

U. S. War Communiques

NOV. 16
NAVY

1.—The following resume of recent events in the Solomon Islands area is based on preliminary reports from the battle area and is necessarily incomplete.

2.—Air reconnaissance during the early days of this month revealed a heavy concentration of Japanese transports, cargo ships and combat units of the enemy fleet in the Solomon region. An attempt by the enemy to recapture our positions in the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area of the southeastern Solomons was indicated, and on Nov. 10 it became evident that the expedition was being launched in the force.

3.—Japanese naval forces approached the southeastern Solomons from the north, as other detachments, including many transports, moving southeastward toward Guadalcanal from Rabaul and Buin, where expeditionary forces had been assembling.

4.—Gen. MacArthur's aircraft were given assistance to our naval forces both before and during the naval actions. Army bombers made repeated successful attacks on units of the Japanese invasion fleet at Rabaul and Buin. (These attacks were announced by United Nations headquarters in Australia.)

5.—The spearhead of the Japanese attack was a force composed of two battleships of the Kongo class and a number of other vessels believed to have been heavy cruisers, four light cruisers and 10 destroyers. This unit, after a brief stay at night on Nov. 13, intended to bombard our shore positions prior to a large-scale landing from a large group of transports which had been observed in the Buin-Shortland area.

This Japanese bombardment force was formed in three groups. As they approached the bombardment area, they were engaged by units of our fleet and the ensuing battle was fought at close range. It was during this engagement that Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan, U. S. N., was killed in action. During this furious night engagement, the Japanese seemed confused, and during the latter part of the battle, two of the three Japanese groups were being at each other. Shortly thereafter, the enemy fire ceased and the Japanese withdrew from the battle and retired to the northward.

6.—During the day of Nov. 13, U. S. aircraft made continuous attacks on damaged Japanese ships which remained in the area. During the late afternoon a large formation of at least 12 transports under heavy naval escort, headed toward Guadalcanal from the Bougainville area. As a preliminary to the proposed landing an enemy surface force bombarded our positions at Guadalcanal shortly after midnight on the morning of Nov. 14. Later in the morning, as the transport group drew near to Guadalcanal, it was struck heavily by our air forces, and at least eight of the transports were sunk. The remaining transports continued toward Guadalcanal.

7.—During the night of Nov. 14-15, U. S. naval surface forces again engaged Japanese "face units" in the Guadalcanal area. Details of this engagement have not yet been received.

GEN. PATTON STEPPED RIGHT INTO NAVAL FIGHT

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Nov. 16 (AP)—Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the American task force which occupied Morocco, literally stepped into a fierce naval battle at the start of the operation eight days ago, it was disclosed tonight in a special communique issued by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Commending both Gen. Patton and Rear Admiral H. K. Hewitt for their combined assault on a 200-mile front of Atlantic coast, Gen. Eisenhower reported that a small landing boat which Gen. Patton was about to enter from his ship was demolished by a French gun.

"For the next couple of hours Gen. Patton became an unwilling spectator of a naval battle," a communique said, "with his transfer to shore necessarily postponed until the warship he was on could settle affairs with its opponent."

365 Jap Ships Sent to Bottom To 84 for U. S. in Pacific War

(By the Associated Press)

With announcement by the Navy last night that 24 more Japanese battleships had been sunk in a rout of the enemy's fleet in the Solomons, Associated Press records showed today that at least 365 Japanese vessels in all categories have been blasted to the bottom of the Pacific in 11 months of war.

The total sinkings approximated one and a half million tons.

Based on official announcements by the Navy and allied headquarters in battle zones throughout the Pacific Eastern areas, the following compilation presents an over-all picture of comparable American-Japanese Pacific losses since Pearl Harbor:

	Japanese	American
Battleships	2	1
Aircraft carriers	6	4
Cruisers	29	6
Destroyers	46	22
Submarines	28	5
Transport ships	86	5
Supply ships	13	0
Merchantmen or cargo ships	108	11
Sub-chasers	1	7
Submarine boats	1	7
Minesweepers or minelayers	10	7
Gunboats	7	5
Patrol boats	5	1
Others	4	3
Auxiliaries	7	3
Miscellaneous	13	4
Totals	365	84

The following tables show the comparable American-Japanese ship losses in the three major campaigns which have resulted in defeat of the Japanese fleet:

CORAL SEA BATTLE		
	Japanese	American
Battleships	0	0
Aircraft carriers	1	0
Cruisers	2	1
Destroyers	2	0
Gunboats	4	0
Tenders	0	1
Transport ships	2	0
Totals	11	3

MIDWAY ISLAND BATTLE		
	Japanese	American
Battleships	0	2
Aircraft carriers	4	0
Cruisers	2	3
Destroyers	3	0
Transport ships	1	0
Totals	10	8

SOLOMON ISLANDS		
	Japanese	American
Battleships	1	4
Aircraft carriers	0	5
Cruisers	6	28
Destroyers	13	21
Tenders	0	3
Transport ships	11	7
Auxiliaries	0	4
Cargo ships	0	4
Miscellaneous	0	0
Totals	35	78

Callaghan Sank 2 Warships, Whacked Battleship 18 Times

(Continued from First Page)

enemy force could effect a retirement.

Other ships of the American forces were similarly successful against the enemy, Admiral Halsey reported.

During night action Admiral Callaghan's flagship received several 14-inch shell hits from an enemy battleship. These wrecked the bridge and other parts of the superstructure. It was in this phase that Callaghan was killed.

On a previous afternoon when Admiral Callaghan's task force was escorting a transport convoy near Tulagi, the force was attacked by 21 Japanese torpedo bombers. American ships and supporting fighter planes shot down 20 of these, one of which crashed in flames into the after-structure of the battleship.

Callaghan's naval career began with his appointment to Annapolis in 1907. Graduating in 1911, he went to sea aboard the battleship California, and the next year participated in the first Nicaraguan campaign.

Transferred in 1913 to the destroyer Trusty, he saw two years of duty on patrol off the west coast of Mexico before he was assigned to the cruiser New Orleans on convoy duty during the first world war. Various assignments ashore and at sea followed, but it was not until he was given command of the cruiser San Francisco at the end of his tour of duty at the White House in 1941 that he first took over an independent command at sea.

His ship, the San Francisco, was in Pearl Harbor for repairs when the Japanese struck at the great naval base last Dec. 7. He took the vessel to the South Pacific, but left her to become chief of staff to Vice Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, then commanding U. S. naval forces in that area. It was the San Francisco which lost 30 of her crew last week when a disabled and burning Japanese plane crashed on her deck off Guadalcanal, but there was no indication that Callaghan was aboard the cruiser at that time.

A new and more important command at sea in the South Pacific



(AP Wirephoto)

KILLED IN ACTION—Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan, former naval aide to President Roosevelt, killed in night naval battle off Guadalcanal.

followed Callaghan's tour as chief of staff to Ghormley and it was while he was carrying out his duties in this assignment that he was killed.

Callaghan was the third naval officer of flag rank to lose his life since this country entered the war. Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd was killed aboard the battleship Arizona at Pearl Harbor, and Rear Admiral John W. Wilcox, Jr., was lost overboard in the Atlantic several months ago.

Surviving Callaghan are his widow, Mrs. Mary T. Callaghan, of 6100 San Pablo avenue, Oakland, Calif., and their son, Lieut. (jg) Daniel J. Callaghan, Jr., U. S. naval reserve, now on active duty at the sub-chaser training center, Miami, Fla.

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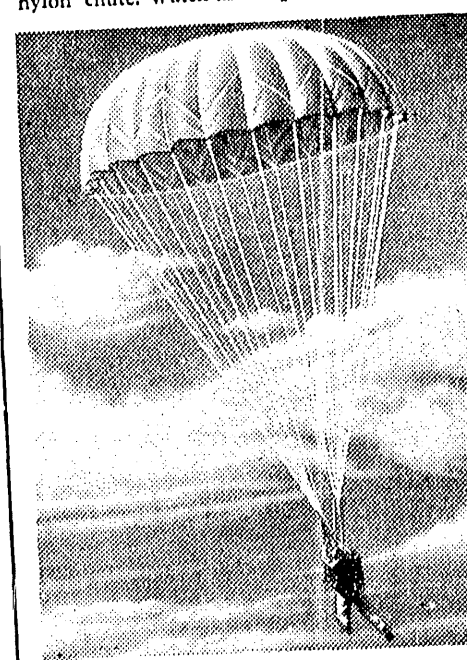
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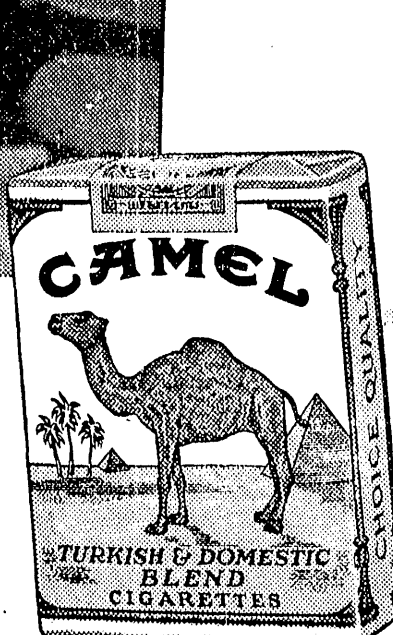
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