

Thus ended the Aleutian Campaign, with our forces in possession of the entire chain of islands.

Throughout the entire period of the Pacific War discussed thus far our submarine forces performed in a manner which, for security reasons, was not disclosed. Suffice it to say that no chapter of the Navy's amazing history in World War II will be more heroic or colorful than that recorded by American Submarines in both the Pacific and Atlantic. Those in the Pacific inflicted such damage on the Jap-merchant vessels and transports that the enemy was unable to support his advanced bases and was also so short of shipping that he could not get his stolen gains into the homeland. Since the enemy depended so much on the tin, rubber, oil and other resources of the East Indies, he found himself in dire straits to carry on the war.

We now begin with the operations leading to the capture of Hollandia on the north central coast of New Guinea, which gave us another base from which the invasion of Malakala and the Philippines could be launched at a later date.

The operation was made possible by the powerful task force of carriers, battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the Fifth Fleet under Admiral Spruance which attacked and neutralized the enemy positions in the Western Carolines from which attacks might be launched against our landing forces or bases. At the same time other units of the Fleet struck Yap and Ulithi.

These attacks were successful in obtaining the desired effect and the operations in New Guinea, which consisted of three amphibious landings closely covered by Fifth Fleet planes, was successful and Hollandia was secured in April 1944. The troops met practically no resistance and enemy air resistance was negligible.

During the summer of 1944, Pacific Ocean Area forces captured the islands of Saipan, Guam, Tinian and neutralized other Marianas Islands which remained in the hands of the enemy.

This occupation of the Marianas effectively cut the protected lines of enemy communication and the sea area extending 1350 miles southward from Tokyo through an almost continuous chain of islands.

Vice Admiral Mitscher was in command of the fast carriers and battleships of the Fifth Fleet which prepared the way for the amphibious assault led by Vice Admiral Turner and Lieutenant General Smith, USAF.

Carrier planes began attack on 11 June 1944 and achieved control of the air in this area, after which time our attacks were concentrated on defense installations and enemy shipping in the vicinity.

The first landing was on Saipan. A sortie of the Japanese fleet promised to develop into a full scale naval action. Submarines stationed off the Straits of San Bernardino sighted the Japanese Fleet heading to the northeast towards Guam.

Admiral Spruance operated to the westward of Guam to meet the Jap threat but did not draw his carriers and battleships too far away that they could not protect the amphibious forces and shore bases from any possible Japanese "end run" which might develop.

On 19 June, after several days of patiently waiting and with no search contacts at extreme range of the carrier scouts, the radar showed groups of enemy planes coming in. That started what is not termed "The Marianas Turkey Shoot." The Japs launched their planes in groups from their carriers at extreme range from Guam and Tinian. It was evidently their intention to hit our ships and run for Guam; take on fuel and bombs and hit our ships again as they returned to their own carriers. The plan proved to be one of the most stupid the Japs ever tried since their intention was immediately seen and easily countered. The fields at Guam and Tinian could handle only a relatively few planes