



**Japanese Occupation Site National Historic Landmark
Kiska Island, Alaska**

Japanese troops occupied Kiska for over fourteen months during WWII. They developed a base by digging in, creating sod walls to protect structures, as well as building underground tunnels, air raid shelters and hospitals. Anti-aircraft guns and coastal defense guns were strategically placed to counter air attacks and potential naval invasion. Following the loss of Attu, Japanese command realized their precarious position. In late July 1943, Japanese ships evacuated troops under fog cover and sailed away undetected. They left their base with naval wreckage after a year of intense bombings by the Allies. The joint American and Canadian forces arrived, unaware of the vacated island, and sustained casualties by friendly fire and landmines. They established camps, developed the runway and dock area; the Aleutian Campaign was over. Today's battlefield landscape reflects a remarkable degree of the Japanese and Allied occupations, with no other development on the island having taken place.