

5/14/45 Unalaska, Alaska, (De-
layed): Home tonight out
here on the ragged edge
of the world are the
Aleuts, the only North
American forced to flee
their homes by the Pacific
war.

Gone three years,
they came back today,
their oriental stoicism
unbroken by the sight of
rundown houses, dilapidat-
ed as a result of foul
weather and souvenir hun-
ters.

One by one, 120 came down the gangplank of an army transport
and blinked their eyes when they looked at the snow covered
mountains, palisades of light.

Babies in arms and children born as long ago as 1942 on
the Alaska mainland were there, too. It was a strange home coming
for a strange people who were never happy away from their traps
and dories and the treeless hills that stick out of the cold
sea.

The island looked different to the repatriated people. Good
roads had replaced muddy trails. Army and Navy air fields were
beehives of activity where the Aleuts used to graze their sheep.

They had been homesick a long time. The Aleuts were moved en
masse from the islands in 1942 -- all except 100 or so who
were at Attu. Their fate is a mystery. No word of them or the
two white teachers, Charles Foster Jones and Mrs. Etta Jones,
who were with them, has been received since the Japanese seiz-
ed Attu in 1942. When the island was retaken by American
troops there was no evidence of the natives or the teachers.

Those who disembarked today were only a part of the island-
ers being repatriated. Others on the same army transport were
headed for Nikosliki, Akutan, and Atka. There were 400 in all.

The entire village of Atka is being rebuilt. The Japanese
bombed it, and the navy destroyed it when it appeared the Japa-
nese might land there. Even the Russian Orthodox church, with
its onion shaped spire, is being rebuilt.

Don C. Foster, general superintendent of the Alaskan In-
dian service, said the army and navy would supply the Aleuts
with necessities, replacing even lost guns and dories. Soon the
men will be able to go to the Pribilof Islands for the seal-
ing season and others will take up their traps.