

**Claim Germans Have Lost 536 Tanks
And 203 Planes in Opening Hours**

that on the basis of incomplete information United States naval forces apparently had caused the Japanese very heavy damage in the Battle of Kula Gulf.

Details of the action, fought yesterday (Solomon Islands), were not available at all over here, still were lacking, but there was no disposition in authoritative quarters here to consider it as a major encounter with decisive bearing on the Solomons campaign.

The impression prevailed rather that it was an action between fairly light surface forces of cruisers and destroyers, in which bombing planes participated was not known.

A Navy communique said that sufficient details have not been received to give the results of this engagement, but it is believed that while some damage was suffered by the United States force, inflicted damage was conclusive on the enemy."

DESTROYER LOST

At the same time the Navy announced that the Dutch destroyer Strong was torpedoed and sunk Sunday night while enroute to the Dutch East Indies.

The 2,100-ton destroyer *Strong*, commissioned only last year, carried a normal complement of about 240 crew members and 100 tons of large vessel. She was commanded

by Commander Joseph Harold Wellings of East Boston, Mass. Whether he survived was not reported, nor was any estimate given of the loss of life.

Presumably the vessel was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

With the loss of the Strong, following by about five days the torpedoing of the troop transport ship, the *McCanley*, in the Redwood Island area, the United States Navy has invested a total of about

to ships in the Solomon Islands campaign, which began last August, and that the Japanese had been hit by the invasion of the Munda area June 30.

ENEMY LOSSES

Japanese, on the other hand, have lost around 65 to 80 ships, some of those reported as hit having been listed as sunk. Probably sure that the enemy's loss ratio is about two to one in comparison with American ship casualties.

What the figures will be in the latest action off Kula Gulf remain to be seen, but it was widely expected that the success of the American victory probably would be substantial in terms of the number of enemy units involved.

The best information obtainable here with reports admittedly terse and incomplete was that the

Virginia Gays, writing in the *Glennville Herald*, again warms the Japanese that they are not thought of capitulation.

The Italian "Ulan" rejects its own determination to accept an all-American appeal for unconditional surrender," he said.

Army Air Ace Killed in China

A U. S. FIGHTER GROUP commander was killed in action in China yesterday. —Major James H. Lombard, 23, of Iowa, Mch. 10, one of the most decorated pilots in China and commander of the youngest squadron commanded the entire U. S. Army Air Force's 14th fighter group in China. In Central China yesterday morning he attempted to make an emergency landing in bad weather.

The accident occurred on the

Chiang Sets Time Limit Of Two Years For Utter Defeat Of Japan

Asiatic war theaters will be merged into one.

"As things stand now," the Generalissimo declared, "the initiative in the different theaters of war has passed into Allied hands while Allied military power, economic strength, and war production are daily increasing."

"Henceforth the aggressor has no alternative but to await his doom. There is no longer any possibility of his making further sneak attacks and the time limit of his utter defeat has been increased two years."

It was the first time the Generalissimo had ever set such a time limit.

The military situation as a whole, he declared, "is even brighter now and our final victory is further assured."