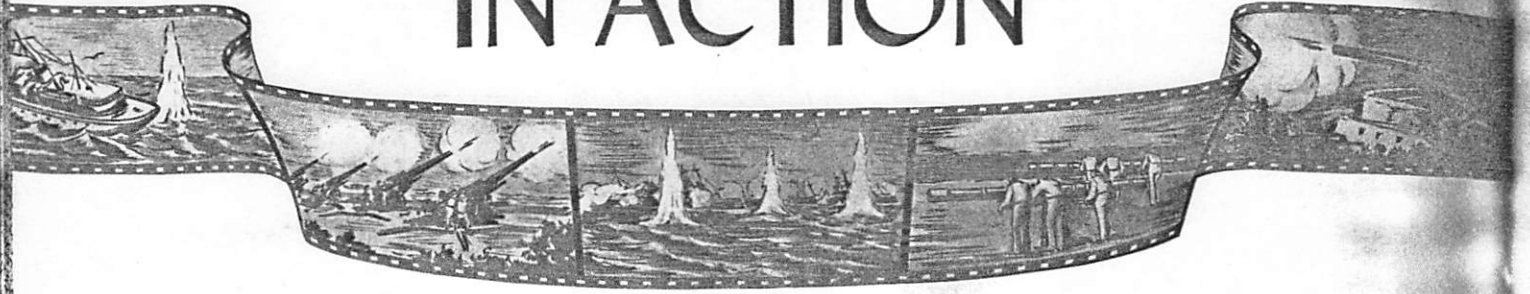


COAST ARTILLERY IN ACTION



AA In Action

NAVY DEPARTMENT COMMUNIQUE No. 98

Aleutians

1. In early June, Japanese naval forces made a two-pronged thrust at our western-most possessions, Midway and the Aleutian chain. The presence in each attacking force of troop transports indicated that these attacks were aimed at capture and occupation. The thrust at Midway was made by approximately eighty ships including four carriers, at least three battleships, and a large number of cruisers, destroyers, and transports.

A simultaneous thrust was made on the Aleutians employing a far smaller force of approximately two small carriers, two seaplane tenders, several cruisers and destroyers and from four to six transports. The size of the forces involved shows the attack on Midway to have been the primary objective.

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3. The first attack on Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears was made at about 6:00 A.M. on June 3, concurrently with the early stages of the Japanese attack on Midway. Five waves of three planes each, launched from carriers to the southward of Dutch Harbor, participated in the twenty-minute attack, which was concentrated on Dutch Harbor and the near-by Army Station at Fort Mears.

4. Three United States destroyers, an Army transport, a minesweeper, and a Coast Guard cutter were in the harbor, as well as an old station ship, the *Northwestern*, which had been beached and was used as barracks for contractors' personnel. The attack was not unexpected, and antiaircraft crews who were at their battle stations, both aboard the ships and at the shore batteries, opened fire five minutes before the first bomb was dropped. To obtain maneuverability the ships present got underway, continuing their antiaircraft fire. No ship was hit during the raid. Two of the attacking aircraft were shot down.

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6. On June 4, Army bombers and Navy patrol planes

located and attacked the enemy carriers which had launched the attacking planes. Several bomb and torpedo attacks were made but results could not be observed.

7. One enemy plane was shot down during the several reconaissance flights which the Japanese made over the Dutch Harbor area.

8. About 5 P.M. on June 4, 18 carrier-based bombers and 16 fighters attacked the installations at Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears. This attack was made simultaneously with an attack on the Army post at Fort Glenn, about 70 miles west of Dutch Harbor on the island of UMNAK, where nine enemy fighters strafed shore installations. Two of the attacking planes were shot down by Army pursuit planes and the remaining 7 withdrew without inflicting damage.

9. The alarm at Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears was sounded well in advance of the attack and the enemy was met with heavy antiaircraft fire from ship and shore batteries. The station ship *Northwestern* was bombed and destroyed by fire. A warehouse and a few fuel oil tanks were hit and set afire, and one empty aircraft hangar was hit.

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Iceland

By the Associated Press.

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Oct. 12.—American antiaircraft batteries rattled the windows of Reykjavik with fire yesterday when a German four-motored plane kept the city under a 40-minute alarm.

The bomber was driven off. The army did not announce whether hits were scored.

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Oct. 24 (INS) Heavy antiaircraft fire from American batteries today drove off enemy planes which gave the Reykjavik area two air raid alarms. The first alert lasted 40 minutes; the second a half-hour.