

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY
(See Instructions on reverse)

LEAVE BLANK

JOB NO **N1-338-87-10**

TO **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20408**

DATE RECEIVED
2/9/88

1 FROM (Agency or establishment)
Department of the Army

NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY

2 MAJOR SUBDIVISION
**U.S. ARMY INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMAND
Army Records Management Operation Office**

In accordance with the provisions of 44 USC 3303a the disposal request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10. If no records are proposed for disposal, the signature of the Archivist is not required.

3 MINOR SUBDIVISION
**DESOPS (AS-OPS-MR)
Records Programs Division**

4 NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER
William G. Seibert

5 TELEPHONE EXT
**7-693-7216
8-273-7216**

DATE
7/28/88

ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES
[Signature]

6 CERTIFICATE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposal of the agency's records, that the records proposed for disposal in this Request of _____ page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified, and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, if required under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, is attached.

A GAO concurrence is attached, or is unnecessary

B DATE	C. SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	D TITLE
1/29/88	<i>Robert P. [Signature]</i>	Army Information Retention Manager

7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM (With Inclusive Dates or Retention Periods)	9 GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10 ACTION TAKEN (NARS USE ONLY)
	<p>Located at the National Personnel Records Center (Military) St. Louis, Missouri, are Army organizational records generally dating from the late 1940's through the 1960's. These records are now being reviewed for the purpose of determining their ultimate disposition. The submission of this SF 115 is a part of this effort.</p> <p>This schedule covers only those records located in NPRC created by U.S. Army Systems. Consequently, it is not applicable to current records.</p> <p>Unless otherwise noted, the disposition numbers cited correspond to those in AR 340-18.</p>		

copy to Agency, NCF, NNS, MND, NNA, MND, J/M

*Microfilm
5/26/82
- good record
- good copy*

Justifying Memorandum for Standard Form 115 on Systems at NPRC

This is one of a series of Standard Forms 115 relating to military organizational records maintained at the National Personnel Records Center (MPR). This SF 115 pertains to 90 cu. ft. of permanent and unscheduled military organizational records created by U.S. Army Systems. Dr. Hatcher did not include these records in his summary of Army records at NPRC. The records generally date from the 1920's to the 1950's; the only exceptions to this are two inches of publications from the Quartermaster Mortuary System, Europe issued in the 1960's.

Essentially this schedule is concerned with records created by two Army Systems which, though their respective missions, organizations, and functions were quite different, each played an important role in the development of the Alaska Territory: the Alaska Communication System (ACS) and the Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System (CANOL). The only other records addressed in this offer are the publications files from the Quartermaster Mortuary System, mentioned above.

The Alaska Communication System was established by Act of Congress on May 26, 1900. This legislation authorized the War Department to establish an electrical communication system to be used primarily for military purposes, affording communication links between the various Army garrisons stationed in Alaska to maintain law and order. A secondary mission provided for the handling of commercial traffic. Operated by the Signal Corps, the System as first established consisted of land telegraph lines between important points. During the period 1900 to 1904 these lines were augmented with short lengths of submarine cable. In 1904 a submarine cable was laid between Seattle, Valdez and Seward, and the first direct communication between Alaska and the United States was inaugurated. In 1931 the submarine cable was supplanted by a network of radio stations for communication within, and to and from Alaska. In 1938 a radiotelephone channel was established between Juneau and Seattle, opening up direct telephone communication with the continental United States. By the 1950's, the ACS mission was defined as providing public offering communications facilities and services to, from, and within the Territory of Alaska as the commercial long lines carrier for the Territory. Major functions included making available to the general public, the Department of Defense, and other agencies of the Government, public telephone and telegraph message service; telegraphic money transfer service; full and part-time lease of communications channels and station apparatus; coastal marine service; press service to newspapers and radio broadcasting stations; radio program service; limited rural telephone service to subscribers adjacent to existing open wire lines. The foregoing involved operating and maintaining the telephone and telegraph stations and other facilities required in order to provide such services; negotiating agreements with connecting line companies and agents in the United States, Canada, and throughout the Territory for the exchange of all classes of public communications traffic; and establishing rates and publishing tariffs for the services offered. In the post-war years, the far northern regions of the continent generally, and Alaska in particular, took on ever increasing strategic importance as the Cold War policies of containment and mutual deterrence were developed. For the ACS, this meant that its radio transmitting and receiving facilities were eventually developed to a degree of sophistication which allowed interface with

and support of such integrated warning systems as the Air Force's "Project White Alice." Developed in cooperation with the Bell Telephone Company from 1954 to 1958, "White Alice" transmitted radio beams, each of which might contain scores of messages, from one antenna to another by a process known as "forward propagation tropospheric scatter," a process in which the radio signals are relatively free from jamming and atmospheric disturbance. *

The Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System, also known as the CANOL (Canadian Oil Line) System, was a petroleum refining and pipe-line facility designed for the processing, transportation and distribution of both crude and refined oil products in northwestern Canada and Alaska. Undertaken in accordance with an exchange of notes between the U.S. and Canadian governments authorizing the project, construction of the Pipeline System began in May, 1942. It was motivated by the urgent need to improve Alaskan defenses in the wake of Pearl Harbor and, more immediately, Japanese incursions into the Aleutian Islands, making fuel and other petroleum products readily available to the Army Air Force in Alaska and northwestern Canada without dependence on sea transportation.

The Quartermaster Mortuary System, Europe, was tasked with the preparation and shipment of remains, security and handling of personal effects, transportation of dependent survivors, etc. of Army personnel stationed in Europe.

Attached is a list of the three Systems that created records maintained at NPRC with the approximate date spans and volumes for the records from each. Any ambiguity in the figures shown will be clarified when the records are screened and arranged at NPRC by System and thereunder by series. Then a detailed box listing will be prepared identifying the series contained in each box and its creator. This process having been completed, separate Forms 6710A will be prepared for each series from each System.

Several examples from each record series, with samples from each System creating that series, were examined intensively for this 115. Generally, the descriptions and disposition instructions for the items on the schedule are self-explanatory. There follows, however, further explanation and justification concerning the appraisal of the General Correspondence.

General Correspondence. Although there is a significant amount of ephemera intermixed with the archival material in this series, permanent retention of the entire series is recommended because both creating organizations -- the Alaska Communication System and the Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System -- encompass activities wholly unique in the Army which operated within definitive time periods. The series constitutes a discrete body of documentation which tells two singular and very interesting stories; it should be left intact. ✓

W G Seibert

William G. Seibert
Archivist
Military Operations Branch

* Note: Commercial long line traffic taken over by a private carrier in 50's - Pacific Telephone, a unit of PacifiCorp (formerly Pacific Power & Light) based in Seattle. Today, with deregulation, there are several competing long line carriers.
DW

Systems

Alaska Communication System, ca. 1923-59, 59.4 cu. ft.
Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System, ca. 1942-57, 30.4 cu. ft.
Quartermaster Mortuary System, Europe, ca. 1961-65, 2 in.

The following series are included among the System records at NPRC, but have not been described in this schedule because they have previously been appraised as permanent.

Alaska Communication System

Command Report Files, ca. 1957-58, 1.3 ft.
General Orders, ca. 1946-59, 11 in.
Mobilization Planning Files, ca. 1951-54, 2 in.
Organization Planning Files, 1957, 1 in.
Progress Analysis Files, 1957, 4 in.
Regulations, 1955, 1 in.
Standing Operating Procedures, ca. 1952-55, 2 in.

Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System

Military Historians Files, ca. 1942-54, 1 in.

Quartermaster Mortuary System, Europe

General Orders, ca. 1961-65, 1 in.

- Items in this Schedule

Series recommended for permanent retention

1. General Correspondence
2. Directories
3. Handbooks
4. Instructions

Series containing both permanent and disposable material

5. Manuals
6. Memorandums

Series recommended for disposal

7. Bulletins
8. Circulars
9. Letters
10. Marine and Station Logs

1. General Correspondence, ca. 1923-58, 83.1 cu. ft. EAR 345-220-18D

Classified and unclassified letters, memorandums, reports, and other correspondence relating to a variety of functions and activities of the Alaska Communication System (ACS) and the Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System (CANOL). For the most part, the records from Alaska Communication System are arranged by War Department Decimal Filing System; those from the Petroleum Pipeline System generally are not. In the case of each creator, these files constitute an unusually concentrated and complete body of record material documenting the history of two totally unique activities of the Army.

The ACS records date from the early 1920's through 1958, and are concentrated largely at the 300 and 600 levels of the Decimal Filing System. Organization charts, studies, and surveys, as well as emergency operating procedures and correspondence which addresses problems inherent in attempting to serve both military and civil needs simultaneously, are among documents found in the 300 files. Files 311-311.5 include correspondence pertaining to requirements for operation of the System under special and/or emergency conditions: what was needed for ACS interface with "Project White Alice"; provision of emergency transmitting facilities by American Telephone and Telegraph Co. Long Lines; a Censorship Plan to be used when necessary to safeguard military operations in the Alaska Command. Inspection records, in 311.5, contain photographs, building plans, etc., of ACS Headquarters facilities at various locations in Seattle. Operating Program Progress Reports are found at 320.3, and Mobilization Planning Files at 381. Correspondence at 380 addresses the recurrent proposal to move the System Headquarters from Seattle to Anchorage. The pros and cons of such a relocation, the competing pressures for and against it, are discussed, providing valuable insight into the important role which ACS played, or was perceived to play, in the Territorial economy.

The bulk of ACS correspondence has been assigned to the 600's. These files include numerous maps, topographical maps, site plans, master plans, drawings, charts, photographs, and aerial photographs of locations throughout Alaska. Documentation pertaining to land acquisition and construction of buildings and petroleum storage facilities by ACS, as well as long range planning and program projection, is found at 600-600.12. A very wide range of material has been relegated to heading 676, entitled: Cable, telegraph, and telephone (installation of systems). Among the subjects covered at this level are: correspondence related to the inauguration of radio-telephone link between Alaska and the continental United States; relocation of transmitting stations and other facilities; switch over of certain communication links from cable to radio; proposals by the Chief Signal Officer to sell the System to a reliable civilian communication agency; appropriate division of financial responsibility for expansion of ACS services and facilities between the System and its customers; installation of coaxial submarine cables between Haines or Skagway in Alaska and British Columbia; assessment of the viability of certain private commercial companies that provided telephone service, power and light to various Alaska communities; the Arctic Ionosphere Research Program and the Ionosphere Station on Adak Island. A record copy of "ACS Development Plan for FY 1950-53," also found at 676, outlines expansion plans for the System and includes the ACS Circuit

Directory, circuit diagrams, etc.

Noteworthy among these ACS records is a discrete sub-series, referred to as Organizational and Geographic Files, which consists of individual folders, arranged alphabetically, for each location in the Territory where ACS had established a station. Besides general correspondence which describes the station facilities and how ACS fit into the local community context, many of the folders contain photographs, maps, charts, and site plans of the subject geographical area. These files constitute important documentation of economic and social conditions in the small towns and remote settlements of Alaska in the 1920's and 1930's, and continue the record through to the 1950's, covering such topics as relations between native and white populations, the effect of military presence on local economies, and the growth of local commerce.

The Alaska Petroleum Pipeline System records date from the earliest beginnings of the CANOL Project in 1942, through the mid-1950's. The files are not arranged in any readily perceptible order, and they encompass a very wide variety of material. Correspondence dealing with the ordinary, day-to-day operation, repair, maintenance, and occasional augmentation of the completed Pipeline System and its various stations, is enhanced by a comprehensive CANOL Reading File, arranged chronologically and covering the period from May, 1942 through September, 1944; and by extensive finance and accounting records, including the data gathered for a major Congressional investigation of the project. Another set of files is arranged by correspondent, and largely pertains to the Pipeline's original design and construction. Among the more prominent folders are those containing correspondence with the Northwest Service Command; the Canadian Government; Imperial Oil, Ltd.; Bechtel Price-Callahan (project general contractor); and Turnbull, Sverdrup and Parcel (project architect/engineer). Three other groups of documents are noteworthy. An especially valuable collection of correspondence consists of letters written in early 1942 between the principal participants in the initial decision-making and implementation processes which launched the CANOL Project: President Roosevelt; Secretary of War Stimson; the Honorable Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Petroleum Coordinator for War; Lieutenant General Breton Somervell, Commander, U.S. Army Services of Supply; Major General Eugene Reybold, Chief of Engineers; Colonel Theodore Wyman, District Engineer, Edmonton, Alberta and Officer-in-Charge, CANOL Project. This material together with a file entitled "Pertinent Data Re: CANOL Project," also contains: preliminary correspondence between the U.S. Department of State and the Canadian government regarding Canadian approval of and cooperation in petroleum production and transportation in and from Canada; the official exchange of notes between the two countries which authorized the project; an exchange of letters which indicates how the choice of the pipeline route was made; the memorandum from General Somervell to the Chief of Engineers directing that CANOL be undertaken. A third grouping of records is identified simply as the "Amberg Files." These were created by Julius Amberg, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War who was tasked with defending CANOL before the Truman Committee (the Special Senate Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program). The Truman investigation sought to uncover waste, inefficiency and profiteering in the conduct of the War. Among Amberg's papers is a "Summary of Enemy Activity in Pacific, December 7, 1941 - June 30, 1942."

This day-by-day chronology provides a fascinating picture both of the military situation and the public mood along the Pacific coast of North America in the period immediately following Pearl Harbor, and, presumably, was heavily relied upon in justifying the decision to go ahead with a land-based petroleum transportation system. Additional items of interest include: notes to be used by Admiral King, Chief of Naval Operations, in his testimony before the Truman Committee, consisting of "questions which may be asked" and the correct answers to those questions; drafts of prepared statements to be read by the Under Secretary of War in response to Committee findings severely critical of CANOL and of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who authorized the project and continued it through to completion in the face of mammoth cost overruns; correspondence between Amberg and Hugh Fulton, Special Counsel to the Truman Committee.

Besides the central body of correspondence just described, this series takes in a wide range of record material which documents the organization and history of the Pipeline and related activities in a number of different ways. Organization charts, historical summaries, and a two-volume scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and other media coverage of the project, supply valuable information. Contract files pertain to construction, maintenance, and repair of the System and include specifications and preliminary project studies. Construction plans for facilities at Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, contain elevation drawings; there are also plot plans for refinery units built at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and a plan of procedure for construction of CANOL Project No. 3 from Carcross to Watson Lake in the Yukon. Numerous bound reports cover every phase of the undertaking. A sampling of titles will convey a sense of the microcosmic intensity of information captured in these documents: A Program of Petroleum Exploration and Development for Alaska by the Department of the Interior and the Petroleum Administration for War; Analysis of Meteorological Conditions at Norman Wells and Whitehorse; Geological and Geophysical Exploration Reports re CANOL Project; Geological Data on MacKenzie Basin and Norman Wells; Monthly Operational Reports on CANOL (1942-45); Corps of Engineers Report on CANOL (1943); Analysis of CANOL Project by the Office of the Quartermaster General (1943); Report on the Skagway-Whitehorse Pipeline (1942); Reports on the Norman Wells Program (1943-44); Progress of the CANOL Project and Alaska Highway (1943); Midnight Reports on CANOL-CATEL Projects and the Alaska Military Highway (1943-1944); CANOL Demobilization Reports (1945).

An array of maps and charts of various types, including geologic, topographic, marine, etc., depict diverse regions and areas throughout the Alaska Territory and northwestern Canada. Many photographs are found among these records. Of particular interest are several sets of photographs recording construction of the Pipeline, including the transportation of men and materials by water from Edmonton, Alberta to Norman Wells, N.W.T. to Whitehorse, Yukon; and aerial photos of the Skagway to Whitehorse section of the System. There is also a collection of aerial photographs of southern Alaska from Yakutat Bay to Bering Glacier. A group of studies analyzing the petroleum reserves and processing facilities in various countries and regions worldwide, including Allied, Axis, and Occupied nations, assesses the American position in relation to these competing oil producers.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

2. Directories, 1955, 1 in. 227.01B

Circuit Directory for 1955. Consists of a listing by station of all active circuits controlled, operated or maintained in whole or in part, by the Alaska Communication System. Provides important data on the organization and functions of the System and the services available from it.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

3. Handbooks, 1957, 1 in. 227.01B

A Civilian Employee Handbook issued by the Alaska Communication System containing a historical sketch of the organization and a general outline of the chain of command.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

4. Instructions, 1955, 1 in. 227.01B

A publication of the Alaska Communication System which promulgates implementing instructions for a Ground Observer Network in Alaska. These instructions establish and define responsibility and general procedures for the acceptance and relay of Ground Observer Corps (GOC) reports over the facilities of the ACS. The purpose of the GOC was to augment the Air Defense System's radar surveillance by visually and aurally detecting and reporting movement of aircraft and marine surface craft within the Alaska Theatre. These records document an important ACS function and responsibility.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

5. Manuals, 1957, 1 in. 227.01B

Near-print publications of the Alaska Communication System, issued for a number of purposes such as prescribing uniform administrative policies and procedures; describing organizational structure; listing responsibilities and functions; outlining maintenance, procurement, internal review, or other routine procedures.

a. Organization and function Manuals.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

b. All other Manuals.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

6. Memorandums, ca. 1952-65, 8 in. 227.01B

Issuances used by each of the creators listed in this schedule, for various

routine administrative and housekeeping purposes, such as prescribing minor or short-term procedures, conveying routine information pertaining to such subjects as supply, civilian personnel matters, preparation of DA Forms, etc. Plant memorandums published by the Alaska Communication System, however, include an SOP entitled "Recording and Reporting Circuit Outages."

a. SOP's published in ACS Plant Memorandums or wherever found.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

b. All other Memorandums.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

7. Bulletins, ca. 1950-57, 7 in. 227.01B

Numbered and unnumbered issuances of the Alaska Communication System used to convey information of an advisory, informative, or directive nature. Subjects include safety, civilian personnel information, and other routine administrative and housekeeping matters.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

8. Circulars, ca. 1953-55, 1 in. 227.01B

Issuances published by the Alaska Communication System for the purpose of circulating routine administrative and procedural information pertaining to traffic over the System. These include instructions for handling "HIGHBALL", i.e., very important, messages; recording the speed with which telephone toll calls were made in order to determine the quality of service provided; and other subjects of a transitory nature. Fundamental procedures concerning the organization and functions of ACS operations are covered in SOP's which date from the same period.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

9. Letters, 1955, 1 in. 227.01B

Publications of the Alaska Communication System used to convey to all personnel routine implementing instructions for various Army Regulations (AR) and Standing Regulations (SR) pertaining to the supply function.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

10. Marine and Station Logs, 1957, 4 in.

Logs of communications sent and received by the Alaska Communication System, devoid of any substantive information of archival value.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.