

In early 2021, I was tasked with cataloging a collection made in September of 2000. Catalog item #0004 from the collection at EAG-339 initiated my investigation of canned army rations associated with the U.S. Wireless Telegraph Station (EAG-044) near Eagle, Alaska. This hole-incap, key-strip opened cylindrical can has raised, embossing on its side that reads:



Photo not present; Embossing not legible in photo

Without the embossing indicating ration, I would have simply identified the cans in the collection as meat cans utilizing the Sprague Function Code as used in previous cataloging work. My initial research focused on the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps looking for army ration specifications. I discovered that the Quartermaster Corps was not responsible for rations until 1912. Prior to this date, rations were under the guidance of the army's Subsistence Department.

Subsistence Department specifications for 1900, state for: Bacon, issue, in ³/₄ pound tins and Bacon, issue in 9-pound tins; are to be **stamped** with:

> Packer Date of Packing and to be properly lacquered

Specifications for 1908 require canned meat to be **stamped into the cap** of each can:

Packer Location **Product Identification Establishment Number** U.S. Inspd & Psd



JACOB DOLD PKG CO **BUFFALO N Y** MAY 1911 **12 LBS NET BACON** 42 U S INSPD & PSD

EAG-339, 2006, #9061



SWIFT & COMPANY CHICAGO **12 LBS NET BACON** 8-22 **US INSPECTED & PASSED**

EAG-339, 2006,#9061



LIBBY, M^CNEILL & LIBBY **CHICAGO EST 22** 2 LBS NET. **ROAST BEEF PARBOILED & STEAMROASTED** U.S. INSPD & PSD EAG-339, 2000, #0001



MORRIS & COMPANY 1 LB & 8 OZ. NET WT **CORNED BEEF** U.S. INSPD & PSD ESTAB. Nº 1 CHICAGO

EAG-339, 2000, #0002

|Identifying Canned Army Rations in Early 20th Century Alaska| Examples from can dumps associated with EAG-044. U.S. Army Signal Corps Wireless Telegraph Station. (1908-1921) Steve Lanford, Archaeologist

Other commercially available food products are to be purchased by army contracts(s) with specifications as to container size, and packaging along with government inspection of products. Therefore; food cans and bottles can be determined to be army rations by **context**.

The references include specifications for a large number of products that are authorized as rations, army-wide and others as authorized only for Alaska.



MOUNT VERNON EVAPORATED MILK

EAG-339, 2006, #0417



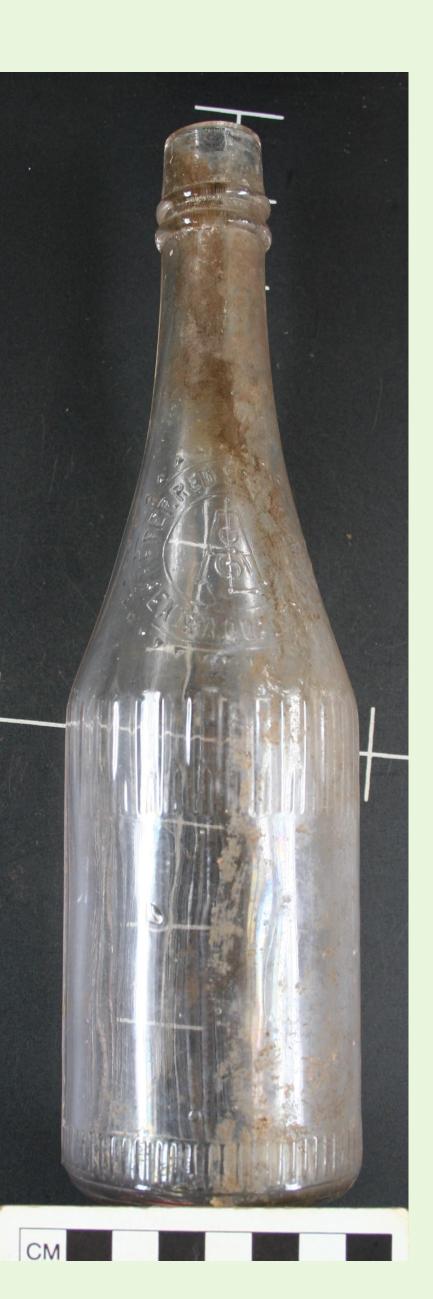
CURTICE BROTHERS CO PRESERVERS ROCHESTER, N.Y.

EAG-339, 2006, #9891



FRENCH SARDINES IN OLIVE OIL ALBERT ROCHE BRAND PACKED BY AUGUSTE CHANCERELE & C^{IE} FRANCE

EAG-339, 2006, #0417



PREFERRED STOCK CATSUP A & L **EXTRA QUALITY**

EAG-339, 2006, #9892



SNIDER'S **CHILI SAUCE** EAG-339, 2006, #9893

REFERENCES:

1900	Handb	ook of Subsiste
	Published by Authori	
	Army	of the United
	Office.	•

- 1908 **Government Printing Office**.
- 1910
- 1916



UA Museum of the North, Collections guidance and access.



EAGLE BRAND **BORDEN'S CONDENSED MILK** EAG-339, 2000, #0001

cence Stores. United States War Department. rity of the Secretary of War, for use in the States. Washington: Government Printing

Manual for the Subsistence Department United States Army. Prepared under the Direction of the Commissary-General; Revised to Sept. 1, 1908. (Second 1908 Edition) Washington:

Manual for the Subsistence Department United States Army. War Department, Office of the Commissary-General.

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Tanana Chiefs Conference, Bob Sattler, Collections Owner.

Bureau of Land Management, Robin Mills, Mentorship.