

HOW TŌGO WON THE BATTLE.

Russian Fleet Was Enveloped Almost from the Start.

TOKIO, June 1.—A Japanese officer who has returned to Sasebo gives the following account of the Battle of the Sea of Japan:

"At 5:30 o'clock on Saturday morning a wireless message reading: 'The enemy's squadron is in sight' reached the naval base. This message was transmitted to all our ships by the flagship, with instructions to get ready for action. Our squadron left its rendezvous and headed for the eastern channel off Tsushima. Our men seemed to be filled with new inspiration and were eager for the long-delayed fight to begin.

"When Tsushima was sighted to the southwest the sea was rough and the torpedo boats were forced to run for the shelter of the island. Our third fighting squadron, with the cruiser Takachiho to port, reconnoitred the Russian course, and at 11:30 A. M. informed the main squadron by wireless telegraphy that the Russian ships were passing into the east channel, whereupon our main squadron, charging its

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course somewhat to the southward, came in sight of Okinoshima at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The third division arrived later and joined the main squadron.

"The first and second divisions, accompanied by the destroyer flotilla, changed to a westerly course, while the third division and the fourth destroyer flotilla headed slightly eastward.

Togo to His Men.

"While the manoeuvre was being executed the Russian flagship appeared to the southward at 1:45 o'clock. The Russians steamed up in double column. The fleet was numerous, but no living being was visible. The Russian ships seemed to be in good order. Our ships hoisted the flag of action. The Mikasa (Togo's flagship) signaled:

"The destiny of our empire depends upon this action. You are all expected to do your utmost."

"Our men seemed silently to weigh the significance of this signal.

"Our first and second divisions turned to the Russians' starboard, while the third division kept in close touch with the preceding two divisions. With the Japanese ships proceeding in this order it was 2:13 o'clock when the Russians opened fire. The first two shots fell short of our line, and it was some minutes later before we commenced firing. Then the battle was on, with firing from both sides. Our destroyers kept on the port side of the main squadron, and in this formation we pressed the Russians against the coast of Klushiu and they were obliged to change their course to the east.

"We so manoeuvred our ships as to have their bows paralleled to the north side of the Russian line. The Mikasa, of our first division, which had been leading, changed to the rear of the line, while the cruiser Kasuga headed the line.

"The engagement now became very fierce. The Borodino was seen to be on fire. A little later the Russians headed west, and we changed our course accordingly. Five ships of our second division concentrated their fire on the Borodino. Our first division now began firing vigorously, proceeding parallel with the Russian line, and as we began to press against the head of the Russian line our third division veered to the Russian rear, thus enveloping their ships.

"The engagement proceeded hotly. Our second division followed a course parallel with the northern side of the Russians, and this movement completed the envelopment. The Russian ships were seen trying to break through, and our destroyer flotilla intercepted their new course. This state of envelopment continued until the following day, with the ships at varying distances.

Russians Could Not Escape.

"Thus, inclosed on all sides, the Russians were helpless and powerless to escape the circle.

"Previous instructions had been given to the destroyers and torpedo boats to attack the Russian ships. Following instructions, the fifth destroyer flotilla advanced against a Russian ship, upon which the second division had been concentrating its fire, signalling: 'We are going to give the last thrust at them.'

"The Russian ship continued to fight, and, seeing the approaching torpedo boats, directed its fire on them. Undaunted, our destroyers pressed forward, the cruiser Chitose meantime continuing its fire. The torpedo flotilla arrived within 200 metres of the Russian ship and the Shiranui fired the first shot. Two other torpedo boats fired one each. The Shiranui received two shells, but the other boats were not damaged. The Russian ship was sunk.

"Sundown saw the battle raging furiously. Our shells were evidently telling on the Russians, who showed signs of confusion. Our fifth torpedo flotilla, after destroying the Borodino, followed in the wake of our second division, the signal reading: 'Something like the Russians' submarines has been sighted. Attack it.'

"The flotilla followed and located the object, which proved to be a sinking ship with its overturned bottom showing. Thirty survivors clung to the wreck, crying for assistance. Firing ceased with the approach of darkness.

Successful Torpedo Attack.

"According to orders previously given for a torpedo attack after dark, all the destroyer flotilla, dividing into two squadrons, proceeded to attack the Russians during the whole night. The Russians frustrated the first and second attacks with searchlights. A third attempt was carefully made, and the Yugiri sank a ship of the Borodino type and also hit others.

"During the night the Russians continued to move, and we preserved our enveloping movement some distance from the Russian position. The Russian ships headed northeast after day-break, hoping to reach Vladivostok. Our officers and men were determined that not a ship should escape and resolved not to relax their efforts until they had succeeded in either sinking or capturing every Russian ship.

"Our ships always kept ahead of the Russians. The battle was resumed at 9 o'clock Sunday morning twelve miles east of Chiyupyon Bay, and lasted all day. Here the Russians suffered their heaviest losses.

"The Russians seemed unprepared to repel night attacks. During our first night attacks the Russians showed nine searchlights and frustrated the attacks, but clearly gave us the location of the fleet, which brought success later."

A number of wounded Japanese sailors have arrived at the hospital at Maizuru Navy Yard. They describe the battle as follows:

Thirty-two Russian Ships.

"At dawn Saturday our squadron left its rendezvous and advanced through the Tsushima Channel. At 2:08 in the afternoon we sighted the Russian fleet. Gradually closing in, we found the Kniaz Souvaroff leading the line, with the Borodino, the Alexander III, the Orel, the Oslyabya, and the Navarin following in the order named. The Nikolai I. brought up the rear. Parallel to this line we observed five cruisers. After them came the special ships and torpedo boat destroyers. We counted thirty-two Russian ships in all.

"Our fleet, with the battleship Mikasa leading, proceeded toward the Russians in vertical line formation. The Souvaroff opened fire first and then

suddenly turned, reversing her course. Almost simultaneously the Mikasa opened fire with her big guns, and thus the curtain rose on the great sea battle.

"The hostile fleets gradually closed in toward each other, exchanging a vigorous fire. The armored cruiser Asama approached within 3,000 meters of the Russian fleet and carefully observed its action.

"After a short but fierce fight the deck of the coast-defense ship Admiral Oushakoff was observed to be ablaze, and the ship left the line. By 4:30 in the afternoon the Russian line was disordered, and its fire slackened. The Borodino and the Kamchatka had been disabled, and soon sank. The Borodino continued to fire bravely until the ship was submerged.

Nebogatoff's Surrender.

"The Japanese fleet continued to maintain enveloping positions from sundown until dawn. Sunday morning opened misty, but the weather soon cleared and the search for the remnants of the Russian fleet was begun. Five Russian ships were discovered in the vicinity of Liancourt Island and they were immediately surrounded.

"One, supposed to be the Izumrud, escaped at full speed. The four others offered no resistance and hoisted the Japanese flag over the Russian colors, apparently offering to surrender. Capt. Yashiro, commanding the Asama, started in a small boat to ascertain the real intentions of the Russians, when Admiral Nebogatoff lowered a boat and came on board the Asama, where he formally surrendered. The prisoners were distributed among the Japanese ships and prize crews were selected to take possession of the captured vessels.

"About this time we received a message saying that a portion of our squadron was hotly engaging the remaining Russian ships. The Asama hastened to the scene of combat and found the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi vigorously resisting the Japanese attack. The Donskoi attempted to escape and we pursued until after sundown, resuming torpedo attacks at nightfall.

"On Monday morning the search was resumed by a portion of the Japanese squadron, and it was learned that the Donskoi had been beached on Ulloun Island.

"We were ordered to bring the Orel to Maizuru. On the way the Captain of the Orel died from wounds received in the battle. While we were proceeding we were advised of the capture of Admiral Rojestvensky and our men were greatly cheered by the news."

Togo's Latest Report.

The Navy Department gives out the following report from Admiral Togo:

"Later reports from the different divisions of the fleet engaged in the naval battle of May 27 show the following:

"The Russian battleship Oslyabya was heavily damaged in the early part of the fight on Saturday, going down at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

"The first Russian vessel sunk was the battleship Sissoi Veliky.

"The armored cruisers Admiral Nakhimoff and Vladimir Monomakh, after being in the general engagement during the daytime, were still further damaged by torpedoes in attacks by night and were eventually completely disabled. They drifted into the vicinity of Tsu Islands, where they were discovered on Sunday morning by the auxiliary cruisers Shilano, Yawata, Tainan, and Sado, which were about to capture them, but they all sank.

"The crews of our auxiliary cruisers rescued 915 of the crew of the sunken Russian ships.

"The battleship Navarin was torpedoed four times after sundown on Saturday, and sank. The survivors of the Navarin's crew confirm the story of her destruction.

"The cruisers Nittaka and Otawa discovered the Russian cruiser Svetlana at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning in the vicinity of Chapyan Bay and immediately attacked and sank her. The commander of the Nittaka reports the fact.

"It is suspected that the Russian cruisers Almaz and Aurora were sunk by torpedoes on the night of May 27.

"The previous report that the Russian cruiser Jemchug was sunk as yet remains unconfirmed, and the cruiser's name has been excluded from the revised list of Russian vessels destroyed.

"Judging from this and former reports, the enemy's main strength, consisting of eight battleships destroyed or captured, three armored cruisers and three coast defense ships destroyed or captured, and the second-class cruisers and other vessels destroyed, has been annihilated.

"Later reports show that on the night of May 27 our torpedo boats 34, 35, and 69 were sunk by the enemy's fire. Comrades rescued the majority of their crews. Besides this there was no damage worth reporting. No warship or destroyer suffered any loss of fighting or navigating power.

"We anticipated heavy loss of life, but find that our casualties were comparatively slight. They do not exceed 800 killed and wounded. The casualty reports will be rendered as speedily as possible in order to reassure families and friends.

"Nearly the whole strength of both combatants met in battle and the arena of the fighting was very wide.

"The first day proved foggy, and even without the smoke and fumes resulting from the battle it was impossible to see five miles. Consequently during the day it was impossible to locate or observe all the ships under my command. Moreover, the fighting having lasted two days and the ships of my command being scattered for the purpose of chasing and attacking the enemy, some having received special orders after the battle, it is impossible to collect and frame any detailed report covering the whole battle at the same time."

Japanese Dazed by Victory.

Admiral Togo's supplementary report makes the Russian defeat a staggering disaster unequalled in naval history. Practically every fighting ship of a once splendid fleet was either sunk or captured, representing a loss of tonnage exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand. The remaining units of the fleet, consisting largely of auxiliaries and

transports, have been dispersed, some going to Vladivostok, others to the China coast.

Tokio, astounded and elated at the first reports of victory, seems unable clearly to grasp the still greater triumph that Admiral Togo brings to the nation.

Before the combat a partial victory, with operations around Vladivostok during the Summer, was generally expected. No one dreamed of annihilation at the first meeting.

The Russians appear to have been hopelessly outclassed in gunnery. It is reported that it was necessary for Admiral Rojestvensky to change his flagship five times during the battle. He finally took refuge on the torpedo boat destroyer on which he was captured.

When Admiral Togo's later dispatches were given out last evening high officers of the army and prominent officials hurried to the Navy Department and offered congratulations. The entire staff of the Bank of Japan, headed by a band, marched to the Navy Department and cheered in honor of the victory.

Parole for Czar's Officers.

It is understood that the Emperor intends to direct that the Russian officers captured receive terms of parole identical with those granted to the officers taken at the surrender of Port Arthur.

An officer of the Russian battleship Borodino, brought as a prisoner to the Maizuru navy yard, says that while Rojestvensky had raised his flag on the Kniaz Souvaroff he was really on board the Borodino during the action. When the Borodino was sinking he boarded the destroyer Bedovi, on which he was eventually captured.

Rough estimates of the Russian casualties in the battle, exclusive of nearly 4,000 prisoners, vary from seven to nine thousand. It is feared that the majority perished. Calculating the complements of the sunken and captured ships at upward of ten thousand, seven thousand men remain unaccounted for. It is possible that the ships which escaped rescued some of the members of the crews of the less fortunate ships.

Many bodies have been washed ashore on the Islands and on the Japanese coast near the scene of the battle. Fully 3,800 prisoners have now been landed.