



**Attu Battlefield and U.S. Army and Navy Airfields National Historic Landmark
Attu Island, Alaska**

The 12,500 American soldiers landing on Attu Island in May 1943 anticipated needing only a few days to oust the Japanese garrison. Two weeks later, the Americans succeeded after battling the enemy in difficult terrain, harsh weather, and inadequate gear. Occupying Attu and Kiska as part of a coordinated attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Midway in June 1942, marked the peak of Japan's military expansion in the Pacific. Attu, the only WWII land battle fought in North America, ranked as the second deadliest battle in the Pacific Theater (in proportion to the number of troops engaged) just behind Iwo Jima. The battle was an important morale booster that demonstrated the worthiness of the American soldier against the enemy as well as illustrating the loyalty of the Japanese soldier to his cause. Lessons learned in amphibious landings, tactics, logistical planning, and Army gear made significant contributions to future U.S. Pacific operations.