



**Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, U.S. Navy National Historic Landmark
Unalaska, Alaska**

World War II came to Alaska when the Japanese bombed the Dutch Harbor Naval Operating and Army bases in early June 1942. Japanese military command had coordinated their attack with one at Midway; followed by invading and occupying Attu and Kiska islands. While the U.S. military scrambled to oust the invaders, during the Aleutian Campaign, a lesser-known impact of the war was the forced evacuation of the Native population. Attu residents were taken to Japan as POWs for the duration of the war. The American forces relocated nearly 900 Alaska Natives from their Aleutian homes to Southeast Alaska where they were relegated to substandard living conditions and suffered other hardships. Today, materials and interviews are available online that share their life altering stories, while the landmark maintains much of the strategic defense components of the "Iron Ring" with a lookout post built into the precarious rock cliffs overlooking Unalaska Bay.