

STOESSEL SURRENDERS

After Eleven Months' Stand Port Arthur Throws Up The Sponge--Brave Commander Seeks Terms Of Surrender From Japan.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF PORT ARTHUR, SHOWING THE HARBOR ENTRANCE AND NAVAL BASIN

FAMOUS SIEGES OF FORTS AND CITIES

Although Port Arthur is defended with stubborn valor, its garrison is not spurred to desperation by the menace which once hung over every fort which defied an enemy. The supreme motive of self-preservation is lacking from the Russian defence.

THE CRUSADERS AT JERUSALEM.

A famous siege was that of Acre, in the twelfth century, when attacked by the crusaders under Richard the Lionhearted. For two years it held out, then surrendered after its defenders had killed 300,000 soldiers, 500 barons, 40 earls, 12 bishops, and six archbishops.

DEFENCE OF BASING HOUSE.

Badajoz held out against the British only three weeks, and to this length of time the defenders of Basing House, numbering 1,000 men, women and children, were so exhausted by starvation and disease that they were twice captured by the famous Nana Sahib, who murdered all but four of them.

BERGEN-OP-ZOOM AND GIBRALTAR.

Different was the case of Bergen-op-Zoom, which was deemed impregnable but which was twice captured by the French. In 1814 a British force penetrated the defences, but was cut off and destroyed.

NEW YEAR IN EUROPE

London, Jan. 1.—The New Year was ushered in with a sudden falling temperature throughout Europe, accompanied by gales and blizzards and much damage to life and property. In Switzerland a 20-hour blizzard isolated many Alpine villages and interrupted all preparations for merry-making.

NOGI REPORTS NEWS OF STOESSEL'S SURRENDER

TOKIO, Jan. 2.—Gen. Nogi, the commander of the Japanese forces besieging Port Arthur, reports that he has received a letter from Gen. Stoessel, the Russian military commander, relating to surrender. 10 a.m.—The following cable has been received from Gen. Nogi: "I have received a letter relating to surrender from Gen. Stoessel, the commander of the Port Arthur garrison Sunday night at 9 o'clock."

The news that the Russian forces at Port Arthur have been reduced to such a strait that at last the heroic commander has been forced to propose surrender, follows upon a month of reverses. The siege begun almost with the firing of the first gun in the war, now nearly eleven months ago, and perhaps the greatest stronghold in the world was garrisoned by 40,000 Russian soldiers, supported with a formidable squadron of modern battleships, cruisers and torpedo boats.

THE MASSACRE AT WARSAW. More than a century has elapsed since the capture of Warsaw, but Pole will ever forgive the Russian General, Suvarrow, for the massacre of 30,000 people who the city fell into his hands. In 1831 Warsaw was besieged for two days, when it capitulated.

THEY DIED GAME

Chefoo, Jan. 1.—Pathetic references to the last stand of the last ship of the Russian Asiatic squadron appear in the Port Arthur Novikrai in its issues of December 24th and 25th. Even General Stoessel, the military commander at Port Arthur, who had made little mention of the navy since August 10th, issued an order landing the Sevastopol and Captain Essen, who for five nights withstood numerous attacks of the Japanese torpedo flotillas, till at last the death note was sounded through the gaping wounds in the sides of the battleship, and Russia's Asiatic fleet was no more.

"MOST HEROIC RESISTANCE"

For the first time since the siege began the Novikrai, whose sole aim, seemingly, has been to inspire the garrison of Port Arthur, betrays signs of the pathetic hopelessness of even the most heroic resistance. Discussing High Hill, the Novikrai speaks of "the hill receiving with its breast the hammering of 800-pound shells, which split even the rocks and went through sixteen inches of steel like paper."

ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF THE GREAT FORT

The Japan Gazette of August 11th, from an excellent article in the Journal of the United Service Institution (May 10th) by Col. C. E. de la Poer Beraford, late military attache H. M. embassy, St. Petersburg, we quote an important section that enables us to realize the defensive position at Port Arthur about seven months before the war: Tactically speaking, Port Arthur is strong and difficult to take. The fortifications, which surmount every hill on the land side, are semi-closed works; but their gorges are protected by masonry, loopholed walls almost as solid and inaccessible as those of Tregantle, Scraedon or Portsdown hill.

The Port Arthur Garrison

The following is credited in Japan as the authentic estimate of the strength of Port Arthur garrison. It was calculated by the Japanese headquarters staff from a number of reports obtained from the secret service, together with the several despatches recently received from the besieging army: Seven thousand, belonging to 4th, 5th, 6th and 13th regiments of 4th sharpshooter division. Eight thousand belonging to 6th, 7th, 8th, 25th regiments of 7th sharpshooter division. One hundred and fifty, one company of Za Baikal Cossacks, of Welpevsky regiment.

SOME HONORS CONFERRED

London, Jan. 1.—The royal family circles spent New Year's day quietly at Sandringham. The customary New Year honors were omitted, but Sir E. J. Monson, the retiring ambassador at Paris, was given a baronetcy, and the King placed a residence in Richmond park at his disposal on his retirement from the diplomatic service.