

## PLANES BLAST TRUK, KEY BASE IN PACIFIC

The American Navy gives the Japanese no rest. Truk was the objective in this operation. ~~The enemy thought those~~

The enemy thought those mid-Pacific fortress-islands impregnable. He sent up swarms of planes as the U.S. warships approached. A curtain of flak brought them crashing down.

Carriers sent up a strong fleet to blast enemy ships in the Truk Lagoons.

(r ship) Attacking Saipan airbase, 600 miles nearer Tokio, the Americans shot up 135 planes.

The Saipan oil-tanks were soon aflame.

~~Back comes a minor casualty, one wheel shot away.~~ This was ~~at~~ the end of a great assault. 22 times in five days they raided Truk. ~~25 ships~~ 23 Japanese ships were sunk, and as a naval base for the enemy the islands are pretty well washed up.

U.S. NAVY PLANES BLAST TRUK, JAP BASE IN PACIFIC.

Japan's Marshall Islands, two thousand four hundred and twenty miles from Hawaii, have fallen. Now, one thousand two hundred and forty miles further west, Truk, Japan's Pearl Harbour of the Central Pacific is the target of a powerful American naval force. These are waters long considered impregnable by the Japanese. Enemy planes come up in a desperate effort to protect their vital base. The gunners throw up a curtain of flak and enemy war planes are shot flaming into the sea.

SOUND

Now, American carrier based planes go aloft to destroy valuable shipping known to be harboured in Truk's broad lagoons. Japanese vessels circle desperately to escape.

SOUND.

Twenty-three Jap ships are sent to the bottom. Striking again and again, American forces hammer at Truk twenty-two times within five days. Truk, as a base for the elusive Japanese fleet, is being made untenable.

Sweeping northward on Saipan Airbase six hundred miles nearer Tokio Americans Dive bomb the airship. These are some of the one hundred and thirty-five enemy planes that never left the ground.

SOUND

Oil installations are fired as United States forces leave the base in Ruins.

SOUND.

Returning virtually unchallenged after a week in enemy waters, the carriers warbirds sweep back to their nest. A damaged dive-bomber comes in on one wheel, but the pilot saves his plane although he, himself is hurt. A dramatic chapter of new American victories in the Pacific.

-----