The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 186 ✯**Remember September 11, 2001**✯ arv@colorado.edu August 1, 2013

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.

The Naval Civil Affairs Unit on Saipan

(Cont'd) The landing on Saipan was on June 15, 1944. We were on the USS *Sheridan*, an APA. We did not go ashore until D-plus five, but we watched the landings. Some of the assault troops were from our ship. We could see some of our landing craft being hit by Japanese artillery and we watched Japanese tanks as they counterattacked from the low hills below Mount Tapochau. Towards dusk we could see much more of the battle because of the tracer bullets. One thing that caught my attention was the flame throwers. We couldn't see it clearly, but we could tell what was happening, and we had field glasses. And too, we had doctors on our ship and many of the wounded were brought to our ship.

I knew the Japanese had been charged with fortifying the islands before the war. But I think the only one they fortified was Truk. Saipan they hadn't. The biggest guns they had, the

LVT(A)-4 at Saipan, June 1944. Wikipedia Commons

naval guns, weren't even mounted when we landed. They were still at Tanapag Harbor. The only real fortifications they had were pillboxes, and air raid shelters. The plain fact of the matter was, their defenses, even though they gave us a hell of a time, were not very good. And they really didn't have first class troops there. They did have a unit from the Kwantung Army, which sounded very impressive, but it had been slapped together before being brought to Saipan. What I'm trying to say is that the nucleus of the Kwantung Army had been dissipated from all the fighting in China, so it really wasn't what it had once been. Certainly there was no shortage of brave Japanese soldiers, but Saipan was not the fortress that Iwo Jima was, for example.

We went ashore on landing craft, but by D-plus five they had already put floating piers out so we got off on those. We moved into a little school in Chalan Kanoa that still had a roof and windows. We were there for a few days before we went out to Susepe and pitched tents. The Marines had big howitzers right beside us and they scared the hell out of me each time they fired,

155mm howitzers preparing to fire. National Archives

because they lifted me right out of my bunk. I really didn't have much to do the first few days I was on Saipan. We had several civil engineers who were Navy officers, and they started the process of laying out the plans for Camp Susupe. They were pretty flimsy buildings they put up. They had corrugated tin roofs and were open at the sides. The floors were maybe two feet off the ground so they wouldn't get wet inside. The most important things were drainage and privies. The camps were divided up into cooking centers so that people belonged to this cooking center, or that cooking center.

I dealt primarily with the Japanese, not the Chamorros, although I saw them all the time. The Marines were bringing in prisoners even before we got there – before the camps were set up. Everybody was kept under guard no matter if they were Japanese, Korean, or Chamorros and it took us a while to get the idea of separating them. It was during the early stages of separating people and organizing the camps that some Nisei troops from the Army came to where we were holding the prisoners. I could see these Japanese civilians just staring at these Japanese in American uniforms, almost with open mouths. Most of the Nisei were bigger and huskier than the native Japanese. Later, it was the Nisei from the Army who came to the camps to ferret out Japanese soldiers who were trying to pass themselves off as civilians. So even though I was in the intelligence section of Civil Affairs I was not charged with that particular responsibility. I didn't deal with prisoners as an interrogator at the time they were captured.

There were some very able interrogators, most of whom were B.I.J.s like me, but who spoke really good Japanese. Some of them were of American and Japanese parentage. There were a a couple full-blooded Caucasians who had gone through the Japanese school system, right through Tokyo University. These people were the ones who interrogated the prisoners who were especially knowledgeable. They were so good that I think it took the Japanese by surprise to find Americans that could speak Japanese at that level, both in forward areas and at Pearl.

I remember hearing about one interrogator – not that he used brutality, but he was very forceful with the language, and he threatened prisoners. I don't think he ever physically abused anybody. However, I do know about situations where prisoners were killed. I know about commanding officers who told their men not to take prisoners. We've all read about that, and that happened. I know of worse things that happened, where actual mutilation occurred, like taking of teeth and other parts of the body. These things did happen, and yet some people take a certain amount of comfort in the idea, or claim that Americans weren't quite as bad as the Japanese because this was not a policy. However, for example, if a commanding officer says, "Don't take prisoners," for that unit, that is a policy. When Japanese ships were sunk and American planes strafed the survivors in the water, and there wasn't a court martial because of it, then that can be accepted as having been a policy, or at least something that was overlooked. My whole point is, when people claim the Japanese people were particularly cruel I can think of occasions when Americans were particularly cruel, too. I think it is also true, however, that we never, during the war, organized a unit like 731 – the Ishii Unit (a Japanese biological warfare unit in Manchuria that experimented on live human beings).

At first we fed the civilian prisoners on Japanese rations, then we began to import rice and stuff like that. We had big stores of rice on the island that we had captured and we were able to use

a lot of that. However, a lot of the stores we should have been able to use we weren't able to because our own troops were so destructive. They stuck their bayonets in cans just to see what was in them.

JICPOA team on Saipan, 8 July 1944. Identified is Otis Cary, Harry Barrand, Reid Irvine, Robert Boyd, and John Decker, *Pineau*, 10_6a_5_08, AUCBL

… I remember the antipathy of many Okinawans to the Japanese, too (as well as that of the Koreans). Sometimes when the prisoners were sick, they were sent to one of the field hospitals. When they were brought back to the camp in ambulances they were all brought back together, Japanese, Korean, and Okinawans. At the Japanese camp I would open the door and say, "All Japanese get out here." If there were any Koreans, they would go on to the Korean Camp. But anyway, I was distinguishing between the Koreans and the Japanese. "Japanese get out here." There was this one old Okinawan still sitting there. So, I said again, "All Japanese get out here," But he didn't move. So one Japanese girl said, "Old man, he says for all Japanese to get off." He said, "I'm not Japanese. I'm from Okinawa." He finally got off….

The camps didn't have barbed wire fences around them and some US Military people did try to get in, looking for women, and some were apprehended doing so. I was at the court martial of one, but I wasn't a witness.

Lieutenant Commander Schattle was the head of the intelligence unit that I was part of. He was a cop in civilian life, and an interesting fellow. We called ourselves "Schattle's chattels.

Sometimes when we sent Japanese men out on work detail there were sexual attacks made on these Japanese men by American Military men. This was appalling to me, and I suppose to others. I went to Schattle and asked him why there were so many homosexuals in the military. He said they were not homosexuals – these were homosexual acts by heterosexuals. As a policeman he was familiar with this and I wasn't….

When I got my orders to leave Saipan, boy was I happy. Jeez, I had been there for eleven months, and the war was moving on to other places. Look what happened between the time I arrived on Saipan and the time I left Saipan: the Palau Campaign, the Philippine Campaign, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Saipan was an important base, but I felt like I was being left behind. So, when I went back to Pearl Harbor I was happy to be back, but I was also thinking this would be a chance to be sent out to a forward area again. I was tapped, along with some others, to go to Okinawa, but those orders were canceled, and within a few days came the A-bomb and new orders to send us to Japan.

From Harris "Jish" Martin, "Navy Civil Affairs Unit" [JLS 1944] *in Bruce M. Petty,* Saipan: Oral Histories of the Pacific War, *Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002, Pp. 157-158, 160*

[Ed. Note: The cooking center organization actually follows the historic method of organizing large parties (like trapper parties, volunteer troops, wagon trains, and other such organizations) into "messes", each with their own watch, fire, and leadership. I guess organizing folks by their stomachs always worked.

Photos were taken from the web and from the Pineau Collection. *The only shot we had of "Jish" Martin was in formation at CU, and the ID is not precise. The other photos were either of Saipan or, in the case of the 155 battery, a general shot to illustrate the story. None were part of the published interview.]*

Hindmarsh, Albert Edward
(1902-1975)

Albert E. Hindmarsh was an educator, author and the architect of the US Navy's Japanese/Oriental Language School during World War II. He was born Nanaimo, B.C., Canada, April 13, 1902, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Wright) Hindmarsh. He came to the US in 1921, was naturalized in 1928. He was a student at Oregon State college, 1922-1923. He received his A.B. at the University of Washington in 1926, his MA at Harvard 1927, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1931. He married Merrill Pearson on July 9, 1927. They had three children: Carol, Margaret and Alan. He was an assistant in the Department of Government, Harvard University, 1926-29; tutor and instructor after 1930, lecturer in government after 1938; Assistant Dean Harvard College, 1929-36; visiting professor of government, Tufts College, after 1931. He was appointed Assistant Professor of International Law at the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy in 1933. He was secretary of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1934-36. He was also professor of international law at the Académie de Droit Internationale, The Hague, Holland, 1936; was lecturer at the US Navy Naval War College, Newport, RI, after 1935. He went on active duty in 1940 in the US Naval Reserve, rising to the rank of Captain, serving until 1955.

In 1940, Arthur McCollum, of the Office of Naval Intelligence and a 1925 graduate of the Tokyo School, and Albert E. Hindmarsh planned to replace the US Navy Japanese Language School based in Tokyo with language schools on the US mainland. In order to rapidly and increase the number of potential naval language officers, the scheme compressed the three-year Naganuma course to between one-year and 14 months through greatly intensified instruction. To gain the largest pool of potential language officers, Hindmarsh and Glenn Shaw interviewed and recruited widely from universities, seeking those civilians who: already had prior experience in Japanese and other languages; had demonstrated advanced learning skills in graduate education; or had shown high potential to learn Japanese in an accelerated program.

Classes began at both Harvard and Berkeley in October 1941 with 27 and 21 students respectively. Disputes between Hindmarsh, a Harvard alumnus, and former Harvard faculty member and dean, who had privately studied Japanese in Tokyo with Naganuma, and the Harvard faculty over adherence

CDR Hindmarsh, speaking at the University of Colorado to the USN JLS, October 7, 1943, *Pineau*, 06_04_01_25, AUCBL.

to the Naganuma program led to the termination of the Harvard program at the end of the first year. Presidential EO 9066, relocating and interning West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans, presented the Navy with a choice: of allowing the internment of its Japanese American faculty and the subsequent closure of the JLS at Berkeley; or the relocation of the entire school and is largely Nisei faculty at Berkeley to another university to the east.

Parade, V-12 and USN JLS/OLS in front of the Men's Dormitory at the University of Colorado, 1943.

So during June of 1942, unfinished classes from Berkeley arrived at the newly relocated JLS (Japanese Language School) at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where it remained until after VJ Day. While in Boulder, the school shifted from training only Japanese Language Officers for the war effort to training language officers in a variety of oriental languages.

CDR Hindmarsh reported that by March 1945 a total of 684 Japanese language officers had graduated from the Navy School for Oriental Languages. Of these, 573 were male Navy officers, 111 were USMCR officers, and 69 were WAVES. While the War was winding down, Admiral Nimitz demanded more graduates for the occupation of Japan, at the same time that CU at Boulder was forecasting a rise in post-war attendance. In 1945, then, the school was moved to Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater. An additional 117 JLOs (Japanese Language Officer) graduated by June, 1946, raising the total amount of JLOs to graduate from the Navy OLS to 801.

After WWII, Captain Hindmarsh became Director, US Naval Intelligence School in Washington, DC, in 1946, and later was assigned as District Intelligence Officer, 12th Naval District, San Francisco, California during the late 1940s and early 1950s. He retired from the Navy in 1955, after a heart attack, and moved to Los Altos, California. There, he died of apparent heart failure on March 2, 1975, at the age of 72.

University 5191, AUCBL. *[check the Flatirons, Green Mountain and Bear Mountain in the background]*

He was a member of the Council of Foreign Policy Association, the Asiatic Society, the Japan Society, the Institute of Pacific Affairs, the American Society of International Law (executive council), American Political Science Association, and Acacia. He was a Democrat, and Episcopalian and a Mason.

Professor and, later, Captain Hindmarsh was the author of *Force in Peace: Force Short of War, in International Relations*, Harvard University Press (Cambridge) 1933; *The Basis of Japanese Foreign Policy*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1936; Le Japon et la paix en Asie / *Recueil des Cours* (1936), volume 57, issue III, p. 97-199; "No Royal Road to Language Mastery," *The Modern Language Journal* © 1948. He contributed numerous learned articles to magazines. He was considered an authority on Asian Affairs.

Who's Who in America, *1946-47, 1954-55;*
"Albert E. Hindmarsh, Retired Navy Officer", The Washington Post *(1974-Current File); March 13, 1975, ProQuest Historical Newspapers* The Washington Post *(1877-1993) pg. C12;*
Douglas J. Brower
http://mcittahistory.bravehost.com/WW2History.html

[Ed. Note: Unfortunately, both when CPT Hindmarsh was alive and when he died, the USN JLS/OLS was still classified and the details of his contribution in this project were not included in either his Who's Who *entries or in his obituary. He, along with McCollum, Walne, Shaw, and McAlpine, created and ran the Navy language program, which had such a numerically disproportionate effect on the war and its aftermath. His recruiting and standards played a critical role in the operation of the school. Each of the JLS/OLSers to write in has had their own "Hindmarsh recruiting story". Perhaps more than anyone else, he put his stamp on the US Navy JLS/OLS. He must have viewed the postwar effect of the school and its contributions to university level Asian Studies, US journalism, diplomacy and intelligence in Asian affairs with a large measure of satisfaction. Interestingly, he never went back to civilian academia, preferring to stay in the USNR for the remainder of his career.]*

Biology remembers Val Nolan 1920–2008

Professor Emeritus Val Nolan died March 27, 2008. He held joint appointments in law and biology, a distinction held by no other person in the history of this university.

Both the legal and science communities grieved when Val Nolan died.

Nolan graduated from IU in 1941 with highest honors in history. Afterward, he served as a Deputy U.S. Marshal and later as a member of the Secret Service in charge of protecting President Franklin D. Roosevelt. During World War II, Nolan served in the U.S. Navy and enrolled in the Navy's Japanese Language School, where he graduated in 1944 as the valedictorian. After the war, he returned to IU to receive his law degree, earning highest distinction. He was on the faculty of IU's law school for almost 40 years, serving as acting dean twice.

Nolan's passion for the law was equaled by his passion for ornithology. After 20 years of studying prairie warblers from a motivation of pure interest, he was given an appointment in the Department of Zoology. His research pioneered the strong tradition of bird study here at IU today.

Nolan earned two prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships, one for law and one for biology. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Ornithologists' Union. He held two ornithological awards, the AOU's Brewster Award for the most meritorious work on birds of the western hemisphere and a lifetime achievement award from the Wilson Ornithological Society, an honor that he shared with his second wife and fellow researcher, Distinguished Professor Ellen Ketterson.

"Val Nolan will long be remembered by this department for his wonderful science and his warm humanity," Distinguished Professor Jeffrey Palmer said of his colleague. Professor Ken Yasukawa, chair of the Biology Department at Beloit College, says of his former mentor, "He was the most important person in my professional development. I owe him everything." Another former student, Dan Cristol, a professor at the College of William and Mary, appreciated the emphasis Nolan placed on the ability to communicate effectively. He still uses Nolan's dog-eared copy of *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. Cristol writes that he triple-checks every reference in his papers, adding, "I insist that my students do the same, much to their consternation. They'll thank me later, and I wish I had thanked Val more."

Indiana University
Alumni Newsletter
Spring 2009/Vol.17, No. 1, p. 5.

[Ed. Note: A second obit: but I thought I'd give his peers at IU the last word.]

Keene, Seidensticker et al.: Products of War, Commodities of Peace

Focusing on recently published biographical works by the late Edward G. Seidensticker and Columbia University professor Donald Keene, William Wetherall evokes the personalities and the times of two great promoters of Japanese literature in the postwar era.

Wetherall's articles on a variety of subjects are posted on his websites at http://www.wetherall.org.

Intrigued by its title and byline, I recently bought a bilingual book with the mixed-language title *Discover Japan: Moshimoshi, sumimasen, dōmo* by Donald Keene, E. G. Seidensticker, et al. The "et al." includes forty other writers, translators, and scholars, most now aging but still living in Japan. Published in 1983 by Kodansha International, the book features fifty-four short articles in English with Japanese versions translated by Matsumoto Michihiro, whose name is billed larger than those of the two featured authors.

The pieces were selected from the two hundred articles in Discover Japan: Words, Customs and Concepts—Kodansha's re-issue of the volumes originally known as *A Hundred Things Japanese and A Hundred More Things*, published in the mid-1970s by the Japan Culture Institute, one of several organizations—like the International Society for Educational Information and Kodansha International—founded after World War II to improve Japan's image to the world.

Only the bilingual edition had a byline. But why mention only Keene and Seidensticker—who had only one article each—when some among the "et al." had as many as five? Seidensticker might say, with a shrug and a grin, "We were more famous than Richie or Riggs." And the name order? With a sigh and a smile: "Well, K comes before S in both English and Japanese." And if Reischauer had written something? He might grimace, laugh and say, "It would have been 'Reischauer, et al.'"

The drama of how Donald Keene (b. 1922) and Edward G. Seidensticker (1921–2007) became rival commodities, especially in Japan, emerges from a reading of their several autobiographical works. As preeminent "buffers" in the postwar realm of Japanese literature with a penchant for column writing, the two men made a classic good-cop, bad-cop team in their journalistic interrogations of life in Japan. Over the decades, Keene's feelings about being asked if he can really read Japanese have softened from annoyance to disappointment. Seidensticker's reactions to being asked if he liked "Japanese sushi" mellowed from sarcastic mischief to mirthful cynicism. Keene, ever humble about his efforts, is a better cop than he thinks, and Seidensticker was never as bad as he tried to be.

Keene has been more insistent that Japan is his country as much, if not more, than the United States, and that Japanese is not a foreign language for him. Seidensticker loved Japan no less but found more to complain about in the human condition generally. He had fewer inhibitions about baring his neuroses and exhibiting his fetishes. Keene, more selective and sparing, in *On Familiar Terms*, declares simply, "I am not making a confession" (p. 283).

In a Hundred Years

Edward Seidensticker knew where he stood in the pecking order of aliens honored by Japan for their service as volunteer or conscript "shock absorbers" between Japan and the outside world—buffers or ambassadors of mutual understanding, promoters of international goodwill and friendship. In *Tokyo Central*, he puts it plainly: "In 1975 I received the Order of the Rising Sun. It was only a Third Class decoration. Donald Keene had received the same Third Class decoration some time earlier. His was later raised to Second Class. First Class is reserved for people like Reischauer. I have never been raised from Third Class." (pp. 228–229)

Seidensticker was dogged by Keene's greater fame and popularity in Japan. He wrote *Tokyo Central* while consulting and citing Keene's *On Familiar Terms*. But Keene appears not to have returned the favor in *Chronicles of My Life* (Columbia University Press, 2008).

The different sensitivities of the two translator-scholars are clear from their autobiographies. In *On Familiar Terms* Keene gives several pages to his friendship with Yoshida Ken'ichi (1912–1977), who is standing or sitting next to him in two photographs. In *Tokyo Central*, Seidensticker introduces Yoshida as the literary critic son of Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru, then dismisses him as "a friend who turned out not to be" and explains why: "One evening, for no reason that I could detect, he said substantially this: 'There is a kind of American who is the most urbane, witty, and generally charming person in the world; but you are not it'" (pp. 148–49). Anticipating Yoshida's response, yet curious to see if he would get an "honest answer," Seidensticker says he asked who the American might be, but all he got was a "tense, high-pitched laugh *[denotes extreme, and unexpected, embarrassment – Woody Pitts]*."

Before his achievement of publishing the first complete English translation of *The Tale of Genji*, Seidensticker worried about both the extent and longevity of his fame.

"A gentleman from the Liberal Democratic Party with whom I had a conversation in the Suehiro knew the names of certain of my colleagues, but did not recognize mine when I informed him of it. It is not fun to have what small store of note one has accumulated dissipate itself so quickly. But I suppose it is some comfort to think that in a hundred years most of us will be forgotten. "It is a terrible thing, to seek to be remembered a hundred years," Mr. Kawabata once remarked. In a thousand years not a half dozen people now alive will be remembered. Assuming, of course that there is anyone to remember. Or is it a comfort?" (Diary entry for Monday, 31 May 1971; Genji Days, Kodansha International, 1977, p. 59)

If Remembered At All

Like Keene and many others, Seidensticker had trained as a language officer in preparation for service in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, in 1947, he completed a master's degree in politics at Columbia. After passing the Foreign Service exam, he spent some time at Yale and Harvard, grooming himself for a State Department assignment as a language officer in Tokyo, where he worked in the Economic Section of GHQ/SCAP and then in the consulate until 1950.

Seidensticker learned that Edwin O. Reischauer (1910–1990), who had been one of his professors, "had not given 'the Department' a glowing report on my year at Harvard" (Tokyo Central, p. 44). Decades later he observed of Reischauer: "I liked him, but was by no means sure that I liked his performance as ambassador . . . [and] could not honestly share his views about Japan" (p. 177). He remarks how Reischauer was "sanctified by the Japanese" and his house in Boston "turned into a shrine to which busloads of Japanese pilgrims are taken" (p. 177). A four-page critique of Reischauer's ambassadorship (1961–1966) is interspersed with comments recorded in his diary entries at the time from friends at the U.S. embassy in Tokyo. (to be cont'd)

Originally published in the SWET Newsletter, *No. 121 (November 2008), pp. 12–23 Society of Writers, Editors & Translators, based in Tokyo, Japan.*