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Historical Collections**

**Guide to Collection**

**MacKinnon, James Simpson ("Sim")**

**J. Simpson MacKinnon Photograph Collection, 1943-1945  
U.S. Naval Occupation of Kiska and Surrender of Japanese Forces at Hokkaido**

**PCA 80**

115 photographs + papers

Processed by: Staff

**ACQUISITION:** Captain James Simpson MacKinnon, Chief of Staff, 17th Naval District, presented these photographs (date unknown).

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**PROCESSING:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Simpson "Sim" MacKinnon was born Mar. 26, 1897, in Juneau to pioneer prospector Lockie MacKinnon and his wife, Martha. He was named for Dr. James Kidd Simpson who saved Lockie MacKinnon's life following an explosion at the Ebner Mine in the Last Chance Basin. Sim spent his early childhood in Fairbanks and returned to Juneau, graduating from high school in 1917. He became the first Alaskan to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy (1921). Sim and Hazel Jaeger were married in 1923 and they moved to Chefoo, China, where he was stationed. During his tour of duty their only child, James Simpson "Skip," was born in Manila, Philippines. In 1927, Sim and his family returned to Juneau where they operated the Alaska Laundry and Cleaners.

MacKinnon was naval aide to Gov. John Troy and later to Gov. Ernest Gruening. After World War II broke out, he returned to active military service as chief of staff for the 17th Naval District, directing the war effort in the Aleutians. He retired with rank of captain in 1946.

MacKinnon was a member of the Juneau Volunteer Fire Department, the Pioneers of Alaska and the Elks. He was a 3rd degree Master Mason and Shriner. "Sim" MacKinnon died July 31, 1990, in Juneau at age 93.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Captain James Simpson MacKinnon, Chief of Staff, 17th Naval District, presented these photographs of the American occupation of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands, 1943, and the surrender of North Pacific Japanese forces at Hokkaido. The views include remains of Japanese installations, construction and occupation of the U.S. Naval Station at Kiska and the Japanese surrender at Hokkaido to Vice Admiral Frank J. Fletcher, U.S.N.

Other MacKinnon collections include PCA 96, PCA 14.

## INVENTORY

- 1 August 10, 1943. Material to be loaded for Kiska [trucks, construction materials].
- 2 August 4, 1943. Loading ship.
- 3 Japanese merchant ship, KANU MARU, wrecked in Kiska Harbor.
- 4-6 [Views of the Japanese merchant ship, KANU MARU]
- 7 August 22, 1943. Camp area, Trout Lagoon - Kiska.
- 8 Kiska [unloading Jeeps and other materials]
- 9 August 22, 1943. First landing at Kiska - first Jeep run off on shore.
- 10 August 26, 1943. Unloading material [tractor, crane unloading crates]

- 11 August 22, 1943. Camp area, Trout Lagoon - Kiska.
- 12 August 22, 1943. Sea Bee camp area site.
- 13 Effect of storm: landing craft wrecked at South Head, Kiska.
- 14 August 22, 1943. Mired cat.
- 15 Same storm [beach, landing craft and rubble from storm].
- 16 Salvage attempts - KANU MARU.
- 17 [Army alligator (amphibious armored car) shown coming in to beach.]
- 18 Japanese dock at Kiska [beach, metal drums and landing craft also shown].
- 19 [Aftermath of storm: landing craft, debris.]
- 20 [Aftermath of storm from beach; several landing craft.]
- 21 KANU MARU beached after bombing [showing island in background].
- 22 After the storm [shot of beach , landing craft and rubble].
- 23 August 22, 1943. Unloading materials [tractor with grading blade being driven onto beach from landing craft].
- 24 August 22, 1943. Unloading materials [men on beach, crane, unloading from landing craft].
- 25 After the storm [island in background with various landing craft in foreground; surface of beach is torn up].
- 26 [Harbor Control Station, landing craft in foreground with island in background.]
- 27 Kiska Harbor [showing long view with Trout Lagoon, Mt. Kiska and North Head; various boats].
- 28 [North Head on Kiska Island.]
- 29 [Close-up of men working on landing craft.]
- 30 [Landing craft on beach with Kiska Harbor, other craft in background.]
- 31 [Landing craft on beach, Kiska Harbor.]
- 32 [Men on dock, materials, vehicles on beach.]

- 33 [Men on KANU MARU?]
- 34 August 23, 1943. Landing barge unloading [trucks, crates waiting to be unloaded from barge and landing craft; lumber on beach].
- 35 August 23, 1943. Landing barge unloading [men on barge, and on beach with lumber, crane].
- 36 [Close-up of barge unloading grader onto beach with ships in background.]
- 37 August 24, 1943. Unloading materials [loaded truck and tractor being driven onto beach; small tent in background].
- 38 August 22, 1943. Japanese road on Kiska.
- 39 August 24, 1943. Shell and bomb crater[s].
- 40 Panorama [island installation and road looking toward harbor].
- 41 August 26, 1943. Pipe yard [stacks of pipe, cartons, road].
- 42 August 26, 1943. Unloaded supplies [tents, stacks of cartons in pipe yard].
- 43 Sea Bee camp [showing tents, pipe yard].
- 44 Mess tent - Navy town camp.
- 45 September 1, 1943. Unloaded supplies [men working among crates, cartons, with grader working on road].
- 46 September 2, 1943. Unloading barge [looking from beach toward sea].
- 47 September 2, 1943. Unloading barge [crane at work unloading lumber].
- 48 September 2, 1943. Material storage [large pile of metal drums, cartons, pipe, lumber with buildings truck, and tents in background].
- 49 September 2, 1943. Pipe yard [cargo cart, stacks of pipe and tents beside road].
- 50 August 22, 1943. Panorama - Looking out on Kiska Harbor. Japanese hospital area.
- 51 August 29, 1943. Panorama Kiska Harbor. Left - Remains of Japanese installation [including hospital].
- 52 September 2, 1943. Japanese oil barrels. " Two drums of alcohol were among them."
- 53 September 3, 1943. Unloaded supplies [crates and lumber shown next to road].

- 54 September 3, 1943. Washing dishes [mess tent with men bringing in dishes to be washed].
- 55 September 3, 1943. Power generator [with men, tents and metal drums beside road].
- 56 September 3, 1943. Electricians at work [with crane in background.]
- 57 September 3, 1943. Cleaning out creek [men with crane, lumber at creek].
- 58 September 3, 1943. Bridge building [men at work with crane; men digging].
- 59 September 3, 1943. Bridge building [bridge framework up, crane in background].
- 60 September 3, 1943. Bridge building [men working on bridge framework].
- 61 September 3, 1943. Bridge building [close-up of men working on bridge].
- 62 September 3, 1943. Completed bridge [man driving grader over bridge].
- 63 September 4, 1943. Building new camp site [men digging, hills in background].
- 64 September 4, 1943. Sea Bee garage [men working on vehicles].
- 65 September 4, 1943. Coal dump.
- 66 September 4, 1943. Beginning stone quarry [men using truck, jeep and van].
- 67 September 4, 1943. Assembling shovel [men working on shovel with tent in background].
- 68 September 4, 1943. Tent frames.
- 69 September 3, 1943. Warehouse frame.
- 70 Warehouse [men working, truck beside building].
- 71 September 6, 1943. Building warehouse.
- 72 September 4, 1943. Office [officers at work at desks, with nameplate visible on one desk].
- 73 Building seaplane parking area [grading, with harbor in background].
- 74 September 6, 1943. Quonset hut erection - administration building.
- 75 September 7, 1943. Grading for seaplane ramp.
- 76 September 7, 1943. Laying metal mat, seaplane parking area.

- 77 September 7, 1943. Seaplane ramp.
- 78 September 7, 1943. Seaplane ramp [close-up of metal mat].
- 79 September 7, 1943. Seaplane ramp [men working beside ramp, harbor in background].
- 80 Beginning of permanent installation.
- 81 Looking back on Navy area [from boat] - road to Trout Lagoon - and on to North Head.
- 82 [View from sea looking toward harbor.]
- 83 [View from sea looking toward harbor with several ships visible.]
- 84 [View from sea of Navy installation.]
- 85 Navy installation [viewed from sea].
- 86 Road from Navy town to South Head [viewed from sea].
- 87 [Looking toward installation from sea.]
- 88 Commander J.S. MacKinnon, U.S.N.R. [and] Adm. Rep. of Commander of Alaska Sector, Adm. Reeves [shows Reeves holding painted portrait of Commander MacKinnon as Reeves stands next to him]
- 89 [Admiral Reeves holding painted portrait of Commander J.S. MacKinnon, U.S.N.R.]
- 90 Wrecked landing craft after August storm [shows many landing craft washed up in disarray on shore].
- 91 Wrecked landing craft after August storm [closer shot of same view, showing rope attached to one of the craft].
- 92 Vice-Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Commander No. Pacific Forces, rec'd (sic) surrender of Northern Japanese Islands Hdq. Adak [full view of Commander Fletcher coming up on deck with men at attention].
- 93 Flagship No. Pacific Forces - Hokkaido Harbor [men and officers crowding decks of ship, ready for Japanese surrender].
- 94 [Officers in foreground and men in background on deck, ready for Japanese surrender.]
- 95 [Close-up of officers on deck of flagship, ready for Japanese surrender.]
- 96 [Close-up of officers, men in background, on decks of flagship ready for Japanese surrender.]

- 97 [Close-up of officers on deck of flagship, waiting for Japanese surrender.]
- 98 [U.S. Naval officers standing opposite Japanese officials and ~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo on flagship deck in front of American flag, both sides saluting, at beginning of Japanese surrender ceremony.]
- 99 [U.S. Naval officers, Japanese officials and ~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo facing each other at beginning of Japanese surrender ceremony.]
- 100 [U.S. Naval officers and Japanese officials at Japanese surrender ceremony.]
- 101 Chief of Staff [speaking to Japanese officials during Japanese surrender ceremony].
- 102 [Close-up of] Adm. Brown [and Vice-Admiral Frank Jack] Fletcher [standing next to the] Commodore [as he reads the terms of surrender].
- 103 Reading surrender terms.
- 104 [Commodore reading surrender terms over microphone as Japanese officials read them.]
- 105 [Commodore speaking to Japanese officials.]
- 106 [Commodore reading surrender terms over microphone as Japanese read them.]
- 107 [Close-up of Japanese officials and ~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo as they read surrender terms.]
- 108 [Japanese officials speaking to the Commodore.]
- 109 [Japanese officials in discussion with the Commodore.]
- 110 [Close-up of ~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo, flanked by Japanese officials, signing surrender papers.]
- 111 [~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo, flanked by Japanese officials, signing surrender papers.]
- 112 [U.S. Naval officer saluting as he debarks from flagship.]
- 113 [U.S. Naval officer leaving flagship.]
- 114 [~~Emperor Hirohito~~ Lt. Gen. Toshimoto Hoshimo, flanked by Japanese officials, signing surrender papers.]
- 115 [ADAK TRIBUNE, Extra edition, dated August 14, 1945, with "War Ends" headline.]  
Photocopy

- 116a [THE ADAKIAN, v. 7, no. 42, dated August 11, 1945, Extra edition, with headline reading, "Counter-Proposal, Emperor May Stay - Under Our Rule."] Photocopy
- 116b [THE ADAKIAN, Extra edition, v. 7, no. 46, dated August 11, 1945, with "PEACE" headline.] Photocopy
- 116c [THE ADAKIAN, v. 7, no. 46, dated August 30, 1945, Extra anniversary edition; third anniversary of first troops landing on Adak.] Photocopy
- 117a [Telegram dated August, 1945, to Chief of Staff from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. Commends men at the end of the war and asks for discipline to continue during demobilization.]
- 117b [Telegram dated August 15, 1945, from Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-In-Chief and Chief of Naval Operations, to Alaska Naval Operations; declaring victory over Japan, remembering those who died, commending Naval and other forces, and asking for renewed dedication to peace.]
- 117c [Telegram dated August 17, 1945, from the Commandant of the Marine Corps. to the Marines and other forces, passed on to Alaska Naval Operations by the Secretary of the Navy; congratulations for a job well done.]
- 117d [Telegram dated August 1945, from COMDESPAC and CDRCRUPAC to CRUPAC; commends men for achievements.]
- 117e [Telegram dated August 15, 1945, from General Douglas MacArthur to Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese Imperial Government about the terms of Japan's surrender.]
- 118 Showing track of evacuated force, 29 July 1943 [map transparency]
- 119 Movement of Japanese forces, Aleutian campaign, 1942 [map transparency]
- 120 [hand drawn map showing "departed" / "entered" locations, Agattu, Kiska, Denaid Bay - no title or date] [map transparency]
- Note: *The following images were added to the collection on 5/22/2006 by Sean Lanksbury. Though the numbering continues from the end of the collection, images 121 through 133 are similar to those found between photographs 81 through 87 and share the same subject matter.*
- 121 Aug-Sept 1943. Right side of Kiska Harbor showing part of Army town and Worth Head [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]
- 122 Aug-Sept 1943. Kiska Harbor. Army & Navy town directly behind boat. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]
- 123 Aug-Sept 1943. Right side of Kiska Harbor showing Army town. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]

- 124 Aug-Sept 1943. Kiska Harbor. Bombed Ship in center. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]
- 125 Aug-Sept 1943. Kiska Harbor. Army town on right, Navy town on left. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]
- 126 Head of Kiska Harbor Bay. Aug-Sept 1953 [1943]. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 127 Aug-Sept 1943. Kiska Harbor - Navy Army town. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 128 Aug-Sept 1943. Army town at Kiska Harbor. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 129 Aug-Sept 1943. Army town at Kiska Harbor. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 130 Aug-Sept 1943. Kiska Harbor - Navy town. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 131 Navy town at Kiska Harbor. Aug-Sept 1943. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ships in the harbor.]
- 132 Looking towards Army Base. On left building area for pulling planes out of water. [View from shore. Seaplanes and ships in harbor]
- 133 Kiska Harbor showing Army town. [View from sea looking toward harbor. Ship in the harbor.]
- 134 This is the only copy I have. Aug. 1944. English made gun, dismantled by the Japanese at Singapore, transported and installed at North Head - on the Aleutian chain - at Kiska, Alaska. It was reported two of these (six?) inch mortars were installed on Kiska by the crews of the 11th Airforce Crash boats whom I had met at Naknek, Alaska. (Signature at end is illegible)

Duplicates

*g:hist/PCAs/PCA80  
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