

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

United States. Navy Dept. Bureau of Aeronautics

Bureau of Aeronautics Photograph Collection, Adak, 1944-1945

PCA 545

97 black and white photographs
40 sleeves of newspaper and magazine articles
Small spiral notebook of clippings

Processed by: Damon Steubner
Revised by: Gayle Goedde
January, 2011

ACQUISITION: Cleta Riggins donated this collection of photographs and news clippings, which was given to her by Al King of Florida while at the October 2009 Bird-in-Hand reunion of Aleutian Islands' veterans in Pennsylvania.
Accession # 2010-60.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: Cleta Riggins housed the 97 photographs in archival sleeves. From one spiral notebook, into which newspaper and magazine articles had been pasted, she photocopied individual items for preservation; if she was not able to copy the entire picture, she put the original into a sleeve. The other small spiral notebook was housed as it was received, with news articles pasted onto the pages. Mrs. Riggins also transcribed data from the verso of photographs, typing notes on strips of paper to accompany the images.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In August of 1942, U. S. forces established an air base on Adak Island, following the Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor in June of that year. After attacking Dutch Harbor, the Japanese landed occupying troops on the westerly islands in the Aleutian Chain, notably Kiska and Attu, and the U.S. needed a base for bombing raids. Adak served in that capacity, as headquarters and support base for what came to be called the Aleutian Campaign. By 1943, there were as many as 90,000 men stationed on Adak, and their living conditions were Spartan. Gusting winds on the treeless island blew away gear, tents, and even planes; and winter temperatures were freezing cold. To occupy their free time, men played poker and other card games. There were also visits to Adak by USO (United Service Organizations) troupes that performed shows at the Naval Air Station Theater.

Cleta Riggins commented on her efforts to preserve these photographs of the people and surroundings of Adak, "Lots of history here and quite interesting. This was a labor of love, and I enjoyed doing it."

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The images in this collection were taken largely on and around Adak Island, Alaska, in 1944 and 1945. Over a third of the photographs are aerial views. A majority of the prints are numbered, dated, and stamped with the following notification: "Official photograph, not to be used for publication, by order of Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska." During the Aleutian Campaign, these photographs would have conveyed sensitive information about the military operation on Adak Island.

SUBJECTS

United States Navy; Bureau of Aeronautics; World War II; World War, 1939-1945--Alaska--Aleutian Islands; Adak Naval Air Station; United Service Organizations (U.S.); USO troupes; Military personnel; Aircraft accidents; Runways (Aeronautics); Hangars; Ships; Government vessels; Construction; Carrier Force aircraft; Entertainment. Included are images of U.S. Naval officers and enlisted men, some of whom are identified.

INVENTORY

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Photographs 1-49

- 1 [View from water of Aleutian Island on moonlit night, with lights and snow-capped mountains]
- 2 [View of island inlet, surrounded by treeless hills; mountains behind]

- 3 [Winter scene with individual in parka at edge of flat, frozen expanse]
- 4 [Mountain peak, summit view]
- 5A [Navy PBY Catalina, 42-P-3, flying over glacier and mountains]
- 5B [Navy PBY Catalina, 42-P-3, flying over glacier and mountains]
- 6 [Aerial view of snow-covered caldera volcano, Great Sitkin (?)]
- 7 [Aerial view of snow-covered caldera volcano, Great Sitkin (?)]
- 8 [Close-up, aerial view of caldera and steam vent, Great Sitkin (?)]
- 9 [Aerial view of upper part of Shishaldin (?) volcano]
- 10 [Aerial view of island volcano with caldera]
- 11 [Rocky point in foreground and Great Sitkin (?) in distance]
- 12 [Military tents and equipment on spit of land, with reflection in water at foreground and mountains behind]
- 13 [Aerial view of black smoke billowing from fumarole]
- 14 [Lagoon between shores; Great Sitkin (?) volcano in distance]
- 15 [Troops assembled and standing at attention, awaiting arrival of President Roosevelt]
- 16 [President Franklin D. Roosevelt seated at dining table with officers]
- 17 [Hillside staircase, covered with snow]
- 18 Hole at north end of building location. [Remains from an explosion] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 19 Hole at building location. (See photos 68 - 70)
- 20 Storage Building south of explosion; [arrows point in direction of NAS (Naval Air Station) and Zeto, i.e. (Zeto Point)] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 21 Road looking toward Zeto (Zeto Point); [arrows point to "pole snapped off," "large rock," and "cable across road" from explosion] (See photos 68 - 70)

- 22 [Wreckage of a fire truck from explosion; arrows point in direction of NAS (Naval Air Station) and Zeto (Zeto Point)] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 23 [Wreckage of a fire truck from explosion; arrows point to direction of NAS (Naval Air Station) and Zeto (Zeto Point)] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 24 [Wreckage of a truck from explosion; arrows point in direction of NAS (Naval Air Station) and Zeto (Zeto Point)] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 25 [Wreckage of an ambulance from explosion; arrows point in direction of NAS (Naval Air Station) and Zeto (Zeto Point)] (See photos 68 - 70)
- 26 [Officers standing on runway] Aug. 24, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10355
- 27 Aerial view of U.S. Naval Air Station Adak, Oct. 14, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10715
- 28 Showing new road under construction; end of Army runway and Army docks, looking N.E., Alt. 1000', FL 8 ¼"; Nov. 25, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10906
- 29 N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], looking S.W., alt. 1500', FL 8 ¼, Dec. 3, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10902
- 30 [Three female USO performers, two wearing parkas and boots, pose for a photo] Dec. 12, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK No. 10893
- 31 [Female USO performer tap dancing on stage in short skirt], Dec. 12, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10895
- 32 N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Xmas beer party, Dec. 23, 1944. Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10941 [Men line up to receive gifts from Santa; a box on stage is labeled "American Red Cross"]
- 33 N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Xmas beer party, Dec. 23, 1944; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10943 [View toward seated audience of military personnel, singing along]
- 34 G.I. Show "Arctic Antics" at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Theater, Adak, Jan. 9, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10976 [Five men perform on stage; musicians seated in background]

- 35 G.I. Show "Arctic Antics" at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Theater, Adak, Jan. 9, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station; Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10978 [Three men perform on stage, dressed as women; one wears banner "Miss Adak," and one wears banner "Miss Amchitka"]
- 36 Aerial view, looking N.E. at Army hospital area, Adak, Jan. 11, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 1000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11003
- 37 Atka landplane airport, showing runway and Korovin Bay, looking N.N.W., 2000' on Atka Island, Jan.13, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10980
- 38 Aerial view of approach to Korovin Bay emergency seaplane anchorage with Atka landplane airport and Nazan Bay in upper left center; looking S.E., Atka Island area, Jan.13, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 2000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10980
- 39 Aerial view of Atka landplane airport, showing runway at center and approach to Nazan Bay seaplane airport at left center, looking S.S.E.,Jan.13, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 2000', Atka Island; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10981
- 40 Aerial view of approach to Nazan Bay seaplane airport, looking south, Jan.13, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 2000', Atka Island; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10982
- 41 Aerial view, looking W. of Nazau Bay seaplane airport, center, and Atka landplane airport, left; Atka Island, Jan.13, 1945; focal length 8 1/4 ", Alt. 2000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 10983
- 42 Inspection of N.A. S. [Naval Air Station] operations personnel, Adak, Alaska; showing Comdr. J.B. Hayden, U.S.N., inspection officer, and Lt. Comdr J. Kraft, U.S.N.R., assisting; Feb. 3, 1945; ADK No. 11050
- 43 N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] operations officers group [nineteen men in uniform], Adak; Feb. 3, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK No. 11053
- 44 N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] operations group [93 uniformed military personnel, Adak; Feb. 3, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK No. 11054

- 45 G.I. Troupe "Kings of Rhythm" [seven musicians: three saxophones, one drum set, a guitar, stand-up base, and piano] at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Theater, Adak; Alaska; Feb. 12, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 11063
- 46 Runway repair, N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, showing method used in filling under runway matting [men in uniform with road grader and other construction equipment]; March 10, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 11130
- 47 Runway repair, N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, showing "high lifts" jack hammer crews and dump truck in operation; March 10, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 11131
- 48 Repair of "F" runway, showing dump truck unloading; N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; March 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 11150
- 49 Repair of "E" runway, showing grader with wood block spreading dirt and sand; N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; March 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK No. 11151

Folder 2: Photographs 50-96

- 50 Repair of "F" runway, showing close up of jack hammer in operation; N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; Mar. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 1153
- 51 Repair of "F" runway, showing 3 "high lifts" and jack hammer crews in operation. N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; Mar. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 1154
- 52 U.S.O. show "Follies of 1945," Troupe #457 [three women and two men on stage; orchestra visible below], showing at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Theater, Adak; Apr. 8, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11214
- 53 View of outdoor privy used by men working on runway [with sign reading, "Compliments of Ole Schulz, the Specialist"; N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; Mar. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 1156
- 54 [Two U.S.O. performers, dancing to swing], Apr. 8, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11215

- 55 U.S.O. show "Follies of 1945," Troupe #457, [female singer on stage] showing at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak; Apr. 8, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11219
- 56 [Two male U.S.O performers presenting a comedy sketch], Apr. 8, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11217
- 57 View of boat lift in Clam Lagoon, N.A.S., showing boat in "raised" position, [three men on end of dock next to boat], Apr. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11235
- 58 [View of boat lift in Clam Lagoon, N.A.S., showing boat in lowered position, three men in boat], Apr. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11236
- 59 [Long view of boat lift in Clam Lagoon, N.A.S, showing boat in "raised" position], Apr. 14, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11237
- 60 Wind propelled boat used for rescue work over water or ice in Andrew Lagoon, May 10, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11271
- 61 Wind propelled boat [with two men on board], used for rescue work over water or ice in Andrew Lagoon, May 10, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11273
- 62 [Three women from U.S.O. troupe, dance on stage with three enlisted men], May 28, 1945; ADK 11348
- 63 [U.S.O. troupe and military officer pose for pictures outside next to car], May 28, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11351
- 64 [Wreckage of crashed PBV on rocky beach], Jun. 7, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11374
- 65 [Wreckage of crashed PBV on rocky beach], Jun. 7, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11375
- 66 [Wreckage of crashed PBV on rocky beach], Jun. 7, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11377
- 67 [Wreckage of crashed PBV on rocky beach], Jun. 7, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11379

- 68 [Aerial photo showing area of explosions along Zeto Point Road], July 17, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11424 (See also photos 18-25)
- 69 [Aerial photo showing area of explosions along Zeto Point Road], July 17, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11425 (See also photos 18-25)
- 70 [Aerial photo showing area of explosions along Zeto Point Road], July 17, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11426 (See also photos 18-25)
- 71 [Military funeral in cemetery with white crosses; three flag-draped coffins], July 19, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11460
- 72 Aerial view, looking W.N.W.; Naval Air Station, Adak Aug. 5, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 3000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11498
- 73 Aerial view, looking S. E.; air operations building and operation hangar; fire station on left, Aug. 5, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 1000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11502
- 74 Aerial view, looking west, toward Army dock area, Aug. 5, 1945; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 3000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11504
- 75 Aerial view, looking N.W., Fuiger Bay, Headquarters [of] Company 17, ship repair unit, Aug. 5, 1945; ; focal length 8 ¼", Alt. 3000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11513
- 76 Aerial view, looking N.E. of Adak Post cemetery, Aug. 11, 1945; focal length 6 5/8 ", Alt.200'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11531
- 77 Aerial view, looking W.S.W., showing Army Service, Aug. 11, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt.200'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11534
- 78 View showing beaching of SC.1 Bu Aer #35720 at Andrew Lagoon Ramp, N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Aug. 11, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11539
- 79 Setting of dynamite near N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 24, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11558
- 80 View showing Carrier Force planes on ramp at Andrew Lagoon N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11560

- 81 Carrier Force planes on ramp at Andrew Lagoon, N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11561
- 82 Carrier Force planes on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11563
- 83 Carrier Force planes on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11564
- 84 Aerial view of Carrier Force planes on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 1000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11565
- 85 Aerial view, looking south, showing planes from Carrier Force on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; operations building in center background; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11566
- 86 Aerial view of planes from Carrier Force on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station] Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; operations building and hangar on left in background; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11567
- 87 Aerial view, looking north, showing planes from Carrier Force on ramp at N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945, with Adm. Building in background; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 1000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11568
- 88 Aerial view, looking N.N.W., showing planes from Carrier Force on ramp at Andrew Lagoon N.A.S. [Naval Air Station], Adak, Aug. 26, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 1000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11569
- 89 Aerial view, looking S.W., of Kuluk Bay with fleet anchored in bay and N.O.B. [Naval Operations Base] in background, Aug. 16, 1945; focal length 8 1/4", Alt. 12000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11570
- 90 Aerial view, looking N.E., of the fleet anchored in Kuluk Bay, and also Sweeper Cove, Army Field, and N.O.B. [Naval Operations Base], Aug. 26, 1945; focal length 8 1/4", Alt. 12000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11571
- 91 Aerial view, looking south, of fleet in Kuluk Bay, Aug. 26, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 12000'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11573

- 92 Aerial view, looking S.E., of ships anchored in Kuluk Bay, Aug. 20, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak; ADK 11574
- 93 Aerial view, looking S.W., of ships anchored in Kuluk Bay, Aug. 20, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11576
- 94 Aerial view, looking S.W., of ships anchored in Kuluk Bay, Aug. 20, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11577
- 95 Aerial view of USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE-78), a Casablanca-class escort carrier, anchored in Kuluk Bay, Adak, Aug. 20, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 300'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11578
- 96 Aerial view of Army dock area and warehouses, with USS SAVO ISLAND (CVE-78), tied up at far left, Aug. 14, 1945; focal length 6 5/8", Alt. 800'; Unit: U.S. Naval Air Station, Adak, Alaska; ADK 11579

Folder 3: Magazine and Newspaper Clippings

Partial List of titles:

They Came to Attu, by Corey Ford

The Aleutians: They are Barren Links Between Two Worlds, Photographs by
Dmitri Kessel

Mission Over Kiska, by Corey Ford

Folder 4: Spiral Notebook with Clippings