

*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.*

### Response to "Summer Group"

I read with interest the Letter from Dan S. Williams (JLS 1943) in the October 15<sup>th</sup> number of *The Interpreter*. His experiences in Boulder were similar to mine but I do want to add some observations regarding my own time at Boulder and beyond.

I received BA and MA degrees in German from UC Boulder and had accepted a teaching position at Allegheny College beginning in September 1942. Sometime in December I received a call from Eugene Holland, a friend from my years at CU, telling me about the Japanese Language School on the Boulder campus. I went to Washington and was interviewed (by Colonel Sidney Mashbir, as I recall), was accepted, and left Allegheny even before the end of the Semester. (My wife, also a German major at CU, took over my classes).

I entered the JLS at the end of January 1943 as a Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> class. I believe the group was

designated "Winter 1943". Back home in Boulder! We wore civilian clothes, but JLS students could be distinguished from other students on campus by the habit of some of us of holding our hand high and tracing in the air the stroke order of the new Kanji as we hurried off to class. I remember the names of only one of my teachers, although they were all friendly and helpful. The teacher I do recall was Kitagawa Sensei, a small smiling man who had been a physician before the War. The "Winter '43" group was commissioned in May and we no longer had to feel uncomfortable on our infrequent trips to Denver for a dinner and a show. We now proudly wore the uniform of the Navy or the Marine Corps. My wife joined me in June and became active in FUJINKAI, the women's support group of the JLS students.

After graduation in April of 1944, some of the class were sent to the Naval Intelligence School at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York City. At the end of the two month course, my wife and I and three other friends traveled by train to San Francisco, after only a few days there, I boarded ship on June 18 (my wedding anniversary!) bound for Pearl Harbor and ultimately JICPOA. Fourteen months later, directly after the emperor had announced to his people on August 14<sup>th</sup> the surrender of Imperial forces, I received orders to report to the Naval Intelligence at the former Japanese naval air station north of Yokosuka.

I went ashore as interpreter for a Marine Corps Colonel at a small Japanese naval air station north of Yokosuka (details have become hazy after so many years: I have forgotten the name of the base, the name of the Marine Colonel, and the date of the operation – August 25<sup>th</sup>, I believe.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity of observing the surrender ceremonies on the

Missouri on September 2<sup>nd</sup> from the deck of the *Iowa*.

Having received the required number of points, I left Yokosuka in December to return for a very brief time to JICPOA and on to San Francisco, arriving on New Year's Eve to a wild and joyous celebration.

Robert L. Crispin

JLS 1944

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### "Honto desu" Visit to China War Massacre Memorial

For many Boulder USNJS students who had lived in China, the 1937 invasion by the Japanese of North China and the Shanghai region marked the beginning of WW2. Evacuations, personal property confiscation and destruction by the Japanese Army were only some of the problems of Americans and other foreigners in Chinese who, like our family, lived in Chinese controlled areas, rather than in the relative safety of Shanghai's International Settlement and other such protected enclaves.

That was the year of the sinking by Japanese aircraft, without notice or provocation, of the USS PANAY in the Yangtze River. Most notably, it was the year of the unbelievable "Rape of Nanking", the systematic massacre by the invading Japanese Army of 300,000 Chinese in China's then capital, possibly history's largest mass murder of human beings done in only a few days. Although the bloody details are described in numerous official reports and books and in Japanese daily newspapers of the time, most current Japanese textbooks have somehow overlooked mention of the "Nanking Incident", an omission which has provoked a deluge of Chinese and other reminders.

Accordingly, it was a remarkable experience to visit the Memorial to the Nanjing Massacre in

Nanjing (current correct spelling), in October 2001, with a Japanese friend, a Japanese language teacher, recently arrived from Japan. Both of us were members of a visitation group of foreign faculty members from a graduate business university in Shanghai, and this was his and my first visit to Nanjing. My two prior days, during the trip, of attempting resurrection of my past Japanese conversational familiarity, with Professor Kobayashi and another Japanese speaking member of the group, achieved a comfort level finally, which was not too embarrassing to me, and I hope not to them.

As we walked through the Memorial, every inscription – on every picture, on each stone denoting the number of victims in that area, on exhibits of bullet and bayonet shattered skulls and bones and other items – was read by the professor and some he photographed. He was overwhelmed, as was I, and at the end he said to me, honto desu, "it is true". That war is over, but records and memories last.

Dan S. Williams

JLS 1943

### Reaction to "Boulder Boys"

I was at Boulder with my late husband, Richard B. Finn, a State Department expert on Japan. I wonder if you are aware that many of us associated early on with the Boulder language school are put off by the expression "the Boulder Boys?"

I can't recall, and I certainly have known many of them, that they or those like myself associated with them ever used this label. It is, I think, an unfortunate neologism, probably created in recent years by people far junior to them. The press perhaps? Or just young scholars looking for a snappy nickname? It is, I think, unhistoric.

With best wishes,

(See Over) Dallas Finn

## Reprise on Bobo's

*[Ed.Note: It appears that one can find references to Boulder Boys, Harvard Boys and Berkeley Boys in Hummel's 1941-42 diary, written as he was in the schools. Romani, used Boulder Boys in 1945. Hummel, Chaffin, Kinsman, Romani and Whan were only five of many who used the term during the War. Its use may not have been as common in Washington, DC. Captain Pineau's correspondence refers to Boulder Boys continuously in letters from the 1940s to the 1960s, and in a 1966 letter to David Ward, refers to CAPT Art Gassaway as a Bobo. So the phrase, Boulder Boys, seems to trace its origins from World War II.]*

## DIA to Boulder

The **RTD** buses run from Denver International Airport all over the Denver/Boulder area. The **AB** bus runs to and from Boulder hourly (roughly on the half hour). The AB bus will cost \$4 one way (seniors) and has several on campus drops on Broadway [Regent, UMC, best for those staying at the University Club; Walnut St. Station for those staying at the College Inn (we will rig up a van for the College Inn)]. There are several airporters, as well.

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**New JLS Website:**  
<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>

## New Collections

The following are further collections held or recently received by the Archives:

- Chester, Theodore
- Williams, M.L. & N.

## \$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Hirabayashi, Martin
- Stempel, Daniel
- Vincent, Lawrence