

On American Shores: The Aleutian Islands Campaign Exhibition Explores a Forgotten WWII Battle

Now on Display at the National WWII Museum Through January 11, 2026

NEW ORLEANS, LA, UNITED STATES, October 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "On American Shores: The Aleutian Islands Campaign" is now on display at The National WWII Museum, located at 945 Magazine Street in New Orleans, through January 11, 2026. This compelling exhibition offers visitors a rare opportunity to examine one of World War II's least-known yet most strategically important campaigns—the battle fought on American soil amid the rugged, icy isolation of Alaska's Aleutian Islands.



The Aleutian Islands

A Battle on U.S. Soil

The Aleutian Islands Campaign began in June 1942, when Japanese forces invaded and occupied the remote islands of Attu and Kiska, part of Alaska's Aleutian chain. This marked the first time since the War of 1812 that enemy troops had seized American territory. The invasion was part of Japan's broader Pacific strategy—intended to divert U.S. attention from Midway and establish a northern stronghold.

In response, American and Canadian forces mounted a difficult and costly campaign to reclaim the islands, facing freezing temperatures, dense fog, and treacherous terrain. After fierce fighting, Attu was retaken in May 1943, but with nearly 3,000 American casualties. When Allied troops landed on Kiska in August 1943, they found the island eerily deserted—the Japanese had secretly evacuated weeks earlier, aided by the same relentless fog that had plagued U.S. operations.

Strategic Importance and Legacy

Though often overshadowed by other battles of the Pacific Theater, the Aleutian Campaign held

enormous strategic importance. Regaining control of the islands safeguarded the U.S. mainland from potential northern attacks and protected vital air routes linking North America and Asia. The campaign also provided early lessons in joint operations and cold-weather warfare that would shape American military tactics for decades.

“On American Shores” draws upon historical artifacts, combat photography, and firsthand accounts to convey the hardship, courage, and resilience of the servicemen who fought in this extreme environment. It highlights a theater of war that tested the limits of endurance and underscored the global scope of World War II—even to the most remote corners of American territory.

A Reflection on History

Exhibitions such as “On American Shores: The Aleutian Islands Campaign” are vital in preserving the complexity and humanity of wartime history. By revisiting the Aleutians—an often-overlooked battleground—the exhibition offers a powerful reminder that the defense of freedom extended to every edge of the map. The National WWII Museum continues to illuminate these defining moments, ensuring that future generations understand both the cost and the courage that shaped our shared past.

Exhibition Details:

On American Shores: The Aleutian Islands Campaign

Location: The National WWII Museum, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA

Dates: On display through January 11, 2026

Information: www.nationalww2museum.org

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