

# Canadian-American Forces Take Once Powerful Plane-Sub Base; Clear North America of Enemy

**Rocky, Fog-Bound Island Taken in Joint Drive Without Fighting—  
Landings Made August 15—Terrific Bombardments  
Chase Nipponese**

Quebec, Aug. 21.—(CP)—A joint Canadian-American force has recaptured the Aleutian island of Kiska, the last segment of North American soil occupied by the Japanese, it was announced here to-day in a statement issued by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and President Roosevelt.

A communique issued here at the same time by the United States navy indicated the rocky, fog-bound island was taken without fighting, the Japanese having slipped away before the landings which started August 15.

"There were indications of recent, hasty evacuation of the Japanese garrison," the naval communique reported.

"Presumably the heavy bombardments by our ships and planes that have been carried on for some time and the danger to their supply lines by our capture of Attu made the enemy positions on Kiska untenable.

"It is not known how the Japanese got away, but it is possible that enemy surface ships were able to reach Kiska under cover of the heavy fog that has been prevalent."

#### History Is Made

Originally, there were 10,000 Japs on the island but many of them must have been killed by the air and sea bombardments and it was impossible to estimate how many were evacuated.

The size and make-up of the Canadian force was not made known here but President Roosevelt said he was gratified that American troops worked side by side with splendidly-trained and equipped Canadians.

This is the first time that Canadian and American soldiers have been on operations together in the long history of the two nations to repel an invasion of North American soil.

The Canadian troops used in the Kiska operation were drawn from the Pacific command, Prime Minister King announced.

A large proportion were soldiers called up for service under Canada's National Resources Mobilization Act, giving them the distinction of being the first conscripted troops to move against the enemy for Canada in this war.

#### Air, Naval Units Help

The Prime Minister's statement also said that Canadian air and naval units participated in the long softening-up process which preceded the occupation of the last

Aleutian island held by the Japanese.

"From the outbreak of the war with Japan," the Prime Minister reported, "all three Canadian services have shared with United States forces in the defence of Alaska and the Pacific coast.

"The operation just completed is the first in which units of the Canadian army have participated in the Aleutians.

"The R.C.A.F. has continued to share with the United States air force in the increasing defence of the Alaskan area. Canadian airmen had a part in the heavy bombardment of Kiska which preceded the present operations.

#### To Speak To-night

"The Royal Canadian Navy, within the limitations imposed by heavy commitments in the North Atlantic, has also co-operated in the defence of the northern Pacific area.

"Canadian naval ships had a part in the operations which culminated in the successful occupation of Attu island by the United States forces."

The Prime Minister will speak to the Canadian people by radio to-night at 10.15 p.m. on the Kiska operation.

It was apparent from the U.S. Navy communique that Kiska—the biggest and most important of the Aleutian islands captured by the Japanese while the United States navy was recovering from the heavy blows inflicted on it at Pearl Harbour—was retaken without firing a shot.

Correspondents here to cover the Churchill-Roosevelt war conference knew important war news was coming this morning. The press room in the Clarendon Hotel was crowded to the doors when the chief conference spokesman, A. D. Dunton, of the War-time Information Board, ushered in Stephen Early, presidential press secretary, and Capt. Leland Lovett, United States navy press officer.

After saying what restrictions were placed upon release of the forthcoming statement, Mr. Early said it was his "great honour" to be able to announce that joint United States and Canadian forces had occupied Kiska.

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