

5. Aleutians Area

U.S. investment of the outer Aleutians began on the 11th of May and although bad weather hampered attacks by Allied aircraft over 11,000 U.S. troops had been landed on Attu Island by the 16th. The invasion was preceded and has since been supported by heavy Naval bombardments, which have been effective in temporarily silencing Japanese batteries. On the 18th, the enemy on Attu Island had been driven from the ridge between the east and west arms of Holtz Bay, Attu and driven back at the junction of Massacre and Holtz Bay valleys by a flanking movement.

Despite fog, Allied aircraft based at Amchitka Island bombed installations and air fields both on Attu and Kiska, and while observation was difficult, some hits were seen. Enemy submarines were sighted north of Kiska on the 15th of May and north west of Attu on the 16th. The enemy garrison at Attu Island was estimated to be about 1350 men and that on Kiska about 10,000 men.

6. Losses

Losses sustained during recent months by convoys operating between North America and U.K., on the basis of information received up to 17th May, 1943, are as follows:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ships Convoys</u>	<u>Ships sunk while under escort</u>	<u>% Sunk</u>
<u>1942</u>			
January	685	9	1.3%
February	613	14	2.3%
March	600	6	1.0%
April	656	1	.2%
May	563	9	1.6%
June	591	5	.9%
July	609	5	.8%
August	735	21	2.8%
September	685	16	2.3%
October	668	25	3.8%
November	533	25	4.7%
December	576	22	3.8%
<u>1943</u>			
January	765	2	.3%
February	639	25	3.9%
March	640	35	5.5%
April	778	16	2.0%
May (to 17th)	438	14	3.2%

V. STORES

The equipment purchased by the Naval Stores amounted this week to \$1,611,185.84.

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