

JAPANESE HEROES.

Country Ringing with Praises of Her Brave Generals and Admiral.

CAPTURE OF A PORT ARTHUR FORT A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

Japs Tunelled Under Mountain and Laid Mines.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Tokio, Dec. 20.—Japan is ringing today with the praises of General Samejima, the hero of the assault on Keowan mountain fort.

It is conceded that his heroism inspired his men and turned a threatened disaster to victory.

Headquarters Third Japanese Army, Dec. 20.—The capture of North Kekwan Mountain fort was a brilliant spectacle.

The Japanese had been tunnelling shafts and laying mines which exploded on the 13th inst.

The first attempt failed, the Japanese soldiers remaining in the moat during the explosions of the mines.

Many were killed by the debris.

The second assault followed the explosion and the assaulters charged through two huge rents in the walls.

New York, Dec. 20.—The Associated correspondent at Mukden writes that the city has resumed its usual tenor.

The stores are all open and business proceeds as if there was no war.

The Russians are strongly entrenched ten miles south and the people are confident that the Japanese cannot take the city.

HEROIC CAPTURE OF FORT.

Togo Going Home and Will Receive Distinguished Honors.

Tokio, Dec. 19.—The following report of the capture of North fort, East Kekwan, was telegraphed from General Nogi's headquarters today:

"On Dec. 19, at 2.15 p. m., part of our army blew up the parapets of the North fort of East Kekwan Mountain and then charged.

"A fierce battle with hand grenades ensued.

"Owing to the stubborn resistance of the enemy, with machine guns, our operations were temporarily suspended.

"Subsequently, at 7 a. m., General Semeiam, commanding the supports, advanced into the casemates, and encouraging his men, threw his supports into the fighting line in a last brave charge.

"At 11.59 p. m. we completely occupied the fort and immediately engaged into the construction of the defensive works. Our occupation became firmly assured today.

"Before retiring the enemy exploded four mines in the neighborhood of the neck of the fort.

"We captured five nine-centimetre field guns as well as plenty of ammunition.

"The enemy left forty or fifty dead. Our casualties are not heavy."

Tokio, Dec. 19.—Vice-Admiral Togo, in reporting the renewal of the torpedo attack on the night of Dec. 15 says:

"Our torpedo boat flotilla again attempted an attack on the night of Dec. 15 against the battleship Sevastopol, the coast defence vessel Oyashini, and the torpedo boat destroyers lying at the foot of Cheng-tac mountain.

"Commander Seko's flotilla, braving the heavy snow, reached the enemy's anchorage at 4.30 o'clock in the morning and running between the Sevastopol and a destroyer, succeeded in discharging torpedoes close against the Sevastopol and the Oyashini. Explosions were observed each time. The flotilla exchanged gun fire with the enemy's destroyer at a range of a hundred metres and succeeded in hitting her. A torpedo discharged from Commander Seko's boat apparently hit the enemy's destroyer.

"During this bold attack the enemy's fusillade was exceedingly vigorous, but owing to the close proximity, our boats suffered no damage, and there were no casualties among the crews.

"Commander Jingui's flotilla, following that of Commander Seko, discharged several torpedoes, and at least three explosions were clearly observed. After an exchange of fire with the enemy's destroyers the flotilla gradually stirred seaward. Engineer Watanabe of Commander Jingui's boat was wounded and two men were killed. One man was wounded on Lieut. Tamoaki's boat.

"The boats of the flotilla under Commander Yezoe were undergoing repairs when the flotilla received orders to join in the attack. Commander

Yezoe then boarded a single craft, assuming command of her, and hurrying to the base, found that the other flotillas had departed. Immediately he started alone, and independently attacked the Sevastopol. He approached close to that vessel and was killed. His boat was safely returned to the base.

Tokio, Dec. 19.—Although accustomed to hearing of acts of bravery on the part of their soldiers and sailors, the people of Japan have been thrilled by the details of the desperate torpedo attacks against the Russian battleship Sevastopol and other craft driven outside the harbor of Port Arthur by the fire of the Japanese land batteries.

Commander Yezoe and Lieut. Nakahara are the heroes of these attacks, and the former promises to gain equal prominence with Commander Hirose (who on March 27 last was blown to fragments in Vice Admiral Togo's second attempt to bottle up Port Arthur) in the traditions of Japan.

Commander Yezoe's flotilla of torpedo boats was undergoing repairs when the attacks were planned, but he succeeded in putting one of his vessels into condition for a fight. On this vessel he promptly started to the rendezvous, and finding that the other flotilla had gone, begged and gained permission to join in the attacks. Then he steamed through the snow storm alone and succeeded in locating the Sevastopol, to which he was able to get close enough to hear the Russians talking. Yezoe fired a torpedo and then, went closer and fired a second torpedo, when a shell from the Sevastopol struck him in the abdomen, cutting his body in two.

Portions of Commander Yezoe's remains were saved and brought back to the fleet. They will probably come to Japan for public interment, as was done with portions of the remains of Commander Hirose.

Lieut. Nakahara went to the rescue of the disabled torpedo boat, which had been under the command of Lieut. Nakohori, who with five others was killed, and submitted to a deadly fire. Nakahara's boat was hit repeatedly but he succeeded in rescuing a majority of the crew of Nakohori's boat.

More of Admiral Togo's men volunteered for participation in the attacks than could be assigned.

It is probable that Admiral Togo will soon return to Japan, leaving a junior admiral to conduct the final operations and to continue the blockade. It is expected that Togo will be summoned by the Emperor of Japan to Tokio, where he will be given splendid public receptions.

Admiral Togo's campaign of ten months is considered equal to any in the history of naval warfare. He has labored constantly under the necessity of preserving the vessels of his fleet for service against the Russian second Pacific squadron. The admiral and his men have stood storm and exposure. The men are in good health and exultant.

FORTUNE OF 30 MILLIONS.

Left to Two Poor Men Residing at Lindsay, Ont.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Lindsay, Ont., Dec. 20.—James Hobbs and Wm. Griller, living near here received word this morning that they are heirs to a thirty million dollar English estate.

Both are poor men. They will leave for England to press their claims.

I. C. R. Employee Dead.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

St. John, Dec. 20.—T. T. Trites, aged 82, died this morning. He was employed in the I. C. R. roundhouse and for thirty years was connected with the I. C. R. Two sons and two daughters survive.

BISHOP CASEY OF ST. JOHN.

Among Those Received in Audience Today by the Pope.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Rome, Dec. 20.—The Pope received today in private audience, Bishop McDonald of Charlottetown, Bishop

Casey, St. John, and Bishop Larocque of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

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