

PATHFINDER

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Pacific: No "Lull"

U. S. SUBMARINES' toll of Jap ships reaches 256 since Pearl Harbor. Russell Islands are scene of two bitter dog-fights.

Other fronts may be stealing the headlines these days but coming major blows against Japan were implied by Secretary of the Navy Knox last week, who explained that it takes an extremely long time to get ready for any sizable movement. Preceding Knox's statement came the news that U. S. submarines had sunk 12 Japanese ships, including one destroyer, and damaged four others. This was a new record for American subs and brought their total number of successes to 256 Japanese vessels, sunk or damaged since the war began. The Secretary of the Navy disclosed that eight underseas craft we have lost since December, 1940, have been replaced "many times over."

In the Russell Islands, occupied by the United States last February, 25 Zeros were shot down by U. S. fliers, who lost six planes. This was the second victory in that part of the Solomons within five days, for earlier Army and Navy planes had bagged 15 Zeros and sunk a destroyer there. Over a thousand Jap planes have been shot out of the Solomons skies since U. S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal last August.

Softening-up raids on Kiska in the Aleutians continued, following the "closed book" campaign of Attu.

Overlooked by most last week was a tiny notice of a Tokyo broadcast that a Filipino guerrilla detachment, which had been holding out on Luzon in the lost Philippines for two and a half years, had at last surrendered to the enemy.