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## ROUTED BY JAPANESE

Complete Story of the Battle of Mo Tien Pass Comes From Kuroki's Headquarters

### RUSSIANS EXPECTED VICTORY

Were Repulsed and Suffered Severe Loss During Retreat Because of Close Formation Observed.

General Kuroki's Headquarters in the Field, July 18, via Seoul—Delayed in Transmission—Aug. 5.—From later information, yesterday's engagement proves to have been more general and more important than could be appreciated by observers at Mo Tien pass, whose vision of the field was bounded by high hills, guarding both sides and whose reports were written before the Japanese pursuit of the Russians down the valley was ended.

Today it is impossible to describe accurately some of the most important features of the fight because the number of the Russian troops engaged can only be estimated from their regimental insignia on their uniforms and the conflicting stories told by prisoners, while censorship prevents giving the number of organizations present on the Japanese side. It is believed that seven Russian regiments participated in the battle to which were opposed at the most one brigade with one or more additional battalions of Japanese troops. The hardest fighting was done to the right of Mo Tien pass, that valley approaching the Japanese line of defenses which lay between high wooded hills.

A Russian contingent, consisting of a regiment or more attempted by advancing through the valley to gain the Japanese position by a flanking movement or from behind the pass, but was repulsed after an action lasting until sunset when the Japanese troops abandoned pursuit, and the Russians, who stubbornly contested the ground as they were forced back, marched away toward the town of Gabato. One Japanese company lost all of its officers in this action and a sergeant major was finally in command.

The expulsion of the Russian troops from the valley leading to Mo Tien pass was greatly assisted by a Japanese force consisting of a battalion of infantry and several guns sent from a Japanese brigade stationed on the left of Mofantry valley, which attacked the Russians on their flank, menacing their rear and line of retreat.

On the morning of July 17, the Japanese outpost line protecting Mo Tien pass was entrenched on the lower ridge, where the fight occurred on July 4, with a few pickets stationed ahead. Major-General Okasaki, expecting an attack, had ordered the outposts if confronted by a superior force, to withdraw to the main line of defense on the highest ridge, where the pass was narrowest. The outposts discovered a company of cavalry and a large body of infantry advancing in the darkness at about 2:30 a. m., and retired according to instructions.

When firing began about 5 a. m., the Russian line facing the Japanese trenches was more than a mile and a quarter long. They occupied Tempo and the road leading directly right to Mo Tien pass, the road being nearly parallel with the Japanese position for a few hundred yards, with a deep chasm a quarter of a mile across at the widest, separating the two forces, also a wooded hillside in front of the pass.

The firing along this line was severe for more than four hours, comparatively few Japanese being hit. The Russians were unable to employ artillery here, although they were using a battery in another fight on the right, and afterwards in the valley during the retreat they fired a few shots.

The fog lifting at 7 a. m. enabled a Japanese battery stationed on a height to rake the attacking force effectually. The Russians later began to retreat when the Japanese threatened their road of retirement, which was still further endangered by the advance of another detachment of Japanese on their left.

The Russian officers had collected their companies for retreat in close formation, as usual, making them splendid targets, their dark coats forming huge blot against the brilliant green shrubbery. Several shells burst among the retreating troops, scattering them into temporary confusion and as the Japanese from their trenches saw a dozen men mowed down by a single

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shell, they stopped shooting and loudly shouted "banzai."

From 10 a. m. till noon, the Russians slowly and doggedly retreated down the valley, gathered in close, solid bodies with rear guards deploying to cover their retirement. The shrubbery was so dense, with frequent clumps of trees to furnish cover, that rapid pursuit was impossible. No matter how sorely pressed, the Russians maintained their formation with admirable discipline.

Some prisoners taken say that it being the anniversary of the taking of Schiweka pass, and a lucky day in the Russian calendar, the soldiers had entered the fight in the highest spirits confident of victory, and as European troops determined to prove their mettle.

It was evident that the Russians expected to occupy the pass, because they had struck their tents and packed all their camp equipment in wagons, long trains of which followed the army.

Yesterday was intensely hot and the wounded of both armies suffered fearfully lying in the sandy cornfields beneath the blazing sun. Many of them spent the night undiscovered and unaided in the woods or underbrush and the work of searching for them continues today. Burial detachments are yet busy and wounded men are still arriving at the hospitals. Comparatively few unwounded prisoners were taken by the Japanese and many Russians were rescued by their own forces, whose white covered ambulance wagons could be seen hurrying about within their lines all day.

Tonight the Russian camps are visible from Mo Tien pass, and the Japanese troops have undisputed possession of the valley.

Americans who possess a large degree of the spirit of fair play will be deeply interested in two papers which appear in the August "Arena." One is entitled "Judaism and the American Spirit." It is a brilliant, eloquent and scholarly plea for the Hebrew, prepared by Edward M. Baker. The other is entitled "The Progress of the Negro: A Study in the Last Census," by George W. Forbes. The author of this paper is a colored man, a graduate of Amherst. The facts and data given, which are based on the last census, reveal the surprising advance which has been made by the negro during the

past half century. Dan. Beard contributes a full page satirical cartoon taking off the frivolous life of the smart set at Newport. No magazine in the history of recent years has shown the marked improvement in so short a time that has characterized "The Arena" since it was purchased by Albert Brandt. It is now, artistically considered, a leader among the great reviews of opinion; while for ability in its discussions, for variety in content matter and for timeliness of the topics considered it is not excelled by any of our present-day magazines.

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