

# JAP-HELD KISKA POUNDED

THING—SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 1943

SECTION ONE

## FOR HOURS BY NAVY GUNS

### YANKS BLAST NIP BATTERIES WITHOUT LOSS

#### Smashing Bombardment Reveals Pressure On Island.

Washington, July 10.—(I. N. S.)—The navy department Saturday announced another smashing naval bombardment of Japanese-held Kiska.

The new attack disclosed that the enemy in the Aleutians is being kept under constantly increasing pressure simultaneously with the American forward drive in the south Pacific.

The latest bombardment, carried out early Friday morning by one of the light warships of Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid's north Pacific fleet was the second such assault this week against the enemy's Kiska installations.

#### NAVY CONCENTRATES ON SHORE BATTERIES.

A navy communique said that the bombardment lasted for several hours, with the American guns concentrating their fire against the Japanese batteries at Gertrude cove, southwest of Kiska harbor.

The Japanese shore artillery returned the fire, but failed to cause any damage to the American warship, probably a light cruiser or destroyer.

When a task force of the north Pacific fleet bombarded Kiska last Tuesday night, the Japanese shore batteries were silent, either knocked out by the first American salvos, or unable to get into action while the American ships were still in effective range.

Indications are lacking that the two naval attacks on Kiska this week herald an immediate American invasion thrust into Japan's only remaining Aleutian strongholds, but they are part of the campaign of attrition, in which the army air forces have played a leading part, to prepare Kiska for eventual re-conquest.

#### AIRCRAFT CARRIERS HELP IN AREA.

A number of auxiliary aircraft carriers are included in the forces under the command of Admiral Kinkaid, and in the occupation of Attu island two months ago they proved their value as adjuncts of the fleet.

The navy revealed Saturday that carrier-based Grumman Wildcat fighter planes operated against Japanese troops on Attu by bombing and strafing when dangerously low visibility had grounded other aircraft in the Attu area.

Thruout the first ten days of the Attu action, beginning on May 11, there were many occasions when U. S. army planes based at Amchitka, 240 miles away, could not be used because of bad weather.

#### FIVE MEN LOST FROM "BABY FLAT-TOP."

The navy made public a detailed report on the operations of one of the "baby flat-tops" at Attu. Five of the naval aviators who worked from this carrier, designed as carrier "A," were lost in attacking Japanese positions on the island and in assisting the advance of American ground troops. Four of these officers are listed as missing and one as killed in action.

Lieut. Douglas Henderson, Fresno, Calif., was killed. Those listed as missing are: Lieut. Comdr. Lloyd K. Greenmyer, Corpus Christi, Tex., Lieut. Francis R. Register, Bismarck, N. D.; Ensign Ernest Jackson, Oakland, Calif., and Lieut. Frederic B. Sleyster, Mexico, Mo.

"The escort carrier, lurking in the fog banks near Attu, constantly on guard against Jap submarines, launched mission after mission in response to requests from army ground troops," the navy said in its account of the Attu air operations.

#### WILDCATS DOVE AT JAPS THRU FOG.

"Her Wildcats would take off, pull up into the low fog, spot enemy positions thru holes, dive out of the overcast, strafe and bomb Jap dugouts, fox holes and machine gun nests, and then swoop back into the fog, often before the Japs had time to return their fire.

"In the clouds the planes would fly out to sea a short distance, then turn and come back for another attack, repeating this maneuver until they were low on gas. When cloud cover was not available Jap anti-aircraft fire was heavy and accurate.

"The navy's Wildcats at Attu added another page to those they have written since the war opened in the Pacific, including Coral sea, Midway and the skies over the Solomons. Escort carriers like carrier 'A,' available in numbers, will play their part as the war against Japan swings more vigorously to the offensive."

Friday's naval action against Kiska was reported in navy communique No. 438 as follows:

#### "North Pacific:

"1.—On July 9, during the early morning, a United States light surface unit bombarded the Gertrude cove area in Kiska for several hours. The Japanese shore batteries returned the fire but caused no damage."

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