“Preflight Briefing” by Paul Goranson.
Image courtesy Canadian Armed Forces Collection
Welcome to the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area!

The Ounalashka Corporation and the National Park Service work together to share the history of the Unangan (the Aleut people) and the defense of the Aleutian Islands and the United States during World War II. The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and Visitor Center in Dutch Harbor, Alaska tell these compelling stories and preserve historic Fort Schwatka on Mount Ballyhoo. Additionally, National Historic Landmarks on Attu, Kiska, and “Atka” Islands within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge have recently been included in the new World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Explore, Learn, Protect:
Be a Junior Ranger!

Note: this booklet was developed for middle school-aged youth. Some of the events and stories may be upsetting. Please talk to your parents or teachers about your feelings.

Being a Junior Ranger is a special privilege and an honor. As a Junior Ranger, you:

• Take care of and explore the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and learn more about its history.
• Share what you have learned with family and friends.

To become a Junior Ranger, you:

• Complete as many activities in this book as you can.
• Visit World War II sites in Unalaska or your community.
• Bring this booklet to the World War II Visitor Center to receive your badge. If you cannot make it to the Visitor Center, please contact the Ounalashka Corporation at 907-581-1276 or info@ounalashka.com.

YOUR NAME ___________________________
Getting Started

There sure are a lot of things to see around *Dutch Harbor/Unalaska*, and other parts of the Aleutians! Each activity page in this book shows one or more of the colored circles below. These circles help you find places in Dutch Harbor and Unalaska to visit where the stories of World War II come alive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activity Number</th>
<th>WWII Visitor Center</th>
<th>Museum of the Aleutians</th>
<th>Memorial Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mapping the Story</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Lion Subsistence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating through History</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat Attack</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War on American Soil</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead-Reckoning</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptographic Clues</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack Your Bags</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tremendous Trees</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windblown and Dripping</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Walk through Time</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History at Your Feet</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“...I lived for nine years at the corner of 53rd Street and Lexington Avenue in New York City and it wasn't half so noisy as outside my tent on Amchitka.”
– Lieutenant Allen Prescott, Navy aviation officer

Pick up a detailed driving guide at the Museum of the Aleutians. Just ask for View to the Past:A Driving Guide to World War II Buildings and Structures on Amaknak Island and Unalaska Island. There's lots to learn by following the roads. Look for interpretive signs that tell you about World War II buildings and events along the way.
Where does the Aleutian World War II story take place? Throughout this booklet, important Aleutian World War II place names are hidden, marked with *stars*. Color in the circle on this map for each place name as you find it. Hint: try finding places you may know first, like *Anchorage* and *Juneau*. Then find *Sitka*, *Seward*, and *Kodiak* where you can visit other historic World War II sites.

The Japanese Kurile Islands are only:
A: 6000 miles; B: 1500 miles; C: 650 miles; or D: 20 miles from Attu Island in the Aleutian Chain? See answer below.

Answer: C: 650 miles

Anchor to Juneau is 600 miles.
For generations, the Unangan relied on marine mammals swimming near their homes in the Aleutian Islands. They use these sea mammals for making tools, clothing, jewelry, and food. Historically, the men hunted for Steller sea lions while the women made clothing, like the kamleika (rain coat), from sea lion parts. You can see a beautiful example of one of these raincoats at the Museum of the Aleutians. The Unangan treat the sea lion with respect and used every part of the animal. Nothing went to waste.

Boats have an important history in the Aleutian Islands. The Unangan used kayaks (iqyan) to hunt and travel between islands. In June of 1942, the USS Delarof (a large transport ship) took hundreds of Unangan from their homes to southeast Alaska. It had to zigzag through rough seas to avoid Japanese submarines lurking below.

Try making your own kayak (iqyan) from a SQUARE SHEET of paper using these instructions. You will need to imagine the dotted “fold” lines shown below on your paper.

Women use plants as natural medicines. During World War II, the Unangan were relocated to forested areas of southeast Alaska. The plants they normally used as medicines do not grow in southeast Alaska forests, and they were unable to treat common sicknesses in the camps.

“Everybody onboard [the Delarof] from Unalaska was at the railing, you know, just saying goodbye to home and hoping to be back soon. And my father had come out and my mother had held me up to the railing so I could say goodbye.”

– Harriet Hope of Unalaska
Ships carried soldiers and supplies to the Aleutian Islands during World War II. They also carried a dangerous stowaway — RATS! Rats eat chicks and eggs of seabirds (and sometimes even adult birds). Examples of these seabirds are found in the entrance to the Museum of the Aleutians. Although war with Japan ended in the Aleutians decades ago, rats are still waging battle against nesting seabirds.

Let’s say that during World War II, one pregnant rat was accidentally brought to “Kiska” Island. One rat may not seem like a big deal, but the illustration below shows how one pregnant rat can multiply to over 60 rats in just 4 months. In one year, a pregnant rat and her pups can produce 6000 rats!

August 15, 1943
A pregnant rat arrives in Kiska.

September 15, 1943
The rat gives birth to 10 pups.

December 15, 1943
The rat’s daughters give birth to about 50 of their own pups, for a total of about 60 rats.

Biologists have dug out a rat family’s nest containing 22 dead Least Auklets, birds known locally as choochoos. An average of 10 rats lives in a nest.

If by August 15, 1944 the pregnant rat and her offspring produced 6000 rats, how many auklets did they eat on Kiska in that year? Do math below:

Imagine how many birds have been eaten by rats on these islands since World War II!

Rats aren’t the only World War II problem left in the Aleutian Islands. Bombs and ammunition (also called ordnance) that did not explode are still dangerous hazards. Also left behind were barrels of oil and leaking batteries that can pollute the islands.

On June 2, 1942, aircraft from the Japanese aircraft carriers Ryujo and Junyo bombed Unalaska. On June 7, Japanese troops invaded the Aleutian islands of Attu and Kiska. This was the only time any U.S. homeland was occupied during World War II. The Japanese imprisoned a Kiska weather team and the residents of Attu. These Japanese attacks are memorable for those who fought the war. The Aleutian Island battles are full of stories, stories of terror, and stories of heroism.

The U.S. has fought in many wars before and since World War II. How does your family remember war? Ask an older family member these questions about war in their lifetime. Write their answers on the following page.

1. What war do you remember most?
2. When and where did this war happen?
3. What is one story you can tell me about this war?

“Alaska was the nation’s military stepchild. Even after Pearl Harbor, our so publicized naval stronghold Dutch Harbor did not have one protecting airfield within 800 miles, not one. The [Japanese] knew this.”
— Major General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.

— Anfesia Shapsnikoff of Unalaska

“The smoke was so thick, it was like nighttime here in Unalaska. During this time, the women and children were kept in newly built bomb shelters around Unalaska.”

On the second run, the Japanese planes came over the town around 6 p.m. and dropped a bomb on the old hospital, and went across the bay, and bombed the tanks in Dutch Harbor. The smoke was so thick, it was like nighttime here in Unalaska. During this time, the women and children were kept in newly built bomb shelters around Unalaska.” — Anfesia Shapsnikoff of Unalaska

Rats aren’t the only World War II problem left in the Aleutian Islands. Bombs and ammunition (also called ordnance) that did not explode are still dangerous hazards. Also left behind were barrels of oil and leaking batteries that can pollute the islands.
1. WHAT WAR DO YOU REMEMBER MOST?

2. WHEN AND WHERE DID THIS WAR HAPPEN?

3. WHAT IS ONE STORY YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT THIS WAR?

“Akutan Zero.”

$6$ Dead - Reckoning

The Japanese captured Kiska Island on June 7, 1942. To force them to leave, U.S. planes dropped seven million pounds of bombs on the island. The weather is very stormy in the Aleutians, the islands often hidden by fog. It is like flying through soup. Pilots navigated by “dead-reckoning.” They guessed their location by using compass readings and air speed. They also used the 4,000-foot-tall Kiska Volcano as a landmark since it was often the only peak above the heavy fog. After seeing this volcano, pilots knew where to find their targets. They would drop their bombs and head back home. The Aerology Building (now the World War II Visitor Center) was where radiomen helped to guide the pilots safely back to the Dutch Harbor base.

Help the pilot return to Dutch Harbor safely in the maze below. Watch out for volcanoes, Japanese fighters, and overall stormy weather!

“Oh you know, I reckon I’ll get us back or I reckon we’ll be dead.”
– Navigator’s quip on the phrase “dead-reckoning”
Cryptographic Clues

Communication during war time is very difficult. Soldiers in the Aleutians rose eagerly at three in the morning for mail call, hoping to find “sugar” letters – love letters from girlfriends and wives sent months before. Military messages needed to travel much faster. Morse code was a way to do this. Messages were encrypted and tapped into a machine by both American and Japanese troops. A Morse code key, or “bug,” can be seen upstairs in the World War II Visitor Center.

Below are two words used by Japanese and American troops during World War II and their meanings. Use the Morse code chart to translate the message.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morse Code Chart</th>
<th>Japanese word:</th>
<th>American word:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>.-- ..</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hint: The American fight for Attu in May of 1943 was the second bloodiest World War II battle in the Pacific. Near the end of the battle, the Japanese had less than 800 men left to fight against 14,000 Americans. Rather than surrender, most Japanese troops chose to fight to the death. What did the Japanese call this type of attack?

Hint: Aleutian winds, which blow up to 100 miles per hour like hurricanes, made life very difficult for American soldiers. What did they call these winds?

Make up your own coded message, and have a friend solve it.

Navajo “codetalkers” used their language to encrypt messages for the U.S. military during World War II. Navajo words for “chicken hawk,” “hummingbird,” and “iron fish,” became the codes for “dive bomber,” “fighter plane,” and “submarine.” Navajo language codes were never broken during World War II.

Pack Your Bag

In June 1942, the U.S. government forced the Unangan to evacuate their homes and board a ship. They did not know where they were going or how long they’d be gone. Arriving in southeast Alaska, they were crowded into abandoned canneries and a former mining camp. The camps were falling apart, and had no plumbing, electricity, or toilets.

Imagine you too have to leave your home to go to a strange place for an unknown period for time. You can only pack one suitcase the size of your backpack or the suitcase downstairs in the World War II Visitor’s Center. What would you take with you?

“Each family, according to its size, packed a suitcase and a trunk. We couldn’t take a favorite toy, book, or game. Only clothing. My mom couldn’t even take her favorite pot or teakettle... They didn’t even allow us to take our icons or holy lamps.”

– Phil Tutiakoff of Unalaska

painting of Attu Village by Henry Elliot, 1880. Courtesy Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center.
After Japan captured Attu and Kiska islands and bombed Dutch Harbor, the U.S. military evacuated all residents of the Aleutians. Everyone who was 1/8 or more Unangan was forced to leave their homes and move to relocation camps in southeast Alaska for three years. The government allowed non-Native residents of the Aleutians to make their own choices about where they would go. How does it make you feel to learn that these American citizens were treated differently because of their race?

Think about the ways that you are different from other people and the ways that you are the same. Find a friend and talk about your similarities and differences. Write them down on the opposite page.
During World War II, the U.S. government forced the Unangan to leave the naturally treeless island homes they had known their entire lives. For years, they would live in old buildings surrounded by thick, dark forest in southeast Alaska. In contrast, many U.S. soldiers stationed in the Aleutian Islands had never lived on islands or in places without trees. In 1944, an Air Force general ordered the planting of thousands of trees in the Aleutians to raise soldiers’ spirits. Both soldiers and the Unangan had strong feelings about trees based on what they knew before the war. Have you ever been away from your home? Write a postcard, and describe what you might miss.

**Post Card**

Dear:  
It is very different being away from home. It’s been exciting to  

, but I really miss  

From,  

“Funter Bay* looked lovely when we first saw it, with its flowers and trees. Most of us had never seen trees before. But the houses [at the internment camp] were no good...We were dreadfully homesick. We didn’t like the trees. They were in our way everywhere...at [home] we used to go on hikes, but at Funter Bay we couldn’t go walking because the trees were in the way.”

– Alice Tutiaff of “St. George Island”

“When I came back to the island, it seemed bald, with no branches or trees. It was still wonderful. It was a happy time, coming back home again.”

– Anatoly Lekanof, St. George Island  

Illustration of southeast Alaska forest by Gecko Graphics Photograph courtesy Rodney W. Lekanof.
American soldiers fighting in the Aleutian Islands were not ready for the weather. Many of them were trained for the hot deserts of North Africa. Instead, they ended up in Alaska facing constant wind, heavy fog, and cold during the war. Soldiers learned to laugh about their discomforts. Some soldiers drew cartoons to help themselves get through each day. You can see many comics about the weather at the World War II Visitor’s Center. Try drawing your own cartoon about an experience you’ve had with weather, like a rocky boat ride or a long, wet walk, that you can now laugh at. Use the old sketch pad to the right.

"‘There was a gauge to measure the wind, but it only measured up to 110 miles an hour, and this was not always enough.’
– Corporal Dashiell Hammett (a famous writer)
### A Walk through Time

The Aleutian Islands have a very long history. People have been living here for over 9,000 years! In the World War II Visitor Center, the mural on the first floor will help you match these quotes associated with the Aleutian Islands to their historical time. Write the letter of the correct time period next to the number of the quote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unangan Life (Before 1741)</th>
<th>Russian America (1741-1867)</th>
<th>Alaska Territory (1867-1939)</th>
<th>WWII - Japanese Invasion (1942)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Life</td>
<td>War on American Soil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in Relocation Camps</td>
<td>Life on Military Bases</td>
<td>Coming Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **“When we found our homes in that condition it must have been sad for my mom and dad, our parents, and how my mom checked her... footlocker full of cleaned – washed, ironed and starched – doilies, tablecloths and stuff like this was empty. This huge footlocker – huge one – how these troops must have been happy to mail to their homes to their loved ones beautiful handmade doilies made by crocheting needles and ivory carvings – you name it – anywhere from antique icons and priceless things... things that cannot be replaced even with money today... all gone.”**

2. **“The school was called Government School. ... I know some big kids that came from some other village would come here and go to school. They wouldn’t know English. All they’d know was Aleut so they had to get a late start... Every so often a Russian word comes into my mind: I don’t know where it came from but there it is. Probably when I was a little kid I heard people talking Russian and Aleut and those words stuck in my mind but I never used them, but they’re still there.”**

3. **“We camouflaged the old positions with camouflage netting and placed telephone poles in place of the guns. The move saved the lives of a number of our men the next day as some of these positions took direct hits from Japanese dive bombers and heavy strafing from [Japanese] Zero fighters.”**

4. **“World War II was a traumatic experience for Aleut people. They have lived with that experience and those memories for a long time. And now’s the time to rebuild and replace some of those things that were lost.”**

5. **“Whenever the Aleuts [Unangan] hunt, they hunt in a two-hatch baidarka. The man who prepares for hunting first makes his hunting gear... When the baidarkas go out to hunt, they paddle a certain distance between them. They paddle until they see a sea otter and then form a circle and wait for it to come up.”**

6. **“They come to the islands, clean-shaven and boyish, but the dark, rain-heavy sky, the numbing isolation of the place, wears them down quick. Their eyes glaze, their faces grow haggard and lined. For most, there is no rotation home. Tired, ill-supplied, ill-fed, they live on their nerves. And some of them crack. The ones from the sunny places have it rough. They miss the light; the hot, yellow sunshine. Some are sent home sedated, knotted tight in a straitjacket, their eyes fixed in the Aleutian Stare.”**

7. **“We lived in an old herring cannery [in Killisnoo] and those buildings were never meant for winter. We had to boil our water. We were left to gather our own food. There were no boats to fish. We were just dumped off with the clothes on our backs.”**

8. **“Why do the Aleuts [Unangan] possess such an enduring character? It is clear that a great and direct influence is exerted upon their character by the harsh and cold climate, the natural poverty of the islands they inhabit, and the kind of upbringing they receive. Even the most impatient of the Europeans, living in the Aleutian Islands in the present circumstances, would inevitably, although not completely, become patient and enduring as did the Aleuts.”**
All over the Aleutian Islands today are artifacts left from World War II. Artifacts are objects from the past that tell us stories. During World War II, Japanese and American soldiers built docks for ships, runways for planes, and bunkers for troops. Some buildings still have kitchen stoves, electrical outlets, and even wagons in them. The artifacts let us be modern-day detectives discovering the secrets of history. Unfortunately, soldiers also took things from and destroyed Unangan homes during the war.

Today, some people still leave their mark on these historic places by taking historic items, littering, and writing on the walls. This disturbs our historic stories and hurts those who suffered during the war and those who come after us. When visiting historic sites, please leave what you find and pack out your trash.

In the quonset hut drawing below, circle the historic objects (artifacts) and cross out the trash (modern day items).
Learn more!
Learn more about the Aleutian World War II experiences by checking out the following websites and books:

- www.alaskamaritime.fws.gov  
  Aleutian Sparrow by Karen Hesse
- www.nps.gov/aleu
  The Wind is Not a River by Arnold A. Griese

Learn more about other World War II experiences by checking out the following websites:

- www.nps.gov/manz
- www.nps.gov/usar
- www.nps.gov/wwii
- www.nps.gov/miin
- www.nps.gov/ori
- www.nps.gov/vapa

Many National Park Service sites have Junior Ranger activities. We hope that you will continue to explore and learn about our special places. You can also become a Web Ranger at: www.nps.gov/webrangers/.

Acknowledgements
This project was a collaboration between the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ounalashka Corporation, Museum of the Aleutians, City of Unalaska Parks and Recreation, and the Qawalangin Tribe. Special thanks to Jeff Dickrell, Moses Dirks, and Steve Gregory. Writing and design by Emily Beltramo (Student Conservation Association, Junior Ranger Ambassador), Lisa Matlock (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Jenni Burr (National Park Service).

Answers

1. Mapping the Story:
   A. Attu; B. Kiska; C. Atka; D. Dutch Harbor/Unalaska; E. St. Paul; F. St. George G. Kodiak; H. Seward; I. Anchorage; J. Funter Bay; K. Juneau; L. Killisnoo; M. Sitka

2. Sea Lion Subsistence:
   1. f; 2. a, e; 3. c, h; 4. d; 5. c, h; 6. a, b, f; 7. c, h, i; 8. a, c; 9. c, i; 10. d; 11. a, g; 12. f; 13. b, g; 14. l; 15. a

3. Rat Attack:
   6000 rats ÷ 10 rats in a nest = 600 rat nests
   600 rat nests x 22 dead birds in a nest = 13,200 dead birds killed by the rats in that year

4. Cryptographic Clues:
   Japanese word = banzai; American word = williwaw

12. A Walk Through Time:
Congratulations!

This certifies that _____________________
is now a Junior Ranger
for the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area

on this _____ day of _______________, 20____.

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to explore, learn about, and protect the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, other National Parks, and all special places.