

Alaska Indian Service

VIA AIR MAIL

Juneau, Alaska
October 3, 1942

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Merchandise Mart Building
Chicago, Illinois

Sir:

With reference to your wire of September 15 and my reply of the same date, I am submitting the following report which covers a brief review of the evacuation situation from the dates the individual groups arrived at the respective stations:

Punter Bay, Alaska. On June 24, 477 Pribilof Natives arrived at this station consisting of 294 from St. Paul Island and 183 from St. George Island. They are under the supervision of Mr. E. C. Johnston, Fish and Wildlife Service. The St. Paul group is being housed in the old cannery buildings belonging to the P. E. Harris Cannery Company. The available cannery buildings consist primarily of two large bunk houses and eleven cottages and have required considerable repair to place in a livable condition. These buildings have been leased from the owner for \$60.00 per month. Across the bay from the P. E. Harris Cannery are the buildings of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company, consisting of five cottages, two mess and bunk houses and two bunk houses where the St. George group is housed. The person owning a controlling interest in this Company does not desire to receive any compensation for the use of these buildings, however he desires the Government to assume responsibility for the buildings and equipment there. Further effort is being made to negotiate a lease with this Company for sufficient amount to cover the necessary insurance on this property in order that no recourse may be made against the Government in case of any loss.

Both of these properties have required considerable repair to place in a livable condition and we have been advised that some additional cottages are being constructed.

Several of the Pribilof Natives are now employed in Juneau, four of whom are employed in the Federal building as janitors. Mr. E. C. Johnston has advised that he plans on obtaining employment for the balance of his group at Excursion Inlet this month on a Defense project. For further report on the Pribilof group it is requested that same be obtained from Mr. Johnston.

Killisnoo, Alaska. On June 24, 83 Atka Natives arrived at this station and are being housed in the cannery buildings there belonging to O. J. Matlund for the monthly rental consideration of \$75.00. The buildings consist of eight cottages, laundry, store, office, cold storage, shed, bunk house, mess hall, and warehouse buildings. Considerable repairs and remodeling of these buildings have been necessary. However, these people have worked very industriously to make the necessary repairs and get settled. A room has been provided for school use and school is now in session. Engines were salvaged from their fishing dories before leaving Atka and they are now building new dories at Killisnoo. A majority of the able-bodied men have already obtained employment, and these people are now arranging to start their cooperative store and paying for the supplies they use. The former teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Magee, are still with this group and are doing excellent work in assisting them in their readjustment.

Burnett Inlet, via Wrangell, Alaska. Located 40 miles from Wrangell. On July 23, 124 Unalaska Natives arrived at Wrangell Institute where they were housed temporarily until transportation could be arranged to Burnett Inlet on August 12 and 14. These people are housed in eleven cottages and one large bunk house belonging to Mr. A. R. Bruger, cannery owner, plus four new cottages which they have constructed. We will execute a lease with Mr. Bruger as soon as he reports the additional insurance required on his buildings on account of the present occupancy by these evacuees, which he is anxious to keep to a minimum. It was necessary to construct a small building for school and to meet minimum living needs for teachers, and an old warehouse was rebuilt for their supplies. The teacher reports that this building will be completed by October 10. Considerable repairs were necessary to the cannery buildings being occupied.

Ward Lake, via Ketchikan, Alaska. Located eight miles north of Ketchikan on highway. On July 13, 167 Aleuts (73 Nikolski, 45 Akutan, 20 Kashaga, 9 Makushin, and 20 Biorka) arrived at Wrangell Institute where they were housed temporarily until transportation could be arranged to Ward Lake. On September 23 all of these evacuees were transported to Ward Lake except one family of the Makushin group, which was a family of four and the husband a white. This family did not choose to remain with the group and took up residence in Wrangell, Alaska, and no further assistance is being rendered them. Ward Lake was a former CCC Camp which was turned over to us through the cooperation of the Forest Service and the U. S. Army. It consisted of thirteen cottages, mess hall and kitchen, small bunk house, fisheries building, laundry and bath house, toilet, and oil house. Sixteen additional cottages have been completed in addition to a small warehouse and teachers quarters. Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Whitfield, former teachers from Nikolski, are with this group.

The Indians of S. E. Alaska have been generous in welcoming the Aleuts, and in numerous cases, which have come to our attention, they have taken special care to share their fish with them. They arrived during the fishing season and were busy getting their buildings repaired. We have assisted in obtaining fishing gear, barrels, and salt for the groups in order that they could benefit from the fall fishing and preserve at least a portion of their regular winter supply of fish including smoked salmon. Temporary community messes were operated until they could get their quarters in shape.

The Killisnoo, Burnett Inlet, and Ward Lake groups are now entirely on a family basis. These people have made the necessary repairs and constructed their new cottages without wages being paid them, and they have been very industrious and cooperative in getting their quarters in shape under this arrangement with the understanding that they could seek employment after their families were settled. Where new cottages were constructed number three lumber was used which makes a building suitable for four or five years. However, these may be covered with siding and made into a more permanent building with little cost if desirable to do so in the future.

Due to the present shortage of labor we are attempting to obtain group employment on defense projects for them. They are being registered by the Federal Employment Division in order that they be assigned under priority preferences. It was necessary for these people to construct or repair their buildings in which to house their families first. They are now in the process of being employed and reports will be submitted as arrangements for their employment is completed.

The Nikolski village has sufficient funds in their IIM account to pay the balance of their loan (\$4000) to the Government. Since they are not planning to operate a store at Ward Lake, it is believed that they will pay their loan in full this year, and if additional funds are needed when they return to Nikolski, a new loan can be made for the amount required.

Killisnoo and Burnett Inlet are located in very good fishing areas which would be suitable permanent resettlement locations.

Transportation of supplies has been held up considerable because we had no other means for handling them, excepting the "Penguin" which is operated by Fish and Wildlife Service, and the "Institute" and barge operated by Wrangell Institute.

All of these groups have a common bond of association through the Russian Greek Orthodox Catholic Church and materials have been furnished them for the repair of buildings for their churches. They

brought their church fixtures with them which they prize very highly and they are anxious to get them installed in order that they may continue their regular services.

As stated in my wire to you of September 15, all of these groups are making a very good adjustment and are appreciative of the assistance being given them.

Considering the mail service in Alaska, we have made very good progress in obtaining the agreements for the emergency supplies from the Native stores. We have eighteen of them executed and will mail them as soon as Mr. Louis C. Peters, Field Agent, returns to this office the last of this month. He has been working on this matter in the field for the past two months along with other matters. We expect him to complete a part or all of the other ten agreements before his return and will forward them as they are completed.

Regular monthly reports are being made on the obligations and expenditures for the allotment for the purchase of the emergency supplies. As of October 1, 1942, the following obligations have been incurred:

Emergency Fund:

(a) Evacuation	\$ 64,249.95
(b) Emergency Supplies . .	\$161,683.38

At the end of this month we plan on furnishing you a report of the breakdown of the evacuation costs for each of these groups.

We are enclosing copies of correspondence relative to evacuation matters covering the time between August 1 and September 9, 1942.

Respectfully yours,

Claude M. Hirst
General Superintendent