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

PCA 430

90 photographs

Processed by: Gladi Kulp
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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.


05: Kiska volcano center middle. LCM’s landing. Center is repair barge for landing craft. North Head on right. Aug. 1943.


08: Army amphibious tank which weren’t used. Aug.-Sept. 1943.


10: Weather encountered by forces landing supplies. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No. 5595. 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


14: LST’s Kitska Harbor. 26 Aug 1943. No. 5-349-1. 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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


58: Troops and supplies land and move forward at Broad Beach, Kiska. No: 348-7. Date: 8-16-43. Unit – Fleet Air Wing Four.


64: View of Kiska Harbor. No: 345-1. Date: 8-17-43. 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 thoroughly 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 bulldozer. Kiska, August 23, 1943. No: 5616. 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.


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.


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.


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 Fuzeliers”. 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.


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


89: Kiska – Weather Station, Aug. 1943.