

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**U.S. Coast Guard Cutter NORTHWIND Bering Sea Patrol, 1948**

**PCA 309**

Revised by: India Spartz  
May 1989

In 1948, the USCG NORTHWIND departed Seattle to head up the Bering Sea Patrol. The patrol was responsible for improving the Coast Guard navigation outposts in the Aleutian Islands, replenishing food and fuel supplies and providing mail service. Law enforcement was provided by the "Floating Court" headed by District Judge Joseph Kehoe. The court traveled on the *Northwind* from May 14 - June 4, 1948 to Nunivak Island, St. Lawrence Island, Golovin.

Other patrol services included medical care for natives and government personnel provided by the US Public Health Service, nutritionists, Alaska Native Service welfare workers and educators as well as a scientific team studying ethnology from the Peabody Museum at Harvard. The photographer is unidentified. A USCG narrative of the journey is enclosed.

### Inventory

1. Amlia Island, Alaska. Smoking volcano.
2. Native village of Adtka, (Atka) Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol 1948. NORTHWIND. [Waterfront view of the small village].
3. 6-17-48 (84) Doctor William J. Braye assisted by Hubert Hoff HMc giving dental treatment on Atka island. Atka, Alaska Bering Sea Patrol - 1948.
4. 5/48 Supplies unloaded at Loran Station. Theodore Point, Atti (sic), Alaska.
5. 6/17/48 (82) Dr. R.L. Price, Assistant Surgeon, USPHS examining children on the island of Atka. These are one of the remaining villages of Aleut indians left. Atka, Alaska Bering Sea Patrol-1948.
6. Sept. 1948. Native woman stretching fish net. Dillingham, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.
7. Sept. 1948. Aubrey Scotts playing with a dog. Dillingham, Alaska Bering Sea Patrol.
8. Sept. 1948. Native woman and child in parkas. Dillingham, Alaska Bering Sea Patrol.
9. [Diomedede Island, Alaska. View of the island from the water.]
10. [Diomedede Island, Alaska. Close-up view of the shore line from the water.]
11. S. 48 [Sept. 48?] Haines, Alaska Bering Sea Patrol 1948. [View of the town of Haines from the water].
12. Sept. 1948. Meat drying in the sun (walrus). Gambell St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.
13. [Same view as 12.]
14. [Same view as 13.]
15. 5/48. Bering Sea Patrol - native woman at Gambell St. Lawrence Island [Alaska].
16. Sept. 1948. Bird pelts drying. The native make parkas from these pelts. Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.

17. Sept. 1948. Golovin, Alaska [overall view of the village, drying racks and dwellings next to the water].
18. [Same view as 17.]
19. 5/48. Natives going aboard LCVP for medical dental treatment aboard CGC NORTHWIND. Golovin, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.
20. 1948. Native lady cleaning fish for drying (drying racks in background) Bering Sea Patrol. Golovin, Alaska.
21. 5-25-48. Dr. Wm. J. Braye, Assist. Dental Surveyon, USPHS and Ralph A. Lucchesi, HM3 extracting a tooth from a fisherman from King Cove, Alaska on board the NORTHWIND. Bering Sea Patrol - King Cove, Alaska.
22. Sept. 1948. Native welfare workers conversing with native woman (widow) and her three children. Mekoryuk, Nunivak Island, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.
23. Dr. Price examining native woman - Bering Sea Patrol Sept. 1948. Mekoryuk, Nunivak Island, Alaska.
24. Sept. 1948. Sand Pt. Alaska Native Village. Sand Pt. [Point] Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol.
25. 5-22-48. Court party embarking for court at Seldovia, Alaska. Bering Sea Patrol. Seldovia, Alaska. [Floating court members on a dock].
26. NORTHWIND 1948. Court Council at Seldovia, Ak. [Floating court members seated around a table dressed in suits].
27. 5-48. Court party coming aboard USCG [ NORTHWIND. Bering Sea Patrol. Seward, Alaska.
28. 5-22-48 (44). Court crew on docks preparing to embark on NORTHWIND. Seward, Alaska. [Floating court members standing on a dock].
29. [Same view as 25.]
30. 9/48. Mr. Aubrey Scotts coming aboard ship. Seward, Alaska.
31. 5/13/48 (36) Fishing boat "Saturn" in tow by CGC cutter NORTHWIND. Bering Sea Patrol.

32. [Same view as 31.]
33. [Same view as 31.]
34. 9/4/48. Captain's Inspection aboard USCG NORTHWIND. Bering Sea Patrol.
35. [Captain's inspection probably aboard the USCG NORTHWIND.]
36. 5/5/48. Train load of stores on Pier 91 S.N.D. Seattle for NORTHWIND. Bering Sea Patrol.
37. Crane loading stores aboard NORTHWIND starboard side from Pier 9 NSD, Seattle. Bering Sea Cruise. Pix. received 9-48.
38. [Native people boarding the NORTHWIND, unidentified location and people.]
39. [Same view as 38.]
40. Bering Sea Patrol 1948. [Three unidentified men standing on a dock folding life jackets].
41. [Unidentified man digging a trench near a waterfront.]
42. [Unidentified crowd of native men standing with several possible crew members of the NORTHWIND.]
43. [Two native men standing in a small trading post examining feathers? Unidentified location.]
44. [Unidentified native man paddling a skin kayak.]
45. [Two small boys standing with a member of the USCG NORTHWIND. One boy is having his teeth examined.]
46. [Unidentified glacier scene.]
47. [USG[ NORTHWIND?]

FROM  
Public Information Division  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

49-16  
FOR RELEASE  
14 November, 1948

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BERING SEA PATROL

The Coast Guard Cutter *Northwind*, sturdy veteran of polar regions star performer, according to sea lore, because of her daring performance spearheading both the 1946 Arctic Expedition "Operation Nanook" and 1946-47 Antarctic "Operation High Jump", has recently returned to Seattle, Washington from a four-month patrol of the Bering Sea and waters contiguous to the Arctic Ocean.

The patrol carried the *Northwind* to Point Barrow, that northernmost reach of our Arctic possessions, where on 23 July shorefast ice still clung and the *Northwind* anchored in the lee of a grounded field of polar ice.

The duties of the patrol were manifold and, in a sense, complex. Aimed toward increasing logistic service to Coast Guard aids-to-navigation outposts in the Aleutians, its contribution toward morale at those numerous isolated units through the replenishment of food stocks, general stores, fuel and that most important of all mail delivery, is not hard to understand. The patrol was charged with assisting the cannery fleet and other shipping and with assisting other Federal in law enforcement. Traveling aboard the *Northwind* from 14 May until 4 June was the famous "Floating Court" headed by District Judge Joseph Kehoe. The Court Cruise is an annual affair, keeps a tight schedule and covers an extensive itinerary. The "Floating Court" boarded the *Northwind* at Seward, Alaska.

While engaged in routine travel the *Northwind* transported the Harvard Expedition, led by Dr. McLaughlin of the Peabody Museum, from Adak to Amlia Island. This group of scientists were off to make ethnological studies concerning the origin and migration of Aleuts and other tribes.

Traveling aboard the *Northwind* were Drs. Price and Braye, of the U. S. Public Health Service, who treated natives ashore and aboard ship and rendered medical and

dental care to Government personnel located at the many outposts visited. The fact that at one native village over 250 dental and medical cases required treatment bears out the claim that at some locales the Public Health Service doctors worked "the clock around". Also transported aboard the *Northwind* to and from points in Alaska were Territorial Nutritionists, Alaska Native Service Welfare workers, Army Navy, and Air Force personnel Dr. Irvin Newell, Marine Biologist, ONR, Dr. George A. Dale, Director of Education, ANS. Father Cunningham and the schoolmaster at Little Diomedé were evacuated by the *Northwind*, dense fog having made evacuation by air impossible.

Hydrographic and oceanographic studies of Alaskan and nearby waters were also conducted by the *Northwind*.

Resumption of the yearly patrols of this northern area by the U. S. Coast Guard are anticipated.