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Cmdr. Melville J. Walters Jr. Operation Deep Freeze III Antarctic Research Collection

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Marta L. Jones

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**Cmdr. Melville J. Walters Jr.
Operation Deep Freeze III
Antarctic Research Collection**



A Collection Guide by
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Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

4 December 2008

Introduction to the Collection

Commander Melville J. Walters was born in Washington D.C. and joined the Navy in 1943; between 1957 and 1958, during what was known as the International Geophysical Year, Walters was a supply officer at the McMurdo Naval Air Facility in the Antarctica. The McMurdo Sound Naval base, along with other stations like it, was used for Operation Deep Freeze III, a Navy supported research expedition undertaken to gather scientific data about the Antarctic. In his later years, Walters moved to the Tampa Bay Area, Florida; after his death, a group of items collected by Walters, both during his time spent at Operation Deep Freeze III, and some years after, ended up in the custody of Dr. Jose Torres, Marine Science professor at the University of South Florida.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of archival materials, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all photographs and three-dimensional objects. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Antarctic Research Collection

This collection falls under the Marine Science provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy 2 standard sized Hollinger boxes, 1 special sized artifact box, and 1 oversized item box. There also 8 books that are placed on the shelf nearby the collection. No restrictions inhibit access to this collection, although certain items, such as the scrapbook, the can of Fry's cocoa, and the New Zealand newspaper should be handled with care.

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1, Folder 1. Melville J. Walters, Biographical Information:** 2 news articles about Melville Walters, 1 collection donation solicitation letter, 1 clipping from unknown source re “Memorabilia wanted”, for the Navy Supply Corps Museum.
- Box 1, Folder 2. Photographs:** Supply room photo; larger format color negative possibly depicting Melville Walters and various activity on the Antarctic base; possible ship/military photo; Rear Admiral George J. Dufek; novelty “wanted” poster depicting Melville Walters; decorated sheet cake for Dr. Vivian Fuchs; photo of Navy cooks/kitchen staff, Dr. Vivian “Bunny” Fuchs and possibly Melville Walters; 10 men, microphone on podium, American flag, Antarctic; V. Fuchs; Rear Admiral George Dufek with 4 other unidentified men; base commissary, Melville Walters and 3 other unidentified men; “Pan-Am Flight San Francisco to McMurdo Base Antarctica, First Commercial Flight to Ice, Oct. 1957”; Sheraton publicity photo for Operation Deep Freeze culinary training, William Lehman, Sheraton pastry chef, Hoyt E. Goode, Navy, Bob E. Bell, Navy.
- Box 1, Folder 3. Roy Crane/"Buz Sawyer":** Original comic panel for Buz Sawyer cartoon; letter written to Melville Walters by Roy Crane; news clipping, obit/bio. for Roy Crane, article by Charlie Jean, “Sentinel Star”; photocopy of article entitled, “Navy Man Says Antarctica Is Much Like ‘Buz Sawyer’ ”; news clipping, query in information column about value of old comic strip, Albuquerque, N.M. newspaper, 5/10/1986; news clipping, “Buz Sawyer Unfair to Quonset Squadron”.
- Box 1, Folder 4. Antarctica Flight Souvenirs:** Pan American World Airways, charter ticket/baggage check for “M.Walters”, 10/12/1957; Pan American souvenir certificate, “Domain of Phoebus Apollo”, 10/13/1957; Pan American souvenir certificate, “the Empyrean Realm of Jupiter Rex”, 10/13/1957; Pan American souvenir certificate, “from Christchurch, New Zealand, to the U.S. Naval Facility at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, 10/15/1957; news clipping, “Next Stop South Pole, Big Airliner Lands at Bottom of World”.
- Box 1, Folder 5. Data related to Operation Deep Freeze III:** 1 two page document, describes what is known of animal life on the Antarctic, mineral resources, and its possible economic uses; 1 stapled typed document regarding Operation Deep Freeze III.

Box 1, Folder 6. Navy Correspondence/Operation Deep Freeze III: “Notice of Return” for Melville Walters; Letter of Commendation, to Lieut. Melville Walters, 10/10/1957; Letter of Commendation, to LCDR Melville Walters, 9/1/1959; 2 mimeograph poems; 18 telex’s.

Box 1, Folder 7. Maps used for Operation Deep Freeze III: Map that depicts “Chart Antarctic Stations during International Geophysical Year 1957-58”; Map of Antarctica, “Prepared by the American Geographical Society for the United States Antarctica Research Program”.

Box 1, Folder 8. Souvenirs: U.S. Operation Deepfreeze, IGY 1957-58, cloth kerchief w/map depicting distance between New Zealand and Antarctica, also lists ships and aircraft used for Operation Deep Freeze III; 3 “Deep Freeze III” emblems, 2 embroidered, 1 window decal; correspondence home, envelopes with Antarctic theme, also several with Vivian Fuchs’ and E.P. Hillary’s signatures; 2 “U.S. Naval Air Facility McMurdo Sound Antarctica” cards w/penguin feathers; souvenir “ID card”, “Round the World”, 11 Nov. 1957; souvenir “ID card”, “Royal Order of Deep Freeze”, 17 Nov. 1957; souvenir “ID card”, “Domain of the Antarctic”, 15 Oct. 1958; * 2 souvenir certificates, “Royal Order of the Winter Knights”, 1 is addressed to Melville Joseph Walters, and dated Nov. 1 1958, duplicate is not dated as the space for the name is blank.

* These items have been placed in the Oversized Items box.

Box 1, Folder 9. General Antarctica information collection: various news clippings; 2 maps, (probably from Natl. Geographic magazine as a supplement); slim book, Trans-Antarctic 1990 International Expedition; Navy Supply Corps Newsletter, June 1982.

Box 1, Folder 10. Navy Life on McMurdo Sound, Antarctica: 6 items pertaining to religious life at the McMurdo Naval Air Facility base; song lyrics; McMurdo Mid-Winter Party program, w/several signatures, June 21, 1958; news clipping, unknown source/date, “McMurdo: It’s Cold and Lonely”; news clipping, unknown source/date, “The Arduous Life Way Down Under”; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Airlift of Sick Man, from Antarctic Eyed”; personnel memo, re. “Recent changes in the Accounting Division”, dated 9/1/59, w/accompanying news article stapled to memo, unknown source/date, “Men Turned Into Kids”; news clipping, Tues, Oct. 15, 1996, unknown source, “FBI to Investigate Antarctic Assault”; greeting card to CDR Mel Walters, Winter Park, FL, from CDR Buehler, Naval Support Force Antarctica, dated Nov. 1973; card, invitation for a buffet dinner, Sept. 18, 1957, front of card has Deep Freeze III insignia; booklet “Antarctic Ice, How to Live With It”; * photo static booklet, “Sheraton Cool Clips, Operation Deep Freeze”, publicity for Sheraton training of Navy Chefs.

* This item has been placed in the Oversized Items box.

Box 1, Folder 11. Notable Staff/Related Persons: news clipping, unknown source, 1959, AP Wire photo and text, “Admiral Home, Will Retire”, Rear Admiral George Dufek; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Lenten Guideposts”, re Rear Adm. George Dufek’s Antarctic experiences and book, “Operation Deepfreeze”; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Antarctic Findings Reported by Priest”, re Father Edward Bradley, Jesuit scientist and member of Operation Deepfreeze team; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Jesuit to Leave Antarctica Base”, re Father Edward Bradley; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Ski-Equipped Planes Close Antarctica Job”, re Capt. William H. Munson; clipping from Life magazine, unknown date, re first land crossing of the Antarctic by Dr. Vivian Fuchs, with assistance from Edmund Hillary; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Antarctica Hero Decorated by Ike”, re Vivian Fuchs.

Box 2

Box 2. Items related to Robert Falcon Scott:

1 can of Fry’s Cocoa, attributed to Robert Falcon Scott, discovered in 1958, at Cape Royos, Ross Sea Area, Antarctica

Box 2, Folder 1. Card, typed description of discovery of the can of Fry’s Cocoa, dated 26, Feb 1958; newspaper, Sat. April, 6, 1901, Dunedin, New Zealand, “The Outlook”; card, typed description of “The Outlook”, newspaper, dated 21, Feb. 1958; news clipping, unknown source/date, “Expedition Hut Found”, re the discovery of a hut used by Scott’s expedition party; news clipping, Albuquerque Journal, Fri., Dec 12, 1986, “New Visitors Share Antarctic With Ghosts of First Explorers”, by Phillip Melchior, mentions Shackleton and Scott.

Box 3 – Artifacts Box

Box 3. Physical Objects: Caterpillar tractor metal emblem; 2 Operation Deepfreeze metal cuff links; 1 Operation Deepfreeze metal tie clip, 1 metal tie tack; 1 metal and enamel penguin tie tack; 1 tooth, possibly seal; penguin feathers, wrapped in wax paper; 4 ribbon and paper seals/emblems, “Department of the Navy, Navsupunitthree Antarctica”, in small wax paper envelop; 1 metal lighter, with the inscription, “U.S. Naval Support Unit, Antarctica, IGY, 1957-58, Deep Freeze III; 1 t-shirt, “Antarctic Dominoes”, depicting 11 penguins falling like dominoes; 1 “Hawaiian” style Antarctica shirt.

Box 4 – Oversized Items Box

- Box 4.** **Souvenirs:** 2 souvenir certificates, “Royal Order of the Winter Knights”, 1 is addressed to Melville Joseph Walters, and dated Nov. 1 1958, duplicate is not dated as the space for the name is blank.
Navy Life on McMurdo Sound, Antarctica: photo static booklet, “Sheraton Cool Clips, Operation Deep Freeze”, publicity for Sheraton training of Navy Chefs.

Addendum

Aside from the 4 boxes that house the majority of this collection, there are 8 books that will be placed on the shelf adjacent to the collection boxes. The books are as follows:

- 1) Operation Deepfreeze III Scrapbook, created by Melville J. Walters.
- 2) Yearbook, Operation Deepfreeze I, Task Force 43.
- 3) Yearbook, Operation Deepfreeze III, Task Force 43.
- 4) Yearbook, Operation Deepfreeze III, “Wintering Over 1958”.
- 5) Through the Frozen Frontier: The Exploration of the Antarctica, George John Dufek, 1959, Harcourt Brace.
- 6) Operation Deepfreeze, George John Dufek, 1957, Harcourt Brace.
- 7) Keepers of the Sea: a Profile, Fred J. Maroon, and Edward Latimer Beach, 1983, Naval Institute Press.
- 8) Antarctica: Great Stories from a Frozen Continent, 1988, Reader’s Digest.