

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: Carlton F. Rinck Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2014.021

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1946-1947

Extent: 3 boxes, 1.1 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Carlton F. Rinck

Administrative/Biographical History:

Carlton Frederick Rinck was born on January 15, 1925. He attended the University of Buffalo, receiving his D.D.S. in 1946. He spent one year in the Army Specialized Training Program before being sent to Fort Sam Houston in Texas. He was transferred to Camp Stoneman in Pittsburgh, California, in October 1946, and then to Fort Lawton in Washington State on November 18, 1946. He sailed from Seattle on the *Goucher Victory*, stopping in Whittier and Kodiak before arriving on Shemya to serve as dental surgeon at the 329th Station Hospital. In June 1947, Rinck was transferred to the 179th Station Hospital on Adak, and spent the month of July as travelling dentist for Army personnel at Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, and Umnak. In September 1947, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. He was released from active duty in 1948. He achieved the rank of colonel in the Army Reserves. Rinck died in 1983.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 211 letters written by Carlton Rinck to his father, Curtis F. Rinck of Buffalo, New York, during Carlton's tour of duty in the U.S. Army, 1946-1947. The letters enclose various types of ephemera, including photographs taken by Carlton, primarily in the Aleutian Islands; news clippings; pine needles and bird feathers; and four complete issues of

the *Shemya News Sentinel* and one complete issue of the *Camp Earle News* (Attu). The 119 black-and-white photographs are described at the item level in the Detailed Description of Collection.

The letters, written almost daily, chronicle military life in the Aleutian Islands as the United States began to reduce its forces after the cessation of hostilities post-World War II. Carlton describes the drawdown of troops on Shemya and other Aleutian bases, as well as the rapidly changing Army requirements for service as wartime ends. He includes in each letter a complete report of the day's meals, the day's weather, and the day's work on the dental service. He talks about his fellow soldiers and the other units on base, the various entertainments available to the men (including USO shows), the PX stores and prices, and the unpredictability of the mail service. He shares his impressions of Alaska, and passes along other soldiers' reports of cities he has not seen, such as Anchorage (see letter of June 21, 1947). He also writes about his personal interests, including American politics, action on the stock exchange, advances in camera technology, and the relative merits of various writing instruments. Throughout his letters, he unabashedly gives his opinions on Army life and American society, providing a unique window on the worldview of a White Protestant soldier during a time of radical change in military life.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically.

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:

Carlton F. Rinck Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2014.021

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Arthur Hamilton in July 2014. Hamilton purchased the collection at auction in Wilton, New Hampshire, circa 2010.

Processing Note

Photographs separated from letters at time of processing.

RELATED MATERIALS

Charles Ireland Collection, B2004.005

SUBJECTS

Rinck, Carlton F., 1925-1983

United States. Army. Alaskan Dept. -- Military life -- Sources

Soldiers—Alaska—Aleutian Islands

Military bases—Alaska—Aleutian Islands

Dentistry, Military--United States

Dentists--United States

Fort Lawton (Seattle, Wash.)

Camp Stoneman (Pittsburg, Calif.)

Shemya Island (Alaska)

Adak Island (Alaska)

Dutch Harbor (Alaska)

Cold Bay (Alaska)

Umnak Island (Alaska)

Attu Island (Alaska)

Aleutian Islands (Alaska)

Whittier (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

B1

Letters, October 10, 1946-April 8, 1947

B2

Letters, April 9-October 14, 1947

B3

F1

Photographs

.1 – Roll #2, Fort Lawton, Nov. 26, 1946. Stairway to Officers' Club & bus stop, olive side of parka out, with hood up [soldier on steps]

.2 – Roll #2, Fort Lawton. Officers' Mess, picket fence in left foreground leads to Bldg. 523 (my BOQ), Nov. 26, 1946

.3 – Roll #2, Nov. 26, 1946, Fort Lawton. Sampson (in white parka) breaking down an evergreen with bare hands (blown down by wind)

.4 – Roll #2, Fort Lawton. White side of parka (outer layer) out, plus wool knit cap, Nov. 26, 1946 [soldier standing on grass, buildings in background]

- .5 – Roll #2. My barracks at Fort Lawton. My room was second floor, 4th window from the front, Nov. 26, 1946
- .6 – Roll #2, Nov. 26, 1946, Fort Lawton. Foliage, plus Seattle in background
- .7 – Roll #2, Nov. 26, 1946, Fort Lawton. Olive side of parka out, fur liner under arm, Seattle (houses) in background (camera moved) [original image blurry]
- .8 – Roll #2, Nov. 26, 1946, Fort Lawton. Officers' Club at center, mess hall at right
- .9 – Roll #3, Oct. 17, 1946. San Francisco business district, Bay bridge, Oakland across the bay, from "The Top of the Mark" (Mark Hopkins Hotel)
- .10 – Roll #3, Oct. 17, 1946. Ferry Building, San Francisco (S.P. & W.P. Station), note streetcars in foreground
- .11 – Roll #3, Nov. 24, 1946. Foliage at Fort Lawton plus Seattle in background
- .12 – Roll #3, Nov. 24, 1946, Fort Lawton. "Fur" (actually a wool pile) liner of the parka
- .13 – Roll #3, Nov. 24, 1946, Fort Lawton. Myself in overcoat with Lt. Paliulis (the Lithuanian now at Anchorage who roomed with me at Fort Lawton) [Rinck at left]
- .14 – Roll #3, Nov. 1946. Camp Stoneman and California hills.
- .15 – Roll #3, Nov. 1946, Camp Stoneman. Enlisted men's barracks with California hills in the background
- .16 – Roll #3, Nov. 1946, Camp Stoneman, Calif. BOQ 0-1 (my quarters) my room, 2nd floor, front left corner, note flowers at front
- .17 – Roll #4, Nov. 30, 1946. Seattle as the Goucher Victory was pulling up Puget Sound, note the way the city is built up the hills
- .18 – Roll #4, Dec. 1, 1946. Myself in parka, hood up & face partly enclosed, one of the Queen Charlotte Islands (Canadian) in background [Rinck standing on deck next to life ring from U.S.A.T. *Goucher Victory*]
- .19 – Roll #4, Dec. 1, 1946. British Columbia coast, mountains, snow & foliage. There is apparently a small fishing settlement between arrows (pencil) on photo
- .20 – Roll #4, Dec. 1, 1946. British Columbia coast (camera moved) [original image blurry]
- .21 – Roll #4, Dec. 1, 1946. One of the Queen Charlotte Islands (British Columbia)
- .22 – Roll #4, Dec. 3, 1946. Approaching the dock at Whittier, Alaska. 2 warehouses on dock, bow of freighter unloading at left
- .23 – Roll #4, Dec. 3, 1946. Point of entrance to Prince William Sound (within which Whittier lies), note snow & evergreens on the Alaskan mainland, note also that there is practically no level land as is the case with most of Alaska, making it commercially impractical
- .24 – Roll #4, Dec. 3, 1946. Unloading troops at Whittier, Alaska, Alaska RR parlor car at left (for officers), woods & snow-capped mountains in background, roof of warehouse at left, Whittier Glacier just below the penciled "X"
- .25 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. The band that gave us the sendoff at Pier 39
- .26 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Stern (rear) of the Goucher Victory, note gangplanks at right
- .27 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Myself, bag & baggage, in parka, Goucher Victory in background, officers on the left, enlisted men on the right (camera moved)
- .28 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Vessels at the U.S. Army Transportation Corps dock (Pier 39)
- .29 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Seattle skyline over warehouse at Pier 39

- .30 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Lt. Cameras (Kosher physician who came up with me), Pier 39, Goucher Victory in background [soldier standing with baggage on dock]
- .31 – Roll #5, Seattle, Nov. 30, 1946. Goucher Victory and troops, Pier 39
- .32 – Roll #6, Dec. 4, 1946. Mountain (over 4300 feet) across the inlet from Whittier, Alaska
- .33 – Roll #6. Woods & mountains across the inlet from Whittier, Alaska, Dec. 4, 1946
- .34 – Roll #6, Whittier, Alaska, Dec. 4, 1946. Alaska RR, Whittier at left center, woods & mountains in background, glacier at region of X (ink)
- .35 – Roll #6, Whittier, Alaska, Dec. 4, 1946. Alaska RR, Whittier at center, mountains & woods in background
- .36 – Roll #6, Dec. 7, 1946. Navy tug heading from the Goucher Victory toward Kodiak harbor, Kodiak Island in background
- .37 – Roll #6, Dec. 7, 1946. Kodiak Island (best hunting, scenic), haze & fog obscure view
- .38 – Roll #6, Dec. 8, 1946. One of the Aleutian Islands between the Alaskan Peninsula and Adak, note ice on the rails
- .39 – Roll #6, Dec. 8, 1946. One of the Aleutian Islands (rocks) between Alaskan Peninsula and Adak, note ice on the rails
- .40 – Roll #7, Dec. 8, 1946. Active Aleutian volcano at center (pointed), that level snow-like formation at right is a fog-bank, note ice on the ship
- .41 – Roll #7, Dec. 8, 1946. Volcano at left (small puff of smoke extending to left from the cone, use magnifying glass) snow-capped mountain at right, fog bank between Aleutian Islands east of Adak
- .42 – Roll #7, Dec. 10, 1946. Pier at Adak, gangplank at left, warehouses all along the middle of the picture, the rock hill (right & center) formerly extended all the way out, the harbor space was all blasted out and the rock used for gravel for the roads
- .43 – Roll #7, Dec. 10, 1946. One of the piers at Adak, mountains & some abandoned units (groups of huts & buildings) in background
- .44 – Roll #7, Dec. 10, 1946. Adak harbor, radio station center, note installations (groups of huts) at the base of the mountains & in foothills
- .45 – Roll #7, Dec. 10, 1946. Outlet of Adak harbor, note breakwater just below the mountains on left (camera moved)
- .46 – Roll #7, Massacre Bay at Attu. Attu mountains in left background & breakwater in right background, "FS" boat in foreground and tug boat behind it, Dec. 12, 1946
- .47 – Roll #7, Dec. 23, 1946. Shemya looking out from the hospital, road plus wastelands (tundra) in foreground, aircraft hangars at left, glider takeoff ramp at center, Agattu Island on horizon left center (faint)
- .48 – Dec. 23, 1946. 329th Sta. Hospital Officers' Club, Shemya, Roll #8 [interior with Christmas decorations]
- .49 – Dec. 23, 1946. 329th Sta. Hospital Officers' Club, Shemya, Roll #8 [interior with Christmas tree]
- .50 – Dec. 24, 1946. 329th Sta. Hospital Officers' Club, Shemya, Roll #8 [Rinck standing next to Christmas tree]
- .51 – Dec. 23, 1946. 329th Sta. Hospital Officers' Club, Shemya, Roll #8 [interior with Christmas tree]

.52 – [view from Goucher Victory of Whittier docks, Alaska Railroad train, November 30-December 4, 1946]

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.53 – Roll #10, Jan. 1, 1947. Scene from the hospital looking over Shemya toward Attu

.54 – Roll #10, Jan. 1, 1947. Another shot of Agattu but not too good (Agattu is between the arrows on this photo – this will locate Agattu for you on the good picture marked with an X)

.55 – Roll #10, Jan. 1, 1947. Agattu Island on horizon to left of center. Agattu is over 20 miles from Shemya & is a very large island. This is one of the best pictures I have ever seen of Agattu. The dark sky is caused by the filter I got when I was home.

.56 – Roll #9, Jan. 30, 1947. Attu, mountains, peaks are obscured by haze & fog

.57 – Roll #9, Jan. 30, 1947. “C-47” plane at Attu airstrip (which brought me from Shemya), Attu mountains in background

.58 – Roll #9, Jan. 30, 1947. Air dock at Attu, “C-47” which brought me from Shemya to Attu

.59 – Roll #10, Jan. 30, 1947. Shot through the front windshield of the airplane approaching Attu. Attu is on the horizon at the right, low thin layer of haze is in foreground

.60 – Roll #10, Jan. 30, 1947. Attu mountains at left, fog bank below, airplane wing at bottom

.61 – Roll #10, Jan. 30, 1947. Approaching Attu by air, Massacre Bay at center, mountains at far right side, airstrip (landing) at left, note ocean outside the bay is rougher than the water is inside the bay, note shoals & reefs in foreground

.62 – Roll #10, Jan. 30, 1947. Attu mountains with fog clinging to them, airplane wing in foreground

.63 – Roll #9, Jan. 31, 1947. Massacre Bay, Attu, note how the water is breaking on the shore, even in a protected harbor, also mountains in haze across the bay

.64 – Roll #9, Jan. 31, 1947. Bachelor Officer Quarters at Attu, the Quonset hut in the center between a wooden structure on the left (the lounge bar) and another Quonset hut on the right is where I stayed (all 3 are connected)

.65 – Roll #9, Jan. 31, 1947. Dock & waterfront at Attu, a Navy supply ship is tied up at the dock, mountains across the bay

.66 – Roll #9, Jan. 31, 1947. One of the docks at Attu waterfront, Quonset huts

.67 – Roll #9, Jan. 31, 1947. Only tree on Attu (camouflaged logs), located in front of the old Army Engineers headquarters

.68 – Feb. 1947. Not taken with my camera. One of the Russian graves (there are 2) – a Russian plane crashed here a few years before the war, killing two Russian pilots who are now buried here

.69 – Feb. 1947. Not taken with my camera. Foreground shows the remains of our largest dock on the shore, our remaining two docks at left, remains of breakwater at right center on horizon [storm damage?]

.70 – Feb. 1947. Not taken with my camera. Logs along the beach, once constituted our largest dock, downtown theater is at center of picture

.71 – Feb. 1947. Not taken with my camera. Once the second largest, now the largest pier. Ocean going vessels cannot come into this pier, but it is planned to build an extension on it to accommodate such ships

.72 – Roll #13, Feb. 8, 1947. Shemya radar tower on one of the bluffs at the north end of the island. This is an enlargement of another picture on this roll

.73 – Roll #13, Feb. 8, 1947. Road and one of the hills along the beach road, the stuff along the hillside is now brown, but apparently in the summer is some tough grass or weed plant

.74 – Roll #13. Another unsuccessful try at photographing Agattu from the hospital. Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya

.75 – Roll #13, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. The remains of what was once our largest dock. Until another dock is constructed, no transports will be able to come into Shemya

.76 – Roll #13, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. Post headquarters, it's certainly nothing to look at [building with sign "Headquarters APO 729" and Alaskan Command insignia]

.77 – Roll #13, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. Crater or canyon opposite the Midtown Theater. It was, at the time the picture was taken, filled with ice

.78 – Roll #13. Poor picture, although at the left, the neighboring islands of the Semichi group can be seen (The Semichi group consists of Shemya, Nizki, & Alaid – all 3 are small islands)

.79 – Roll #13. Bluffs, road, and shoreline at north end of the island, note radar tower at top center

F3

.80 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Just a few of the surplus 55 gallon oil drums that can be found around the island

.81 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. The dock area – the most obvious pier is #2, the second largest. The remaining end of our largest is obscured in the background

.82 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. More waves, shoreline & rocks. I guess those 3 items could pass as the Shemya trademark

.83 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. One of the engineer outfits, also the Shemya hillside

.84 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. A chute down the hillside. I assume some type of supplies were cached in this hillside during the war & when needed were sent down the chute

.85 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Waves, spray & rocks along the shore

.86 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. The Downtown Theater. The Midtown Theater looks exactly like this. The Uptown Theater is of "hut" construction & some day I will get a picture of that

.87 – Roll #14, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Rocks, waves & spray along shore, nice cloud effects too!

.88 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Typical unit (apparently active). The men are housed in the Quonset huts. The other buildings in the background are apparently offices & warehouses

.89 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Reefs and waves breaking. On horizon at left are the other two Semichi Islands. Nizki is the one that looks so close. Behind it is Alaid which has the peak indicated by arrow

.90 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Waves breaking, rocks at left, Nizki and Alaid on horizon at left, the peak on Alaid is faint

.91 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Shore road, piling from the largest dock on the beach, rough seas, a cliff along the coast is across the cove

.92 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Beach road, rocks reefs, & waves breaking in foam, Alaid & Nizki on horizon at left & center, snow-capped peak on Alaid indicated by arrow

- .93 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Waves rolling in to the shore. Note how well the clouds show up (my filter brings out the clouds)
- .94 – Roll #15, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Waves, reefs, at right is one of the many abandoned unites on this island (more to be abandoned apparently if the garrison is reduced)
- .95 – Roll #16, Shemya, Jan. 31, 1947. An enlargement of the other plane picture. I also have an 8 x 10 enlargement of this shot [cf. .96]
- .96 – Roll #16, Shemya, Jan. 31, 1947. “C-47” plane at Shemya air dock. This is the plane which brought me back from Attu, and the same one which was damaged the week of Feb. 10 when the landing gear wouldn’t descend [U.S. Army airplane tail number 349215]
- .97 – Roll #16, Attu, Jan. 31, 1947. Engineer Hill. Note American gun emplacement at center of picture. The Japanese were located above in the hills and mountains. Surplus in foreground
- .98 – Roll #16, Attu, Jan. 31, 1947. Some of the engineer surplus awaiting shipment to the States. This is in the engineer area (fighting once occurred here) which is now abandoned. This is only a small am’t of the surplus – there are warehouses full of it and thousands of feet of lumber too
- .99 – Roll #16, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Part of the coastline. The runway is at the left above the hill. Note the cliffs and reefs.
- .100 – Roll #16, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Coastline, note waves, reefs, rocks
- .101 – Roll #16, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Coastline, note waves rolling in and the rocks along the beach. The beach road can be seen at extreme right
- .102 – Roll #16, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Just a hill. It shows, however, that Shemya is not as flat as reports would indicate. However there is nothing beyond the limit of cliffs and hills, greatest elevation is about 360 feet
- .103 – Roll #16, Shemya, Feb. 8, 1947. Coastline, note the rocky beach and the rough seas. Brownness caused by old paper. Will do another one soon & send it on
- .104 – Roll #17, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. Surplus vehicles on the beach – these are in need of repairs. Agattu very faint on horizon
- .105 – Roll #17, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. Far end of runway shown at left center just below cliff shown at horizon. P-51 plane is shown taking off just above the runway. The other end is obscured by light fog or haze
- .106 – Roll #17, Feb. 9, 1947, Shemya. “P-51” fighter plane. This is much enlarged and taken as the plane flew overhead after just taking off
- .107 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947. Concrete observation box along the beach. Note sandbags around the base of the box
- .108 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947. Not too good a picture, but Agattu can be seen in the background
- .109 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [waves breaking on shore]
- .110 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [surf on shore]
- .111 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [similar to .109]
- .112 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [similar to .109]
- .113 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [similar to .109]
- .114 – Roll #26, Shemya, March 1947 [similar to .109]
- .115 – Roll #27, March 1947. I’ve marked out all the points of interest on this picture. I am also enclosing a better enlargement (unmarked) [notations on image, left to right:] Hangars, main

airstrip (10,000 ft) runs along this lone (approx.), gravel crusher, rock quarry, note how there's a very faint level of land all the way out to the arrow, between these arrows is the flat or plateau portion of Agattu, this is the mountain portion of Agattu

.116 – Roll #27, March 1947. This is the same enlargement as the one that is marked up on the front. It's hard to believe that Agattu is 20 miles away. However, Agattu is a tremendously large (compared to Shemya) island, about 20 x 30 miles

.117 – Roll #27, March 1947, Shemya. Just the waves, rough water & rocks along the shore

.118 – Roll #27, March 1947, Shemya. Rocks & sea spray & waves along the shore. I think that this shows the spray from the waves breaking better than any other that I have

.119 – [undated portrait of female revue dancer in two-piece outfit, identified as Mary Mack. Cf. letter dated March 7, 1947]

Guide written: September 15, 2014