

ATTU BOY

アッツ島の少年



Nick Golodoff



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.

The Cultural Resource Programs of the National Park Service have responsibilities that include stewardship of historic buildings, museum collections, archeological sites, cultural landscapes, oral and written histories, and ethnographic resources.

Our mission is to identify, evaluate and preserve the cultural resources of the park areas and to bring an understanding of these resources to the public. Congress has mandated that we preserve these resources because they are important components of our national and personal identity.

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By Nick Golodoff

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Cover: Nick Golodoff on back of Japanese soldier Kamani, 1942.
Photograph by Kiri Sugiyama. Image courtesy Nick Golodoff.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

UAA – University of Alaska Anchorage

UAF – University of Alaska Fairbanks

UW Press – University of Washington Press

Preface

By Brenda Maly,
Nick's granddaughter and descendant of Attu

WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE who has been through World War II and they tell you their amazing stories of what they went through or what they saw, from the listener's point of view it's very exciting to hear. But what if you put yourself in their place? Imagine what is going through your mind, your feelings, your wonderment, your losses, the unknown of what is going to happen and the waiting. This can be a scary thought especially if the stories are from someone you love dearly. Life does work out in mysterious ways and you can't help but go with it. An early life experience can change your future in bad ways but also in good ways. What I'm trying to say here is that life is unexpected and back during World War II it was harsher than it is now. It had to be or we would not be where we are now.

My grandfather, Nick L. Golodoff, had no choice. He was taken off his island of Attu, Alaska, when he was a very young age by the Japanese. He witnessed an amazing event, World War II, from another view than most. A lot of people talk about World War II from the United States' view. He tells the story of actually being captured by the Japanese. When you do read this book, please keep in mind that Nick was about five or six years old when taken off of Attu Island. Names and dates are blurry to him and some things are uncertain. With Rachel Mason, our editor and good friend, and with our family, Nick and I have done our best to get any facts about World War II that are related to Nick's story. Most of the information needed is from Japan and some information they would not release to us. My grandfather Nick wishes to be done with this book as soon as possible. This is his last and final wish before passing. Some things may be not as professional as most books are. This book is written from his point of view as a child and

as he tells it, with some minor adjustments. A book with detailed facts and information from other sources takes some time and Nick is elderly and just wishes to get his story out now rather than later. Please understand that this book is not perfection but his honest experience. It is a story that is most interesting.