



Welcome to the National Archives Know Your Records program!



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The Know Your Records program consists of free events with up-to-date information about our holdings. Events offer opportunities for you to learn about the National Archives' records through ongoing lectures, monthly genealogy programs, and the annual genealogy fair. Additional resources include online reference reports for genealogical research, and the newsletter *Researcher News*.

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



About the National Archives



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all the documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%–3% are determined permanently valuable. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.



June 1, 2017



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The Winding Journey of Bill Genaust's Flag Raising Footage

Criss Kovac

When the National Archives investigated the true identity of the flag raisers in Bill Genaust's footage of the first and second Flag Raisings on Iwo Jima and the iconic photograph by Joe Rosenthal, staffers discovered that the agency never received the original film shot on February 23, 1945. Supervisory Motion Picture Preservation Specialist Criss Kovac provides information about Bill Genaust and how the film was shot, developed, assembled, and used during the World War II and throughout history.

Presenter's Biography



Criss Kovac

Supervisor of the Motion
Picture Preservation Lab

National Archives
at College Park, MD

Criss Kovac became the Supervisor of the Motion Picture Preservation Lab in 2005. Since coming to the National Archives, she has implemented motion picture digitization and restoration to compliment photochemical preservation of the Federal records held at our agency. Ms. Kovac holds degrees from Oberlin College, Nottingham Trent University and The L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation.

The Winding Journey of Bill Genaust's Iwo Jima Flag Raising Footage

Criss Kovac ~ National Archives and
Records Administration (NARA)

Archives II and Research Room
College Park, MD



National Personnel Records Center, St.
Louis, MO



Scope of Collection

480,000 film reels
242,000 audio
recordings
113,000 video
recordings



Marine Corps Holdings in NARA's Motion Picture Collections

- Primary RG 127 collections estimated at 17,000 reels of motion picture film
 - Predominantly unedited; covers full spectrum of USMC activities foreign and domestic
 - Inclusive of raw and compiled combat camera footage
 - ~12,000 reels of color 16mm film (WWII through 1980s)
 - ~4,500 reels of black and white and color 35mm (predominantly WWII and Korean War eras)
 - Smaller percentage in edited training and documentary films
 - Many additional training and documentary films in U.S. Navy Record Groups

Genaust Personnel File among NARA's Military Service Records

- Provides details and summaries of Genaust's military service
- Named among "Persons of Exceptional Prominence" files made available digitally in 2014
- Contains Correspondence with family members and supporting details

Embarked aboard LST #70 at Saipan,
Marianas Islands on 11 February 1945 and sailed therefrom
on 11 February 1945 . Arrived at Two Jims, Volcano Group
on 19 February, 1945 and disembarked on 19 February, 1945

GENAUST, W.H.

Frank A. Ready, Jr.
FRANK A. READY, JR.,
Captain USMCR.

5
Navy
Minneapolis Minn. ✓

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CONSIDERATION 1944

William D. Russell OBR
Secretary to the President
Marine Corps

OCT 18 12 52 PM '44

To the President of U.S.A.

Dear Mr Roosevelt

I have a problem, you alone can help me. I have a son in the Pacific, who is past thirty-eight years old and in the service nearly two years. I would like to have him home. I am a widow, and have been since 1920, it was a hard struggle for me to raise and educate my two sons. My eldest son has been transferred to Seattle and that leaves me alone, and I am not well. Billy, was wounded in action on Saipan the day the island was secured, now he is in a Hospital

I feel he has done his part in this war and I really need you. Dear Mr Roosevelt, if you would have him sent home you would make me the happiest mother in all the world. God bless and keep you.

I am sincerely yours
Mrs. Jessie Genaust ✓
4135 - Pillsbury Ave So 4520

P.S. Will you please keep this confidential,

Letter from Genaust's Mother requesting his return home, October 14th, 1944

GENAUST(813945)William Homer
Enl 11Feb43
Photo 21Feb43



William Homer Genaust

Genaust's
Enlistment photo
and dates

[210]

The Preservation Lab

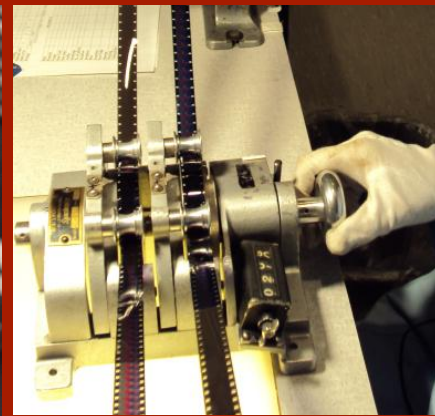
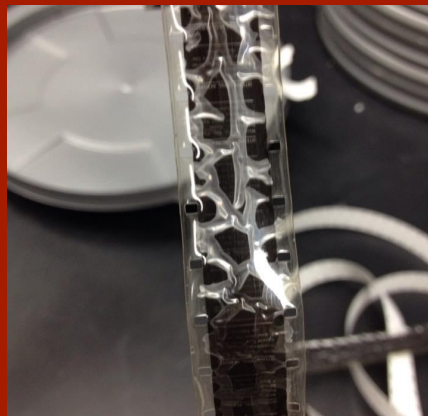
Six Staff

Treats over 3,000 reels of film per year

Full Photochemical Ability

HD - 2K - 4K Film Scanning

Responsible for determining which copies of a film record are permanently retained



Our Mission

To identify and preserve the most original record copy

To faithfully preserve the imagery in historically accurate manner

To provide context to our records and make them accessible

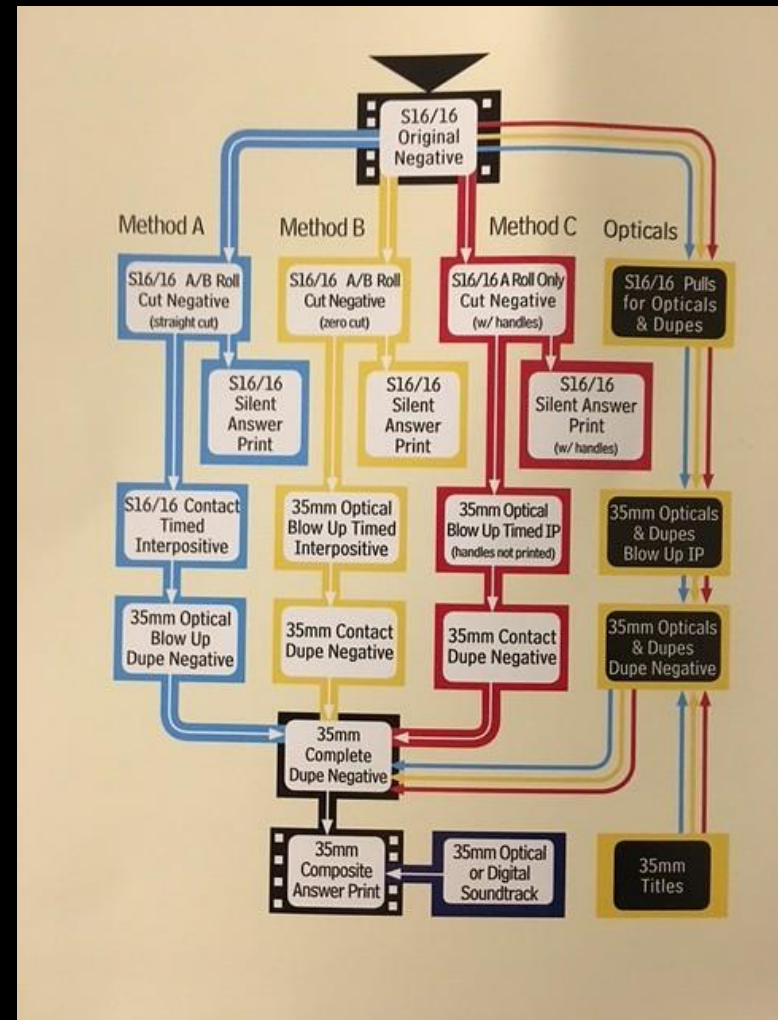


What Is NARA's “Original?”

We do not have the camera original shot by Genaust.

NARA's “originals” were made from the original, or copied from copies of the original.

NARA holds it in two different record groups, three series, and within two reels in one record group (4 iterations total)



INDEX NO. 3224 *(35 material - 4077)* PHOTOGRAPHER: GENAUST
IND #

PRODUCED BY 5TH MARDIV LOCATION IWO JIMA DATE FEB 1945

NEGATIVE POSITIVE DUPL. NEG. MASTER 16MM COL 35MM COL LENGTH *100'*

SUBJECT: IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING

CROSS REFERENCE

MLS

Marines raising American Flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on D-Day + 4. (This is the original shooting.)

LOCATION:-Iwo Jima
ARMIES:-USMC Enlisted
FLAGS:-American (1945)

We do not have any of this. We only have 35 mm #4077 inter neg blow-up. 12-9-68

(Above scene was taken out of reel of film with which it was originally included - 16mm Index #2438 - and is filed separately. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~)

- 1 16mm orig. color master filed in Vaults
- 2 16mm color master dupes filed with prints in Archives
- 2 16mm color dupe prints filed w/prints in Archives

QUALITY: GOOD

HQ NO. IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING 1 of 1
MCS Photo 500 (12/58-10700)

INDEX NO. 3224
12050 Navy-MCS Quantico, Va.

(over)

INDEX #

HDQ #

REEL #

3224

1-1

OF

FOOTAGE

09'
~~1063~~

B&W
 COLOR
 ORIG NEG
 DUPE I-NEG
 MASTER FGM I-POS
 PRINT DUPE

A03P (orig)	A-43-2-68	2/12/68	2/21/68
Capital Mas 31-77	31 Jan 78	MAR 31 1978	
Capital Mas 31-77	8/FD-042		
Bypass Art 84-79	MMO-014	JUN 1 1980	
ERAUPA Pat 37-80	17 June 80	JUN 6 1980	
ERAUPA Pat 49-80	28 Aug 80	SEP 2 - 1980	
Two Juma Flag Raising			

FILM RECORD
FPP-15752

16 MM

35 MM

New Master
23 May 72

Original Two Flag Raising

~~For Flag-Raising Scene - see~~
Index # 3224 (Can. No.)

INDEX NO. 2438

PRODUCED BY

5D

LOCATION

IWO JIMA

DATE Feb 24th 1945

D & 4

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE

DUPL. NEG.

MASTER

16MM

Col.

35MM

LENGTH

215 ft.

SUBJECT:

IWO JIMA OPERATIONS

CROSS REFERENCE

MCU Marine looking through artillery binoculars.
 MCU Same.
 MS Marines lift wounded Jap soldier on stretcher onto truck.
 CU Jap soldier on stretcher.
 CU M4A3 tank firing out right frame.
 LS Explosions where shells are hitting.
 MS Marine taking off combat boots.
 MS Marine putting on Jap hog-nail boots.
 CU Jap boots.
 MS Jap tank.
 MS Large number of shells on ground near tank.
 LS Marines looking at heavy Jap gun emplacement.

LOCATION-Iwo Jima
 MEDICINE-Wounded, Japanese
 TANKS-M4A3
 TANKS-Foreign, Jap
 VESSELS-LSD
 VESSELS-LSU
 VESSELS-LST
 WEAPONS-Shells, Explosions
 TERRAIN-Mt. Surribachi
 DEAD-USMC
 DEAD-Foreigners, Japanese
 ANIMALS-Dog

CONT'D

HO NO. 5D-16-7

REEL 1 of 1

INDEX NO.

2438

New Master
23 May 72

There is no 16mm flag scene left - all missing - we have 35mm Blow up Pos
3224 ↑ Inter neg + [initials]

INDEX NO.

2429

CLASSIFICATION

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PRODUCED BY

MARINE CORPS

DATE

DATA SHEET NO.

New

Master 4-32744
Retained at NPC

POSITIVE

2-5376

DUPL. NEGATIVE

4-10609

MASTER

1-8283

4-10608

16 mm

COLOR

5824 35mm
222' 16mm

FOUO

SUBJECT

ALSO PRINT

FLAG RAISING ON IWO JIMA

MCU Telephone talker on Iwo Jima.
 CU Japanese personnel on stretcher being loaded abd truck ambulance.
 LS Red Beach, Iwo Jima.
 MCU Personnel swapping GI shoes for Japanese shoes on beach.
 MCU Japanese howitzer cannon gun emplacement on same.
 LS From hill: LST's on beach.
 MS Flag raising on Mt. Suribachi.
 MLS Group of combat marines at flag raising.
 LS From hill Various amphibious assault & support ships in harbor.
 MCU DUKW loaded with dead personnel.
 MLS Beach strewn with American & Japanese dead.
 MCU Combat marines with dog mascot.
 MLS Wounded marine being assisted.
 MLS Marine tank driver being assisted back to first-aid station by infantrymen.
 MCU 50 Gal machine gun emplacement.

CROSS REFERENCE

G.L., isl. Iwo Jima
 COMM. telephone
 WOUNDED, Jap
 VEHICLES, ambulance
 I.S. ~~SL~~, beach, Iwo Jima
 CLOTHING, shoes
 GUNS, Jap
 LAND. SHIPS, LST
 FLAGS, U.S., ashore
 MTNS, Suribachi
 CEREMONIES, flag raising
 ENL'D Men, USMC, mil
 TASK FORCES, anchored
 LAND VEHICLES, DUKW
 DEAD, USMC
 DEAD, Jap
 A.L., dog
 WOUNDED, USMC
 M.S. first-aid sta.
 GUNS, 50cal.

QUALITY

FAIR

(Cont'd)

2429

PRNC-2-4-40-2M

What Do We Know?

Warrant Officer/ Division Photo Officer Norm Hatch ordered Staff Sgt. Genaust & Pfc. Bob Campbell to film the second flag raising.



What Do We Know?

Photo Officer Herb Schlosberg, of the 4th Marine Division, takes Genaust film from Iwo Jima on February 27th to be developed at the Naval Photographic Lab in Anacostia, MD.



12 February, 1945.

MEMORANDUM TO: LtCol. George A. ROLL.

Subject: Itinerary of Photographic Officer's trip from Target to Kodak, Hawaii, then to Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

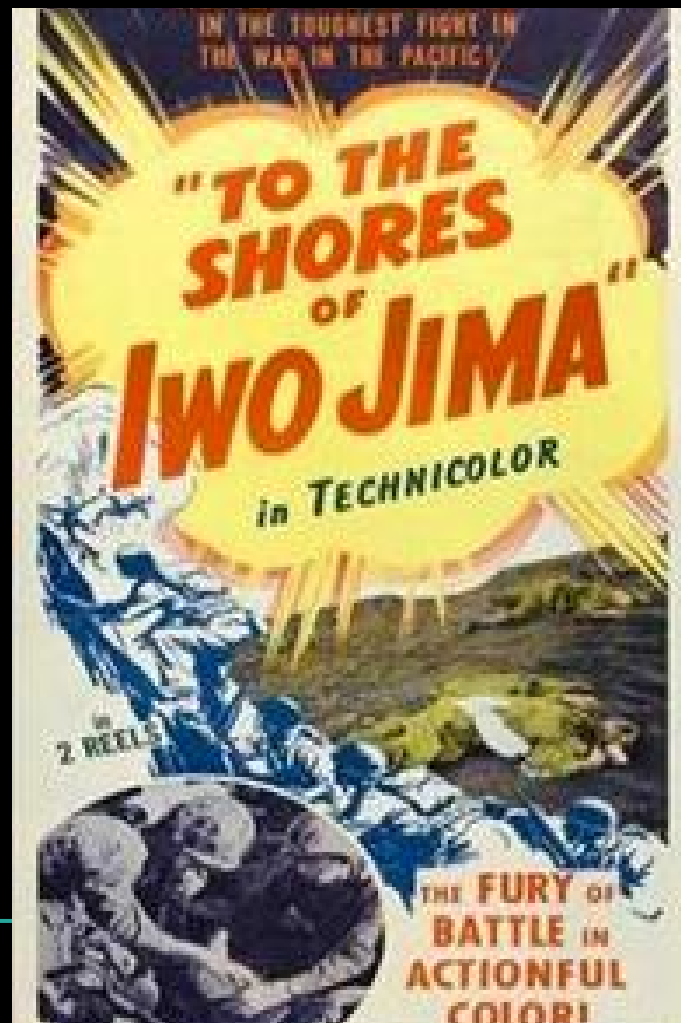
1. Upon the completion of the operation and at the direction of the D-2, temporary orders will be requested from FMF to CINCPAC (Kodak, Hawaii), for the Photographic Officer.
2. Upon receiving these orders the Photographic Officer will then go to the El Dorado before leaving the Target Area to see if the FMF Public Relations Officer has any film for him to carry.
3. Upon reporting in at Pearl Harbor the Photographic Officer will contact Comdr. Victor BLAKESLEE, USN (ret) at CINCPAC PRO. He then will go to Kodak, Hawaii taking any film that he might have carried from the target to have developed. There he will contact LtComdr. BARRY, OIC, for duty. He will then assist in selecting the good film for duping.
4. If CINCPAC then orders the Officer to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., there he will report to Captain STEICKEN, USNR, in the Office of Secretary of the Navy. He then will be sent to Photo Science Lab in Anacostia to work with LtComdr. MacLEAN and Lt HOPKINS in getting out the Public Release on the operation as soon as possible.
5. On the return trip to Duva, the Officer will bring back a complete dupe of all movie film and as many copies of stills as can be obtained from Public Relations.

What Do We Know?

Film reviewed for use in troop and public newsreels, and 7th War Loan Drive.

Used in *To the Shores of Iwo Jima*

Original Kodachrome does not make it to NARA



CITATION:

"For meritorious achievement in connection with operations against the enemy while serving as the Photographic Officer of a Marine division from 15 October 1944 to 22 June 1945. Throughout the division training period, Warrant Officer HATCH, with expert professional and administrative ability, planned and coordinated the training of all division photographers in such an outstanding manner that they achieved a peak efficiency. A photographic plan, whereby all agencies in the division were fully covered, was devised by Warrant Officer HATCH for the IWO JIMA, VOLCANO ISLANDS, from 19 February to 26 March, a pictorial record was produced that was the finest both in quantity and quality to have emerged from the Pacific war up to that time. Warrant Officer HATCH detailed photographers to make complete color motion picture coverage of medical, tank, artillery, communications and infantry activities on IWO JIMA and the resulting films have been of inestimable value in training the units of his division. On 8 March, he was detached and proceeded to the United States where he assisted in cutting and editing the publically released film "To The Shores of IWO JIMA". The unparalleled success of his photographers and the high praise of the American Press and Public are in direct proportion to Warrant Officer HATCH's professional skill and untiring devotion to duty. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Digitization of the Genaust Footage

428 NPC 2924 was scanned at 4K resolution for inclusion in the Smithsonian Channel's Documentary *The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima*.

The entire reel, including footage Genaust shot prior to, and after, the flag raising are also included. Much of this footage also made it into *To the Shores of Iwo Jima*.

United News (for viewing by troops only in WWII) footage digitized.

Joint restoration with the Academy Film Archive of *To the Shores of Iwo Jima*.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

UNWRITTEN RECORD BLOG

Exploring History with the National Archives' Special Media Division

Christina.Kovac@nara.gov



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



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National Archives and Records Administration

Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question,
you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

Today's video recording and materials
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



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