



# The Thousand-mile War: World War II in Alaska and the Aleutians

*Brian Garfield*

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## **The Thousand-mile War: World War II in Alaska and the Aleutians** Brian Garfield

The 1942 Japanese invasion of two of the Aleutian Islands, the thousand-mile archipelago west of Alaska, represents the only time in modern history that American territory has been occupied by a foreign power. The ensuing fifteen-month campaign, memorialised in John Huston's extraordinary documentary film, was 'the weirdest war ever waged': a terrible, elemental and always three-sided battle, between the Americans, the Japanese and the weather. Frozen puddies of oil could be lifted like boards. Servicement burned summer clothing for fuel. Aircrews flew amidst icy rain, driven upside-down by gales. The eventual liberation of the island of Attu was second only to Iwo Jima in the percentage of American casualties. Brian Garfield's book, never before published in the UK, is the definitive history of this 'Forgotten War'.

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