**Howard Doster Photo Collection-Finding Aid**

**Repository**

Palmer Museum of History and Art

**Collection Number**

2011.8

**Processed by**

Dorrie Dean

**Date Collection Processed**

July-September 2017

**Collection Creator**

Howard Doster

**Dates Covered by Collection**

1943-1945

**Size of Collection**

1 box (12.0”W x 12.0”L x 2.5”H), 48 photos

1 large album, 13 photos (over-size)

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Copyright**

To obtain permission to publish or reproduce images from this collection, please contact the Museum Director.

**Acquisition Information**

The Howard Doster Photo Collection was donated to the Palmer Museum of History and Art by his daughter, Karin R. Lemmon, and his widow, Rose W. Doster in February 2010.

**Biographical Note**

Howard Doster was born January 20, 1921 and resided with his wife, Rose, and young son in Baltimore, Maryland. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, with service dates from November 29, 1941-December 23, 1945. He served with the 24th Base Headquarters Air Base Squadron in the Pacific Theater of Operations as a Photo Lithographer. He served a tour of duty in Alaska (dates undetermined) that lasted for at least six months. While here he took many photographs of Alaska, including numerous ones of the area surrounding Palmer. The photos mainly depict natural items (glaciers, mountains, streams, etc.), scenes of Palmer, the Experimental Farm and the Independence Mine area, as well as photos of army personnel who did search and rescue work here in Alaska. After leaving the Army he planned on returning to Baltimore and resuming his career in the printing business. He subsequently died in 1987.

**Scope and Content of the Collection**

The Howard Doster Photo Collection contains a wide range of photographic subjects in Alaska during the WWII period. Many of them are of army personnel in various activities (camp scenes, skiing, snowshoeing, meals, etc.). Others are of local communities and Native people.

The collection was donated by his daughter and widow, and include a newspaper article from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska with a picture of Doster, an article from the Baltimore Sun (his hometown newspaper), and his separation record from the U.S. Army. Additionally, there is a copy of a radio script from KFQD radio station in Anchorage with an interview in which Mr. Doster participated.

This collection contains 64 photographs. The majority are black and white, although several have a blue tint added during the developing process. Forty-seven of these photos are in photo sleeves contained in an archival quality photographic box. Seventeen of these photos are oversized and are contained in a large photo album. These photos are designated as “OV” in the computerized photo collection. The majority of the photos are in very good condition with the exception of some that display minor wear and water damage. All of the photos have been digitized, are represented with high-resolution scans and have been catalogued.

**Subjects/Locations Included:**

Palmer

Matanuska Valley

Rescue Squad soldiers

Anchorage

Cordova

Independence Mine

Native persons

Glaciers

Mountains

Cabins

Skiing

A Volcano

Winter scenes

**No individuals are identified in these photos**

**Collection Notes:**

The following photographs are noted as missing:

Palmer#2-Dos

Palmer#3-Dos

Palmer#2 was accessioned and is included in this finding guide. Palmer#3 was not accessioned and is not listed in this finding guide. Both photos were scanned into the photo archive and are available for digital viewing only. **Arrangement:**

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| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Palmer#1-Dos | Black/white photo of Palmer as seen from Bugge’s Hill. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.1 |
| Palmer#2-Dos | Black/white photo of the Matanuska Experiment Farm. | 1945 | Edited version available |  | 2011.8.2 |
| Glacier#1-Dos | Black/white photo of an aerial view of Matanuska Glacier. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.3 |
| Anchorage#1-Dos | Black/white photo of Fourth Avenue in Anchorage. "The main street of Anchorage" is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.4 |
| Town#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a street level scene in Cordova, Alaska. "This is about as rough a print as we would want reproduced" is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.5 |
| Creek#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a gravel road in foreground, cottonwood trees, gravel stream bed and mountains beyond. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.6 |
| Mountain#2-Dos | Black/white photo on light weight paper of a winter mountain scene including a ski area development in the background. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.7 |
| Mountain#3-Dos | Black/white photo with a blue tint of a winter scene with trees in foreground, water with floating ice and mountains in background. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.8 |
| Cabin#5-Dos | Black/white photo with a blue tint of a winter tent camp. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.9 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Cabin#4-Dos | Sepia tone black/white photo of a man standing before a small flat-roofed log cabin in a forested setting at the edge of a pond with cattails. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.10 |
| Men#6-Dos | Black/white photo of six soldiers standing in winter gear. Note in pencil on back: "Crew of the Rescue Squad (Army Air Force) who went into the mountains to bring out bodies or survivors of plane crashes." | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.11 |
| Men#7-Dos | Black/ white photo of five Rescue Squad soldiers standing around a winter fire drinking coffee. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.12 |
| Hunters#1-Dos | Black/white photo of five Rescue Squad soldiers walking in line on snowshoes. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.13 |
| Hunters#2-Dos | Black/white photo of five Rescue Squad soldiers hiking in line on snowshoes. One man carries a shotgun, another carries skis. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.14 |
| Men#4-Dos | Black/white photo of Rescue Squad soldiers snowshoeing along a creek. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.15 |
| Men#5-Dos | Black/white photo of 3 rescue soldiers on snowshoes with trees and mountains beyond. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.16 |
| Glacier#2-Dos | Black/white photo with blue tint of three men on snowshoes next to a glacier. ” Scene at the end of a glacier” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.17 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Men#2-Dos | Black/white photo of 3 rescue squad soldiers eating from tin cans. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.18 |
| Men#3-Dos | Black/white photo of two rescue squad soldiers holding a bear hide. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.19 |
| Man#7-Dos | Black/white photo of a rescue soldier wearing longjohns and eating from a tin can in a cabin. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.20 |
| Man#8-Dos | Black/white photo of a soldier frying eggs. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.21 |
| Man#6-Dos | Black/white photo with blue tint of a man in a parka standing on a snow covered mountain. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.22 |
| Man#5-Dos | Black/white photo of a man standing on a mountain top with mountains beyond. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.23 |
| Mountain#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a rescue squad soldier standing in snow among trees with a mountain beyond. ”A view across a valley about 15 miles from Anchorage” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.24 |
| Man#3-Dos | Black/white photo of a rescue squad soldier with a big backpack in heavy snow covered woods. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.25 |
| Man#4-Dos | Black/ white photo of a rescue squad soldier on snowshoes with an “over and under” shotgun/rifle and two dead grouse. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.26 |
| Man#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a rescue squad soldier in winter gear. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.27 |
| Man#2-Dos | Black/white photo of a rescue squad soldier on skis with a cabin behind. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.28 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Cabin#2-Dos | Black/white photo of a log cabin in winter with spruce trees and mountains beyond. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.29 |
| Cabin#3-Dos | Black/white photo print of a log cabin in winter. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.30 |
| Cabin#1-Dos | Black/white photo of an army wall tent in the winter among spruce trees. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.31 |
| Men#1-Dos | Black/white photo of two rescue squad soldiers in front of a winter camp. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.32 |
| Doc#1-Dos and Doc#2-Dos | Transmittal letter and cover page from Karin R. Lemmon to Delena Johnson relating to Howard Doster and his photo collection. Transmittal letter has USPS shipping label attached. | 2011 | Two pages accessioned as one document | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.33 |
| Doc#5-Dos | Copy of Army “Separation Qualification Record” for Howard Doster | 23 December, 1945 | none | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.34 |
| Doc#4-Dos | Photocopy of the “War Service Album” in the Baltimore Sun newspaper. It contains a short article about Howard Doster. | 1945 | none | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.35 |
| Doc#3-Dos | A newspaper clipping from the Anchorage Daily Times with a photo and article on Howard Doster. | November 16, 1945 | none | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.36 |
| Doc#6-Dos-OV through Doc#17-Dos-OV | Photocopy of a seven page radio script produced by the Headquarters Alaska Air Depot featuring an interview in which Howard Doster participated. | November 30, 1945 | The heading indicates that it was broadcast over radio station KFQD in Anchorage. On legal-size paper. | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.37 |

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| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Aircraft#1-Dos | Black/white photo of numerous military aircraft sitting on a runway. Low military buildings and mountains beyond. “Identify”, “Pan American Conference 1936”, ”Mexico City 45”, “Bogota 1948”,” Washington DC 51” are written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.38 |
| Creek#2-Dos | Black/white photo of a stream bed surrounded by trees. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.39 |
| People#1-Dos | Black/white photo of people onboard the steamship “Aleutian”. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.40 |
| Glacier#3-Dos | Black/white photo of an aerial view of a glacier with mountains beyond. ” This is an aerial view of Excelsior Glacier, Alaska” is written in pencil and ink on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.41 |
| Glacier#4-Dos | B/w photo of an aerial view of snow covered mountains and glaciers. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.42 |
| Glacier#5-Dos | Black/white photo of an aerial view of snow covered mountains and glaciers. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.43 |
| Volcano#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a snow covered cone-shaped volcano. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.44 |
| Eklutna Lake#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a gravel road, trees, a lake and mountains. ” Road to Eklutna Lake” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.45 |
| Lake#1-Dos | Black/white photo of an aerial view of snow covered mountains and the ocean. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.46 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Man#9-Dos | B/w photo of a Native man in camp with dogs. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.47 |
| Trapper#1-Dos | B/w photo of a trapper holding up two pelts. “A trapper and fox pelts” corrected to “wolverine & wolf” are written in pencil.  | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.48 |
| Man#10-Dos | B/w photo of an Eskimo man sitting in camp. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.49 |
| Buildings#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a southern military base. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.50 |
| House#1-Dos | Black/white photo of a southern military base. | 1943-45 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.51 |
| Troops#1-Dos | Black/white photo of marching soldiers. | 1943-45 | No edited version | Doster photo 3-ring binder box | 2011.8.52 |
| Eklutna Lake#3-Dos-OV | B/w photo labeled “The Eklutna Lake Dam”. Mts. are in the background. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.53 |
| Eklutna Lake#2-Dos-OV | B/w photo of Eklutna Lake with mts. “Eklutna Lake Dam” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.54 |
| Farm#1-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a farm with farmland. There are snow covered mountains in the background. “Fertile farmland in the Matanuska Valley” is written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.55 |
| Farm#2-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a Matanuska Valley farmhouse with the mts. “Farm scene-Pioneer Peak in background” and “A typical farmhouse in the Matanuska Valley” are written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.56 |
| Farm#3-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a cow, farmhouse, and barn with the mts. ” Farm scene in Matanuska Valley outside Palmer Pioneer Peak again” is written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.57 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| Mine#2-Dos-OV | B/w photo of bldgs. and snowy mts. at Hatcher Pass. “View at Independence Mine” is written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.58 |
| Bridge#2-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a bridge in a forest. “Scene between Palmer and Independence Mine” is written twice. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.59 |
| Mine#3-Dos-OV | B/w winter photo of bldgs. at Independence Mine with mts.  | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.60 |
| Mine#1-Dos-OV | B/w photo of bldgs. and mts. in winter at Independence Mine. “Independence Mine, Alaska” & “Independence gold mine-Alaska” are written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.61 |
| Pioneer Peak#1-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a road in a forest. “Pioneer Peak from road above Knik Arm” is written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.62 |
| Bridge#1-Dos-OV | B/w photo of a bridge with mts. “Bridge across Knik Arm-between Palmer and Anchorage-Pioneer Peak in background” is written in pencil.  | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.63 |
| Eklutna Lake#4-Dos-OV | B/w photo of mts., trees, and a lake. “Eklutna Lake”, “Eklutna Lake- even in warm summer snow is still abundant on the mountain tops” and “cabbages as big as basketballs, carrots as long as baseball bats” are written in pencil. | 1945 | Edited version available | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.64 |
| Men#8-Dos-OV | B/w photo of three men walking across a snowy mountain top. “This is the highest point we reached above Independence Mine” is written in pencil.  | 1945 | No edited version | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.65 |
| **File Name (scans):** | **Image Description:** | **Date:** | **Comments:** | **Location:** | **Object ID#:** |
| River#1-Dos-OV | Black/white photo with a blue tint of thawing ice on a river. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.66 |
| Mountain#4-Dos-OV | Black/white photo with a blue tint of a man walking through deep snow. “A scene taken in late October” is written in pencil on the reverse. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.67 |
| Mountain#5-Dos-OV | Black/white photo of a snowy mountain range. “Taken from rear door descending from mountain above Independence Mine” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.68 |
| Mountain#6-Dos-OV | Black/white photo of a snowy mountain range. “Taken from truck door descending from top of mountain above Independence Mine” is written in pencil on the reverse side. | 1945 | No edited version | Doster Oversize photo album | 2011.8.69 |