Guide to Collection

Fine, Harold, Collector

Harold Fine Collection - Japanese Surrender of Northern Japan – WWII photographs, ca. 1944-1945

PCA 525-8

3 Folders
40 b&w photographs
NARA photocopies of photographs

Processed by: Sean Lanksbury
Revised by: Alea Oien 5/2009

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Steve Henrikson of the Alaska State Museum to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and is accessioned as 2007-6. Mr. Henrikson purchased the collection from a Ms. Christine Liimatta of Lexington, KY via eBay in 2006.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All items have been placed in Mylar and into pH-neutral folders.
BIOGRAPHICAL and HISTORICAL NOTE

Corporal Harold M. Fine (Army Serial # 36 566 600; Organization: 373rd Air SV SQ 23rd SV GP) was born 1/23/1921 in Detroit, Michigan. He completed four years of high school, graduating from Northern High Detroit, Michigan, in 1939. After graduating he worked in the Detroit Board of Assessor’s Office. He enlisted in the U.S. Army 2/10/1943 and served as an administrative and technical clerk and postal clerk during his tour in the Aleutian Islands until 12/11/1945.

USS *Panamint*

On 12 August 1945 the ship sailed for Adak, Aleutian Islands, where she reported for duty to Commander North Pacific Force and Area. On 29 August Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Commander North Pacific Force and Area, hoisted his flag on *Panamint*. Two days later she left Adak with the 9th Fleet and headed west for the occupation of northern Japan.

On 7 September the flagship pulled away from the anchored task force and proceeded to a rendezvous point to await the Japanese surrender ship from nearby Ominato Naval Base. On schedule a Japanese destroyer escort bore down the Tsugaru Strait carrying emissaries to hand over northern Japan, and pilots to guide the American ships through Japanese waters. The commissioners were quickly transferred to *Panamint*. Commodore R. E. Robinson, Jr., represented Vice Admiral Fletcher, and Rear Admiral Densuke Kanome was the head of the Japanese delegation.

On the morning of the 8th the massive naval force got underway led by a Japanese frigate through the mineswept channel and Tsugaru Straits leading to Ominato Anchorage. *Panamint* moored off the shattered naval base that afternoon, and the following morning the formal occupation ceremony was held on her decks. Surrender had come so quickly that two weeks passed before American troops arrived to occupy the countryside. On 20 September *Panamint* returned to Adak, and proceeded to Kodiak 2 October.

(taken from [http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/p1/panamint.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/p1/panamint.htm), last accessed 01/18/2007 at 23:00:00 UTC)

**Aleutian Islands in WWII**

Dutch Harbor, on Unalaska was bombed by Japanese forces June 3-4, 1942.

Japanese forces invaded Kiska Island on June 6 and Attu Island on June 7th, 1942. The islands were reclaimed by the United States on May 11, 1943.

In August 3 of 1944, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Alaska as part of his Inspection Trip to the Pacific (07/13/1944 to 08/13/1944.) He spoke at the naval air station at Adak, Alaska. Text of the speech available at:

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection contains photographs of Harold M. Fine, his military records, photographs of the surrender of Northern Japan by the Japanese September 8, 1945 on the ship Panamint and photographs of President Roosevelt visiting troops in the Aleutian Islands, August, 1944. The photographs in this collection were found in the estate of Harold M. Fine.

Photographs of Japanese Emissaries aboard USS Panamint (AGC-13) for conference on surrender negotiations for Northern Honshu, Japan, September 7, 1945. (See PCA 80 for photos of ceremony) Photographer unknown (possibly Harold Fine or W.F. Anderson?) Identification of U.S. and Japanese soldiers made possible through National Archives Special Media Archives Services Division. Images held at 80-G-XXXXX) and of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s visit to Aleutians in August of 1944.

SUBJECTS

Alaska, Aleutian Islands, WWII, World War II, Japan, Hokkaido, USS Panamint, Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Commodore R.E. Robinson, Jr., Rear Admiral Densuke Kanome

INVENTORY

Folder 1

Harold M. Fine photographs (8) and personal Army records.
1. Group Portrait
   Verso:
   Chas [alalonis?], Roswell, N. Mex
   Jack Fetz, Elwood, Ind.
   Jack [Corbett?], Springfield, N.J.
   Leo Fidrych, Mass.
   Bill Cown, Calif.
   Jack Cooperman, N.Y.
   Jim Farrell (Iowa)
   Cyril F. Fey (Ohio)
   Milton Dub[in?] (New Jersey)
   Anthony Cerillo, Bronx, N.Y.
   Rollin S. Eaton, Drakesville, Iowa
   X Good luck to a S.F.O!
   Sgt. E Yakes, Chicago, Il
   Irwin Eismer, Louisville, Ky
   Dale Darland, Iowa
   Bernard Elman, Pgh, Pa.
   Arthur Falkowski, Cleveland, Ohio
   Murrell E Collier, Raliegh, Tenn.
   Sgt. Robert Gunn, Frankford, Delaware
   Charles [?] Eklers [F?]
Arthur Duniven, La. Angeles, Calif.
Evin Duschanek, Corniel [?], Iowa
Bert W. Davidson, Oklahoma
Tom A. Ellisson, Memphis Tenn.
[A[sary?] Fisdlsk, Ilsivyovk, Ily]?
Elton S. Dunn, Jr., Box[?] Springheel, La
Doyen Louis Coy, 1714 Houston Ave, Port Authur, Tex.
Cuff Churchill, Box 190 Rt. 8, Denver, Colo.
Dalton A. Fisher, R St. Albert, Alberta, Canada
J.T. Auty, 241-87 St. Bkyn, N.Y.
Jack De Kyle, New Jersey
Stewart A. Cunningham, [Lonisa, Va?]?
Wayne J. Falkenstein, Onago, Kans.
To a swell guy + ned [?]. [Fellows?], Cots, New York
H. C. Clark 314 Front St., Marietta, Ohio
Lawrence J. [Fahez?], 41 Garden St. Pittsfeld, Mass.
Philip [H.? D[?]orsk, Sch[?] Nebr.
Albert A. Eickhorn, Pleasant Green, Mo.
Manuel [Negreto?], [?]360 E108 St. Los Angeles, Calif.
William L. Aaskins, 120 Middle Ave., Jackson, Tenn.
Frederick P Segal, Staten Island, N.Y.
Keneth Carley, Oklahoma
Fred Christopher Smith, Laramy, N.Y.
Duane B. Mosman 146 N. Maple St. Stockton, Calif.
Harold Erickson, 820 Villa Ave, San Jose, Calif.
James G. Bushey, Detroit Michigan 15379 [Mailawe?]
Aldo P. Cebrario, 12920 Arlington Detroit Mich.
Peter A. Anastos, 77 [?]apper St. Newport, NH

Folder 2

1-26: Japanese Emissaries aboard USS Panamint.

1. [Two Ships in ocean taken from distance.]

2. [Japanese soldier (Lt. [jg] Okia Namie) on ship’s ladder, another Japanese soldier (Petty Officer Yoshio Kawkita) holding rolled document and standing on deck, surrounded by U.S. Military personnel.]


9. [Conference table. R. Adm. Densuke Kanome (left side) writing on document, Petty Officer Yoshio Kawkita (right side)]


11. [Soldiers standing at conference table and pointing to map.]


17. [Japanese soldier descending hook ladder. Two men below on small watercraft (GC 13-5, likely the fifth transport boat on the Panamint.]

18. [L-R: unidentified U.S. Naval Officer, Adm. Densuke Kanome, unidentified U.S. Sergeant (Japanese-American).]


25. [Crowd of unidentified U.S. soldiers observing the negotiations aboard USS Panamint.]

26. [Two men, unidentified, leaning onboard USS Panamint.]

27. [37 U.S. soldiers posed in front of building for group portrait. Sign on the building reads “E294.” Names of soldiers written on verso.]

28 - 32: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Visit to Aleutians, Aug. 1944

28. (23BP4CI56-2) (10:2:1600) President’s Visit to Aleutians, Navy Photo, Aug. 1944

29. (23BP4CI56-3) (10:2:1600) President’s Visit to Aleutians, Navy Photo, Aug. 1944 [Five men seated at dining table. U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt seated at table’s center holding a microphone.]

30. (23BP4CI56-1) (10:2:1600) President’s Visit to Aleutians, Navy Photo, Aug. 1944 [Soldiers seated in Quonset hut mess hall. Four men seated at table in foreground with backs to the camera. 2nd from left is U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.]

31. [President’s Visit to Aleutians, Aug. 1944. Soldiers seated in Quonset hut mess hall. At far end of hut are five men seated at dining table. U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt seated at table’s center holding a microphone.]

32. [President’s Visit to Aleutians, Aug. 1944. Soldiers seated in Quonset hut mess hall. At far end of hut are five men seated at dining table. U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt seated at table’s center.]
Folder 3
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
Photocopies of NARA photos of surrender of Northern Japan conference and ceremonies.