



A GENERAL VIEW OF PORT ARTHUR, SHOWING HARBOR ENTRANCE AND NAVAL BASIN.



JAPAN WINS ON THE SEA

Three Russian Ships Beached, Four Damaged, Two Taken.

ENGAGEMENT OFF PORT ARTHUR.

Daring Night Attack of Torpedo Boats Followed by an Hour's Bombardment--Troops Safely Landed in Corea.

Japanese warships engaged the Russian fleet and batteries at Port Arthur yesterday, following a torpedo boat attack made at midnight, which resulted in three Russian warships--the battleships Retvizan and Czarevitch and the cruiser Pallada--being beached.

The second engagement lasted an hour, the Japanese fleet withdrawing southward. In this action the Russian battleship Poltava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novik were struck below the waterline. Nine Russians were killed and fifty-three wounded, and there were a few casualties and some damage reported from the land batteries.

The swift Russian cruiser Variag and another warship were reported to have been captured without resistance at Chemulpo, where eight thousand Japanese troops went ashore. Forces also landed at all the chief points on the south and west coasts of Corea.

FLEETS AND FORTS FIGHT THREE SHIPS BEACHED.

Hour's Action Off Port Arthur--Russian Losses.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.--The following official bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, dated February 9:

MAJOR GENERAL FLAG.

A second telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexieff. It is dated February 9, and says:

IT'S TIME TO GO TO FLORIDA AND THE SOUTH.

Southern's Palm Limited, the perfection of trains. N. Y. Office, 71 and 1133 Broadway--Adv.

Two Russian Battleships and a Cruiser Block Channel.

Che-Foo, Feb. 9.--Japanese attacked Port Arthur at midnight on Monday. Two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser were disabled by torpedoes.

The battle was continued by the fleet this morning at a range of three miles, and lasted an hour.

The steamer Columbia has arrived from Port Arthur with additional news of the attack by the Japanese fleet on the Russian fleet in the roads outside of the harbor of Port Arthur.

The attack continued all night, and at daylight this morning two Russian battleships and one first-class Russian cruiser were seen to have been disabled and beached at the entrance of the harbor. The cruiser was badly listed to one side.

The Russians left one cruiser outside to watch for the Japanese ships. The cruiser was fired upon by the Japanese warships, and the other Russian vessels took up their anchors and cruised around the roadstead.

The Japanese fleet, numbering seventeen vessels, came up within three miles, and a battle began. The Japanese fired on the ships and forts, which replied. Two Russian ships were struck by shells, but were only slightly damaged. The Russian fire fell short.

The Columbia steamed away while the battle was in progress, but later saw the Japanese fleet depart in the direction of Dalny. One Japanese cruiser, with torpedo boats, is reported north of Che-Foo. The warships were apparently unharmed.

fleet and all went in to attack the armored cruisers.

In the Japanese fleet, which consisted of two divisions, were the Mikasa, the flagship, the first class battleships Asahi, Fujl, Yamashiro, Shikishima, Hatsuse and the dispatch boat Tatsumi. The second division of the fleet, under command of Admiral Kamimura, on the flagship Idsumo, consisted of the armored cruisers Yakuma, Asama and Iwate.

A member of the crew of the Columbia tells this story of the torpedo boat's attack:

The Columbia was lying in the roadstead, surrounded by fourteen Russian battleships and cruisers. At 11:30 o'clock on Monday night a severe shock was felt on board the Columbia. The Russians immediately began to operate their searchlights and opened fire toward the sea. The firing lasted only a short time. At 1 o'clock more shocks were felt and the Russians again began firing.

The Japanese did not return the fire. At 2 o'clock two Russian battleships went in and were beached across the entrance of the harbor. They were soon followed by a Russian cruiser, which also was beached. None of the vessels were damaged above the waterline. More shocks from torpedoes were felt during the early morning, and then all was quiet.

At 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning three Japanese cruisers passed Port Arthur in sight of the Russian fleet. The entire Russian fleet immediately weighed anchor and went after them, but returned in half an hour.

The steamer Foo-Chow, from Dalny, passed through the Japanese fleet to-day. The fleet consisted of six battleships, four first class cruisers and six other vessels. They were eighteen miles from Port Arthur this morning, and were proceeding in a southeasterly direction. The Foo-Chow brought three hundred Japanese refugees.

When seen by the Foo Chow this morning the fast cruisers were circling in a radius of six miles. No torpedo boats were seen, and it is probable that they left the vicinity after the torpedo attack of Monday night.

The Russian fleet outside of the harbor consisted of the battleships Petropavlovsk, flagship; Peresviet, sub-flagship; Pobeda, Poltava, Czarevitch, Retvizan and Sebastopol, and the cruisers Novik, Boyarin, Bayan, Diana, Palada, Askold and Aurora.

The disabled battleships are inside Forts Huan-Ching-Shan and Chi-Kwan-Shan. The cruiser Boyarin is outside, but within range of the forts.

The Columbia reports that she had a narrow escape from injury. Her passengers and crew were much excited. While going out of the roads at Port Arthur the Russian cruiser Novik got between the Columbia and the Japanese fleet. Shells which passed over the Novik struck around the Columbia. Her flag was cut into shreds and one shell fell on her deck. The faces of those who were on deck were blackened with powder smoke.

A naval officer who was recently at Port Arthur says the Russians were not prepared for the attack on their ships, and had an insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the Straits of Pe-Chi-Li continuously, but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired, but the Japanese did not return the fire and backed off. An hour later the discharge of torpedoes was repeated, after which the torpedo boats withdrew some distance.

At 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning the Japanese fast cruisers circled within view of the whole Russian fleet, but they were not engaged. The Russians returned toward the harbor after an hour. The Japanese, continuing, came within three miles.

A battle then began between the Russian forts and fourteen ships and sixteen Japanese vessels. A few of the Japanese shells were effective, but as far as seen the Russian shots fell short.

It is probable that the Japanese fleet was conveying twenty-six troop ships from Saseho to some port of Corea.

Japanese are reported to be in possession of the southern portion of the peninsula.

FIGHT SHORT AND SHARP.

Japanese Excel in Manoeuvres and Gun Practice.

Paris, Feb. 10.--The correspondent at Che-Foo of the Paris edition of "The New-York Herald" describes in a dispatch the tranquil appearance of Port Arthur on Monday night, when a Russian official said he expected the Japanese fleet in three or four days. The weather was fine and the Russian sailors impressively chanted their evening hymn. Only one Russian warship was using her searchlight, and this in a leisurely fashion. Three torpedo boats were patrolling on the outskirts of the fleet. All the others were inside the basin.

The deep silence was disturbed at 11:30 o'clock by three muffled explosions, which made the steamer Columbia vibrate violently. Instantly firing began, and the searchlights were used, but without much method. "I watched the operations," the correspondent goes on, "thinking they were only manoeuvres, until midnight, when the firing almost ceased. It stopped entirely at 3 o'clock in the morning."

and beaching of the Russian vessels, which were at first supposed to have been in collision. At 2:40 o'clock Russian naval officers boarded the Columbia in a great state of excitement, saying the Viceroy had ordered the Columbia not to attempt to depart. This was apparently done with the idea of preventing the ship from acquainting the Japanese with the extent of the Russian damage.

CONSTERNATION AMONG RUSSIANS.

Daylight revealed two Japanese cruisers watching on the horizon. After daybreak a strange apathy seemed to possess the Russians. The white-faced, gaping crews crowded forward on the decks of the damaged vessels, and none of the Russian ships showed a disposition to chase the enemy or fire a single shot till the Japanese had departed, at 8:30 o'clock, when the Russians started in pursuit, going inshore toward Port Dalny. They returned, however, at 9:15, without having fired.

It apparently had occurred to them that the Japanese had effected a complete surprise owing to their bad outlook, the Russians have now outside the harbor five effective battleships and five effective cruisers, besides smaller vessels and seventeen torpedo boats.

It was almost 11 o'clock when the Japanese squadron of sixteen, including five battleships, appeared in fine order. At 11:15 o'clock there came the first flash from a Japanese vessel, and a 12-inch shell landed near the torpedo boats grouped near the entrance of the harbor. The aim was splendid.

A NON-COMBATANT IN DANGER.

Owing to confusion on the part of the quarantine officials, or perhaps because the Russians thought the Japanese would not like to fire near the British flag, the Columbia was close to the Russian fleet and in the line of fire, and the Japanese shells fell thickly around her, several bursting near by and striking her decks with splinters and water.

The captain of the Columbia then got under way in spite of the protests of the Russian guards on board, and got his vessel out of danger, making full speed for Che-Foo. The Russian guards were praying fervently, and the Chinese crew of the ship was frightened, but they worked well. Those on board the steamer feared the Russian batteries would sink them for disobeying orders, the captain's repeated signals for permission to proceed having been ignored.

JAPANESE GUNNERY ACCURATE.

The bombardment lasted until 11:45 o'clock. The Japanese aimed their fire well, two shells bursting at the summit of one fort and a number on the cliff and the beach. All were heavy shells. Some of them emitted a yellow smoke, but from a majority came a dense black smoke. The rate of fire on both sides was slow.

Three Russian battleships were hit, but the extent of the damages could not be ascertained. Apparently no ship on either side was disabled. The Russian cruiser Novik fought pluckily, keeping closer by far than any other Russian vessel to the Japanese, until the heavy fire concentrated on her compelled her to retire on the battleships. The other Russian cruisers fought at first outside the line of battleships.

The Russians seemed to fight with little formation, but this was probably due to the cramped space, they being never more than one and a half miles from the shore and under the guns of the forts, which fired over them. This fire, however, was not frequent.

Before the action the men on the warships could be seen throwing beds and lumber overboard. The Russian ships constantly wheeled around in the same position, while the Japanese kept in splendid formation. The latter retired slowly in line to the southward.

A DARING BLOW STRUCK.

Torpedo Boats' Effective Work Under Heavy Fire.

London, Feb. 10.--In a dispatch from Che-Foo dated February 9 a correspondent of "The Daily Express" says:

The Japanese have dealt the Russians a crushing blow at Port Arthur. An advance squadron of the Japanese fleet, under command of Vice-Admiral Togo, and comprising sixteen battleships and cruisers, with a numerous torpedo flotilla, left the main fleet off Shan-Tung Peninsula on Sunday, as soon as the news of the diplomatic rupture became known. This information was conveyed to the Japanese admiral by a destroyer dispatched from Tsushima on Saturday evening.

The Japanese scouting cruisers had given accurate information of the precarious situation of the Russian fleet outside Port Arthur. The squadron steamed slowly in battle formation on Sunday midway toward its goal, and came within sight of Port Arthur under cover of darkness. It cruised slowly outside without showing lights.

The Russians were lying in the roadstead apparently feeling secure from attack.

Nearly all the Japanese torpedo boats were dispatched on their dangerous and daring task. They rushed full steam on the enemy, who were completely surprised. A great rattle of small arms greeted the invaders, who, however, escaped unhurt, and the Retvizan, the Czarevitch and the Pallada were almost immediately torpedoed.

Then the Japanese dashed along the entire line of the Russians, exposed by now to a terrible fire from machine guns and small arms from both the ships and the shore. There was the utmost consternation among the Russians, which probably accounts for the torpedo boats escaping practically unscathed and rejoining the admiral outside. The admiral's fleet, during the attack, kept out of range of the Russian searchlights.

Line of battle was then formed, and the Japanese fleet moved in within a range of two and a half miles, and opened fire on the Russians. The booming of guns was heard far out to sea by the officers and crew of a Japanese ship which has arrived here. The battle is understood to be still raging, and the widest reports are current. The Chinese population of Che-Foo is in a frenzy of excitement at the reports that the Japanese, whom they now regard as their friends, won the first victory.

"Two large and two small British steamers engaged in the coasting trade, and an American four ship, the Fleiades, are blocked inside Port Arthur Harbor by the disabled battleships," says the correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" at Che-Foo, in a dispatch dated Tuesday evening. The Russians are endeavoring by pumps and collision mats, he continues, to stop the holes in their battleships in order to take them inside at high water.

"When fifteen miles south of Port Arthur," the correspondent goes on, "I heard heavy firing toward the north at 1:50 p. m. It did not continue long. I saw no signs of the Japanese fleet on my way to Che-Foo."

BATTLE AT CHEMULPO.

Tokio Hears That Russian Cruisers Made Hard Fight.

Tokio, Feb. 9.--It is reported here that the Japanese fleet engaged and defeated two Russian warships, whose names have not yet been learned, at Chemulpo to-day. It is said the engagement began at 11 a. m. and continued until 3 p. m.

The smaller Russian vessel is reported to have been sunk and the larger one fired and hopelessly disabled. A part of the crew is reported to have escaped to the shore and to have been captured.

The Japanese ships are reported to be slightly damaged. Official confirmation of the report is unobtainable. It was reported yesterday that the Russian cruisers Koryetz and Variag were lying at Chemulpo yesterday, and it is possible that they were the vessels reported to have been engaged.

THE CHANNEL BLOCKED.

Russian Warships Off Port Arthur Unable to Get Coal.

Che-Foo, Feb. 9.--The Russian war vessels at Vladivostok are the armored cruisers Rurik, Rossia, Gromoboy and the Bogatyr, a screw corvette built in 1860.

Russia has a thousand tons of coal at Port Arthur, but the coal must be taken out to the battleships in lighters until the battleships disabled by the Japanese are floated.

WORK OF THE TORPEDOES.

Alexieff's Report of Damage--No Warships Sunk.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.--Admiral Alexieff, amplifying his first telegram to the czar on the torpedo boat action, now telegraphs as follows: "I most humbly report to your imperial majesty that the three injured vessels were not sunk, nor were their boilers or engines damaged. The Czarevitch received a hole in her steering department and her rudder was damaged; the Retvizan was damaged in her pumping apparatus under the water line, and the Pallada was injured amidships, not far from her engine."

"After the explosions the cruisers hastened immediately to their assistance, and in spite of the dark night measures were taken to bring the damaged vessels to the harbor. We had no loss in officers. Two marines were killed, five were drowned and eight were wounded. The enemy's torpedo boats received a heavy fire. Two unexploded torpedoes were found after the attack."

INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS OFF.

London, Feb. 10.--In a dispatch from Tokio, the correspondent of "The Times" says the Japanese government has removed the restrictions upon foreign insurance companies.

THE VARIAG CAPTURED

Two Cruisers Taken at Chemulpo--A Russian Advance.

London, Feb. 10.--In a dispatch from Tientsin, dated February 9, a correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says it is reported there that the Russian cruisers Variag and Koryetz hauled down their flags without firing a shot, and that eight thousand Japanese immediately landed at Chemulpo, and the march to Seoul began.

It was reported from Peking to-day that the Japanese had disembarked at Chemulpo, notwithstanding the presence there of two Russian warships, and another dispatch from Che-Foo said that Japan had the Variag and the Koryetz caught at that port.

Japanese troops also landed at all the chief points of Southern and Western Corea. One division of the Japanese Guards holds Fusan and Chemulpo, and altogether three divisions of the Japanese Guards, each of twelve thousand men, have been mobilized in Corea.

It appears, the correspondent continues, that the Russian warships at Vladivostok are ice-bound.

Another correspondent of "The Daily Mail" telegraphs from Port Arthur under date of February 9 that the Russian advance has begun. General Krastalinsky will leave Liao-Yang tomorrow for the Yalu River at the head of the Third Brigade of Artillery, consisting of twenty-four guns and three regiments of infantry. The Third, Fourth and Fifth Infantry Brigades are entrenched along the railroad at a distance of forty miles from Hai-Chong, and three batteries of the Fifth Brigade are at Kin-Chau.

The greatest activity prevails here, and ammunition is being served out lavishly at the rate of 150 cartridges a man. New recruits are being enrolled with feverish haste, drilling being dispensed with in favor of incessant target practice.

A dispatch to "The Daily Mail" from Tokio, dated February 9, says that a plot is on foot at Seoul to bring twenty thousand soldiers from Ping-Yang to take the Korean Emperor to the French Legation, to which place the imperial treasury has already been conveyed.

The correspondent of "The Daily Mail" at Kobe, in a dispatch dated February 9, says that a company of Negoya troops have already been sent to guard the ancient shrines at Ise, in the Province of Yamada.

RUSSIANS UNPREPARED.

Few Precautions Taken to Avoid Japan's Attack.

(Special to The New-York Tribune by French Cable.)

London, Feb. 9.--The outbreak of hostilities in the Far East is a warning that costly battleships are vulnerable. Naval officers here do not admit that the case against big ships has been proved, for the evidence of the dispatches shows that the Russian fleet was taken by surprise, since there was no declaration of war, and the attack was made by the Japanese flotilla under cover of darkness. The dispatches are not clear, but there are no indications that the Russian fleet took adequate precautions against a torpedo attack. The two damaged battleships and the cruiser did not have protecting nets in position as they lay at anchor outside the narrow entrance of Port Arthur, nor were patrol boats and scouts on the lookout, nor were the searchlights in proper order.

The Russian torpedo flotilla, instead of being outside, where the assailants could be beaten back, was in the east port behind the boom closing the second entrance to the passage, and probably was imprisoned by ice. The Russian fleet, while in the open roadstead, inviting attack, where the powerful shore batteries, with 10-inch and 12-inch guns could be brought into action against the assailants, was not in proper condition for defence. While experts here are not convinced that battleships are dangerously vulnerable, they are surprised by the facility with which the Japanese operated against three of the best vessels of the Russian fleet, and shared observers wonder whether the chief lesson of naval warfare with scientific mechanism will be the necessity of mounting big guns on small floating carriages.

The renewal of the attack by a large Japanese squadron outside Port Arthur is a determined attempt to cripple or destroy the Russian fleet before the cruisers at Vladivostok can be released from ice and the reserve squadron from Suez can arrive in the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li. It is also a covering movement for the landing of the Japanese army at Chemulpo, Mantschou or elsewhere.

The Japanese censorship is enforced rigorously, and the only authoritative news comes from Russian sources. The Japanese plan of campaign is not disclosed, but the staff is making a vigorous use of the power of initiative, and striking the unprepared Russian fleet under