

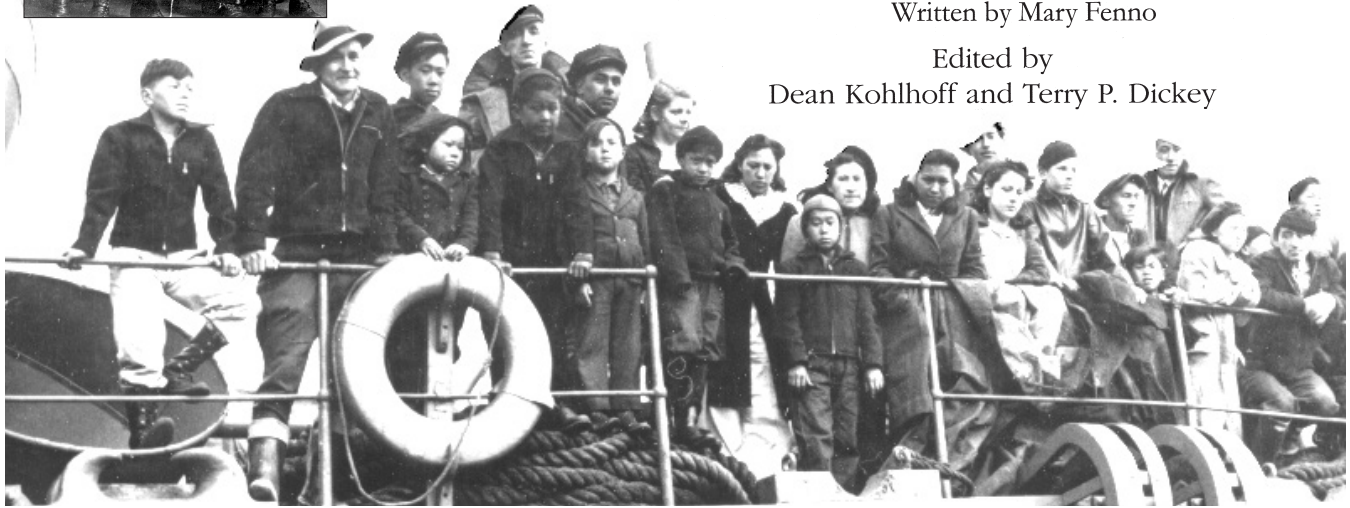


FORCED TO LEAVE

WW II Detention of Alaskan
Japanese Americans and Aleuts

Written by Mary Fenno

Edited by
Dean Kohlhoff and Terry P. Dickey



Two hundred and ninety-four Aleuts were evacuated from St. Paul Island on June 15, 1942, by the USAT *Delarof*. Top Row (L to R): #5 John Mercurief, Sr., #6 John Hanson, #8 Mousa Mercurief, #10 Virginia Kozloff, #12 Anastasia Krukoff, #14 Flore Lekanof, #19 Daniel Malavansky, #21 Anton Kushin, #22 Anna Kushin. Fredericka Martin Collection, UAF Archives. *Inset*: The George and Mine Mikami family was among the earliest Japanese families in Anchorage. Snodgrass Collection, UAF Archives 90-207-01N

"I think there is a basic need for Americans to understand that the civil rights of individuals must be protected even in wartime. One of the things we're trying to do is to set the record straight and establish a principle of American government that will make the government think in the future before it takes rash action."

Senator Ted Stevens

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Funter Bay, Minidoka, Killisnoo, Puyallup...

foreign names to many Alaskans, but part of the painful heritage of Alaska's Japanese Americans and Aleuts.

World War II blew into their world like a North Pacific storm, tearing families apart. In its wake, camps in the Lower 48 interned Japanese Alaskans, while Aleuts were relocated to deserted canneries, an abandoned mining camp, and a shut-down government work facility in southeast Alaska.

The Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor caused festering racism to erupt on the West Coast of the United States. The public, press and Congress clamored for the removal of Japanese Americans from the area because of their supposed danger to American security.

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, 10 weeks after the war began, gave the United States military authorization to exclude individuals from areas vital to national security. The order was used almost exclusively to remove Japanese Americans from the West Coast and Alaska.

"To be interned behind barbed wire fences patrolled by armed guards, to have my father separated from the family, to be among strangers, and to read and hear terrible derogatory things about all Japanese, turned my happy and secure world upside down."

"I have never been so frightened as when federal agents came in the middle of the night, pounded on our door, grabbed my father and drove him off to Fort Richardson to be placed in the stockade there. . . ."

Sam Kimura,
who was 13 when he was interned with his family, testified at
the September 1981 Commission of
Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Nationally, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans from Alaska, Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington were ordered into camps despite the fact that no terrorist incidents had ever been perpetrated by Japanese Americans.

Alaska's Aleuts, too, were destined for evacuation during the war through no fault of their own.

Village of Atka. Traditional villages were situated for ready access to food and fresh water sources and also for protection from enemy raids. Narrow necks of land were preferred because the wide view allowed people a choice of direction for launching boats. Stephen R. Capps Collection, UAF Archives 83-149-299-7N



St. Paul Island. An Aleut family blows air into sea lion guts to expand their size for drying. Aleut men hunted nearly every species of sea mammal. Charles Hamlet Collection, UAF Archives 728-24N

Excerpts from Alaskan Japanese Frank Hagiwara's 1942-1943 diary. He records his arrest in Ketchikan, AK, his transport to Seattle, WA, and finally his days detained at Lordsburg, NM. His son Michael, a student leader at University of Alaska in Fairbanks, was detained at Minidoka. His son Patrick served in the US Army.

March 6

*Hearing at army office
Stay in Federal Building*

March 7

*Leave Ketchikan 8AM
Arrived Tongass harbor Camp
at noon or 1 PM Island Time*

March 11

*Package from mom
Finger printed.*

April 1 *partly cloudy
Lieutenant Annet inspected us.*

*... may go up North
something funny in the
air.*

April 4

*After 9AM informed officially about
Japanese evacuation
from Alaska to state.*

*...Supper time air mail reach
from Mike at home. He
fly back home April 4*

*After supper Chaplain bring
I am so happy to see
him and know Mike be
at home I couldn't stop
tears from mess ball
till after Pat left for boat I feel sore
in my eyes.*

Diary continues on page 7.

The Aleuts

Because of the strategic location of the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific Ocean, the U.S. government feared the islands would be a target for the Japanese military. Preliminary considerations for the evacuation of Aleuts from Attu to the Alaska Peninsula were discussed long before Dutch Harbor was bombed on June 3, 1942, but nothing was done because of agency inaction.

Four days later, the Japanese invasion of Kiska and capture of 42 Aleuts on Attu helped precipitate a hasty evacuation by the U.S. military of 881 villagers from the Pribilof Islands and the easternmost Aleutian Islands to camps in southeast Alaska. Allowed to take only a small suitcase and a bedroll, the Aleuts had no choice but to leave their personal belongings and most of their sacred church icons behind. Livestock and pets were slaughtered so they wouldn't starve.

Fearing the Japanese would invade the village of Atka and use the homes as a ready-made base, the U.S. Navy declared the village off limits. The military ordered all 83 Atkans out of their home and sent them to their fish camps across the bay. The Navy's demolition crew burned the village several hours later. When the Navy signaled them to return to the village, an evacuation ship transported 62 Atkans to Nikolski and later to Dutch Harbor. Several days later, the 21 Atkans left behind at fish camp were finally reunited with their families. The Atkans were evacuated with only the clothes they were wearing. All their other possessions were destroyed. Although the Atkans thought the whole village was burned, they later learned that some homes had been spared and used by the military.

The evacuation of the Pribilof Islands of St. Paul and St. George was also marked by haste and confusion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manager on St. George was ordered to prepare the village for destruction by placing a pail of gasoline in each house and a charge of

The Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor on June 3, 1942. Alaska At War Collection, UAA Archives and Manuscripts Dept. Folder 11.



Atka In Flames

On December 7, 1941 as soon as we heard the news over the radio of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and later that President Roosevelt had declared war on Japan, we went to tell the villagers that they ought to pack up and be prepared to leave any time.

However, it was not until six months later that we were taken from the island...a plane tender came into the port and put out eighteen buoys in front of the village. We had the people move out to their fish camps about three miles from the village, thinking that they might be safer out in their tents.

The skipper of the plane tender came ashore and told us that we could have twenty-six minutes to prepare to leave the village. He had orders to burn all the buildings before the Japanese could come and take over. . . There wasn't time to get word to the fish camp so he told the two of us to get aboard. The village was then set afire by the Navy men.

Mrs. Magee, Atka school teacher and
Mr. Magee, weather observer.
Our Atka Island Experience 1940-1942

Henry Dirks of Fairbanks was 6 when his family landed at Killisnoo. The huge trees of southeast Alaska seemed a green prison to the adults but a new toy to the children, he said.

“We sure learned to climb trees,” Dirks said. “And we had to make do for ourselves. They plunked us down there like, ‘Well, here’s where you’ll spend the war.’”

The Aleuts’ new home was an old herring cannery, abandoned for 10 years. The buildings were dilapidated and not insulated for winter use. There were bugs in the water, and food was scarce.

“We could see the stars through the cracks in the ceiling,” Dirks said. “There was no insulation, no privacy, no cottages. We had to use ropes to hang blankets for privacy.”

The government provided an unfamiliar diet of Spam, corned beef, and macaroni and cheese. Subsistence living was limited by a lack of boats, gear, and the fishing restrictions imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Women scrounged for pots and pans and tried to make the shacks livable,” Petrivelli said. “I remember being so cold because the old barrel stove was worthless. And there was no insulation, so the building wouldn’t hold heat.” Each building accommodated several families yet had only one barrel stove.

Aleuts from the Pribilof Island of St. Paul were housed in a fish cannery at Funter Bay, while those from St. George were placed at a former mining camp across the bay. Assistant Fishery Supervisor Frank W. Hynes assured his boss, Alaska Fisheries Chief Ward T. Bower, that the camps would be a model for others. But when Funter Bay was visited by government officials, including Alaska Gov. Ernest Gruening, they found deplorable conditions.

Most of the Aleuts lay in their bunks too sick to move. One toilet served 300 people. The



Wash Day at Funter Bay 1942-44
Fredericka Martin Album, UAF Archives 91-223-272.

Relocation Camp Fatalities

Camp	Village	Evacuated	Deaths	%
Funter Bay	St. Paul	294	24	8 %
	St. George	183	20	11 %
Burnett Inlet	Unalaska	111	4	4 %
Killisnoo	Atka	83	10	12 %
Ward Lake	Akutan	41	2	5 %
	Nikolski	72	18	25 %
	Biorka	8	0	0 %
	Kashega	20	5	25 %
	Makushin	9	2	22 %
Hokkaido, Japan	Attu	42	22	52 %
TOTAL		873	107	



Four children from Nikolski or Akutan in front of the Ward Lake Evacuation Camp sign, 1942. Butler-Dale Collection, ASL PCA 306 Neg 898.371

drinking water was polluted. If conditions did not improve, few Natives would survive to return to the Aleutians, Hynes reported to Bower. During the evacuation period, more than 40 people died at Funter Bay.

“Why not take us to a better place to live and work for ourselves and live in a better house? Men and women are very eager to work. When winter comes it still would be worse with the water all frozen up. . . . Do we have to see our children suffer? We all have rights to speak for ourselves.”

Petition from the Aleut women of St. Paul to Alaska Fisheries Chief Ward T. Bower, Oct. 10, 1942.

The Aleut evacuation camps provided by the government throughout the three-year period were inadequate and neglected. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians reported in 1981 that the radical change in climate, poor medical care and food, primitive housing and inadequate sanitation were responsible for many deaths and physical injuries.

It was some consolation that local people in Southeast were sympathetic and helped the Aleuts survive. Dirks remembers a man who owned the land near the cove where evacuees combed the beach for seafood at low tide. He let them pick vegetables in his large garden throughout their years at Killisnoo.

“Chilkat Tlingit Indians stopped by the island with donations of salmon and fishing line,” Petrivelli said. “They brought us fish and took us over to Angoon so we could go to church on important holidays. It was our Russian Orthodox faith that kept us going and will keep us going forever.”

At an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp near Ward Lake, eight miles from Ketchikan, local resident Eugene Wacker provided transportation for another 200 Aleuts relocated there.

Wacker drove evacuees back and forth to town for 35 cents each way, kept them informed about jobs, and bailed them out of jail when they were picked up by police. As the internment continued, many community leaders in Ketchikan wrote to government officials to protest camp conditions, but to no avail.

In spring 1943, the military decided it was safe for the Pribilof Aleut men to return and resume harvesting the northern fur seals. The women and children, however, were kept in

Vandalized Kitchen and Dining Room in Unalaska, 1944.
National Archives DOI File 7469 (1944) RG75 CCF AK-123-7469-1A.



Top Clockwise: University of Alaska 1941 Yearbook shows photos of enrolled Alaskan Japanese students, Minidoka Camp Registry, Clothing Iron, Amber Bead Necklace, Woven Slipcase made by Buck Ohashi from onion sacking, Bible replacement sent to Alice Petrevelli by a US soldier who took hers, Robert Ohashi's 1938 Ketchikan Bicycle License, Authorization Pass for the White House signing of House Resolution 442, Trefen Family Photo Album taken from their home during WWII, finally returned from Japan to Christina Trefen in 1980.



Funter Bay for another year.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Alaska Indian Service were assigned the task of rehabilitating the homes and resettling the remaining villagers. These Aleuts waited in their camps until April 1945 before they were taken back to the islands, only to find their homes looted and destroyed.

The 42 Aleuts on Attu Island who were captured by the Japanese in June 1942 spent the war in Japan as prisoners of war. Transported to Otaru on the northernmost Japanese island of Hokkaido in September, they were kept under guard in a large building with partitioned rooms. While housing was adequate, food was in short supply. Malnutrition, starvation, and tuberculosis ravaged the Aleuts in Japan. Twenty-two Aleuts, including adults and newborn infants, died in captivity.

"And with the Japs, I almost starved. I could only save my life by eating out of a garbage can. I went with other relatives; I just came back with one brother."

Innokenty Golodoff
testimony to the Commission on Wartime
Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Right: Robert Ohashi and his grandmother, Shika Ohashi stand with friends in front of Shimizu's New York Cafe, one of numerous Japanese small businesses on Stedman Street in Ketchikan. AJPRP collection, UAF Archives



Left: The visit of Honorary Consul General Emery Valentine was the reason for the 1923 Japanese community photo made by Winter and Pond. AJPRP Collection, UAF Archives 92-072-03N



Aleut Couple at
Attu, Alaska, 1942.
APIA

Frank Hagiwara diary

April 10 Rain

*Rain hard again
... All mail and paper are not
reach us yet this week
So, everybody is uneasiness
...Some man are worry if all
wife and boy are in
custody and taken picture
and fingerprint or no
yes sit everybody are
very much worrying*

April 15 Clear

Sail to Ketchikan at 9

April 16

*Leave jail at 9AM
and come back noon
leave jail again 1:30PM
Sail for Tongass Harbor
2:00PM and reach
dock 6PM*

April 27 Monday cloudy

*Reach Port of Seattle at Noon
Inspection by Custom official
...We internees were separated
from family group (evacuees) on
dock and carried by Army truck to
Fort Lewis War prisoner enclosure.*

May 18

*We were informed to pack
up all baggage and check up
to store in warehouse
as we are leaving tomorrow
morning sometime
We are not informed where
we are to be sent
All kinds of rumors in the
air*

George Yamamoto and his Inupiat Eskimo wife Sally ca. 1940.

They lived a subsistence lifestyle. Soldiers removed George and his two Nisei sons who were unaware of the war from Deering. Sally became depressed and died before her husband or sons could return.

AJPRP Collection, UAF Archives UAF 91-045-03N



The Japanese Alaskans

In all, 126 Alaskan citizens of Japanese heritage were sent to the Lower 48 for internment. From Ketchikan, Anchorage and Juneau, these Japanese Alaskans were taken by boat to Seattle and then to an assembly center in Puyallup, Washington. From there, most of the Japanese Alaskans were sent to the Minidoka Internment Camp near Hunt, Idaho.

Issei, or Japanese immigrants born in Japan, were not allowed to become American citizens or to own property because of immigration laws in effect during the 1940s. Issei men, young and old, living in Alaska and the Lower 48, were separated from their spouses and Nisei (American-born) children and sent to special camps. The Alaskan



Mary, Ethel, and Walter Fukuyama play in the family's laundry delivery truck, 1927. Walter Fukuyama was taken to Department of Immigration camp in Lordsburg, NM. The rest of the family was sent to Minidoka. The Fukuyamas never returned to Alaska after internment. AJPRP Collection, UAF Archives

May 19

We are all prepared to leave by noon however we spent almost all day to check up and deposit money to the army office and leaves Fort Lewis by train about 6 o'clock We passed Portland midnight

May 20

From Portland we took new inside line of SP Shasta line cross Cascade Mountain and traveled highland to through Sacramento Valley to Oakland by 10 o'clock we see many new scenes and learn most.

May 21 Hot day

We leave Oakland before midnight direct to Los Angeles passed Los Angeles at noon then passed desert country through 200 miles below sea level of Death Valley so called Imperial Valley ever surprised to see each a big lake so call Salt Sea and Orange ranch off Los Angeles. By 6 o'clock PM we pass Yuma, Arizona at midnight Philil Capital of Arizona.

May 22 Friday Hot Day

We passed through Arizona before dawn and all day took to pass New Mexico ... At 9:10 we reach El Paso in the morning El Paso is Texas is former Mexican territory ... We advance another one hour here about 900 miles to San Antonio It takes about 1300 miles to across the state to here an 800 miles to Oakland from Tacoma (Fort Lewis). ... We reached Langry at 8:03PM desert down (only a few houses but funny sign attract us with deep interest The sign are For colored For white For baggage About an half hour run 9:30PM from Langry we reached the great canyon bridges It is said this is the highest and longest bridge in the world. US Army staged there for guarding bridge Very interesting It is getting dark every minute

May 23

We reached San Antonio at 4:15 Am
... We transferred to Army truck
after 10 minute ride reached
Internment Camp
Fort Sam Houston is pretty
big in area where many
and many two story barracks
built...
Mr. Susuki is the mayor
of internment camp
We were instructed to
deposit all money & knife
If founded by Army official
later It will meet severe
sentence as shoot to death

June 2 Tuesday

News came by Radio that
Japanese bombed 5AM this
morning Dutch Harbor.
Many planes one
after another fly toward
North above our tent to
night. Something might
happen?
One of the guards of this camp
on duty at tower post accidentally
shot with his gun instantly
at noon today. I and many of
us hear shot and saw him
kneel down on the high porch
on the tower when we are waiting
at door of mess hall. It
may be commit suicide or not?

June 4 Thursday

Dutch Harbor was bombed
for the third time. It is said
Anchorage & Kodiak are
being bombed today?

June 8

At about 9AM 109
internees from Hawaii arrived
from Oakland, California

June 9th Tuesday

Hottest day until today since
we came here registered 105
at 3PM...At 8PM one of men from
Hawaii told us attack on
Pearl Harbor 12/7 at 7:30.

June 16

We arrived Internment Camp
site at 2:00PM disembark
train after check all train
couch, was marched on
foot to the camp one hour
(2 1/2 miles) reached at 3:15PM
We thirty two took #1 barrack.
Issued bedding. Our cook busy to cook
supper. Our men
went Lordsburg brought all
baggage.
I am elected captain of #1.

group of Issei residents, arrested and sent to the Assembly Center at Fort Richardson outside Anchorage, consisted of 94 men.

They were eventually transported to the Lordsburg Internment camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and many of the men were separated from their families for the entire internment period. The danger of letting Issei stay near the coast and collaborate with enemy ships was the government's justification for the remote location of the internment camp.

"Certainly Americans of Japanese ancestry removed from these zones suffer some loss of liberty. But isn't it preferable that they lose a few freedoms than for the traitors among them to blast warplants, airfields or guide invading forces. . . .?"

On the Civil Liberty Front (Editorial)
Anchorage Daily Times, April 4, 1942.

For the Japanese Alaskans forced to move into camps, the order to relocate was followed by hurried packing and a long boat trip. At the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Mike Hagiwara, a star basketball player, left school to join his family in Ketchikan and then into internment at Minidoka. Shocked and confused, Hagiwara wrote to Gov. Gruening on behalf of Alaskan families of Japanese American men who were incarcerated in separate camps.

"Nevertheless, there are children growing up in this center with a feeling of unrest, of loneliness, fear, and insecurity. The minds of these Alaskan youngsters are growing daily with bewilderment caused by the unjust absence of their families . . ."

Mike Hagiwara
Letter to Gov. Gruening, Nov. 23, 1942.



In 1942, a Japanese intern cultivates twenty acres of onion fields as part of their daily routine at Minidoka Camp, Idaho. Courtesy of Minidoka Relocation Project, Hunt, Idaho.

*Midsummer desert
Of Idaho. The walker
Among the flat rocks
Inadvertently will tread
Upon dried coyote dung.*

Poem by Nogiku Itoi

June 21 Sunday

Yesterday afternoon captain meeting discussed working conditions and decided to send letter to commander to ask chaplain of army's interpretation, and many other thing including Alaskans rehearing...

June 22 Monday

Lt. came this morning tell us commander were very sore about the question and some worker (internee) attitude to army's order as our delaying time to assemble

June 29

K11 Mayor Mr. Mibari explains what Geneva international agreement about prisoner of war or Internee.

July 4

All over United State and its possession celebrate this finest Independence day in 2nd world war. Instead I rest only first July 4th in this camp for the first time in thirty years.

July 12

Today is hottest day ever since we came here at 3PM 115 F

July 14

I am sorry to think of our first victim who dead yesterday. There is no answer from his family so he will be bury here but the trouble of this camp make us unable to know how and what arrangements are to be done for this funeral.

July 17

The coffin is going to send Santa Ana, Calif. where his wife and 6 children staying now.

July 23

Translation in Japanese Intern (prisoner of war) regulation of Geneva Convention borrow from Gate.

July 27

Spanish counsel visited the camp this morning reported we captains meet this morning straight up our protest to Camp Commander...Spanish Counsel to present our status and our point of view and discuss the point to settle this trouble.

The Japanese Americans lived in crowded camps patrolled by armed guards. A family with up to 10 members, and sometimes two families, shared one room of 20 by 25 feet. Feelings of shame, isolation and shock that they could be put in a camp in their own America without being charged with a crime overwhelmed them, the interned citizens later told the commission.

Unlike the Aleut camps, food was adequate but minimal in the internment camps, and the War Relocation Agency provided necessary Army-issued winter clothing. Like the Aleuts, the people did their best to make the camps home.

Some of the internees were given work releases and allowed to work outside the camp. Some of the camps set up small businesses. The biggest problem was a lack of medical care. Some interned Japanese Americans died from infectious diseases.

In early 1943, government and military officials felt that interned citizens no longer posed a security risk. Still, the up-coming election and continued opposition by West Coast citizens delayed the end of internment until December 1944. Only 35 percent of the interned Japanese Alaskans returned to Alaska. The other Alaskans settled mostly in Seattle and San Francisco because the burden of starting new businesses and reintegrating into small communities was too great.

For the survivors, their losses could not be replaced. Few cared to talk about their camp experiences, and the topic was generally limited to discussions with families and other survivors.

On July 31, 1980, President Jimmy Carter and the U.S. Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens to review the circumstances surrounding the internment of Japanese Americans. In 1982, the Commission issued a report and recommendations titled *Personal Justice Denied*.



Left to Right: George Kimura (Anchorage), Patrick Hagiwara (Ketchikan) and Charlie Tatsuda (Ketchikan) enjoy an evening at Chicago's Blackhawk Restaurant in 1942. They were in military service when Executive Order 9066 was issued, forcing the evacuation of their families from Alaska. AJPRP Collection, UAF Archives

Alaska's Sen. Ted Stevens was instrumental to including Alaskan Aleuts in the review. After public hearings and debate, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1988. The U.S. government made a formal apology for the mistreatment and denial of civil rights and paid each survivor of the Aleut evacuation \$12,000 and each Japanese internee \$20,000. The Aleut Corporation received \$15 million in payment for Attu Island, and The Aleutian-Pribilof Restitution Trust was established with \$5 million to restore churches damaged during the war. The differences in restitution amounts and distribution for the Aleuts were based upon a greater need for communal cultural and social restoration. The payments were granted to compensate for losses suffered and to right a wrong.

"The pain of mistreatment of American citizens at the hands of their trusted government is still carried by Aleuts and Japanese Americans," Petrivelli said. One of the legacies of internment is the hope that it will never happen again.



July 28

It is said and reported from compound 3 unofficially that 2 men are missing this morning. Some one think they are in hospital. Some one suspicious if 2 men were killed because men were sent to dig 2 grave holes... Big excitement over there it is said Mayor report that 1st Lt. called me in the office and told me that "It is true that two men got shot because they pretend sick and try to run away. Sentry halt them two or three time but they still run away try to cross fence so sentry shot them that his duty.

July 29

It is said 2 men & dead body buried yesterday, evening... It is reported Spanish Counsel left on to here. (Last entry.)

Signing Ceremony Luncheon
Washington, DC 1986. Seated (L to R):
Laura Philemonof (wife of Dimitri),
Diane Krukoff (wife of Agafon),
Elizabeth Merculief (wife of Father Paul),
Felicia Carpenter, Diane Cardinalli;
Standing (L to R) Marie Nash, Vince Tutiakoff, Agafon Krukoff,
Dimitri Philemonof, Senator Stevens,
Father Paul Merculief, Boris Merculief,
John Carpenter, Carl Cardinalli, and John Kirtland. Photo Courtesy of Marie Matsuno Nash

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Minidoka is no more.

For those of us who were forced to live there during those dark days of World War II there are bitter memories, but for those of you who have never lived behind barbed wire under the watchful eyes of sentries armed with machine guns, may it serve as a reminder that the American ideals of brotherhood with liberty and justice for all are in continual peril if any American fails to stand up for the ideals that were set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of the United States.

Jack Yamaguchi,
This Was Minidoka, 1989

When I was a child, my mother told me stories about the Aleuts being evacuated from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. But I didn't believe her because I never read about this history in school. My mom said the Navy burned the village of Atka. I thought she made up that story. My father was in the military, a 22-year "lifer," and I believed in the military. When my father retired we moved back to Anchorage, where I met other relatives. They confirmed her stories.

These incidents did happen, damages did occur. When the Aleut people testified at the hearings, they wanted to have this documentation in the history books. They wanted their story to be known and not to be just an incident where people would say, "Oh, that didn't happen. The government wouldn't do that. This is America!" Now, this Aleut story is part of our history books.

Pat Petrivelli
Guest Curator's Note



Left to right: Pat Hagiwara's 1942 US Army Jacket for WWII service in Europe, Mother Of God Icon traveled with Justina Kozloff Gilmore from her Aleut home to camp, Frank Yasuda's Leather Suitcase taken to and from Lordsburg, and socks and gloves knitted by his wife, Nevalo, and Frank Hagiwara's diary which describes his Ketchikan arrest to his Lordsburg internment.

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