

GREAT JAPANESE VICTORY.

Mikado's Forces Crossed the Yalu River in the Face of Heavy Russian Fire.

AND DROVE THE CZAR'S SOLDIERS FROM THEIR ENTRENCHED POSITIONS.

Five Days Fighting in which the Japs Won a Most Decisive Victory.

(Special to the Daily Herald.)

London, May 2.—A despatch from Seoul says that after the Japanese charges which resulted in the occupation of the Russian lines at Chia Tien Cheng, the Russians fell back in confusion.

The Japanese have now secured a firm hold on the Manchuria side of the Yalu.

The First Land Battle.

Kaopang Tse, Manchuria, April 30, 1 a. m.—The first battle of the war occurred on the Yalu River. Sixteen thousand Japanese crossed the stream Thursday and attacked thirty thousand Russians, who were strongly fortified. The Japanese were reinforced and the battle continued. The Japanese sharpshooters killed many Russian officers whose uniforms were conspicuous.

Tokio, May 1.—Advice received here states that the twelfth division of the Japanese army forced a crossing of the Yalu river above Wija before dawn Saturday morning. The second pontoon bridge across the river near Wija was completed at 8 o'clock Saturday night, and the Imperial Guards of the second division crossed during the night. The Russians' left flank has been turned and a general attack began at dawn today (Sunday), nearly all the Japanese batteries on the south bank of the river and a flotilla of gunboats co-operating with the army. The Japanese have the advantages of positions and numbers, and are confident of routing the enemy.

Tokio, May 1, 11 a. m.—Advice from the front say that Japanese forces began an attack on the Russians on the Yalu River last Tuesday. The battle was continued Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A decisive struggle is anticipated today (Sunday). On Thursday the Japanese effected a crossing of the Yalu and secured a lodgment on the right bank of the river. The fighting Saturday was at long range and there was a duel with heavy guns across the river. Fighting was resumed at daylight today (Sunday.)

The Russian force is estimated at 30,000 men. The Japanese loss is reported to have been small thus far.

Tokio, May 1, 5 p. m.—The Japanese today captured Chia Tien Cheng, ten miles north of Antung, which is regarded as the key of the Russian position on the right bank of the Yalu river. It is expected that the Russians will retreat to Feng Huan Cheng, which is on the road to Liao Yang.

Russians Admit Defeat.

St. Petersburg, May 1.—The general staff account of the operations on the Yalu river is as follows:

"At 4 o'clock this morning Japanese field batteries with 47 guns opened a terrific fire on our position at Turenchen and our troops posted near Potientinsky.

The overwhelming superiority of the Japanese in artillery and the heavy losses their fire inflicted on our troops occupying these positions, made it clear to General Zassalitch that it was impossible to hold Turenchen. Consequently the troops were ordered to retire from Turenchen while still holding the Potientinsky road. When General Zassalitch despatched his telegram the Russian troops were retiring in good order from Turenchen and Schadkchedzy to their second position, and the battle was continuing at Potientinsky and Tchingu.

The Japanese Account.

Washington, May 1.—The following telegram, dated May 1st, has been received at the Japanese legation from Tokio:

"General Kuroki, commanding the first army, reports that on the 26th of April preparations were made for laying bridges across the Yalu. On the same day detachments of the Imperial

guard and of the second division attacked and dispersed the enemy on islands in the river and occupied the islands. In these engagements 16 of the Imperial Guard were seriously and 9 slightly wounded, while there were no casualties in the second division. The enemy retreated, carrying dead and wounded toward Chia Tien Cheng. A Russian cavalryman taken prisoner said that the twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-seventh infantry regiments of the Eastern Siberian sharpshooters formed the van of the Russian force. Lieut. Senyloff, commanding the mountain scouts of the 22nd regiment, was found dead and was buried at Wija.

Nearly five dead horses were found. From noon of the 26th, until the 27th, the enemy fired intermittently upon Wija, but no reply was made. On the 26th, two gunboats, two torpedo boats and two steamers detached from the squadron of Admiral Hosoya, ascended the Yalu and exchanged shots with the enemy on Antungshan and silenced them. The detachment suffered no damage. On April 28 the two infantry companies of the Imperial Guard reconnoitered Hushan and a part of the company was detached to Sitsu-Yuen, from which place the enemy fled, leaving five dead. The enemy fired a long range from the neighborhood of Chia Tien Cheng upon Wija without much effect upon our works.

On April 29th, the 12th division commenced bridging the river at Saki-Chin and completed the work early on the morning of the 30th and the army crossed from 10.40 a. m. to 1.30 p. m. there was severe firing on all sides, but the enemy was soon silenced. Our losses were five officers slightly wounded, and of the non-commissioned officers and men two killed and twenty-two wounded.

At 8 p. m. of the same day the bridge over the main stream was completed and the army crossing, advanced upon Hushan. On the same day the detachment from Admiral Hosoya's squadron advanced below Antung Shen and fought at close range with 400 of the enemy's infantry and cavalry. The enemy's artillery also directed a heavy fire against the detachment, but retreated after about an hour's firing. There were no casualties on our side.

On May 1st at daybreak our forces commenced cannonading and silenced the enemy's artillery on the hill north-west of Ya Shu Kou, and at 7.30 all divisions advanced to the attack and by 9 a. m. took possession of the heights extending from Chia Tien Cheng to the north of Makou and Yu Shu Kou.

Russians Tell the Story.

St. Petersburg, May 1.—The general staff has issued the following account of the affairs on the Yalu river, April 29th and 30th:

"They also carried away a number of their wounded and others scrambled down the cliffs to the Yalu. The enemy succeeded in removing their mountain guns.

"The Japanese troops at Litzaven and Khussan retreated partly to the Yalu and partly to northward.

"At 10 o'clock on the morning of April 29 a Japanese force of 1,500 infantry and 12 guns began to cross the river at Ambikhe and Schogapudzy. Near Ambikhe there was a small Russian detachment under Lieut. Colonel Goussev, which was compelled to retire under the sustained fire of two Japanese batteries of six guns each. Men were wounded and Lieut. Col. Goussev was bruised on the head and left arm. Our mountain guns were unable to return the enemy's fire on account of the excessive range, and reinforcements were sent to the detachment, with orders to drive the Japanese beyond the Yalu.

"On April 30, from 10 o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon the

Japanese shelled our position at Turenchen from their batteries on the left bank, where they had posted 24 field guns and 122 130-millimetre siege guns, which were cleverly mounted in masked earthworks. They fired a minimum of 2,000 projectiles. Our troops stuck stubbornly to the pontoon at Turenchen.

"On the morning of April 30 the Japanese re-crossed the Yalu at Sindiagu, attacking our troops posted on the heights near the village of Khussan, and turning our left flank. Owing to the great superiority of the Japanese forces we retreated to a position near the village of Potientinsky.

"Our losses at the Turenchen pontoon were Lieut. Paktaloff killed and Lieut. Col. Mahler, commanding a battery of the sixth artillery brigade, seriously wounded in the head; Col. Mester, Capt. Vorobieff, Capt. Sapojnikoff, Lieut. Philadelphoff and Capt. Atroschenko wounded. Lieut. Rotopoff of the 22nd regiment was seriously wounded in the head on the pontoon near Mhusan.

"Our losses in men have not yet been definitely ascertained, but up to the present it is only known that three were killed and nineteen wounded.

Tokio, May 2, 7 a. m.—The Japanese losses on the Yalu Sunday were about 700 killed and wounded.

The Russians lost over 800 men. The Japanese captured 28 quick firing guns, 20 officers and many men. The Russians made two stands.

"From General Kuropatkin's telegrams it appears that the Japanese having crossed to the right bank of the Yalu near the village of Sindiagu, occupied the villages of Khussan and Litzaven. General Zassalitch, with a view to recouping Litzaven and the heights near Kassin, ordered on April 29th a thorough reconnaissance in the positions which the Japanese occupied and then sent a detachment commanded by Staff Lieut. Col. Lind, to attack the enemy.

"The positions near Litzaven and Khussan were defended by a Japanese force consisting of two battalions of the Fourth Regiment of the Guard, with mountain guns and a small force of cavalry of the Guard. With the assistance of our artillery from Potientinsky our troops dislodged the Japanese from their positions, losing two sharpshooters killed and 13 wounded. The Japanese left on the position they vacated 10 dead and 26 wounded.

Supplementary Report.

Tokio, May 2, 7 a. m.—A supplementary report from General Kuroki, covering Sunday's fighting, says:

"The Russians made two stands.

The enemy's strength included all of the third division, two regiments of the sixth division, one cavalry brigade, about forty quick-firing guns and eight machine guns. We have taken 28 quick firing guns, many rifles, much ammunition more than twenty officers and many non-commissioned officers and men as prisoners. I am informed that Major Kashtalinsky, commander of the third East Siberian Rifles brigade, and Lieut. Zassalitch, commander of the second Siberian army corps, were wounded. Our casualties number about 700 and the Russian loss is more than 800 men."

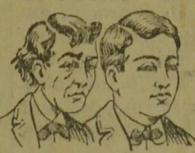
Five Days Fighting.

Tokio, May 2.—After five days of fighting, largely with artillery, the first Japanese army under General Kuroki, has forced a crossing of the Yalu river and today with a gallant infantry charge covering a frontage of four miles, it drove the Russians from Chia Tien Cheng and the heights on the right bank of the Iho or Aida river, which enters the Yalu from the north almost opposite Wija. The Japanese turned the left flank of the Russian position and in the battle of today they swept away the new front interposed by the Russians to check their onward movement.

The present position of the Japanese is a dominating one, and they may force the abandonment of the defences erected by the Russians at Antung and other points lower down the river.

General Kuroki began the movement on Tuesday by ordering a detachment of the Imperial Guards division to seize the Island of Kurito, which is in the Yalu above Wija, and a detachment of the second division to seize the Island of (Continued on Second Page.)

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