

U. S. FLYERS SINK CRUISER AND DAMAGE SEVEN OTHER JAP SHIPS IN ALEUTIANS

THIRD GREAT VICTORY APPEARS IN MAKING, ASSERTS WASHINGTON

Hits Scored on Three Cruisers, Carrier, Destroyer, Gunboat and Transport; Attack Still Being Pressed

Washington, June 16.—(A. P.)—The Japanese navy appeared Tuesday to be reeling under the third smashing attack it has suffered at the hands of the American air forces in as many operational areas of the Pacific.

Following up the Coral sea and Midway island victories, in the southwestern and middle Pacific arenas respectively, the navy department reported late Monday that American flyers were pounding a Japanese invasion force in the north, off the Aleutian islands.

While reports on the progress of the battle were inconclusive, Japanese losses listed thus far included the sinking of one cruiser and the damaging of one aircraft carrier, at least three cruisers, one destroyer, one gunboat and one transport. Damage to some of the vessels was described as severe.

There were no reports of American losses.

Both Army and Navy Flyers Continue to Press Attacks.

In a communique breaking its three-day silence on what appears to have been a desperate attempt by the Japanese to gain a toehold on the barren, rocky island chain stretching away from Alaska, the navy said attack operations were continuing by both army and navy flyers.

"Except for these continuing air attacks upon the enemy landing parties and their supporting naval contingents," the communique said, "the general situation in the Aleutian islands appears unchanged."

This was taken by some observers to mean that the enemy had failed to improve his position over the weekend by landing at any point other than Attu, a craggy little islet that marks the westernmost tip of the Aleutian chain, 769 nautical miles from Dutch harbor.

Attu, which is surrounded by treacherous reefs, and is almost constantly fogbound, was considered of little military value, altho it might be used as a listening and reconnaissance base.

In addition to Attu, the enemy was reported last Friday to have sent a few ships into the little harbor at Kiska. Tuesday authorities said they had been driven out.

Japan Apparently Has Suffered Its Third Major Defeat.

While the latest engagement apparently has not yet been resolved, strategists were inclined to believe the imperial command had suffered paralyzing defeats in three major campaigns:

1—To sever the American supply line thru the Coral sea, preliminary to an attempt to invade Australia.

2—To capture Midway island and use it as a springboard for a grand assault on Pearl Harbor.

3—To establish bases in the north for an invasion of the American continent.

Aside from their offensive nature, all three ventures would

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ONE JAP WARSHIP SUNK AND SEVEN DAMAGED IN ALEUTIANS

American Flyers Still Pressing Attack After Hits on Three Cruisers, Carrier, Destroyer, Gunboat And Transport.

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have carried considerable importance as defensive measures as well.

Leaving out the Aleutian score pending more complete reports, a compilation of the enemy's losses in the first two engagements, Coral and Midway, add up to eighteen ships sunk, including three aircraft carriers and four cruisers; three probably sunk, including one carrier and a cruiser, and at least twenty-seven damaged.

Altho it was not mentioned specifically in the naval communique, Lieut. Gen. Henry H. Arnold, army air chief, said a flight of B-26 bombers had sunk a cruiser in the Aleutians and dropped a torpedo on the deck of a carrier. He made this disclosure in a telegram of congratulations to Glenn L. Martin of Baltimore, builder of the B-26's. Army bombers were used as torpedo planes for the first time in the Midway battle.