

**The Japanese Language School Archival Project**

*In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.*

**US NAVY HISTORICAL RECORDS LOST EDITORIAL**

Like many JLS graduates, I wondered if the CU Archives was treading on Navy prerogatives by collecting JLS material. No matter how much I discovered about the National Archives and Navy disinterest in these files, my army brat confidence in the national government and the military is hard to shake.

I soon found that the US Navy seemed curiously uninterested in JLS files. When we contacted them for the school's records, they no longer had them. When we contacted the USNA Archives, they told us to keep up the good work. They did not have room for all the academy files and famous USNA graduate papers they were expected to house. More importantly, both the Navy and the National Archives have been known to clean house on a regular basis. An Interagency mix-up in 1998 led to the loss of 600 cubic feet of correspondence and 42,000 notebooks from the

Naval Research Laboratory. 56 boxes of historic films on the occupation of Okinawa were almost given away to Japan by the National Archives.

Recently, Captain Richard R. McDonald, USN (ret.), of the Naval Intelligence Professionals (NIP), visited the Archives. The Captain commented that in order to preserve a bare minimum of the history of certain Naval Intelligence offices he had to recreate information from interviews, published works, and visits to places like the CU Archives. Between bureaucratic disinterest in history, the preference of destruction over preservation, and SNAFUs of a regular nature, an alarming amount of the history of US Naval Intelligence has already been destroyed. Captain McDonald worried about what would happen when people like himself were no longer available to preserve the Navy's history.

I do not write any of the above out of a disrespect for the US Navy, no matter how many times I have cheered "Go Army, Beat Navy!" I fully suspect that the loss of institutional memory occurring in the Navy is also happening to the Army. No, my interest is to see as much of the historical record saved as possible and to advise those JLS graduates expecting Navy interest in their papers, not to wait too long.

David M. Hays  
Instructor/Archivist

**Philip L. Bridgham Donates JLO Papers**

Philip Bridgham donated his JLS and World War II documents, orders and correspondence to the Archives, University of Colorado Libraries. One of our new student employees, Sarah Johnson, is working on the collection. A user copy of the fragile correspondence will be made to reduce wear and tear on the letters.

**JLOs at Sea**

[October 1945, a US naval vessel calls General Quarters upon encountering a Japanese fishing vessel] "Then the Boulder boys (there are six of us on this ship, none of whom I know very well as they have been in Australia before this) began to show their full colors. They all started fighting to see who would be the first up to the bridge to challenge this Jap vessel. They all began to shout silly sounding Japanese questions at each other. A call came down from the bridge as we neared the craft and they all ran to answer it. . . . We pulled alongside the thing and it proved to be just a little bit bigger than the boat you and Chuck have. There were about ten little nippers on it and believe me they were scared silly! One of them stood in the bow bowing frantically as we approached. The rest stood at attention with the exception of one little old guy who picked up a fish and waved it at us to show that they were just out fishing and not up to any mischief. We were just a stones throw away from them and every gun in the ship trained on them . . . even the big five inch had swung its turret around to follow them continuously. If I had been one of those poor fishermen, I would have jumped overboard. This lad on the bridge yelled, '*Fune no namae wa nan desu ka* [childish Japanese for, What is the name of your ship?]' (Boulder Japanese isn't too good I have found, but it is all we have.) Of course the guy couldn't hear and kept shouting back, '*Wakarimasen*, [I don't understand]'. Finally the guy on the bridge started trying to copy down the Kanji that were written on the stern of the vessel. Then he came down and started madly thumbing through a pile of dictionaries. The rest of the boys crowded around and kept making suggestions and bright remarks about what they would have said. I just mention this to show you

what goes on when Japanese Language Officers get out into the field. They will explain Japanese to all comers with a wise look."

*Lt.Jg Edgar Whan to Shirley Whan, October 20, 1945, Whan Collection*

**Second Push for JLS Graduate Addresses Begun**

Although we are just reporting this effort to you now, this semester kicked off our attempt to tap all the remaining data for the current addresses of JLS graduates and kin. After reaching roughly 270 kin and grads on our first run through the Pineau and Hudson 1992 Reunion address list and referrals, we have decided that there must be more people awaiting our contact.

We have exchanged JLS address lists with Dr. Loureiro and were able to add 24 new addresses. I trust Dr. Loureiro was able to make use of our addresses. The *Who's Who* entries we copied from the late 1974 edition contain addresses we hope to check. A check of the 1980/81 *Who's Who* turned up more than 20 more grads. A recheck of the 1976 Washington, DC address lists revealed some possible names, as well. By mid October, we were up to 304 contacts.

All of the above leads us to ask again, "Are there any further names and addresses of JLS graduates or kin you could provide?"

**Correction**

The Desjardin article brought in several letters, all of whom pointed out that he was USNR not USMCR, my one assumption. Marylou Williams is aiding my hunt for the Desjardin family and possible papers. Glenn Nelson remembered both Hasbrouck and Desjardin during that major repatriation effort.

