

**Ship Batteries Silent
As Aleutian Base
Is Bombarded**

Washington, July 7.
—(A. P.)—An American naval task force bombarded the Japanese base on Kiska island Tuesday night, the navy announced Wednesday, in an attack apparently co-ordinated with the United States offensive against Japanese defenses in the south Pacific.

A navy communique reporting the action in the north Pacific also disclosed that the American cruiser lost in battle with Japanese forces in Kula gulf on the morning of July 6 was the 9,700-ton light cruiser Helena.

The Helena was under command of Capt. Charles Purcell Cecil of Louisville, Ky. Neither the fate of the skipper nor the safety of individual crew members was reported.

"The next of kin of the casualties aboard the Helena will be notified as soon as possible," the navy said.

**CRUISER WAS DAMAGED
AT PEARL HARBOR.**

The cruiser, which had been damaged at Pearl Harbor and was restored to service during the first twelve months of war in the Pacific, was the only announced American loss in the battle, in which six Japanese ships were "probably sunk," and several others, presumably four or more, were damaged.

A communique from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters Tuesday night had numbered the damaged ships as four but Wednesday's navy communique said only that there were "several."

Using the MacArthur figure, Japanese naval ship casualties of all types, including sunk or damaged, now total 315 and the enemy has suffered an additional loss of 533 noncombatant ships. The comparable American figure for combatant ships, including the Helena, is 103 vessels overdue and presumed lost, destroyed to prevent capture or sunk. Figures on American ships damaged are not available in their entirety.

The report of the attack on Kiska was very brief. It said only that the enemy was bombarded there

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**NAVAL TORPEDO
BATTERS JAPS
AT KISKA BASE**

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and that his shore batteries "did not return the fire."
Kiska has been under aerial bombardment whenever weather permitted recently but has not been attacked by surface ships in a long while.

Men on a quick check of previous war bulletins found no record of a surface attack later than last Aug. 7.

At that time warships shelled Kiska shore installations and ships in the harbor, simultaneously with the start of the invasion of the southeastern Solomon islands, including Guadalcanal.

**U. S. PLANES KEEP UP
INTENSIVE ATTACK.**

Wednesday's communique made clear that American planes were pounding out a steady rain of destruction over Japan's south Pacific bases as part of the general offensive which began a week ago Wednesday.

The communique, No. 436:

"South Pacific:
"1—On July 4, a formation of army Flying Fortresses, (Boeing B-17) heavy bombers, bombed the Bairoko harbor area, west coast of New Georgia island.

"2—On the early afternoon of July 5, sixteen army Warhawk (Curtiss P-40) fighters intercepted about forty enemy Zero fighters over Rendova island. Two Zeros were destroyed. One Warhawk was lost but the pilot was rescued.

"3—During the early morning surface engagement of July 6 when six Japanese ships were probably sunk and several damaged, the light cruiser U. S. S. Helena was sunk. The next of kin of the casualties aboard the Helena will be notified as soon as possible.

**SEVERAL FIRES
STARTED AT KAHILI.**

"4—During the evening of July 6:
"(a) A formation of army Liberator (Consolidated B-24) heavy bombers attacked Kahili and started several fires.

"(b) During the same evening, a formation of army Liberator's bombed Buka island. A number of fires as a result of the bombing were observed.

"North Pacific:
"On the evening of July 6, a United States surface task force bombarded Kiska. Enemy shore batteries did not return the fire."

Speculation was that the enemy shore batteries did not reply because they did not wish to disclose their positions accurately. There remained of course the possibility that most of them were knocked out by the accuracy of shells from the American warships.

A check showed that the first two items in the communique — the Bairoko and Rendova air actions — were the same as those announced Monday night by General MacArthur's headquarters.