

MR 203(16), Sec. 2-A -- SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES (North Pacific)

6 June 1945 ✓
~~5 November 1942~~ - 25 November 1943

(Pages ~~4~~ - 299)



CONTINUED

DECLASSIFIED

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~-----~~
5 p.m. December 31, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following details relate to the sinking of the high-speed minesweeper WASMUTH off SCOTCH CAPE, UNIMAK ISLAND, mentioned in the morning Summary of December 29th.

This vessel after surviving 40-foot seas and a moderate gale for two days had her depth charge rack carry away on December 29th. at 3:46 a.m. Two depth charges were set at 50 feet, the remainder on "safe". The ship's speed was about 6 knots when the first charge detonated and 10 knots when the second charge exploded. The keel ruptured, followed by 70 feet of the stern breaking off and sinking in 9 minutes. Subsequent flooding could not be controlled and the ship sank in five hours. The crew was transferred to the RAMAPO which drew alongside at 6:00 a.m.

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 29, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

The high-speed minesweeper WASMUTH broke in two in high seas and sank 35 miles off SCOTCH CAPE (southwest point of UNIMAK ISLAND, ALEUTIAN CHAIN). All personnel have been saved and taken aboard the Oil Tanker RAMAPO. Further details are not at present available.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
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9 a.m. December 28, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On December 26th. a force of our fighters (Lightnings) strafed enemy shore installations on KISKÁ. Two of our planes were shot down. The pilot of one was rescued.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. December 22, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd).

At 1.50 p.m., December 20th, a heavy coordinated attack was completed on KISKA by thirteen bombers supported by nine fighters. Hits were scored and heavy explosions observed in the submarine base area. The camp areas were bombed and strafed. All our planes returned. Light damage was suffered from heavy anti-aircraft fire.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

10 a.m. December 19, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd).

At 1.40 p.m., December 17th, three Liberators attacked shore installations on KISKA. Thirty-five 500-lb bombs were dropped. One hit was scored in the submarine base area, and explosions and flames were observed among buildings north of the marine railway.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. December 13, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd).

At 1 p.m., December 11th, three of our Marauders supported by four Lightnings bombed the ship formerly aground in TROUT LAGOON, KISKA. Two 500-lb bomb hits were scored. Enemy shore activities and installations were also strafed and bombed.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 29, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.).

A reconnaissance plane reports being pursued by an enemy plane of unknown type over ATTU ISLAND in the ALEUTIAN Chain.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

 5 p.m. November 28, 1942

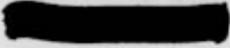
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 26 November four B-17's scored three 500-lb. bomb hits on a 3,000-ton enemy cargo vessel in HOLTZ BAY, ATTU ISLAND. The vessel was reported to be on fire and sinking. Four Aircudas (P-38's) strafed anti-aircraft installations. All planes returned.

CONDENSED FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.


9:30 a.m. November 15, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

It is believed that ATTU has been reoccupied by an enemy force numbering approximately 500.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On November 9th. an Army B-17, escorted by four P-38's, attacked and destroyed seven float Zeros in HOLTZ BAY, ATTU ISLAND. Two of the enemy planes were seen to explode and all were burning. There was no opposition and all U.S. planes returned safely.

At KISKA, same date, two B-26's attacked an enemy cargo vessel in GERTRUDE COVE, KISKA. The attack was made from a low level, resulting in near misses. Two P-38's strafed a cargo vessel in KISKA Harbor, also the beach area. An engine in a P-38 was shot out by heavy anti-aircraft fire from the ship, otherwise all planes returned without damage.

The U.S. Submarine CACHALOT on the evening of October 10th. engaged an enemy force of two cargo vessels under escort in VEGA BAY, KISKA. Torpedoes were fired at the cargo ships by the CACHALOT and one torpedo at the CACHALOT by an enemy destroyer. A torpedo hit was heard during the quick dive which followed, but it is not known whether the enemy vessel was hit by a friendly or enemy torpedo.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 8, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

ALASKA reports that seven float type Zero fighters were sighted at HOLTZ BAY, ATTU, on the 7th.

Considerable trouble was experienced with the civilian personnel operating the Steamship FILLMORE (under Army control) at ADAK, particularly with the Commanding Officer.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9 a.m. November 5, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from ALASKA indicates that the airfield on
ADAK is one foot under water.

S-31 reports sinking one large minelayer off
PARAMUSHIRO.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 30, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

S-33 reports three Japanese cruisers of NATORI Class (5170-ton light cruisers) and one destroyer at a position 180 miles west of ATTU on course 250, speed 15, on the morning of the 30th.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 29, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reconnaissance of SEGULA (east of KISKA) negative;
of GARELOI, west of TANAGA, negative; damaged ships in
KISKA Harbor and GERTRUDE COVE as previously reported.

EASTERN PACIFIC

In the EASTERN PACIFIC the Destroyer KENDRICK re-
ports being torpedoed with no hits and dropping depth
charges off the OREGON Coast (message not entirely clear).

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

 10 a.m. October 25, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the 23rd of October six Army B-24's escorted by 6 P-38's bombed the submarine base and adjacent camp area at KISKA from an altitude of from 12000 to 15000 feet with 1000-lb. bombs. A hit was recorded on the shed covering midget submarines. No enemy planes reported and no shipping was seen other than the grounded vessels previously reported.

COMMCHI FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
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4:30 p.m. October 24, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report received that two torpedoes were fired at DOLPHIN at 4 a.m. on the 22nd. while patrolling about 70 miles southeast of DUTCH HARBOR.

DECLASSIFIED
CED Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 23, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd)

Cruisers of Admiral Theobald's Task Force Eight report the completion of a ten-day sweep to the westward of KISKA ATOLL. Results negative.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 20, 1942.

W.P.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from the ALEUTIANS for 18 October states that 4 B-24's dropped 48 - 500-lb. bombs from 15,000 feet on camp area and on a ship beached at TROUT LAGOON. Hits in camp area followed by a heavy explosion and fires. No enemy planes. No shipping changes in KISKA observed.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

WZ

9 a.m. October 19, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Five B-24's attacking KISKA from 11,000 feet dropped 59 - 500-lb. bombs on the camp and beach at TROUT LAGOON. Results not observed. No enemy planes sighted. Anti-aircraft fire light. No ships sighted.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

WMB

10 a.m. October 18, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further report of attack by B-26's on Japanese destroyers north of KISKA states that the action continued for forty-five minutes, and that 20 - 300-lb. bombs were dropped in deck-level attacks. Five hits were made on one destroyer which caught on fire, causing intermittent explosions within the ship which threw debris high in the air. Four hits were made on the other destroyer with heavy explosions in the stern. Both destroyers were left dead in the water burning and personnel were seen to be abandoning the ships. Both destroyers were carrying deck loads of large crates, possibly aircraft.

HALIBUT, which had been ordered to attack, searched the area in which low visibility obtained, but with negative results.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

WAB

9 a.m. October 17, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

9 B-24's supported by 5 P-38's made attack on KISKA October 14th., dropping in camp area 180 incendiaries, - many large fires throughout camp. P-38's destroyed three enemy float planes on water. Did not see any other planes. One B-17 took photographs and bombed submarine area with 6 - 500-lb. bombs. Two beached vessels previously reported are now reported to be stripped of removable gear. Also there are two sunken ships in the harbor, one of which has been previously reported.

On the same day 3 B-26's made two torpedo attacks on ships at GERTRUDE COVE, KISKA, without making any hits.

Preliminary report from Admiral Theobald states that two Japanese destroyers, HIBIKI class, were bombed by six B-26's, three hits on one, believed sunk; one hit on stern of other. This attack occurred about 70 miles northeast of KISKA. Submarine HALIBUT has been ordered to mop up.

On October 15th. Three B-26's attacked a Japanese cargo ship in GERTRUDE COVE with four-second delayed 300-pound bombs. At least one direct hit was made causing explosion and fire in ship. Three hours later fire still burned. Our losses one B-26 and crew shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

8:30 a.m. October 16, 1942.

WAL

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from ALEUTIANS indicates that our forces lost one P-38 on 14 October, - shot down by anti-aircraft fire at KISKA. Pilot jumped but found dead in water by PBV rescue plane.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 13, 1942.

WAZ

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd)

On 11 October 6 B-24's bombed shipping and shore installations at KISKA from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Forty 500-lb. bombs were dropped on a ship east of TROUT LAGOON and a ship west of SOUTH HEAD. No hits were made. Twenty-seven 500-lb. bombs were dropped on camp area. Damage unknown.

While on search mission south of KISKA a PBY made contact with a small enemy cargo ship and attacked with two 500-lb. bombs, - bombs missed.

A second CATALINA on search north of KISKA made contact with an enemy small transport. Four heavy bombers dropped 24 - 500-lb. bombs from 1,000 feet, making no hits. The PBY dropped one bomb, - missed, then strafed decks with machine guns.

Submarine HALIBUT on patrol in this area then made contact and attacked on surface with torpedoes at 1600 yards. Torpedoes did not detonate. This enemy vessel was a Q-Ship equipped with three guns forward and submerged torpedo tubes. Torpedo missed HALIBUT ten yards to port.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:30 a.m. October 12, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On October 9th. six attack missions flew over KISKA at low altitudes. Total planes employed, - 10 - B24's, 8 - B-17's, 4 P-39's, and 8 P-38's. Bombs were dropped as follows:-

52 - 500-lb. bombs on a cargo ship in GERTRUDE COVE, - no hits.
26 - 500-lb. bombs on two small cargo ships in KISKA Harbor, - one possible hit.
40 - 100-lb bombs on North Head.
20 - 100-lb bombs and 16 - 500-lb. bombs in hangar-camp area, - some hits observed.
Four P-38's strafed a freighter and two gun emplacements.

No enemy aircraft was observed.

Our damage, - four bombers received minor damage, two fighters were damaged by anti-aircraft fire, - all returned to base.

A preliminary report for 10 October states that 3 B-17's and 4 P-38's attacked camp area from 100 feet dropping 45 magnesium fire bombs. Large fires were started. Damage will be verified by photographs taken. Three enemy planes observed on water. No change in enemy shipping over previous reports.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 10, 1942.

WJL

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Air attacks on KISKA AREA were conducted as follows on 8 October:-

Six B-24's and three B-17's, supported by twelve P-38's, at an altitude of 3400 feet attacked camp area dropping 57 incendiary bombs and 12 - 500-lb. demolition bombs, - starting fires. This same force also attacked a cargo ship in GERTRUDE COVE from 3800 feet with 12 - 500-lb. demolition bombs. Anti-aircraft installations, hangar, a freighter and a corvette were strafed by four P-38's.

Another striking force consisting of three B-24's dropped 10 - 1,000-lb. demolition bombs from 4000 feet on the cargo ship at GERTRUDE COVE.

Photographs of these attacks were taken, but damage has not been reported.

Our casualties consisted of a minor injury by a machine gun bullet to one gunner, one B-24 damaged on landing, and three P-38's received minor damage from anti-aircraft fire. All planes returned.

No enemy aircraft were encountered.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

CONDICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 8, 1942.

MS

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Eight B-24's supported by ten P-39's and eight P-38's attacked KISKA on the 6th. 28 - 500-lb. demolition bombs were dropped on hangar area, 33 on GERTRUDE COVE AREA, 8 on large cargo ship in harbor, and 12 on a cargo ship and corvette in GERTRUDE COVE. Bombs were dropped from an altitude between 10,000 and 12,000 feet. Pursuit planes strafed the harbor and set fire to one of five Zero float planes on the water, another damaged, also damaged radio station.

The cargo ship in the harbor was reported on fire and sinking, also a fire in the camp area.

All planes returned with minor damage to one B-24 and one P-39.

Air observation at AGATTU and ATTU showed no signs of enemy occupation.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 7, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 4 October a Navy patrol plane sighted a Japanese cargo ship northwest of KISKA with a deck load of landing barges. Three bombers were ordered out to attack, and made twelve runs over target at 1,000 feet. Two near misses were made. One B-24 damaged by shell fire on first run returned on three engines.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 6, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

W53

Summary of Action 3 October.

KISKA was attacked by six B-24's, supported by four P-38's (twin-engine) and eight P-39's. Eighty 100-lb. incendiaries and twelve 500-lb. demolition bombs were dropped from heights of 10,000 to 11,000 feet by five bombers concentrating on hangar and camp area. One bomber dropped five 1000-lb. bombs at a cargo ship beached near TROUT LAGOON, - results not observed. The fighters shot down six twin-float Jap fighters, five at 16,000 feet and one which attacked the bombers. All U.S. planes returned without damage.

Shipping observed in KISKA:-

One medium cargo ship beached one mile west of SOUTH HEAD.

One large cargo ship beached near TROUT LAGOON.

One medium-size cargo ship west of NORTH HEAD.

One cargo ship in second cove west of TWIN ROCKS.

One cargo ship off REYNARD COVE.

Two small destroyers patrolling entrance.

Thirty-nine bombs were dropped by enemy planes on ADAK without inflicting damage.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 5, 1942.

WLS

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

A marine railway with four midget submarines and possibly two others under covered part of ramp were visible in photographs taken of south beach at KISKA on 27 September.

Completion of the occupation of the PRIBILOFF ISLANDS was reported on 4 October.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]

9 a.m. October 3, 1942.

WAT

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On October 1 KISKA Harbor, the main camp, and seaplane base were bombed from 15,000 feet by 7 B-24's. Fires were observed. Photographs were taken.

Commander Task Force EIGHT states that enemy is now evidently routing shipping well north of KISKA and close to the track of Russian ships.

At 5 a.m. October 2, local time, ADAK was bombed by one plane. No damage. - It is now considered that Japs are definitely aware of our establishments in this area.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]

9 a.m. October 2, 1942.

WAT

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

On September 29th. a photographic plane dropped bombs at a low level and strafed the decks of the small cargo ship which was bombed on the 28th. north of ATTU. There was no opposition and no sign of life, - possibly abandoned. Photographs were taken.

On September 30th. nine B-24's attacked KISKA from an altitude of 15,000 feet. Photographs indicate one, possibly two, direct hits and one near miss on a transport which was left burning. Three fires were started in the camp area. Two Jap pursuit planes attacked one of our bombers. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy but inaccurate. - Our planes received no damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.10 a.m. October 1, 1942. WJZALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

A supplementary report of operations on 28 September states that three B-24's destroyed, with thermite bombs, all buildings in ATTU village, except the church. Heavy explosions occurred while the houses were burning.

These same bombers later dropped four thermite bombs astraddle an enemy freighter north of BULDIR ISLAND (probably the freighter attacked by a Catalina on the same date). The ship was also strafed, silencing anti-aircraft guns.

The second attack on KISKA on 28 September was conducted by five B-24's supported by sixteen fighters. Enemy shipping was bombed at 9,000 feet, - near misses. There was no interception and the planes received no battle damage.

Also on the 28th, three B-24's bombed a freighter north of SIRIUS POINT (north end of KISKA) from 1,000 to 4,000 feet, - near misses.

Air observation south of KISKA indicates that the Japs have tents, stores, and have made an excavation in that area. An auxiliary vessel and a boat are in GERTRUDE COVE (west of BUKHTI POINT). Our planes encountered 37 mm anti-aircraft fire.

A twin-float enemy seaplane flew over ADAK about 12:30 p.m. 30 September, local time. A 100-lb. bomb was dropped on ATKA (probably by same plane) at about 1 p.m., - no known damage. This indicates our establishments in these areas have been discovered by the enemy.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 30, 1942. *WST*ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Six B-24's on the 27th. attacked ships and shore installations at KISKA. Forty-eight 500-pound bombs were dropped from an altitude of 1,000 to 3,000 feet. One float Zero was shot down, - additional damage reports not yet available. The anti-aircraft fire encountered appeared to be coming mainly from the ships in the harbor. We lost no planes.

Also on the 27th. three bombers attacked an enemy destroyer and transport 100 miles north of SEMICHI ISLAND (198 miles northwest of KISKA). The transport was forced to stop due to near misses astern.

Two attacks on KISKA were conducted on the 28th. First attack, - sixty-four 500-pound bombs were dropped from an altitude of 5,000 feet on ships and shore installations by eight B-24's, escorted by seventeen fighters. The following damage was reported:-

Five float Zeros shot down;
A submarine reported sunk by a 500-pound bomb;
Hits and near misses by eight 500-pound bombs on a transport, - believed badly damaged and sinking.

The anti-aircraft opposition was stronger than on previous attack. Three enemy destroyers left the harbor during the attack. We lost one P-39, down at sea five miles southwest of LITTLE KISKA ISLAND, - the pilot is believed to be lost. The hydraulic system on one B-24 was damaged by gunfire which caused it to crack up on landing, - one of the crew was slightly injured.

The second attack was conducted at 10:58 a.m., local time, - no reports of this attack have been received as yet.

Also on the 28th. a Catalina dropped two depth charges alongside a small enemy freighter 50 miles north of BULDIR ISLAND (between KISKA and AGATTU), possibly damaging the freighter.

Attn: [Signature]

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9:30 a.m. September 29, 1942. *WLB*

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further information on KISKA attack on 25 September indicates that a Canadian Bomber Squadron Leader shot down an additional float Zero. The Jap pilot jumped from his plane at 50 feet and the plane crashed.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 28, 1942. *WAL*

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

A further report on the attack on KISKA, 25 September, from Commander Task Force EIGHT states that one transport is beached with a list at a point on KISKA ISLAND south of KISKA Harbor. Two or three submarines, one or two destroyers, and a medium size transport are nearby. Stores are reported to be on the beach.

He also reports that the Royal Canadian Air Force took part in the attack on KISKA on 25 September.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. September 27, 1942.

MAZ

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

*IAW -
left
morning*

Commander Task Force EIGHT reports 9 B-24's, escorted by 11 P-39's and 17 P-40's, attacked KISKA on the morning of 25 September. One B-17 and one B-24 accompanied attacking force as photographic planes. Hits were reported on one transport, two submarines were strafed, one float plane shot down, and from five to eight float planes caught on the surface and destroyed. The shore establishments were strafed. Enemy casualties were estimated at 150. Our planes received only minor damage.

In the afternoon of 25 September a second attack was attempted, but forced to return due to bad weather.

Previously, on the 24th., 3 B-24's bombed the shore installations at KISKA, - amount of damage inflicted on enemy by this attack is unknown.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 26, 1942

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Considerable increased Jap activity at KISKA. Many large ships in the harbor. One large ship, probably a submarine tender, observed south of KISKA. The cause of this increased activity not yet apparent. Commander Task Force EIGHT reports he is intensifying offensive air and submarine operations and tightening his coverage of U.S. establishments at ATKA, ADAK, AND KANAGA, while increasing scouting observation until enemy intentions are determined.

Late reports of aerial reconnaissance of CHICAGOFF Harbor, ATTU, on the 22nd. and 23rd. indicate no signs of enemy personnel or activity. Plane on the 23rd. flew over harbor under 1,000 feet three times, the last time at 200 feet, but drew no hostile reaction. Gun positions on headland between HOLTZ BAY and CHICAGOFF Harbor empty, but some tents remained. Original houses in village remain, but tents gone. Nothing observed along or at end of Jap made roads. Pilot reports dock and original frame house in CHICAGOFF Harbor removed. Estimate Japs have moved ATTU garrison to KISKA.

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

 9:30 a.m. September 21, 1942. *WHL*

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our forces are now well established on ADAK ISLAND, operating from an excellent air field, ~~and~~ protected by 5,000 Army troops.

No attack, since 14 September, against KISKA has been feasible due to unfavorable weather conditions.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9:30 a.m. September 20, 1942.

WJZ

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine GRUNNION, not having been heard from since 30 July, is presumed to be lost.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

CONDICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

9:30 a.m. September 20, 1942.

WZ

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine GRUNNION, not having been heard from since 30 July, is presumed to be lost.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. September 16, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

About 7:30 on the morning of 14 September twelve B-24's, fourteen P-38's, and fourteen P-39's conducted a coordinated low-altitude bombing and strafing attack on Japanese installations at KISKA and on ships in harbor and vicinity.

Results:-

Two minesweepers at submarine net sunk;
Direct hits and near misses on three large cargo vessels;
Hits on several small vessels and barges;
Large fires in camp area and base;
Four float Zero fighters and one enemy biplane shot down in flames;
One four-engine patrol plane burned on water;
Three submarines strafed by P-39's with 37mm guns;
Stores near dock strafed and exploded; and
All installations around harbor repeatedly strafed.

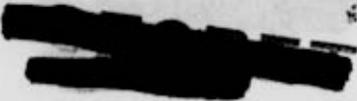
Total enemy casualties estimated at about 500, one enemy Zero and one biplane possibly escaped.

Own casualties, - two P-38's collided in midair and crashed while attacking Zero fighter, both pilots missing.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



8:30 a.m. September 12, 1942.

WAT

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

The first phase of establishment of a base at ADAK, KULUK BAY, will be completed in about two days. The first plane, a B-17, landed on the 10th., - reported the landing field as being the best in ALASKA, - 9,000 feet long and 500 feet wide. - P-38's (two-engine fighters) being sent on the 11th.

At 6:24 on the morning of 9 September a single float biplane was reported observed by a forest ranger dropping bombs in the vicinity of MT. EMILY, 10 miles northeast of BROOKINGS, OREGON, starting a fire. At the scene of the fire fragments of incendiary bombs containing lettering with Japanese characters were recovered.

At 10:55 same date a submarine was reported by Army plane, and attacked, 40 miles southwest of CAPE BLANCO. - This report from Commander NORTHWESTERN SEA FRONTIER.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
8:30 a.m. September 10, 1942. WJ

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

ADAK, KULUK BAY AREA, has been occupied with a garrison of 184 officers and 4,372 enlisted men, - includes anti-aircraft batteries, coastal battery, and field artillery. It was expected that a 4,000 ft. landing strip will be ready by today, September 10th.

Two enemy destroyers reported off HOLTZ BAY, ATTU. Our submarine, attempting to attack on the 8th., was chased by three destroyers which dropped 26 depth charges and forced submarine to retire to cut loose damaged plating.

A small cargo ship is reported to be discharging between HOLTZ BAY and CHICAGOFF, ATTU.

Three Jap float fighters attacked three B-24's at KISKA, - two Japanese shot down, one B-24 damaged and forced to release bombs. Action was at 4,000 feet.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMDICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

10 a.m. September 5, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

MSB

A B-24 and 2 P-38's raided KISKA. The pursuit planes reported having inflicted damage on one transport, one small tender, and 1 four-engine flying boat, also damage to ground installations.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8:30 a.m. September 4, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

WAL

Three transports have been unloaded at ADAK and additional transports due to arrive today.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMMING FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

 9:30 a.m. August 31, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (cont'd.)

WST

The small seaplane tender CASCO was torpedoed in NAZAN BAY.

We are making landings on ADAK ISLAND for establishment of an airfield, with subsidiary landings on ATKA ISLAND and TANAGA ISLAND.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9:30 a.m. August 29, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our PBV's at NAZAN BAY, ATKA ISLAND, were bombed by
four twin-engine land planes.

WAT

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

9:30 a.m. August 21, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine GATTO reports sinking KINKA MARU, 9300 tons, at midnight August 15th. about 300 miles east of the south end of KAMCHATKA.

WAT

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

8 a.m. August 20, 1942.

WAL

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Nothing heard from U.S. Submarine GRUNNION since July 30th., - may be lost.

The United States Navy is pleased to report that on the night of 14 August, 20 miles north of Pagan Island (between CINCPAC and MATTEL). Only reported to MATTEL. This was the second instance of this type of action in the Aleutians.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8 a.m. August 19, 1942. WTC


ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11:30 p.m., August 8, following the bombardment of KISKA, S-35, 90 miles south of KISKA, observed a huge explosion at or near KISKA, - confirmed by the FINBACK 27 miles north.

The TRITON reports hitting a cruiser or destroyer on the night of 14 August, 20 miles north of BULDIR ISLAND (between KISKA and AGATTU). Ship appeared to disintegrate. Ship sunk was escorted indicating that it may have been a cruiser rather than a destroyer.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WST

[REDACTED]

4 p.m. August 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

8 August report through Army channels states that 8 Catalinas bombed KISKA making two hits on a large freighter and two hits on a transport, also one 1,000 pound bomb hit in main camp at KISKA.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
9:30 a.m. Aug. 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Bombardment was hampered by low visibility and low ceiling which prevented spotting or observation of damage. Own losses, - one cruiser plane.

After firing observation was one large fire, tanker leaving harbor, shore batteries silenced, many hits in target area.

at 2,000 feet when land in vicinity was hit as follows
that it crashed.

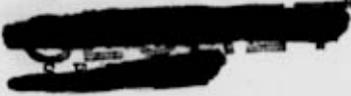
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

 5 p.m. August 5, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 2120, 4 August, two P-38's caught a Kawanishi 97 plane 10 miles south of ATKA ISLAND (270 miles east of KISKA) and sent it down in flames. A second Kawanishi 97 was sent down out of control 10 miles south of ADAK (210 miles east of KISKA). This plane was almost on its back at 2,000 feet when lost in overcast, but it is believed that it crashed.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9:30 a.m. August 4, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Two attacks were made on the Destroyer KANE in NAZAN BAY, ATKA, 320 miles east of KISKA, by four-engine flying boats operating from KISKA. No damage. KANE remains at ATKA.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. July 25, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Foggy conditions in the KISKA AREA delayed the bombardment.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. July 23, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reports received from ALEUTIANS AREA indicate that patrol plane tenders GILLIS, CASCO, and HULBERT are being used in connection with patrol plane operations, - in the case of the GILLIS from KULUK BAY, about 225 miles east of KISKA. Presumably these patrol plane operations are in support of our surface force operations. - No information as yet regarding surface force operations.

GILLIS reports being attacked by three large planes during which 13 bombs were dropped in three runs, one bomb dropping 10 feet from GILLIS' bridge. GILLIS reports evidence of having seriously damaged two of the three planes.

Apparently one patrol plane tended by CASCO crashed and the wrecks of four Army fighters that had crashed and burned were sighted.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-73

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:00 a.m. July 21, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Two Japanese light cruisers are reported as being in the vicinity of KISKA on Sunday with two destroyers patrolling entrance.

Destroyer Aviation Tender GILLIS was attacked in the vicinity of ADAK by three Japanese four-engine bombers.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. July 20, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine GRUNNION reports sinking three destroyers at KISKA on the 15th.

Army air reconnaissance at KISKA reported:-

- 1 Large Transport,
- 1 Cruiser,
- 3 Destroyers,
- Several Auxiliary Boats, and
- 2 Four-motored seaplanes.

This in amplification of yesterday's summary.

S.S. ARCATA (American) was sunk by gunfire and survivors on liferaft fired on. No torpedoes used. - Japanese submarines are apparently conserving torpedoes.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. July 19, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Accumulative reports to Task Force Eight indicate in KISKA:-

1 Battleship,
2 Cruisers,
3 Destroyers,
1 Tanker, and
3 Cargo Ships.

However, reconnaissance on the 17th. showed:-

1 Cruiser,
3 Destroyers, and
1 Large Transport.

During attack one B-17 was shot down. Army aircraft attack on these forces was not profitable.

Russian Ship FELIX DZERJINSKY was attacked 220 miles east by south of DUTCH HARBOR by a large Japanese submarine which surfaced 400 yards astern and fired 15 to 20 shots without making hits. Submarine was forced down by a Navy patrol plane which proceeded to the scene of action.

COMINT FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. July 18, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Destroyer KANE rescued twelve survivors from the Steamship ARCATA, proceeding alone, which had been fired on by a large submarine 310 miles east of DUTCH HARBOR.

Destroyer KANE, however, continued alone, and was fired against by a large submarine and was damaged.

RECENT EVENTS

Destroyer KANE has been ordered to proceed to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and to report to the Commanding Officer, Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and to report to the Commanding Officer, Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. July 16, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

GRUNNION reports firing three torpedoes at Japanese Destroyer ASASHIO, 35 miles southwest of KISKA. First torpedo appeared to explode 10 yards astern of destroyer which, however, continued depth charge attack against GRUNNION and subsequently headed for KISKA.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

Reports have been received that Dutch-Australian troops occupied, without opposition, the islands of TANIMBAR, KAI, and AROE, between DARWIN and NEW GUINEA.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

5 p.m. July 13, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Three Army planes reported having bombed one Japanese cruiser in KISKA on July 11th. Results not observed (probably no hits).

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

COMMING FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10 a.m. July 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

No activities in the ALEUTIAN AREA.

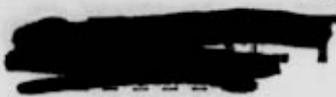
Submarine THRESHER reports sinking one seaplane tender and seriously damaging one tanker off TRUK. THRESHER was heavily depth bombed.

COMMICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



10 a.m. July 8, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

FINBACK attacked two destroyers south of KISKA, probably one 1250-ton destroyer sunk. FINBACK depth charged but not seriously damaged. One seaplane tender, transport, with three destroyers sighted heading east, but lost in the fog.

The S-44 reported sinking on 21 June a 2000-ton cargo carrier off TULAGI.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. July 7, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Jap heavy cruiser sighted east of KISKA. Orders to planes to proceed and attack have been issued.

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10 a.m. July 6, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Also on the 4th. a destroyer was sunk off AGATTU by the TRITON. In all, four Japanese destroyers were destroyed on the 4th. of July.

DECLASSIFIED
98D Letter, 5-3-72

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m., July 5, 1942

ALEUTIAN ISLAND ACTION (CONT'D)

Submarine Growler torpedoed three Japanese destroyers at Kiska, believes two sunk and third on fire. Growler suffered minor damage and is returning to station.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. July 4, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (CONT'D)

As a result, apparently, of patrol plane report of enemy forces in the KISKA-AGATTU Area, B-24 planes on the afternoon of 2 July dropped 56 - 500 pound bombs on enemy forces at AGATTU. These forces were:

3 Large Transports,
3 Cruisers, and
5 Destroyers.

(Cruisers may have been moved over from KISKA). Bombs were dropped from 18000 to 21000 feet and reported observing several near misses, two very near misses, or possibly hits, on a transport and destroyer.

Four or five enemy submarines observed to be 50 miles east of AGATTU.

On return from patrol off the south coast of HONSHU, NAUTILUS reports all merchantmen sighted were using cruiser or destroyer escorts, and reported sinking one destroyer and one 1500-ton patrol boat, and possibly sinking one destroyer, one 17000-ton transport, and one 10000-ton oiler.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

10 a.m. July 3, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Navy patrol plane reports observing about 6 p.m. July 2nd. 5 destroyers and 3 transports at AGATTU south-east of ATTU, one battleship at ATTU, and at KISKA 3 cruisers, 1 additional vessel, and 3 patrol planes.

Indications that Japanese are making a large movement of troops in the CHINA SEA AREA.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9 a.m. June 27, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Catalina over KISKA reported that at noon it had been attacked by an enemy seaplane and it had observed one new heavy cruiser and three destroyers in harbor. Further efforts of observation failed because of visibility. Heavy bombers proceeded to KISKA for attack but target was obscured upon arrival.

Crew of S-27 removed from AMCHITKA ISLAND by Catalina planes.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 20, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further reports of action at KISKA on 18 June indicate that eight heavy bombers attacked in three flights, the first two flights getting in, weather preventing third flight from dropping. Report one cruiser hit by first flight and left burning, Jap crew seen taking to life boats; second flight reports cruiser burning and sinking and a near miss on a transport. Later reports indicate that the ship hit may have been a transport instead of a cruiser, or possibly the cruiser was sunk and a transport also hit.

Japanese naval craft observed at KISKA included:-

1 Cruiser,
3 or 4 Destroyers,
2 or 3 Transports, and
Some Seaplanes.

Army bombers damaged or shot down two observation seaplanes (presumably cruiser planes).

Army transport GORGAS was attacked by a submarine in the BAY OF ALASKA while en route DUTCH HARBOR to SEATTLE.

S-27 apparently went aground in the fog, possibly on AMCHITKA ISLAND.

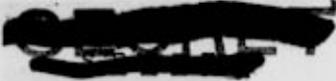
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



9 a.m. June 19, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Visibility at KISKA is now good and a plane reports that cruiser at KISKA is down to the head and appears to be sinking.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. June 18, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

VANNES

At seven o'clock on the 17th. S.S. DENNEB reported torpedo attack off the SHUMAGIN ISLANDS.

Search patrols continuing. Weather over KISKA continues to prevent observation of that island.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 16, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Air warning service established on the PRIBILOFF ISLANDS by the Army.

Damaged planes being returned from DUTCH HARBOR to KODIAK for repair. - All planes when attacking low because of low ceiling are damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

Seven Army heavy bombers reported that at 12:00 o'clock noon of the 14th. KISKA harbor had at least sixteen enemy vessels, all afloat. All bombs were dropped in harbor and results were reported as indecisive, - (probably ineffective). One or two Japanese seaplanes shot down.

Summarized reports indicate that seven four-engine enemy patrol planes were destroyed by bombs and strafing, and five are remaining.

A check-up of summarized reports indicates at least one cruiser and two destroyers have been hit and seen burning.

Air reconnaissance of ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND at 8:30 a.m. June 13th. disclosed no enemy activity.

Captured documents indicate Japanese carriers that attacked DUTCH HARBOR on the 4th. were HAYATAKA (new carrier) and RYUJO (7,000 ton carrier).

Five Japanese four-engine PB's dropped two large and six small bombs on ATKA about 12:00 o'clock noon of the 14th.

Visibility over KISKA at this time very poor.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 15, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reinforcements for ALASKAN AREA being forwarded by transports from PUGET SOUND.

At 9 a.m. on the 14th. the enemy were reported departing KISKA. Reported as still being in harbor:-

1 Cruiser,
1 Transport,
Several Destroyers, and
1 Destroyer patrolling entrance.

North of island:-

1 Cruiser,
2 Destroyers, and
1 Heavy Cruiser or Battleship, plus
Destroyers.

One UNITED STATES submarine stationed near GARELOI ISLAND eastward of KISKA and one to the westward of ATKA.

A 30° sector 500 miles north of UMNAK in the direction of PRIBILOFFS was searched.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. June 14, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

A heavy cruiser at KISKA was moored in harbor center; destroyers anchored on heavy cruiser's starboard bow and starboard quarter; a cruiser on port bow and two cruisers to the eastward. Six to eight destroyers are stationed about 6,000 yards off harbor entrance evidently patrolling against entry of submarines into harbor.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 14, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

12 June (Cont'd.):-

Army bombers report making two direct hits on large Jap cruiser producing clouds of black smoke and flame - Report near hits on large transport.

Inhabitants of ATKA and PRIBILOFF being evacuated.

Six cruisers, five to six transports, and probably seaplane tenders still reported at KISKA. Japs appear to be in great confusion. Commander Patrol Wing Four believes ships must be heavily hit and damaged. Among other things a Catalina pilot reports several four-engine PB's on water damaged.

A Catalina pilot also reports being driven off from KISKA at 12 noon of the 12th. three different times by Zero fighters. This would indicate the proximity of a Japanese carrier.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMONS FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. June 13, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

12:- Summary of attacks by naval aircraft on KISKA, June

- 7:45 a.m. - Two bombs on destroyer and two bombs on cruiser at KISKA. - One plane chased by Japanese four-engine patrol plane.
- 10:00 a.m. - Two bombs on cruiser near TANAGA ISLAND, results uncertain.
- 12:40 p.m. - Twelve 500-pound bombs on Jap KISKA Fleet and strafed one four-engine patrol plane.
- 3:00 p.m. - A Catalina dropped four heavy bombs on ships at KISKA, results not observed.
- 6:00 p.m. - Sixteen 500-pound bombs dropped in middle of formation. At least one tremendous explosion reported with plenty of fire still blazing.

No reports from Army.

No carriers sighted.

Inhabitants of ATKA ISLAND being evacuated.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 13, 1942 (Cont'd.)

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our losses in above Catalina attacks:-

- 2 Men dead;
- 1 Catalina sunk;
- 1 Catalina beached to prevent sinking; and
- 1 Catalina down out of gas, position doubtful.

Nine new Catalinas with torpedoes stalking carrier.

Later report from Catalina, - struck heavy cruiser
with torpedo at 11:15 a.m. June 12.

Communications with PRIBOLOFF ISLANDS being maintained.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 13, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reports of attacks made by our aircraft against Japanese ships in KISKA uncertain because attacking planes frequently passing in and out of clouds.

B-17's returning report anti-aircraft batteries landed in KISKA and tent city established; 14 vessels in harbor, two entering; repeated two cruisers believed heavily hit (previously reported); reported two cruisers and one destroyer afire and reported machine gunning landing party. No damage to B-17's. - Also reported eight destroyers leaving KISKA, initially headed southeast.

Summary of attacks by Catalinas on 11 June (all times local):-

- 7:00 a.m. - Sunk submarine south of KANAGA;
- 7:00 a.m. - Bombs on KISKA harbor; results not observed;
- 8:00 a.m. - Bombs on cruiser and destroyer west of KISKA, damage doubtful;
- 12:20 p.m. - Close misses on large destroyer at KISKA;
- 1:00 p.m. - Two 500-pound bombs very close misses on cruiser in harbor, also strafed four-engine patrol planes on water. - Catalina in this attack received 100 hits and sank on landing at return, no personnel injuries;
- 2:20 p.m. - Two 500-pound bombs on ships in harbor, results not observed;
- 6:40 p.m. - Four 500-pound bombs on ships in KISKA harbor, one direct hit on transport.

Attacks continuing, further reports not available.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. June 12, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

First attack by Army planes, 5 B-24's attacked at 1800 feet through heavy anti-aircraft fire; one plane exploded; eight bombs dropped near a cruiser, but no damage observed. Four remaining B-24's made attack again from 18,000 feet and reported one cruiser observed burning. *Kiska*

Enemy forces reported:-

- 3 Heavy Cruisers,
- 2 Light Cruisers or Destroyers,
- 12 Seaplanes,
- 2 Cruisers or Destroyers entering harbor, one headed away from harbor.
- 1 Carrier 10 miles north of KISKA.

B-17's attacking later reported 16 vessels in harbor; two cruisers heavily hit by bombs. This about 11 p.m. of the 11th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 12, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Later reports indicated large enemy landing force at ATTU.

In KISKA:-

2 Heavy Cruisers,
1 Light Cruiser,
8 Destroyers,
4 Transports,
Several Small Vessels, and
4 Large four-engine patrol planes.

North of KANAGA:-

3 Cruisers, and
4 Transports.

PBY's report hitting a transport in KISKA.

PBY removes weather observers from KANAGA.

PBY caught one Jap submarine on the surface south of KANAGA and reports sinking it.

No report received of action by Army bombers.

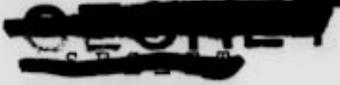
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



5 p.m. June 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

One heavy cruiser, two light cruisers, one destroyer, and six transports reported as being in KISKA Harbor by Navy PBY. Bombing attack, Army bombers and Navy PBY's, en route KISKA.

About fifteen Japanese submarines are believed to be in this general area.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9 a.m. June 11, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further investigation of KISKA by aerial observation showed Japanese ships in that port:-

- 1 Possibly Cruiser,
- 1 Small Destroyer, and
- 2 Smaller Ships.

Efforts are being made to bomb this force. Distance from KISKA to UMNAK 550 miles, - within range of bombers.

Sinking of COAST TRADER off PUGET SOUND apparently caused by internal explosion and not by submarine attack.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5 p.m. June 10, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Distance from Dutch Harbor

No report from KISKA since 2400, GCT,
4 June. Reports were previously com-
ing thru daily - - - - - 600 miles.

ATTU regularly until last 18 hours, no
report. Last one 1800, GCT, 9 June - - 720 miles.

KANAGA - nothing since 1800, GCT, 9 June- 420 miles.

ATKA reports still coming in today - - - 330 miles.

Indicates KISKA marks the Japanese landing opera-
tions, - possibly others.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 10, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

No further contacts. Extensive searches 400 miles northwest and southwest of UMNAK have failed to reveal Japanese Forces. No evidence of Japanese landing at ATKA, - 230 miles west of UMNAK.

Two torpedo hits on Japanese cruiser by B-26 on 4 June are reported and her destruction is reported as certain. Also good evidence of one bomb hit on cruiser south of UMNAK by B-17 on evening of 4 June.

GILLIS, Destroyer Patrol Plane Tender, reports positive sinking of large Japanese submarine south of DUTCH HARBOR on 4 June.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:30 p.m., June 8, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Fifteen patrol planes reporting to Commander Patrol Wing Four (Commander Alaskan Patrol Planes). Army planes sent to Alaska:-

8 A-29's,
4 B-17's, and
6 B-24's, equipped with radar.

Report one prolonged sight of a single engine enemy plane, time not given, apparently Saturday night or Sunday night. (This report very seriously questioned).

RDF cut indicates Japanese Force 660 miles southwest of DUTCH HARBOR, probably destroyers. - Further indication of previous withdrawal of these forces from the DUTCH HARBOR Area.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. June 8, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reports from the DUTCH HARBOR Area continue to indicate an extremely confused situation. Reports from aircraft there ^{support} the presence of a Japanese Carrier Group 210 miles west of DUTCH HARBOR. None of these reports, however, are based on sight contact. A number of reports indicate contact between our planes and enemy aircraft. However, these took place under low visibility conditions and friendly planes making such contacts may well have considered each other to be enemy with the result of brief attacks on the part of each, broken off by low visibility.

There is a strong possibility that, in spite of the continued reports of enemy forces in the Dutch Harbor Area, there have actually been no Japanese Forces in that Area since the morning of June 5th. - The last attack on a shore station took place June 4th. June 5th., 6th., and 7th. have passed without any attack on the UMNAK-DUTCH HARBOR Area.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

9:00 a.m. Sunday, June 7th., 1942.

Summary of situation by Naval Air Station, KODIAK, at 4 a.m. June 6th., confirmed last contact with Jap carrier to be at 7:25 p.m., local time, June 4, bearing 225° from UNALASKA, distance 90 miles. During subsequent searches have failed to regain contact. It seems probable that this force has been ordered to rendezvous with force headed up northwest from MIDWAY. (Searches extended as far out to the west as KISKA).

Attacks by U.S. planes on enemy:-

- 1 torpedo by a Catalina, ineffective due to engine failure;
- Bombing of carrier by Catalina repulsed by anti-aircraft hits;
- Dive bombing on carrier with torpedo by B-26 ineffective;
- 2 B-26 claimed two hits on cruiser;
- Torpedo attack on carrier by B-26 repulsed by anti-aircraft fire;
- Bombs on carrier by B-17, results undetermined.

- 14 Catalinas now effective;
- 11 Fighters and 3 observation planes arrived;
- All lost Catalina crews, except one, recovered.
- Many machine gun hits in second attack by Zero fighters
- 4 June with 12 persons slightly injured and no appreciable material damage.

Further reports from ALEUTIANS are confusing. Report forwarded at 5:15 p.m. of the 6th. indicates that a contact had been made sometime early on the 6th., about 180 miles west of UNALASKA, - contact being made under difficult visibility conditions. This contact indicates:

- 2 carriers,
- 2 cruisers, and
- 8 destroyers.

The possibility exists that own cruisers and destroyers were mistaken for enemy destroyers. (Position of Task Force 8, total strength 5 cruisers and 12 destroyers, unknown here).

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

June 6, 1942.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ACTION (Cont'd.)

Commander Alaskan Sector warned ONONDAGA and CHARLESTON at 9:50 a.m., June 5th., to keep clear of area northwest of UMNAK because he thought enemy was operating in that area.

At 5:56 in the morning of June 5th., Army reported making two torpedo hits on NACHI class cruiser, - 10,000 ton 8". No further report on this.

Commander Task Force Eight reports at 9:40 a.m., June 5th., that Japanese raids up to that time had the appearance more of a diversion than all out attack, - no attack in strength or softening raids preparatory to landing operations. Commander Task Force Eight believes there is a possibility that ORANGE has lost planes due to bad flying weather. Also states no evidence that enemy knows of COLD BAY air field.

Report from the Army states that UMNAK was attacked at 4:40 afternoon of June 4th. by nine Zero fighters, two of which were shot down by our P-40's. The remainder of the Zero fighters withdrew.

B-26 reports attacking a carrier KAGA class 120 miles north of UMNAK in which there was dropped a torpedo on deck. Other B26 and B17's failed to make contact.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Initial land and air forces in area:-

	<u>Air</u>	<u>Troops</u>
UMNAK	1 HB 6 MB 17 VF	3478
DUTCH HARBOR	20 PBY-5A 9 VSO	6827
COLD BAY	6 BM 16 VF	1150
KODIAK	2 HB 2 MB 20 VF	8404
ANCHORAGE	17 MB 3 VF	10338

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED LATER

DUTCH HARBOR reported undergoing air attack at 5:26 a.m., local time, June 5; later DUTCH HARBOR reported these planes retired without attacking and remain unidentified (possibly were friendly planes from UMNAK).

At 7:25 a.m. B-17 reported to UMNAK that enemy fleet of 1 carrier, 1 heavy cruiser, and supporting units was 90 miles southwest of OTTER POINT (UNALASKA ISLAND), and that bombs were dropped on enemy with unknown results.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The situation at DUTCH HARBOR remains confused. Five waves of three planes each attacked early morning of June 3, setting on fire a number of warehouses, killed and wounded 48 men. About four hours later a reconnaissance flight was made by Japanese planes over DUTCH HARBOR. A subsequent attack, about 5 p.m. June 4, was reported made by 11 bombers and 7 fighters. SS NORTHWESTERN and a number of warehouses destroyed. During the first day, June 3, two Japanese cruiser planes were shot down. PBY's continuing search patrols lost 5 planes, apparently one from enemy action and four because of weather and probable inability to return to base, - forced down in the water.

Japanese Carrier force composed of 1 large carrier, 1 small carrier, 2 heavy cruisers, and 3 destroyers was located a number of times southwestward of DUTCH HARBOR, but apparently land-based bombers sent out to attack failed to make contact. One bomber did make contact and made an attack, which was apparently unsuccessful. Attempts to coordinate the location and air attack on this force continue.

Position of our own surface forces not known. Position of enemy attack and occupation force, if any, not known.

Efforts to bring planes up to advance bases have been hampered by weather conditions and some groups have been forced to return.

Unless enemy destroyers are located and destroyed, it seems probable that a landing force attack against DUTCH HARBOR, perhaps across the island from BEAVER INLET, is due to take place.

U.S. surface forces now probably in the area:-

2 Heavy Cruisers	8 Old Destroyers
3 Light Cruisers	2 Submarines
4 Modern Destroyers.	

Numbers and locations of aircraft now available uncertain.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date JAN 7 1974