

ARE GOOD TO THE RUSSIANS

Japanese Show Wounded Every Consideration at Battle of Mo Tien Pass.

STORY OF THE AWFUL DEFEAT

Correspondent Visits the Field and Describes the Remarkable Scenes That He Witnessed There.

Mo Tien Pass, Manchuria, July 5.—(Via San Francisco, Aug. 6.—"Night fighting is the test of soldiers," remarked one of the foreign attaches when he visited the scene of yesterday's bloody affair, "and the Japanese certainly have proved their quality this time.")

Probably no incident of the war has placed the Japanese soldiers in a more trying situation than the night attack at Mo Tien Pass and nowhere have they gained a more complete victory against great disadvantages. None of the correspondents with the army heretofore have been permitted to witness fighting at closer range than their view of the crossing of the Yalu from a safe and comfortable eminence on the walls of Wiju. When correspondents or military attaches have attempted to get to the actual scene of events their unforgoingly courteous guardians always have rebuffed them with the explanation that it is "very dangerous," that they are guests of the Japanese government and the government is responsible for their safety.

On this occasion, however, the correspondent of the Associated Press was able to see the conduct of the soldiers on the field and their treatment of wounded and captured enemies in the heat of the fighting.

Whatever reasons of military policy may render secrecy desirable, there certainly is nothing in the actions of its soldiers that need make the Japanese government keep spectators to the rear. The treatment of the Russian victims of the incompetency of their officers was all that the most enlightened nation could expect. When the correspondent arrived at the trenches where less than a company of Japanese, rushing from their beds without time to dress, had staved off the Russian onslaught, at first with bayonets and swords, the Russian dead and wounded still lay where they had fallen on the wet, grassy slope. How fierce the half hour's work there had been was evidenced by the pools of blood in the ditch and red trails smeared all over the grass and stones on the hillsides before it.

In this fighting, Lieutenant Kono alone killed several Russians, almost severing their heads with a single stroke of his sword. When he exhibited the weapon afterward, its edge looked like a saw blade. It has since been sharpened for further use.

Although the fight had been begun only three hours before, the Japanese advance was half a mile down the valley pursuing the Russians, the Japanese dead had been removed to a temple behind the crest of the hill and parties of soldiers from one of the companies in reserve were going about the field with trenching spades burying the dead Russians where they lay and marking the graves with a stake or a pile of stones. The Russians had gone into action carrying their heavy overcoats and wearing their bags of black bread. They had dropped both on the field. Already, while some details were burying the dead and some caring for the wounded, others had gathered debris from the field and piles of coats and canteens and a hundred rifles with bayonets attached were stacked on the temple steps. The Japanese system is not only thorough but quick. There was a company of Japanese soldiers whose khaki coats were black with mud and sweat gathered at the trench quietly discussing events with no sign of excitement. Two big Russian prisoners not wounded were resting there with a small Japanese sitting behind them. The Japanese soldiers of the column are heavier than the average of most European armies but the Russians in the Tenth and Twenty-fourth East Siberian regiments are larger and the beards, which most of them wear after a season of campaigning, give them a particularly fierce appearance. The bodies of three Russians who had been killed on the parapet of the trench were laid in the road behind it with their snuff-colored great coats thrown over their faces. Four others of the Tenth East Siberian dressed in grey blouses and caps without any regimental insignia were on the ground beside them. One was shot through both legs, one

had been bayoneted in an arm and the leg, another had a bullet hole in the abdomen and was dying, his face already had the color of a corpse and his breathing was slow gasps. A hospital attendant sat near, a black bearded keen faced young fellow, displaying a white band with the red cross on his arm. His satchel of bandages was open on the ground. He had done what he could for his comrades and was stolidly awaiting developments.

Thirty wounded Russians were scattered over the ground before the trench. They had received "first aid" and were waiting their turn while the stretcher men followed the firing line further on. Groups of Japanese stood about them giving some cigarettes and water and talking with them in the broken Russian which a few know and the Chinese phrases which the men of both armies pick up from the natives of the country. Three days of steady rain had cut gullies and ditches in the hillsides which furnished some shelter for a charging force. Many of the wounded had crawled into these places for shelter. Over at the right of the trench the road ran down the valley and along its further side a brook which had worn a bed among the rocks. Part of the Russian battalion advanced up the bed of the stream and a number were shot as they emerged into the roadway. One wounded soldier had crawled back to the brook for water and died with his face in the stream and his canteen beside his hand, as though he had tried to fill it. In the road a young Japanese bent over a massive Slav with an arm under his head holding a water bottle to his lips.

One Russian with a bad furrow plowed through his thigh took his plight happily. With a stone under his head and a tin of water beside him he rolled himself cigarettes and chattered in Russian which no one could understand, gesturing and laughing. Two Japanese were escorting to the rear a burly fellow with a huge yellow beard who had suffered a bayonet slash across the scalp. He was strong enough to walk, but in a delirium, muttering to himself continually and rolling his eyes. Every hundred feet he would sit down on a rock to rest while his escort waited patiently. The attack itself appears to have been another of those blunders which, like the incoherent defense of the Yalu, wasted lives without result. Had the Russians been informed of the position and strength of the Japanese they must have known that they never had a chance of success. The engagement was merely an outpost affair but it was typical of the methods and abilities of the two armies.

Maimed Soldiers' League to Meet.

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 6.—The Rev. T. S. Bailey of Cedar Rapids, vice president of the Maimed Soldiers' League, has issued a call for the semi-annual meeting of the league, which will be held August 11 in the Council hall at Boston.

The meeting will be held in connection with the national encampment of the G. A. R.

The purpose of the league is to secure certain benefits to armless and legless soldiers and none other are eligible to membership.

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NOTICE FOR BIDS.

Notice is hereby given, that up to the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. on Monday, the 8th day of August, 1904, the committee on Public Property of the common council of the City of Astoria, at the office of the Auditor and Police Judge therein, will receive sealed bids for the construction of a City Hall for the City of Astoria according to the plans and specifications therefor on file in the office of the Auditor and Police Judge, and ordinance number 2955 of said city providing for the time and manner of constructing said City Hall. The bids must be accompanied with a certified check of the bidder payable to the Auditor and Police Judge or order, in five per cent of the amount bid, to be forfeited to the City of Astoria in case the bid shall be accepted and the bidder shall fail to enter into contract within three days from notice of said acceptance. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

J. H. HANSEN, GEO. KABOTH, L. LEBECK,

Committee on Public Property of the Common Council of the City of Astoria.

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