

# BATTLE CONTINUED ALL NIGHT LONG.

Russians Retain Their Position On the Shakh River, Capturing Six Guns.

## KUROPATKIN TO THE EMPEROR.

Official Veil is Lifted and Ghastly Tragedy Around Shakh Revealed.

Mukden, Oct. 15.—The battle was renewed and continued throughout the night being especially heavy at midnight.

The Russians retain their position along the Shakh river and have made no attempt to attack the Japanese, except the attack on the latter's guns. The eastern army is helping the western forces. There has been very heavy fighting today.

The fighting is now centered on the plain.

## KUROPATKIN TO THE CZAR.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 16.—Under date of Oct. 15, Gen. Kuropatkin sent the following telegram to the emperor:

"On the night of Oct. 13, large forces of Japanese attacked the corps drawn up in line at Shakh, on the great Manchurian road. Several attacks were repulsed, but the last succeeded and the corps was broken. At that moment the Japanese were on the right bank with a strong force of infantry and artillery. The possibility was that with the capture of our center our whole formation would be threatened and that the Japanese would be able to surround the corps. In order to support the troops met in the great Manchurian road, several batteries were rapidly pushed forward. The troops were thus enabled to take the offensive and succeeded in retaking the village of Shakh, recapturing the position.

Encouraged by reserves, the Japanese attacked us again from the village of Shakh. Then the advanced reserves and troops defending the position resumed the offensive and, after a stubborn fight, we succeeded in recapturing the village of Shakh. The Japanese were driven back two kilometers from that place.

"On our right wing the position was for some time very alarming. The troops were attacked from the front and a turning movement on their flank. The chief of a detachment advanced the troops apart for a short rally, they having attacked the Japanese from the flank in their turn. Several villages were taken by us. The fighting continued in this manner. The troops on our center were noticeably advanced in comparison with other troops in the general position of the line. Our position on our right wing had been chosen beforehand and was fortified.

"Our troops have been fighting for four days and many regiments have been sent for three nights. Nevertheless, I have full confidence in their ability to continue the struggle. The Japanese losses must be very considerable.

"The night of Oct. 14 passed quietly. Before 6 o'clock this morning a rather sudden movement of the enemy was noted in the direction of our positions. A great Manchurian road. Our batteries opened fire on them.

"I have received a report from the commander of the left wing that the enemy has been strongly reinforced. The Japanese are now attacking us. The quantity of heavy firing caused a great deal of smoke, followed by a tremendous rain. The roads are in very bad condition and the level of the river has risen.

"The general order for all troops remained the same as before, to offer no resistance. I have just received a report that a considerable Japanese force has crossed the railway line from west to east."

## OFFICIAL VEIL LIFTED.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 17, 3:45 a. m.—The official veil was lifted today on the ghastly tragedy around Shakh, but the official account, supplemented by numerous press dispatches, leaves much uncertainty as to the details. On the fragmentary mass of information at hand it is possible only to conclude that the costly withdrawal and retreat from Liao Yang was a tactical error, but at midnight the retreating Japanese were renewed with increased fury, eye-witnesses declaring that it exceeded in intensity that at Liao Yang during the famous fighting of Aug. 30 and 31.

There was much desperate fighting on Friday, which was carried on through the night. The result of Saturday's fight was a tremendous success for the Russian army. Gen. Kuropatkin personally took command of the Petroff regiment. It was in the midst of this awful war of man and elements, the Petroff regiment leading, that the Russians for the last time charged doggedly into Shakh and took the town in the face of the hottest Japanese bombardment.

The latest reports from the battle are on Sunday afternoon and evening, when the Russians were carrying on a heavy guard fight, evidently retreating on Mukden. Gen. Oku and Nodzu were concentrating for another blow on the Russian right, where the fighting is described as having been furious. Gen. Nodzu is reported to have been seriously wounded, but this cannot be confirmed.

Mukden itself remains quiet, although the sounds of battle are plainly heard to the southward. The railway station is congested with trains, and wounded are being brought in. Six thousand wounded arrived at Mukden on Saturday alone. The heroic surgeons and nurses, many of whom have been without sleep for 36 hours, are ready to drop with fatigue.

Although the official account of the battle does not present the disaster picture that many in St. Petersburg had resigned themselves to see, the general feeling here is of the deepest gloom. If the battle has not been Russia's Sedan in fact, the moral and political effect could hardly be worse. The result will render the war and its conduct more unpopular than ever at home, while the greatest fears are expressed that the Chinese population, if not the government, will be encouraged to abandon a long doubtful neutrality and openly side with the victorious Japanese.

From the military point of view the most bitter disappointment is in the knowledge that reversal seals the fate of the heroic defenders of Port Arthur, who are now without hope of succor from the outside world.

A remarkable feature throughout is the popular sympathy with Gen. Kuropatkin. Viceroy Alexieff is again charged with responsibility for Kuropatkin's attempt to take aggressive action. It is not that criticism is awarded the ill-starred general; but it is felt among army officers that the military prestige of the whole of Russia has suffered at his hands that it is impossible for him to ever be given the chance to retrieve the disaster.

## RUSSIAN FELL BACK.

Mukden, Oct. 15, via Pekin.—With the

# SIN IN DISEASES.

Altoona, Pa., June 20, 1903. I was afflicted with Sin in bad shape. It would appear in blotches as large as my hand, a yellowish color, and scale off. You can imagine how offensive it was. For twelve years I was afflicted with this trouble. At night it was a case of scratch and many times no rest at all. Seeing the good the medicine was doing a friend who was taking it for Eczema, I commenced it, and as a result the eruption began to dry up and disappear, and to-day I am practically a well man. Only two tiny spots are left on the elbow and shin, where once the whole body was affected. I have every confidence in the medicine, and feel sure that in a short time these two remaining spots will disappear. S. S. S. is certainly a great blood purifier, and has done me a world of good. I am grateful for what it has accomplished, and trust that what I have said will lead others who are similarly afflicted to take the remedy and obtain the same good results that I have.

125 East Fifth Ave. J. H. LEAR.

While washes, soaps, salves and powders relieve temporarily, they do not reach the real cause of the disease. The blood must be purified before the cure is permanent. S. S. S. contains no potash, arsenic or mineral of any description, but is guaranteed purely vegetable. Send for our book on the skin and its diseases, which is mailed free. Our physicians will cheerfully advise without charge any who write us about their case.

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absolutely nothing is heard, which leaves the inference that it is not in a position to communicate with the remainder of the army.

All the wounded are being carried to Harbin, further north. It is understood that the correspondents also have been ordered to Harbin, which indicates that the retreat will not stop at the pass. All hopes of the Japanese to break the Russian line at Port Arthur have been abandoned.

The weather conditions are even worse than during the retreat from Liao Yang. Streams are bank high and floods are impossible, but it is impossible to say how that will affect the final situation. The Russian salivation by preventing a Japanese pursuit. On the other hand, however, if the Russians are on the wrong side, the flooded rivers may only emphasize the completeness of the disaster.

Another serious fact that remains undetermined is the ammunition supply. Seven days of furious fighting must have greatly depleted the supply of both armies. Official circles express great confidence that Gen. Kuropatkin is better off in this respect, but at last accounts the Japanese were bombarding as if they were confident of an inexhaustible supply.

The official story of the battle says that the Japanese made a determined effort to break the Russian center Friday night, but this is in no respect a clerical or telegraphic error. For Thursday simultaneously the Japanese launched a heavy assault against the village of Shakh, which had already been the scene of so many furious attacks and counter attacks.

The Russians were forced to evacuate the village, but heroically recaptured the position. This brought reserves of both sides into action, but neither the whole of the reserves of either side were engaged in this respect. The result of Saturday's fight has not been officially given, but there is every evidence that it was of the most severe character.

It was during the Japanese furious night attack on Wednesday, according to unofficial accounts, that the Russians lost their guns. Thursday witnessed another furious cannonade, in which the whole of the Russian center was forced back. In the afternoon of the same day the Russians' right wing came to give way. Toward evening came a lull of a few hours, but at midnight the cannonading was renewed with increased fury, eye-witnesses declaring that it exceeded in intensity that at Liao Yang during the famous fighting of Aug. 30 and 31.

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## RUSSIAN FELL BACK.

Mukden, Oct. 15, via Pekin.—With the

Russian army of the center.—After six days of the hardest kind of fighting, this section of the Russian army fell back last night on the Shakh river and is now holding a position on the north side of that stream. The fighting, which began shortly after noon Oct. 14, has been in progress continuously ever since. On October 15 the Russians advanced to the southeast, crossing the Shakh river, thence to Hamantung, 20 miles southeast of Mukden, and 10 miles north of Yentai. On the hills around Hamantung the Japanese had planted four batteries. Upon the advance of the Russians these batteries returned to the southward across a narrow valley, which runs east and west and joined the main Japanese force on the hills beyond.

In the fighting around Hamantung a few Japanese prisoners were taken. The Russians followed the Japanese across the valley, taking positions in the foothills, from which the artillery shelled the Japanese force, while the infantry advanced through the defiles.

Oct. 16, the artillery duel continued, the Russians advancing slowly. During the night the Japanese changed their positions and at daylight enfiladed the Russian trenches, pouring a terrific shrapnel fire on the infantry composed of one regiment, only a remnant of which was left.

From this on the Japanese took the offensive the entire day of Oct. 11, throwing shrapnel and shrapnel powder shells amongst the infantry and artillery. The Russians held tenaciously to their positions. Early in the day the Japanese began to work at the Russian left and succeeded in dropping a few shells on the road and in the villages where the transport and reserves were gathered.

The Japanese had the range of the road and village of Oct. 12, shelling the men and wagons to take to the fields. This shelling did little damage beyond disconcerting the men and horses. Additional guns were sent forward to protect the left, while the batteries withdrew across the plains to the hills on the north side. This gave the Japanese possession of a high hill on the south side, from which they shelled the valley through which the Russians had advanced during the evening. The Japanese apparently suffered greatly from the Russian fire.

The morning of Oct. 12 found little change in the positions of the two armies, except that the Japanese had worked further around to the left. Probably the greatest artillery fight of the battle took place Oct. 12. Batteries were placed on every available hill, and at the same time regiment after regiment of infantry was poured into the plain by both sides only to be thrown back, shattered and torn. It is impossible, as yet, to estimate the loss of life.

During the night a heavy rainstorm occurred, in the midst of which the artillery continued to boom, and at one point the Japanese infantry charged. They were met by Russian machine guns in the darkness, which were lighted only by flashes of guns, the bursting of shells, and the streaks of lightning. The men fought hand to hand, the Japanese regiment being finally driven back.

The thunder and rain continued all the morning of Oct. 13, but notwithstanding this the guns opened fire promptly at daylight. The Russians fought stubbornly, but retired slowly. The Japanese continued to threaten the Russian left. Towards evening the Japanese opened with all their guns on the Russian position, the shrapnel falling like hail in the field and on the hills.

The morning of Oct. 15 found the Russians with their backs to the Shakh river, across which transports had been withdrawn during the night. Fighting continued from these positions all during the day of the 14th, while the Russian reinforcements took up positions on the hills to the north of the river. Another thunderstorm broke shortly after noon, flooding the streams and turning the roads into seas, and by evening the main Russian force had withdrawn across the Shakh river. The Japanese shells were dropping within a short distance of the river on the left.

The fighting re-began at daylight, the boom of the guns being distinctly heard in Mukden. The whole Russian army is slowly retiring and fighting every inch of the way. When the Associated Press correspondent came north today there appeared no danger of any part of the army being cut off.

In an informal talk which the Associated Press correspondent had with Gen. Kuropatkin in the field just before the battle began he spoke in glowing terms of the bravery of the Japanese, saying that they were a gallant foe, and also that they were most correct in the observance of the rules of war. In this respect, he said, it was the most pleasant war he had ever been engaged in.

## RUSSIAN RETAKE SHAKHE.

Mukden, Oct. 15, 10:25 p. m.—Shakh is again in the hands of the Russians. After the last evacuation of the village by the Russians the Japanese failed in an attempt to recapture it, and now the village is held by Russian infantry. There is every indication that the Russian right flank is about to resume the offensive and recapture the positions held by them on Oct. 10 and 11.

The Japanese resistance is growing weaker, and they are apparently preparing to evacuate the village. The Russian center and the Japanese army are stubborn and are showing more resistance. Some of the positions on the fighting line have already changed hands ten times. It is impossible to say how long the contest will continue before one side or the other is worn out.

As this dispatch is finished the sound of increasing cannonading from the center indicates that something unusual is happening. The correspondent is leaving for the front to ascertain the cause.

## Fleet Suffers from Land Batteries

Tokio, Oct. 17, 9:30 a. m.—It is authoritatively reported that the Russian fleet at Port Arthur is suffering severely from the Japanese land batteries. Reports of a recent attempt by the fleet to sortie are unfounded, as is the reported capture of another blockade runner.

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# EMPEROR NICHOLAS IS RESPONSIBLE.

It Was He, According to Report, Who Ordered Gen. Kuropatkin To Advance.

## RESULT OF WEEK'S FIGHTING.

In Shedding of Blood Exceeds That At Battle of Lia Yang—Men Are Tired Out.

Tokio, Oct. 16, 8 p. m.—According to statements made by Russian prisoners, Gen. Kuropatkin was ordered by Emperor Nicholas to make a stand at Mukden and to assume the aggressive as speedily as possible, in order to relieve the Port Arthur garrison. This order, the prisoners say, reached Mukden on Sept. 27, and Gen. Kuropatkin, in obedience to it, began his disastrous southern advance movement. An extended report dealing with the statements of these prisoners is as follows:

"According to statements made to officers of the center army by Russian prisoners whom they had captured, the enemy had received information that the strength of the garrison at Port Arthur was being daily reduced and that the garrison was in a disastrous condition. Fresh Russian reinforcements were constantly arriving in Manchuria from Europe and the strength of the forces under Gen. Kuropatkin in the neighborhood of Mukden had reached more than nine army corps.

"Thereupon, the prisoners say, the Russian emperor, on Sept. 27, ordered Kuropatkin not to retire a step beyond Mukden and directed him, under circumstances permitting, to assume the offensive as quickly as possible and to drive the Japanese out of southern Manchuria, in order to rescue the Port Arthur garrison.

"Acting under this command, Gen. Kuropatkin advanced with his whole strength to the south of Mukden, dividing his forces into three columns, the center, the right and the left. The center column, composed of the First, Fourth and Fifth corps, under the command of Gen. Sokolov, advanced toward Tungshankou and Linhua mountain. The left column, which was composed of two corps, under Gen. Stalkburg, advanced against the Japanese right. The right column, which was composed of three corps, advanced against the Japanese left. Besides these there were one corps held in reserve which was following the center column.

"Gen. Linevich, commanding the field fighting force in the Ososut district, was taking a devious road from the east and advancing toward the southwest. The cannonading never ceased for a moment on Oct. 15. The fight has now been continuous for seven days. The position of the oncoming forces continually changes, first one and then another assuming the offensive, but up to 10 o'clock of the night of Oct. 14 neither had achieved a signal success.

The main forces of the Japanese concentrated against the Russian right, where Gen. Kuroki and Nodzu apparently were gathering the whole of their forces. It is said that Gen. Nodzu has been seriously wounded. It is as yet impossible to say what has been the result of the Japanese aggressive movement on the southwest.

Gen. Kuropatkin is personally directing his troops. This sustains the men in their hope of success. However, there is no doubt the Russians have sustained enormous losses. The transportation of the wounded to the railway is accomplished with the greatest difficulty, owing to the rain-soaked condition of the roads.

On Saturday 5,000 wounded arrived at the railway, were on board cars and detached toward the north. The fight continues near Shakh and the sound of guns can be plainly heard here. The people of Mukden, however, are not displaying great excitement.

**BATTLE RAGED ALL NIGHT.**

Harbin, Oct. 16, 3 p. m.—It is reported here that during the whole of the night of Oct. 14 infantry fighting continued. At 5 o'clock on the morning of Oct. 15 the side fire was joined by an enormous artillery discharge, the bombardment reaching its climax at noon. Throughout the night there was a blinding storm of rain and hail.

The Japanese concentrated a terrible artillery fire against the bridge across the Shakh. The Japanese attempted to cross to the right bank of the Shakh river and pierce the Russian center, but met a determined resistance from infantry regiments, which eventually repulsed them back.

The fight on the right flank continued through Oct. 15, but less desperately, both sides being seemingly exhausted. Railway trains arrived here today, bringing many wounded from the front. Preparations are made to receive many more.

## AS VIEWED IN LONDON.

London, Oct. 17.—All reports this morning agree on Gen. Kuropatkin's defeat in what military critics consider one of the greatest battles of modern times, comparable with Koniggratz and Leipzig. Spencer Wilkinson considers Marquis Oyama's conduct of the battle as not marked by the same distinctness of plan and execution as that of Gen. Kuropatkin, whose handling of his army is quite intelligible on the assumption that he was ordered to make the attack.

Related dispatches arriving in London descriptive of the week's fighting to some extent bear out this view. For instance, the Standard's correspondent with Gen. Kuroki's army testifies that

"The Russian guns, from a position across the railway, rained shells unbrokenly for 12 hours, drowning the noisy fusillade in the trenches east and west."

A storm of rain and hail broke at noon, culminating at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when numbers of wounded from the trenches were seen passing through the headquarters.

The scene is now dramatic in the extreme. Japanese artillery sent one bomb into a village behind the Russian headquarters at noon, and some hours later began to shell with lyddite from the west. This at first was believed to be an attack on account of the Japanese habit of attacking late in the afternoon.

Amid the storm the wounded, wet and cold, arrived either in litters or on foot, struggling through the mud, while at the same time the artillery was seen flashing, with an expenditure of ammunition which seemed beyond all reckoning.

Ammunition trains and transport wagons which had been alarmed into a double-quick movement were brought to a walk by shouts from the headquarters staff that "headquarters stand firm."

Chargers are seen carving riderless and draught horses plunging in the mud and over the vehicles that have been almost destroyed. The forest at this point were holding their positions at nightfall.

The roads are filled with wounded who are collecting along the railway, while there are no trains to receive

them. Many of the wounded remained in the field until after dark, lying deep in mud.

## MEN ARE TIRED OUT.

Mukden, Oct. 16, Evening.—The firing to the southwest is less violent. The men are tired out and food has been insufficient. Every available gun and man are being used. The troops have behaved most gallantly, hurrying themselves repeatedly against impregnable positions. The heavy storm of Oct. 14 added to the misery of the troops. There is great depression and stolid tenacity among the men. There has been great sacrifice of officers.

The plain occupied by the retreating Russians is covered with bursting shrapnel. The gunners shoveled shells into the breaches of the guns as stocks shovels coal into furnaces.

Howitzers are used by the eastern army. The Russian guns have superior range and burst shrapnel at 6,000 yards. There is a scarcity of reliable maps. The divisional commanders have lost their chief staff officers, one of them being killed, and many commanding officers result in death. Heavily loaded in their regiments, Shrapnel fell near Gen. Kuropatkin. He showed desperate energy, and even in the darkest hour remained hopeful. The Japanese must feel the strain.

There was a cessation of hostilities Saturday. Neither side can stand any such contests, the ferocity of which was frightful.

The Russians are now fighting as a matter of pride. Manchuria is forgotten, they feel that they cannot retreat, that they must win a battle.

This evening the Japanese seem nearer. Fires are burning to the south. About 12 miles from here the eastern army is retiring without fighting. It is now certain that the army will be able to retreat to the south coast of the sea. It has been a bigger battle than Liao Yang. The Russians are attacking on the right today.

## ARMIES STUCK IN MUD.

Mukden, Oct. 15, via Pekin, Oct. 16.—Desultory cannonading is heard, but there is not likely to be any important fighting today, as both armies are stuck in the mud.

The horse ridden by the correspondent of the Associated Press was badly deep in water this morning for several miles along the road from the vicinity of the battlefield to Mukden.

The Russian achievements along the railway yesterday were not sufficient to enable them to maintain their position along the line where the main fighting began, and the Russian forces are now in the plain 10 miles north of the point where they attacked the Japanese on Oct. 9. They are fighting hard and stubbornly, but are in retreat.

The newly arrived Russian corps gave a good account of itself. The Japanese successfully enfiladed the places where the Russians had made a heroic but fruitless stand all during the past week.

On account of the prowess of the Japanese the Russian right wing, which is now in the center here, unless the Japanese should persist in the efforts to insert a wedge in the center of the Russian line.

The infantry, which for two days has only been supplementing the work of the trenches of the artillery, is now scattered all the way to Mukden, and is frequently seen marooned in the flooded fields.

## FOUGHT A WHOLE WEEK.

Mukden, Oct. 16, 9 p. m.—The fight ceased along the whole front on Oct. 15, but continued furiously on the southwest. The cannonading never ceased for a moment on Oct. 15. The fight has now been continuous for seven days. The position of the oncoming forces continually changes, first one and then another assuming the offensive, but up to 10 o'clock of the night of Oct. 14 neither had achieved a signal success.

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The Russian troops were more skillfully led and more capable and resolute than those encountered in the opening weeks of the campaign.

The same correspondent remarks the grave disadvantage under which the Japanese are laboring owing to the inferiority of their field guns. He refers to the fighting of Oct. 11, "when our six batteries, although well posted and admirably handled, were compelled to remain silent the greater part of the day and see the chance of a lifetime pass by under the very muzzles of their guns. Effective pursuit was debarred us by the superior range of the Russian artillery."

## CONCENTRATED ON RUSSIAN RIGHT WING.

Mukden, Oct. 15.—(Delayed in Transmissions.)—Even today the full extent of the fight around Shakh is undetermined. In the center and on the left wing all is quiet. The Russians moved forward somewhat, but stopped. The whole force of the aggressive movement of the Japanese seems concentrated against the Russian right wing, which suffered under terrible blows.

This morning the Russians took the aggressive. The Velikuzna regiment led a brilliant attack against the Japanese positions, all the troops fighting with the courage and steadiness exhibited the first day of the battle. The Japanese had apparently brought up reserves and were concentrating an enormous force against the Russians. In the evening the Japanese advanced in overwhelming numbers, forcing the Russians to retire. It is expected that there will be a continuation of the battle Sunday.

## ALL QUIET AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, Oct. 16, 7:30 p. m.—The cannonading has ceased temporarily at least. Mukden is quiet and the railway station and hospitals alone are the scenes of confusion. The station is congested and trains are moving out toward Harbin only. In some cases it is absolutely impossible to move trains loaded with wounded, and the unfortunate soldiers have to be kept here.

The whole hospital staff is displaying the greatest courage and fortitude, working night and day. Many, after working seemingly to the limit of human endurance, have gone to the front to continue their work under fire, replacing those incapacitated on the firing line. Every road converging on Mukden is crowded with vehicles, transporting the wounded, who are being sent north by wagon road as well as by rail. The result of today's fighting