

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 104A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

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Our Mission

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, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

William D. Castle OLS 1945 (1916-2001)

Prominent philanthropist and head of one of the oldest family foundations in the country, William Donald Castle died Wednesday in Honolulu after battling cancer for several months at his home in Hale Ola Kino senior center. He was 85.

He was born in Honolulu in 1916. After graduating from Punahou, Castle earned a degree at Harvard University. He joined the Navy and was a lieutenant commander stationed in Hawai'i when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. He attended the US Navy Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in Boulder from 1944 to 1945 and served in Naval Intelligence during World War II.

When the war ended, Castle returned to Hawai'i and was an administrator with Alexander & Baldwin and Bishop Trust Co.

His great-grandfather, Samuel Northrup Castle, was a co-founder of Castle & Cooke. William's great-grandmother,

Mary Tenney Castle, founded the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation in 1894.

The foundation was created to benefit early childhood education and care. The organization's earliest grants were to establish Hawai'i's preschool and kindergarten system in the late 19th century.

William Castle served as a trustee on the foundation for 42 years and president for 38 years. This year, the foundation is expected to donate \$2.5 million in grants to local agencies.

But the people who came to visit Castle at the hospital were not "the bankers and famous people," said his son, Alfred Castle. "They were the janitors and gardeners, the small people," said Alfred, his voice breaking with emotion. Alfred Castle, executive director of the foundation, said his father was a gentle and giving man.

"Mainly he was just a wonderful man who cared very much about this community and gave freely of his money and of his time to help the community build its civic infrastructure," Alfred Castle said.

In addition to his work on the foundation, William Castle was on the board of many community organizations. He was a director at Chaminade University and was on the first board of La Pietra-Hawai'i School for Girls. Castle assisted hundreds of community organizations through large monetary gifts.

Alfred Castle said his father was most proud of his work with the American Red Cross. In the 1970s, Castle led the capital campaign to build the Red Cross' Diamond Head headquarters, which was named after William Castle's father, Alfred.

He'll remember his father most for his "kindness, gentleness and sensitivity," traits which unfortunately are all too rare today, he said. "He had a real commitment to the people of Hawaii."

Castle is survived by his sons, William, Randy, Alfred and Carlyle; sister, Gwendolyn Murphy; and two grandchildren.

Curtis Lum

Honolulu Advertiser

Friday, February 2, 2001

& Janine Tully

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Thursday, February 1, 2001

Lt. Aloysius Soden, USNR, JLS 1944 Marianist Brother

I am looking for information about his service as an officer or missionary. He served as a Navy interpreter at the surrender of Truk and possibly onboard the USS Missouri. He resumed his missionary work in Japan in 1946 and passed away in 1966. Contact: K. Kennedy, 900 Palmer Rd., No. 3J, Bronxville, NY 10708.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

In searching Google for possible hits on the entrants to the JLS/OLS, I found your query about Aloysius Martin Soden. He has a file in our Roger Pineau Collection. He entered the school at the University of Colorado in Boulder in October 1, 1942 from Philadelphia. He would have graduated in February/March of 1944. I will check the Pineau Collection for contents.

Dear Mr. Hays:

Thank you very much for your kind and informative email.

Aloysius was my mother's cousin and godfather as well. I met him once as a young boy in the late '50s when he spent two years in the states. Whilst researching family history for an Irish passport, I came across his obituary and wanted to learn more about him.

It's interesting that he entered Colorado in October 1942. Family lore has it that he was detained by the Japanese in December 1941 and was later exchanged for Japanese citizens in the U.S. at the time of Pearl Harbor.

If he returned to the U.S.

sometime in 1942, then it is clear to me that he was not part of the "Gripsholm" exchange that occurred in 1943 mediated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

One other point that may interest you is that I learned that after he died, the Marianist facility in upstate New York was sold, the bodies disinterred and moved to Baltimore. My wife and I located his grave last June in a cemetery in the Dundalk area of Baltimore.

I am still trying to learn what he did in his Naval service. I know that he was the interpreter at the surrender of Truk on the U.S.S. Portland (you can find his picture in the Navy archives on the web by typing in Truk and Soden) and I now know where he was until the late winter of 1943. This is very helpful to me.

Dear Kevin:

I will be pleased to provide photocopies of the few pages that are in a file under his name in the Roger Pineau Collection, 27-1, Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries.

Since we include the kin of US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School attendees on our mailing list, I would be glad to add you to our mailing list for our newsletter. I have the address of one who was interned in Japan in 1941 and returned in 1942 to attend the US Navy JLS, Wendell Furnas. Although they entered the school on the same day, they did not follow the same assignment path during the War. Furnas went to JICPOA at Pearl Harbor.

Bill Hudson, another classmate on our list, knew him, as they corresponded.

In addition, I recently contacted an OLS (school name was changed in 1944 to reflect the addition of several other Asian languages) graduate who was sent to Truk after the surrender, who may have run into, or heard of your godfather on Truk. Edward J. Michon attended the OLS several years after Brother Soden, so they

would not have known each other at Boulder.

Yet another OLS graduate who might have run across your relative would have been the Jesuit missionary, Father Robert M. Deiters, who is still in Japan. They were both in Japan during the 1950s. I would find it highly unusual that they would not have known each other.

As Soden was more than 10 years older than most of those who attended JLS/OLS in Boulder, and since he had taken vows, he may not have fit in as well with the collegiate style of

the early JLS students. But he most certainly would have stood out. He may run into John Hasbrouck, who later became a Trappist (he entered in July of 1942 and perhaps would have attended Mass with the devout brother Soden). Hasbrouck did not mention Soden in his memoir, but he did say that the pastor of the campus parish had been a former missionary. It seems that there were several devout Catholics among Hasbrouck's fellow JLS students.

David Hays, Archivist

Gerald Green, USMCEL Part 2

Our instructional materials were the two Kenkyusha daijibiki (Japanese-English, English-Japanese), the Rose-Innes Beginner's Dictionary of Chinese-Japanese Characters, and a thick sheaf of mimeographed lessons authored, I believe, by Captain Dull. Our student group studied in the classroom about 8 hours a day, marched everywhere together in close-order drill (trading off duties as drill instructor in Japanese), ate together, went to

the PX together, occupied the same barracks - in short, we spent every waking moment practicing Japanese for the 13-week duration of the school. I no longer remember how many of us "graduated," but there was severe attrition; I think there were 9 or 10 of us at the end, and there must have been more than twice that number when we began. There was a lot of emphasis on spoken Japanese, but we also learned a lot of kanji, with an emphasis on reading captured documents, maps, etc. We were scarcely aware of the language school at

Boulder, but we knew that those men spent a much longer time and were graduated with commissions. We were not told what our rank would be upon completing the course, but I remember being mildly disappointed that we all made PFC at the end and our MOSs were scout-sniper, with only a secondary MOS as Japanese interpreter.

When I finally met a graduate of the Boulder program, it was after we had secured Cape Gloucester (New Britain Island). I had joined H&S Co., First Marines during the stay of the

First Marine Division in Melbourne Australia. It was on Cape Gloucester where one of my "incidental" duties was to shepherd a group of Nisei Army translators the Marines had briefly borrowed from the Army. (True to its traditions, the Marine Corps had shunned such non-white recruits despite their obvious value, and my CO - Chesty Puller - decided he couldn't trust his Marines not to shoot first at a Japanese face.)

Just before we were to move to Pavuvu Island for "rest and recreation," we acquired our first language officer, Captain Dick

Greenwood, who had just completed the Boulder course. Thereafter, enlisted interpreters were more often used in our primary military occupational specialties (more scouting than sniping, I'm glad to say), but on the next invasion the division made (Peleliu) I still had to lug my bag of heavy dictionaries in addition to all the accoutrements of war - rifle, bayonet, ammo belt, etc., etc. (to be cont'd)

*Gerald Green
USMCEL*

[Ed. Note: Those who attended the USMC JLS in Hawaii who were not judged 'ready' on December 7, 1941

(busy that day in Hawaii), were sent on, like Jack Pierce to programs in the States (see his piece in issue #16, "Holtom Reprise").]

\$Donations Accepted

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