

# Admiral King Explains Battle Midway Prepared for Japs; U.S. Navy Expected Attack

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, June 8.—Admiral Ernest J. King reported Sunday that United States and Japanese battle actions were continuing in the North Pacific and west of Midway and that so far United States losses are "relatively inconsiderable in comparison with those of the enemy."

The commander-in-chief of the United States fleet, and chief of naval operations, read a prepared statement to a press conference. Text of his statement is as follows:

Gentlemen:  
You have all read Admiral Nimitz's communique and you know that the operations beyond Midway are still in progress. However, I feel that the information at hand at this time permits me to give you a little bit of background that led up to these operations.

In the first place, after General Doolittle's raid on Japan, General Marshall and I both felt, knowing the Japanese psychology, that some reprisal, in kind, was inevitable in order that they might "save face." Secretary Stimson, knowing the Japanese, has also emphasized this point.

The Coral Sea action, which was our own decisive set-back to the Japanese, was an additional reason to be on guard. The details of the Coral Sea action have not as yet been made public, but you will shortly be in possession of all the essential facts.

After the Coral Sea action, we lost touch with the heavy Japanese forces engaged. They disappeared beyond the radius of our immediate means of reconnaissance. But as you know, we have considerable numbers of submarines sprinkled about the Western Pacific, and they were able to give us a good deal of at least negative information.

### BEST CHANCES

It was apparent shortly after the Coral Sea action that the Japs would have to go somewhere and do something. Looking at the map, almost anybody could see that among our various important outposts, Dutch Harbor and Midway offered them the best chance of an action either in the nature of a raid or an invasion with some hope of success, or of a nature that in case of a reverse would allow them to retire without too great loss or complete annihilation. At the same time we were fully aware that they might renew the actions in the Coral Sea—even though they had recently been "stung" there.

So to this extent we were prepared for the assault upon Midway, and recognized that Alaska might also be attacked.

You know in a general way of the line of communications we have to protect Australia. But you probably do not realize the large forces that it takes to protect a line of that length. All of these several forces had to be evaluated. Decision to act had to be taken on the basis of "calculated risk."

### AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

Midway has been greatly strengthened since the Pearl Harbor action. As the Japs now know, the radius of our effective air scouting from that island extends to a distance of at least 500 miles. What they do not know and what I don't propose to tell you is the actual limit of that aerial reconnaissance radius.

Certainly if we had known exactly when and where and in what force the enemy intended to strike, we might perhaps have afforded some diversions from out other vital areas of protection. But, as the results will prove, I believe, we shall have nothing to apologize for in the present action. I cannot go into details of our own forces that were engaged, or ready to be engaged. The Japanese probably do not exactly know them but they have cause to know plenty.

You will all probably have questions to ask, but I hope that what I have said will indicate to you the limits within which I

tions which took place prior to May 1 except as to how the planes which attacked Japan were enabled to reach Japan—this because we have every reason to believe that the Japanese do not yet know how it was done. "It appears that information relating to the so-called 'Battle of the Coral Sea' can soon be released, perhaps during the coming week, depending upon certain developments related to the actions now going on to the westward of Midway Island."

### Mrs. M. T. Meighen Dies in Victoria

VICTORIA, June 8.—Mrs. Mary Jane (Mae) Meighen, 62, Victoria business woman, died here Friday. Born in Ireland, Mrs. Meighen came here 27 years ago from Montreal. Survivors include three sisters, Mrs. M. Carveth and Miss M. Hurst, Vancouver, and Mrs. H. J. Holman, Seattle.

### Abetz Admits 12,000 Killed in Cologne

LONDON, June 8.—Reuters said in a dispatch datelined "at the French frontier" today, that Otto Abetz, the German Ambassador, had acknowledged in conversations in Paris that 11,000 to 12,000 persons were killed in the RAF's bombardment of Cologne, and that 180,000 persons had been ordered evacuated.

### 'HMS Pepperpot' Gets More Patches to Defy Axis Again

By ROBERT OKIN, Associated Press Staff Writer

NEW YORK, June 8.—The British cruiser Penelope is so full of holes her crew has re-christened her the "HMS Pepperpot," but she's being patched up to defy again air and sub attacks, her captain said Saturday in telling of his hair-raising experiences.

Capt. Angus Nicholl said his ship, called one of the "most bombed ships afloat," had been patched up at Malta, again at Gibraltar, and now is at an eastern United States port for a "face-lifting" operation.

During air raids at Malta, she earned the nickname "Pepperpot." Between Malta and Gibraltar, the crew ran into more gunfire and plugged her holes with wood. For a while the crew called her the "Porcupine."

### Japan Still Has Plenty of Naval Power

WASHINGTON, June 8.—Japan has suffered defeat in the battle for mastery of the Mid-Pacific, United States naval experts agreed today, and her striking power has been badly blunted, but she still has left great strength with which to attempt a comeback.

Probably half of the enemy's fleet strength was not involved and must be carefully considered in all future Allied operations.

Nevertheless the Mid-Pacific triumph has advanced the United Nations far along the road to final victory.

### B.C. Asks Ban on Jap Purchases of Sawmills

VICTORIA, June 8.—The suggestion that Japanese in British Columbia seeking to acquire small sawmills in the interior be placed in the same category as those seeking to purchase, lease or cultivate land, was advanced to Hon. Ian Mackenzie, pensions minister, by Attorney-General R. L. Maitland on Saturday.

Mr. Maitland explained the same reasons advanced regarding acquisition of land could be applied to their properties.

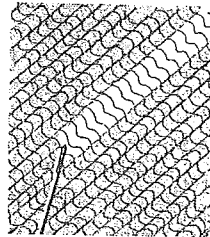


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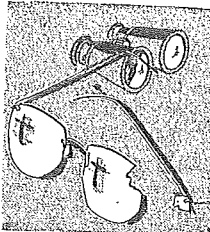


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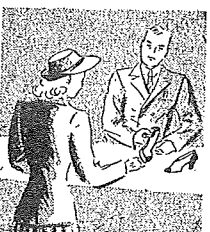


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