

# Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

## The Aleutian Islands

### Tammy McDermott & Holly Prescott

The Aleutian Islands, 300 islands of Alaska, were the central focus of a campaign in WWII that gave either the United States or the Japanese control over the Pacific Great Circle routes. The Aleutian Islands became known as a formidable asset during World War II. It was no longer an unknown remote part of Alaska, it was now valued as a stopping point for hundreds of aircraft sent from California to Russia in the war effort. This still holds true as to the value of these 300 islands in the Pacific.

The Aleutian Islands were used for one of two debatable purposes by the Japanese. The Japanese either used it as a military diversion to hide their true military plot or as a valuable resource for obtaining a stopping point in the War efforts. The United States, with the Allied forces aid of Canada, viewed the invasion on these islands as a military diversion, which they overthrew in less than one year. Upon recapture of the Aleutian Islands, the Allied forces used this strategic stopping point to aid the war effort.

### Key Personnel

Billy Mitchell	U.S. General in the “Forgotten Battle”
Yasuyo Yamasaki	Japanese Colonel

### Timeline

June 6, 1942	Japan invades Kiska
June 7, 1942	Japan invades Attu
August 1942	U.S. establishes air base (Adak Island) and begin bombing Kiska

May 11, 1943	Battle of Attu
May 29, 1943	Last of Japanese forces attacked
August 15, 1943	Allied invasion of Kiska; Japanese troops already
gone as	
	Of July 28, 1943, secretly

### Sources

<http://www.paul.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/wwii/usaf/html/>  
<http://www.hlswilliaw.com/aleutians/aleutians/html/aleutians>  
<http://www.history.army.mil/brochures/aleut.htm>  
<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?icl=123034084>