

*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.*

### No No-Tell-Motel: Reprise on "ALOHA JIGPOHA"

I phoned my Boulder friend, Griffith Way [April 23, 2009] (retired lawyer in Seattle), and we talked about the phrase you asked about: the songbook, *Aloha Jigpoha*, was ginned up [ha ha] by some JICPOAn at "a bar in the St. Francis, Erdman Annex." We figured that the St. Francis mentioned was one of the hotels in San Francisco where the Navy put up Boulderites while waiting for transportation to Pearl Harbor [quarantining of officers in transit confirmed by hotel history on the web].



St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco

I recall staying two or three days in a hotel in San Francisco (it may have been the St. Francis) before taking an LST on an 11-day voyage to Pearl. The place, Erdman, obviously refers to Camp Erdman, a Navy camp on Oahu, where Griff and I (and Ed Whan, another Boulderite friend) spent our one day off each week.



**Camp Erdman, Oahu recreation camp for fleet officers 20 June 1945. From the National Archives: 80-G box 1239 330428**

There we swam, drank beer, and saw wonderful movies like *To Have and Have Not* (1944), with Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart, and a stimulating screenplay by William Faulkner, which I saw again on TV recently, and still liked.

In short: the JICPOAn songwriters did some composing in San Francisco and some at Camp Erdman. I am sorry: I did not know any of them [The late Robert Thornton, JLS 1944, honchoed the songbook, as its title page tells us. But when contacted prior to his death, he had no recollection of it.].

Griff Way, by the way, heads a foundation which awards grants to young people wishing to study Japanese and Chinese. These days, of course, more go for Chinese. One thing I did after leaving the Navy in 1946 was to try out some Chinese language records with the idea of studying the language. When I learned it contained at least four different tones, I abandoned the idea (I had a dissertation to write anyway). Recently I learned that the Chinese have modified some of their characters and that thousands of Chinese have the same last name [maybe millions, there are more than several

thousand Hays in the US, so that must be a bigger number]. Good luck, Chinese language grant winners.

Paul F. Boller, Jr.  
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: The St. Francis Hotel, survived the great 1906 earthquake, to become one of San Francisco's premier luxury hotels in the decades after the quake. Among their guests were Enrico Caruso, Helen Keller, William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Tom Mix, D.W. Griffith, Cecil B. DeMille, Sinclair Lewis, George M. Cohan, Cary Grant, Salvador Dali and Nelson Rockefeller.

"YMCA Camp H.R. Erdman is located on the beautiful North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii and has been the place for conferences, retreats, camps and family reunions since 1926. Nestled between the Waianae Mountains and pristine beaches of Mokuieia, Camp Erdman provides the perfect camp setting, second to none!"

[http://www.ymcahonolulu.org/locations/camp\\_erdman](http://www.ymcahonolulu.org/locations/camp_erdman)

"I don't have much history on Camp Erdman except that it was dedicated in 1932 and named for a young polo player Harold Erdman. I assume the Government acquired it during World War II for a recreation area for the Navy and then gave it to the YMCA. You all might know it more as one of the locations for the TV show Lost."

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/army\\_arch/3362247521/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/army_arch/3362247521/)

### IN MEMORIAM Thomas C. Smith Ford Professor of History, Emeritus Berkeley 1916–2004

[The first obit was much shorter] (Cont'd) With the end of the war Smith refused an immediate return to the U.S. and lobbied for an assignment in the occupation. He later would write that his curiosity about Japan, his "generally humane view of the enemy, as compared to most of the rest of the population at the time," was partly because of his yearlong study of Japanese. "Successful study of a foreign

language," he wrote, "requires some sympathy for the people and culture it represents." An additional factor entered into his decision to seek an opportunity to go to Japan. "After some months at Boulder it occurred to me that I might improve my postwar employment chances, as well as my qualifications as an historian by taking up the comparative historical study of a problem linking Japan and either France or the United States. I had no concrete idea of what I would compare and slight appreciation of the intellectual problems I would encounter."

Ultimately, he wrote, "I had the incredible good luck to be assigned to the headquarters of the Sixth Army in Kyoto." His duties were minimal and with the permission of his commanding officer, he had the opportunity for the next several months to wander the streets, visiting shrines, temples and gardens, taking in the sights of Kyoto and talking to Japanese. "I was wonderfully happy and imagined that I might stay in Kyoto permanently."

"Then," he wrote, "things changed unexpectedly." Smith was asked to be an interpreter for two officers from the Navy Department in Washington who had arrived to oversee the dismantling of the cyclotron at Kyoto University, and (however inadvertently) aided in the confiscation of Professor of Physics Arakatsu Bunsaku's notes on the use of the cyclotron. This invasion of the scholarly activities of Arakatsu so disturbed Smith that his joy in remaining in Kyoto dimmed. Several months later he requested a return to the United States where he was quickly demobilized from Marine service.

Returning from Japan with a determination to study Japanese history, Smith transferred his studies from UC Berkeley to Harvard University, which offered a Japanese history doctorate. Upon completion of

his doctoral thesis in 1947, he accepted an appointment as an assistant professor at Stanford University where he remained until his appointment at Berkeley as Ford Professor of History in 1970. He retired in 1986.

Thomas C. Smith received, among other grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship, Ford, Fulbright and Japan Foundation Fellowships and was honored with election to the American Academy of Arts and Science. He also was one of the few Westerners to be selected for membership in the Japan Academy.

His wife, the poet Jeanne Melville Smith, died in February 2006. He is survived by two children, Zachary Smith of Loomis, California and Rachel Smith of San Diego, California, and four grandchildren.

Irwin Scheiner  
Andrew E. Barshay  
Mary Elizabeth Berry

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/inmemoriam/thomascsmith.htm>

[Ed. Note: I included this far superior obituary of Professor Smith for his fellow Marine JLOs, who remembered him fondly in 2004 and 2005.]

## Correction

It turns out that the Rabinovitz obituary I included in Issue #138 was for a US Army JLO, not Albert Lester Rabinovitz, JLS 1944. I did not think there would be two Rabinovitzes with those initials, who were also JLOs. Sorry.

David M. Hays  
Editor & Archivist

## The Reminiscences of Donald Sigurdson Willis

[Donald S. Willis passed in 2009. This is an excerpt of a longer memoir.]

The Navy Chapter (1943-45)



*Southern part of Nouméa*

(Cont'd) [At Nouméa in December 1943] We soon settled into a routine, with our principal duties [being] the interrogation of

the survivors of a destroyer which had been sunk just before we got there. They were supposed to have formed pairs to kill each other rather than surrender, but were picked up before they could get the job done (or perhaps did not have their hearts in their work!). There were a couple dozen of them, under the complete control of a tough CPO (Chief Petty Officer), who told them to say just "Name, Rank, and Serial Number". The result was, first, that you got a snarled, "Dunno!" or "Don't understand" to "Isn't it a nice day today!" (Japanese has several levels of discourse which reflect the degree of politeness or respect intended by the speaker, and we were treated to the lowest, the "abusive", as some linguists have called it). Second, a group of them committed suicide in their cell after a week or so (we hoped, but were not sure, that it was not because they could not stand another day of hearing our atrocious Japanese!).

I got to be friends with a couple of Army intelligence officers (The Army had a much better set-up, in my opinion; they teamed up their language officers with Nisei enlisted men who were fluent in the spoken language), and I moved into the pyramidal tent they lived in. One day a typhoon blew in, and we all hung on to the ropes to keep the tent from collapsing. But some of our books got soaked.

Every morning at Reveille we heard first, our national anthem played by the band, then the *Marseillaise*, and then a few bars of the "Skater's Waltz" (always cut off at precisely the same place), which must have been the Admiral's favorite music! I learned it quite well during the six months I was there. And the loudspeaker in the nearby Army camp played selections from *Showboat* several times the day!

Over the Christmas holidays a group of us got to use a weapons carrier, with expert me as driver, and set out to explore the island. I hit a mudslicked turn and ran off the road, held from hurtling over the precipice by a clump of bamboo. Then the torrential rains came and flooded the roads so that we were marooned for I think it was three days, before a rescue vehicle from Nouméa could get

through. We were guests of the local French *Facteur* [in the American fur trade – factor], who treated us with extreme hospitality, and sent his servants to cater to our every need, thus turning our adversity into a kind of vacation at a resort! I did not get court-martialed, I am happy to say.

One day I was walking through the residential part of town when I heard the Mozart "Jupiter" Symphony, so I sat down and listened to the music, thankful for some relief!

The Melanesians were powerful specimens. They were black, but built differently than American blacks. They often wore green garlands in their straight hair, and had the curious custom of dying it orange, with a kind of colored lime. They were not very much interested in work, so the French brought in Tonkinese and other people from French Indo-China (as it was known in those days). The women were employed as domestics, and they had the reputation of not putting up with mistreatment.

In January, I got a telegram from the Red Cross that Carol had been born on the 23<sup>rd</sup>! Later on, toward the end of my stay, a package arrived with a number of things, including a gold wedding ring from my wife, and notice that I was now a member of the Class of 1943, BA from the University of Washington (credit from the language school had been applied to my degree). So now I was on an equal footing with Mary Jean.

We sat around the radio and listened to commentators covering the invasion of Normandy. This was early June, and I already knew that in a few days I would be on my way to Pearl Harbor, working in CINCPAC (Commander-in-Chief, Pacific) The war had moved north, and the South Pacific Theater was dissolved. Admiral Halsey took command of the powerful Third Fleet, and steamed away (taking his "Skater's Waltz" with him). (to be cont'd)

Donald S. Willis  
JLS 1943

## Recent Losses:



**2002 VAN FLEET AWARD  
HORACE G. UNDERWOOD**

**Trustee**

**Yonsei University**

No living American can match Horace G. Underwood's unique and continuing contributions to Korea and to U.S.-Korea relations. Born in Korea, the son and grandson of Presbyterian missionaries, Underwood has, throughout his life and in many capacities, worked to enhance Korean higher education. In 1939, following his education at Hamilton College and New York University, Underwood returned to Seoul and taught English at Chosen Christian College, which is now known as Yonsei University. Interned by the Japanese occupiers of Korea in 1941, Underwood was repatriated to the United States in 1942, when he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a Korean and Japanese language officer in the Pacific.

Following the surrender of Japan, Underwood was assigned to the U.S. Military Government in Korea, and was instrumental in forming Seoul National University out of a multiplicity of existing Japanese institutions. In 1947, he returned to Yonsei University, where he served until the North Korean attack in June 1950. Underwood rejoined the U.S. Navy and served throughout the Korean War. He was often decorated for his service and received the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit among other decorations. From July 1951 to 1953, Underwood served as senior interpreter for the armistice negotiations at Panmunjom.

Following completion of his graduate work in 1955, Underwood returned to Yonsei



University where he served as a professor of education and later as head of the university library. Yonsei University's emergence as a leader in the field of international education in Korea is directly attributable to Underwood's tireless efforts. He remains active to this day in his service to the university, and is a beloved figure on the campus.

Underwood has been involved in countless other educational and social activities as well, including the Fulbright program, the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Korean American Association and the Seoul USO. In 2001, Underwood was given the U.S. Department of Defense medal for distinguished public service in recognition of his decades of outstanding service.

In presenting the Van Fleet Award to Underwood tonight, I am struck by the fact that he is the only recipient who has had direct contact with General James A. Van Fleet. That makes the presentation of this award to him all the more appropriate and special, as does the fact that today happens to be Horace Underwood's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday!

*The Korea Society*  
[http://www.koreasociety.org/special\\_events/van\\_fleet\\_award/Page-3.html](http://www.koreasociety.org/special_events/van_fleet_award/Page-3.html)

[Ed. Note: Professor Horace Underwood passed away in 2004. For further comments on him, see Issues #48, #57, #74, #82A, #192A, #107A, #115 and #148. I saw this citation on the web and had to put it in.]

## Memoirs Of Ari Inouye

(Cont'd) In 2002, we sold our home in Berkeley where we had lived for 40 years. It was a difficult move for us since we had lived in our Berkeley home for so many years. It was home to all of our children. It was close to the UC Berkeley Campus, where I spent so many years not only as a student but also as the Campus Landscape Architect. It was there in Berkeley that I started teaching for the Naval Language School.

Our current home is small but comfortable. We're thankful that we are centrally located; the

hospital, our church and the shopping center are all nearby. I just turned 94 last September [in August 2009] and Ida is 87. Since we no longer travel, we have an annual family gathering twice a year. The children and grandchildren stagger their visits, and we keep busy. We have been blessed, and we are grateful.

As I look back on my life, I know by His grace, God has led me every step of the way. Like the pieces of a mosaic, each piece of my life just seemed to ultimately fall into place. When I was in international relations and went to Japan to study the language, little did I realize that this experience was to be used toward the war effort and that my life calling as a landscape architect would be made known to me there. We may not know what the future has for us, but God unmistakably reveals his plan and way for us.

My experience in Boulder was a very meaningful and significant one for me. Both Ida and I learned many life lessons there. We were deeply impacted, and I can see how being chosen as one of the language instructors has also had a ripple effect. Many of the language school graduates have become ambassadors of goodwill in so many ways. The post-war legacy of the graduates has been phenomenal. Their language skills have opened the doors to closer relations and greater understanding between Japan and the United States.

My part in the wartime language program has indeed been small. However, when I realize the impact the graduates have made in relations between the two countries I feel very grateful and humble that I have been a part of the total experience. Some of the graduates have established themselves in the teaching field or diplomatic service, others are authors and translators of books on Japan and its culture, or are working in many other related areas of research and service.

In June 2002, we were able to renew some old friendships and meet some of the others from the language school; we connected not only with the students but the sensei as well. The occasion that brought us together was the 60<sup>th</sup>

anniversary reunion of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado at Boulder. It was good to see Boulder once again: the city and its beautiful surroundings; the Flatirons; the house where we once lived; and to renew acquaintances as well\*.

In November of the same year, we attended we attended another reunion in Pomona, California. At this celebration, I received a Navy citation, which was given to all the sensei who were still living. It was the Distinguished Public Service Award. The event was wonderful. I only wish that more sensei had been still living to receive such an honor in person. How fortunate I was to do so\*.

As for the future, it is in God's hands. Throughout my life, the blessings He has bestowed upon me and my family have been many. I have lived a full life, and I can only express my feelings of joy and gratitude for His having led me every step of the way throughout my life.

If my life has counted for anything at all, God's grace has made it all possible. I remember so clearly the time when I was standing on a street corner near the grammar school with my teacher. Before we parted, I said to her, "Jesus is the answer." It was true for me then, and through all of my life's experiences, it will be true for me as long as I live.

I express my feelings of gratitude to all my family and friends who over the years meant so much to me. You have been my life, and you have made it such a meaningful one. Thank you. I love you.

*Ari Inouye*  
*USN JLS Sensei 1942-1946*

[Ed. Note: \*The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion was put on by the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project at the Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries - see Reunion Issues #0; #2, #3, and #A. \* In October and November 2002, the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project's graduate assistant, Jessica Arntson, helped the Pomona citation effort by advertising the event through the Japanese American newspapers and located a number of sensei. - see Issues #57 and 58A.]

## David L. Osborn Papers at the Eisenhower Library

David Lawrence Osborn, diplomat and linguist, was a native of Indiana. He attended Southwestern University at Memphis, Tennessee, where he majored in Greek. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree he went to Harvard University where he studied Chinese and Japanese.



**"Bastille Bastards" Osborn listed, Pineau, 21\_05\_09, AUCBL**

At the start of World War II he enlisted in the Navy and became a Japanese language officer in the Pacific [JLS 1943]. His knowledge of Japanese was put to good use during the Okinawan campaign when he swam ashore on Akashima, a small island near Okinawa, to open surrender negotiations with Major Noda, the commander of the Japanese garrison. As a result of these negotiations, U.S. personnel were allowed to land peacefully on Akashima and a major battle was averted. In 1987 Osborn attended a reunion with Major Noda and other soldiers on Akashima, which was recorded by a Tokyo television station.

After the war Osborn returned to Harvard where he completed work on his Master of Arts degree in Chinese. In 1947 he passed the Foreign Service exam and was given a job in the Department of State where he spent his entire professional career. Due to his skill with oriental languages most of his assignments were at U.S. diplomatic posts in Japan and Taiwan. He also assisted with the first negotiations between officials of the U.S. and the People's Republic of China in Geneva in the mid-1950s.

During the 1964-65 academic year, Osborn attended the National War College where he became familiar with the use of computers by the Department of Defense. After returning to the State Department he spent several months in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs while waiting for his next assignment in the Far East. He took the opportunity to develop a computer program to help the State Department analyze its budget more efficiently.

Osborn spent the years 1967-1970 at the U.S. embassy in Tokyo, Japan, and then became U.S. Consul General at Hong Kong. He helped make arrangements for Richard Nixon's 1972 trip to Peking which resulted in regular diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He later served as Ambassador to Burma before retiring in 1978.

After his retirement he settled in San Diego, California, where he was active in promoting cultural relations with Asia. He worked with various private organizations to develop computer programs to teach the Japanese language. He died following a bicycle accident in San Diego in 1994.



**David L. Osborn, Ambassador of Burma, Pineau, 06\_10\_01\_27, AUCBL.**

David Osborn appears to have kept very little material relating to his early career. Except for a few items of memorabilia, most of his papers are dated after 1965. Most of the available information on his early career is from an oral history interview which was conducted by

Georgetown University in 1989.

The bulk of Osborn's papers pertain to his interest in Burma, China, and Japan. The material includes correspondence, reports, speeches and printed material relating to cultural, economic and political relations with these countries. The collection also contains information on his interest in language studies and in the use of computers in the State Department. The material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

[http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/Finding\\_Aids/PDFs/Osborn\\_David\\_Papers.pdf](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/Finding_Aids/PDFs/Osborn_David_Papers.pdf)

*[Ed Note: The "Bastille Bastards" as they referred to themselves included those who were quartered at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity (vacated during the war), the building of which was referred to as "The Bastille", in Boulder City Directories. Those in the Bastille identified in the photo include: Ted Van Brunt, Glen Slaughter, Dan Holtom, Otis Cary, David Osborn, Ray Luthy, William Allman, Frank Woodey, Bob Newell, Houghton Freeman, John Allen and Gordon Weber. They were moved into the Men's Dorm when it appeared to the Navy that they were having entirely too much fun at the fraternity house.]*

## Reprise on COL Thomas Williams, USMC 6<sup>th</sup> MARDIV

When Dad was in Tsingtao, he was notified that a staff study he had authored on combining national intelligence efforts was accepted, and the Combined Intelligence Group was formed. At the Key West agreement, the name was changed to the CIA. Dad was stationed there after he escaped China. He put the Shah of Iran in power as his first field operation. He continued to do port and starboard tours, between USMC and CIA, operations that included the Bay of Pigs and finding the Cuban Missiles.

*Dr. Thomas Williams  
Son of COL Williams*

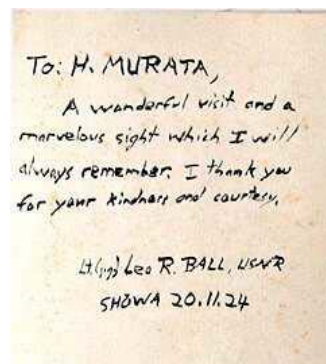
*[Ed. Note: This note is a comment on "JLS/OLS Contribution to Postwar Intelligence", Issue #140. We have the COL Thomas E. Williams Collection. He was G-2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> MARDIV on Okinawa and Glenn Nelson and Glen Slaughter knew him*

*well. He was not a graduate or attendee of the USN JLS/OLS.]*

## A JLO & Bonsai Gardens

Immediately after the Pacific War, the luxury tax on bonsai was so high that it nearly caused the disbandment of the growers at Omiya.

"[W]hen the war ended, Murata had no money to keep his garden growing and no customers to buy his trees. He was on the point of taking up some other occupation when, on a November afternoon in 1945, fate intervened. A jeep containing Lt. (j.g.) Leo R. Ball [JLS 1943], of the U.S. Navy, and John R. Mercier, a newspaper correspondent from Washington D.C., drew up to his garden gate. They were horticultural enthusiasts who wanted to see the famous bonsai village. After they spent several hours in knowledgeable admiration of the beauties of the garden, Murata took out his Visitors' Book, which had been unopened in four years, and asked them to write in it. Both men wrote glowing tributes to the garden's beauty. When Murata had their inscriptions translated, the warmth of the messages left by his country's recent enemies gave him heart to carry on his work a little longer. Gradually, as more visitors came, he began to prosper."



**Remarkably, this image was on the webpage below.**

During the Pacific War, the shortage of fertilizers and even of water affected the Imperial Palace's Collection, as well as those almost everywhere else. Some trees outside of that Collection perished because of



**Our only shot of Leo Ball, on his wedding day, Pineau, 29\_03\_02\_01, AUCBL.**

this, and many others inside and outside were almost killed off.

From Kyuzo Murata, *The Father of Modern Bonsai in Japan*  
<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/KMurata.html>

*[Ed. Note: Leo Ball, who had been living in Grand Junction, Colorado, passed away in 2007.]*

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