

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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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.

KENNETH M. STEWART



Anthropology Professor Emeritus Kenneth M. Stewart, JLS 1943, died May 23, 2002, in Oceanside, Calif. He was 85.

Stewart was born June 16, 1916, in Tecumseh, Neb., and moved to San Francisco at age 7. His early interest in the American Indian and archaeology persuaded him to change his major during his senior year of college from law to anthropology. He earned

bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. Stewart joined the ASU faculty in 1947, before the department of anthropology was established.

His first appointment was in the education department and he taught courses in sociology, ancient history, criminology, urban studies and minority studies, along with his specialty, Southwest ethnology. During World War II, Stewart went through the Navy's Japanese language school and served as a translator of Japanese. His academic research covered all of the major sub-disciplines of anthropology, including physical anthropology (anthropometry for prosthetic devices just after the war) and archaeology (in California and Arizona from 1946 to 1956).

However, his primary interest was always Southwest ethnology, and among his publications are the introductory section on the Yumans and the article on the Mojave in volume 10 of the "Handbook of North American Indians." Stewart was a member of the ASU faculty for 32 years. After his retirement in 1979, he became an amateur musicologist and enjoyed traveling with his wife, who died 17 days before him.

CLAS News - Fall/Winter 2002
Arizona State University

Asian Scholar Reflects On Fifty Years at Berkeley

(cont'd) In the early 1960s, Scalapino witnessed growing dissent among students over the right to free speech. But according to Scalapino -- who as chairman of the political science department was involved in negotiations with students -- the issue had more to do with university governance than free speech.

"Members of the Free Speech

Movement wanted a larger role for students in running the university, including issues of personnel," said Scalapino. "But we are a professional university, and personnel decisions should be made by those that have been hired to teach here."

The Free Speech Movement cost Clark Kerr his UC presidency, says Scalapino, because the more conservative Board of Regents considered his handling of the dispute inadequate. Fallout from the student strike had other far-reaching consequences, he said.

"An interesting, although unintended outcome of the movement was the election of Ronald Reagan as governor of California," said Scalapino. "The upheaval at Berkeley gave many voters in the state a cause to rally around, which ultimately put him in office."

As much of the campus embraced the anti-war movement of the late 1960s and early seventies, Scalapino's controversial views on U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War made him a target for activists.

Though critical of certain U.S. strategies, he generally supported efforts to resist Communist aggression in Vietnam. Scalapino also served on an advisory committee formed by then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk on East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Because of this activity, members of a student group stormed one of Scalapino's classes and accused him of committing war crimes.

The group, called the War Crimes Commission, claimed he "enthusiastically acted as a consultant and advisor for the U.S. war machine" and participated in "planning and designing military programs of aggression and genocide in Vietnam." At that time, Scalapino refused to discuss the matter, saying "this class will not be politicized or disrupted in any way."

"I resented this interference into academic life," Scalapino said of the incident. "People have the right to disagree with my views, but the classroom is not the proper forum for disruptions."

Because of his expertise on Asia, Scalapino was offered numerous government positions over the years, including Assistant Secretary of State and Philippine Ambassador, but turned them all down.

"I prefer to keep an academic base," he said. "That way I can maintain my independence."

As the campus moved into the late 1970s, Scalapino was approached by faculty and administrators to create a center for research on East Asia. To fulfill this mission, the Institute of East Asian Studies was established in 1978, with Scalapino named as its first director, a position he held for 12 years. Since its inception, the institute has been host to many ground-breaking conferences, including the first academic exchange with representatives from Outer Mongolia and meetings with the Soviet Union's Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. (to be cont'd)

D. Lyn Hunter, Public Affairs
The Berkeleyan
November 3, 1999

CODE BREAKER HELPED WIN BATTLES IN THE PACIFIC FROM HOME FRONT

Lawrence Myers never fired a shot during World War II, but he had a deadly aim nonetheless.

As a Japanese "book breaker," he decrypted complicated Japanese military codes that eventually made it to U.S. fighter pilots or warships that sank enemy submarines that had been wreaking havoc with American shipping in the South Pacific.

Although he was in Washington working on Nebraska Avenue for the U.S. Division of Naval Intelligence, it gave him a good, patriotic feeling to know that he was doing his part as a cryptologist, breaking Japanese codes that helped not only fighting in the waters and on land, but also to shorten the war.

Myers, who has lived in Knoxville for the past 21 years, was born in Fresno, Calif., July 22, 1920, and almost from the start of his life, he says, he was lucky. It turned out just that way for him during the war. He studied stenography, and as the war began sweeping up students, he was sent to Japanese language school.

He became quite proficient at writing Japanese after an intense study of the language at the University of Colorado. There, the top students were sent on to Naval Intelligence.

In fact, he had been among the first Japanese language students commissioned by the military in 1944. After being sent to the Navy's Advanced Intelligence institute, he wound up in Washington, working on breaking Japanese war codes.

The U.S. had captured parts of something called the Japanese JN 25 codebook. The "book breakers" went to work on the code, working feverishly day and night to understand the intercepted messages, since by then Japanese submarines were hitting merchant ships unmercifully.

"If we got enough from messages to know when an attack was coming or a date, then that would get emergency handling," says Myers, who put in 41 years of government service, 38 spent as a cryptologist. Some of that work, he says, was top secret with the National Security Agency and CIA. He retired as a U.S. Navy commander. (to be cont'd)

Fred Brown
KnoxNews
July 24, 2004

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4th Marines Reprise

Dear David Hays, your editorial note re the 4th Marines in the November 1st [2006] *Interpreter*

included a brief description of the regiment's role on Corregidor. If you want a full account, see J. Michael Miller, *From Shanghai to Corregidor: Marines in the Defense of the Philippines*, a small monograph published by the USMC History Division as part of their World War II commemorative series. You may be able to obtain a copy by contacting Danny Crawford, the Division Reference Branch Chief at <danny.j.crawford@usmc.mil>; phone: 703 432-4871.

Stanley L. Falk
US Army JLS 1946

"Secret" Service

One of the people in attendance the day of the christening of *USS Makin Island (LHD-8)* was a friend from your Editor's neck of the woods, Tom Holtom (Hon.). Tom is the nephew of Gerald P. Holtom (2A) of Carlson's Raiders [and on our mailing list]. Gerald was the only officer KIA on the Makin Raid. He was a language specialist and LTC Carlson wanted his expertise on board to interview (interrogate) any possible prisoners and decipher captured documents. It was while performing that service that CPT Gerald P. Holtom was struck by a sniper's bullet. He died almost instantly.

On the way home from this once in a lifetime experience I got to thinking about that most unique vocation that even diehard military buffs hear little about, the language specialist.

Knowing Captain Holtom's story pretty well, he was born to missionary parents and raised in Japan, I decided to look into other such men that served in the Raiders in World War II. Here is a little of what I was able to come up with.

LT John H. Pierce [JLS 1943] reported, "I will tell you about five interpreters who joined the Raiders on 7 November 1943 on Bougainville.

They were Glen Slaughter [JLS 1943] and myself who went to the 2nd Battalion, Hart Spiegel and Bob Stillman [both JLS 1943] who went to the 3rd Battalion, and Spencer Silverthorne [JLS 1943] who

went to Regimental Headquarters." (to be cont'd)

Patch Editor
Raider Patch
No. 98, 4th Quarter, '06

[Ed. Note: This piece must draw from some past correspondence, because John H. "Nabe" Pierce passed away in 2002, prior to the 60th anniversary JLS/OLS reunion at CU in Boulder. Spiegel, Stillman, and Silverthorne have also passed.]

Very Late Review of *Flags of Our Fathers*

Perhaps different from some others, I generally see ALL WW2 movies, and I looked forward to and did see "Flags.....". It was excellent, because it was informative as to both Iwo Jima and related Stateside activities, and it was accurate. As a USMC veteran of that battle, I focused on every scene and with only one exception, all was realistic.

The dialogue, uniforms, battle moods, and types of incidents, as well as other details, were "like it was" - thanks to Spielberg, Eastwood, and the USMC technical advisors.

The ships offshore Iwo, as depicted in "Flags....." were too many and too close to the Island, the main exception. All else would impress a viewing Iwo vet, including me, like being there again. The use of Iceland to portray a terrain of volcanic black sand, the showing of Mount Suribachi as a honeycomb of firing artillery positions, the two raisings of the flags (I saw them both), the interposing of real Iwo Jima background shots among the movie's Iceland locale, and the amazement voiced by Iwo battling Marines as to their unseen enemy were notable. The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed on Iwo's D-Day. I (Chuck Cross, Gerry Hoeck, Ray Luthy, and a dozen other Boulder grads) was in the 4th MarDiv which landed, turned R and went North. The 5thMarDiv landed, made a L turn and went S to take Mt. Suribachi and that S portion of the Island before joining the 4th on the bloody trip to the N portion of Iwo. Later, 2 regiments of the 3rd MarDiv (the

reserve Division, waiting on transport ships) were sent in as reinforcements. I met and have been in contact with the "Flags..." author a couple of times, once when he was here describing his subsequent "Fly Boys", Chichi Jima book, and it was interesting to see his brief appearance in the movie. He signed my book and wrote nice notes. He seemed determined to be accurate.

"Private Ryan", "Thin Red Line", and several other movies were unrealistically portrayed, with numerous mistakes (What's wrong with this picture?) instantly noticed by WW2 vets in general and those who were there in particular.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

Suribachi Memory

I do want to see those views from Suribachi in a theatre, not just on the small screen TV. I spent a day up on Suribachi at the point of a rifle platoon along with a couple of POW "bird dogs", with an assignment to bring in any others willing to come out of the caves and surrender. (There were no takers, and, luckily, no one else with a mind to take a few of us with them on a final journey - cf John McLean's encounter at the other end of the island.)

Tom Fournoy
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: We have a DVD of *Flags* circulating though the mailing list. We regret that John McLean did not live to see this movie, as he was always very interested in preserving and getting out WWII, Marine Corps, and JLS/OLS history.]

2007 \$Donations Received

I am late announcing these gifts:

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