

New Orleans Republican. SPECIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES. THE WAR OF RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

THE MILITARY SITUATION

The following details are furnished by New York Tribune of April 20, and the clearest view of the situation American paper has yet given:

The outbreak of hostilities the two sides were about 450 miles apart. The Russian army was massed near the mouth of the Danube in Romania, in the vicinity of Kischeneff, a town on the railway between Odessa and Jassy. The Turkish troops were stationed at various points along the line of the Danube from Silistria to Braila.

The distance between Kischeneff and Jassy is about eighty miles. On Monday about 17,000 Russian troops were ordered by railway to Jassy. Within forty-eight hours the Russians occupied Jassy, Brailow and Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

The distance by rail between Jassy and Galatz is 140 miles. The railway continues to Bucharest, a distance of 140 miles; and to Giurgiu, forty miles further, on the Danube; and thence through Braila to Varna, on the Black sea.

Each runs from Bucharest to Chernetz on the Austrian frontier. A special force was ordered to have gone in that direction to take possession of this town. The Russians have thus made themselves masters of the Romanian railway system, and can mass their forces at Chernetz or Giurgiu.

The distance between Galatz and Kalarsch on the Danube is about 200 miles. A Russian force of 10,000 men was ordered to march from Bucharest and Oltenita, where the route is about 800 yards wide. At Giurgiu the width of the river is three-quarters of a mile. The natural crossing is at Giurgiu, Oltenita and Kalarsch, and of the three Giurgiu is the most important.

The Russian army makes a long march by rail to Chernetz, far away to the west, and turn the flank of the Turkish forces. It is more probable, however, the Russians will remain on the direct route to Constantinople.

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THE STRENGTH OF TURKEY.

In Turkey the army has been organized under regulations since 1857. The ranks are entirely supplied from the Mohammedans, except in certain privileged districts, such as Albania and Bosnia, which furnish special corps of their own. In the rest of Turkey every able-bodied Mussulman of twenty years and upward is bound by law to serve in the standing army, but notwithstanding this law young Turk of the wealthier classes can always obtain exemption from the service. The period of service is nominally twelve years; that is, four in the Nizam or standing army, two in the Bedli or reserve, and six in the militia, but practically the soldier remains in one of these grades three years under the colors, and is then sent on unlimited furlough. The number of recruits levied yearly is from 30,000 to 40,000 men, about twenty per cent of whom are supplied by European Turkey, and eighty per cent by Asiatic Turkey.

The Turkish army is organized into three divisions, the "regular" army formed of those who have served twelve years, as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Branch, Strength, and Remarks. Includes Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Engineers.

Total of 1,000,000 men. The best portion of the army is the 400,000 in the artillery, which contains many young and intelligent officers, and obtains the most efficient of the recruits. Every regiment of field artillery is provided with sixteen batteries of six guns each; all the guns of the horse artillery are rifled Armstrongs, but the mountain artillery has only small guns.

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only as long as it may be required to keep the force at its full complement, and during the remaining period they are sent on furlough. It follows from this system that every man in the Turkish army is a soldier. After acquiring themselves of their six years' service, the soldiers pass into the reserve for another period of nine years, during which they are liable to serve only in time of war. The law does not apply to the Cossacks and other irregular troops, numbering about 115,000. Last year the strength of the Russian army, on a peace footing, was as follows: Battalions, 852; squadrons, 281; guns, 1422; officers, 25,043; rank and file, 732,729; making a total force of 7,572,228 men. Placed on a war footing the strength of this army would be 1,313,269 men, including 39,380 officers. The strength of the various divisions of the Russian army, according to an official return, was as follows in 1874. The same relative proportions still probably exist between each arm of the service:

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men, but its officers are inexperienced and the troops imperfectly disciplined. On their own soil and in defense of their homes and families they will do good service. The Russian army, and will do a large Russian contingent, and will be otherwise employed for the defense of Roumania.

The Russian army, which is constantly strengthened from Jassy, Kischeneff and Bender, is intended for active operations in Bulgaria. The troops are at present massed at Galatz, Bolgrad, Ismail and southward of Barbochi, toward Bucharest. It is evident that when a sufficient force is assembled at these points it will cross the lower Danube at or near Jaltcha into the Dobruzha, or region between the Danube and the Black Sea, and thence toward the Black Sea coast, as before described in the Herald, will give the Russian army an unopposed passage of the river and a clear road southward to the railroad line between Kustendji, on the Black Sea, and Tchernawoda, on the Danube. On this route the Russians probably will make a determined stand, as its possession is extremely important to their interests at Silistria and along the Danube. As Schumla and Varna will be the main objective points of the Russian attack in this direction, the roads leading to them through the Dobruzha will probably be strongly defended, and the loss of Ismail and Bolgrad would be fatal to the Turks in Bulgaria, and would result in a practical evacuation of the province by the Sultan's field army. In order to give the reader an idea of this prospective theatre of war, a more detailed description is necessary of its physical features.

The Dobruzha begins at and is bounded on the north by the Salina or middle one of the three channels through which the Danube discharges into the Black Sea. Therefore a section of the low marshy delta—namely, that between the Salina and St. George's channels—is included within the area known as the Dobruzha. Numerous sub-channels or creeks intersect this corner of the Dobruzha, and its coast is indented by wide bays, protected by narrow necks of marshy land, and broken by large estuaries, very much like the delta of the Mississippi. In the northwestern corner, opposite Galatz, the land is very low and marshy, being broken by several lakes and creeks. But southward of Tulcha, and between the Danube and the Black Sea, the land rises with a rolling country which discharges its rainwater equally to the east and west as far southward as the Kustendji plain. The Dobruzha is a low, fertile land is high, with few rivers, and only some scattered villages to indicate its character as a poor agricultural country. Taken as a whole the Dobruzha is unfavorable for military operations, as owing to its barren character, there are few good roads, and the country is almost entirely without a supply of food in a Russian army, besides enabling it to establish magazines, which form the basis of operations for southward movements toward the Balkans.

Four possible lines of advance are shown by the Turkish troops in the Dobruzha. The first is the Danube and the St. George's Channel, sixty miles in length, and is covered by a small but favorably situated fortified place called Babadagh. The second, thirty miles long, is the line of the Kustendji, aided by the remains of Trajan's wall, and is covered by a small but favorably situated fortified place called Babadagh. The third, twenty-two miles long, extends from Silistria southeastward to Bultchik Bay, on the Black Sea coast, and is supported northward by the town of Bazarjik, and has in its favor the wide, barren and waterless area, over which the enemy would be forced to encamp or fight his way across the lines of the Turks. The fourth, most of course, is the line between Varna and Rostchuk, 168 miles long, covered by Schumla.

As Adrianople covers the road to the Turkish capital, and must fall before Constantinople is threatened, all distances to be gathered from present operations in the East continue substantially unchanged to-day. On the Danube, Russia and Turkey are gradually drawing together for a great struggle; in Asia Minor they have already come to blows. In beginning our daily record of events we must wait the results of the probable movements and terrible battles at the present stage of the war. We shall endeavor to sit the truth out of the contradictory dispatches, and give to our readers in a clear and succinct form, day by day, assisted by a map, on which we shall delineate the positions of the contending forces at the date of issue, as nearly as they can be ascertained.

To-day finds the Russian army concentrated on the north bank of the Danube, from Ismail to Braila, Ibrail or Hrabloff, as it is named on various maps. The Russian dispatches of course believe in 90,000 men, but numbers of this army at about 50,000 men, with about 40,000 more crossing the Pruth on Saturday last. This last body was probably a single army corps at its full strength. We already know that the seventh corps of 35,000 and the thirty-sixth division of 10,000 were at Galatz and Ibrail on Friday. By the present date it is nearly certain that the new corps must be at Barbochi, and that at least 120,000 men are within supporting distance of each other around Galatz. By the close of the present week we shall probably be able to identify the different Russian corps and commanders in Roumania, by comparing Russian official numbers with those of the Roumanian numbers passing given points. The indications now are that at least three strong Russian corps have concentrated on Galatz, and that as many more are following, some via Kischeneff and some via Odessa. So far the Russian advance, by its rapidity and good order, shows that a first-class administrator is at the head of the Russian staff, and that all the subordinate departments are in working condition.

The Turks, on the other hand, exhibit very plain symptoms of indecision in their action. The exodus of women and children from the Dobruzha, and the simultaneous announcement in the same dispatch, which promises "forty battalions and 40,000 Circassians" as reinforcements to the Turkish army of the Danube from Sofia. The estimate of the Russian papers is that ninety-seven Turkish battalions are now in the Dobruzha. Of the truth of this estimate there is no certainty, but it is more likely over than under the mark. Reinforcements coming from Sofia show that the Turks have already been compelled to draw on their reserves from the rear as the nearest place available. It was lately reported that they were occupying Kalafat, so as to move on Bucharest by the Roumanian railway. Now they appear to have changed their minds, for the Roumanians have reoccupied Kalafat. It would seem, from one dispatch, that the Turks are coming down the Danube on transports instead of moving by railway. However, Pasha, the Anglo-Turkish Admiral, was reported at Rostchuk on Friday, getting ready to take some gunboats past Galatz, and he is now reported to have run the gauntlet of the Russian batteries at that point and to have reached the sea in safety on Sunday last. Since that time the passage has been closed by a bridge at Braila and siege batteries at Galatz. The Russian fleet is reported at Moleaieff, a sheltered port in the Bog river, above Cherson, waiting for an opportunity to make a dash for the Danube and to attack the Russian gunboats. Small gunboats in action have been reported at Galatz by the Russians from Kischeneff, and by this time are patrolling the river. So far, in Europe, everything indicates careful preparation, and when the first battle comes it is likely to be a very heavy one. The announcement in London last night that the British fleet is probably present. If they do

so close to Kars that the defense of that stronghold may be said to have begun. The distance from Alexandropol is only twenty-five miles, over a comparatively narrow and level plain, and is very passable on the road near the little village of Dischamush and close to the crossing of the river Kars. As it will be a part of the plan of the Turks to delay the Russian advance at every point, and so gain time for their own reinforcements to come up, some sharp fighting will take place before the Russian batteries are established before Kars. But those who imagine that the Turkish successes of 1855 at Kars will be repeated in the present war forget that modern rifled artillery can do against the stoutest defenses of the town. Tiflis, being the Russian headquarters in the Caucasus, distances will be the main theater for the present. Following the main roads these are as follows: From Tiflis to Alexandropol, seventy miles; to Akhiktshe, fifty-five miles; to Oruzget, ninety-five miles; Alexandropol to Kars, twenty-five miles; Kars to Erzerum, eighty-five miles; Erzerum to Trebizond, 100 miles; Trebizond to Siva, 260 miles; Siva to Sinope, 200 miles.

TURKEY CLAIMS THIS ADVANTAGE AT PRESENT, and her monitors and other ironclads are cruising on the coasts of Asia Minor and off the mouths of the Danube, rendering the forwarding of supplies by sea difficult for the Russians. There are, however, in all Asiatic expressions, certain unknown quantities, and in that representing the relations of the belligerents now, the Russian fleet must be set down as x. It is unreasonable to suppose that Russia, having ample time and means to prepare for this war, could neglect to secure a powerful, though small, ironclad fleet, and that the Russian fleet, in communications. Even the rumored appearance of Russian gunboats on the Danube, at Galatz, is a straw which indicates the direction of the wind in this respect. The map of the Black Sea and the Caucasus shows the several lines of communication between the Russian and the Asiatic ports and along the coast. The most important to the Russians at present would be those from Odessa to Sebastopol, Sinope and Trebizond, and also those from the Sea of Azof to the two last-named coast towns. Nicolaeff and Taganrog, the first above Cherson and Constantinople, are the chief naval depots of the Sea of Azof, are the chief naval depots of Russia, and both are well fortified and jealously guarded from foreign visitors. The following distances on the Black Sea routes will give useful information to the reader: From Odessa to Sebastopol, 450 miles; Sebastopol to Sinope, 350 miles; Sinope to Trebizond, 100 miles; Trebizond to Siva, 260 miles; Siva to Erzerum, 200 miles; Erzerum to Taganrog, 500 miles; Taganrog to the Sea of Azof, 420 miles; Erzerum to Taganrog, 500 miles. It will be seen by these distances that coal stations will be found at intervals of 100 miles for the small, light draft monitors of both nations. If Sebastopol becomes the base of operations for the Russian fleet an advantage in the matter of fuel will be entirely on the side of the Russians, for the Turkish ships will burn a great deal of their supply coming from the Bosphorus and at Varna.

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The Turks, on the other hand, exhibit very plain symptoms of indecision in their action. The exodus of women and children from the Dobruzha, and the simultaneous announcement in the same dispatch, which promises "forty battalions and 40,000 Circassians" as reinforcements to the Turkish army of the Danube from Sofia. The estimate of the Russian papers is that ninety-seven Turkish battalions are now in the Dobruzha. Of the truth of this estimate there is no certainty, but it is more likely over than under the mark. Reinforcements coming from Sofia show that the Turks have already been compelled to draw on their reserves from the rear as the nearest place available. It was lately reported that they were occupying Kalafat, so as to move on Bucharest by the Roumanian railway. Now they appear to have changed their minds, for the Roumanians have reoccupied Kalafat. It would seem, from one dispatch, that the Turks are coming down the Danube on transports instead of moving by railway. However, Pasha, the Anglo-Turkish Admiral, was reported at Rostchuk on Friday, getting ready to take some gunboats past Galatz, and he is now reported to have run the gauntlet of the Russian batteries at that point and to have reached the sea in safety on Sunday last. Since that time the passage has been closed by a bridge at Braila and siege batteries at Galatz. The Russian fleet is reported at Moleaieff, a sheltered port in the Bog river, above Cherson, waiting for an opportunity to make a dash for the Danube and to attack the Russian gunboats. Small gunboats in action have been reported at Galatz by the Russians from Kischeneff, and by this time are patrolling the river. So far, in Europe, everything indicates careful preparation, and when the first battle comes it is likely to be a very heavy one. The announcement in London last night that the British fleet is probably present. If they do

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so close to Kars that the defense of that stronghold may be said to have begun. The distance from Alexandropol is only twenty-five miles, over a comparatively narrow and level plain, and is very passable on the road near the little village of Dischamush and close to the crossing of the river Kars. As it will be a part of the plan of the Turks to delay the Russian advance at every point, and so gain time for their own reinforcements to come up, some sharp fighting will take place before the Russian batteries are established before Kars. But those who imagine that the Turkish successes of 1855 at Kars will be repeated in the present war forget that modern rifled artillery can do against the stoutest defenses of the town. Tiflis, being the Russian headquarters in the Caucasus, distances will be the main theater for the present. Following the main roads these are as follows: From Tiflis to Alexandropol, seventy miles; to Akhiktshe, fifty-five miles; to Oruzget, ninety-five miles; Alexandropol to Kars, twenty-five miles; Kars to Erzerum, eighty-five miles; Erzerum to Trebizond, 100 miles; Trebizond to Siva, 260 miles; Siva to Sinope, 200 miles.

TURKEY CLAIMS THIS ADVANTAGE AT PRESENT, and her monitors and other ironclads are cruising on the coasts of Asia Minor and off the mouths of the Danube, rendering the forwarding of supplies by sea difficult for the Russians. There are, however, in all Asiatic expressions, certain unknown quantities, and in that representing the relations of the belligerents now, the Russian fleet must be set down as x. It is unreasonable to suppose that Russia, having ample time and means to prepare for this war, could neglect to secure a powerful, though small, ironclad fleet, and that the Russian fleet, in communications. Even the rumored appearance of Russian gunboats on the Danube, at Galatz, is a straw which indicates the direction of the wind in this respect. The map of the Black Sea and the Caucasus shows the several lines of communication between the Russian and the Asiatic ports and along the coast. The most important to the Russians at present would be those from Odessa to Sebastopol, Sinope and Trebizond, and also those from the Sea of Azof to the two last-named coast towns. Nicolaeff and Taganrog, the first above Cherson and Constantinople, are the chief naval depots of the Sea of Azof, are the chief naval depots of Russia, and both are well fortified and jealously guarded from foreign visitors. The following distances on the Black Sea routes will give useful information to the reader: From Odessa to Sebastopol, 450 miles; Sebastopol to Sinope, 350 miles; Sinope to Trebizond, 100 miles; Trebizond to Siva, 260 miles; Siva to Erzerum, 200 miles; Erzerum to Taganrog, 500 miles; Taganrog to the Sea of Azof, 420 miles; Erzerum to Taganrog, 500 miles. It will be seen by these distances that coal stations will be found at intervals of 100 miles for the small, light draft monitors of both nations. If Sebastopol becomes the base of operations for the Russian fleet an advantage in the matter of fuel will be entirely on the side of the Russians, for the Turkish ships will burn a great deal of their supply coming from the Bosphorus and at Varna.

The following is from the New York Graphic of the same date:

INDICATIONS OF THE MOVEMENTS TO BE GATHERED FROM PRESENT OPERATIONS IN THE EAST continue substantially unchanged to-day. On the Danube, Russia and Turkey are gradually drawing together for a great struggle; in Asia Minor they have already come to blows. In beginning our daily record of events we must wait the results of the probable movements and terrible battles at the present stage of the war. We shall endeavor to sit the truth out of the contradictory dispatches, and give to our readers in a clear and succinct form, day by day, assisted by a map, on which we shall delineate the positions of the contending forces at the date of issue, as nearly as they can be ascertained.

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