torpedo caused the Pobieda's injuries, as the explosion occurred just at her water line."

MAKAROFF'S SUCCESSOR. Appointment of Vice-Admiral Skrydloff Gives Great Satisfaction.

St. Petersburg, April 16--Vice-Admiral Skrydloff's appointment to command the naval forces at Port Arthur has been received with great satisfaction by both the navy and the public. He is a great favorite with the jacksies, Skrydloff is considered to be one of the ablest seamen and strategists in the Russian army. He is the natural successor of Makaroff, whose comrade he was during

the Turkish-Russian war, both distinguishing themselves.

One paper reviewing the naval situation, argues that there is no cause for despair, the ships left at Port Arthur and Vladivostok still constituting what Captain Mahan calls a "fleet in being," which leaves the Japanese not free to act.

The first two brigades of the line of Siberia rifle brigades have been ordered to be converted into nine divisions, increasing their numerical strength to about 100,000 men.

The Russ prints a sensational telegram from Moscow, saying its correspondent has been notified during the last three days that the Chinese are hurriedly leaving that city owing, it is said, to orders received from China. The report is ridiculed as the Chinese legation here, where it is said that the relations between China and Russia are good, the less cause of friction regarding the Japanese instructors with the Chinese army having been satisfactorily removed as set forth in these dispatches on April 14th.

PLACED MINES AT NIGHT. Message From Togo Regarding the Sinking of the Petropavlovsk.

Tokio, April 16--9:30 p.m.--Admiral Togo reports that in the attack on Port Arthur on Tuesday night the Japanese sunk mines at midnight, and at 8 in the morning drew the Russian ships out 15 miles from the port. The Petropavlovsk struck a Japanese mine and was sunk.

ALEXIEFF'S ARRIVAL. The Victory Has Hoisted His Flag on the Sevastopol.

St. Petersburg, April 16--Viceroy Alexieff took over the command of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur this afternoon and raised his flag on board the battleship Sevastopol.

ON THE YALU. Twenty Thousand Russians Will Oppose the Invasion of Manchuria by Mikado's Soldiers.

Tokio, April 16--Private advice from Korea confirm the reported massing of 20,000 Russian troops on the right bank of the Yalu river, with the object of opposing the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Although it is unknown when and where the Japanese will effect a crossing of the Yalu, it is still believed that what remains of the ill-fated passage without serious loss.

An error was made in translating a cipher telegram giving the number of Russians killed on a skirmish at Yalu river last Tuesday, west of Wiju, the number was given as 22, but the number actually killed was only three.

JAPANESE ARRESTED. Two Officers Confessed They Intended to Blow Up Railway.

Harbin, Manchuria, April 16--Two Japanese officers of the general staff have arrived here under strict escort, having been arrested by the railroad guards about eighteen miles from this place. They were dressed as Tibetans. In their tents were found thirty pounds of explosives, a fuse, a string of keys to unlock the mine, and they evidently intended to blow up the bridge over the Nonni river, near Fullard.

The prisoners displayed great coolness, confessing that it was their intention to destroy the railroad.

RECEIVED BY EMPEROR. Korea's Ruler Has Recovered From Shock Caused by Burning of Palace.

Seoul, April 15--8 p.m.--The Emperor received in audience this evening the members of the diplomatic corps. The Emperor had apparently recovered from the shock caused by the burning of the palace, and was calm, making inquiries as to the health of the ladies of the legations, etc. His intimates report that he is still nervous, however.

Many Koreans believe that the burning of the palace has a political significance, in that it will force the Emperor to return to the Kyong Bok Palace, in the outskirts of the city, where the Queen was assassinated in 1895, and from which the Emperor fled to the Russian legation. The Emperor, however, refused to return, claiming that the palace is haunted by the murdered Queen. He prefers to remain in the Imperial library in the Kins-Ed-Ecken building, where he took refuge during the fire, until the palace is rebuilt.

The electric plant, which was totally destroyed, together with thousands of dollars' worth of instruments and machinery, has been reinstated.

The heaps of smoldering ruins are being guarded by a cordon of vigilant soldiers stationed on the foot and a half apart around and was calm, making inquiries as to the health of the ladies of the legations, etc. His intimates report that he is still nervous, however.

The Emperor's funeral was a wonderful spectacle. The fresh mountains about the city were lighted up as though it were day, and hurrying crowds of French Koreans and Japanese troops arrived on the scene in double quick time. All Korean government records and accounts are lost, together with much treasure. The loss is estimated at three million dollars.

H. P. Dickinson, manager for the Giant Paper Co., for the Keessons, is in the city on a brief business visit.