

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

TITLE: Charlotte Hazelet Turtainen Photographs

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1998.012

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1944-1945

Extent: 25 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Charlotte Hazelet Turtainen

Administrative/Biographical History:

Charlotte Turtainen was born to Calvin and Nan Hazelet on May 5, 1921, in Cordova, Alaska. She completed high school in Cordova and moved to Washington State in 1924. In 1941, she returned to Cordova and began work in a cannery. Shortly afterward, she joined the Army Transport Service. In 1944, she was being transferred to Anchorage and made a stop at Whittier, where she immediately took an administrative position with the Army Engineers. After the war, she relocated to Washington and married Armas Turtainen. She died December 24, 2011.

In October 1940, the Army decided to construct a railroad terminus at Portage Bay, to eliminate the risky rail route from Anchorage to Seward. Construction on a tunnel between Anchorage and the bay (or Passage Canal, as it was later known) began in April 1941 with the arrival of the 177th Engineering group. In September, the location was officially named Whittier, after the nearby glacier. In October 1942, the first troops were officially stationed at Whittier, starting with the 297th Infantry and followed by the 42nd Engineering group. In the winter of 1942, work began on the terminal yards and dock. Whittier was officially activated as an Army post in 1943, and the first train traveled through the tunnel in April of that year.¹

¹ See Taylor, Alan. *The strangest town in Alaska: the history of Whittier, Alaska, and the Portage Valley*. Seattle: Kokogiak Media, 2000.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 25 black-and-white photographs created or collected by Charlotte Hazelet Turtainen during her service with the U.S. Army at Whittier during World War II.

Arrangement: Not applicable

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Charlotte Hazelet Turtainen Photographs, Anchorage Museum, B1998.012

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Materials given to Nancy Lethcoe by Charlotte Turtainen in 1997. Lethcoe brought the collection to the Anchorage Museum in May 1998.

Processing Notes

Photos separated from an album prior to donation; some glue residue remains on backs.

Separated Materials

Alaska Defense Command patch transferred to Collections.

RELATED MATERIALS

Vann Photographs, B2005.038

Whittier Tunnel Construction Collection, B2007.023

SUBJECTS

Turtainen, Charlotte Hazelet

United States. Army

American National Red Cross

World War, 1939-1945—Alaska

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Female
World War, 1939-1945--Women
Whittier (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

- .1 – This picture is printed backwards. Charlotte Hazelet [wading, Kenai Peninsula?]
- .2 – Dona & Charlotte [with women's quarters in background?]
- .3 – Dona L. Emerson & Charlotte Hazelet [is version of .2]
- .4 – Lillian E. Sedig & Charlotte Hazelet in front of women's quarters
- .5 – Bernice Jacobs [sits at desk with nameplate for Lt. Irvin L. Tressler]
- .6 – Sid Doorbos & Charlotte Hazelet [walking in snowy woods]
- .7 – Sid Doorbos [standing near barracks?]
- .8 – Sgt. Pickens [standing in snowy woods]
- .9 – Sgt. Pickens, Whittier in background, 1944
- .10 – Sgt. Pickens [sitting near creek with shoe off]
- .11 – [unidentified male in winter gear with sound in background]
- .12 – Army Engineers crew [group posed in open doorway; insignia above doors is Bugs Bunny wearing a helmet and holding a ladder, hatchet, and other items]
- .13 – [group portrait, Army Engineers]
- .14 – Army Engineers. Fred Jarricchio, William O. Withington, Tim Radford, Herbert "Bill" Pickens, Bernice R. Jacobs, Sid Doorbos (missing)
- .15 – [similar to .16. War Dept. civilian female employees, June 1, 1945]
- .16 – Whittier, Alaska. U.S. Army. A picture of the War Department Civilian Female Employees, employed at Whittier, Alaska, 1 June 45. Reading from left to right: Sitting: Lybrook, Jane; Wescott, Olyvia W.; Havener, Cleo I.; Hoffman, Katherine F.; Vester, Mary F.; Valdez, Valma A.; Crooks, Ruth. Standing: Pilchard, Nancy; Hazelet, Charlotte D.; Engles, Mary Bland; Jenkins, Marion V.; Buford, Cosette; Sedig, Lillian E.; Ruesink, Hazel G.; Emerson, Dona L.; Oswald, Marie K.
- .17 – Whittier, Alaska. U.S. Army. A picture of the Officers, and the American Red Cross Personnel stationed at Whittier, Alaska, 1 June 1945. Reading from left to right: Sitting: Miss Rosenkrans, Norma Mae; Miss Dotson, Norma; Mr. Grau, Walter; Capt. Snakenberg Jr., Edward W. QHC; Capt. Hunter Jr., Walter R. TC; Capt. May, Franklin J. Inf.; Maj. Seligman Jr., Joseph L. CAC; Maj. Roehm, Edgar A. MC; Capt. Batson, Neal C. VC; Capt. Baldwin, Irving R. DC; Capt. Leitch, William H. MC; 1st Lt. Ostrom, Mary Jane ANC; 2nd Lt. Seidman, Frieda ANC. Middle row: 2nd Lt. Bilenky, William TC; Capt. Tressler, Irvin L. CE; Capt. Wittstein, Martin E. FD; Capt. Shockey, John E. AUS; 1st Lt. Gresswell, William K QMC; 1st Lt. Kropp, Walter A. TC; Capt. Schrecengost, Howard E. Inf.; 1st Lt. Summers, Robert A. Inf.; 1st Lt. Reid, Robert A. Inf.; 2nd Lt. McNerney, John L. Inf.; 1st Lt. Young Jr., Robert W. TC; 1st Lt. McFarland, Omer D. ORD; 1st Lt. Dean, Ralph O. AGD; 2nd Lt. Fell, Thomas F. MAC; 2nd Lt. Giannetti, Arnold S. SC. Back row: Donnally, Gordon R. AUS; 1st Lt. Kasper, William L. TC; 1st Lt. Brown Jr., John M. TC; 1st Lt. Wells, Addison T. TC; 1st Lt. Seaman, Charles H. QMC; 1st Lt. Ostrom, Bernard W. QMC; 1st Lt. Frechtling, James C. TC; Capt. Friedmann, Joseph J. TC; 1st Lt. Johnson, Earl A. TC; 1st Lt. White, John G. TC; 1st Lt. Condrill, Donald R. TC; Capt. Harter, Austin G. TC; 1st Lt. Irving, John R. Inf.; 2nd Lt. Loper, James F. Inf.; 1st Lt. Perry-Smith, Truxtun MAC
- .18 – Women's quarters & mess hall, 1944

- .19 – [Whittier?]
- .20 – [scenic view of mountains, sound]
- .21 – [view down snowy road]
- .22 – [scenic view, winter, utility pole in foreground]
- .23 – [scenic view of sound]
- .24 – [scenic view of snowy mountains]
- .25 – [military building in winter]

Guide written: August 8, 2012