

The Japanese Language School Project
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***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.

***Boulder Magazine Features
Story on JLS***

Wendy Underhill, freelance Boulder writer, showed an interest in the JLS Project during a visit last Fall. After interviews with Addie and Dan Busch, Don Willis and yours truly, she wrote an article for the Winter/Spring 2001 *Boulder Magazine*. The issue came out the same time that the *Coloradan* article appeared and covers some of the same of the same ground. More stress is given to the intensity and challenge of the course. Hi Kublin's remark to Roger Pineau about switching to Korean was included.

Underhill also discussed the JLS Project, giving rather more credit to me than to either my boss, at whose direction I recommenced the project, or my student and honoraria staff (Molly Tindle, Olivia Kaferly, Scott Shaver, Lena Potyondy, Cynthia Ploucher, Sarah Jonson and Megan Lillie). Their support makes my work possible.

David M. Hays
Instructor/Archivist
JLOS WIA

GUEST RESPONSE

"In the November 15, 2000 issue of *The Interpreter*, Jack E. Bronston, USMC, JLS 1943 writes that, 'I am unaware that any Marine Language Officer lost his life or was seriously wounded during World War II.'

Raymond P. Luthy who graduated from the JLS in June 1943 as did I, joined the 5th Marine Division and lost his right leg above the knee on Iwo Jima. I do not know the details, but presume it was a mortar shell explosion. Ray got fitted with an artificial leg and worked for many years for Chevron Research Co. in Richmond, CA.

During the War, I served as Battalion Intelligence Officer, first with the Third Raider Battalion on Bougainville and Emirau, and later with the Third Battalion, 4th Marines on Guam, Okinawa, Japan, and China (Tsingtao).

I lost most of the vision in my right eye on May 20, 1945 during the Battle for "Sugar Loaf Hill" on Okinawa. There had been a lot of shelling during the night of May 19, and in the morning I was crawling around among the shell holes looking for wounded Japanese, diaries, maps, etc. A Japanese mortar shell or hand grenade exploded a few feet from my right eye (as I peered over the edge of the shell hole) and destroyed most of the vision.

The loss was less than it might have been for I had always had a 'weak' right eye (I got a waiver when I joined the Corps) and a very good left eye. I've been fortunate that the left eye has remained strong and useful.

Bronston also mentions an "evening on Mobotu Peninsula, (Okinawa) (where the fighting had been virtually nil)." The visit must not have been in the latter part of April, 1945 when my Regiment (4th Marines) was assigned the job of taking Mobotu Peninsula and capturing

its central fortifications on Mt. Yactake. The official Marine Corps History characterizes Mt. Tactake as a 'Mountain Fortress - ranging 1500 feet' Everything (water, ammunition, heavy machine guns, etc.) had to be hand carried up the mountain. The attack started at 0830 on April 14, 1945 and lasted through April 17, and the fighting was not 'virtually nil.' The Sixth Division, of which the 4th Marines were a part, lost 207 killed, 1751 wounded and 6 missing in action."

Hart H. Spiegel
USMCR
JLS June 1943

[Ed. Note: Perhaps Mr. Bronston was merely musing on the difference between staff and line unit mortality among Lieutenants.]

**US Navy & Marine
Japanese Language
Schools For World
War II**

Part II: Navy Schools

In 1940, war with Japan loomed with great certainty. Tokyo language students were ordered to prepare to leave on a moment's notice. Meanwhile, Arthur McCollum, of the Office of Naval Intelligence and a 1925 graduate of the Tokyo School, and Albert E. Hindmarsh, a Japanese history scholar from Harvard and officer in the Naval Reserve, planned to replace the Tokyo School with language schools on the US mainland. They sought to recruit from universities those civilians who either already had a facility in Japanese, demonstrated high potential to learn Japanese in an accelerated program, or showed evidence of extraordinary academic promise - like membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

The scheme was to compress the three-year Naganuma course to about one-year through greatly intensified instruction. Classes began at both Harvard and Berkeley in October 1941 with 27 and 21 students respectively.

Disputes between Hindmarsh, who had privately studied Japanese in Tokyo with Naganuma, and the Harvard faculty over adherence to the Naganuma program led to the termination of the Harvard program at the end of the first year. The Berkeley Program terminated because Presidential EO 9066, relocating and interning West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans, forced Japanese American faculty to relocate, as well.

During June of 1942, unfinished classes from Berkeley arrived at the newly relocated JLS at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where it would remain until after VJ Day. While in Boulder, the school would shift from training only Japanese Language Officers for the war effort to training language officers in a variety of oriental languages.

Hindmarsh reported that by March 1945 a total of 684 Japanese language officers had graduated from the Navy School for Oriental Languages. Of these, 573 were male Navy officers, 111 were USMCR officers, and 69 were WAVES. While the War was winding down, Admiral Nimitz demanded more graduates for the occupation of Japan, at the same time that CU at Boulder was forecasting a rise in post-war attendance. At the end of 1945, then, the school was moved to Oklahoma A & M at Stillwater. An additional 117 JLOs graduated by June, 1946, raising the total amount of JLOs to graduate from the Navy OLS to 801.

During the War, most JLOs served with JICPOA, combat Marine Divisions, or in various arms of the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC. With the end of the War, many became involved with the repatriation of Japanese military and civilians throughout Asia and the Pacific, the conduct of research assessments, and the Occupation of Japan.

Professor Irwin L. Slesnick
Western Washington University

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.

Contact

Bruce Montgomery, Curator,
or David Hays, Archivist,
Archives,
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 184
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Phone (303) 492-7242

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:
montgomb@spot.colorado.edu
arv@colorado.edu

Website:
[www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/
frontpage.htm](http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/frontpage.htm)

Donations Accepted

There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of \$10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.