

*Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
2008 Calendar*





Aleutian World War II National Historic Area

During World War II the remote Aleutian Islands, home to the Unangan (Aleut) people for over 8,000 years, became one of the fiercely contested battlegrounds of the Pacific. This thousand-mile-long archipelago saw the first invasion of American soil since the War of 1812, a mass internment of American civilians, a 15-month air war, and one of the deadliest battles in the Pacific Theatre. Each month this calendar focuses on one aspect of this little known chapter of our history.

In 1996 Congress designated the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area to interpret, educate, and inspire present and future generations about the history of the Unangan people and the Aleutian Islands in the defense of the United States in World War II. In a unique arrangement, the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and visitor center are owned and managed by the Ounalashka Corporation (the village corporation for Unalaska) and the National Park Service provides them with technical assistance. Through this cooperative partnership, the Unangax are the keepers of their history and invite the public to learn more about its past and present.

For information about the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, visit our web site at: www.nps.gov/aleu/ or contact:

Superintendent
Alaska Affiliated Areas
240 West 5th Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Ounalashka Corporation
P.O. Box 149
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

Visitor Information (907) 581-1276
Visitor Center (907) 581-9944

Cover: Russian Orthodox church in the abandoned village of Biorka, circa 1945. Courtesy University of Alaska, Fairbanks
This page: Courtesy Museum of the Aleutians, Bloom Collection.

Though seemingly unknown, they are not forgotten...

Etta Jones



Working for the Alaska Indian Service, Etta and Foster Jones had lived in several villages before arriving on Attu in August, 1941. Etta's letters to family showed how much they loved their new home and the people of Attu. Less than 10 months later the quiet tranquility of the village was permanently disrupted. Japanese soldiers landed and quickly overwhelmed the tiny village leaving no time to notify anyone of their plight. Held captive, apart from her husband, Etta soon learned her husband had been killed. She and her fellow Attuans were taken to Japan and held captive for 39 months. Etta was released one month shy of her 66th birthday.

Mary Breu, Grand Niece

Gaetano Anzalone



Enlisted in the Navy at 18 and with wings in hand at 19 Gaetano "Tommy" Anzalone literally flew through pilot training. He went on to fly the PBY, PV-1 Ventura and PV-2 Harpoon during his distinguished 11 year Navy career. Ensign Anzalone served on Attu where, as part of VPB-139, he flew the dangerous Empire Express missions over the Kurile Islands of Japan. On May 10, 1945, under heavy anti aircraft fire over Paramushiro, Japan he was injured. Undeterred, he returned to service and later received the Purple Heart. Lieutenant Anzalone was also awarded two air medals during his career. His name was

recently added to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor as well as the Wall of Honor at Eisenhower Park in his home state of New York and the World War II Memorial Wall in Washington DC.

Susan Anzalone Sims, Daughter

PROFILES OF ALEUTIAN WORLD WAR II HEROES

Paul Carrigan



Trained as an aerographer's mate, Paul E. Carrigan served with Fleet Air Wing Four in the Aleutians from 1941-45.

Never shying away from a challenge, Carrigan readily volunteered for some of the more dangerous missions earning the respect and confidence of those he served with. He was with the North Pacific Force in the bombing of Kiska, on a submarine deep in enemy waters and with a handful of others pioneered the tactic of "flying the weather." For his conduct and devotion to duty Carrigan received a Letter of Commendation. His memoirs,

The Flying, Fighting Weathermen of Patrol Wing Four provide a lively account of life in the Aleutians and the critical role of the weathermen who served there.

Jean Carrigan, Wife and Ralph Carrigan, Brother

George Borenin



When the war ended in 1945, the people of Kashega, Makushin and Biorka were forced to settle in Unalaska village if they wanted health care, mail service or regular supplies. The chiefs of Kashega and Biorka, George Borenin and Andrew Makarin, refused and went home, hoping others would follow. Some did, but by the mid-1950s everyone except for George Borenin had been forced to move to Unalaska. Mr. Borenin stayed alone in Kashega for 11 years to protect the Chapel of the Holy Transfiguration, where he had been a lay reader before the evacuation. In 1956, ill-health finally forced him to move to Unalaska

full-time, where he passed away. Photo courtesy University of Alaska Anchorage Archive, Bank Collection.



January 2008

Getting the Message Through

Twice every hour all radio operators observe 3 minutes of silence to listen for emergency messages. When a message is received, utter silence descends on the room as every radioman listens to the incoming communique, dreading the content.



Naval radio men worked four hours on, four hours off, 24 hours a day, every day. They were the life line for the men in the field. They were responsible for everything from field communications to laying undersea cable along the Aleutian Chain.

Each radio operator had his own style of sending the dots and dashes of Morse code. The rhythm, speed, and tempo of "sending key" become almost as recognizable as voice or written signature.

Main Image: Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) radio operators in a foxhole on Attu. Courtesy National Archives. **Above:** Lee Zoll, a Navy radio operator in Dutch Harbor during World War II. His unpublished memoirs, *Wartime Tales of the Aleutian Islands*, contain a wealth of information about everyday life as a radio man in the Aleutians. Courtesy Buchanan Collection, Museum of the Aleutians.

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February 2008

Prize of the Aleutians

"The Akutan Zero was a treasure...no other machine has ever unlocked so many secrets at a time when the need was so great."

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM N. LEONARD, RETIRED

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The Akutan Zero was one of the prizes of the Aleutian Campaign. Downed during the attack on Dutch Harbor, the aircraft was later recovered and shipped to San Diego for repairs. The plane was found to possess superior maneuverability and range, but was fragile, lacking armor plating and self-sealing fuel tanks.

Main Image: Lieutenant William Thies (standing behind propeller blade with notebook) and the crew of PBY VP-41 examine the "Akutan Zero." Courtesy San Francisco Call-Bulletin Collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks. **Above:** Flight Petty Officer Tadayoshi Koga, the pilot of the Akutan Zero who perished in the crash. Courtesy Jim Rearden and Lt. General Masatake Okumiya (retired) and USHIO-SHOB0 (publisher).



March 2008

The Empire Express

“After sitting, sometimes for hours, waiting for 50-knot winds to clear the field, the pilots take off, bucking turbulence, icing and below zero weather for 13 hours.”

CAPTAIN LESLIE M. GEHRES, PATROL WING FOUR



During their deployment to Attu in 1944-45, VPB 139 flew 1500 mile round trip missions over the Kurile Islands of Japan, making photographic runs and bombing through the clouds. These difficult and dangerous missions, flown in the dark-of-night, became known as the Empire Express and the men who flew them were called “bats.”

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9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14 New Moon	15
16	17	18	19	20 Vernal Equinox	21 First Quarter Moon	22
23 Easter	24	25	26	27	28 Full Moon	29
30	31					31 Last Quarter Moon

Main Image: Gaetano (Tom) Anzalone, VPB-139 pilot in a PV-2. Anzalone recieved a Purple Heart for wounds he received on a mission over the Kurile Islands. **Inset:** A PV-2 ready for take-off. Photos courtesy of Susan Anzalone Sims.

Above: The VPB 139 squadron insignia. The V stands for victory and the Bee is the personification of the bombing squadron flying missions all over the world. The Bee looks down on a hemisphere showing the Aleutians and northern Japan. The squadron's nickname was V-Bees. Courtesy Don MacMillan, co-pilot VP-139.

*They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them. -- Laurence Binyon*

*Walt S. Whitman
John W. "Moose" Hanlon
Donald G. Lewallen
Samuel L. Crown
Clarence C. "Digs" Fridley
James S. Palko
Jack J. Parlier*



April 2008

The Last Flight of Bomber 31

"All gave some and some gave all. And some stood through for the red, white and blue, and some had to fall. And if you ever think of me, think of all your liberties and recall, some gave all."

BILLY RAY CYRUS, SINGER/SONGWRITER



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March 25, 1944: Just after midnight and the ground is covered with snow. Icy fog obscures the sky and chills the bones. Five Ventura bombers are made ready for the 1500-mile round-trip flight from Attu to Shimushu. Only one plane would complete its mission; two dropped their bombs in the sea before returning to base; one crash landed right after take-off and Bomber 31 never returned. What happened to Bomber 31 would remain a mystery for more than 50 years. Then in 2000 a Russian citizen reported having found the wreckage. Ralph Wetterhahn unravels the mystery in, *The Last Flight of Bomber 31*.

Main Image: Three PV-1's zoom by a cloud-capped volcano. Courtesy US Navy. **Above:** Lt. (jg) John ("Moose") W. Hanlon Jr., co-pilot of the ill-fated Bomber 31, was finally laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in 2003. Courtesy Mrs. Pat McMorrow.



May 2008

Retaking Attu, May 1943

“Modern armies had never fought before on any field that was like the Aleutians. We could borrow no knowledge from the past.”

CORPORAL DASHIELL HAMMETT

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4	5 New Moon	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day First Quarter Moon	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Full moon	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Last Quarter Moon	28	29	30	31



Beginning dawn, 11 May 1943, 16,000 U.S. soldiers are landed on Attu. They come ashore at Beaches Scarlet and Red, Yellow and Blue -- Austin Cove, Golfsov Point, and the grimly named Massacre Bay. For the most part, they are California hot-weather troops, a motorized company, desert trained and wearing desert gear. In time, they will fight at Kwajalein, Leyte, Okinawa, but this day the 7th Infantry are green, cutting their teeth in the near arctic on Attu Island. In the end, the Battle of Attu would rank as the second deadliest battle in the Pacific Theatre, falling just behind Iwo Jima.

Main Image: Troops in amphibious transports approaching Holtz Bay, 11 May, 1943. Courtesy San Francisco Call-Bulletin Collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks. **Above:** Little Falls Cemetery, Attu Island, Aleutian Islands, 27 September 1943. Courtesy National Archives.



June 2008

Five Days in June, 1942

"I...was pulling off my flight boots when the first stick of bombs straddled across the...houses... I dove through the side door and jumped into the trash pit...any place to dodge the bombs!"

JACK KASSELL



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15 Father's Day	16	17	18 Full Moon	19	20 Summer Solstice	21																																																																																				
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15 May 1942, roughly three weeks before the aerial attack on Dutch Harbor, U.S. Navy cryptanalysts in a Honolulu basement break a "hot" Japanese coded message telling of plans for a carrier launched raid on Dutch Harbor. When Japanese aircraft appear over Dutch Harbor they are shocked to find the sky pocked with anti-aircraft fire. There would be no cry of tora, tora, tora (tiger, tiger, tiger), as there had been at Pearl Harbor proclaiming that the Americans had been taken unawares. Since late May, servicemen on Unalaska had stood alert at their stations one-half hour every morning and night when the threat of attack was thought greatest. Two days later the Japanese would occupy Kiska and Attu.

Main Image: Marines are at the ready in the trenches but helpless in stopping the bombs from falling. Courtesy Elmendorf Air Force Base, Office of History. **Above:** Japanese aircraft carrier HIJMS Ryūjō. Courtesy Masatake Okumiya.



54028A.C

July 2008

Deadly Skies

“These pilots are not fighting a glamorous war of blazing guns and gallant encounters in mid-air; they fight an unseen foe, and they fly and die alone.”

COLLIER'S MAGAZINE, 27 MARCH 1943

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The most daunting foe was not the Japanese, but the weather. In the demanding Aleutian skies, many pilots found themselves hopelessly lost, running on vapors over the Bering Sea. If they went down, there was no hope of rescue.

The Eleventh Air Force and Navy Patrol Wing Four lost 184 aircraft to “operational causes” - crashing into mountains, lost in fog, disappearing into icy waters. By comparison, 41 were lost in battle.

Main Image: Lt. Herbert Hasenfus of Columbus, Wisconsin about to take off on a mission. Courtesy National Archives, National Air and Space Museum collection.

Above: Waiting pilots eagerly scan the skies for their returning buddies. Courtesy National Archives.



August 2008

Operation Cottage, 1943

“Fog and 50 mile-an-hour winds made things appear to shimmer, like your reflection in water. People were seeing enemy that were friends...”

EUGENE WINTERS, KISKA VETERAN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Moon	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 First Quarter Moon	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Full Moon	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Last Quarter Moon	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 New Moon
31					July 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Known collectively as Corlette's "Long Knives," the invasion force contains 7,000 troops of the 7th U.S. Infantry. These men are veterans of bloody Attu and they bring to Kiska no illusions as to the fanatical fighting spirit of the Japanese. For eight days Corlette's "Long Knives" search Kiska for the Japanese. With no enemy on the island, the Allied soldiers, well trained and hungry for battle, unknowingly wage war upon themselves. In the swirling fog men fire on their own. In darkness and fog, in fear and in uncommon bravery, the fight rages. Over 313 Allied soldiers will die on Kiska from "friendly fire," booby traps and mines. The Japanese evacuation had been so bold and well executed, U.S. commanders had steadfastly refused to believe it had taken place.

Main Image: Major General Charles H. Corlette's Amphibious Force 9 disembarks Adak. August 9, 1943 Courtesy National Archives.

Above: A Japanese flag on Kiska captured by members of the Royal Canadian Fusiliers, 23 August, 1943. Courtesy National Archives.



Forced to Leave, 1942

FRED GEESLIN, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, U.S.
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SEALING OPERATIONS/FUNTER BAY



In the summer of 1942, U.S. authorities evacuated 881 Unangan (Aleut) from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. The villagers crowded onto the *Delarof*; no one knew where they were going. When the evacuees finally arrived at the “duration camps” in Southeast Alaska, they were horrified at the rotting buildings where they were to live. The captain of the *Delarof* left the internees with a 4-day food supply, a mattress for each adult, and blankets. Disease ran rampant among the malnourished evacuees and one of ten perished.

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7 First Quarter Moon	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																											
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Main Image: Unangan baidars in line behind transport ship *Delarof* en route to Southeast Alaska. Courtesy Alaska State Library Historical Collection.

Above: Russian Orthodox church in the abandoned village of Biorka, circa 1945. Courtesy University of Alaska Fairbanks.



October 2008

Umnak Surprise!

“We fueled our own planes from drums, slept in rude huts and bed-rolls, and froze all the time.”

MAJOR JACK CHENNAULT

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday							Thursday							Friday							Saturday						
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Blair Packing Company - a fish cannery. That is how the secret Fort Glenn Air Base, only 60 miles west of Dutch Harbor, is disguised. In three short months, the 807th Army Engineers hack out of the Umnak Island tundra a 5,600 foot airfield, finishing just two weeks before the Japanese raid Dutch Harbor. On June 4, 1942 Chennault's fighters will surprise Japanese aircraft rallying near the secret Fort Glenn after the 2nd attack on Dutch Harbor. Allied fighters send two bombers tumbling from the sky and mortally wound two others.

Main Image: Pilots at Fort Glenn scramble to their planes on 4 June, 1942. Courtesy National Archives **Above:** Lt. John S. Chennault, age 28. Courtesy Elmendorf Air Force Base Office of History, US Army Air Corp collection.



November 2008

An Unintended Target

[The Japanese] “managed, believe it or not, to hit the only hospital in 500 miles.”

KEITH WHEELER, ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, 22 JULY 1942

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 Election Day	5 First Quarter Moon	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Full Moon	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Last Quarter Moon	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day New Moon	28	29
30						



At 5:40 am on June 4th, Ward Attendant Martha Tutiakoff transferred all patients from the 24 bed Native hospital to dugouts as ordered. Fifteen minutes later a lone Japanese “Val” bomber dives toward Unalaska as anti-aircraft guns open fire but can’t prevent him from dropping his bomb. The concussive blast ripped one end off the hospital, twisting the walls and roof.

Fortunately no one at the hospital is harmed in the attack. After the all clear signal, patients are ferreted out to Native households for care. Eyewitnesses and historians agree the attack on the hospital was accidental.

Main Image: Two young patients, Lazar Lakanoff (wearing Army helmet) and Larry Shaishnikoff take shelter in a dugout. “The soldiers were positively swell in their assistance to all civilians,” remembers Mayor John Fletcher. “They did everything to make the sick women and children comfortable.” Courtesy Museum of the Aleutians.

Above: Alaska Native Service hospital damaged by a Japanese bomb 4 June, 1942. Courtesy US Navy.



December 2008

Homecoming, 1945

On 10 August 1988 Congress passed the “Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act,” that at long last publicly recognized the suffering, hardship, and irreparable losses of the Unangan during World War II.

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7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11	12 Full Moon	13																																																																																																		
14	15	16	17	18	19 Last Quarter Moon	20																																																																																																		
21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27 New Moon																																																																																																		
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	New Year's Eve																																																																																																							



The Unangan homecoming in 1945 was bittersweet. People returned to find their homes and churches ransacked or neglected; their precious possessions, abandoned in the rush to evacuate, were stolen by servicemen or ruined by exposure to the elements. For the people of Attu, Biorka, Kashega, and Makushin, there was no return home, for the government would not allow it. Instead they were forced to reside in Unalaska or fend for themselves elsewhere.

Main Image: George Chercasen of Nikolski leaves the *David S. Branch* at Captains Bay, Unalaska, 1945. Courtesy National Archives.
Above: The wreckage of a village in the Chichagof Harbor area, Attu. Churches are no exception in total war. An officer examines a cross found near the ruined structure. Courtesy National Archives.

Aleutian World War II National Historic Area



Image: The Aleutian World War II visitor center at Dutch Harbor is housed in the rehabilitated Aerology building. Photo courtesy National Park Service.