

ONE RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP SUNK AND ANOTHER TOTALLY DISABLED IN FIERCEST NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE WAR

Sixteen Russian Warships Make Desperate Dash to Escape From Port Arthur—Terrific Battle Follows.

Battleship Lost Is of the Peresviet Type, One of the Finest in Czar's Navy—Fights to the Last Although Outmatched.

(Journal Special Service.)

Tokio, June 25.—According to reports received here this morning the most desperate naval engagement of the war has been fought, the Russians defeated and the Russian Port Arthur situation thereby rendered almost absolutely hopeless.

The Russians sustained the loss of a battleship of the first class, being one of the Peresviet type, and the total disabling of the battleship Sevastopol.

A cruiser of the Diana type was so badly damaged that she could not re-enter the harbor under her own steam.

The Peresviet is a battleship of 12,674 tons. She had a speed of 19 knots and was considered one of the finest vessels in the Russian navy. Therefore if the vessel sunk was of the importance of the Peresviet, the loss is presumed to have fallen on the Poltava, the battleship, which on February 8, was torpedoed, but was later repaired.

The Sevastopol has a tonnage of 10,950 and is a 17-knot boat. Reports received here say that the Sevastopol was totally disabled and was towed into the harbor in a sinking condition. The name of the cruiser specified as being of the Diana type is not known. It is believed by the correspondents here that it may have been the Diana herself, which on March 13, was hit by a shell, 80 of her crew killed and generally damaged, but was later repaired.

DESPERATE DASH.

A dispatch received here says that the naval fight was the result of a desperate dash for the south, made by 16 Russian war vessels in a brilliant endeavor to escape the harassed port. The dash was made just at dusk Thursday night. So rapid was the movement that the Russian fleet was clear of the harbor before the Japanese realized that such a desperate move was contemplated.

The Russians were discovered by a Japanese patrol boat, which silently dashed out to sea, endeavoring in the meantime to warn Admiral Togo by wireless telegraphy of the escape. Within a short time communication was established and the admiral warned. Togo advanced his entire fleet with the exception of those vessels engaged in special duty. The Russians, finding that their attempt to escape had been anticipated, stopped outside the entrance to the harbor. The Japanese massed in front of them and at nightfall a fleet comprising almost all of the available Japanese destroyers dashed forward to the attack.

The reports received here says that a battleship of the Peresviet type was surrounded by the destroyers and, though fighting valiantly, was sent to the bottom. A short time after the battleship Sevastopol was seen lying almost helpless and was slowly towed into the harbor. The torpedo fleet was compelled to withdraw, but laid off the harbor entrance until dawn.

CRUISER IS TOWED IN.

Yesterday morning a cruiser of the Diana type was being towed into the harbor by the Russian vessels and was evidently in a badly damaged condition, being down at the head and apparently without steam.

Japanese ships, says the report, sustained little damage, although bearing evidence of heavy fire. The torpedo boat destroyer Shierakumo was hit by a shell and three men abaft the bridge killed and three others wounded.

The Chidori, a torpedo boat destroyer of the same class, was struck behind the engine room, but with no casualties resulting.

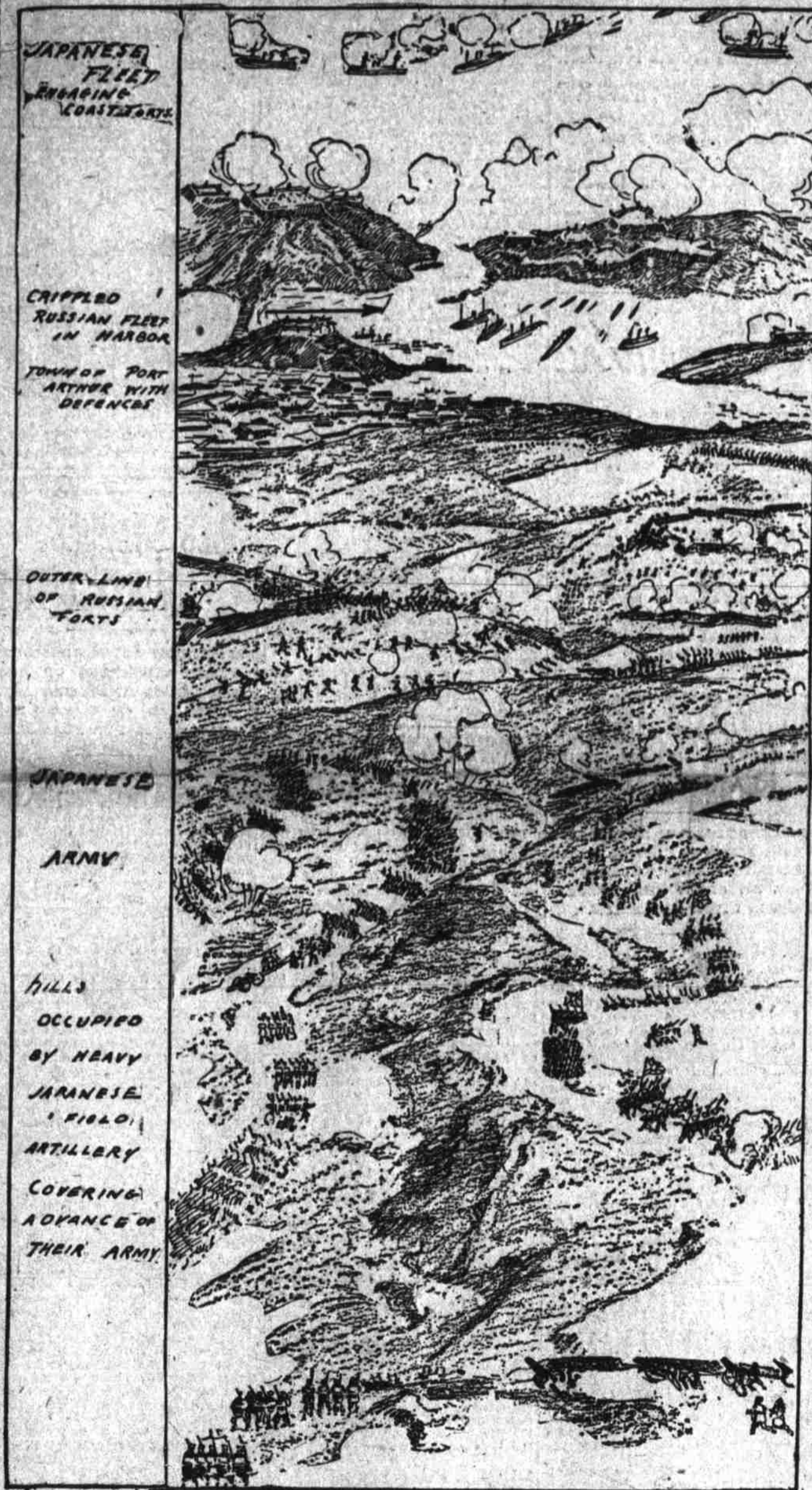
Two torpedo boats in the battle van were struck and damaged sufficiently to cause their retirement, but none of the injuries are vital. The Russian fleet outnumbered, outmaneuvered and completely at bay again, sought asylum beneath the guns of the fortress.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AWAITED.

Official reports have not been received, or if so, have not yet been given to the public.

The excitement, which characterized the first Japanese victories, has been outdone. Throughout the city the people who have been grimly fearing a turn of the tide, are jubilating and now feel secure in the belief that nothing can prevent the fall of Port

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF PORT ARTHUR AND FIGHTING FORCES LOOKING TOWARD SOUTHEAST.



Japanese advance is along two general lines. They are now at the very gates of the beleaguered city. Picture is a close approximation of the scene as it must have appeared May 26, when the famous dash was made up Nanshan hill, and shows how a general attack will undoubtedly be made within a short time.

London Has Report That Big Land Battle Is Now On Between Kuropatkin's and Kuroki's Troops.

Russian Forces at Shankokou Surprised and Routed—Leave 60 Dead on Field—Japanese Then Occupy Santaopo Heights.

Arthur. The announcement of official dispatches will be the signal for the greatest celebration that has so far taken place in the war.

Among the correspondents here the belief prevails that an attempt to escape against such overwhelming odds would not have been attempted by the Russian fleet had not the conditions at Port Arthur been critical. It is taken as confirmation of the belief on the part of the Russians that the fall of the city and fortress is imminent.

It is surmised that the Russians, foreseeing the end, resolved to make one desperate dash in an almost hopeless effort to save the remnant of their magnificent Asiatic squadron.

The retreat into the innermost recesses of the harbor under these conditions could mean but one thing, that the fleet can but die as did brave old Admiral Cervera's ships or, when the last blow falls, sink beneath the waters, destroyed by Russian hands.

SENSATIONAL BATTLE REPORT.

London, June 25.—Sensational reports carrying the earmarks of authenticity and received here this morning, indicate that a terrific land battle between Kuropatkin's troops and those under the Japanese generals, Kuroki and Oku, is being fought.

The two Japanese armies, which were reported to have come into conjunction with each other a few days ago north of Port Arthur, form a formidable army.

Advices received here yesterday said that Kuropatkin was moving forward to give battle to Kuroki. It is therefore believed possible that a conflict of no small magnitude is being waged.

All advices of the last few days tend to show that the Japanese are steadily pushing forward and concentrating preparatory to a combined attack upon Port Arthur.

Advices received here today state that the Russian fleet, with every available bottom, has attempted flight from the Port Arthur harbor and has been compelled to retire with disastrous loss. No other indication was wanting that the condition at Port Arthur is regarded as unbearable and unremediable.

MAY PORTEND THE END.

For the Russian fleet to have failed in an attempt to escape, considering the overwhelming force of troops that are now massed on the peninsula and heights within a dozen miles of the fortifications, is a most serious checkmate.

If the Russians fail to create a diversion, the last move on the peninsula chessboard will have been made, a fortress lost and Russian prestige stricken with a body blow that will go far toward ending the war.

RUSSIAN FORCES ROUTED.

Tokio, June 25.—It is officially stated that the Japanese troops, which landed at Taku Shan, surprised and routed at dawn on the morning of the 23d a squadron of Russian cavalry at a point 10 miles northwest of Shankokou, on the Tashiko road. The Japanese also occupied the heights north of Santaopo.

The fighting is described as having been of short duration, but extremely heavy while it lasted. The Russians fled precipitately, fighting as they went, but in a disorganized mass. Individual cases of stubborn fighting and brave retreat are given. The Russians succeeded, notwithstanding their disorganization, in carrying away with them their wounded and, it is believed, many of their dead.

The severity of the fighting is shown by the fact, says the official report, that the enemy left 60 dead on the battlefield. The report of Japanese losses has not been given. From the fact that the attack was made at dawn and the Russians routed it is believed that the Japanese losses must have been considerable less.

FORMS ANOTHER LINK.

The occupation of the heights north of Santaopo forms another link in that chain of strategic positions which the Japanese are gaining a hundred miles north of Port Arthur. It adds to the

(Continued on Page Two.)

HULME MAY STOP ALL BALL GAMES

All games at the grounds of the Portland Baseball association are in danger of being stopped. City Plumbing Inspector Thomas E. Hulme has made a request of Deputy City Attorney Fitzgerald for warrants for the arrest of the directors of the association, charging that they have permitted the grounds to become very unsanitary. He asks that the grounds be closed immediately. Mr. Fitzgerald has the matter under advisement, and states today that in all probability warrants will be issued.

Plumbing Inspector Hulme charges that the grounds have been used for improper purposes and that the public health is menaced thereby. "Mr. Hulme came to me some time ago and informed me that the baseball managers had permitted the use of the ball grounds for purposes that had no right to," said Mr. Fitzgerald, "and he has requested me to issue warrants for the arrest of those responsible. He asks that the grounds be closed, or at least that the games now used be vacated until they can be put in good sanitary condition. "Thousands of people gather there from week to week, and Mr. Hulme declares that the present condition of the grounds is such as to menace the public health. Of course, it is a serious thing to stop the ball games, but if the public health is being endangered thereby, I shall do so. And Mr. Hulme declares emphatically that it is. I have the matter under advisement, and will probably issue the warrants as Mr. Hulme requests. "I realize that to stop the games would inconvenience many people, and I do not like to hinder the games, but it is certain that the public health takes precedence over everything else. For this reason I have about decided to issue complaints against the directors of the association on the basis of unsanitary condition of the grounds."

WARSHIPS ARE DUE TONIGHT

With banners flying in the breeze and jacksies manning the decks, the warship squadron, headed by the monitor Wyoming, will reach here this evening some time and tomorrow will be formally welcomed to the city by Mayor Williams and the carnival management. The Wyoming is accompanied by the torpedo boat destroyers Paul Jones and Preble. This morning the squadron crossed the bar at the mouth of the Columbia at 4:30 o'clock. A week ago they were sighted off the mouth of the river, but proceeded to the Sound, returning last night. Committees named by the mayor and the carnival committee will go part way down the river and meet the warships.

Commander Cottman of the Wyoming, this morning sent the following telegram to the Fourth of July committee of the Mardi Gras and carnival: "As requested, will arrive at Portland, Sunday, June 26." The war vessels will probably anchor near the steel bridge. This is the first time in the history of the city when a squadron of three warships was anchored in the local harbor. All day tomorrow, if the weather is clear, thousands of people will throng the waterfront to catch a glimpse of the warships, and gasoline launches and similar craft will do a thriving business carrying people into the stream to catch a closer view of the ships. Meantime, the launches from the warboats will ply to and from the shore, carrying messages to friends in the city from the officers.

Unless they should drop anchor at some point down the river, the warships will likely arrive in Portland harbor at 8 or 9 o'clock this evening.

THREE MEN KILLED IN BIG FOUR WRECK

(Journal Special Service.) Delaware, O., June 25.—The Big Four twentieth century limited south-bound express jumped the track at the Delaware station here today. The engineer and fireman were killed and the baggage-master fatally injured. The whole train left the track. The passengers received a severe shaking up, none of them suffered any serious injury. The cause of the accident is apparently unknown, as the train was running at the regular rate of speed.

ENTERTAINS FOR CHARITY.

(Journal Special Service.) New York, June 25.—Miss Helen Gould today opened her magnificent country place at Irvington-on-Hudson for a public lawn party and band concert. The proceeds of the entertainment will be donated to the army and navy branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, which is one of Miss Gould's pet charities.

STEAMER ST. PAUL IS REPORTED FROM NOME

(Journal Special Service.) San Francisco, June 25.—The Northern Commercial company's steamer St. Paul, which sailed from San Francisco for Nome June 3 arrived safely at her destination June 20 and started on her return yesterday. It was feared that the vessel had been caught in the ice and carried into the Arctic or lost.

MISS MASON WILL NOT BE QUEEN

Ill health has ruled that Miss Mason, victorious candidate for queen of the carnival, should not serve in the office, and after a consultation today between the leaders of the carnival, Archie Mason, father of Miss Mason, and the family physician of the Masons, it was decided that she should not act. Miss Margaret Paffrath, second in the contest for queen, is to be asked by the carnival committee to kindly assume the obligation of being queen, and the officials of the carnival expressed the hope at a late hour this afternoon that she would accept the honor. Excitement attending the race for the queenship is said to have so undermined the health of Miss Mason that she is suffering from extreme nervousness. In fact, she has been under the care of her physician for several days, but the matter was not made public, and it was the hope of herself and her friends that she would recover sufficiently to fulfill the obligations. This afternoon Mr. Mason announced, however, that it would be impossible for her to fulfill the duties of the office, and his assertions were backed up by the word of the physician.

During the evening Miss Paffrath is to be called on and asked to accept the queenship.

PRICELESS RELICS DESTROYED BY FIRE

(Journal Special Service.) Geneva, Switzerland, June 25.—The most disastrous fire in the history of the city is raging in the old quarters. The historic National church, containing priceless relics, pictures and books, has been destroyed and the great cathedral is in danger.

FORT JORDAN BURN

(Journal Special Service.) Frankfort, June 25.—Within a few days the fort, in fact, after 40 years of service, lasted several weeks.