

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Amos, C. William, Jr.

C. W. Amos Photograph Collection, 1944-1945

PCA 296

37 photos (.5 inches)

Processed: April 1988

By: India Spartz

ACQUISITION: The photographs and negatives were donated by the photographer.
Acc. No. 1988-035.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: The photographs and negatives were numbered and placed in archival sleeves and boxes.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

C. William Amos, Jr. worked as a lighthouse keeper for the U.S. Coast Guard. During the winter of 1944, he was transferred to the Cape Spencer Lighthouse, on the northern side of the entrance to Cross Sound in southeast Alaska, traveling via the U.S.C.G. bouy tender, *Hemlock*, and arriving on the 15th of April. During the winter he spent there, his daughter was born in Portland, Oregon, but it was 9 months before he could see her. In 1945, he went to Ketchikan and was assigned to the Tree Point Lighthouse on the Revillagigedo Channel until the end of World War II. Mr. Amos served a total of 39 months and 13 days in the U. S. Coast Guard before returning home to Portland, Oregon.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The photos were taken by C.W. Amos enroute to Cape Spencer and during the time he was stationed there as a Coast Guard radioman and weather observer. Photos include travel to the Cape Spencer Lighthouse, winter storms, accident off Five Finger Lighthouse, Christmas celebrations, other members of the lighthouse crew, and daily activities.

INVENTORY

1. Cape Spencer Lighthouse. Howard Brenna or Carl Hillesland standing on top of tower, winter 1944. Picture taken by climbing 3/4 way up radio tower in front of lighthouse.
2. Cape Spencer Lighthouse, spring or summer 1944.
3. Lighthouse, south side, taken from small boat [overall view].
4. Lighthouse from east side with dory being lowered over the side [by crane].
5. Dock and crane, looking east toward Dicks Arm Inlet.
6. Cape Spencer Lighthouse. Walter H. Kallstrom, M.M. 1/C, officer in charge, on left. C.W. Amos, R.M. 3/C, on right with lens in background.
7. Dock with crane ready to lower three men over the side [in boat].
8. Three men in dory about to be launched.
9. Dory launched and off the hook.
10. Dory launched and rowing away from the rocks.

11. Crane lowering motor launch over side to men waiting below in dory.
12. C.W. Amos Jr., R.M. 3/C, taking weather observation to be reported each hour in code to Weather Bureau at Juneau Airport.
13. Weather Instruments - L to R: mercury barometer, recording barograph (barometer below), wind direction and speed indicator.
14. Radio room with C.W. Amos, Jr., R.M. 3/C, on mid-watch.
15. Living room with Howard Brenna, M.M. 2/C [seated].
16. Typical bedroom.
17. Cape Spencer Lighthouse, Christmas, 1944. L to R: Wallace Prosser, R.M. 2/C; Jack Brennan, R.M. 3/C (died October 1987); Richard S. Simms, B.M. 2/C, O.I.C.; Carl Hillesland, S 1/C; Alvin Jacobsen, R.T. 2/C; Howard Brenna, M.M. 2/C [sitting under Christmas tree].
18. Christmas Dinner, 1944. L to R: Richard S. Simms, B.M. 2/C, O.I.C.; Howard Brenna, M.M. 2/C; Alvin Jacobsen, R.T. 2/C; Wallace Prosser, R.M. 2/C; Jack Brennan, R.M. 3/C; Carl Hillesland, S 1/C (cook). All took turns cooking and/or baking. If cook was offended by comments on food, he would throw apron at offender who had to finish out cook's turn.
19. Christmas Dinner, 1944 [similar to #18 except C.W. Amos is seated in place of Alvin Jacobsen (third from left)].
20. Summer 1944. L-R (Rear): Jackson C. Goolsby, R.M. 1/C, "The Younger," always his signature. Richard S. Simms, B.M. 2/C; Alvin ("Jake") Jacobsen, R.T. 2/C; Wallace Prosser, R.M. 2/C. L-R (Front): Howard Brenna, M.M. 2/C; Carl Hillesland, S 1/C; Walter H. Kallstrom, M.M. 1/C, O.I.C.
21. Summer 1944 [same as #19 except C.W. Amos is standing in place of Alvin Jacobsen, third from left, rear].
22. Winter storm, January 1945 [waves crashing against rocks].
23. Winter storm, January 1945. Note - 2 fog horns in upper left corner...
24. Winter Storm, January 1945. Waves breaking over rocks down by crane house.

25. Winter storm at Cape Spencer Lighthouse, January 1945. Very rough water down by dock and crane house.
26. [Similar to 25.]
27. [Similar to 25.]
28. Engine room with diesel air compressor engine and air tank in background. Flywheel approximately 5-6 feet in diameter.
29. U.S.C.G. Buoy Tender HEMLOCK accident off Five Finger Lighthouse, April 14, 1944 -bolt pulled out of bow while lowering men over side to take a man over to Five Finger, dumping all on board and seabags, etc. into icy water [swamped boat alongside ship].
30. U.S.C.G. Buoy Tender HEMLOCK accident off Five Finger Lighthouse, April 14, 1944. Five or six men ...adrift, waiting for motor lifeboat to be lowered...
31. Cape Spencer Lighthouse crane lowering motor launch over side to men waiting below in small boat. When launch was in water, engine would be started before casting off from hook. Then waiting men would enter motor launch and tow small boat behind.
32. Cape Spencer Lighthouse engine room. Howard Brenna, M.M. 2/C, in front (with a member of a work party in rear) overhauling diesel generator.
33. Grocery storage room in basement... [food] brought out approximately twice a month on mail boat, depending on weather [from Juneau and Ketchikan].
34. Beacon transmitters for aircraft and ships - synchronized with fog horns...
35. Kitchen.
36. Living room - C.W. Amos, Jr., R.M. 3/C [seated].
37. Battery room, supplying power for all equipment and kept charged by two diesel generators.