

KODIAK AFTER THE WAR

Once the U.S. recaptured Attu and Kiska islands, the U.S. military shifted their focus away from Alaska, leaving behind concrete clues of Kodiak's World War II heritage.



G.I.'s at the Rainbow Corner Red Cross Club in Paris
 Photo courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration
 NADA image 196-136-01, Lefkowitz, August 28, 1945, 111-SC-20208



Chief of Staff speaking to Japanese officials during the Japanese surrender ceremony
 Photo courtesy of Alaska State Library, ASL 1963-01
 1. Smolen, MacLennan Photograph Collection, 1943-1945, ASL-PCA-81

Gone with the War

In what may have seemed a mass exodus, the U.S. Army and Navy moved their troops to other war fronts in the fall of 1943. A small contingency remained to keep the newly built defense installations from falling into complete disrepair.

Peacetime Adaptations

As WWII ended, many of the military installations were no longer essential for national defense. Fort Abercrombie was placed in caretaker status in 1944 along with the rest of Fort Greely. All Fort Greely installations were abandoned in 1947 and Fort Abercrombie's 8-inch guns were blown up as a safety precaution in 1948.



Evidence of the destruction of the 8-inch guns can be seen at Fort Abercrombie.

Lasting Impacts

The Kodiak Naval Operating Base (NOB) was officially turned over to the U.S. Coast Guard in 1972 and is now the largest Coast Guard base in the nation. Fort Abercrombie became a state historical park in 1969 and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1970, along with Fort Greely and the Kodiak NOB, due to its significant role in the United States' first line of defense.



Today, people enjoy recreating at Fort Abercrombie as much as they enjoy learning about Kodiak's involvement in WWII.



The wartime Employment Magazine at Mile Point now serves as the Kodiak Military History Museum.



The Johnson home on Kodiak was built with repurposed lumber from the Fort Greely Army Base.
 Photo courtesy of Al Fryer.

