

Communications On The Last Frontier



In 1900, the U.S. Army built a telegraph system from Washington to its farthest Alaska outposts. The **Signal Corps** installed the telegraph lines to connect posts across the District.



A typical Signal Corp structure during World War II. There were several of these small structures scattered throughout the Alaska Interior. UAF Archives 1987-0149-00025

The need for instant communication was never more critical than during World War II. The task of staying in touch with other units was largely the responsibility of the Signal Corps and its **Alaska Communications System** network soon grew to meet the challenges of wartime.

The Signal men maintained the telephone and other communications facilities.

Ladd Field Midnight Sun Special Magazine Section



Army personnel monitor incoming radio traffic from the Lower 48 and everywhere else in the Army Airways Communications System station located in Hangar One.

Ladd Field Midnight Sun Special Magazine Section

Responding to the keen need for airfield communications, the **Army Airways Communications System** (AACS) began operating in 1941 to provide air traffic control and air weather reports. By 1944, eight officers and about 90 enlisted men served with the AACS.

A panoramic photo taken from the roof of Hangar One at Ladd Field shows the radio communications facility and its surrounding antenna array. Rex and Lillian Wood, Private Collection

Radio Transmitter Building (Building 1024)

One of the most important buildings at Ladd Field during the war was the Radio Transmitter building. Constructed in 1941 in an open field and surrounded by an array of transmitter antennas on poles, this building housed radio transmitters and other communications equipment vital to the war effort.

Architecturally, it was designed in the Neo-classical Cape Cod style, with a masonry chimney and a copper roof. It is the only building of this style that remains within the Landmark today.



Mobile VHF antenna, Signal corps.

UAF Archives 1987-0149-00030

