



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Corporal Harold E. Brown collection, 1952-1953

Emily Moazami

2017

National Museum of the American Indian  
4220 Silver Hill Rd  
Suitland 20746-2863  
nmaiarchives@si.edu  
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Corporal Harold E. Brown collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.099
<b>Date:</b>	1952-1953
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Creator:</b>	Brown, Harold E., 1929-2012 Malewotkuk, Florence Nupok
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Anita and Padraic Brown, 2014.

### Separated Materials

The archival materials in this collection are part of a larger collection donated to NMAI by Anita and Padraic Brown. The other collection items were made by Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) artist Florence Nupok Malewotkuk (1906-1971) and include 2 hide yo-yos (26/9291 and 26/9292); 1 pair of mukluks (26/9293); and 3 pairs of slippers with beadwork (26/9294, 26/9295, and 26/9296). These objects were either given to or purchased by Corporal Harold E. Brown when he was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War.

### Processing Information

Processed by Emily Moazami, Assistant Head Archivist in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Corporal Harold E. Brown collection, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

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## Conditions Governing Use

Some images restricted: Cultural Sensitivity.

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## Biographical / Historical

Relatively little is known about Corporal Harold E. Brown. Brown was born October 6, 1929 and lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He married Mary Helen (1938-2010) and they had at least one child Padraic Brown. Harold was a Corporal in the United States Army and served in the Korean War. He died on November 24, 2012.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials that were created and collected by Corporal Harold E. Brown circa 1952-1953 and relate to his service in the United States Army when he was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War (1950-1953). The materials include letters from Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) artist Florence Nupok Malewotkuk (1906-1971) to Cpl. Brown and an album containing photos that Cpl. Brown shot while stationed in Alaska.

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## Arrangement

The materials are organized in 2 boxes.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Alaskan natives  
Korean War, 1950-1953  
Military bases  
Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik)

Cultures:

Alaskan natives

Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik)

Types of Materials:

Letters (correspondence)  
Photographs

Geographic Names:

Anchorage (Alaska)  
Fairbanks (Alaska)  
Nome (Alaska)  
Saint Lawrence Island (Alaska)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1953

*0.01 Linear feet*

*Box 1, Folder 1-2*

#### [Image\(s\)](#)

This series contains 3 personal letters from Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) artist Florence Nupok Malewotkuk (1906-1971) to Corporal Harold E. Brown dated 1953. Florence was born in Gambell on Saint Lawrence Island, Alaska. She met and became friends with Cpl. Brown when he was stationed in Gambell during the Korean War.

The first letter is dated May 5, 1953 and describes events happening in the community related to whale hunting; military personnel coming to and leaving Gambell; and supplies requested from Florence (possibly for art), among other topics. There is a small painted flower in the upper left hand corner of this letter presumably painted by Malewotkuk. The second letter is dated May 6, 1953 and was stored in the same envelope as the first letter. Among its contents, it describes military personnel with whom Malewotkuk had contact.

In the third letter dated November 24, 1953, Malewotkuk describes community ongoings including descriptions of a measles outbreak and related deaths in the community and her photography hobby.

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## Series 2: Photograph album, 1952-1953

*1 photograph album (107 photographs)*

*Box 2*

### [Image\(s\)](#)

This series contains 1 photograph album containing 107 photographs that were shot and compiled by Corporal Harold E. Brown. The photos document Brown's service in the United States Army during the Korean War when he was stationed in Alaska from 1952-1953. There are also a few photographs in the album that were shot by commercial photographers Vern Brickely and Frank Morgan and purchased by Cpl. Brown. The album features handwritten captions presumably written by Cpl. Brown.

The bulk of the images depict scenes in and around the village of Gambell on Saint Lawrence Island in Alaska. The images include depictions of the Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) [St. Lawrence Island] Native community including men, women, and children; buildings including the Alaska Native Service School, Gambell Native Store, town meeting house, Presbyterian Mission, and nurses' home; scenes of Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) boats stored on North Beach and fish drying outdoors on wooden racks; animals including a team of sled dogs; seascapes including Lake Troutman and the Bering Sea; and military scenes including Army and Airforce camps, supply airplanes, and North Star ship. The album also features photos depicting Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) gravesites which are restricted.

Other photographs in the album depict scenes of Fort Richardson (Anchorage, AK), including images of soldiers with a moose calf; cityscapes of Fairbanks and Anchorage; views of the Nome airfield, federal building, gold dredge, and movie theater; and military personnel aboard U.S.N.S David C. Shanks Army transport ship as it travels from Seattle, Washington to Whittier, Alaska.

Military personnel depicted in the album include Cpl. Harold Brown, Jim Clark, Jim Latoural, Sgt. Duffy, [first name unknown] Gillis, [first name unknown] Duink, [first name unknown] Stekbeck, [first name unknown] Chiller, and a Diesel Mechanic crew (333rd Comm., Recon Co., A.F.O. 949), among many other unidentified individuals and groups. Photographs depicting Cpl. Brown were probably shot by one of his colleagues.

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