

THE NOME NUGGET

VOL. 44. No. 96.

NOME, ALASKA. MONDAY, July 20, 1942

Per Copy 15¢

Rostov Again Under Serious Threat

Account of Navy Air Attack on Japs Kiska, June 18

Account of Navy Air Attack On Japanese at Kiska On June 18th

By Keith Wheeler

At Sea with the U. S. Pacific Fleet, June 18th. Delayed — The Japs are dying in Kiska harbor as the war of the Aleutian mists begins again after three days of storms and glue-thick fogs.

United States bombers sank a Jap transport with a direct hit and six near misses, in the first contact since the 14th when the fog broke long enough for eight of this command's Catalina flying boats to drop through the clouds over Kiska and dump six tons of dynamite on the Jap ships lying there. One 500-pound crump fell squarely on a light cruiser and started a gaudy fire. Another dropped alongside a transport, close enough the bombardier felt, to make serious underwater damage a certainty.

As usual the Japs had their guns trained on the cloud breaks and five of the Catalinas came away as full of holes as shirts back from a ship's laundry. One was hit by a three-inch anti-aircraft projectile, tearing a neat hole through the hull but failing to explode.

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Caucasus Offensive Imperils Russia's Link With Allies In Middle East

UNDATED, July 18 (AP) — After a change in the course of some of the strongest elements, Germany's million-man Caucasus offensive appeared to be stabbing close to Rostov and also toward the deep Caucasus in thrusts imperiling Russia's links with the Allies in the Middle East. The Germans proclaimed that one drive cut off the oil-rich Caucasus, while Russian and German advices both told of another advance upon the city along the main railway route from the north.

In their first appearance on this dominant world front, American-made Douglas bombers were flung into the battle to blast the onrushing German tanks.

Major General Lewis Brereton, who headed the air defense of the Philippines, and who later commanded the American air operations in Burma and China, assumed command of the U. S. air forces in the Middle East.

The battle of Egypt is still undecided but Axis forces were reported to have suffered heavy losses in two unsuccessful counter attacks in the last 36 hours in the south and central sections of the desert front, 75 miles west of Alexandria. Heavy bombers raided the Axis supply port of Tobruk and hit a large ship tanker and started a fire in the dock storage area.

The Moscow radio reported that the Red Army, striking savagely in the battle of Voronezh, recaptured five communities and attacked surprised garrisons protecting the Don river crossings.

The German high command did not precisely locate the claimed foothold on the lower Don but said it is east of both the Donets and Rostov. The bulk of the German forces which thrust through Millerovo, 130 miles north of Rostov, split and one group is advancing southward, the other southeast. The original Millerovo threat appeared aimed at Stalingrad, 175 miles to the east.

FBI Arrests Song Writers For Extortion

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP) — The FBI announced the arrest of a song composing team in Los Angeles on charges of trying to extort \$250,000 from Louis Mayer motion picture executive. The FBI named them as Channing Lipton, aged 35, former prize fighter turned lyricist, and Mayer Grace, aged 25, ex-filling station employee. The Justice Department said several of their songs have been published.

The two were arrested when they called at a hotel in Los Angeles on July 13th to pick up an extortion package. Mayer received a letter on June 25th post-

Navy Announces Sinking Of Two Ships

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP) — The Navy announced the sinking of two more ships, one of them a medium-sized U. S. merchant ship, sunk in the Bay of Bengal on April 7th when enemy aircraft bombed it and a cruiser shelled it. The survivors landed at a U. S. port.

The other ship was a small British merchant vessel torpedoed and shelled in the Atlantic several weeks ago.

marked Beverly Hills and signed "Spokesman for Six," demanding money.

American Losses Aleutian Campaign Listed By Navy As 44 Dead, 49 Wounded and One Civilian Killed

ARMY AIRCRAFT RECENTLY DROPPED 56 BOMBS ON INSTALLATIONS AT KISKA

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP) — The Navy announced, in a resume of fighting in the Aleutians, that Army aircraft recently dropped 56 bombs on Jap shore installations at Kiska, one of the three islands on which the enemy has landed.

American losses in the campaign to-date, were disclosed officially as 44 Army and Navy men killed in the Jap bombing attacks on Dutch Harbor and nearby Fort Mears army post, and Fort Glenn about 70 miles west of Dutch Harbor on the island of Umnak. The old station ship Northwestern was lost in the attack on Dutch Harbor early in June when hit by bombs and burned. Some damage, although of minor nature, was done to American shore installations. In addition to the 44 Army and Navy dead, 49 Army and Navy personnel were injured and one civilian killed so far, the Navy said.

No Material Change in General Situation

The Navy's review of the situation said "There is no material change in the general situation" since July 11. Several new bits of information were added to what was previously announced. These included that the force which attacked the Aleutians on June third, the day before the Jap attack on Midway, consisted of approximately two small carriers, two sea-plane tenders, several cruisers and destroyers, and from four to six transports. At the time of the Dutch Harbor attack, three U. S. destroyers, an Army transport, a mine sweeper, and a Coast Guard cutter were in the harbor, in addition to the Northwestern, which was beached and used as a barracks by contractors' personnel.

The day after the first Dutch Harbor attack, Army bombers and Navy patrol planes attacked enemy cruisers, launching bombs and torpedoes but the results "couldn't be observed." On June fourth, the same day that American planes counter attacked, the enemy's carrier-based bombers and 16 fighters attacked Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears for the second time, and simultaneously assaulted the army post at Fort Glenn where 9 enemy fighters strafed shore installations. Two fighters were shot down and the other 7 withdrew "Without inflicting damage."

U.S. Asks Finland Close All Consular Offices In U.S.

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP) — The United States moved a step short of a diplomatic break with Finland, asking her one-time warm friend to close all consular offices in this country before the end of the month.

The State Department announced that the Finnish government has "undermined the basis upon which American consular representation is maintained in Finland," and had denied American consular officers treaty rights. The status of the American legation at Helsinki and the Finnish legation in Washington remains unchanged.

The announcement made no mention of Finland's participation with Germany in the war against Russia. Finland maintains 14 consular offices in the United States and territories.

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Rostov, Gateway To Caucasus, Which Drove Nazis Away Eight Months Ago, Is Menaced Anew

NAZIS, CHECKED AT VORONEZH, VEER SOUTH IN SERIOUS THREAT TO ROSTOV

UNDATED, July 20 (AP) — Rostov, whose armed citizenry helped the Russian army drive out the Germans eight months ago, was menaced anew as Hitler's offensive, repulsed at Voronezh and checked momentarily toward the east, veered south and a tremendous onslaught forced the Russians back toward the gateway to the Caucasus.

On the Other Fronts of World War

On other fronts of the World War, the British are holding new-won gains in the Egyptian desert, and announced they captured 4,000 Germans and Italians in last week's fight west of El Alamein. RAF four-motored bombers battered the Vegesack sub-building yards, 10 miles from Bremen, and the U. S. air force in China smashed the Japanese airfield at Canton, and the invader's base at Linchwan in Kiangsi Province.

Driving through Voroshilovgrad, a hundred miles north of Rostov and Millerovo, on the Rostov-Moscow rail line, the Germans are converging on the junction of the rail line with the Donets river at Kamensk. Rostov lies 80 miles to the south.

Paris Radio Exceeds German Claims of Gains

Exceeding even Berlin's accounts of German gains, the Paris radio said advance forces reached Shakhty, coal mining railroad town, 40 miles north of Rostov.

Timoshenko Making Orderly Withdrawal

Russian dispatches said Timoshenko is drawing back his troops in an orderly withdrawal to a new defense stand somewhere north of the Rostov confluence of the Don and Donets rivers. Although the Russians wrested back the initiative at Voronezh, on the northern flank of the 300-mile battle line through the grain-covered steppes of the Don's big bend, they declared that a Nazi thrust south is a serious threat.

U. S. and British Tanks and Planes Thrown Into Fight

U. S. and British-made tanks and planes were thrown into the fight in an attempt to stem the Axis unrush. A Russian communique reported "To the south of Millerovo, our troops are engaged in a fierce defensive battle against the advancing German troops."

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SEVEN PATTEN BROTHERS SURVIVE U. S. S. LEXINGTON



Home in Portland, Ore., on furlough, the seven Patten brothers, who survived the sinking of the U. S. S. Lexington in the Coral Sea, were with their father (extreme left), on the old battleship Oregon, now a museum piece at Portland.