

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**United States. Navy. Bureau of Aeronautics**

**Photograph Collection of the Bureau of Aeronautics, Kiska Island, 1943**

**PCA 430**

90 photographs

Processed by: Gladi Kulp  
May 2002  
Revised 4/09 jas

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was transferred from the Historical Collections backlog. Provenance is unclear. Accession #2002-44.

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

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The photographs were re-numbered as some images are missing from original numbering. In some cases copy two of the photograph is included in the collection because of additional information on verso. Photographs were housed in mylar.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains 90 black and white, mostly 8x10, images of military installations, construction, personnel and activity on Kiska Island during World War II. The collection includes photos of landing craft, wrecked Japanese aircraft, bombed-out areas, a submarine beaching railway, and a small Japanese shrine. Places on Kiska Island include Jeff Cove, Navy Town, Gertrude Cove, Witchcraft, Wilson Point and Broad Beach. Most of the photos were taken in August and September 1943 by COMALSEC or by unnamed photographers. Verso of most photos are stamped, "Confidential ... by order of the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics." Many of the photographs were made for the Fleet Air Wing Four Unit.

## INVENTORY

The following is a partial inventory of the 90 black and white images. The information provided is taken from the verso of each photograph.

- 01: Navy construction Battalion (CB) camp in Navy Town on Kiska. Aug-Sept. 1943.
- 02: Old Jap. dock at Navytown at Kiska Harbor. Mechanical devise for getting landing craft repaired in lower center. Aug.-Sept. 1943.
- 03: Old Jap. landing dock in Navytown Kiska. Aug.-Sept. 1943.
- 04: Kiska Harbor looking toward North Head. Aug-Sept. 1943.
- 05: Kiska volcano center middle. LCM's landing. Center is repair barge for landing craft. North Head on right. Aug. 1943.
- 06: Disabled landing craft on Kiska Harbor. Aug - Sept. 1943.
- 07: Landing supplies at Kiska Harbor. Aug. 1943.
- 08: Army amphibious tank which weren't used. Aug.-Sept. 1943.
- 09: Navy Town Beach after storm. LST [Landing Ship Tank] on right, repair barge on left. South Head in background. Aug. 1943.
- 10: Weather encountered by forces landing supplies. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No. 5595. Unit: Fleet Air Wing Four
- 11: U.S. Task Force and invasion fleet at Kiska, August 17, 1943. No. 344-23. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

- 12: U.S. Task Force showing landing barges landing troops and supplies at Kiska Island. No: 345-3. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four
- 13: Net at entrance of Kiska Harbor. 26 Aug 1943. No. 5-349-6. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 14: LST's Kitska Harbor. 26 Aug 1943. No. 5-349-1. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 15: U. S. invasion Fleet at Kiska. 8-17-43. No. 344-2. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 16: U. S. invasion Fleet at Kiska. 8-17-43. No. 344-4. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 17: Entrance to tunnel near sub base. Tunnels gave protection against bombs and provided sleeping quarters. Some are high, some narrow but no Japanese had to dash over a few feet to get into one. How deep they went into the ground I don't know and didn't care after finding a few of the devices shown in the next print. No: 5611. Date: 23 Aug. 1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four
- 18: The winches used by Japanese to pull the subs into work shed. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5610. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 19: U. S. invasion Fleet at Kiska. 8-17-43. No: 344-5. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 20: U.S. landing barges swarm the beaches at Kiska. 8-17-43. No: 345-9. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 21: U.S. invasion Fleet at Kiska. 8-17-43. No: 344-1. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 22: U.S. troops and Supplies - Kiska Island. 8-17-43. No: 344-33. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 23: Power house and metal water storage tank new Sub Base, Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5613. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 24: Subs are cut up by torch and made into scrap. August 23, 1943. No: 5609. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 25: 2-man submarines which were badly damaged from internal explosions are being removed from Marine Railway. No: 5608. Date: 23 Aug. 1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 26: Coast Guard operated L.S.T. [Landing Ship Tank] discharging through the bow onto the beach, Kiska Harbor, Aug. 23, 1943. No: 5603. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

- 27: Wrecked Japanese aircraft dump, Kiska Harbor. No: 5602. Date: 08/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 28: The usual trench (or in navy cases tunnels) connecting all points and making it unnecessary for the Japanese to be above ground level a great deal of the time. No: 5605. Date: 8/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 29: Small auto with air cooled engine. One of the few which drove on the left side. Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5604. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 30: View of submarine beaching railway. Kiska, looking to seaward. Note: Large sub handling cradles. Kiska, 8/23/43. No: 5607. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 31: Stores on beach at Jeff Cove, Kiska. No: S-349-7. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 32: Jap gun installations, Kiska. No: S-349-2. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 33: Invasion craft of all sizes land huge amounts of supplies on the beach at Kiska Harbor. No: 5592. Date: 23 Aug. 1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 34: Interior of damaged hanger, Kiska Harbor, August 23, 1943. No: 5593. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 35: Another view of interior of damaged hanger and planes shown in # 5589. No: 5597. Date: 23 Aug. 1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 36: Moving supplies. Power pole over a machine gun nest serves as a flag pole, Kiska, 8/23/43. No: 5594. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 37: Kiska mud - very deep in low spots, volcanic rock & sandstone in high places. Note fire - plug and telegraph poles. Kiska, Aug. 23, 1943. No: 5600. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 38: Crane piles Japanese trucks & cars for possible salvage or scrap. Some were put back in shape and worked O.K., Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5596. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 39: Army bulldozers find the Kiska mud lives up to the rest of the Aleutians in one respect. Mud was very deep in low spots, but volcanic rock and sand-stone more predominate in higher places. Note power & telegraph poles. No: 5599. Date: 8/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

40: Canadian troops make a shelter from wing surfaces of wrecked Japanese planes. Kiska, 8/23/43. No: 5598. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

41: View of gun emplacement on little Kiska Island. No: 346-5. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

42: Vertical view of the supplies landed on Gertrude Cove area - Kiska. No: 346-8. Date: 21 Aug. 1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

43: End of Jap runway showing bomb craters. Kiska. No: S-349-3. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

44: Jap trenches on hill west of Gertrude Cove, Kiska. No: S-349-9. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

45: U.S. landing barges have landed troops and supplies in Gertrude Cove, Kiska. No: 346-6. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

46: Japanese trenches on hill west of Gertrude Cove, Kiska, Aug. 26, 1943. North Head Kiska Is. No: S-349-4. Date: 8/26/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

47: American troops landing ammunition at Kiska Harbor. No: 5591. Date: 23 Aug 1943. Unit: Fleet Air Wing Four.

48: Aircraft hanger, Kiska Harbor apparently damaged by direct bomb hit. Seaplane ramp to left of hanger. No: 5589. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit: Fleet Air Wing Four.

49: Nets at entrance of Kiska Harbor. No: S-349-5. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

50: U.S. task Force showing landing barges, landing troops and supplies on Kiska Island. No: 345-4. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

51: Navy town on left, Army town on right. U.S. landing barges beaching equipment and men - Kiska Island. No: 345-15. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

52: Amphibious tanks landing on the Spit between west Kiska Lake and Bering Sea - Kiska. No: 348-3. Date: 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

53: Invasion craft landing troops and supplies on Broad Beach, Kiska. No: 348-5. Date: 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

54: Troops and supplies land and move forward at Broad Beach, Kiska. No: 348-8. Date 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

- 55: Invasion craft landing troops and supplies between Witchcraft and Vulcan Point - Kiska. No: 348-6. Date: 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 56: View of crater, Kiska Volcano. No: 345-10. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 57: U.S. landing barges, beaching equipment and men Kiska Island. No: 345-14. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 58: Troops and supplies land and move forward at Broad Beach, Kiska. No: 348-7. Date: 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 59: U.S. troops and Supplies - Kiska Island. No: 344-31. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 60: Installation on N.E. shore of Gertrude Cove Kiska. No: S-349-8. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 61: U.S. landing barges, beaching equipment and men, Kiska Island. No: 345-12. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 62: U.S. Task Force and invasion Fleet - Kiska. No: 344-27. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 63: Each end of Northhead KiskaHbr in background. No: S-349-4A. Date: 26Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 64: View of Kiska Harbor. No: 345-1. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 65: Invasion of Kiska. No: 344-7. Date: 8-17-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 66: Supply headquarters for U.S. Troops in Gertrude Cove area, Kiska. No: 346-9. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 67: U.S. Forces putting up tents among former Jap installations Kiska Gertrude Cove. No: 346-7. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four
- 68: Interior of power house. Another unit is on other side of overhead sheet metal. Several units were found - large and small. All throughly disabled. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5614. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.
- 69: Revetment housing the tool shed, battery charging rig - purpose of tanks unknown. Several motorcycles were found around the base. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5615. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

70: Area once protected a machine shop. Heavy pieces of metal left standing are set in concrete and are being tackled by an army bull dozer. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5616. Date: 8-23-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

71: Overturned and wrecked machinery on an unfinished Japanese air-field. Kiska 8/23/'43. No: 5617. Date: 8-23-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

72: Making Kiska Airfield. Army Engineers put the finishing touches on by smoothing up the surface and hauling rocks away by means of stone boat. No: 5619. Date: 8-23-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

73: Army Engineers put the finishing touches on airfield by smoothing the surface and hauling rocks away by means of a stone boat. Kiska 8/23/'43. No: 5618. Date: 8/23/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

74: 3" A.A. [Anti-Aircraft] gun. South Head, Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5621. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

74a: A bit of irony. A Japanese 20 mm mounted on U.S.A. dud bomb. South Head, Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5620. Date: 8-23-43. Unit: Fleet Air Wing Four.

75: Army intelligence inspects a large caliber gun that suffered a direct hit. South Head, Kiska. No: 5622. Date: 8-23-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

76: Interior of deeply reveted living quarters for men attached to A.A. [Anti-Aircraft] Battery on South Head, Kiska, 8/23/1943. No: 5625. Date: 8 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

77: Radar station on South Head. Little Kiska in background. Operating board in cave in small hill to right. Note two 155mm shells removed from "booby traps" inside caves. No: 5628. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

78: Believe this to be the power unit for Radar system located just other side of hill. South Head, Kiska Aug. 23, 1943. No: 5629. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

79: The Army harvests a Japanese planted garden. Radishes, peas etc. Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5623. Date: 8-23-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

80: Taking notes on Japanese tools, pressure gage & fencing gear. A long bamboo club bound with leather goes with this outfit. The contestants beat each other down until one gives up. Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5624. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit: Fleet Air Wing Four.

81: A "booby trap". Disarmed. The two cans contain sulphuric acid. Each has a wire leading into a 155mm shell. Shell projector removed and concrete poured in. When trip

line tips acid into water in bottom half of square can electrolysis is set up. Could be wrong idea but personally didn't care to experiment. Photo taken in bunk room of a tunnel - well furnished with heat, electricity and running water. Kiska, 8/23/'43. No: 5612. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

82: View of small Japanese shrine found near quarters of men attached to A.A. Battery, South Head, Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5626. Date: -8Aug1943.

82a: Small Japanese shrine near quarters of men of A.A. Battery, South Head, Kiska. No: 5629. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four

83: Tents and shelters were slow in being distributed. Soldiers constructed these small huts against the wind and dampness. The material came from wrecked Japanese bldg's. Kiska, 8/23/43. No: 5590. Date: 23Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four

84: A prize souvenir is captured by members of the "Canadian Fuseliers". No: 5606. Date: 8/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

85: Wrecked machinery was everywhere. Much of it intact. Kiska, Aug. 23, 1943. building in upper center hanger. No: 5601. Date: 8/43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

86: Japanese installations, showing revetments and excellent camouflage, Little Kiska. Aug. 21, 1943. Close up of former Jap installations showing revetments and excellent camouflage, Little Kiska Island. No: 346-4. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

87: Amphibious craft emerging from the waters at Broad Beach, Kiska. Spit between West Kiska Lake and Bering Sea. No: 348-9. Date: 8-16-43. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four

88: U.S. landing barges along side Jap ship (Charlie), Gertrude Cove, Kiska. No: 346-1. Date: 21Aug1943. Unit - Fleet Air Wing Four.

89: Kiska - Weather Station, Aug. 1943.

90: Weather station once occupied by Japanese. Now officer's headquarters. No: 1772. Date: 7Sept1943.