



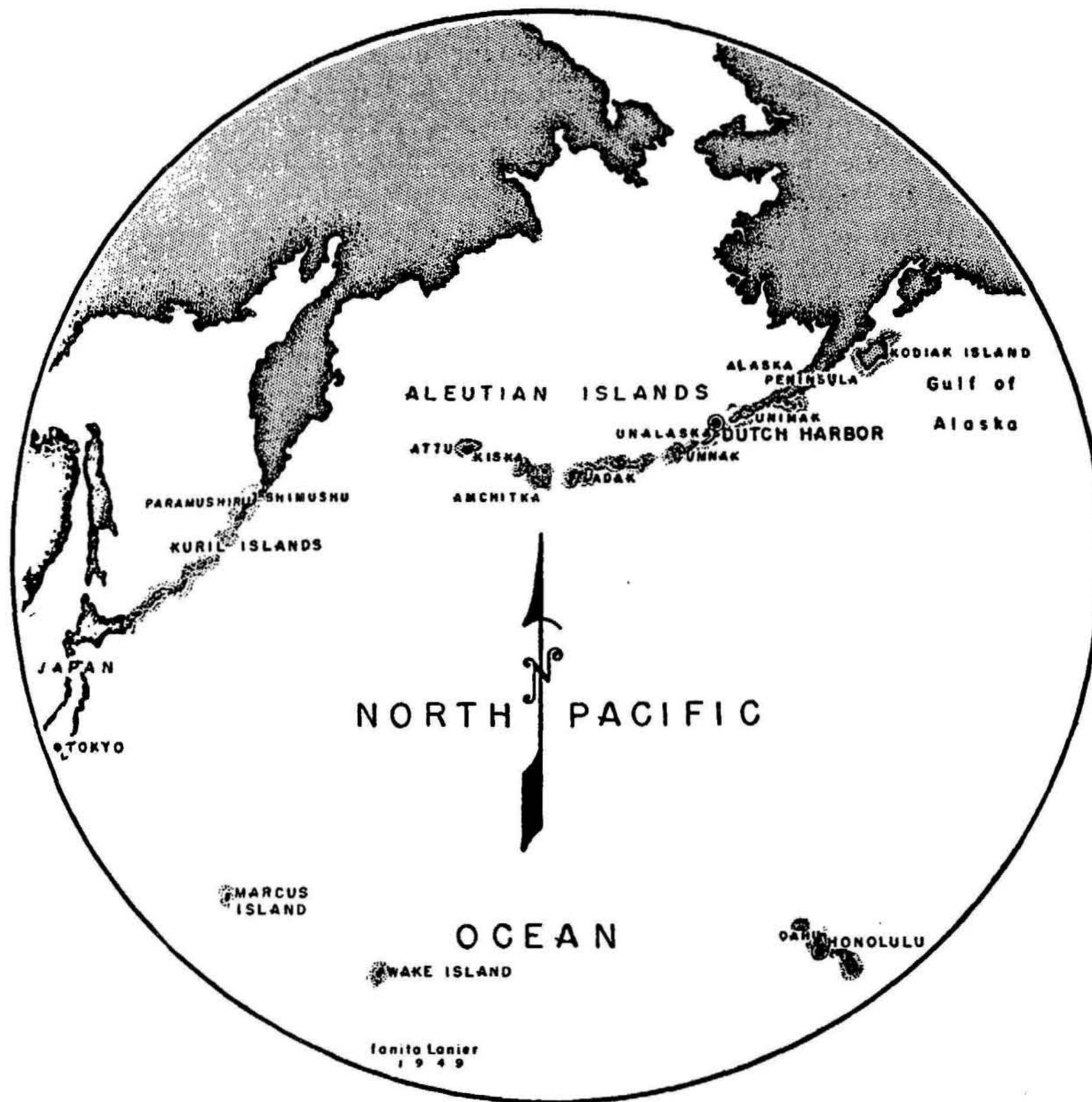
## WORLD WAR II IN THE ALEUTIANS



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*The arc of the Aleutian Islands and the Pacific Theatre,  
from the Army Air Forces in World War II.*

# *WORLD WAR II IN THE ALEUTIANS*



ALTERNATIVES FOR PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
AT DUTCH HARBOR NAVAL OPERATING BASE AND FORT MEARS, U.S. ARMY,  
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, UNALASKA, ALASKA



U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service  
Alaska Regional Office  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
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## Acknowledgments

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This report, prepared by Linda Cook, reflects the efforts of the present study team as well as several National Park Service studies conducted over the last ten years, especially the work of William Brown and Erwin N. Thompson.

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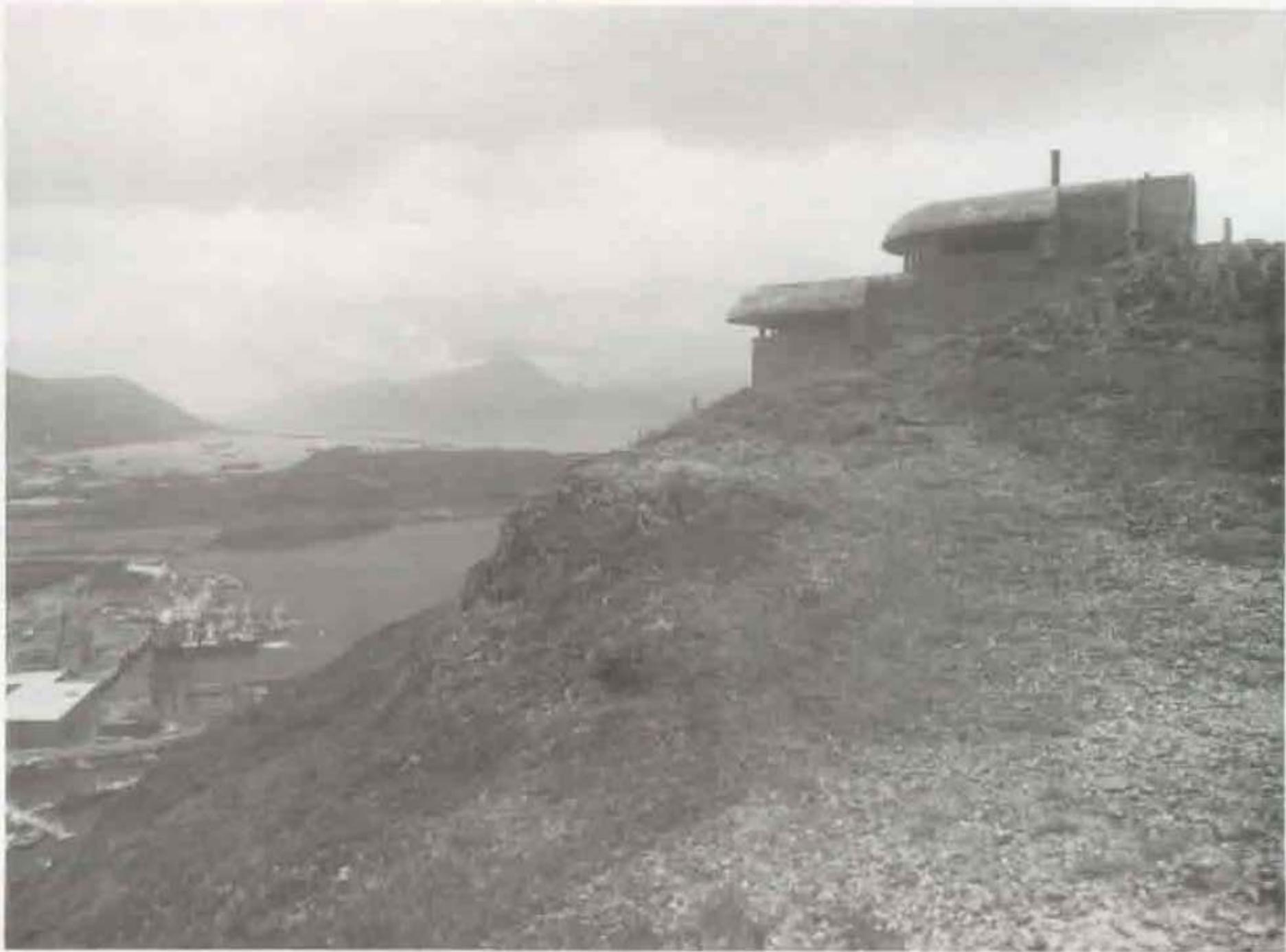
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*Battery Command Station at Hill 400, view of Amaknak Island and Dutch Harbor. (Barry McWayne, 1989)*

## THE RESOURCE

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In 1978 Section 6 of Public Law 95-348 established War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam and mandated the National Park Service (NPS) to provide a study of sites and areas associated with the Pacific Campaign of World War II. In response, the Alaska Regional Office initiated a draft assessment of the World War II National Historic Landmarks in the Aleutians and concluded that Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, U.S. Army National Historic Landmark (Dutch Harbor NHL) was both feasible and suitable for establishment of a new area in terms of access, existing infrastructure, cost, and integrity of the resource. This report reaffirms the draft study and examines four management alternatives for preservation and interpretation of World War II resources at the Dutch Harbor NHL, including the option of "no action."

Dutch Harbor NHL is located in Unalaska, one of the fastest growing communities in Alaska. In the last five years boom-time development in both the commercial fishing and shipping industries has jeopardized many World War II resources associated with the Dutch Harbor NHL, prompting NPS to conduct a two-year National Historic Landmark boundary review to re-assess many of the landmark's contributing buildings and lands. While some of the historic buildings have been rehabilitated for use, many stand empty, slated for demolition, or left to ruin in the stormy Aleutian climate. There is no interpretation of the landmark or the two other National Historic Landmarks (NHL) within the city limits, and record development is slow to recognize the national heritage of these sites and structures. As change occurs on the island it is apparent that the key geographic features that made Dutch Harbor so effective as a strategic coastal defense base during the war are equally favorable today for development of the harbor as a major international shipping and fishing center.

Overwhelming public support for this project in Unalaska continues to remind the NPS that the resources at Dutch Harbor NHL have, if left unattended, a limited future. In 1987 the Unalaska City Council passed a resolution strongly in favor of a NPS World War II interpretive center at Unalaska. Local public support has won the endorsements of the Congressional Delegation, Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski and Congressman Don Young, then Alaska Governor Steve Cowper, the State Historic Sites Advisory Committee, and the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation. Unalaska residents feel that with the fifty-year anniversary of the bombing of Dutch Harbor rapidly approaching in 1992, national attention will focus on the Aleutians, and now is the time to anticipate future demands on World War II resources.

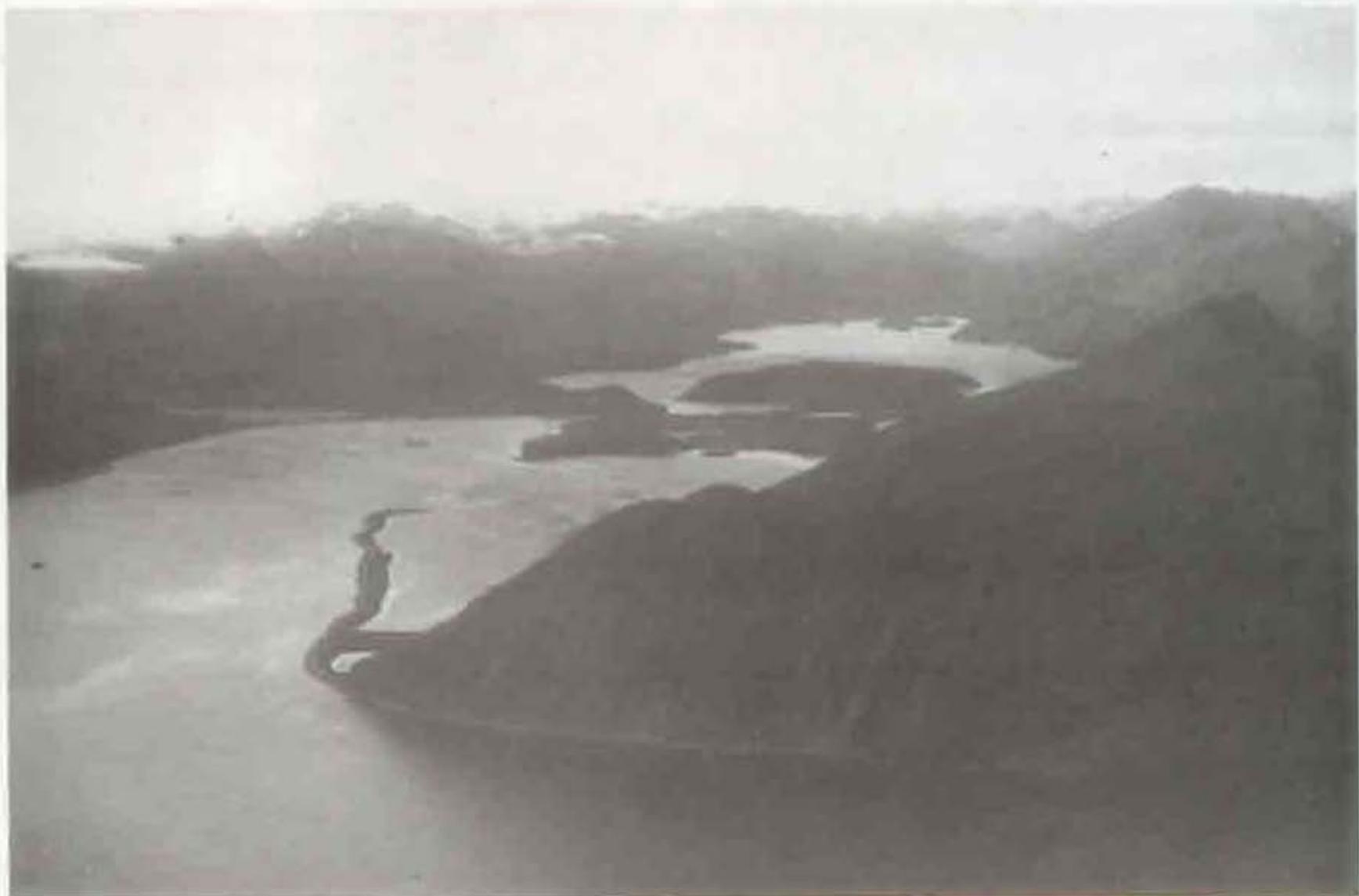
## SIGNIFICANCE OF RESOURCES RELATED TO WORLD WAR II IN THE ALEUTIANS

Dutch Harbor NHL is one of the eight World War II National Historic Landmarks in Alaska designated in 1985-1987. The seven other landmarks are Adak, Attu, Cape Field/Fort Glenn, Kiska, Kodiak, Ladd Field, and Sitka Naval Operating Base, five of which are in the Aleutians. The National Historic Landmarks in the Aleutians represent the Allied and Japanese battles to control this strategic island chain. In 1942 the Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo ordered an assault on the Midway and Aleutian islands to draw the American Navy from Midway, thus protecting the Imperial Navy from attack, and blocking communication between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Aleutian Islands form a 1100 mile volcanic arc that sweeps out into the North Pacific Ocean off the Alaskan mainland. To the north is the Bering Sea and to the southwest are the Kurile Islands, stepping stones to the northern flank of the Imperial forces of the Japanese Empire during World War II. The towering peaks and treacherous rocky coastlines of the mountain range that rises directly out of the sea to form the Aleutians were the northern military theatre of the Pacific campaign, and the first American territory to be occupied by a foreign power since the War of 1812.

Military operations in the Aleutians began in 1939 when the Joint U.S. Army/Navy Board mandated the development of the Alaskan defenses. To construct major military installations in this remote corner of the continent engineers faced the barriers of volcanic rock, muskeg, hilly dense tundra, floods, violent winds, and unpredictable fog cover. By 1941 coastal defenses were in place at Dutch Harbor Naval Air Station and Fort Mears, U.S. Army. In April 1942 Army troops completed construction of an innovative steel runway at Fort Glenn, a secret airbase on Umnak Island sixty air miles from Dutch Harbor, and the only feasible airstrip terrain in the region.

On the morning of June 3, 1942 two waves of Japanese Zeros bombed Dutch Harbor. The following afternoon the Zeros returned, but no longer under the cover of surprise--American P-40's were on alert at Fort Glenn. The Japanese lost nine planes in the two day attack. Three days later Japanese troops landed on Kiska and Attu Islands. The inhabitants of Attu, forty-five Native Aleuts and a school teacher, fell into enemy hands and were held captive in Japan until the end of the war. As a safety precaution the U.S. Army expedited the evacuation of the Aleut from villages on Atka, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, St. George, and St. Paul islands. These Aleut were interned for over three years in abandoned cannery buildings in



*Spectacular Unalaska Bay with Mt. Ballyhoo at right in 1939, before war build-up. (National Archives)*



southeast Alaska. The cultural repercussions of the evacuation devastated the Aleut.

Allied troops pursued the Japanese and moved to Adak Island in August 1942. The Fort Glenn airfield was over 700 miles from Kiska--the move to Adak cut the distance in half. Army engineers quickly constructed airfields at Sweeper Cove under the most harsh weather and ground conditions to set the stage for the Eleventh Air Force's raids on Kiska and Attu throughout the fall of 1942. Shrouded by the impenetrable fog, Japanese targets escaped detection and Allied forces again took the offensive from the island of Amchitka which put American bombers within a mere seventy air miles of Japanese garrisons.

Allied forces invaded Attu on May 12, 1942 at a great cost to both sides. Allied reports had grossly underestimated Japanese troop numbers and for three weeks both sides struggled in infantry combat, the only land battle on North American soil during the war. Attu was the main battle site of the Pacific campaign in the Aleutians and the recapture of the island by Allied forces forced the Japanese to flee Kiska. All the Japanese forces on Kiska, over 5000 troops, were successfully evacuated from the island on Japanese ships sent in from the Kurile Islands. Befriended by highly favorable weather patterns, the Japanese ships avoided Allied detection and manoeuvred past the U.S. blockade. Two weeks later Allied forces launched a two-part invasion on Kiska, only to find upon arriving that the enemy had escaped.



*Invasion fleet for Kiska readies at Adak, 1943. (USAF Alaska Air Command, courtesy University of Alaska Archives, Anchorage)*



*PBY landing at Dutch Harbor. (National Archives)*

## FEASIBILITY AND SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT OF PARK LAND SITES IN THE ALEUTIANS

In 1986 the NPS prepared a draft feasibility-suitability study of four National Historic Landmarks in Alaska for consideration as national park units. The draft study found that the Dutch Harbor NHL was the most feasible location for a new unit. The Dutch Harbor NHL was suitable as a new unit, as no other unit of the National Park Service represents the Aleutian Campaign of the War in the Pacific or represents the United States' continental coastal defenses in the Pacific. The current study reaffirms the conclusions of that draft.

### **Feasibility/Suitability of Attu, Cape Field/Fort Glenn, and Kiska National Historic Landmarks**

The draft study determined that the three outlying western sites, Attu, Fort Glenn, and Kiska were neither feasible nor suitable as national park units. All three island areas are susceptible to the precarious Aleutian weather patterns that not only limit access but could easily maroon visitors for extended periods of time. Equally, the very nature of the terrain, the large expanses of rolling tundra, make it difficult to insure the safety of visitors in the event of rapid weather changes. Some areas still contain live ordnance. Lastly, there is no public infrastructure, and the airstrips at Attu and Fort Glenn are dangerously inadequate. The costs associated with upgrading these sites to accommodate even the most restricted and enforced visitor tour route as well as NPS staff and facilities would be prohibitive in proportion to the anticipated public use.

### **Feasibility/Suitability of Dutch Harbor National Historic Landmark**

The evaluation of Dutch Harbor NHL was far more promising. Unalaska is the largest city in the Aleutians with a permanent population of approximately 2900 residents with an additional 3000 to 5000 seasonal work force. The airstrip built during World War II provides regular commercial air service to and from Anchorage with shuttle service to outlying islands. From May to September the state ferry system usually has monthly service along the Aleutian Chain with a stop in Unalaska. Cruise ships have stopped in Unalaska in the past and two ships are expected in the summer of 1991. World War II sites are easily accessible by vehicle or boat and provide excellent opportunities for interpretation of the World War II in Alaska theme. Furthermore, the massive coastal defense fortifications and lookouts provide spectacular panoramas and vistas of the neighboring islands and a conceptual appreciation for the military events at Dutch Harbor and to the west. These resources are unequalled in the Aleutians and unparalleled in the other 350 plus units of the NPS.

In addition to identifying Dutch Harbor as a potential unit of the National Park System, the draft study suggested that a preservation agreement be formalized with the federal, state, and corporate land managers of Attu, Fort Glenn, and Kiska to recognize these sites as a National Historic Military Reserve.

#### DESCRIPTION OF WORLD WAR II RESOURCES IN THE DUTCH HARBOR VICINITY

Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears Historic District centers around the grand, strategic natural harbor of Unalaska Bay. During the war, this premier deep water harbor functioned as the major shipping and supply station and Navy and Army defensive complex in the Aleutians. Built into the precarious sheer cliffs and bluffs around the harbor, defense stations and observation posts searched for an enemy easily masked in the illusive Aleutian fog.

The Dutch Harbor Historic District encompasses all of Amaknak Island; all of Hog Island, and sites on Unalaska Island have been proposed as additions to the NHL. Resources include all existing World War II roads, docks, fortifications, and structures. In 1990 the Historic District on Amaknak Island consisted of 145 contributing structures and 205 non-contributing structures. The number of contributing structures on Unalaska and Hog Islands is undetermined at this time.

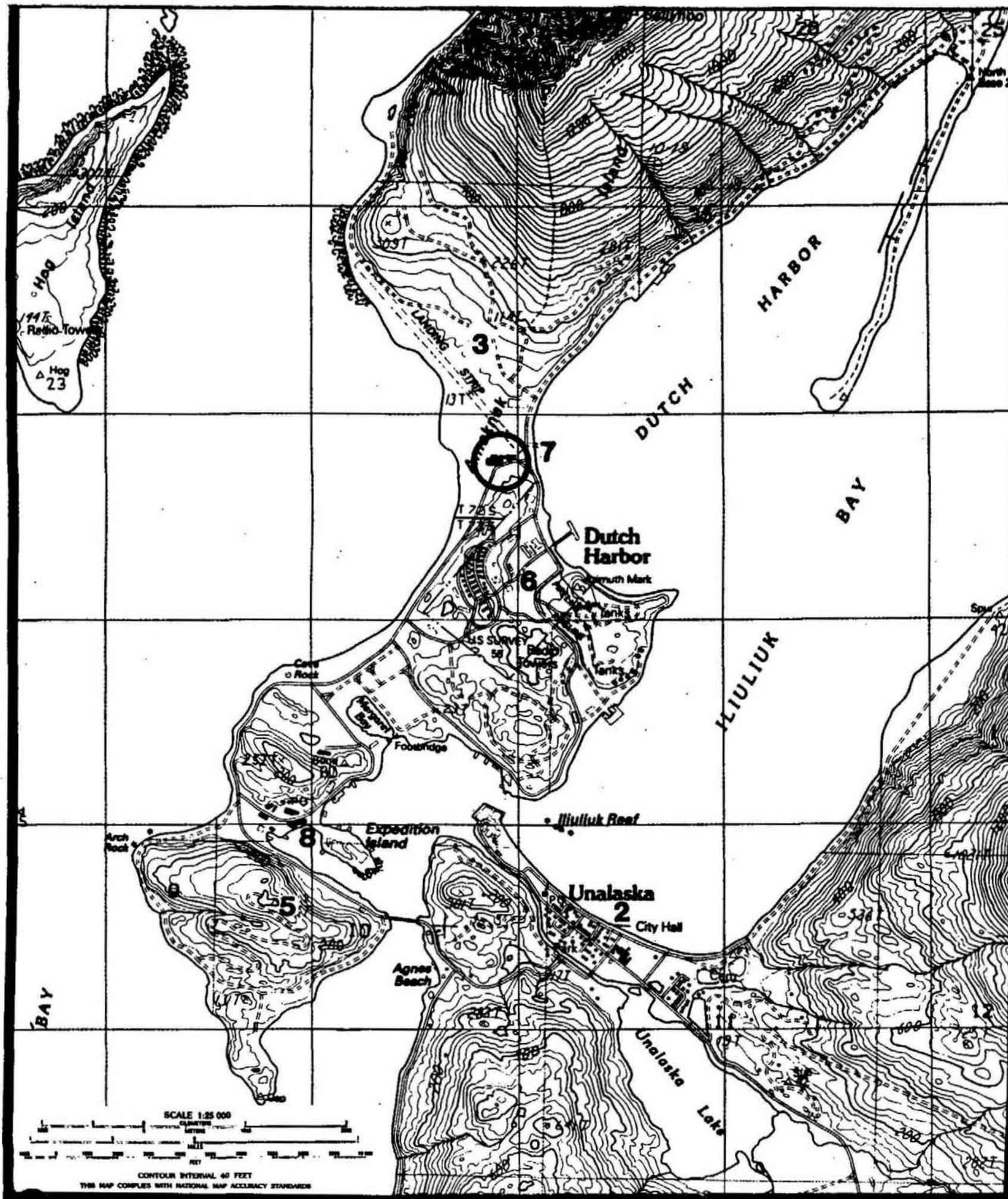
At the time of the June 1942 attack the facilities at Dutch Harbor were marginal. Spurred by the threat of repeated air attacks and the enemy presence on Kiska and Attu, the Army and Navy expanded the harbor-defenses. The coastal and infantry defenses were known collectively as Dutch Harbor's "Iron Ring." Major defense stations existed at Forts Mears, Learnard, Schwatka, and Brumback with satellite stations at Constantine Point, Erskine Point, Ugadaga Bay, and Cape Wislow. In 1943 Fort Mears moved to Unalaska Island assembling troops in Unalaska and Pyramid valleys to repel a possible overland invasion.

Significant World War II structures remain on Amaknak, Hog, and Unalaska islands.

#### AMAKNAK ISLAND

##### MT. BALLYHOO INSTALLATIONS

On the slopes of Mt. Ballyhoo, the highest peak on Amaknak Island, over two dozen ammunition



## UNALASKA AREA SITE MAPS

Key to Unalaska & Dutch Harbor WW II Resources

Close-up Amaknak Island, Unalaska Townsite (left) & Unalaska Island Bay Area (right)

1. Amaknak Island
2. Unalaska Townsite
3. Mt. Ballyhoo Installations
4. Ulakta Head & Fort Schwatka
5. Hill 400 Coastal Defenses
6. Naval Operating Base
7. Airport Buildings, Aerology Building, Torpedo Bombsight Shop & Warehouses
8. Iliuliuk Submarine Base Site
9. Summer Bay, Fort Brumback
10. Eider Point, Fort Learnard
11. Hog Island



magazines jut from the mountain side with protective blast walls. Four more magazines for fuses and detonators are near the base of the mountain. Below these installations the Army blasted nine semi-circular revetments into the base of the mountain to protect aircraft and vehicles from flying shrapnel. In front of the revetments near the short airstrip half of the 300'x 150' double blast-pen-type hangar is still in use.

#### ULAKTA HEAD AND FORT SCHWATKA

Ulakta Head, perched at the top of the northern face of Mt. Ballyhoo, is the highest coastal defense battery ever constructed in the United States. Ulakta Head is one of two coastal defense stations on the island and functioned as the keystone component of the "Iron Ring" semicircular defense with flanking stations at Forts Brumback and Learnard on Unalaska Island. Of the over 100 steel and wooden structures that once surrounded the site only the concrete installations have survived the pounding winds and exposure. The Harbor Defense Command and Observation Station leans out over the cliff of the mountain. The long cavernous tunnels of the concrete Battery Magazine connect the road to a Panama gun mount. In the event of enemy attack gun operators received firing instructions from this command post and ammunition was temporarily stored and loaded. Along the road elephant steel shelters, camouflaged on the side but quickly evident by their rounded entrance, housed tons of live ammunition.

#### HILL 400 COASTAL DEFENSES

To the south, on "Little South America", rises Hill 400, the second coastal defense post on the island. A switchback road rises 240 meters above the coast to the two-tiered concrete fortress of the defense installation battery command post. Four Panama gun mounts ready to hold 155 mm guns sit in a semicircle beneath the battery command and observation post. Travelling down the road, one sees the scars and traces of former structures in the topography and landscape. Once disturbed, arctic tundra is slow return and rarely hides all the evidence of a structure or a road. On Hill 400 this phenomenon has created a unique historic landscape as no development has occurred since the war. All blast marks, worn patches, and uneven vegetation clearly indicate World War II construction. Skillfully camouflaged in this landscape lie underground elephant magazines, sealed tunnels, and natural caves.

#### NAVAL OPERATING BASE

The oldest navy installations used by the military in World War II were the pre-war U.S. Signal Corps brick apartment house, cottage, powerhouse, and pumphouse. These buildings are still at their original sites. The Navy stationed its headquarters at the Dutch Harbor dock





*Marines in the trenches on 3 June 1942. (National Archives)*

and in 1944 when the base was completed, it could accommodate 281 officers and over 5,000 enlisted men. This same dock, built in the 1880s, was the debarking center for the Aleut people evacuated from Unalaska, Atka, and the Pribilof islands after the June 1942 bombings.

Across the street from the dock the Navy built its prestigious structures, the Navy Barracks, Mess Hall, and Station Brig. The three-building complex is interconnecting, a scheme designed by the Detroit architect Alfred Kahn. The mess hall seated 500 men and the Station Brig held Japanese prisoners in September 1942. Today the complex stands empty. Up the hill the Defense Housing Area, a tract of 40 houses built for officers and their families, retains many of its original architectural features.

The Naval base includes the Aerology building and Torpedo Bombsight and Utility Shop at the airport. These two buildings and the adjacent warehouse and annex represent one of the best contiguous groups of extant World War II buildings on the island. The Aerology building served as the passenger terminal at the airport until the 1980s. Trees planted by the Army in one of their numerous attempts to adorn the barren Aleutian landscape encircle the site.

#### ILJULIUK SUBMARINE BASE

The submarine base at Dutch Harbor provided the most extensive facilities for boat repair and docking in the Aleutian Islands. Today the submarine base shows hardly a trace of its historic use except for the Marine Railway Ship Repair Shed. The Marine Railway Shed operates as a dry dock for ship repair and is architecturally intact since the war. There are few structural alterations to the building and it stands as a lone reminder to the naval base. The Shed is also a prime example of the potential for rehabilitation of the World War II building stock.

#### UNALASKA AND HOG ISLAND DEFENSES

##### SUMMER BAY

Fort Brumback at Summer Bay on the shores of the Unalaska Bay was one of the first coastal stations built and the eastern component in the Iron Ring defense. Positioned high on the hillside the concrete battery control and observation post still commands the harbor. The



*Fighting the Fire  
in Hangar #2 at  
Naval Air Station,  
Dutch Harbor after  
bombing. (National Archives)*



*U.S. Army Fort Meurs barracks on fire after Japanese attack on June 3, 1942. (National Archives)*

sandy beach front weaves around three sheltered coves creating a natural window onto the harbor. Sod depressions of the forty quonset huts and twenty cabanas that once occupied the site cover the low-lying tundra hills. In the midnight sun of the summer months hundreds of species of wildflowers including over nine species of wild orchids blanket these historic footprints.

### EIDER POINT

At the western wing of the Iron Ring, Fort Learnard presides on the cliffsides of Eider Point. Accessible only by water, the remote fort was the largest of all the defensive outposts on Unalaska Island. Suspended between the backdrop of Table Top Mountain volcano and sheer cliffs of several hundred feet, Fort Learnard's three-tiered concrete battery command post cascades down the rocky bluff. Two Panama gun mounts on a gun block and an ammunition magazine face the entrance to the harbor. A long narrow underground tunnel leads from the guns to the fort settlement where quonset huts, frame warehouses, and a frame mess hall with an officers' annex still stand. Cut into the cliffside a road descends from the fort to the beach and dock at Broad Bay. Together, the World War II buildings and landscape and the stunning natural beauty of the site, constitute one of the best World War II resources in the region.

### HOG ISLAND

Hog Island in Unalaska Bay performed the impossible in the Aleutians--predicting and forecasting the weather. A combination meteorological and tide station cabled hourly readings via the island's large naval range radio system to the surrounding forts and outposts. Over forty quonset huts supported a garrison of 250 men at this critical station. The historic landscape of World War II structures and buildings remains intact.



*Fort Schwatka Command Post at Ulakta Head  
on Amaknak Island, Eider Point in the background*



*Wood frame mess hall and quonset huts at Eider Point*



*Hill 400 Command Post, locally called Bunker Hill,  
on Amaknak Island*

## OUTLINE OF INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The War in the Aleutians theme includes both the military experience and the cultural and sociological effects of the war on a unique sector of the American population. Military installations transformed remote islands into defensive strongholds with supplies and facilities to support tens of thousands of servicemen in a very short period of time. The effects of the buildup had a direct impact on the existing residents and culture in addition to topography, land use, and natural resources of many islands in the Aleutian Chain. Therefore, the range of historic themes interprets the military experience in the Aleutian campaign as well as the geo-physical character of the Aleutian Islands and the history and culture of the Native Aleut.

### Historic Importance of the Aleutian Chain

- A. Regional geography and geology
- B. Discovery of the islands in the eighteenth century
- C. Russian fur stations and international fur trade
- D. International and domestic shipping routes, role of Unimak Pass and deep water port at Unalaska
- E. Route to the Yukon and Nome during gold rushes
- F. Aleutian headquarters for American Alaska Commercial Company and Northern Commercial Company
- G. U.S. Revenue Cutter/Coast Guard Headquarters

### Geographic and Natural History

- A. Volcanic origin
- B. Seas and currents
- C. Sea mammal, bird, and fish migrations
- D. Creation of national wildlife refuge
- E. Mineral exploitation
- F. Fishing industries

### Cultures Encountered by World War II

- A. The Aleut

- B. Migration to the Aleutian Chain
- C. Prehistoric culture
- D. Russian influence upon Aleut culture
- E. Subsistence (plants & animals)
- F. Aleut cultural arts (weaving, carving, etc.)
- G. Russian Orthodoxy and religious heritages
- H. Archeological artifacts encountered by military
- I. Loss of archeological heritage from military installations
- J. Preservation and loss of Aleut Russian Orthodox Churches during the War

#### *Aleut Evacuation*

- A. Events surrounding evacuation
- B. Evacuation policy for Aleutian and Pribilof islands
- C. Internment and desolation to Aleut culture and population
- D. Return of the Aleut to the Aleutian Islands
- E. Changes to Aleut village distribution
- F. Cultural and environmental changes

#### *Military Buildup in the Aleutians*

- A. Strategic, geographic importance of the Aleutian campaign
- B. Pre-existing naval installations
- C. Extreme weather and surface conditions
- D. Phases and strategy of construction
  - a. Submarine base
  - b. Coastal defenses-"Iron Ring"
  - c. Fort Mears
- E. Obstacles in construction
- F. Coastal defense network
- G. Construction at Fort Glenn and other posts in Alaska
- H. Military architecture; Aleutian innovations

*Defending the "Back Door" to the United States*

- A. Submarine base and submarine chains
- B. Outposts, fire control
- C. Artillery facilities
- D. Components of the "Iron Ring"
- E. Anticraft Warning Systems
- F. Communications
- G. Fortifications, armament, munitions

*Major Events in the War in the Aleutians*

- A. The bombing of Dutch Harbor
- B. Capture of Attu and Kiska
- C. Bombing raids on Attu and Kiska
- D. Military buildup on Adak
- E. Battle of Attu
- F. Invasion of Kiska
- G. Associated battles and events in the Pacific

*The Japanese Enemy*

- A. Japanese war technology
- B. The Zero fighter, submarines
- C. Warfare practices
- D. Installations on Kiska and Attu
- E. Archeological work in Kiska and Attu on World War II Japanese artifacts

*A Soldier's life*

- A. Daily routine, living conditions
- B. Isolation
- C. Recreation, USO shows
- D. Adapting to Alaskan/Aleutian climate



*At bat at Fort Mears, Dutch Harbor. (National Archives)*

*The End of the War*

- A. Role of Dutch Harbor in the last years of the war
- B. Lend-lease with the Soviet Union
- C. Evacuation of American troops
- D. Bases decommissioned, role of other bases in the Aleutians, and growing importance of Alaska as defense post
- E. Return of the Aleut and prisoners of war
- F. Army declares buildings surplus
- G. Restrictions and use of abandoned military facilities
- H. Post war economic conditions in the Aleutian villages
- I. Sale of government surplus buildings
- J. Defense Environmental Removal Account (DERA cleanup)



*Aleuts on board World War II evacuation ship. (National Archives)*

## THE SETTING

### CITY OF UNALASKA PROFILE

The City of Unalaska, located on a island of the same name, has been a leading cultural center in the Aleutians for centuries. The Native Aleut or Qawalangin lived on the protected shores of Unalaska Harbor for thousands of years prior to the intrusions of Russian fur hunters. In the 1770s Russian entrepreneurs established one of the first permanent Russian settlements in North America on the Unalaska townsite. After the United States purchased Alaska in 1867, Unalaska thrived as the Aleutian headquarters for the Alaska Commercial and the North American Commercial Companies, major players in the lucrative northern fur seal markets. The U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, a predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard, was stationed at Unalaska to police the high seas and ward off illegal pelagic sealing. At the turn of the century the frenzied Nome gold rush brought hundreds to thousands of fortune seekers through the port at Dutch Harbor. Today, Unalaska is the regional service center for the billion dollar a year Bering Sea fishing industry and the largest and fastest growing community in the Aleutians.

#### *Environment*

Unalaska Island is part of the Aleutians Unit of the approximately 4.9 million acre Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1980 by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. As early as 1913 President Taft enacted the Aleutian Islands Reservation to protect the wilds of this windswept volcanic archipelago. This act gave the Battle of Attu and the bombing of Dutch Harbor, the added distinction of being the only World War II hostilities in a National Wildlife Refuge. Today the refuge contains one of the world's largest remaining sea bird concentrations, over 10 million, and protects seal and threatened sea lion populations. Within the world at large the Aleutians are designated a Biosphere Reserve by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Morges, Switzerland. Located on the northeastern side of the island, the City of Unalaska is close to Unimak Pass, a major migration route for birds, marine mammals, and fish moving between the Bering Sea and the northern Pacific Ocean during all seasons. Following this example, thousands of vessels navigate the pass annually.



*Sketch of Unalaska Harbor by Louis Choris in 1822. Unalaska village in the foreground.  
(Oregon Historical Society, #85428)*



*View of Unalaska townsite  
from Summer Bay road, 1987*



*Unalaska townsite in  
the early 1900s. Alaska  
Commercial Company  
buildings along the  
beachfront. (Washington  
Libraries, #13033)*



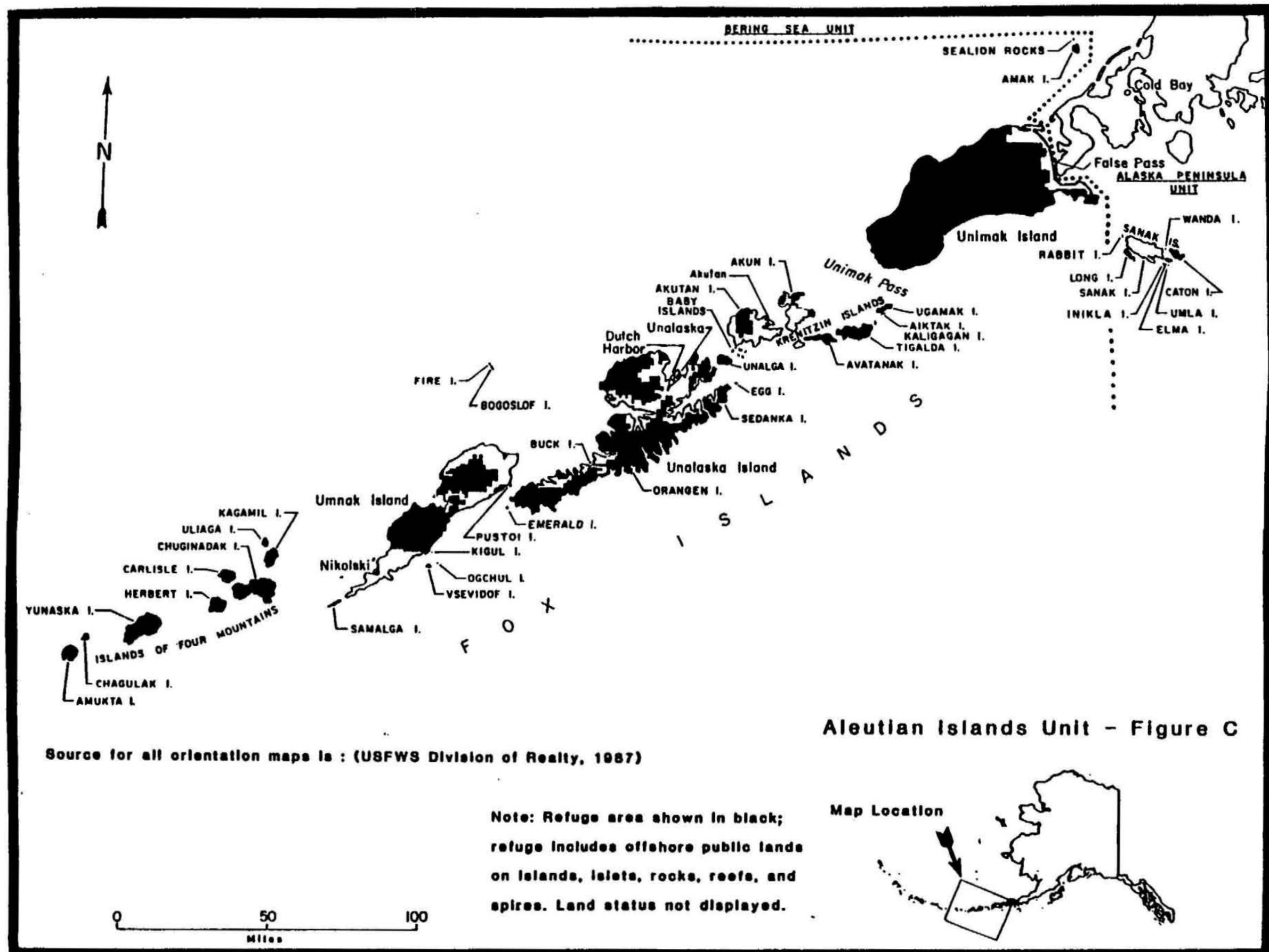
*North American  
Commercial  
Company buildings  
at Dutch Harbor  
before the war.  
(Washington  
Libraries, #245a)*

The City of Unalaska covers approximately 215 square miles of waterways, mountains, sandy beaches, sheer rocky cliffs, pinnacle rocks, rolling tundra, islands, archeological sites, and a volcano. Caught in the middle of the warm Japan Current and the colder currents of the Bering Sea, Unalaska experiences spectacular swings in weather patterns. During the summer months of the midnight sun the lush tundra explodes with hundreds of species of wildflowers, including ten species of wild orchids, and wild berries and grasses. Subsistence fishing and gathering are still essentials in this island community.

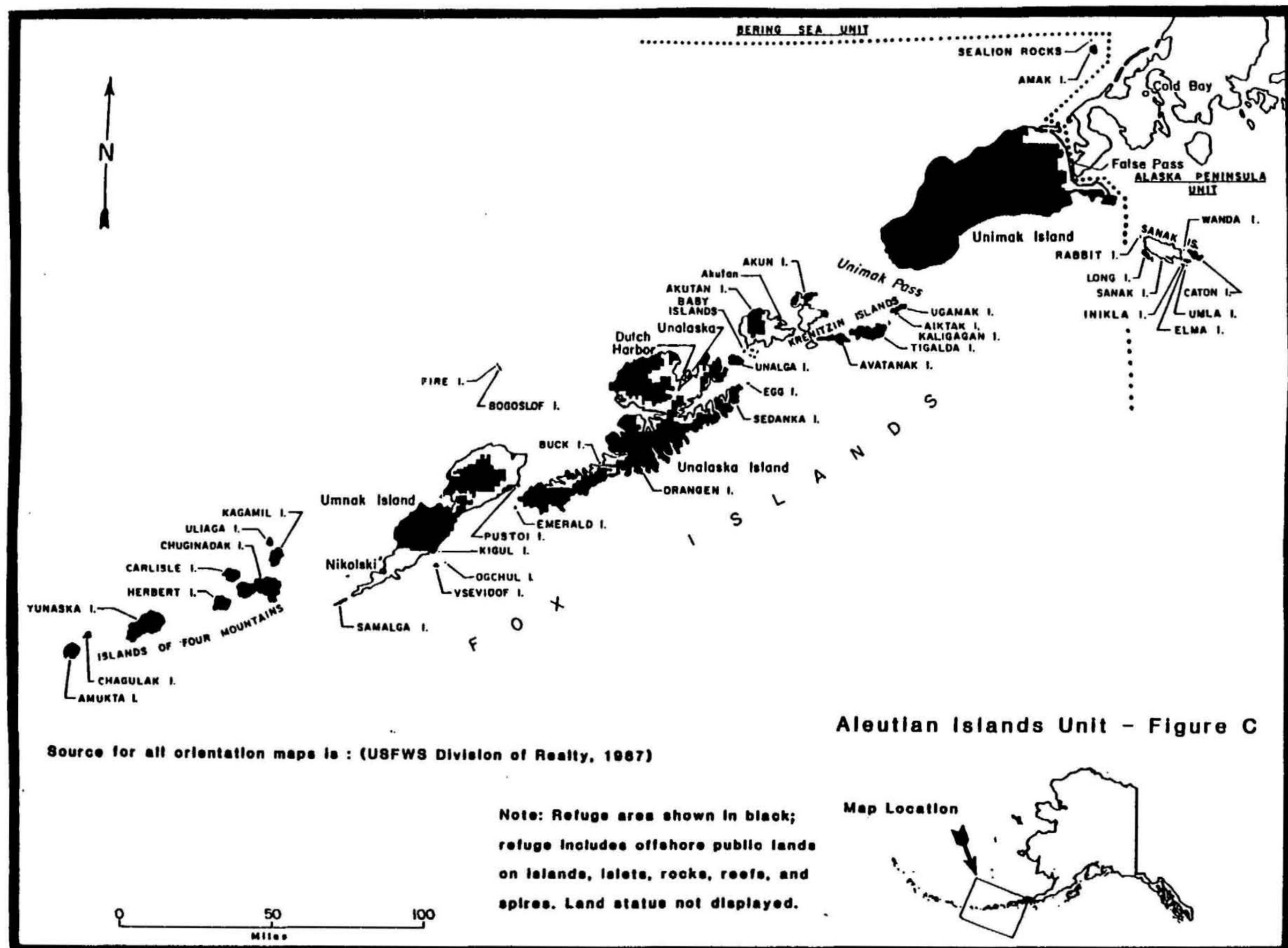
### *Economy*

Unalaska, gateway to the Bering Sea region, reigns as the major civilian port west of Kodiak and north of Hawaii and is often the busiest U.S. port on the west coast. In 1989 the port, one the most productive fish processing centers in the nation, ranked first in commercial fish volume and transshipped an estimated one billion pounds of product. Free of the crippling arctic ice pack, the port operates year round, in 1989 servicing 650 vessels from 12 countries. Boom development in the city is expected to continue with more than \$225 million dollars invested in shore development over the last two years. Shore-based processors represent the greatest economic base employing thousands of seasonal workers. To support this growing pool of workers and ships, the city boasts 250 licensed businesses including ten restaurants, five hotels, two auto rental shops, five taxicab companies, five merchandise and grocery stores as well as a vast offering of marine repair services.

Located within 50 miles of the Great Circle route to the Orient, the port of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor profits from the increase in transpacific cargo shipments. Unalaska is pursuing routes to the Pacific Rim, the Soviet Union, and Europe.



Map of lands within the Aleutians Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



Map of lands within the Aleutians Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

approximately 14 port calls a year by Russian vessels. From April to October the Alaska Marine Highway offers ferry service from Homer, Alaska to Unalaska. On an average the ferry makes four to five trips a season. Travel time is three days with an average stopover time of three hours in Unalaska. Cruise ships also stop at Unalaska. Visitors and cultural exchanges also exist through the city's relation with its Soviet sister city Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski on the Kamchatka peninsula and the international affiliations of the Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, the largest and one of the oldest Russian Orthodox churches in Alaska.

*Existing  
Services*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) has Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge visitor centers in Adak and Homer, Alaska. The visitor center on Adak, a restricted military base, attracts over 1200 visitors a month or 14,500 visitors a year from a permanent resident base of 6,000 persons. The center has the highest Natural History Association sales in the state at \$40,000 year. The USF&WS center in Homer places guides on the summer ferry service to Unalaska to interpret the events of World War II in the Aleutians. In 1989, 230 people disembarked at Unalaska. Aleutian Experience Tours in Anchorage offers tours to Unalaska and the environs featuring history, culture, and wildlife.

*Visitor  
Potential*

The City of Unalaska supports the need for visitor services. There are however, no city or private local visitor services, with the exception of a few resident guides, and a new brochure prepared by the City Chamber of Commerce. The potential for these services rests on the extensive range of resources and the growing number of visitors--together they form a dynamic combination. Recent world environmental and political issues connected with global warming, international fishing zones, the subarctic, Native Americans, and the Soviet Union have fostered a growing international fascination with the Aleutians.

Unalaska is the only accessible World War II site in the Aleutians. Adak is closed to the public and visitors literally have no other facility anywhere else in the Aleutian Chain. At Unalaska, many visitors are a captive audience, often in transit for days on the island

and local residents are eager to develop and cultivate the heritage of their community. The educational potential of visitor services would reach a critical sector of the American population and heighten local appreciation for existing historic, cultural, natural, and Native American resources. Equally, visitor services would reach the same people who work and prosper from the natural resources in the refuge and come in daily contact with Aleut and World War II resources. Visitor potential also exists with the Aleut residents of other islands in the Aleutian Chain and the Pribilof Islands, who lost so much during the war, but who promote and protect the Aleut way of life. The Aleut evacuation is a grossly overlooked chapter of the Aleutian campaign. However, by far the largest visitor potential resides in the 8 million surviving veterans who defended their nation in the Second World War. The attack on Unalaska and the American lives lost there are a national reminder of the tens of thousands of American lives lost on other fronts throughout the world during the war. The fifty-year anniversary of the war and the bombing of Pearl Harbor will commemorate these veterans as well as the lands mobilized to defend the United States. As the transportation corridors of Alaska improve over the decade possibilities exist for cruise ships to the Orient, more ferry service, and increased traffic between Alaska, the Pacific Rim, and the Soviet Union. Unalaska is centrally located to benefit from these changes.



*View of Amaknak Island and harbor from Hill 400.*

## STATUS OF RESOURCES

### *Current Land Ownership*

The Ounalashka Corporation, the Unalaska Native Corporation, owns most of the land on Amaknak Island. In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) conveyed the land to approximately 269 Native shareholders who today manage the property. Several fisheries own parcels of land bought as General Service Administration lots in the 1960s prior to the passage of ANCSA. In recent years the corporation has sold some of the Defense Housing and other small plots of land to private individuals. The State of Alaska owns the airstrip and airport facilities including the double-blast pen hanger and the Torpedo Bombsight Shop and the city owns a few small sites, including the city dock. Most of the adjacent lands on Unalaska Island at Summer Bay and Eider Point are owned or selected by the Ounalashka Corporation. Hog Island is privately owned and leased. There are also 160-acre Native allotments interspersed with corporation land. The Aleutian-Pribilof Island Corporation, the regional Native corporation, owns most of the subsurface rights on the island.

### *Land Use*

The City of Unalaska has zoned over fifty percent of Unalaska Bay for moderate to heavy industrial use. The industrial harbor facilities cover approximately 80 square miles and harbor traffic and development are expected to increase with expanding world economic markets in the Pacific Rim, the Soviet Union, and Europe. The deep water harbor on Amaknak Island annually provides services for approximately 40,000 persons on domestic and international fishing and transport crews.

Commercial fishing and seafood processing are the leading industries in Unalaska's economy. Unalaska has consistently been a top ranking U.S. port and currently ranks second in the nation in terms of amount and value of fish caught. The developing groundfish industry, begun in the mid 1980s, is expected to continue to escalate onshore and offshore construction over the next few years. The current development in the groundfish industry was unforeseen as recently as seven years ago when

government predictions expected the oil industry to out-perform the fishing economy by 1990. The role of the oil industry in the present economic boom is insignificant. Therefore predictions for future economic opportunities are not always evident in this dynamic community.

*Resource  
Protection*

World War II historic resources in Unalaska are increasingly lost among new warehouses, building lots, and earth and rock infill. Dutch Harbor NHL is a Priority 1 Landmark, as defined in Section 8 of the National Park Service, General Authorities Act of 1970, as amended. Priority 1 Landmarks are defined as properties which are seriously damaged or imminently threatened with such damage.

The natural and cultural resources of the Aleutian Islands have attracted the attention of both resource developers and conservationists. This amazingly wild strip of islands has designated National Historic Landmark, International Biosphere, and National Refuge status, but still is often defenseless in the face of developmental pressures.

At Unalaska the effects of these conflicting interests are intensified. With no local interpretation of the Dutch Harbor NHL, there is a general disregard and ignorance of historic events, landscape, and structures. The high turnover rate of residents and public officials in recent years has fostered a misconception about boundaries and historic resources. The problem is more complex, however. In 1985-1986 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, acting under the direction of the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA), demolished and removed World War II structures on the island deemed hazardous to the public and the environment. The Corps left standing buildings that were historically significant, in use, or suitable for rehabilitation. Despite the current shortages in housing, warehouse, and storage space, owners and lessees are hesitant to use the World War II structures and regard them more as eyesores and structurally dangerous rather than as viable, available building stock. There is also a longstanding uneasiness in the community associated with these buildings. For many, the buildings

are unwanted reminders of the traumatic and devastating effect the war had on the Aleut.

The buildings in the best condition are the ones that have been used the most. Many have been rehabilitated for housing stock and the large concrete structures such as the power plant are still used as originally intended. However, once left empty in the damp windy island climate, the wooden buildings quickly deteriorate. Severe storms have ripped the roofs off some buildings and others have been used as scavenger sites for scarce lumber. Some are still lived in by squatters.

Currently the only effective protection policy for the landmark is the Section 106 review process mandated under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues federal permits for development projects in all the coastal waters within the Unalaska city limits and must consult with the State Historic Preservation Office about possible impacts to historic resources. With the current economic boom the opportunities for conflict between the interests of the landmark and private development have intensified. Currently in the landmark there are six ongoing projects subject to Section 106 review.

### *Boundary Review*

In 1989 the Alaska Regional Office of the NPS initiated a landmark boundary review to inventory all existing structures and document the condition of the contributing sites, objects, and structures. The second phase of the review completed in 1990 assessed the physical boundaries of the landmark. Because the DERA cleanup demolished many structures and ongoing construction has altered or destroyed many others, it was necessary to determine if the current boundaries continued to reflect the historic resource. Furthermore, the 1985 landmark nomination overlooked adjacent areas at the former sites of Forts Brumback and Learnard on Unalaska and Garrison 7 on Hog Island. Field visits and research in the summer of 1990 confirmed the historic integrity of the sites and NPS has proposed updated landmark boundaries adding new areas and excluding others.

## ALTERNATIVES FOR PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

### ALTERNATIVE A CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT

#### CONCEPT SUMMARY

This option would continue the current ownership and management of World War II resources within the Dutch Harbor NHL. Most of Amaknak Island is owned by the Ounalashka Corporation, which is actively seeking to develop lands for industrial use. Important World War II resources on Hill 400 and at Ulakta Head are likely to remain undisturbed for some time, because of the rugged terrain in these locations. However, some safety hazards remain in these areas, which are a liability concern to the Corporation. It is expected that remaining structures and ruins may be removed or substantially altered in the future to meet public safety concerns.

A historically significant complex of buildings at the airport is owned by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation. The Ounalashka Corporation owns the Aerology Operation Building. Northern Air Cargo leases the historic air cargo building for use as a cargo terminal. The Torpedo Bombsight Shop is in need of major rehabilitation; Northern Air Cargo is seeking a lease on the building. The double pen blast hanger, the center piece of the airport buildings, has been partially dismantled and a large modern warehouse will be erected in its place.

Significant historic resources on Unalaska Island are owned by the Ounalashka Corporation, although some are found on Native Allotments or other private lands, and some are on public land (Bureau of Land Management). The Ounalashka Corporation plans development in some of these areas; in others, the present use by local residents for picnicking, hiking, etc., will continue.

The Corporation is concerned about the protection of cultural resources on their lands, although their focus is primarily on archeological sites. Some measure of protection is afforded World War II resources within the National Historic Landmark, although only federally funded or permitted actions are reviewed for their impacts on historical resources. The City of Unalaska Historical Commission has undertaken an inventory of historic resources as a Certified Local Government and for their Preservation Plan.

### RESOURCE BASE

No lands would be acquired or managed by the NPS or other public agency for the purpose of preservation and interpretation.

### SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATION

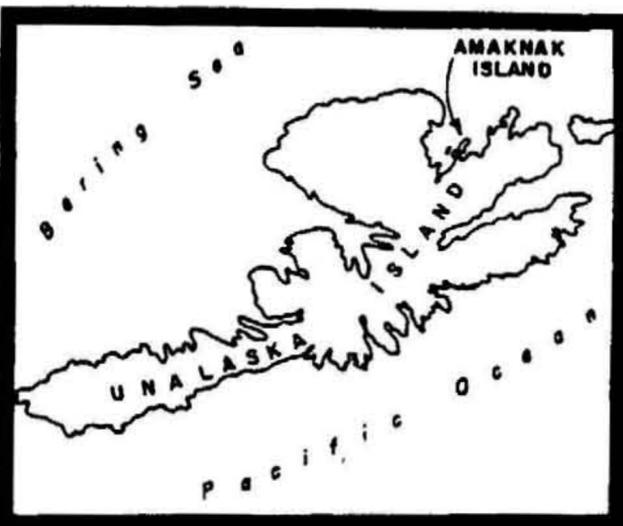
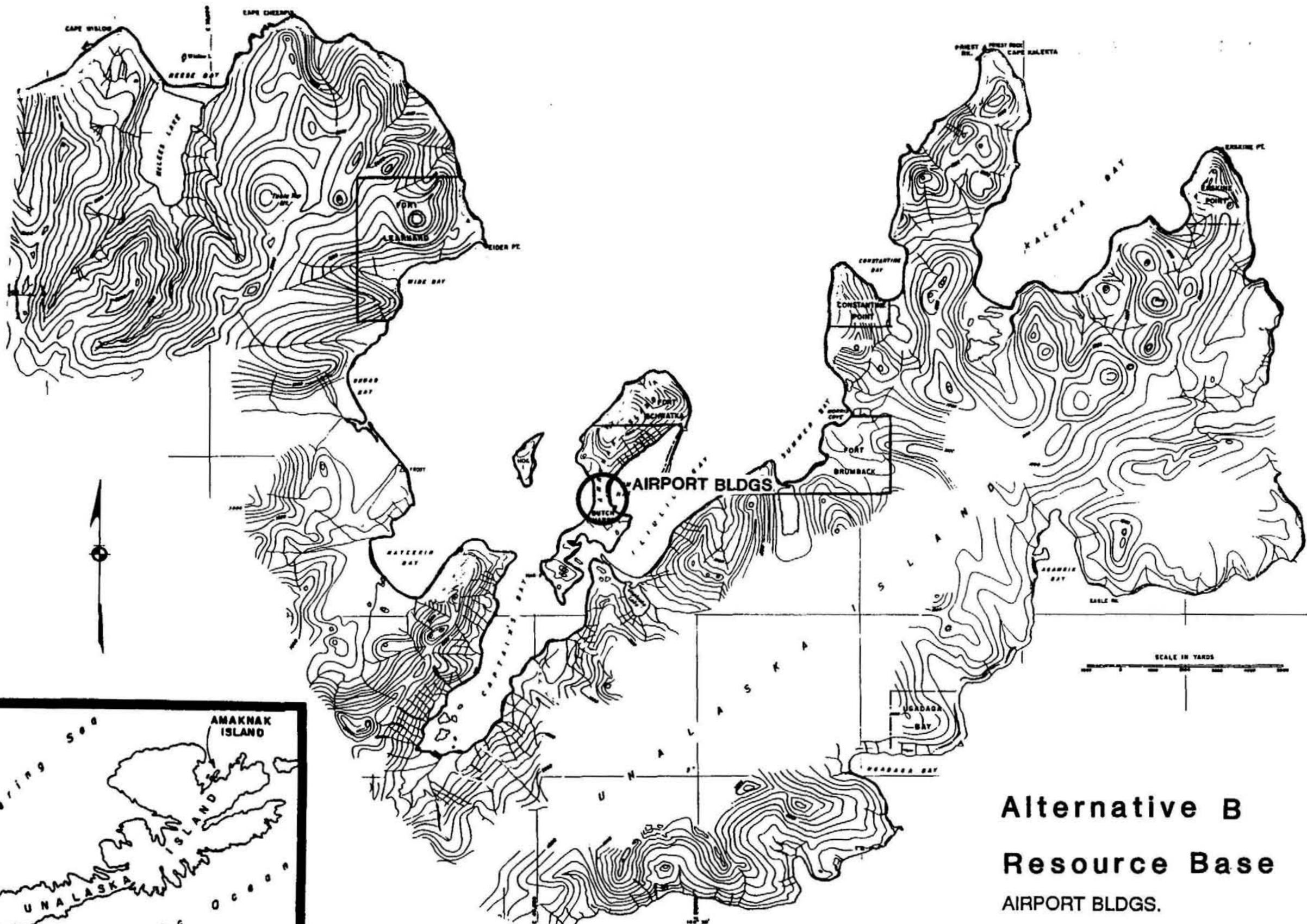
Site development will be planned for economic return. Historical interpretation will occur as local organizations or private industry choose to highlight the historic heritage of the Dutch Harbor-Unalaska area.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

No coordinated long-range planning is likely to occur to promote a potentially strong tourism industry based on World War II history and resources.



*Aerology Building (left) and Torpedo Bombsight Shop with warehouses (right) at the airport. World War II period officers' housing on the hill to the right.*



**Alternative B**  
**Resource Base**  
 AIRPORT BLDGS.

## ALTERNATIVE B WORLD WAR II IN THE ALEUTIANS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

### CONCEPT SUMMARY

\* An interpretive center and museum devoted to World War II in the Aleutian Islands would be planned jointly by the NPS, USF&WS, appropriate branches of the military, and state and local representatives. The group of historic buildings near the airport would be rehabilitated for this purpose. The buildings would be operated by NPS as lead agency under an interagency agreement. An Advisory Board comprised of the agencies and state and local representatives would provide management oversight. The center would be the focal point for Aleutian history and resources. The museum would be the much needed repository and conservation center for resources related to the entire Aleutian theater. Under the present conditions there are no facilities for NPS or USF&WS to protect and preserve Aleut and World War II artifacts.

### RESOURCE BASE

\* Aerology Building, Bldg. 417, Torpedo Bombsight Shop, Bldg. 423, and Naval Air Station cargo terminal, Bldg. 421 (buildings near Dutch Harbor Airport, Amaknak Island), or other suitable complex of historic structures to be leased or purchased for use as interpretive center and museum facilities.

\* Historic objects selectively collected for exhibit and study purposes from World War II sites throughout the Aleutians; photographs, documents, and other materials related to the Aleutian campaign to be contributed by participating agencies or private donors.

### SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATION

Detailed planning for the uses and treatment of the airport complex of buildings and for providing visitor services and interpretation should be approached through development concept and interpretive plans. The following provides an example of how an interpretive center could be actualized.



*The Aerology Building in the 1940s. (National Archives)*

## Aerology Building

The main pavilion could house the visitor information desk and exhibits providing orientation to the Aleutian Islands. Historically this was the Naval Air Transport Terminal lobby.

The tower, which originally served as work space and airport observation deck, would be well suited to interpretation of air operations at Dutch Harbor and throughout the chain.

One of the two wings extending from the lobby could house exhibits telling the story of the Aleutian campaign, including the relocation of the resident Aleut peoples and the effects of the war on their culture and lifestyles. The other wing could provide administrative space for the center and/or a sales area and theater.



*The Aerology Building. Proposed visitor center location.*

### Torpedo Bombsight Shop

The structure would be rehabilitated to provide exhibit space for artifacts of the war in the Aleutians, including displays of large objects, such as artillery and aircraft. Features expressing the original function of the building would be preserved and interpreted. The building would also provide controlled space for curatorial work and collections storage.

### Cargo Terminal

Could be effectively adapted to use as a library, theatre, archives, and research center for study of the Aleutian campaign.



*Torpedo Bombsight Shop interior. HABS photo by Jet Lowe, 1985.*

### Themes for Interpretation

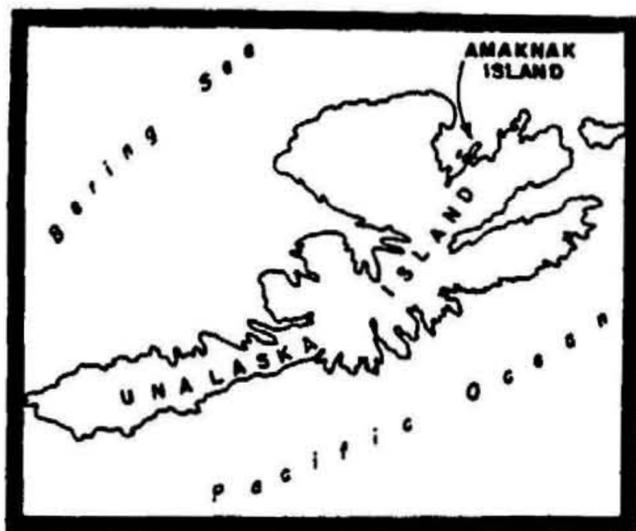
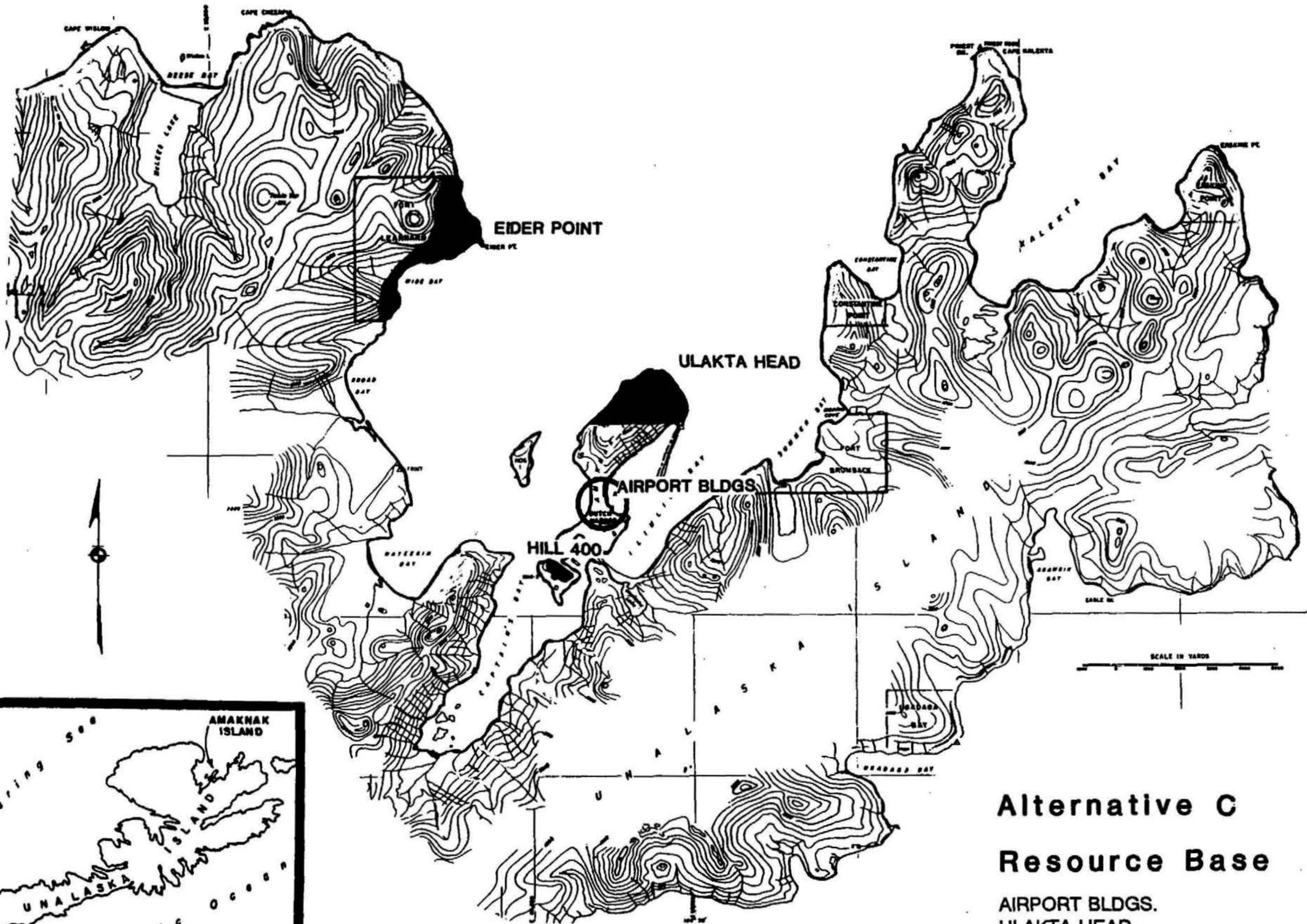
The following themes would be appropriate for interpretation in the airport complex. For a fuller list of themes related to the proposed center, see Outline of Interpretive Themes.

- \* Natural and cultural history of the Aleutian Islands
- \* The Aleut and their culture
- \* The importance of the Aleutian campaign
- \* The war build-up in Alaska
- \* Aleut evacuation and relocation
- \* Major events of the war in the Aleutians
- \* The bombing of Dutch Harbor
- \* The role of air operations at Dutch Harbor and out the chain
- \* The lend-lease program
- \* The daily lives of military personnel stationed in the Aleutians
- \* Japanese war technology
- \* The effects of the war on the Aleut and their culture
- \* World War II resources remaining at other Aleutian sites; their significance, management, and protection.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Expanded tourism: opportunities to provide goods and services to visitors; local development of additional tourist activities and attractions.

Employment by Interpretive Center (visitor services, museum/curatorial, maintenance).



**Alternative C  
Resource Base**

- AIRPORT BLDGS.
- ULAKTA HEAD
- EIDER POINT
- HILL 400

ALTERNATIVE C  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

CONCEPT SUMMARY

This option would establish a new NPS unit with a two-fold purpose: (1) to preserve significant resources related to World War II in the Aleutians and tell the story of the Aleutian campaign; (2) to assist in the preservation of Aleut culture and provide public education concerning Aleut history and the effects of World War II on the Aleut.

\* The NPS would provide the full range of staff, visitor services, interpretation and resource protection activities that occur in designated National Historical Parks.

\* As in Alternative B, a World War II museum and interpretive center would be planned jointly by the NPS, USF&WS, appropriate branches of the military, the City of Unalaska, and the local community. Representatives of these entities would continue to serve on an Advisory Board to guide NPS management.

\* An Aleut Cultural Center would be operated in conjunction with the park by a local non-profit organization through a cooperative agreement with the NPS. Aleut Cultural Center programs and operations could be funded by a Congressional appropriation to the NPS, by the City of Unalaska or other private sources, or a combination of these.

\* As in Alternative B, a complex of historic buildings at the airport or other central location would be leased, rehabilitated, and maintained by NPS to house the park visitor center, Aleut Cultural Center, museum, and related functions. Park administrative and maintenance functions would be housed either in this complex or in other leased or purchased structures, with priority given to historic buildings in Dutch Harbor or Unalaska.

RESOURCE BASE

The following properties exemplify the significance and integrity of structures and lands within the NHL.

\* Fort Schwatka battery, searchlight station and garrison (Ulakta Head, Amaknak Island)

- \* Hill 400 (Amaknak Island)
- \* Fort Learnard battery, searchlight station and garrison (Eider Point, Unalaska Island)
- \* Aerology Building, Bldg. 417; Torpedo Bombsight Shop, Bldg. 423, and Naval Air Station Cargo terminal, Bldg. 421 (Airport, Amaknak Island) and/or other World War II structures in the vicinity as available and appropriate for park use.

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATION

Detailed planning for the treatment and uses of the airport complex or other buildings should be developed through a master plan. The following scenario is offered to suggest possibilities for realizing the objectives of the proposed park through use of the complex of historic structures remaining at the airport.

Aerology Building

*Park Visitor Center*

The main pavilion could house the visitor information desk and exhibits providing orientation to the park. Historically this was the Naval Air Transport Terminal lobby.

The tower, which originally served as work space and airport observation deck, would be well suited to interpretation of air operations at Dutch Harbor and throughout the chain.

One of the two wings extending from the lobby could provide administrative space for the unit or a sales area and theater.

*Aleut Cultural Center*

The second wing of the building could provide work and demonstration space for Aleut heritage activities, exhibits, craft display and sales area, library, etc.

Exhibits would focus on traditional aspects of the Aleut culture and on contemporary Aleut life, rather than on World War II-related themes.

### Torpedo Bombsight Shop

The structure would be rehabilitated to provide exhibit space for interpretation of World War II in the Aleutians, including displays of large objects, such as artillery and aircraft.

Controlled space for curatorial work and collections storage.

### Cargo Terminal

Could be effectively adapted to use as a theater and sales area; as museum storage, curatorial work space, and library; or as a maintenance facility.

### Themes for Interpretation

The following themes would be appropriate for interpretation in the airport complex, either in the visitor center or exhibit hall. Interpretation of Aleut cultural heritage would be developed by the Aleut Cultural Center. For a fuller list of themes related to the proposed park, see Outline of Interpretive Themes.

- \* Natural and cultural history of the Aleutian Islands
- \* The Aleut and their culture
- \* The importance of the Aleutian campaign
- \* The war build-up in Alaska
- \* Aleut evacuation and relocation
- \* Major events of the war in the Aleutians
- \* The bombing of Dutch Harbor
- \* The role of air operations at Dutch Harbor and out the chain
- \* The lend-lease program
- \* The daily lives of military personnel stationed in the Aleutians
- \* Japanese war technology
- \* The effects of the war on the Aleut and their culture
- \* World War II resources remaining at other Aleutian sites; their significance, management, and protection.

## Ulakta Head

Road access would be maintained to an appropriate entrance point to the unit; selected historic roadways could be marked as foot trails. Access by shuttle vehicle on historic roadways will be considered in the future during detailed planning. This determination will be made following an evaluation of existing road conditions, the type of vehicles available, and operational costs.

Remaining defense installations would be stabilized for safety and preservation.

The "footprint" of the garrison and command center at Fort Schwatka could be established and interpreted through wayside exhibits or a "walking tour" brochure.

## Themes for Interpretation

- \* The strategic role of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian campaign
- \* Harbor defenses strategy and positions on Amaknak Island and Unalaska Island
- \* The role and function of Fort Schwatka
- \* Fortifications, armament, munitions

## Hill 400

Road access would be maintained to an appropriate entrance point/parking area. Historic roadways would be marked as foot trails. Access by shuttle vehicle on historic roadways will be considered in the future during detailed planning. This determination will be made following an evaluation of existing road conditions, the type of vehicles available, and operational costs.

The command post and gun emplacement remains (with their supporting structures) would be stabilized and preserved.

Wayside exhibits would provide interpretation.

### Themes for Interpretation

- \* The early history and uses of this deep water port (Unalaska visible below)
- \* Amaknak Island installations, especially Fort Mears and the submarine base (sites visible below)
- \* The use of submarines in harbor defenses; Japanese submarine activity
- \* The defense function of the command post and artillery
- \* "Iron ring" anti-aircraft defenses
- \* Army installations in Unalaska and Pyramid valleys

### Fort Learnard/Eider Point

Access to this unit would be by boat. An opportunity would exist for development of a tour/charter concession by a local entrepreneur.

Development would be minimal to provide a "discovery" experience.

Structures, fortifications, and landscape features would be stabilized and preserved to the extent feasible.

Primitive campsites could be provided.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- \* Expanded tourism: opportunities to provide goods and services to visitors; local development of additional tourist activities and attractions.
- \* Park concessions: boat and/or van tours of World War II sites.
- \* Employment by park (maintenance, rangers, resources management, museum/curatorial, administrative) or cultural center.
- \* Benefit to local residents or Native associations through the activities of the cultural center and the sale of art and craft items.



**ALTERNATIVE D  
WORLD WAR II IN THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

CONCEPT SUMMARY

National Historical Park, as in Alternative C, but without an affiliated Aleut Cultural Center. Interpretive themes would continue to include the story of the Aleut relocation and the effects of the war on the Aleut and their culture.

RESOURCE BASE

Same as Alternative C

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATION

As in Alternative C, but without Aleut Cultural Center.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As in Alternative C, but without Aleut Cultural Center.



OPTION FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES

NATIONAL HISTORIC MILITARY RESERVE

CONCEPT SUMMARY

The historic resources at Attu, Kiska, and Fort Glenn National Historic Landmarks pose a preservation problem related to, but separate from the challenges at Dutch Harbor NHL. These landmarks, considered too remote for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers DERA cleanup, contain undisturbed World War II resources, including U.S. and Japanese invasion landing sites, artillery, bridges, complexes of buildings, and the once-secret U.S. airfield at Fort Glenn on Umnak Island. Today, Kiska and Attu attract Japanese tour groups, and the Aleutians are becoming less and less obscure. Commercial fisherman and others freely "collect" at these sites; in fact, substantial collections of World War II artifacts from the Aleutians are known to exist across the country.

Presently the USF&WS manages Attu and Kiska, while Fort Glenn is primarily owned by the State of Alaska. An option to afford these sites a level of protection above that conferred by national landmark status is to designate them a **National Historic Military Reserve** or a similar designation that would provide increased recognition for these sites as nationally significant historic resources as well as a mechanism for obtaining federal funds for protection, preservation, and interpretation. This designation would provide a structure for cooperation between the owners or land managers within the Reserve and NPS or any formally constituted organization responsible for preservation and interpretation of World War II resources at Dutch Harbor NHL. It may provide an opportunity for cooperation with Japan on preservation or interpretation projects.

Designation as a Reserve would provide a positive opportunity for preservation and interpretation of historic resources without contravening the original mandates of federal agencies on these lands or prevent full and fair use of privately owned lands by their owners. Purchase or exchange of private lands would not be precluded in the case of willing owners.

This option could be implemented in combination with any of the preceding alternatives, including "no action."

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UNALASKA BAY



MAP IV

AMAKNAK ISLAND

MAP V

Runway

DUTCH HARBOR

ILIULUK BAY

MAP I

MAP II

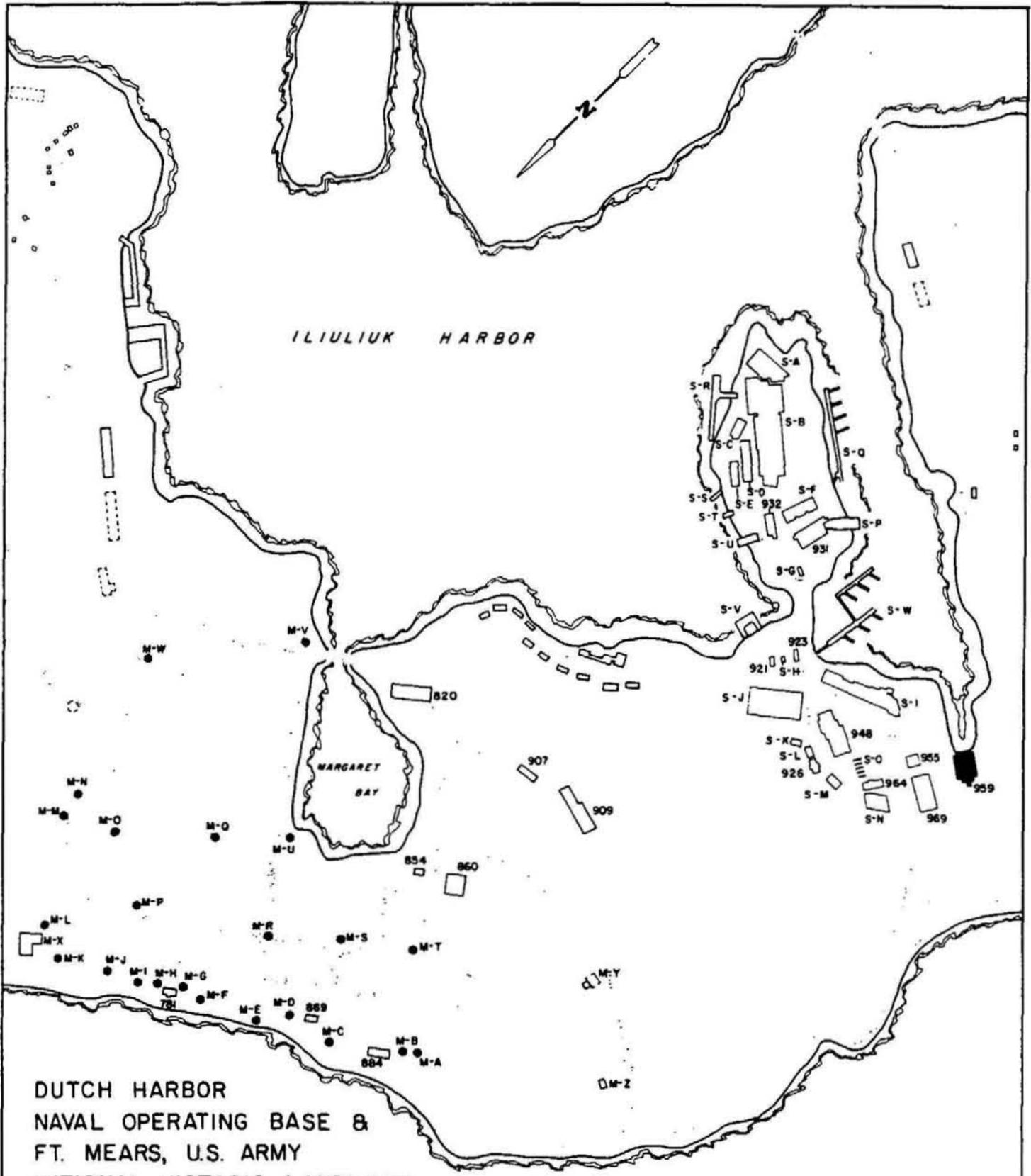
MAP III

UNALASKA ISLAND

0 .25 .5 mi



APPENDICES

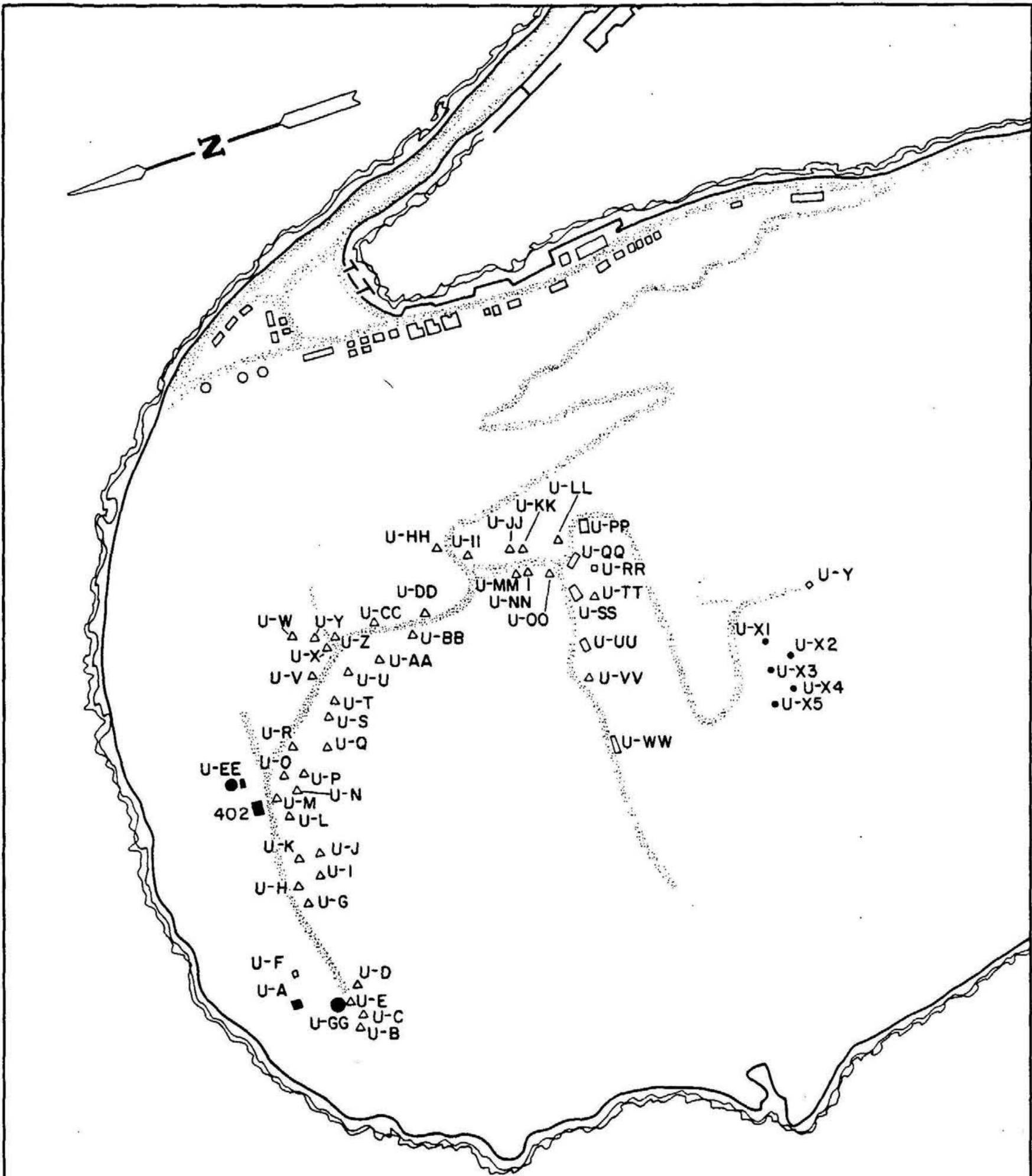


DUTCH HARBOR  
 NAVAL OPERATING BASE &  
 FT. MEARS, U.S. ARMY  
 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
- ⊞ FOUNDATION
- PILLBOX
- ROAD

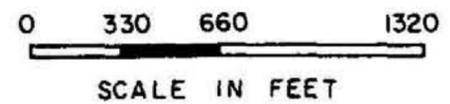


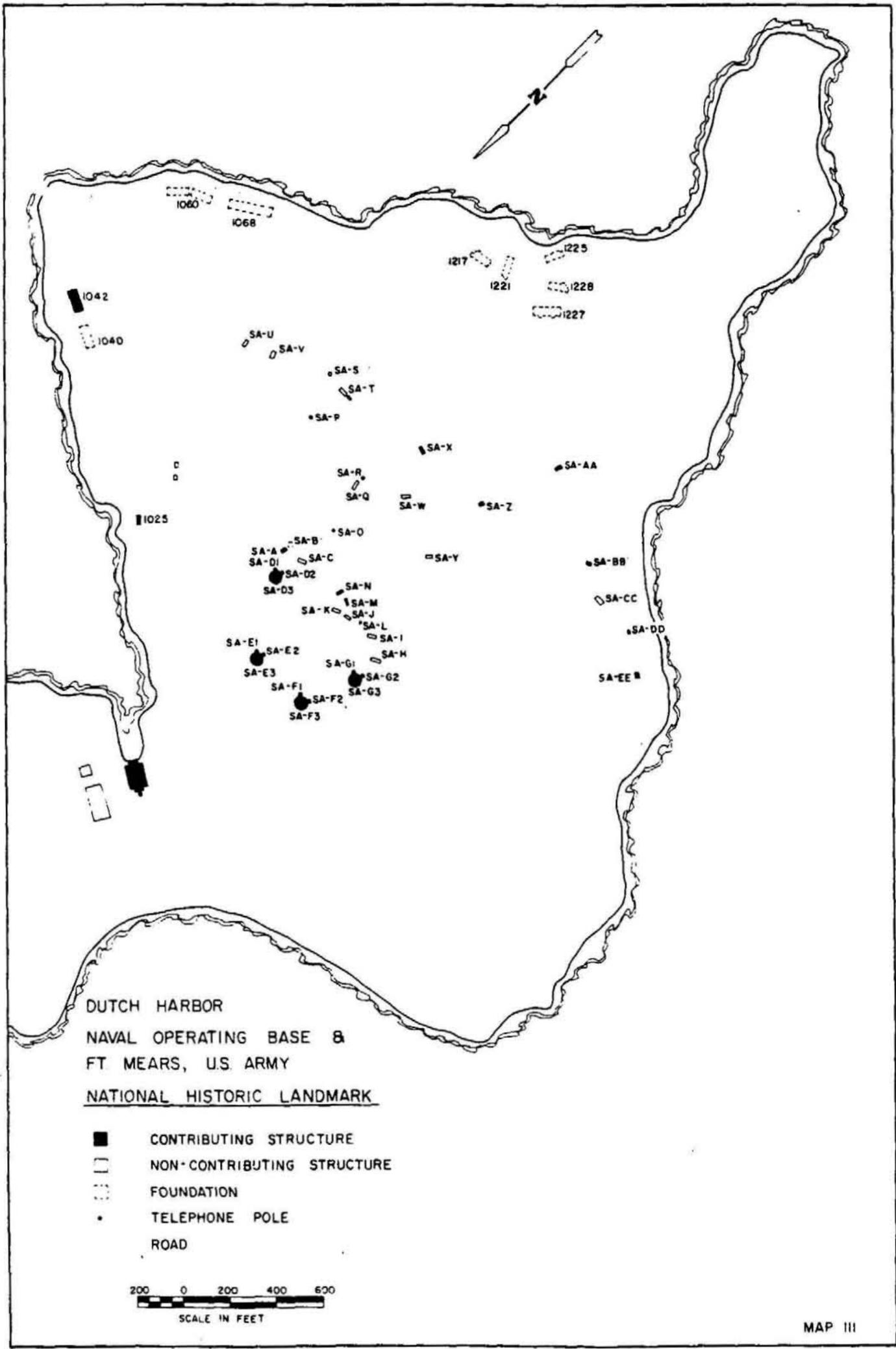




DUTCH HARBOR NAVAL OPERATING BASE & FT. MEARS  
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
- ⋯ ROAD
- △ RUIN
- TELEPHONE POLE





MAP III

REPRODUCED PLEASE CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL MAP SERVICE, BUREAU OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CITY OF UNALASKA  
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 87-54

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE LOCATION OF A WORLD WAR II  
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

WHEREAS: Unalaska was the site of the largest concentration in  
Alaska of U.S. Military Forces during World War II, and

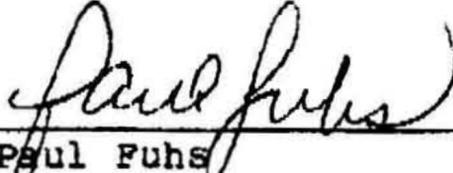
WHEREAS: Unalaska was the site of attacks by Japanese Naval Forces  
in a crucial phase of that war in the Pacific Theater, and

WHEREAS: a number of buildings which played key roles during World  
War II are still in use in the community, and

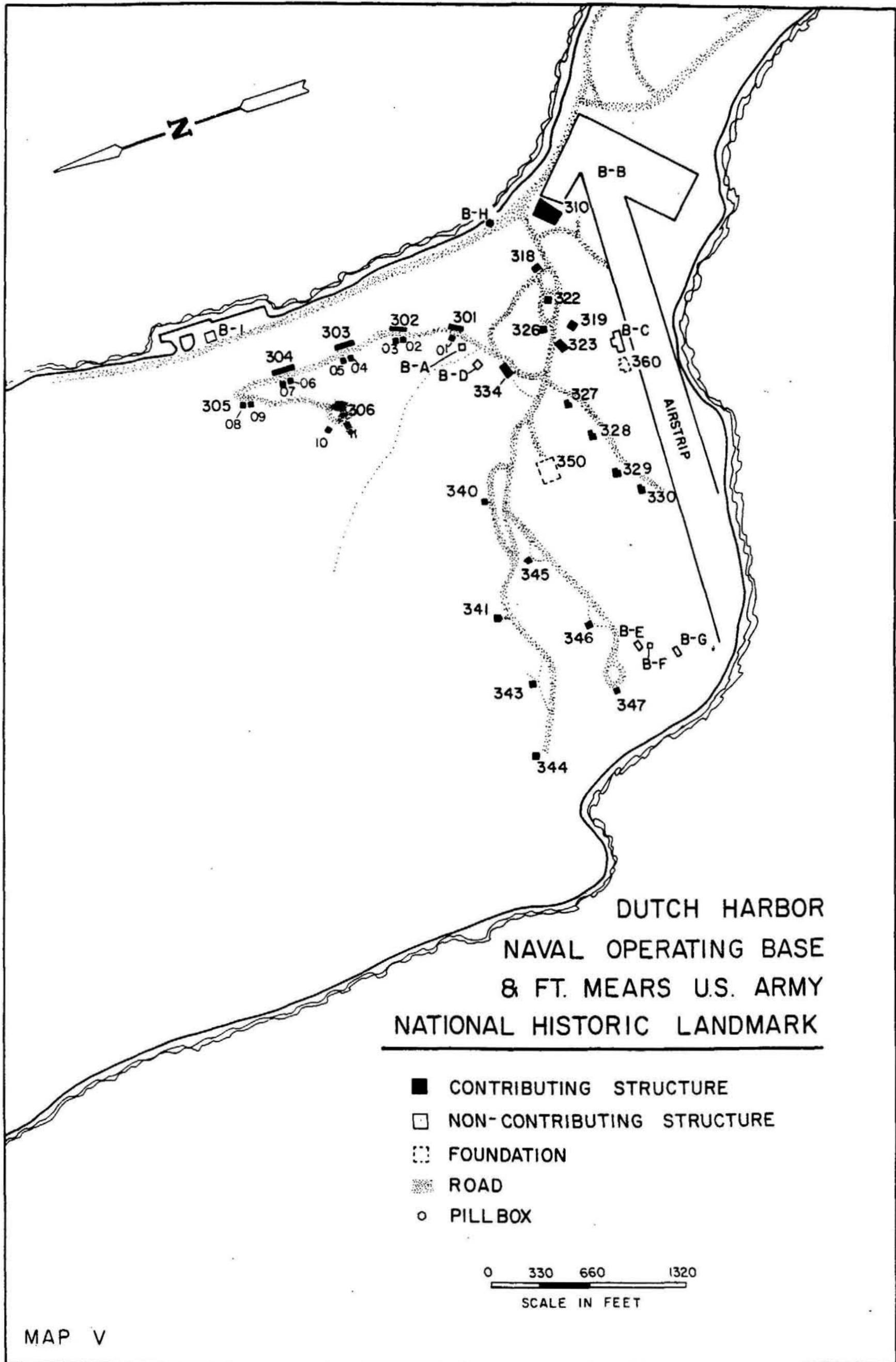
WHEREAS: the National Park Service is investigating the possibility  
of locating a World War II Interpretive Center in Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Unalaska City Council that it  
hereby supports the location of a World War II Interpretive Center  
in Alaska, and, be it further resolved that the council requests  
that the National Park Service devote attention to the placement of  
the World War II Interpretive Center at Unalaska in a building  
constructed and used during World War II.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 1987, BY THE  
UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Fuhs  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Mayhew  
City Clerk



MAP V

February 9, 1990

Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gamble St., Room 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Regional Director:

We, the undersigned residents of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Alaska, heartily support the National Park Service proposal to locate a World War II visitor/interpretive center in our community.

Such a center would be of great educational value to our resident, children, and visitors to our community who seek a better understanding of what actually happened here during WWII. It is beyond our imagination when we hear that 30-50,000 people were stationed here at one time, when many of the buildings are since vanished due to the elements of time.

Many veterans who were stationed here during WWII have returned to relive the years and find little but a few broken down buildings and shadows of their years of labor.

a WWII center would also be a reminder of painful memories to some of the Aleut residents who were evacuated from the Aleutian villages, losing their homes, personal property and family heirlooms. We will support the center if an accurate story of the Aleut evacuation is told.

Please pursue the placement of a WWII visitor center in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor with our endorsement.

Signed

Print Name	Signature	Date
KATHERINE M. GRIMNES	<i>Katherine M. Grimnes</i>	2-09-90
Sharon A Syverson	<i>Sharon A Syverson</i>	2/9/90
<i>Marilyn Krutoff</i>	<i>Marilyn A. Krutoff</i>	2/9/90
Sharon A. Merrifield	<i>Sharon A. Merrifield</i>	2/9/90
IRENE NEWTON	<i>Irene Newton</i>	2/9/90
BRUCE J BARTON	<i>Bruce J Barton</i>	
Thomas L Crandall	<i>Thomas L Crandall</i>	2/9/90
<i>Hilda Berickoff</i>	<i>Hilda Berickoff</i>	2/9/90
Nicholai S. LeKanoff	<i>Nicholai S. LeKanoff</i>	2/9/90
Hida Rich	<i>Hida Rich</i>	2/9/90
Wilfred H. Bereslin	<i>Wilfred H. Bereslin</i>	
Cezol M. Sturgulewski	<i>Cezol M. Sturgulewski</i>	2/9/90
KEN BERTHESEN	<i>K. Berthesen</i>	2/9/90
DENNIS M. ROBINSON	<i>D. M. Robinson</i>	2/11/90
MICHELLE TAYLOR	<i>Michelle Taylor</i>	2-12/90
<i>D. Rufina Shauishnikoff</i>		

STEVE COWPER  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

March 22, 1990

Mr. Boyd Evison  
Director  
Alaska Regional Office  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Evison:

I am writing to express my support for the creation of a World War II visitor center at Dutch Harbor by the National Park Service. An interpretive center that would commemorate World War II and tell a more complete story of the heroic and unfortunate aspects of the war in the Aleutians would make an important, lasting contribution to our understanding of Alaska's past. With the 50-year anniversary of the bombing of Dutch Harbor in June 1992, the project is timely.

Such a center would compliment present historic preservation efforts to protect sites in Alaska associated with World War II. Eleven defense posts and battle sites have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but there are other aspects of the war that need to be remembered. In particular, the story of the relocation of the Aleut people from the Aleutian Islands to camps in Southeast Alaska during the war should be collected and interpreted as well.

Please keep me advised regarding the establishment of such a World War II interpretive center. I strongly endorse the idea and hope you concur.

Sincerely,  
  
Steve Cowper  
Governor

Alaska Region Office		
MAR 27 '90		
	Initials	Date
✓ D	<i>[Handwritten]</i>	3/27
DD		
A		
Q		
✓ PA	<i>[Handwritten]</i>	3/28
✓ PCR		
ERT		
PA		
SA		
MR		
File		



February 5, 1990

Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gamble St., Room 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Regional Director:

We, the undersigned residents of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Alaska, heartily support the National Park Service proposal to locate a World War II visitor/interpretive center in our community.

Such a center would be of great educational value to our resident, children, and visitors to our community who seek a better understanding of what actually happened here during WWII. It is beyond our imagination when we hear that 30-50,000 people were stationed here at one time, when many of the buildings are since vanished due to the elements of time.

Many veterans who were stationed here during WWII have returned to relive the years and find little but a few broken down buildings and shadows of their years of labor.

A WWII center would also be a reminder of painful memories to some of the Aleut residents who were evacuated to Southeast Alaska, losing their homes, personal property and family heirlooms. We hope the visitor center will deal sensitively with this matter.

Please pursue the placement of a WWII visitor center in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor with our endorsement.

Signed,

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sandra K. Carlquist	Sandra K Carlquist	2/5/90
Annabelle Will	Annabelle Will	2/6/90
Christine Gallis	Christine Gallis	2-6-90
Pamela J. Stubbe	Pamela J. Stubbe	2/6/90
Abi Dickson	Abi Dickson	2-6-90
M. Langley M. Langley	M. Langley	2-6-90
PETER J. MALONEY IV	Peter Maloney IV	2-6-90
Michael Casey	Michael Casey	2-7-90
Teri A Schmidt	Teri A Schmidt	2-8-90
GREGG R. HANSON	Gregg R. Hanson	2-7-90
CARL E. MOSES	Carl E. Moses	2/7/90
Doug Bagnell	Doug Bagnell	2/7/90
LINDA M HADDEN	Linda M Hadden	2/7/90
ANN O'HARA HAZEN	Ann O'Hara Hazen	2/7/90
Cynthia Meyer	Cynthia Meyer	2/7/90
Claudia Abbott	CLAUDIA ABBOTT	2/7/90
Shaun Rodgers	Shaun Rodgers	2/7/90
Barb Crandall	Barb Crandall	2/7/90
John Novak	John Novak	2-7-90
Jusan Abello	Jusan Abello	2-7-90

February 5, 1990

Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gamble St., Room 107  
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Please pursue the placement of a WWII visitor center in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor with our endorsement.

Signed,

Print Name	Signature	Date
Cindy Hynes	Cindy Hynes	2-8-90
Claine Beardsley		
Michelle A. Callahan	Michelle Callahan	2-8-90
<del>W. Kevin Thompson</del>		
Carlene Sinnott	Carlene Sinnott	2-8-90
F. Kelly	F. Kelly	2-7-90
PENNY MENDENHALL	Penny Mendenhall	2-9-90
David Macy	David Macy	2-9-90
Michelle Vowell	Michelle Vowell	2-9-90
BETTY ARRIGG	Betty Arrigg	2-9-90
<del>KEITH GEBHART</del>	Keith Gebhart	2-9-90
TOM MAYHAN	T. F. Mayhan	2-9-90
Dennis S. Miranda	Dennis S. Miranda	2-9-90
C. PATRICK ZEIGLER	C. P. Zeigler	2-9-90
BRENDA MOSCARELLA	Brenda Moscarella	2-9-90
MERLE BARR	Merle Barr	2-9-90
David L. Koraback	David L. Koraback	" " "
MICHAEL R HAZEN	Michael R Hazen	2-9-90
BRENDA HUBER	Brenda Huber	9 FEB 90
Darryl Dossett	Darryl Dossett	2-9-90
Marjelle Fretwell	Marjelle Fretwell	2-9-90

February 5, 1990

Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gamble St., Room 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503

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Please pursue the placement of a WWII visitor center in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor with our endorsement.

Signed,

Print Name	Signature	Date
ABRANKIN	ab Rankin	2-6-90
Harriet Hope	Harriet Hope	2-6-90
ARNE ERICKSON	Arne Erickson	6 FEB. '90
GLENN REED	Gl - E Reed	6 FEB 90
GARY RATZLAFF	Gary Ratzlaff	6 Feb 90
SHELLEY BLICKENSTAFF	Shelley Blickenstaff	6 Feb 90
SIRI KIRN KAUR KHALSA	Siri Kirn Kaur Khalsa	2-6-90
Marsha A. Farley	Marsha A. Farley	2-6-90
Persenia Marie Whittern	Persenia M Whittern	02-06-90
Ann Marie Spies	Ann Marie Spies	02-06-90
Mary Higdon	Mary Higdon	02-06-90
BARBARA TOWNE	Barbara Towne	02-06-90
FATRICIA STEVENSON	F Patricia Stevenson	02-06-90











Unalaska  
City School  
District



February 7, 1990

Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gamble Street Room 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Sir:

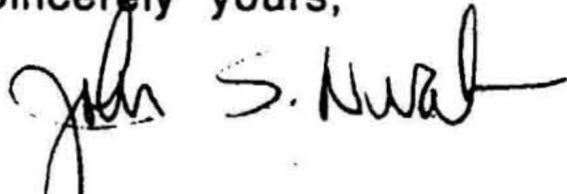
It has come to our attention that the Park Service is considering locating a World War II interpretive Center in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. We strongly support this proposal.

Dutch Harbor, and all of the Aleutians, played a unique role in World War II and as this area now hosts visitors numbering over 30,000 annually (from several countries, including thousands from Japan and the Soviet Union) it seems like the natural site for such a center.

In addition to the broad range and large number of visitors already coming to the area, such a center would be useful to residents of the area and especially to students in meeting their need to understand the local history.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments in developing the World War II Interpretive Center.

Sincerely yours,

  
John S. Novak, Superintendent

**THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION  
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

OLD CITY HALL, 524 WEST FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 203, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

February 9, 1990

Mr. Boyd Evison  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Evison:

This supports efforts by the National Park Service to further investigate the feasibility of establishing a National Park at Dutch Harbor/Unalaska to commemorate WWII in the Pacific campaign.

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) is the only Statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's historical and cultural resources. The AAHP Board of Directors at a meeting on February 3, 1990 discussed the Dutch Harbor proposal and voted to endorse your NPS endeavors towards establishing a visitor center and historic interpretation site. This, we believe is the suitable location to commemorate Alaska's involvement in World War II.

We would do well to remember that it was on the cold wet mountains of our own Aleutian Islands, our military pried the enemy's grip from United States Territory in bloody fighting.

I am enclosing for your information the current (1990) list of our Board of Directors as well as the Officers and Committee Chairpersons.

AAHP wishes you well in this feasibility attempt.

Sincerely,

  
BILL COGHILL  
President  
7005 Fredricks Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99504-1127

Copy: Rep. David Finkelstein  
Chairman, Spec Comm on Tourism

Enclosure as