

**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.*

**JLS Reunion Planned For Summer 2002**

As I had planned, if our collaborating departments at CU decided to put on a JLS symposium in 2001, the Archives would plan a Summer 2002 JLS Reunion. If not, then the reunion would have been planned for Summer 2001.

Why Summer? Given the constraints of weather, transportation, but most of all, housing, I felt it would be best to avoid the parental drop off of students, the football season, and graduations. Summer affords the widest availability of housing. We are, as yet, open as to which month. July and early August are the hottest in Boulder, so I generally would choose late May or early June.

We wish to fashion this reunion to the interests of the JLS graduates and their kin, so we would welcome your ideas as to activities: tours, slide shows, dinners, talks, etc. Jennifer Sightler, one of my student workers, will be coordinating.

**IN The Presence of Fatality**

I am not aware that any Marine Language Officer lost his life or was seriously wounded during World War II. I heard of one who was bitten on the hand by a baby on Saipan, but that may have been an apocryphal effort at Language Officer heroism. The fact is that the invasion of the Japanese home islands, starting with Kyushu in November of 1945, would have required the presence of every available language officer to deal with a recalcitrant and suicidal population.

I recall being pulled back from the invasion of Peleliu at the last minute, as well as from the first wave at Okinawa and the final phase of Guam. It may have been because of well-justified doubts about my fighting qualities, but I believe that the Corps had in mind my future function as a walking minesweeper in dealing with booby-trapped Japanese in Kyushu.

Whatever the case, I did sense the presence of early fatality on Okinawa. A good friend, Charlie Roach, a talented member of III Amphibious Corps Intelligence on Okinawa, took a jeep out alone in the evening on Motobu Peninsula (where fighting had been virtually nil) and was ambushed and killed on his way back to headquarters. This sobered our daily patrols into the hills of the Peninsula where, incidentally, I suffered my own major war wound by tumbling 50 feet off the side of a hill. In any event, Charlie's loss – a New England family and, as I recall, a Harvard honors graduate – was direct and chilling; a body bag has a special meaning when you know who's inside.

Another recollection of the closeness of death was the evening we spent with Ernie Pyle the night before he was killed on one of the islands off the Motobu Peninsula. In a burst of reportorial curiosity, he had

stuck his head up out of a trench to see what was happening. He was killed by a sniper. I had met Pyle because our HQ staff included two hard drinking newsmen who had worked for major US newspapers in Tokyo and whose paths had crossed Pyle's at one time or another. While we were not the slogging GIs in Italy, we felt his interest in us. In return, we admired the professional standards which brought him to the Pacific after VE Day.

Jack E. Bronston, USMC  
JLS, 1943

*Editor's Note: Hudson cites one "Boulderite" KIA on Makin Island, 1942, Gerald P. Holtom. In addition, one USMCR JLO, Ralph Cory, and two USMCR enlisted linguists were KIA on Guadalcanal. Others died during the war but were not KIA. Interestingly, Gerald Holtom is not listed among the transfers from Berkeley, as were the two Holtoms from Palo Alto, Daniel and John.*

**Edwin L. Neville, Jr.  
JLS, 1944  
Passed Away  
October 1, 2000**

Edwin L. Neville, Professor of Asian and Japanese History at Canisius College since 1966, died after a brief illness. "He was teaching until two weeks ago," said History Chair Larry E. Jones.

Son of a US Consul General in Tokyo, who later became US Ambassador to Siam, Neville was a native of Japan. He received a BA from Harvard and the University of Michigan.

He attended the JLS at CU, graduating in 1944, becoming the second youngest 2nd Lieutenant in the history of the USMC. In 1945 and 1946, Lt. Neville was assigned to Kyushu, Japan with the Occupation forces. There he interviewed Japanese soldiers returning from Manchuria, translated Japanese documents, and interpreted during the destruction of Japanese military equipment and munitions.

Aside from his Asian and Japanese scholarship and departmental duties, Professor Neville was a member, senior warden, and vestryman of St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church. He was exceptionally active in Episcopal Church affairs, serving on many commissions and committees. He was involved in nursing home and jail ministries and organized efforts to address alcoholism, evangelism, and lay ministry.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce; three sons Edwin L. III, Peter, and Matthew; two daughters, Ann Harvey, and Cathy; and by seven grandchildren.

From *The Buffalo News*  
October 3, 2000

**JLS Project Contacts  
USN & USMC  
Reserve and Veteran  
Associations**

In hopes of reaching elusive JLS grads, we have emailed the 1st Marine Division Association, *The Leatherneck*, the Marine Corps *Gazette*, the Marine Corps Reserve Association, the Third Marine Division Association, Naval Intelligence Professionals, the Naval Reserve Association, the China Marines, and the US Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association.

Hopefully, the publications of these organizations will carry a story about the JLS project, spreading the word to formerly uncontacted graduates in their organizations. If nothing else, the project will receive publicity in the veterans' community and perhaps awaken them to the immediate necessity of archiving their papers.

**Baker Hall Pictured  
in Last Issue**

Baker Hall, where most bachelor JLOs bunked, pictured soon after construction in 1937.

## The Facility and Hours

Archives is located in the basement of Norlin Library at the east end of the historic quadrangle on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado.

The Archives is open MWF, 1100-1700, but is staffed from 0800-1700, M-F. Out of town researchers may arrange for early and every day entry. Photocopying and both photographic and audiovisual reproduction services are available.

## To Donate

If you wish to donate your materials, please contact the Archives to insure the proper mailing address. For large shipments, the archives will reimburse expenses. Upon receipt of materials we will send the donator a deed of gift with instructions. The donator must return to the Archives signed deeds of gift. The Archives will then provide copies of preliminary inventories and guides to donors and donor families when available. Feel free to contact us at any time.

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## New Collections

The following are further collections recently received by, or promised to the Archives:

- Philip L. Bridgham
- Paul Desjardins
- Albert S. Karr
- Emma McCloy Layman
- Frank Mallory
- Terza Meller
- Edwin L. Neville, Jr.
- Edward Seidensticker
- William & Ruth Sigerson
- Norton & Marylou Williams