* NPS Form 10-900 (3-82)	NHL	– WWII, P	ACIFIC	OMB No 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84
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Invento See instruction	al Register of ryNominat is in How to Complete Nat complete applicable se	ion Form	1	received date entered
1. Nam	le			
historic	Japanese Occupation Site	, Kiska Island		
and or common	Kiska Island, Aleutian Isl	ands		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number				not for publication
city. town	·	vicinity of	l	
state Alaska	code	<u>02</u> cou	unty	code
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status occupied work in progre Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestric no	d X government	museum park private residence t religious scientific transportation X other: refuge
4. Own	er of Proper	ty	·····	
name	U.S. Fish and Wildlife	Service, Departme	nt of the Interior	
street & number city. town	1011 E. Tudor Road Anchorage	vicinity of		te Alaska
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Descrip	otion	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds. etc. U.S.	Fish and Wildlife S	Service	
street & number	1011 E. Tudor Road	 		
city, town	Anchorage		sta	te Alaska
6. Rep	resentation i	n Existin	g Surveys	
title Alaska He	eritage Resources Survey	has thi	is property been determined	d eligible? yes X no
date November	r 24, 1972		federalX	state county local
depository for su	Alaska	Division of Parks,	619 Warehouse Dr., Suite	210
city, town A	nchorage		Sta	ite Alaska

7. Description

Condition excellent good _X_ fair	deteriorated _X_ ruins unexposed	Check one X. unaltered altered	Check one _X. original site moved c	late	 	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Kiska is one of the Rat Islands group and is near the western end of the Aleutian Chain, 165 miles southeast of Attu at the end of the chain. Situated between the cold Bering Sea and the warm Japanese Current of the North Pacific, Kiska's volcanic mountains and tundra-covered valleys are subject to year-round violent storms (williwaws) and dense fogs. The treeless island possesses one of the few good anchorages in the Aleutians, Kiska Harbor.

On June 7, 1942, a Japanese task force invaded Kiska, along with Attu, and in the months that followed undertook construction of coastal and antiaircraft defenses, camps, roads, an airfield, submarine base, seaplane base, and other Of the two islands, Kiska was the more important to the installations. Japanese; consequently, it had the larger garrison (between 5,400 and 6,800 and civilians) and more permanent facilities. army, navy, The main installations were the naval facilities on the northwest shore of Kiska Harbor and the army headquarters at the northeast corner of Gertrude Cove, to the southwest. While real and dummy defensive positions were scattered over the island, heavy weapons were concentrated in those two areas and on North Head on the east side of Kiska Harbor. After the fall of Attu, the Japanese on Kiska changed their defense posture by erecting fortifications immediately upon the shorelines for the purpose of annihilation of the enemy upon the beach, rather than defending high ground inland as they had done at Massacre Bay, Attu. An example of this was their construction of a company-sized defense network at the southwest end of Kiska, an area hitherto neglected.

Japanese forces departed Kiska July 28, 1943, and Allied forces (United States and Canada) invaded the deserted island on August 15. An inventory was prepared of the Japanese facilities. They included: frame, A-type housing; three power plants; three radio stations; a naval radar installation; concrete pillboxes; underground hospitals; three light tanks; assorted vehicles; searchlights; four midget (Sydney-type) submarines and their concrete pen; landing barges; wreckage of about 40 float planes and three hangars; 16 coastal defense guns; 69 antiaircraft weapons; 20 pieces of field artillery; numerous machine guns; six Shinto shrines; and countless trenches and foxholes.

Three Japanese ships were found disabled on the beaches of Kiska Harbor: <u>Nozima</u> <u>Maru</u>, 7,190 tons, <u>Kano Maru</u>, 8,572 tons, and <u>Urajio Maru</u>, ca. 4,000 tons. A fourth vessel, <u>Borneo Maru</u>, 5,864 tons, was beached at Gertrude Cove. At the bottom of Kiska Harbor, not far from the submarine base, lay a 300-foot, I-class Japanese submarine.

The Allies established their own camps on the island, consisting of quonset and Pacific huts, tents, and frame structures. Navy seabees constructed a naval auxiliary air facility consisting of a nose hangar and a steel-matted seaplane ramp. Army engineers completed the Japanese runway and named it Salmon Lagoon field. Allied defenses consisted of two 155mm, one 90mm, and one 37mm gun batteries at North Head, and one 155mm battery at Gertrude Cove. Then, in 1946, Kiska was abandoned.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC		re religion
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric		science
1400–1499	archeology-historic		_ sculpture
1500–1599	architecture		_ social/
1600–1699	architecture		humanitarian
1700–1799	art		theater
1800–1899	commerce		transportation
1900–	communications		other (specify)
Specific dates	1942-1943	Builder Architect	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Summary

The Japanese occupation of Kiska in June 1942 marked the peak of Japan's military expansion in the Pacific; it created great alarm in North America that a Japanese invasion would be mounted through Alaska; it posed a serious threat to United States-Siberian communications (lend-lease to Russia); and it caused the Allies to divert tens of thousands of military to the Alaskan Theater who could have been deployed elsewhere in the Pacific. Significant too was the successful Japanese withdrawal of the entire force in 1943 without a single loss of life, despite constant surveillance of American air and sea forces. This withdrawal caused the utmost embarrassment to the United States when, eighteen days later, a huge Allied assault force of 34,000 men invaded the deserted island. The event was best summed up by the army's commanding general in Alaska, Simon B. Buckner, who said, "To attract maximum attention, it's hard to find anything more effective than a great big, juicy, expensive mistake."*

Japanese Occupation

In May 1942, Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo ordered an attack on the Midway Islands, with the dual mission to occupy those islands and to destroy the remnants of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and an attack on the Aleutian islands for the purposes of diverting American naval forces from Midway, protecting the Imperial Navy from an attack from the north, and obstructing communication links between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Japan's plans for the Aleutians called for a carrier air attack on Dutch Harbor Naval Station and adjacent Fort Mears, at Unalaska Island; a hit-and-run assault on Adak Island farther out on the chain, which it erroneously believed to be fortified; and, by means of a separate task force, the occupation of Kiska and Attu at the end of the Aleutians, also thought to be defended by American Marines.

The United States, in fact, had no military installations on Attu, and only a ten-man naval detachment operated a radio station at Kiska Harbor for sending weather reports to Dutch Harbor. Petty Officer William C. House commanded the detachment.

^{*}Brian Garfield, <u>The</u> <u>Thousand-Mile</u> <u>War</u>: <u>World</u> <u>War</u> <u>II</u> <u>In</u> <u>Alaska</u> <u>and</u> <u>the</u> <u>Aleutians</u> (New York: Doubleday, 1969), p. 289.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See separate sheet.

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10. Ge	ographical Data	<u></u>	
Acreage of nomin Quadrangle nam UT M References	Hated property 48,900 acres		Quadrangle scale 1:250,000
$ \begin{array}{c c} A & 6 & 0 & 5 & 4 \\ \hline Zone & Eastir \\ C & 6 & 0 & 5 & 3 \\ E & 6 & 0 & 5 & 2 \\ G & & & & & \\ \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	B 6 ρ 5 4 9 Zone Easting D 6 0 5 3 3 F 6 ρ 5 3 7 H	Northing 0_0_0 [5_7]5_1[1_0_0]
See separate	sheet.		
List all states a	and counties for properties ove	rlapping state or county bo	undaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. For	m Prepared By		
name title	Erwin N. Thompson, Historia	<u>۱</u>	_
organization	Denver Service Center, NPS	date	March 15, 1984
street & number	755 Parfet Street	telephone	303-234-4509
city or town	Lakewood	state	Colorado
12. Sta	te Historic Pres	ervation Offic	er Certification
The evaluated sig	nificance of this property within the	e state is:	
	national state	local	
665), I hereby nor according to the	d State Historic Preservation Office minate this property for inclusion in criteria and procedures set forth by eservation Officer signature	the National Register and certif	
title			date
For NPS use I hereby ce	only rtify that this property is included in	the National Register	
			date
Keeper of the	National Register		
Attest:			date
Chief of Regis	stration		

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7. Description

Thirty years later, in 1976, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventoried Kiska to determine what remained from World War II. A summary of these findings follows:

Probably Japanese

250-plus revetments submarine pen, concrete, 30 by 200 feet 5 machine gun emplacements 6 machine guns with mounts 15 antiaircraft emplacements with guns 9 emplacements having 6-inch coastal guns* freighter <u>Nozima Maru</u>, and a bow of a second vessel 1 midget submarine and parts of 2 others ruins of a shrine 1 officers' quarters, with wall inscriptions 2 coastal gun emplacements on Little Kiska Island

Probably American

95 quonset or Pacific huts, standing or collapsed, in 3 areas 21 wood frame buildings 3 bridges, wood, 40 feet long 1 metal building, 25 by 27 feet 2 docks, wood, pile, 33 by 115 feet and 33 by 1,069 feet 1 wharf, wood, pile, 33 by 675 feet ½ acre of steel matting on runway 200 petroleum barrels 1 A-20 aircraft, wrecked, east end of runway 1 PBY flying boat, wrecked, northeast side of Kiska Volcano

Today, Kiska is unoccupied. The entire island is a part of the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

The significant historical features on Kiska are Kiska Harbor, Japanese naval installations at Kiska Harbor, Gertrude Cove, Japanese army installations at Gertrude Cove. They also include all major Japanese coastal and antiaircraft

^{*}Some of these guns are of British manufacture which has led many writers, concerning Kiska and other Pacific islands, to conclude that they are guns the Japanese captured at Singapore or Hong Kong. More likely, they are guns that the Japanese are known to have purchased from Great Britain early in the twentieth century.

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installations, particularly on North Head, around Kiska Harbor, around Gertrude Cove, and on Little Kiska Island. Also included is the Salmon Lagoon airfield, begun by Japanese and completed by Allied forces, and now abandoned. The Allied invasion beaches on the northwest shore are significant, although the Japanese had already evacuated the island.

Excluded are Kiska Volcano and the southwest end of Kiska. The latter had some hasty fortifications that the Japanese erected after the Americans captured nearby Attu Island. Also excluded are all Allied structures of the post-Japanese occupation of Kiska, 1943-1946.

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The initial Japanese landing took place on June 7, 1942, at Reynard Cove, north of Kiska Harbor, when the Third Special Landing Force (550 Japanese naval men) stormed ashore, followed by supporting personnel. When the Japanese opened fire on the weather station, the American sailors took cover in a ravine, then worked their way up the hills above the cloud level. Soon, however, all were captured--all except Petty Officer House. He succeeded in hiding out for nineteen days, surviving on grass and worms, before surrendering. These Americans were sent to Japan as prisoners of war. The Japanese, meanwhile, established their headquarters in the weather station buildings.

In succeeding months, additional naval units, including the Special Submarine Base Force (six midget submarines) and the Fifth Air Group (seaplane fighters), arrived on Kiska. Army units, too, arrived to establish coastal and antiaircraft defenses; these included units from Japan as well as the initial Attu garrison which came in August 1942. The occupation force eventually grew to about 5,640 military, almost evenly divided between the army and the navy, and 1,170 civilians. Despite this sizeable force, the commanders soon discovered that it was insufficient to construct an airfield, roads, living quarters, and defenses, all at the same time. This situation, combined with a scarcity of equipment and materials, severely taxed the garrison. A naval officer later said that air raid shelters were merely shelters against fog and rain, "but the men were satisfied."* The vital airfield was still incomplete when the Japanese withdrew from Kiska.

During the occupation, the senior army officer, Maj. Gen. [?] Mineki, and the naval commander, Rear Adm. S. Akiyama, considered other islands in the western Aleutians as possible sites for airfields and bases. Air and sea reconnaissances were made at Shemya, Semichi, and Agattu islands, all near Attu; and Buldir and Amchitka islands on either side of Kiska. In the end, however, none was occupied except Buldir where a ten-man detachment was stationed.

During the fourteen-month occupation, the Japanese came under increasingly severe American air and naval attacks. Only one day after the landing, June 8, 1942, an American patrol plane discovered the enemy's ships in Kiska Harbor. Three days later, ten bombers flew from Umnak airfield, then the farthest west air base in the Aleutians, to attack Kiska for the first time. Japanese antiaircraft fire downed one of the bombers, a B-24 Liberator. From then on, Eleventh Air Force planes bombed Kiska regularly despite cloud cover

^{*}Japanese Monograph No. 89. Northern Area Naval Operations, February 1943-August 1945, p. 73.

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and fog. With the completion of an advance airfield on Adak Island in September 1942, American P-38 fighters (Lightnings) were able to accompany the bombers to provide protection from a decreasing number of Japanese seaplane fighters. On one September raid, Royal Canadian Air Force Kittyhawks, assigned to Alaska, accompanied the American planes for the first time.

Because the continuous bad weather in the Aleutians interferred greatly with air operations, the Americans began construction of an airbase on Amchitka Island, only sixty miles from Kiska, in January 1943. During the construction, Japanese seaplanes from Kiska made eleven nuisance raids on the field, causing but little damage. These raids promptly ceased when American fighters landed at the new base in February. From then on, the Eleventh Air Force greatly increased its bombing of Kiska. In one attack, three days before the secret Japanese withdrawal, U.S. planes dropped 104 tons of bombs on the island. (Ironically, the heaviest American attack, 153 tons of bombs, on August 4, fell on an empty island.)

American submarines and surface vessels added their share of punishment to Japanese attempts to reinforce and protect Kiska and Attu. As early as July 5, 1942, American submarines torpedoed three Japanese destroyers at the entrance to Kiska Harbor, sinking one and severely damaging the others. That same month two Japanese submarine-chasers were also sunk and a transport was damaged just outside the harbor. By February 1943, the American navy had sunk nine Japanese transports, three destroyers, and three submarines in western Aleutian waters. The last Japanese surface vessel to reach Kiska, <u>Awata</u> Maru, arrived February 22, 1943. From then on, the garrison depended on submarines to bring in limited amounts of emergency supplies.

With the fall of Attu on May 30, 1943, and the virtual cutoff from the Home Islands, the Kiska garrison feverishly strengthened the defenses, concentrating now on potential landing beaches. At the same time, plans were made to withdraw gradually from the island, employing thirteen of Japan's large I-class submarines. The first boat, I-7, loaded with wounded personnel and civilians, reached Japan on May 27. By mid-June, 820 men had been transferred to the Northern Kuriles. Then, in rapid succession, the Americany navy destroyed three of the submarines, I-7, I-9, and I-24. Orders arrived from Japan to suspend the operation.

Aware that a large American force was assembling in the Aleutians, undoubtedly for an assault on Kiska, the Japanese now planned "Operation KE" for evacuating the island. The Japanese Fifth Fleet, under Vice Adm. Shiro Kawase, assembled a force of two cruisers and ten destroyers at Paramushiro in the Kuriles. The plan called for these ships to make a dash toward Kiska under the cover of fog, board the troops, and return swiftly to Japan. Orders to prepare for an evacuation arrived at Kiska via submarine.

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On July 7, the ships set sail in a thick fog but quickly ran into trouble when two vessels collided and a third rammed still two more. Several times during the next three weeks, the force approached Kiska, only to withdraw when the fog thinned or when American ships and planes were reported in the area. Finally, on July 28, conditions were ripe, and the ships deployed just fifty miles south of Kiska (two cruisers and six destroyers). Cautiously approaching the island through the fog, they dropped anchor in Kiska Harbor in early afternoon. The garrison was ready, having destroyed or booby-trapped weapons, equipment, and supplies. As if on cue, the fog lifted within the harbor and in only fifty minutes, 5,183 men boarded the ships and the dash home began:

At 0600 on the 31st the mist had completely cleared [again] and at 1530 we entered PARAMUSHIRO Harbor. It seemed that heaven were celebrating our success. . . . The enemy had not discovered the evacuation of our troops at all. Thereafter, for day after day, they bombed and bombarded KISKA, and on August 15, the landing of American and Canadian troops on the island was announced. Truly the height of the ridiculous.*

Allied Invasion

On August 15 and 16, 1943, a combined American-Canadian force of 34,000 men, under the command of Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, Seventh Infantry Division, invaded Kiska. The troops poured ashore at two landing sites, both on Kiska's northwest coast. Not until August 18 did Corlett conclude that the island contained no enemy. Meanwhile, his men had killed 24 of themselves and wounded 50 more in the confusion of their advances. Making the best of the embarrassing situation, the commanders announced that the Japanese withdrawal had saved lives, the invasion had provided valuable experience in amphibious warfare, and the Aleutians were again secure.

^{*&}quot;Translation of Japanese Ensign's Notebook Recovered Tarawa 26 Nov 1943," Alaska Department, U.S. Army, Record Group 338, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, Maryland.

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BOUNDARY

Starting at a point where an unnamed stream drains from the north into Sredni Bight, then in a straight line south southeast east to Orient Point at the east end of Little Kiska Island, then extending that line .75 mile beyond so as to include all of Little Kiska Island, then a straight line west southwest to the tip of Hatchet Point, then in a straight line west to the tip of Bukhti Point, then in a straight line west northwest to a point of land on the northeast corner of Lief Cove, then extending that line 1.25 miles to a point in the ocean, then a straight line northeast to the ocean shore at the north end of Christine Lake, then in a straight line east southeast to the point of beginning. These boundaries include all the principal places of Japanese occupation on Kiska, as well as the Allies' 1943 invasion beaches.







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Japanese gun emplacements on North Head, northeast of Kiska Harbor.

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