

Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Processor: Elysia Hamelin (September 2018)

Ralph W. Sallee papers

AR/632

Name of Creator: Sallee, Ralph W., 1927-

Extent: 2 Hollinger Boxes, 1 Oversized Box
1.15 Cubic feet

Date Range of Creation: 1944-2006

Classification Level: Unclassified

Record Formats: photographs, negatives (photographs), clippings (information artifacts), certificates, books, booklets, correspondence, and cultural artifacts

Records Removed from Original Accession: License plate and commemorative plaque returned to family

Arrangement

The materials were arranged during processing into the following three series; thereunder in chronological order.

Series I: U.S.S. Oriskany

Series II: Operation Deep Freeze

Series III: Additional Deployments

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of personal papers that document the naval career of Commander Ralph W. Sallee. The majority of the correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, articles, and other material document Commander Sallee's time aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Oriskany (CV/CVA-34) during the Korean War and his service in Operation Deep Freeze in the mid 1960's. The scrapbook is from the beginning of his naval career and documents his time aboard the U.S.S. PCE 847 and the U.S.S. PCE 872 in Pearl Harbor, Oahu Island, Hawaii and Kuluk Bay, Adak Island, Alaska (the westernmost municipality of the United States and the southernmost city in Alaska).

Biographical History

Ralph W. Sallee was born in Arkansas in 1927. He enlisted in the Navy at the end of World War II. On July 1, 1946 he was serving as a Seaman 1st Class – Aerographers' Mate aboard the U.S.S. PCE 847. In 1949 he was stationed at Lakehurst Naval Station in New Jersey where he met and married Dorothea Evelyn Roselle. They had two children: William James Sallee and Ann Denise Sallee.

During the Korean War Sallee served aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Oriskany (CV/CVA-34). In 1960, he received a Command at Sea achievement aboard the U.S.S. Norton Sound. In 1962, he was posted to the Fleet Numerical Weather Facility before he was transferred to the U.S. Naval Station at Sangley Point in the Philippines in 1964. In 1965, he participated in and presented a paper at the Symposium on Meteorological Results of the International Indian Ocean Expedition.

In September 1966, Sallee worked as a naval meteorologist for Operation Deep Freeze. Operation Deep Freeze is the code name given to the U.S. Navy's logistic support effort for America's scientific probing's in Antarctica. His first assignment was in Christchurch, New Zealand where he helped ensure the Winfly flights had clear skies and safe conditions. The Winfly flights were the first regularly scheduled flights to Antarctica at the end of the Antarctic winter. These flights delivered new staff and supplies to prepare the polar stations before the scientists and researchers arrived for the summer season (typically December to March).

After completing his work with the Winfly flights, in October, Sallee was posted at Chabunko Airfield in Punta Arenas, Chile, the world's most southerly city. From here Sallee predicted weather conditions for flights on a mission to photograph the interior Antarctic Peninsula. Once this project was completed in December, Sallee served at the Naval Air Facility McMurdo Sound in Antarctica until the scientific season ended in March 1967. Sallee would return to Antarctica the following year where on September 11, 1967, as a Lieutenant Commander, he relieved Lieutenant A. W. Snell as Officer-in-Charge of Detachment Charlie, Antarctic Support Activities.

For his meteorological contributions during Operation Deep Freeze, in 1969, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names named Sallee Snowfield in his honor. His last assignment was the Fleet Numerical Weather Facility in Monterey, California where he served from 1971 until he retired from the United States Navy as a Commander in 1975. After his retirement Sallee pursued his passion for automobiles and opened Monterey Peninsula Sports & Imports and made deliveries for Meals on Wheels.

Box and Folder List

SERIES I: U.S.S. ORISKANY

This series contains photographs, negatives, newspaper clippings, books, and newsletters regarding the U.S.S. Oriskany. Some of the material was created by Commander Sallee during his service on the U.S.S. Oriskany. Other material was collected by Commander Sallee after his service on the U.S.S. Oriskany.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Naval Aviation News, 1952	1	1
Merry Xmas Photo Lab, 1952	1	2
Clippings (newspaper): U.S.S. Oriskany, 1952-1953 and undated	1	3
Photographs: Crew in Korea, 1952	1	4
Photographs: U.S.S. Oriskany, undated	1	5
Negatives: U.S.S. Oriskany and Cape Horn, undated	1	6
Cruise Book: "U.S.S. Oriskany: South American Cruise", 1952	1	7
Newsletter: The Patriot, 1953	1	8
Photographs: U.S.S. Oriskany, 1997	1	9
Postcard: Bob Heeley to Ralph W. Sallee, 1997	1	10
Book: "U.S.S. Oriskany" by Joe Kelly, 1997	1	11
Book: "The Mighty O" by Art Giberson, 2006	1	12

SERIES II: OPERATION DEEP FREEZE

This series contains correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, journal articles, books, and slides regarding Operation Deep Freeze and Antarctica. Some of the material was created by Commander Sallee during his time serving in Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze. Other material was collected by Commander Sallee after his service in Antarctica.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Book: "South: Man & Nature in Antarctica, A New Zealand View", 1964	1	13
Antarctica Articles, 1962-1990	1	14
Correspondence: Ralph W. Sallee to family, 1966	1	15
Correspondence: Ralph W. Sallee to family, 1966-1968	1	16
Clippings (newspaper): Antarctica and Operation Deep Freeze, 1966-1968 and undated	2	1
Photographs: R. W. Sallee, 1967	2	2
Slides: R. W. Sallee, Antarctica, 1967-1968	2	3
Slides: R. W. Sallee, 67-68 Antarctica, 1967 Winfly, St. V., Samoa, 1967-1968	2	4
Caricature of Operation Deep Freeze 1967 Staff, 1967	2	5
Cruise Book: "Operation Deep Freeze '67", 1967	2	6
Antarctica Journal of the United States, 1967	2	7
Booklet: "Introduction to Antarctica", 1967	2	8
Operation Deep Freeze stamped envelope, undated	2	9
Season's Greetings from Antarctica, undated	2	10
Sallee Snowfield, 1969	2	11
Essay: "The Long Wait" by R.W. Sallee, 1977	2	12

SERIES III: ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENTS

This series contains booklets, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, and certificates documenting Commander Sallee's career in the United States Navy.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Booklet: "Bet Your Boots" by Ritter and Gadbois, 1944	2	13
Scrapbook: U.S.S. PCE 847, U.S.S. PCE 872, Pearl Harbor, and others, 1944-1945	2	14
Photograph: NAAS Pistol Team, 1955	2	15
Photographs: U.S.S. Norton Sound, 1959	2	16
Clippings (newspaper): U.S.S. Norton Sound, 1960-1961	2	17
Season's Greetings from U.S.S. Norton Sound, undated	2	18
Symposium on Meteorological Results of the International Indian Ocean Expedition, 1965	2	19
The Navigational Stars, undated	2	20
Photograph: Identified Sailors in Uniform, undated	2	21
Certificate: Royal Order of the Navy Balloon Blowers, 1971	3	1