



As the fierce fighting dragged on, both nations attempted to rally support for their cause on the homefront. Each side used newspaper articles and prints as propaganda, like this card which shows the Russians defeating the Japanese.

MUKDEN - 奉天会戦

After the fall of Port Arthur, the Japanese army moved north to attack the Russians at Mukden, where in March, Japan was again victorious in the largest battle the world had ever seen. Some 560,000 troops fought a two-month battle, the largest confrontation of the war. Here Japan suffered 70,000 casualties, but the Russians suffered 90,000 casualties, and had 20,000 men taken prisoner. The Russian army, defeated but still intact, retreated north toward Harbin; the Japanese were too exhausted to pursue and destroy the Russian army.

LIAO-YANG - 遼陽会戦

The Russians retreated northward to their stronghold at Liao-Yang, where from August 26 until September 4, 1904, the armies fought one of the largest battles of modern times prior to World War I. Nearly 360,000 men battled, with 40,000 killed and wounded. The Japanese were victorious again and the Russians were driven from the Liaotung Peninsula, isolating besieged Port Arthur.

PORT ARTHUR FALLS - 旅順陥落

The Japanese began a long siege of Port Arthur that was marked by costly Japanese assaults. Japan eventually gained the high ground around the port and began a heavy artillery barrage on the city, sinking most of the Russian fleet in the harbor. General Stossel, Port Arthur's Russian commander, surrendered to the Japanese on January 1, 1905, without consulting his officers.



Postcard showing Japanese General Oyama entering into Mukden. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.



Russia's Baltic Fleet makes 18,000 mile voyage.

SEA WAR: THE RUSSIAN BALTIC FLEET

海戦、バルティック艦隊

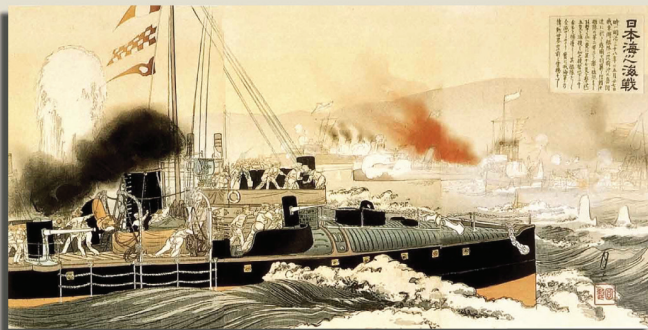
During the siege of Port Arthur, Russia pinned its hopes for victory on its large Baltic fleet that was sent round the world to engage the Japanese and cut the island nation off from its army on the mainland. The fleet, under the command of Admiral Zinovy Petrovich Rozhdestvenskii, left the Baltic for an epic 18,000-mile voyage in early October 1904. However, by the time the fleet reached the Far East, Port Arthur had already fallen.



Despite the ferocious battles, the Japanese and Russians respected the valor of their opponents. Reports observed the relatively humane treatment afforded captured Russian soldiers by the Japanese who extended proper medical care to all the wounded Russians. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.



Japanese wood block print honors Russian Admiral Makarov, recognized as a preeminent naval strategist. At Port Arthur, Makarov's flagship was hit and destroyed by a floating mine. The explosion and Makarov's death stunned Japanese Admiral Togo, who ordered his ships' flags flown at half-mast out of respect for the Russian admiral. For the Russians, the loss of the great Makarov ended any real hope for the survival of Port Arthur's fleet.



The victorious Japanese are glorified in this print, which also shows their superior skill in making and using such sophisticated machines as speedy torpedo boats.

THE BATTLE OF TSUSHIMA - 日本海海戦

In one of the most shocking naval actions in history, the Japanese fleet under Admiral Togo attacked the Russian fleet in the Tsushima Strait between Korea and Japan and fought the world's largest sea battle on May 27 and 28. Of the 38 ships in the Russian squadron, only 2 destroyers and 1 light cruiser reached Vladivostok; a few other smaller ships reached neutral ports. However, the rest of the fleet, including all its battleships and cruisers, were sunk or captured by the Japanese. The Japanese lost three torpedo boats.