

KILLED IN FIGHT

Admiral Witthoft Meets an Awful Death.

BOTH LEGS BLOWN OFF

Two Other Officers of the Czarvitch Are Lost.

SHIP IS BADLY DAMAGED

Engines and Steering-Gear Disabled at a Critical Time—Vessel Will Probably Be Dismantled at Telling Chou.

IMPORTANT WAR CENTERS.

CHEFOO—Important city and treaty port of Chinese province of Shantung; is opposite Port Arthur, from which it is distant 77 miles by sea; population, 60,000.

PORT ARTHUR—Probably the most important strategic point in the Far East, taken by Japan in 1894, but retaken; located in Russia by China in 1895; entrance to harbor is bad; docking and repairing facilities are extremely limited.

VLADIVOSTOK—Russian harbor and naval base in the Sea of Japan, near the Manchurian coast; distance from Port Arthur, 140 miles; a double cable connects the town with Khabarovsk, 20,000.

WEI HAI WEI—On north coast of Shantung Province of China; leased from China by Great Britain; neutralized in full during the war; Port Arthur to Shantung, population, 125,000.

KIAO CHOW—A port in the Chinese Province of Shantung, leased to Germany.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 13.—In raptures of joy yesterday over the birth of an heir to the crown, today Russia is weighed down by sorrow over the death of Rear-Admiral Witthoft in the great naval battle off Port Arthur Wednesday. A dispatch tonight from Viceroy Alexieff to the czar gives details of the death of the brave commander, but early today the public knew of the death of the brave commander. The intelligence was communicated to the Emperor by Captain Maucovitch, the Rear-Admiral's chief of staff, who wired from Telling Chou. Both of the commander's legs were blown off.

Captain Maucovitch's complete report rendered by Viceroy Alexieff and communicated by him to the czar follows:

"At dawn of August 10 our Port Arthur squadron began to make for the open sea, and emerged from the port at 9 o'clock. The squadron consisted of six battleships, the cruisers Askold, Diana, Pallada and Novik, and eight torpedo-boats. The Japanese followed us with the following force: A first detachment consisting of the battleships Asahi, Mikasa, Fuji, Yamashiro and Shikishima, and the cruisers Nishinomiya and Kasuga; a second detachment consisting of the cruisers Yakumo, Kasagi, Chitose and Takasago, and a third detachment consisting of the cruisers Atsukushima, Idzumi, Matsushima, Iwakushima and Hashidume, and the battleship Chinyuen, with about 30 torpedo-boats.

"Our squadron maneuvered to gain a passage through the line of the enemy's ships. Meantime the Japanese torpedo-boats were laying floating mines in the way of our squadron, thus rendering evolutions very difficult.

"At 1 P. M. our squadron, after 40 minutes of fighting, succeeded in effecting a passage, and shaped its course toward Shantung. The enemy, following at full speed, caught up with us slowly, and at 5 o'clock fighting began again and continued for some hours without either side obtaining any advantage.

"In the battle the commander of our squadron was killed and the Captain of the battleship Czarvitch was wounded and lost consciousness. Almost at the same time the engines and steering gear of the Czarvitch were damaged, and she was obliged to stop for 30 minutes. This forced the other ships to maneuver around her. The command of the squadron devolved upon Rear-Admiral Prince Oskotensky and the commander of the Czarvitch, the second in command.

Could Not Make Vladivostok.

"After nightfall the Czarvitch, being unable to follow the squadron and losing sight of it, took a southerly direction in order to attempt to reach Vladivostok under her own steam. She was attacked by torpedo-boats during the night, and at dawn was in the vicinity of Shantung. The officer commanding the squadron, having examined and determined the extent of the damage to the ship, concluded she could not make Vladivostok and allowed her Captain to proceed to Kiao Chou for repairs.

"Those killed included Rear-Admiral Witthoft, Navigating Flag Lieutenant Anzief, Navigating Lieutenant Dragulshchikov. Those slightly wounded included myself and eight others. A number of sailors were killed or wounded, but just how many has not yet been ascertained.

"I arrived at Kiao Chou at 9 o'clock in the evening, and found there the cruiser Novik and the torpedo-boat Beskhum. I am happy to bear witness to your Majesty to the unexampled bravery of the officers and men during the desperate encounter."

WILL PROBABLY BE DISMANTLED

The Czarvitch Moved Further Inside After Challenge by Japanese.

CHEFOO, Aug. 13.—A private telegram received here tonight says the Russian battleship Czarvitch has moved further into Telling Chou harbor, following a demand made by the Japanese that the Russians come out and fight. It is surmised that the Czarvitch will be dismantled.

A telegram to the Associated Press from Telling Chou, filed today at noon, confirms the previous reports of the serious damage inflicted upon the Czarvitch, and says that for this reason the battleship is unable to leave port. The Russian tor-

pedo-boat destroyers Besposhtehadn and Beskhum, both slightly damaged, were taken ashore today. The destroyer Beskhum has not been injured, and will take active steps toward enforcing neutrality under the guarantee of Secretary of State Hay's note, which action hardly could be expected from the Russian government of China on its own initiative.

The rumors current here of fighting at Telling Chou are not believed, as the latest news from there makes no mention thereof.

The German cruiser Thetis left Telling Chou yesterday. An Italian warship Chio has left there. The destinations of these vessels are unknown.

Admiral Togo is said to be with the main portion of the Japanese fleet, which has been ordered to Telling Chou. A portion of the fleet includes all the battleships. The whereabouts of the Russian cruisers Pallada and Novik are not known here. It is believed that if these vessels are still about they will undoubtedly endeavor to connect with the Vladivostok squadron. A telegram received here from Osaka, Japan, confirms the report that the Japanese main squadron is bound for a southern destination, "on an active campaign."

BORE BRUNT OF FIGHTING.

Czarvitch Was Made Special Target by the Japanese.

CHEFOO, Aug. 13.—The Associated Press dispatch from Telling Chou wires that the Russian battleship Czarvitch received terrible punishment in the fight off Shantung promontory on August 10, lasting from noon until evening. The Czarvitch bore the brunt of the fighting until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when Admiral Witthoft was hit by a shell, which blew his body in pieces, only one of his legs being found after the explosion. Four officers standing near him were also killed. Altogether the Czarvitch lost 15 men killed and 4 wounded.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon of August 11 a Russian torpedo-boat destroyer, badly damaged, steamed slowly into Telling Chou, and half an hour later the protected cruiser Novik, slightly injured, entered port. No dead were on board either vessel. They took coal and departed at 3 o'clock on the morning of August 12.

The battleship Czarvitch arrived at Telling Chou on the night of August 11, steaming at the rate of four knots an hour, and burning immense quantities of coal to make even that rate of speed. Her rudder shaft was broken, her guns disabled, lifeboats had been lost, her masts were badly bent, her funnels were riddled and her bridge had been twisted out of position. The projectile holes above the water line were covered with makeshift stoppers of wood.

The same day, August 11, the cruiser Askold with 15 of her crew dead and 12 wounded and one torpedo-boat destroyer attempted to enter Telling Chou, but were kept out by a Japanese cruiser, whereupon they proceeded to Wei Sung.

The officers of the Czarvitch are of the opinion that the Japanese vessels undoubtedly suffered severely in the fighting, as well as the Czarvitch. The decks of the Russian battleships were slippery with blood and the men on board were almost dead as a result of the concussion of firing.

Several Japanese cruisers are now reported to be at present off Shan Tung promontory near the scene of the fighting, while the destroyers are scouting duty and watching the mouth of Telling Chou Harbor.

The German warships at Telling Chou consist of the cruiser Roon, the gunboat Oeder, Hansa and Hert, the gunboats Luchs and Tiger and two torpedo-boat destroyers. They control the harbor exit absolutely.

Pilot Says Fighting Was Over.

CHEFOO, Aug. 13 (10 P. M.).—The steamer Dagmar, arriving tonight from Telling Chou, had on board the harbor pilot who steered the Russian battleship Czarvitch into that port. He confirmed the reports of the Associated Press regarding the damage to the Czarvitch, and adds that her rudder shaft was broken during the fight, but that her engines are not badly injured. He expresses the opinion that the fighting days of the Czarvitch are over, and that she will probably be dismantled.

Chinese dockyard laborers who left Port Arthur on the night of August 8, and who arrived here today, confirm the report of heavy fighting. They state that the Japanese were gradually closing in on the inner forts. A shell which exploded in the general hospital killed a number of patients.

Without Buried at Sea.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—The correspondent of the Evening News at Telling Chou cables that he learned from the officer of the Russian battleship Czarvitch that the Russian Port Arthur squadron met the Japanese squadron 30 miles from the harbor. The Czarvitch was specially attacked, and changed her course for the Shan Tung Peninsula. The Japanese followed and overhauled her and the accompanying vessels off Shan Tung.

At 2 P. M. a two-hour battle followed. Rear-Admiral Witthoft, who was killed on board the Czarvitch, was buried at sea.

LONE SHIP ESCAPES DAMAGE.

Japanese Legation at Washington Receives Advice From Tokio.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The Japanese legation has received the following cablegram, dated Tokio today:

"Admiral Togo reports that of the six ships of the Russian fleet which were engaged in the battle of August 10, five are believed to have been seriously damaged. Both masts of the Pallada were broken, and her guns ceased to work. The Retzian apparently suffered the most seriously, owing to our concentrated fire on her at a distance of 15,000 yards. The damages to the enemy's cruisers were probably less serious. The cruiser Bayan did not come out of Port Arthur. The damages to our ships have already been temporarily repaired."

German Squadron Must Change Plans

BERLIN, Aug. 13.—The escape of part of the Russian squadron from Port Arthur has caused a complete change in the cruising programme of the German East Asiatic squadron, which consists of ten vessels. The protected cruiser Bertha, the gunboats Tiger and Luchs, and the torpedo-boat destroyers Taku and "89" were at Telling Chou on the afternoon of August 11. The Russian was standing to the westward. The captain of the Kenral prepared to beach his ship, but the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Evstafyev parted from the fleet during the battle of August 10, and was trying to return to Port Arthur.

Stray Russian Destroyer Sighted.

TOKIO, Aug. 13.—The merchant steamer Genka sighted a Russian torpedo-boat destroyer near Jigwi Island, off the east coast of Ceram on the afternoon of August 11. The Russian was standing to the westward. The captain of the Genka prepared to beach his ship, but the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Evstafyev parted from the fleet during the battle of August 10, and was trying to return to Port Arthur.

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WOULD DENY BRITAIN

Russia Takes New Stand Regarding Any Contraband.

WILLING TO REVISE RULES

All She Asks Is That England Observe Regulations in Future Wars—Arabic Case Is Likely to Settle the Question.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—The Russian reply to the British representations in the case of the steamer Knight Commander, while upholding the validity of the sinking of the vessel, leaves the way open for continued negotiations, which the foreign office here hopes will be satisfactory. The Foreign Office is confident the representations of the United States on account of the steamer Arabia will settle the question of contraband.

The Associated Press learns that Russia has expressed her willingness not only to revise the regulations, provided they are accepted by Great Britain as binding on her conduct in future wars, but to permit the question of the destruction of the property on the Knight Commander to be determined by the revised regulations. To some extent, the importance of the question is thought to be demonstrated by the scattering of the Russian Port Arthur squadron. Admiral Togo being able now, it is believed, to send a sufficient force to prevent the Vladivostok squadron repeating its raids.

At the same time the question of indemnity for the British-seized steamers, no agreement as to the extent of the indemnity has been reached. The Russian Foreign Office has signified her willingness to grant an adequate indemnity to the owners of the neutral cargo of the Knight Commander, but an exorbitant amount. The Russian government will suggest that they be submitted to the Hague arbitration tribunal, or to a tribunal nominated by the two powers.

FORCING HAND OF POWERS.

Japan May Want to Know If Russia Can Enter Neutral Ports at Will.

PEKING, Aug. 13.—Both the Russian and Japanese Legations refuse to discuss for publication the Ryshitel incident. The Russian Legation, however, has written to the Consul-General of Russia, Mr. Goodnow states, that the cruiser and torpedo-boat destroyers are not more than 24 hours from the coast of China, and that they are entitled to remain a reasonable time to make repairs.

Askold Is Seriously Damaged.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Consul-General Goodnow today reported to the State Department that the Russian cruiser Askold had just arrived at Shanghai seriously damaged and requiring repairs. The Askold, however, has written to the Consul-General of Russia, Mr. Goodnow states, that the cruiser and torpedo-boat destroyers are not more than 24 hours from the coast of China, and that they are entitled to remain a reasonable time to make repairs.

WILL NOT OCCUPY HAICHENG.

Japanese So Assure Chinese, but Will Steadily Move Northward.

LIAO YANG, Aug. 13.—(Delayed in transit.)—The Japanese government today announced that the Russian cruiser Askold had just arrived at Shanghai seriously damaged and requiring repairs. The Askold, however, has written to the Consul-General of Russia, Mr. Goodnow states, that the cruiser and torpedo-boat destroyers are not more than 24 hours from the coast of China, and that they are entitled to remain a reasonable time to make repairs.

Reassess Japanese Fired at Sailors.

BAR HARBOR, Me., Aug. 13.—Count Cassin, the Russian Ambassador, today received the following official statement from the Russian Foreign Office:

"The Russian Consul at Chefoo reports that on the night of August 11, two Japanese torpedo-boats fired upon the Russian cruiser Askold, which, on the day before, was disabled by agreement of the commander with the Chinese naval authorities. Our torpedo-boat was blown up by order of the commanding captain but did not sink, and was towed out of the port by the Japanese. The commander, Postelsky, the Russian Consul at Chefoo, today received the following official statement from the Russian Foreign Office:

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IS TEN-POUND BOY

Heir to Russian Throne in Best of Condition.

CZARINA IS DOING WELL

Brilliant Array of Officers and Diplomats Attends To Deum—Services Are Held Throughout the Empire.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 13.—The Emperor and the baby Alexis at last reports were in the best of condition. The heir to the throne at his birth, weighed 10 7/10 pounds, English weight, and has dark hair, like that of his paternal grandfather. The christening probably will occur August 20, but it may possibly be further delayed in order to give greater time for preparation.

Superstitious persons are busily engaged in working out the auguries of events connected with the birth of the baby. The Emperor's brother, Grand Duke Michael, joyfully surrendered his rights and prestige as heir-apparent to the throne to his infant nephew. He has been exceedingly anxious to go to the front, but has not been allowed to do so by the responsibilities of his position. It is not considered probable that the royal family will now allow him to go to the Far East.

The news of the death of Rear-Admiral Witthoft and the failure of the majority of the larger warships of the Port Arthur squadron to break through the Japanese fleet was not known this morning when the brilliant array of officers and diplomats assembled in the magnificent Cathedral to attend the Te Deum for the birth of the heir-apparent, Alexis. The stately edifice, adorned with military and naval trophies, colors, eagles and keys of captured fortresses, was crowded with Russian and foreign dignitaries. The Grand Duke Alexis, wearing the resplendent uniform of High Admiral, occupied the chief place as the godfather, selected by the Emperor for his first-born son as a special compliment to the much-tried navy.

The metropolitan read to the congregation a manifesto announcing the birth and then the whole assemblage bended knee as the prelate invoked God's blessing on the future Emperor. Veteran warships were shaken with emotion, and many persons wept and prayed audibly. "May the Almighty send him many hours of happiness."

The congregation dispersed amid the sounds of bells ringing from all the churches. Similar services were held throughout the empire, the prelate of each diocese reading out the manifesto announcing the birth of the heir-apparent.

The United States was represented by Ambassador McCormick, Spencer F. Eddy, the secretary of the Embassy, Lieutenant-Commander Roy C. Smith, the naval attaché, and Captain T. Bentley Mott, the military attaché.

The Emperor and Empress have been flooded with congratulatory messages, including telegrams from all the crowned heads. Before he was 12 hours old the heir-apparent received his first military honor, being made honorary colonel of the Finland Guards. The colonel of the regiment later went to the Alexandra villa to salute his baby child.

Press Highly Congratulatory.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 13.—With one accord the newspapers this morning hail the advent of an heir to the throne with congratulatory editorials.

The characteristic action of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in breaking through the Japanese cordon as a great success and as a fitting accomplishment, is the subject of the editorial comment. This is taken to indicate that there will be important fighting north of Liao Yang.

Reassess Japanese Fired at Sailors.

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