

## ***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.*

## **Reprise on "Boulder Boys"**

Dear David: Huzzah to Dallas Finn for her comments on "the Boulder Boys". I am glad I am not the only one to find it unfamiliar and, to put it mildly, a little cute. I worked over the years of the war with a broad spectrum of graduates from all classes who never once used that term. I think it was not in general use and should not be taken to be so. I still think it may have been to differentiate between the Harvard, Berkeley and Boulder groups but used by a limited number of people.

I shared an office with Dick Finn, Ted deBary and Pete Wheeler toward the end of the war and found them a very congenial group. I particularly enjoyed their weekly banter regarding taking flowers home regularly as opposed to doing it as an occasional surprise. Incidentally, Dick Finn's book on the occupation should be on everyone's list.

We were glad to hear Bob Crispin's account of his

experience in the JLS and afterward, as he must have been in Norton's class or close to it. I think I mentioned before that he was teaching German when I was an undergraduate in the German department.

We found Dan Williams's account of his trip to Nanjing very moving. *The Interpreter* is wonderful-- we look forward to every issue!

Marylou Williams  
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: only use the term when JLOs use the term in their letters, stories.]

## **Sosho & BoBo**

The eagle has landed with ruffles and flourishes! Never knew there was a Naganuma Sosho text. Our group didn't get it. We got sorobun and bungotai, and occasional sosho forms to go with those elegant of stylistics -- like uketamawari soraeba...I can't thank you enough for the trouble you took to get me started writing right (-o). Or maybe there is a way:

I have been nervous about this BoBo business ever since it first came up, and now Dallas Finn's contribution spurs me on: Bobo in Japanese simply means f--k, pure (or impure) and simple. Or have you all known this all along and chosen to ignore it for its in-house humor value? The whole thing reminds me of my first and darkest day meeting Prince Takamatsu at a reception. He asked me how many children I had (classic icebreaker) to which I replied in my shiny freshly minted JLS Japanese, Taiho (cannon) futari, gunkan (battleship) futari. When the blood returned to his face, he drew me gently behind a potted palm, and said in English better than mine, You just said you had two [male organs] and two [female organs]. Diplomatic relations quivered but did not break, thanks to that elegant and truly royal prince. One of the younger teachers at Boulder had

laid that on us without the English as meaning boy and girl.

Bryan Battey  
JLS 1946

[Ed. Note: Dashes and bracketed versions are mine, not Mr. Battey's. Not knowing Japanese, I know I was not merely being polite. I scarcely ever am that clever. Was everyone else chuckling in their sleeves?]

## **Edward Cannan, JLS 1944, R.I.P.**

Bill Braisted passed onto me a letter from the son of Edward Cannan (JLS 1944) reporting the death of his father after a fall, January 3, 2002. We will indeed miss Ed, whose career was mostly as a Professor at Villanova University. The son's letter gave news of each the Annan's 13 children. Anyone wishing to contact the children or the widow, Grace, could write to Edward Cannan III, 350 S. Fuller Ave., Apt. 7E, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Frank Tucker  
JLS 1944

## **On Crispin's Response To "Summer Group"**

Aptos, California  
February 22, 2002

Concerning Robert Crispin's very interesting letter in *The Interpreter* (No. 39, Feb. 15, 2002), the name of the small Japanese naval air station north of Yokosuka where he reported at the end of the war was Oppama. The date of the operation which he believed was August 25, 1945, could not have been before August 28, the date of the initial U.S. naval presence in Tokyo Bay, and very probably was August 30, the first day of the U.S. and Allied Occupation of Japan.

I landed in the first boat ashore at Yokosuka with Marine Brigadier-General Clement at approximately 0900 hours on the 30th, within 30 minutes of MacArthur's arrival at Atsugi. As far as I know, it was the first

boat ashore anywhere in Tokyo Bay. Here is a little background.

Many of us JLOs at JICPOA in Pearl Harbor, at least 50 of us, were sent by air to Guam, via the so-called "CINCPAC Special," very soon after August 10, possibly even before August 15, to await distribution to various ships in the 5th and 7th Fleets. After a few days I was sent with a small group of JLOs to the Fifth Fleet, first by aircraft to Iwo, then by destroyer to the fleet off Japan. Willard Elsbee and Dick Hyman, both like me from the early Winter Group (W1-W4 classes beginning in December, 1942), were with me in the small group of JLS graduates on the destroyer which was so crowded with assorted people being delivered to the fleet many of us slept on deck under the torpedo tubes. The next morning, Dick Hyman and I were transferred by breeches buoy to the *USS San Diego*, a handsome new light cruiser, the flagship of Admiral Badger who was to be in charge of the landing at Yokosuka.

We were assigned to the staff of Commodore Smoot of the battle of Surigao Straits fame in the larger battle of Leyte Gulf, who with a selection of men from his destroyer crews was to be the initial Port Director for Yokosuka, in charge of berthing the entire fleet in Tokyo Bay in the coming days. On one of the days in the week after we left Iwo (all those days seem indistinguishable except for the ones when certain clearly defined landmark events occurred)--it must have been about the 22nd or 23d--I was transferred (by breeches buoy again) to the *USS Grimes*, an APA which carried the Marine Landing Force under General Clement's command destined to land at Yokosuka on August 30, the first day of the Occupation.

By the 27th, the fleet was concentrated in Sagami Bay, almost under the late afternoon shadow of Mt. Fuji, where our chief preoccupation was looking

back at the crowds of Japanese gathered on the long beach stretching from Atami past Enoshima to Kamakura. No later than the 27th, I was told by then Marine 1st Lieutenant Glen Slaughter, a Boulder sempai whom I did not know at the JLS ("summer group," I believe) who was the JLO on General Clement's staff, that I would accompany Gen. Clement to the *San Diego* in the early morning of August 28 to enter Tokyo Bay for a pre-landing conference that day between the respective staffs of Admiral Badger and the Japanese admiral commanding Yokosuka Naval Base. Gen. Clement and I (and probably the general's aide, too, but I don't clearly recall it) went by landing

craft to the *San Diego* at the appointed time; once we were aboard, the ship started to move slowly around the Miura peninsula to the entrance of Tokyo Bay where it paused to take aboard a Japanese naval officer, Lieutenant Commander Kusudo, to guide us in through the channel. The *San Diego* was the first major U.S. ship into Tokyo Bay; it was preceded by a mine sweeper, and I suppose mine sweepers had been through the same course the day before, though no one told me that. We anchored off Yokosuka, the Japanese staff came aboard and resist adding, though, that the Japanese had a very young midshipman (minaraishikan) interpreter who spoke far better

the meeting to discuss final details of the landing began, but that is another story. I can't English than I did Japanese. After the meeting, the *San Diego* remained in Tokyo Bay and Gen. Clement (his aide?) and I went by whaleboat to a waiting destroyer and were taken back to the *Grimes* in Sagami Bay for the main act which was to follow early on the morning of the 30th, when most of the fleet, led by the *Grimes* (which was boarded by the same LCDR Kusudo who had boarded the *San Diego* two days earlier), entered Tokyo Bay for the landings at Yokosuka and elsewhere.

*Sincerely yours,  
Harris I. Martin  
JLS 1944*

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### New JLS Website:

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