

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: James L. Oswald, Jr., Photographs

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2014.017

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1942-1945

Extent: 55 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): James L. Oswald, Jr.

Administrative/Biographical History:

James L. Oswald, Jr., was born in Allendale, South Carolina, in November 1914. He received his bachelor's degree from Duke University and his master's degree in library science from Emory University, where he served as librarian until 1941. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. Oswald died February 15, 2005.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 55 black-and-white photographs taken by James L. Oswald during his tour of duty in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by location, when known.

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:

James L. Oswald, Jr., Photographs, Anchorage Museum, B2014.017

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Oswald's niece, Charlotte Plyler, in July 2014.

Processing Note

Twenty-six prints discarded for duplication or poor quality.

RELATED MATERIALS

Adak Historical Society Collection, B1996.035

Candy Waugaman Collection, B1998.025

Charles Ireland Collection, B2004.005

Monroe B. Goldberg Photographs, B2009.001

Lee 349th Engineer Regiment Aleutian Campaign Album, B2009.046

SUBJECTS

Oswald, James L., 1914-2005

United States. Army. Alaskan Department

United States. Army – Military life

World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns – Alaska – Aleutian Islands

Anchorage (Alaska)

Adak Island (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – Alaska Mts. between Seward & Anch. [winter view of mountains taken from Alaska Railroad train, with small outbuildings at right, tracks in center background, possibly near Portage]

.2 – Alaska Mts. from RR train [similar to .1, with silhouettes of soldiers in doorway]

- .3 – Alaskan scene from Alask[a] R.R. car [soldiers' silhouettes in foreground, snowy mountains in distance]
- .4 – Alaska [view out Alaska Railroad train window to large wooden trestle bridge, possibly Loop District]
- .5 – Alaska Mts. [scenic with small dock on lake in foreground, mountains in distance]
- .6 – Seen from barracks at Anchorage [view from second-story window of soldiers marching on base street past buildings, medical corps truck parked in foreground]
- .7 – Looking toward the city from Anchorage bay [view of Ship Creek area and Chugach Mountains from Cook Inlet, Alaska Railroad headquarters at right]
- .8 – Reading in bed, Anchorage [soldier laying in bunk]
- .9 – Anchorage [soldier standing outside building next to large bomb with word "Buster" painted on side]
- .10 – Anchorage [two soldiers standing outside buildings holding small bomb with "Block Buster" painted on side]
- .11 – [similar to .9]
- .12 – Adak camp area, x marls tent in which we lived before moving to hut [bird's eye view of tents and Quonset huts along road, mountain in distance]
- .13 – [similar to .12]
- .14 – Adak [scenic of tundra, bay, mountains, Quonset huts in distance at left]
- .15 – Ships in Kuluk Bay [several military ships at anchor]
- .16 – 2 fellows on shores of Kuluk Bay [two soldiers standing in tire tracks along shore, one wearing leather bomber jacket and billed cap]
- .17 – [three soldiers leaning on barrel, two drinking soda from glass bottles, including two men shown in .16]
- .18 – [three soldiers in field, same two men as in .16 holding third man down, one soldier pretending to stone him]
- .19 – Burnley with bay in background [portrait of soldier, holding eyeglasses]
- .20 – Rocks along Kuluk Bay [soldier posed on rocky beach]
- .21 – Looking down at bay [view down steep grassy declivity]
- .22 – Looking across the bay [shoreline in foreground, mountains in distance]
- .23 – Hermann along cliffs overlooking Kuluk Bay [portrait of soldier wearing coveralls, vest, billed cap with ear flaps, and sunglasses]
- .24 – [view looking up to soldier standing on cliffs near shore of Kuluk Bay, possibly soldier identified as Burnley in .19]
- .25 – From slopes of Mt. Moffet[t] [three soldiers standing near small creek through tundra]
- .26 – View from slopes of Mt. Moffet[t] on Adak [bay in distance]
- .27 – Adak from slopes of Mt. Moffet[t] [scenic of tundra]
- .28 – Burnley, Adak [portrait of soldier standing in grass]
- .29 – Andy in doorway of Adak hut. This is the boy who wrote the letter [soldier wearing coveralls standing near barracks entrance]
- .30 – Inside tent [two soldiers sitting indoors, bottles on table]
- .31 – Plane landing on Adak runway [four soldiers standing in foreground. original image blurry]

- .32 – B-24 coming in for landing [airplane flying low over surf, military ship in bay in background]
- .33 – B-25 ready to land on Adak runway [similar to .32]
- .34 – Puppy in hut [dog sitting on towels on floor, possibly near radiator]
- .35 – There was a birds nest in this picture but eggs were so well camouflaged [sic] they don't show up [soldier's hand moving grass aside to show nest]
- .36 – Dutch Harbor from porthole of boat [scenic of harbor, mountains]
- .37 – Dutch Harbor [military ship at anchor]
- .38 – Scene from boat in Aleutians [rock outcropping with dusting of snow]
- .39 – These low hanging clouds make this a typical Aleutian view [view of coastline from ship]
- .40 – [aerial of landscape dotted with small lakes]
- .41 – [airplane in flight, as seen from second airplane, possibly B-24]
- .42 – [similar to .41]
- .43 – [bird's eye view of valley in unidentified location, small deciduous trees on hills]
- .44 – James Oswald on left, Aleutian Is., WWII [two soldiers standing outside Quonset hut "76" in winter]
- .45 – James Oswald in front, WWII [four soldiers on coastline, Oswald with shovel, soldier at left possibly holding large bone]
- .46 – Jim Oswald? [portrait of soldier wearing ammunition belt, helmet, and eyeglasses standing outside tent]
- .47 – James Oswald on left, seated, WWII [seven soldiers in various states of dress posed outside building "T-506", Oswald smoking cigarette]
- .48 – James L. Oswald, WWII [soldier wearing coveralls posed outside building "T-506"]
- .49 – [bird's eye view of shirtless soldier sunbathing on patio, photographer's shadow in foreground]
- .50 – [portrait of soldier wearing flight suit with leather jacket, leather pants, and zippered boots, standing outside base building]
- .51 – [partially obscured image of two soldiers, one a Sergeant First Class, standing outside base building]
- .52 – [portrait of soldier wearing coveralls and billed cap standing outdoors, tent in background]
- .53 – [portrait of soldier wearing leather jacket and billed cap and holding cup, plate, and utensils, standing outdoors, tent in background, barrel on ground at left]
- .54 – [portrait of soldier wearing leather jacket and billed cap standing outdoors, tent in background]
- .55 – [portrait of soldier wearing leather jacket and coveralls standing outdoors, tent in background]

Guide written: July 29, 2014