

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR - 日露戦争

For eighteen months a bitter conflict was waged between two great military nations. It was the first modern war involving both telegraph and telephone, machine guns, barbed wire, illuminating star shells, mine fields, advanced torpedoes, and armored battleships. The Russo-Japanese War is unique in that the warring nations fought over, and only on, the territory of two neutral countries, China and Korea. Prior to World War I, this war marked history's greatest battles between two nations in terms of numbers of troops and armored battleships engaged.

二大軍事大国は一年半にわたって酷烈な戦いを繰り上げた。この戦いは、電報や電話、機関銃、有刺鉄線、照明弾、地雷原、高性能魚雷、そして装甲戦艦などが使用された最初の近代戦争であった。日露戦争は、交戦国の領土ではなく、中国と韓国という中立国を舞台にその領土をめぐる戦われた点においても他に類を見ない。第一次世界大戦が起こるまでは、動員された兵隊そして軍艦の数において、この戦争は二国間の争いとして史上最も大規模なものであった。



Battles in Korea and Manchuria.

BEGINNING BATTLES - 戦いの始まり

The hostilities began with two Japanese attacks, the most shocking being the assault on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur, China, on February 8, 1904. Concurrently, Japan sent troops ashore at Chemulpo, Korea. Meeting little opposition at the landing, Japan soon controlled Korea, and then advanced up the peninsula to confront the Russians at the Yalu River that separated Korea from Manchuria. By the end of May the Russians were defeated at the Yalu River, while most of their Far Eastern fleet was blockaded at Port Arthur.



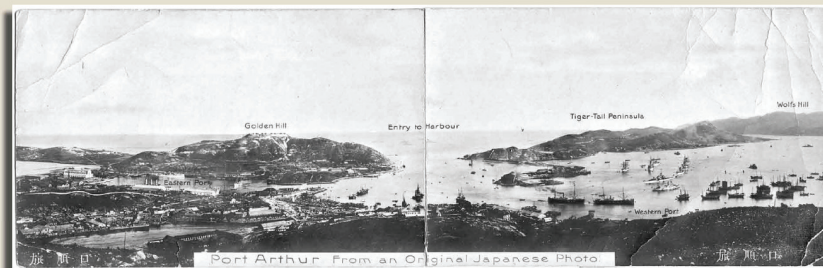
Japanese reserves in Manchuria waiting for orders to advance. Harper's Weekly.



Russian Twenty-third Artillery Brigade about to leave for the front. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

PORT ARTHUR SIEGE - 旅順攻囲戦

The Japanese landed another army just north of Port Arthur and again defeated the Russians, effectively cutting off Port Arthur from any reinforcements. The Japanese army moved south to besiege Port Arthur.



The Japanese fleet in the harbor of Port Arthur after the siege. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.



Japanese troops remove their dead from barbed wire following a battle. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.