

## **ALASKA AT WAR**

Alaska

Yukon

#### © 2015 Raoul Drapeau

# ALASKA AT WAR

Alaska

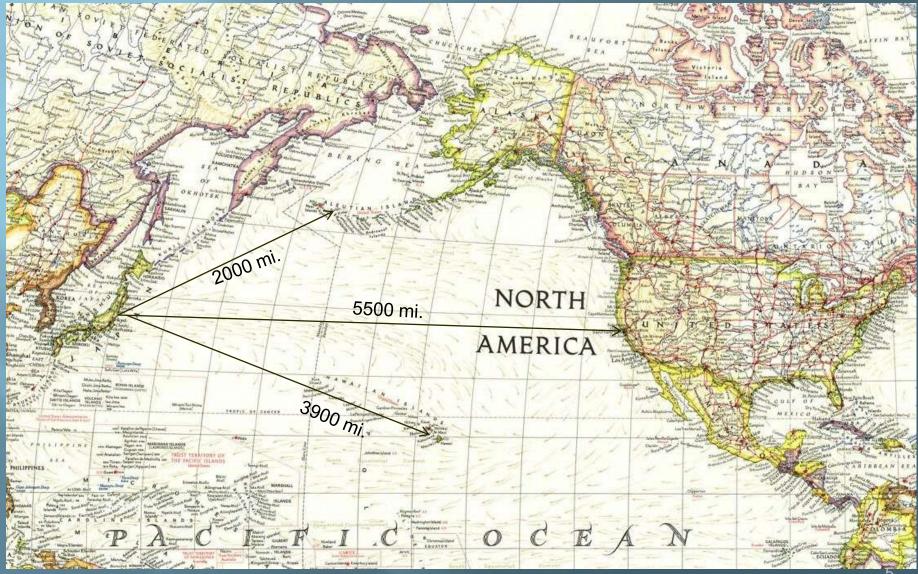
CUE Yukon

#### Defending Alaska Pre-War Status



21,500 troops, pre-war. Few airplanes, ships. Long, exposed supply lines. "Undefended frontier."

## Geography



#### Pearl Harbor, Hawaii December 7, 1941



## **ALASKA AT WAR**

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#### U.S. Resettlement Orders April 1, 1942

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION Presidio of San Francisco, California April 1, 1942

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

#### Living in the Following Area:

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No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 800 a.m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.

2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including; real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.

- 3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
- 4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

#### The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a, m. and 5:00 p, m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a, m. and 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

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Began January 1942. Generations of discrimination. 29,000 Nikkei a/o WWII.

EP MOV

WHITE MAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD.

"A tour de force, a deeply felt novel, brilliantly poetic in its sensibility." - New York Times Book Review

JOY KOGAWA

Speculation of espionage. 12,000 relocated (largest mass movement). 4,000 deported to Japan.

"It is the government's plan to get these people out of B.C. as fast as possible. It is my personal intention, as long as I remain in public life, to see they never come back here. Let our slogan be for British Columbia: 'No Japs from the Rockies to the seas.'"

—Ian Mackenzie



All males 18-45 removed. 100 mile "protected area." 1000

Fishing one of few occupations open. All 1,200 boats seized.



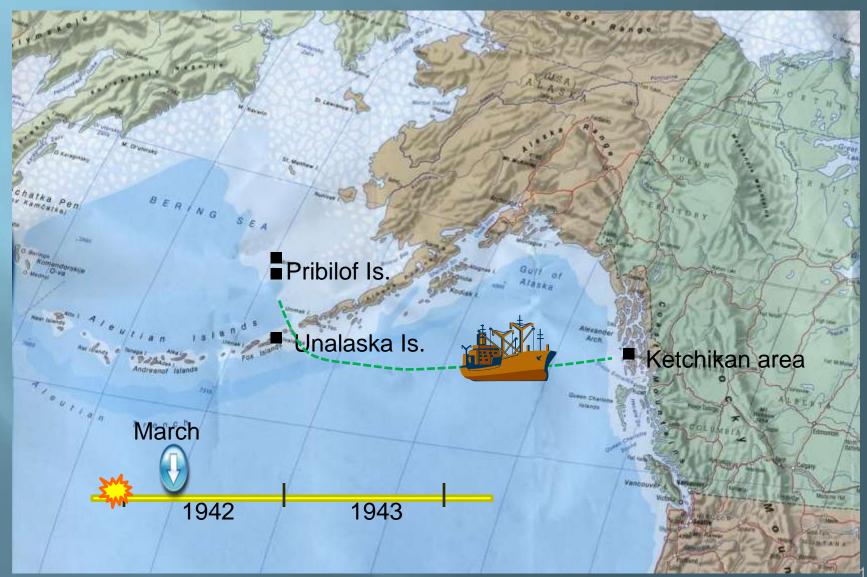


Resettlement

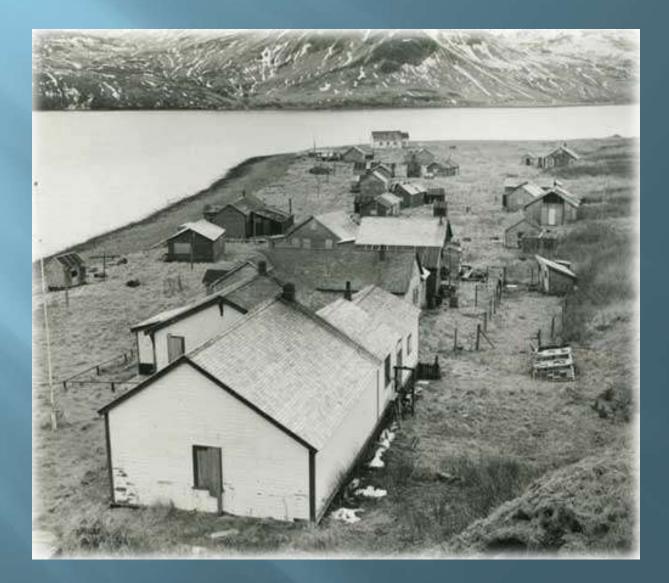
Alaska

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#### Aleut (Unangax) Villages "Protective" Evacuation

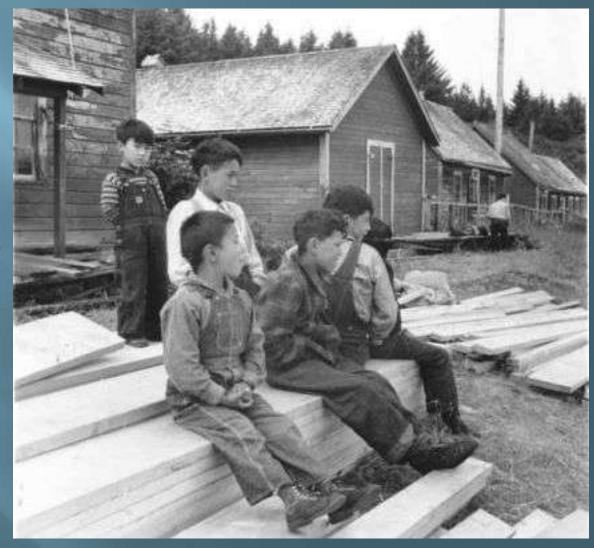


# Aleut (Unangax) Villages



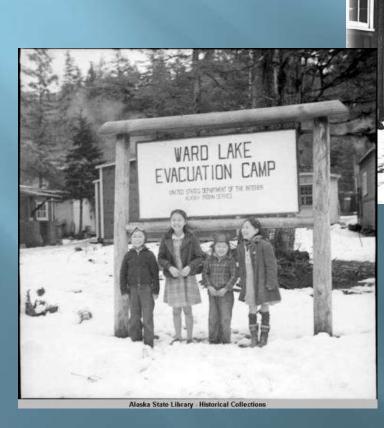
#### Ward Lake CCC Camp

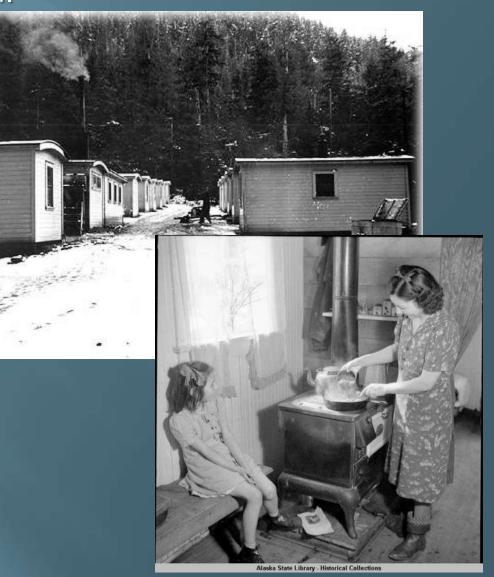
24 hours to evacuate.
881 dumped at CCC camps, abandoned canneries...) in SE Alaska.
No support, medical aid.



#### Ward Lake Camp

Villages burned, looted during war. Older members died. Culture destroyed.



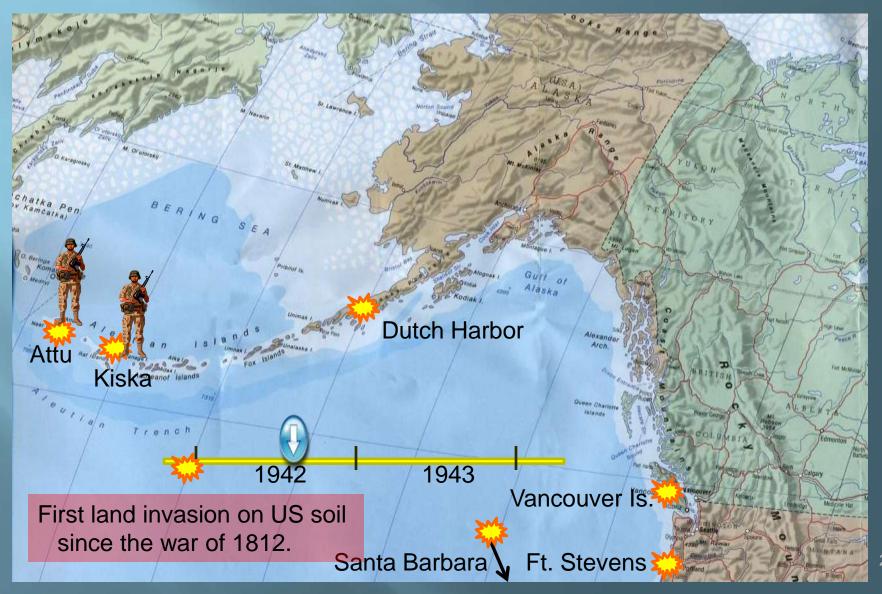




### **Bombing of Dutch Harbor**

#### Obsolete equipment. A wakeup call. World War II Multimedia Database www.worldwar2database.com

#### Coastal Bombardment & Invasion of Aleutian Islands June 3, 1942



## **Recapture of Aleutian Islands**

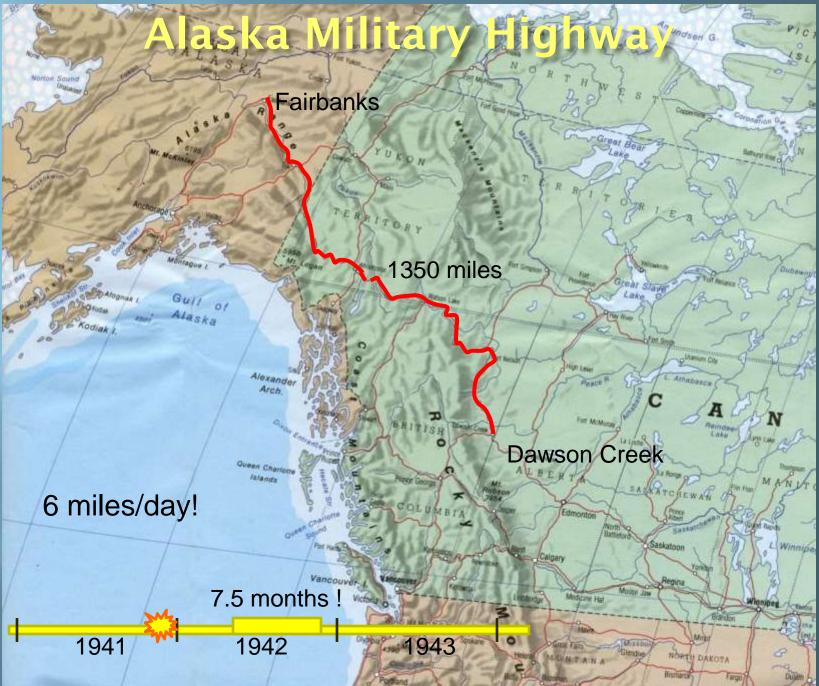


## **ALASKA AT WAR**









## Alaska Military Highway



# Alaska Military Highway



# Alaska Military Highway



# Alcan/Alaska Highway



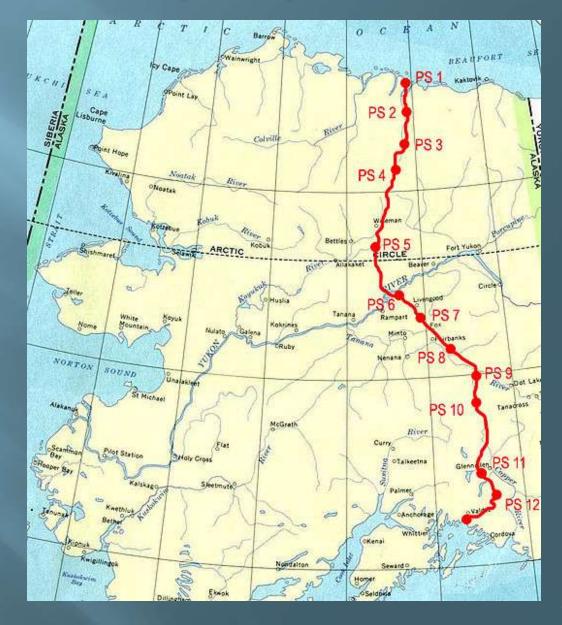


he Canol Project

Alaska

#### But First... The Modern Aleyska Pipeline

800 miles long.48" diameter.\$8 billion cost.70,000 workers.



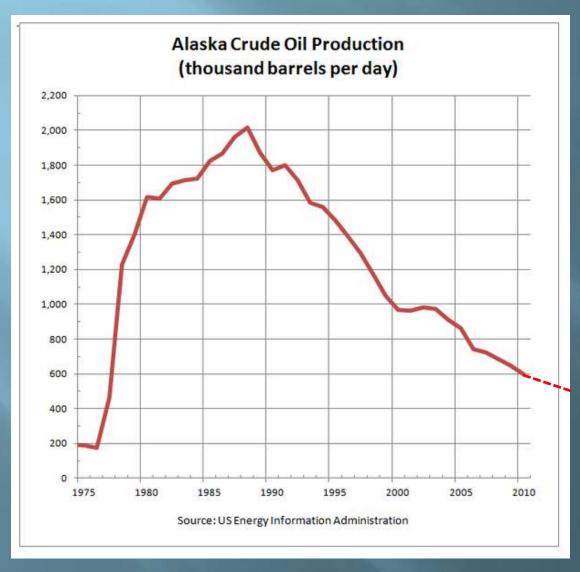
## Modern Aleyska Pipeline



## Modern Alaska Pipeline



## Modern Alaska Pipeline

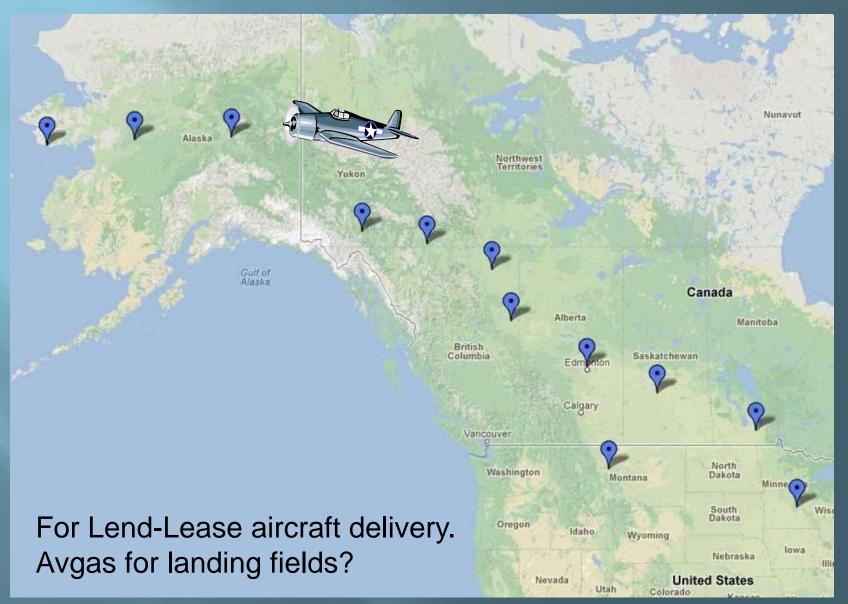


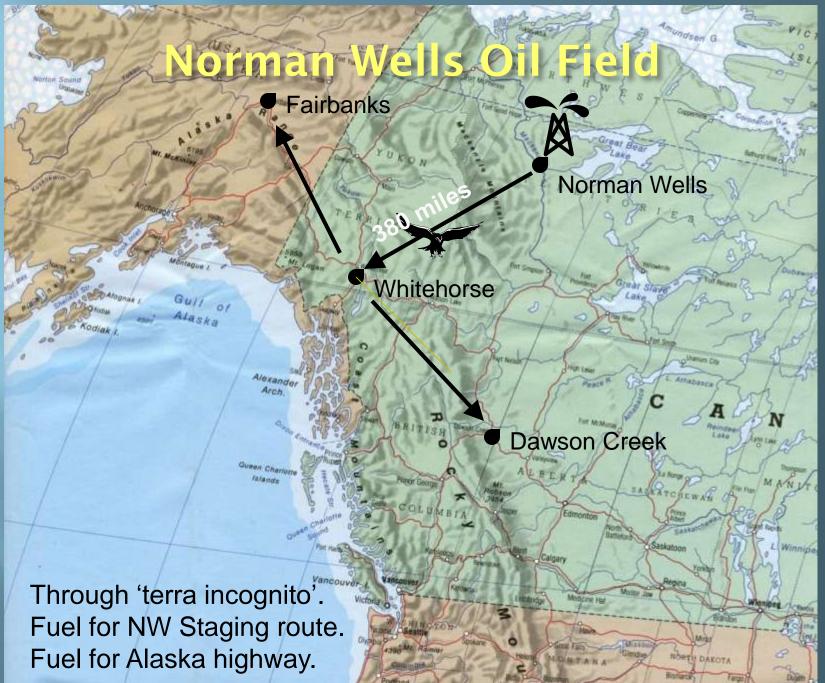
90% of AK budget from Oil.Slower flow causes corrosion& wax accumulation.5% annual drop.

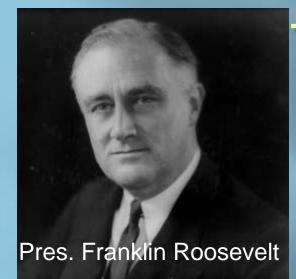
### WWII SOLUTION: THE CANOL PROJECT



## **Northwest Staging Route**

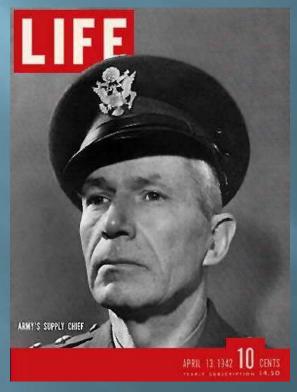




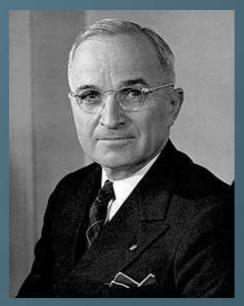


Harold lokes Sec. Interior

### The Key Players

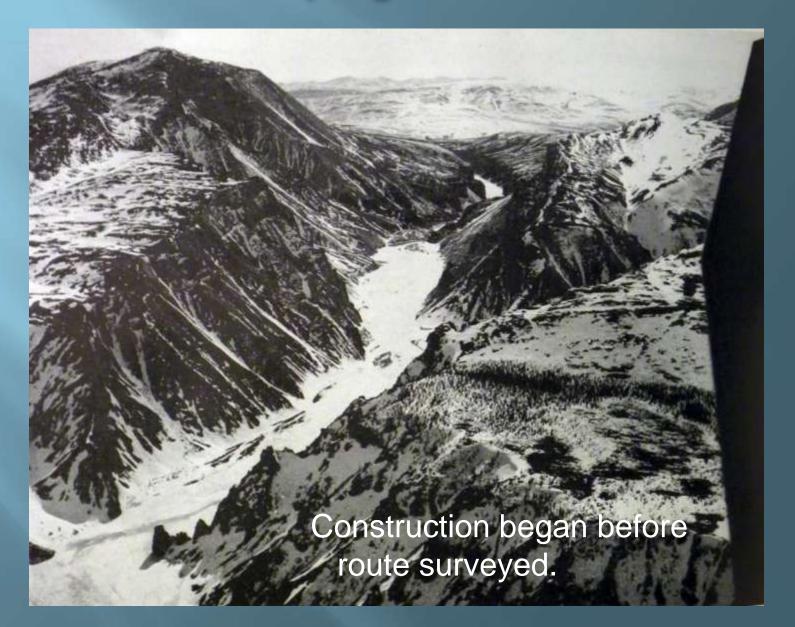


Gen. Brehon Somervell "Dynamite in a Tiffany box"



#### Sen. Harry Truman

Richard Finnie Photographer



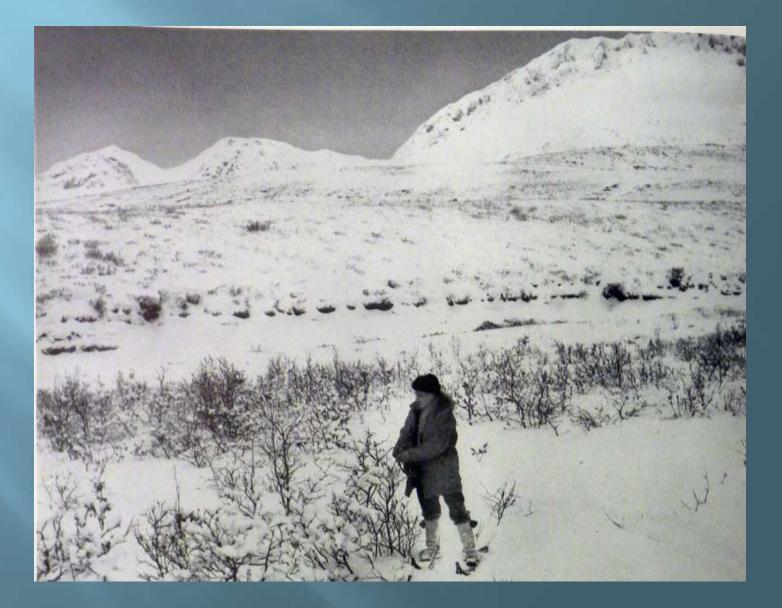


#### Indian guides George & "Little Edward" Blondin



# Surveying by Aircraft





JUNE 15 42

#### THIS IS NO PICNIC

WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS ON THIS JOB ARE AS DIFFICULT AS THOSE ENCOUNTERED ON ANY CONSTRUCTION JOB EVER DONE IN THE UNITED STATES OR FOREIGN TERRITORY. MEN HIRED FOR THIS JOB WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK AND LIVE UNDER THE MOST EXTREME CON-DITIONS IMAGINABLE. TEMPERATURE WILL RANGE FROM 90° ABOVE ZERO TO 70° BELOW **7ERO. MEN WILL HAVE TO FIGHT SWAMPS** RIVERS, ICE AND COLD. MOSQUITOS, FLIES. AND GNATS WILL NOT ONLY REANNOYING BUT WILL CAUSE BODILY HARM. IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO WORK UNDER THESE AND SIMILAR CONDITIONS NOT APPLY DO Bechtel - Price - Callahan

#### Recruitment Poster

Project not mentioned on Bechtel's corporate web site.



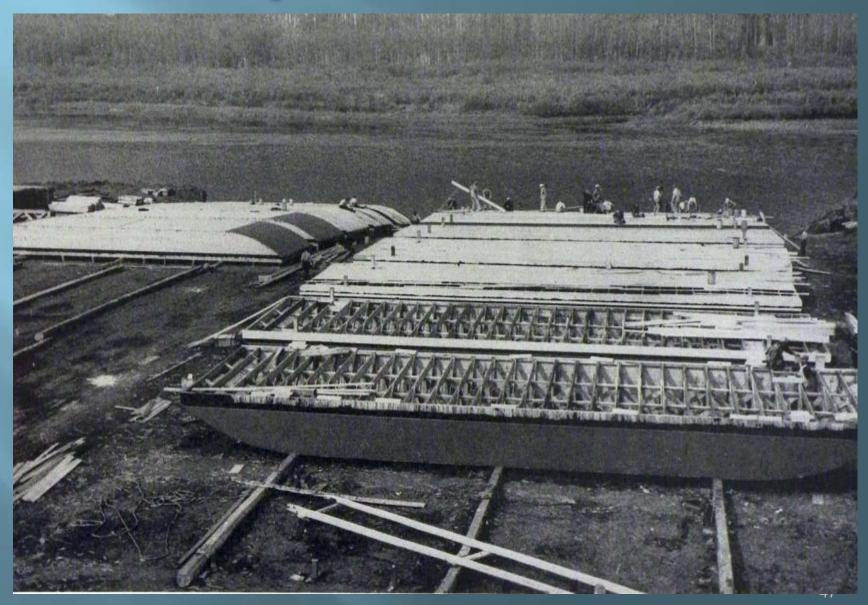
### Water Supply Route

No maps. No radios. No information. Only field rations & ponchos. Barges sank in bad weather.

#### Water Supply Route Barges



#### Water Supply Route Barges Under Construction



#### Water Supply Route Portaging Around Falls at Ft. Fitzgerald



#### Winter Road Waterways to Norman Wells

Overland winter road needed for volume. Couldn't use rivers (pressure ridges).

#### **Negro Troops** 388<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Separate)



Cut wood, built cabins, wrestled pipe.

#### Negro Troops Stevedore Duties



# **Pipe Handling**





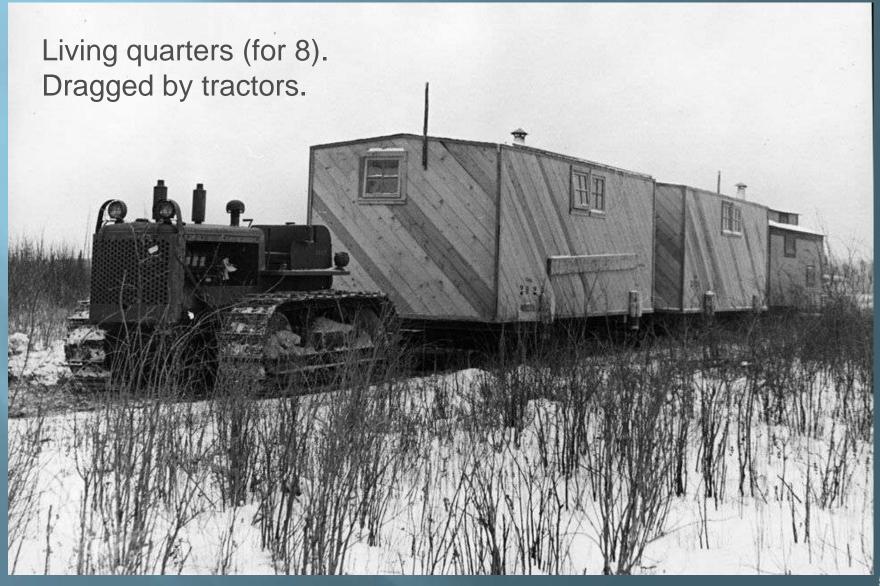
# **Bulldozing the Way**

No mechanics, drivers, parts... 3.5 hours of daylight. Bad climate & terrain = excessive wear, failures.

### **The Service Road**

Parallel to pipeline. 575 miles long.

# Wanigans



#### **Permafrost Woes**



# **Swollen Rivers**



#### **Corduroy Road Construction**

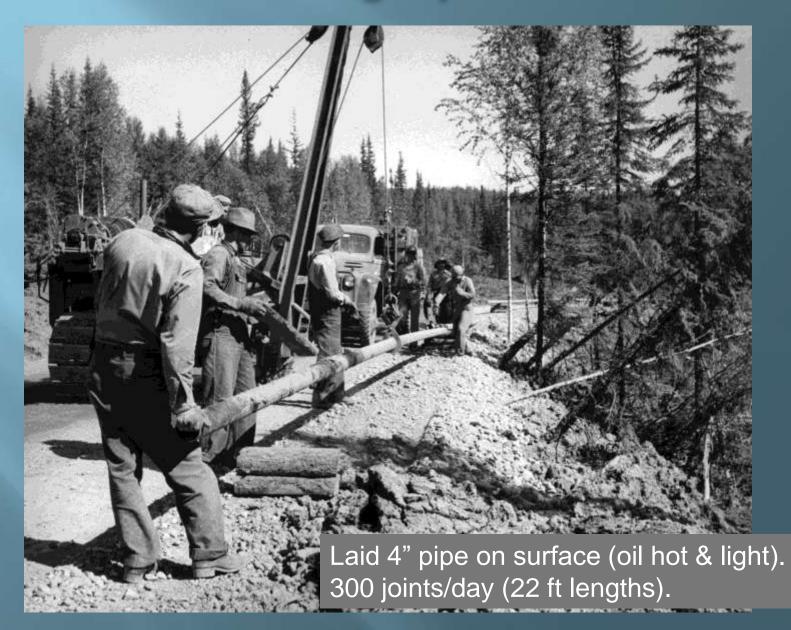
Pile trees on roadway. Cut drainage ditches; put spoils on trees. Add gravel.

Note mosquito net

# **Welding Operations**

Welders were most skilled. Electric arc welding.

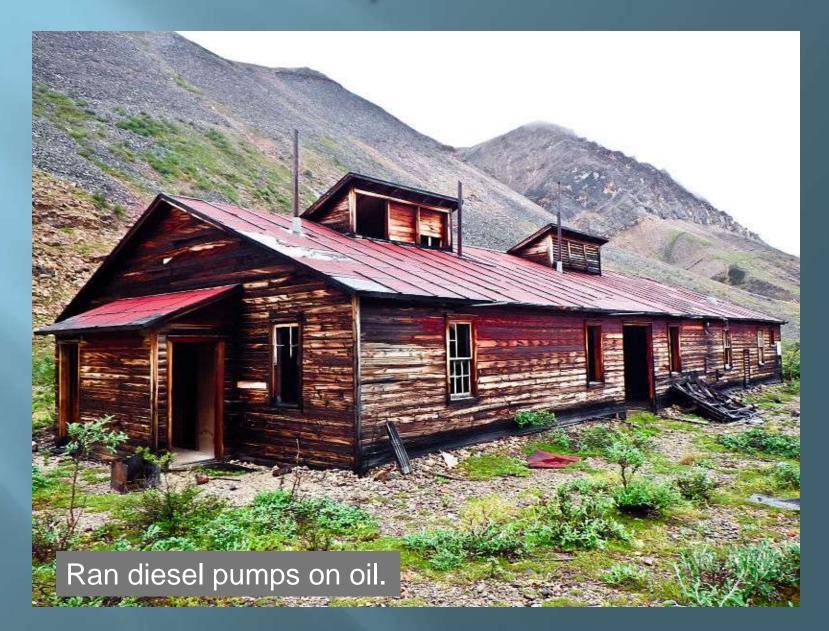
### **Welding Operations**



#### Welding Operations The Golden Weld – February 16, 1944



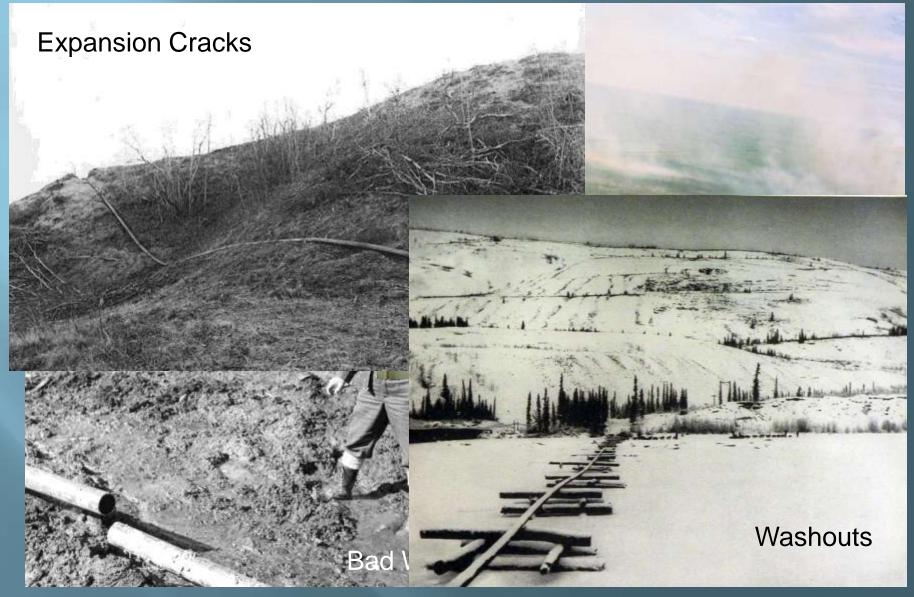
### **Pump Houses**





#### Built at narrow points. Swept away in spring.

### **Maintenance Problems**







#### Women

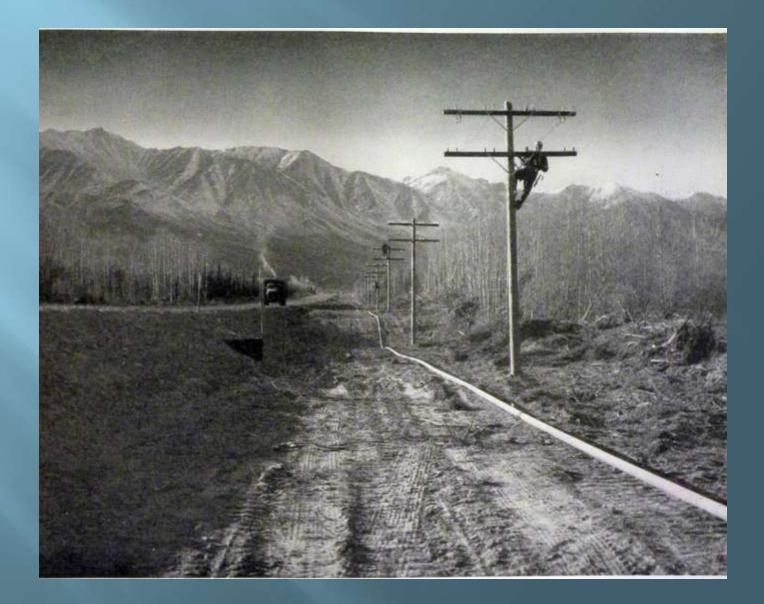


#### "Gentlemen:



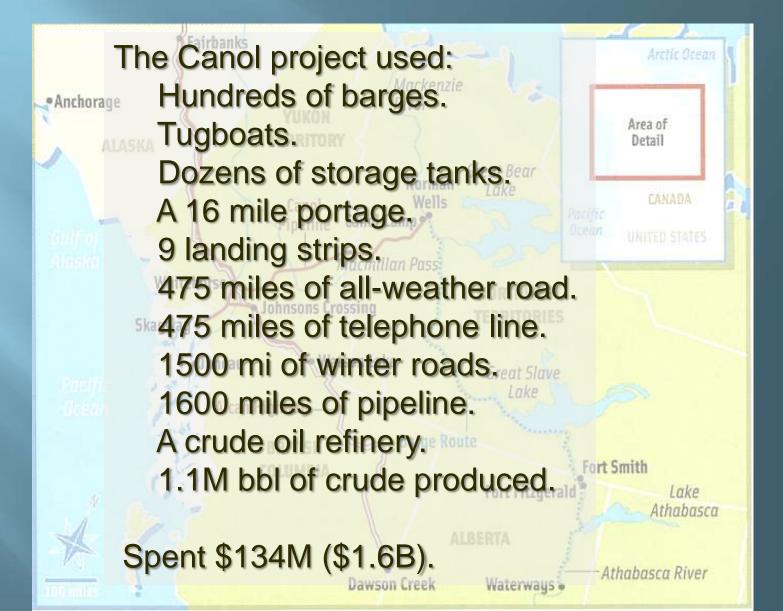
These rooms are solely provided for the recreation Of the girl employees and their invited guests. All others are requested not to loiter in these rooms."

# The Complete Right of Way

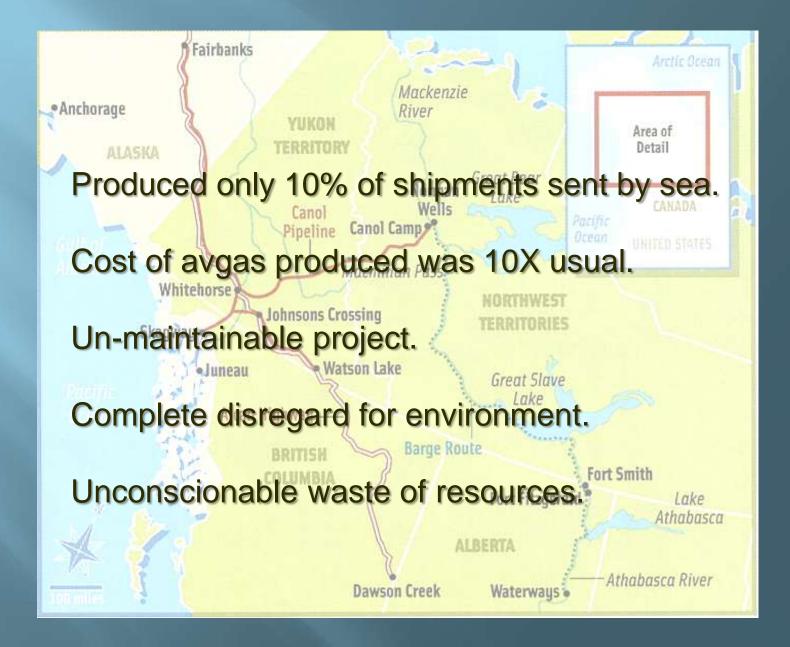




### The Result



#### But...



### **Truman Senate Committee**



#### Some Canol Quotes

"The waste in manpower and materials was greater than any act of sabotage by the enemy"

Truman Committee report

"Canol delivered 1/10 of the oil that sea barges and tankers did for 10 times the price."

Government report

#### Shutdown/Abandonment March 8, 1945



### **Canol Heritage Trail**



## **Canol Heritage Trail**



#### Lessons Learned

 Fear of the enemy resulted in bad policy & huge waste.

2. The Military Industrial complex was not to be denied.

3. The U.S. Government acted horribly towards some of its citizens.



Other developments:

Gov't of Canada working a deal with the Metis Still no road to Norman Wells – winter road/air Aleuts being given attention. "Japanese Resettlement" from CA, WA, OR, etc

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Japanese "Resettlement'

#### Executive Order 9066 February 19, 1942

WHEREAS the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national defense material, national defense premises, and national defense utilities...

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War.... to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War ... may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter and other accommodations as may be necessary...

1943

1944

 $194^{\circ}$ 

1942

1945

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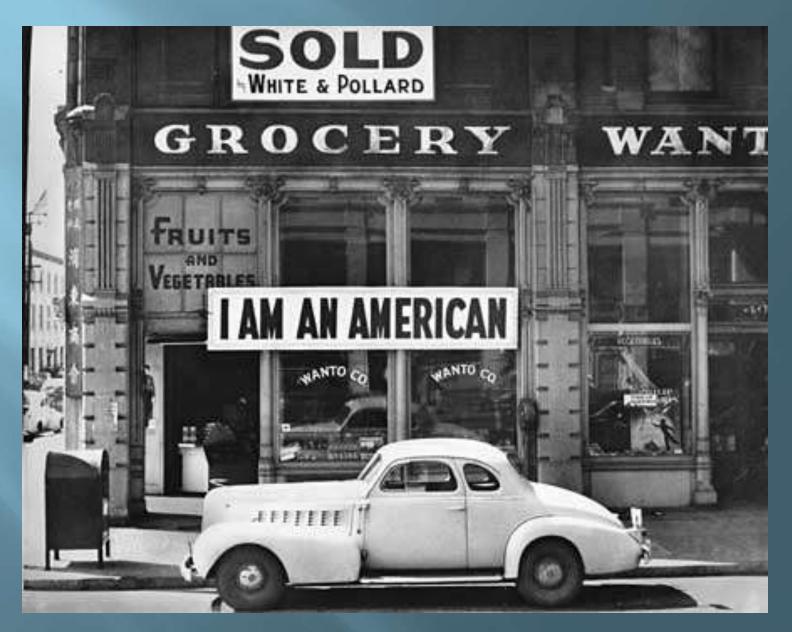
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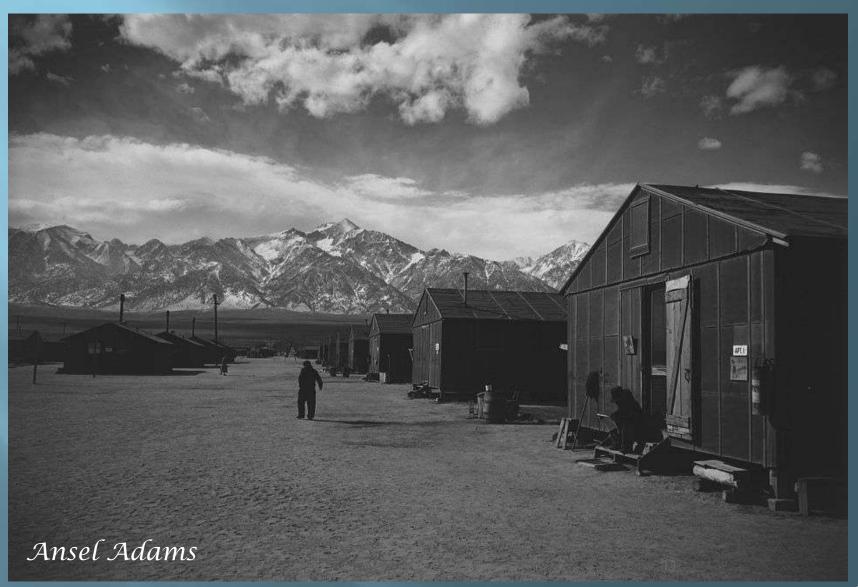
#### **Collection Process**



#### **Forced Business Sales**



### **Manzanar (CA) Relocation Center**







#### **Resettlement Locations**





### **Canada's Japanese Resettlement**

Families separated. No Bill of Rights.



### **Canada's Japanese Resettlement**

1988 Apology & Compensation. \$20,000 per living evacuee.

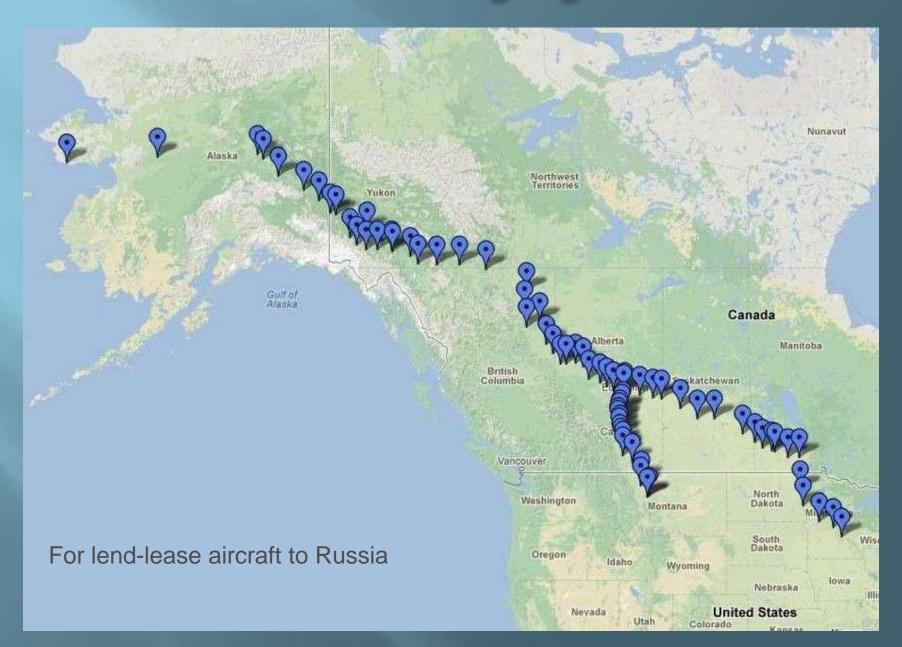


#### **German POW Camps**



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

#### **Northwest Staging Route**



### **Forest Fires**



#### Canol Map Airfields



### Norman Wells Today



