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THREE ATTACKS BLAST JAP SUB BASE ON KISKA

At Least Two Nip Planes Shot Down During Another Raid.

Washington, March 18.—(A. P.)—American bombers blasted the Japanese submarine base at Kiska island, in the Aleutians, three times Tuesday, the navy reported Thursday, and in a fourth action American fighter planes shot down two enemy aircraft and probably destroyed two others.

Tuesday was the second successive day of multiple raids on Kiska, six heavy attacks having been previously reported for Monday.

Navy communique, No. 316:

"North Pacific:

"1—On March 16 United States army aircraft carried out the following attacks on Japanese installations and aircraft at Kiska:

"(A)—During the morning, Liberator heavy bombers (Consolidated B-24) and Mitchell medium bombers (North American B-25) supported by Lightning Fighters (Lockheed P-38) bombed the main camp area and the submarine base. Hits were observed in both target areas.

"(B)—During the early afternoon, eight Lightnings engaged eight enemy planes in the vicinity of Kiska.

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Two of the enemy planes were shot down and an additional two probably were destroyed.

"(C) Later in the afternoon Liberators, Mitchells and Lightnings again attacked the enemy submarine base and other installations. A large fire was started in the camp area.

"(D) Still later in the afternoon, a group of Mitchells again attacked and scored bomb hits on the submarine base.

"South Pacific:

"2—During the night of March 16-17, Liberator heavy bombers carried out minor attacks on Japanese positions at Munda and Vila in the central Solomons and at Kahili and Bellale in the Shortland island area. Results were not observed."

NOT SO HEAVY AS MONDAY RAIDS.

The Tuesday raids on Kiska apparently were not so heavy as those made on Monday since the navy in its latest communique did not specifically use the word "heavy" to describe the actions. It was apparent, however, that they were carried out in considerable force.

The Japanese have had a submarine base at Kiska for several months. From it their undersea craft can operate eastward against American supply ships to such bases as those at Dutch Harbor and in the Andreanoff islands and may even strike at shipping along the Canadian and northwestern American coast.

BASE BELIEVED VERY VULNERABLE.

As far as could be learned here, the enemy base is primarily a center for refueling, supply and light repairs. It apparently does not have heavy concrete pens of the kinds the Germans have constructed along the northern European coast to protect their U-boats against Allied air attack.

Direct hits on the sub facilities at Kiska, therefore, presumably would result in considerable damage.

The latest three raids reported against the Japanese Aleutian base raised to seventeen the total number of air attacks there this month, whereas only nine bombing forays were made against it in February.