

## YANK WARSHIPS BOMBARD KISKA WITH HEAVY GUNS

Jap Batteries Return Fire but  
American Vessels Are  
Undamaged.

Washington, July 23.—(A. P.)—Heavy guns of the United States Pacific fleet bombarded Japanese positions on Kiska island Thursday, the navy announced Friday, in the seventh surface attack this month against the enemy's Aleutians outpost.

The shelling apparently was intended to hasten the day when Kiska defenses will be softened sufficiently for amphibious assault and a final campaign to throw the Japanese out of the western Aleutians.

The surface attack was made by warships which a navy communique described only as "heavy and light surface units."

Enemy shore guns returned the fire but none of the American ships was damaged.

A navy spokesman said that heavy fleet units could include modern battleships with their sixteen-inch guns, older capital vessels with their fourteen-inch guns, or heavy cruisers with their eight-inch cannon. All those guns are classed in the navy as heavy guns. Light surface units include destroyers and light cruisers.

### BOMBARDMENT FOLLOWS RAID BY BOMBERS.

The bombardment followed by twenty-four hours a raid of army heavy bombers on the Japanese runway and main camp area on Kiska. Numerous hits were scored and fires started in the air raid.

While these actions were going on in the north Pacific the Japanese threw a force of bombers, the number not reported, against the American base of Funafuti in the Ellice islands, in the south central Pacific. The navy said two bombers were shot down, but that while material damage had not been reported there were some personnel casualties among American forces.

### FUNAFUTI GUARDS SUPPLY ROUTE.

Funafuti is an outpost guarding part of the central sector of the supply route between Pearl Harbor and the Solomons-Australian area. The enemy might be attacking it in preparation for some heavy action designed to knock out the base and endanger supply lines—a sort of counter-offensive against the American campaign in the Solomons-New Guinea front. Or the raid could be merely designed to keep American forces tied up in the central Pacific in anticipation of an offensive.

Funafuti was first attacked April 26. The Japs hit it again July 20 and the last raid was July 22.

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Navy communique No. 448 said:  
"South Pacific:

"1.—On July 22nd, during the early morning, Japanese bombers attacked Funafuti, Ellice islands. Two of the bombers were shot down. Material damage has not been reported but some personnel casualties were sustained.

"North Pacific:

"2.—On July 21st, during the afternoon, army Liberator (Consolidated B-24) heavy bombers bombed the Japanese runway and the main camp area on Kiska. Numerous hits were scored and several fires started.

"3.—On July 22nd, during the afternoon, United States heavy and light surface units bombarded Japanese positions on Kiska. Altho the enemy returned the fire, United States ships were not damaged."

## Japs Complete Long Runway on Kiska Isle

Headquarters, Alaska Defense Command, July 23.—(A. P.)—The Japanese apparently have no intention of abandoning Kiska without a vicious battle.

American aerial reconnaissance indicates that the enemy finally has completed its 3,700-foot airplane

runway, long under construction on the repeatedly bombed island.

Since Attu was captured and Japanese surface craft have been swept from the north Pacific and the Bering sea, however, the Japanese face a considerable task in getting planes to the island.

It is still possible that their bombers might be flown from Paramushiro at the north end of the Kurile islands, which was raided recently by American flyers from the Aleutians, or from carriers which could venture to within flying range of Kiska.

American air raiders, using delayed action as well as regular bombs, continue forays on the island whenever weather permits.

The Japanese runway, American observers say, is big enough to accommodate American Lightning fighters or four-engined bombers.

## TOJO AND ELDER STATESMEN HOLD WAR CONFERENCE

U. S. Press Release