

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**A. A. Puttonen Collection, 1942-1943**

**PCA 489**

243 Black & White Photographs  
Paper photo album tied with leather string,  
2x2in b&w photos; Scrapbook photo album  
newsprint, ink, 3x5 b&w photos .  
Book housed in HC stacks-*TE22.U54 1944 Oversize*

Processed by: Ken Nail  
Revisions: Anastasia Tarmann

**ACQUISITION:** Donated by Paul A. Puttonen to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and accessioned Nov. 8, 2001. Accession number: 2001-106.

**ACCESS:** Unrestricted

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

**PROCESSING:** Book cataloged in LC system and housed in Historical Collections stacks (*TE22.U54 1944 Oversize*); separation record in master file. Handmade paper photo album placed in folder.  
Book title: *Lower Post or Freeze: 340<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment on the Alaska Military Highway, 1942-1943.*

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Arthur Alexander Puttonen, was born January 29, 1915 and died August 31, 1979. He graduated from Michigan College of Mining and Technology (now called Michigan Technological University) with a degree in mining engineering and an ROTC commission. Upon completing the AlCan Highway as Captain (per handwritten note in book: "Property of 340<sup>th</sup> Engineering Regiment Company D second Battalion) or 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. (per D Company listing in book), he served in the Pacific Theater, achieving the rank of captain chief engineer at an open pit mine operated by U.S. Steel in Minas Geais, Brazil, South America. 1946-1953. His experiences in Alaska, while aiding in construction of the AlCan Highway, include hunting and learning how to spear King Salmon from local Eskimo people as an easy way of catching fish for meals.

*Information taken from donor notes.*

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Puttonen Collection consists of two scrapbooks and a published album of the work of the 340<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment on the Alaska Military Highway from 1942-1943. The album is titled: Lower Post or Freeze and was published in 1944 by the Herald Press Inc., of Charlotte, N.C. The two albums have little, if any, descriptive text identifying the pictures they hold.

The first album - the smaller of the two - has no cover and typically has as many as nine (2" x 2") photos per page. The second - and larger of the two - has a black, embossed binding and typically has four to six pictures per page. The inside front cover of the second album has an article about the highway's construction affixed.

## SUBJECTS

Alaska Military Highway – 1942-1943

Alaska Highway

Alcan

United States. Army. Engineer Regiment 340th

## INVENTORY

### **Small Album - "Scenes from the Yukon"**

#### *Page 1, #1-9*

1. [Soldier seated on truck bed]
2. [2 soldiers and a puppy]
3. [Column of soldiers marching]
4. [Train in motion]
5. [Soldiers outside tents]
6. [River boat at dock]
7. [Column of soldiers headed down a road]
8. [Soldier with bucket]
9. [Stone pedestal]

#### *Page 2, #10-18*

10. [Trees at edge of lake]
11. [Latrine]
12. [Log shed]
13. [Privy (?)]
14. [Bridge and jeep]
15. [Hillside with felled trees]
16. [Soldier outside cabin; faded]

17. [Soldier in road being cleared]

18. [Soldier and road clearing equipment]

*Page 3, #19-29*

19. [Column of soldiers along railroad track]

20. [Soldiers seated in wooded area]

21. [Soldiers lined up in snow]

22. [Soldiers at work on wooden frame]

23. [Soldier standing by hanging birds]

24. [Photographer at work; soldier on guard duty]

25. [Bridge over Worley River]

26. [Soldiers underneath wooden bridge]

27. [Long wooden shed, ladder against wall]

28. [Soldiers and logging operations]

29. [Plane above tree line]

*Page 4, #30-38*

30. [Army vehicles on a beach]

31. [Army truck: "Fairbanks Freight"]

32. [Bridge]

33. [Soldier stands by vehicle; print too dark to be useful]

34. [Signposts on tree in wooded area]
35. [2 Military vehicles]
36. [2 soldiers with dog]
37. [Half-track in wooded area]
38. [Soldier with dog]  
*Page 5, #39-50*
39. [Soldier with 4 fish]
40. [Soldier with open box in back of truck]
41. [3 Trucks on ferry]
42. [Lumber yard and storage shed]
43. [5 Soldiers at dock w/ steamboat]
44. [10 soldiers on river bank just below road]
45. [Fence in foreground; soldiers in construction area in mid-picture]
46. [Oil drum on raised platform]
47. [Soldier standing facing a sign]
48. [Unloading a truck at water's edge]
49. [Line of military vehicles]
50. [Picture too dark to determine subject]

*Page 6, #51-62*

51. [Camp construction; floor being laid]
52. [Soldiers handling lumber]
53. [Float plane approaching steamship at dock]

- 54. [Soldier with rifle stands behind dead black bear]
- 55. [Single soldier]
- 56. [Soldier with freight]
- 57. [Soldiers with construction equipment, crane]
- 58. [Soldiers at dock with steamship]
- 59. [Soldiers at construction site]
- 60. [Landing at river; trees on bank]
- 61. [Soldiers moving equipment at river bank]
- 62. [Soldier by log building; arm rests on street signs which read Main and Broadway]

*Page 7, #63-66*

- 63. [Quonset hut]
- 64. [Dog and soldier in snowy field]
- 65. [3 Quonset huts]
- 66. [Long rectangular building; snow]

*Page 8, #67-71*

- 67. [Army trucks in snow]
- 68. [Army trucks; woodpile in foreground]
- 69. [3 trucks by cabin; dog in foreground]
- 70. [Snowy field – picture too dim to be useful]
- 71. [Soldier feeding dog by hand]

*Page 9, #72-75*

- 72. [2 Soldiers at sidewalk bridge in military camp]
- 73. [Dirt road at military camp]
- 74. [Soldier in foreground; buildings in background-no snow]
- 75. [Soldier in snow covered walkway in foreground; buildings in background]

*Page 10, #76-79*

- 76. [2 Soldiers at foot of steps into camp building]
- 77. [Military camp buildings in background; bare field in foreground]
- 78. [Soldiers assembled by bridge]
- 79. [Soldiers in small boats on unidentified river]

*Page 11, #80-88*

- 80. [Soldiers sit on side of bridge]
- 81. [Soldiers walk in muddy camp road]
- 82. [Single soldier stands in middle of camp ground field]
- 83. [Soldier stands in foreground; bridge in background]
- 84. [River]
- 85. [Soldiers in boats across river]
- 86. [Soldiers on bridge]
- 87. [Large cabin in wooded area]
- 88. [Small boats on river bank]

*Page 12, #89-97*

89. [Soldiers in canoes, one on shore]
90. [Soldiers seated on river bank]
91. [River; sign on opposite bank in background]
92. [Soldiers at far end of bridge]
93. [Tracked vehicle going up hill]
94. [Soldiers at far end of bridge]
95. [Contingent of soldiers gathered and facing away from camera]
96. [Soldiers on river bank]
97. [Soldiers at attention on parade ground]

*Page 13, #98-106*

98. [Riverbank]
99. [Soldiers lined up outside building]
100. [Convoy in background; river in foreground]
101. [Soldiers walking in wooded area]
102. [Soldiers observe operation of tracked vehicle]
103. [Soldiers on hillside]
104. [Soldiers behind rope fence]
105. [Soldier posing beside camp building]
106. [3 soldiers each wearing different head gear]

*Page 14, #107-113*

107. [Soldiers gathered to hear speaker (?)]

108. [Tent in woods]

109. [Soldier at attention in front of cabin]

110. [Soldiers standing by road]

111. [Soldier in front of cabin]

112. [Soldier with several fish]

113. [Barrel on platform by cabin]

*Page 15, #114-122*

114. [Bridge in background; logs in foreground]

115. [Building construction; wall frames]

116. [Cabins in wooded area]

117. [Soldier bathing in creek]

118. [Camp buildings; soldiers]

119. [Soldier at attention by jeep]

120. [Soldier bathing in creek by side of truck]

121. [Dirt road]

122. [Workman seated at table]

**Large Album - Article - "Communications"**

123. Article on construction of the military road fixed to inside front cover of album.

**Large Album - Photographs - "Vancouver Barracks - Washington"**

*Page 1, #124-127*

- 124. [Tree with barracks in background]
- 125. [Arriving soldiers greeted by small military band at railroad stop]
- 126. [Soldier in office]
- 127. [Troops at attention on camp parade ground]

*Page 2, #128-135*

- 128. [Army trucks in snow-covered camp]
- 129. [Construction scenes - dual picture]
- 130. [Road construction and camp - dual picture]
- 131. [Scenic - unidentified location and cleared area - dual picture]
- 132. [Road building machinery]
- 133. [Dog atop snow-covered hillside and truck by tent - dual picture]
- 134. [Cabin in foreground, other buildings in background and truck parked in front of cabin - dual picture]
- 135. [Soldier seated in darkened room and view of camp from a hillside - dual picture]

*Page 3, #136-140*

- 136. [Soldier and puppy seated on truck bed]
- 137. [Trucks on ferry]
- 138. [Picture taking session with cameraman and two other soldiers]
- 139. [Crane cab (tipped on side)]

140. [Baker holding three loaves of bread]

*Page 4, #141-145*

141. [Bridge construction - photo label: 340<sup>th</sup> Engrs 155]

142. [Wooden bridge over Morley River]

143. [Soldier with rifle standing over dead black bear]

144. [Wooded area near lake (river?)]

145. [Soldiers lined up by tents in camp]

*Page 5, #146-149*

146. [Aerial over road-340<sup>th</sup> Engrs 205]

147. [Soldiers marching through wooded area - 340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 79]

148. [Ship in unidentified waters]

149. [Soldiers riding a tracked vehicle through wooded area ENGRS. 176-A]

*Page 6, #150-153*

150. [Tracked vehicle crossing water (river?) Engrs. 240]

151. [Tracked vehicle dragging log device along roadway-340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 307]

152. [Tracked vehicles at water's edge - 340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 444]

153. [Bridge construction]

*Page 7, #154-157*

154. [Workers clearing road site]

155. [Excavation - 2 vehicles]

156. [Native Alaskans (6) in front of log cabin; man, woman, 4 children]

157. [Jeep stuck in mud]

*Page 8, #158-160*

158. [Clearing road site, removing felled trees]

159. "'Bush' Pilot Les Cook"

160. [Wooden frames in snow - 340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 391]

*Page 9, #161-162*

161. [Sailboat in unidentified waters]

162. [Three military planes in flight]

*Page 10, #163-166*

163. [Cleared road site with tracked vehicle in background by trees-340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 413]

164. [Logging operations - 340<sup>th</sup> Engrs. 318]

165. [Train Depot - supplies-4]

166. [Soldiers boarding the vessel "Whitehorse"-112]

*Page 11, #167-173*

Dual photos of: camp scenes, river scenes, fish catching and fish drying on timber racks, bridge, soldiers marching, steamship, float plane.

*Page 12, #174-179*

174. [Tipped Crane - 1 of 4]

175. [Tipped Crane - 2 of 4]

176. [Tipped Crane - 3 of 4]

177. [Soldier in winter gear in front of "Mail Truck Stop" sign]

178. [Tracked vehicle in wooded area]

179. [Tipped Crane - 4 of 4]

***Page 13, #180-185***

180. [2 Military vehicles standing in river]

181. [Soldier in camp holding five dried fish]

182. [Photographer photographing log cabin using tripod]

183. [Pin-up]

184. [Steamboat docked at river side]

185. [Soldier standing in front of cabin leaning on signs "Broadway" and "Main" -- streets]

***Page 14, #186-191***

186. [Military vehicle with sign: "Fairbanks Freight"]

187. [Steamboat docked at river side, float plane, soldiers]

188. [Unloading equipment at river]

189. [Float plane (foreground) and steamboat in background]

190. [Soldiers unloading freight from steamboat]

191. [Wooded area crossed with telephone lines]

***Page 15, #192-197***

- 192. [Supplies on platform at edge of cleared field]
- 193. [Tipped Crane]
- 194. [Stacked lumber and warehouse]
- 195. [Soldier holding cover of opened box in back of truck]
- 196. [Tipped Crane]
- 197. [Tracked vehicle clearing land]

*Page 16, #198-203*

- 198. [Logging operations at river side]
- 199. [Bridge construction]
- 200. [Camp construction - laying floor]
- 201. [Logging operations at river side]
- 202. [Jeep parked on bridge]
- 203. [Logging operations]

*Page 17, #204-209*

- 204. "Skagway, Alaska" [n.d.]
- 205. [Soldier at attention by jeep]
- 206. [Tent at construction site]
- 207. [Ship at freight dock]
- 208. [Soldier with bucket by tent - camp scene]
- 209. [Cord wood stacked on dock]

*Page 18, #210-215*

- 210. [Truck unloading equipment at one end of pontoon bridge]
- 211. [Train in right foreground]
- 212. [Camp tent]
- 213. [Bridge]
- 214. [Military vehicles lined up in snow]
- 215. [Bridge construction]

*Page 19, #216-221*

- 216. [Soldiers marching in wooded area among felled trees]
- 217. [Soldiers assembled in line]
- 218. [Soldier displays moose (elk?) antlers and several birds]
- 219. [Soldiers seated in wooded area]
- 220. [Man seated at table by radio]
- 221. [Soldier holding dead goose (?)]

*Page 20, #222-227*

- 222. [Camera Man preparing to photograph soldier at attention outside cabin]
- 223. [2 Military vehicles parked near river]
- 224. [Soldiers walking/relaxing on riverbank]
- 225. [Building under construction - wall frames raised]
- 226. [Vehicles being ferried across river]
- 227. [Tents lining camp road]

*Page 21, #228-233*

228. [Black bear lying by tree stump]

229. [View of camp through trees]

230. [Float plane on river]

231. [Truck crossing river]

232. [Jeep crossing river]

233. [Cleared roadway - dirt]

*Page 22, #234-238*

234. [Quonset huts in camp]

235. [Trucks outside cabin; dog in foreground]

236. [Soldier feeds dog]

237. [Single Quonset hut]

238. [Soldier and dog]

*Page 23, #239-243*

239. [Oil drum on platform next to cabin]

240. [Soldier seated at candle-lit table by Christmas Tree - 1 of 3]

241. [Soldiers by buildings under construction]

242. [Soldier seated at candle-lit table by Christmas Tree - 2 of 3]

243. [Soldier seated at candle-lit table by Christmas Tree - 3 of 3]