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AMERICAN AIR FORCES RUNNING DOWN JAP INVADERS OF ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The Paid Circulation of THE DENVER POST Yesterday Was 177,657.

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DENVER, COLO., SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1942

Paid Circulation of the Sunday Post in Denver and suburban territory now averages 121,159—and it is continuously growing.

FOUR JAPANESE CARRIERS BELIEVED SUNK AT MIDWAY

The Post Telephone
MAin 2121

THE WEATHER

It's a Privilege to Live in Colorado.
Saturday—Sun rose in Denver at 5:30 a. m. Sun sets in Denver at 8:29 p. m.

WAR ON ALL THE FRONTS
Land Sea Air

Enemy Life Loss Placed At Over 10,000; Planes Destroyed by Hundreds

—Today's Pictures Today—

The First Touchdown in the battle of the Coral sea was scored by navy air fighters led by Lieut. Commander William O. Burch Jr. of Paducah, Ky., and Lieut. Commander Joseph Taylor of Danville, Ill., who swooped down over Tulagi harbor, in the Solomon islands, and blasted twelve Jap vessels and destroyed six planes. They are shown in the photograph below as they arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, after the battle.

—Associated Press Wirephoto—



NIPPONESE ALREADY DRIVEN AWAY FROM POPULATED REGIONS

Attacks on Troops Landed at Attu and Kiska Harbor; Small Number Involved in Maneuver

Washington, June 13.—(A. P.)—American army and navy airmen combed the small, bleak islands of the northern Pacific Aleutian chain Saturday in a rising effort to search out and disperse small Japanese invasion units which have landed at Attu and the harbor of Kiska in the Rat island group.

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Despite adverse weather conditions, a navy communique asserted, air attacks have already forced the invaders to retire from populated regions of the tiny islands at the extreme western tip of the Aleutian archipelago.

“Attacks of the army and navy forces in the area against these operations are continuing,” the navy said. The announcement emphasized that it had only been in the last day or two that weather conditions had permitted flying operations.

While both the navy and the war department said early Saturday they had no further information on the Aleutian battle, there was no doubt that every effort would be exerted to throw out the invaders.

Attu is the tip of the dagger pointing toward Japan, being only some 700 miles from the northern tip of Nippon's Kurile chain. Should the enemy continue to occupy the island, it would not only blunt that potential offensive dagger, but likewise would give the Japanese a base to use against the other Aleutian islands and the Alaskan mainland.

WITHIN 800 MILES OF DUTCH HARBOR.

Kiska, located some 100 miles to the southeast of Attu, has similar strategic possibilities, altho the military value of both is decreased somewhat by poor terrain and weather conditions. Both are mountainous, frequently blanketed in fog and are bounded by outlying reefs which make offshore navigation hazardous.

Nevertheless, the islands are within 800 miles of the American base at Dutch Harbor on Unalaska island, which has been the scene of intensive American war preparations in recent months. Delegate Dimond of Alaska said last December that an air and

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ALEUTIAN INVADERS HAVE BEEN SWEEPED FROM POPULATED AREAS

Air Attack Continues on Small Parties Landed on Attu and Kiska Harbor; Flyers Comb- ing Whole Region.

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submarine base was being constructed there, altho the exact nature of the work has been shrouded in military secrecy.

OFFICIALS NOT DEEPLY CONCERNED.

Dutch Harbor—some 2,500 miles from Yokohama and only 1,700 miles from Puget sound—is considered secondary to the base at Kodiak, some 600 miles away on the Alaskan mainland. However, with Attu and Kiska in Japanese hands, both bases would be within range of Japanese reconnaissance and bombing operations.

Qualified army and navy sources said they regarded the Japanese activity at Attu and Kiska as nothing to arouse deep concern.

The temporary loss of such isolated islands was believed to figure among the “calculated risks” which Admiral Ernest J. King, fleet commander-in-chief, has said the high command had to assume.

LANDINGS MADE ON SMALL SCALE.

The navy announcement of the landing, issued Friday night, said:

“Information just received by the navy department is to the effect that the Japanese have made landings on a small scale on Attu island, at the extreme tip of the Aleutian archipelago, and Japanese ships have been reported in the harbor at Kiska, in the Rat (island) group.

“Japanese operations in the Aleutian area are still in progress, according to the information received, altho continuing army and navy aircraft attacks have forced them to retire from the populated regions of the islands.

ATTACKS UPON INVADERS CONTINUE.

“Attacks of the army and navy forces in the area against these operations are continuing. Weather conditions in these outlying islands precluded air search operations until well within the last twenty-four hours.”

Those who regarded the Aleutian adventure as a face-saving attempt, pointed out that Japanese naval morale had had to meet severe shocks in the Midway and Coral sea battles, the first serious setbacks in Japanese naval history.

An American navy department spokesman suggested that Admiral Yamamoto might have to redeem his honor by hara-kiri since he had been praised by imperial rescript for a great Coral sea victory which failed to materialize, and had thus brought into question the infallibility of the emperor.

Aleutians Main Goal, Says Berlin

Berlin (From German Broadcasts), June 13.—(A. P.)—Dispatches from Tokyo Saturday quoted an imperial headquarters announcement that operations are continuing in the Aleutians and said informed quarters generally interpreted this to mean that it is intended to occupy the islands as a future base of operations against the United States.

The dispatches said these quarters believed the attack on the Midway islands in the Pacific was intended merely as a diversion while the main objective of the occupation of the Aleutians was carried out.

ALEUTIANS LONG CAUSE OF FEAR TO JAPANESE

Bases in Islands Would
Be of Great Defensive
Value to Nippon.

(By JOHN FERRIS.)

New York, June 13.—(A. P.)

—The Japanese, in attempting to seize the Aleutian islands, may merely be following the idea that in war the best defensive is an offensive.

While possession of bases in the Aleutians would allow the Japanese to attack shipping in the north Pacific more easily and would menace the 6,000-mile arctic seaway from Seattle to Archangel, Russia, it would also have highly important defensive values.

As early as 1934 a Japanese admiral, Nobumasa Suyetsugu, commander-in-chief of the battle fleet, wrote that the United States government was surveying the Aleutians "on a grand scale," and voiced the fear that this meant "an American policy to surround Japan by all means in the event of war."

Attu island, at the extreme tip of the Aleutians, where the navy says the Japanese have made small-scale landings, lies only 700 miles from Shimshu, northernmost of the Japanese Kurile islands.

CHARGED LINDY WITH SPYING.

Three months ago another Japanese admiral, Kayozo Nakamura writing in the magazine *Taiheyio*, declared that Japan had airtight preparations against an American air attack from Alaska and the Aleutians.

This was before the Doolittle raid on Japan. There has been nothing to suggest, of course, that Doolittle and his companions came from that direction at all, but the Japanese for years have been conscious of their danger from the north so conscious and suspicious, in fact, that Admiral Suyetsugu guardedly charged in 1934 that Col. Charles A. Lindbergh was probably engaged in espionage when

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ALEUTIANS LONG CAUSE OF FEAR TO JAPANESE

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he spent three days in the Kuriles because of bad weather in 1931 when he and Mrs. Lindbergh flew to the orient.

The Japanese naturally are aware of the possibility of shipping American supplies into Russia for use against their Axis partners by the arctic route.

For years now the Russians have studied that route, maintaining a big icebreaker fleet and sixty weather stations, observing the weather changes and the directional flow of currents and patrolling the area from the air.

MAY BE AFTER SUBMARINE BASES.

Now that there is a likelihood that these studies may bear fruit—that American ships may use the route instead of risking attack in the north Atlantic and arctic on the Murmansk route—the Japanese may wish to have ready submarine and air bases for their raiders.

Lighting on the islands with land planes is difficult, the National Geographic society points out, but there are numerous coves and good harbors and lakes for seaplanes. The Aleutians were used as a naval seaplane base in Pacific maneuvers in 1935.

Kodiak village of Kodiak island is probably the last possible base for land planes near the Alaskan mainland before the islands begin their long crescent sweep down 1,500 miles of the Pacific almost to the Soviet Union's peninsula of Kamchatka.

CLIMATE DAMP AND FOGGY.

The climate of the islands is not severely cold. It is chilly, damp and foggy, altho the fog is less dense than in southern climes. That fog seems to have helped the Japanese and to have hampered temporarily the navy in its search for the invaders.

Dutch Harbor, on Unalaska, is the first harbor of importance in the archipelago. Several hundred miles farther west lies Atka, one of the last settlements west of the mainland. Its harbor is Nazan bay, which often is clear of fog when it hangs heavily outside.

The islands for 500 miles beyond are practically uninhabited. Then comes Attu, beyond the 180th degree and technically in the Eastern hemisphere. The international date line has been bulged around it, however, so that all of the Aleutians lie within the same time zone.

Dutch Harbor is about 2,000 miles from San Francisco and Honolulu, and, while it seems remote from the United States, the normal great circle steamer route between Seattle and Japan passes only about 200 miles south of the island chain.

DESCRIBED AS "WAGNERIAN WORLD."

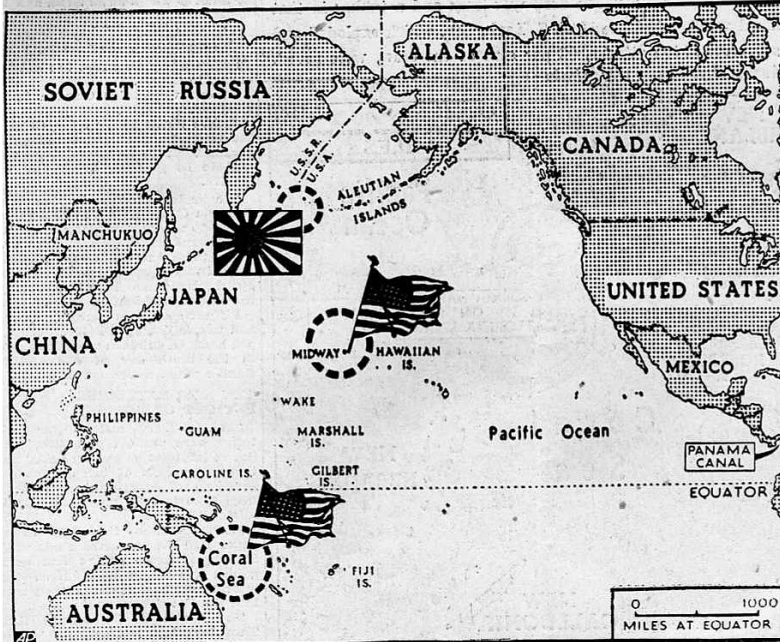
The islands themselves are of volcanic origin, and the National Geographic society, usually as prosaic in its accounts as a statistician, grows dizzily lyrical in its descriptions of the Aleutians.

They form, says the society, "a sort of Wagnerian world of their own, with volcanoes puffing huge steam rings, with islets popping out of the sea and vanishing again as mysteriously, and with fog-chilled winds howling over grassy moors."

The Kuriles, owned by the Japanese, drift down in a 1,000-mile arc from Kamchatka to Hokkaido, northernmost of Japan's home islands, and include eighteen sizable islands and scores of smaller ones. From the American military viewpoint they might be the stepping stones to conquest of the Japanese homeland by sea, air and land assault.

Three Japanese Jabs at United States forces have been attempted in the last two months. Two of them have been parried with shattering Japanese losses, and the effect of the third remains to be seen. A Nipponese incursion into the Coral sea and a thrust at Midway and Hawaii were smashed, as indicated by the American flags in this map. A Jap troop landing has been made (Nipponese emblem) on Attu, westernmost island of the Aleutians, but United States officials say the force has been scattered.

Associated Press Wirephoto



FAR OUT IN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC lie the island of Attu (1) and Kiska harbor (2) where Jap troops have made landings. This map shows how the Aleutian archipelago extends about 800 miles west of Dutch Harbor, one of the main United States naval outposts in the area.

Trying to Get a Foothold in the strategic Aleutian islands, stretching out from the Alaskan mainland toward Japan, Nipponese forces have landed on Attu, on the extreme western tip of the island chain, the United States navy revealed. Army and navy forces are attacking Jap operations in the area and have driven the invaders away from occupied areas. Here is a view of the small island.

Associated Press Wirephoto

