

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 197

★ 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.

Reprise on Aloysius M. Soden

Dear Mr. Moss:

This is Ryuji Motoyama from Cosmo Space of America, Japanese television production company. I'm referred to you by David Hays, Archivist at University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries, and I'm writing in regards to Bro. Aloysius Soden who served as a Navy interpreter at the surrender of Truk.

Currently [2011], we are doing research and trying to produce a TV documentary on Bro. Soden for Japanese TV. The purpose of the program is to introduce work and life of Aloysius Soden as a missionary and a Navy interpreter to our audience in Japan.

Therefore, I'm contacting you to see if you can share your memories on Bro. Soden or if you remember close friends of him I should contact to get their memories on Bro. Soden.

At this moment, we don't have anything to continue our research, so any information is

welcome because it can possibly lead to many things.



Carl Nelson, Aloysius Soden, b&w, 8x10 [Detail] Pineau, 10_06a_05_10.

If you have any questions about our research or our program, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you very much for your help and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ryuji Motoyama
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Tel: 646-370-3864
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Dear Motoyama-san,

It was a pleasure to receive your email inquiring about Bro. Aloysius Soden and to meet you in this way, via the Internet. My apologies for not responding sooner, but for the past two weeks I have been away from Ecuador, which is where I normally live. Rather, your message has found me in Paraguay, and since my wife and I are presently in the interior, in a very rural area some five hours from Asunción, the capital, I have had a series of difficulties in connecting with the Internet.

Trying to bring forth from the depths of my memory, 70 years later, what little I might still

recollect of Bro. Soden, is a challenge! Unfortunately, it is not much. I have contacted David Hays to know what he has already sent to you [*The photo, Issue #104A and #136, contacts with likely JLS/OLSers and some correspondence from the Hudson Collection*], and I'm afraid there is very little I can add to what you must already know. For a good while, Bro. Soden and I were in the same small class that entered the U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School (JLS) at the University of Colorado in early October of 1942, and graduated 14 months later, in late November or early December of 1943. I do not recall just how many there were in that small group, but whatever the total number was, we were subdivided into still smaller units of, say, five to seven students, for more intense training in conversation, reading and writing kanji, etc. Bro. Soden and I were together, at least for a while, in one of those smaller groups, and I remember him as a very serious, intensely concentrated, studious and highly dedicated person, always friendly but rather reserved.

After completing our 14 months of intense study at the JLS, we were all sent off in different directions, and I completely lost track of Bro. Soden. He stayed in the Navy, while a number of us transferred to the Marine Corps. We received our initial Marine Corps training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, after which we went to Camp Pendleton in Southern California, then to the Big Island of Hawaii where our base camp in the Pacific was located, and from there to Iwo Jima and, subsequently, to the occupation in Japan, where we were assigned to Sasebo. Bro. Soden and I went in totally different directions and, really, it was only in David Hays's JLS newsletters that I learned that he had been involved in the Truk operation.

You may want to write to a

close friend of mine in Seattle, Richard S. White, to learn what he may remember of Bro. Soden, for as I recall the three of us were in the same small group, although my memory may be playing tricks on me! In any case, I am attaching, for that purpose and in business card format, Rich White's coordinates.

I would be most interested in seeing your documentary once it is completed. Please let me know should it become publicly available in CD format. And should your travels ever bring you to Ecuador, please contact me. I would enjoy meeting and conversing with you. For some 28 years I was the honorary consul general of Japan in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Moss, JLS 1943

richard.moss@cobiscorp.com

Elsie Fletcher Caldwell BIK, WAVE, JLS 1944

Elsie Fletcher Caldwell, who died on Monday, May 30, 2011, was born of missionary parents in Taegu, Korea, May 2, 1916. She graduated high school in 1934 from Pyong Yang Foreign School, Pyong Yang, North Korea. She was a 1938 graduate of Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA and received her master's degree in religious education from New York University in 1941. She worked for the New York City Mission from 1939-1941 and taught at Montreat College in North Carolina from 1941-1942.

Mrs. Caldwell served her country honorably as a Lt. (j.g.), intelligence officer in the United States Navy from 1943 - 1946. She attended the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado, after which, she translated captured Japanese documents. In Korea, Mrs. Caldwell was a Cultural Officer with the United States Army and the United States State Department from 1946-1950.

In 1949, she married John C. Caldwell in Korea, and they evacuated Korea together in 1950 and settled in Nashville, TN in 1951. She assisted her husband with writing his many travel related books, and conducting his tours to the Orient and around the world. Mrs. Caldwell operated the Golden Dragon Import Shop from 1964 - 1968, and then founded Caldwell Travel with her son Billy and daughter Betsie in 1977.

She retired from Caldwell Travel in 2002, but remained Chairman of the Board. Her husband, John C. Caldwell died in 1984. Mrs. Caldwell is survived by three children, David Caldwell of Raleigh, NC, William Caldwell of Nashville, TN, Elizabeth Richards of Mobile, AL and two step children, John Caldwell, Jr. of Nashville, TN and Kendall Morris of Barnesville, GA; one brother, Dr. Donald Fletcher of New Jersey; five grandchildren, six step grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and six step great-grandchildren.

The Tennessean
June 1, 2011

Reprise on Ari Inouye

Dear Dave:

Beloved Sensei Ari Inouye passed away on August 3rd [2011]. My wife, BaoMei, and I drove yesterday [September 25, 2011] to Roseville (near Sacramento) to attend the Memorial Service.

Enclosed is a copy of the service program and a message I have sent to Ari's widow, Ida. She especially wanted to be sure the program went to you.

I am launched on a project of writing an autobiography. I shall be sending you a *copy* and many documents relating to my Japanese language training and wartime and postwar service.

Robert B. Sheeks
JLS 1943

Dear Ida:

Your Memorial Service for Ari was so very beautiful. Thinking about it brings tears again.

BaoMei and I were overwhelmed with admiration for all the Inouye family members, of several generations, who spoke and sang in honor of Ari.

Previously, I had in mind a personal experience eulogy. After hearing the moving thought of so many others who cherished memories of Ari, I felt my words inadequate to convey Ari's enlightening influence that elevated my mind and life.

Ten years before we met, I was in Shanghai in 1932 during Japan's attack on that city of my birth, leaving me with bitter childhood memories that worsened after Pearl Harbor.

At Berkeley and Boulder, the childish burden of hostility toward Japanese influences not only was lifted from me, but I became a great admirer of Japan's culture, and many aspects of Japanese traditional values and character. This was due largely to Ari's inspiring character and teaching, and also that of his faculty colleagues, such as Ashikaga Ensho (who besides language also taught me calligraphy)....

After the Navy language school training, I served through all of WWII in the Marine Corps in Pacific island campaigns where, thank God, I was able to help save lives of enemy soldiers and civilians who in my view were all refugees and victims of war.

After the Memorial Service began, upon reflection, I had a growing reservation about bringing up wartime memories, and felt quite relieved and pleased just to listen to the loving eulogies by family members.

Recently, with friends from Toronto, BaoMei and I revisited U.C. Berkeley campus to enjoy the landscape artistry and magnificent trees which are the legacy of Ari's artistry and professional work that continues to delight many people every day....

Robert B. Sheeks
JLS 1943

[Ed Note: The above is reminiscent of a story about D. T. Suzuki, who was invited to speak on the "sublime" at an English university. As he took the dais, he admitted to an anticipatory crowd that he knew little of the "sublime" and spoke of his

garden, instead. Surely, Inouye Sensei's contributions to peace through the works of his students are comparable to the lasting gardens of the Berkeley grounds.]

Daniel S. & Adela L. Busch

Daniel S. Busch died in Brookline, Massachusetts, on November 23, 2005. Beloved husband of Adela (Leffler) for 65 years. Loving father of Michael D. Busch, Betsy Busch M.D., Margaret R. Schindel, grandfather of Benjamin D.J. Szlyk, brother of Martin Busch.

Daniel Busch attended the Community College of New York; graduating in 1940. He was assigned to the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado from 1942 to 1943. As a Navy Japanese Language Officer, he was assigned to JICPOA at Pearl Harbor. There he performed interrogation duties at the POW camp. In 1944 he was attached to a Marine Division during the Marianas Campaign and returned with Japanese POWs to Oahu. After the War's end, he assisted in translation chores during the surrender of Truk and was later assigned to a Marine Division located at Sasebo.



Daniel Busch, John Decker, Dan Williams, and Paul Hauck at Main Div. 3 HQ, 1944, b&w, 8x10, Pineau, 10_06a_4_3.

New York Times
November 28, 2005
& David M. Hays
Editor & Archivist

Adela L. Busch died in Brookline, Massachusetts on November 9, 2007. She was the beloved wife for 65 years of the late Daniel S. Busch. She was also the loving mother of

Michael D. Busch and his wife Janet B. Busch, Betsy Busch, M.D. and her husband John J. Szlyk, M.D., Margaret R. Schindel and her husband John R. Lally. She was the adoring grandmother of Benjamin D. Szlyk and loving sister of Aurelia L. Loveman and devoted sister in law of Selma S. Busch. Adela was the caring aunt of Jonathan Levi, M.D., Andrea Howard and William Busch. Addie was a nationally acclaimed embroidery teacher and passionate Red Sox fan. She has left us to go dancing with Dan forever.

Written by Family

[Ed. Note: I apologize for the lateness and brevity of this obituary. I think I was awaiting a longer obituary and never received one. I did find some information on Daniel Busch in previous Interpreter issues. The photograph was used in one of our 2002 USN JLS/OLS 60th Reunion Exhibits. We had a lively conversation with Addie Busch between 2000 and 2004. She provided a JLS spouse's view of the Boulder experience.]

Victor K. Schuster Captain, USNR OLS Stillwater

Victor K. Schuster, 89, died on September 23, 2008. He and his wife Hendrika Schuster moved to Abingdon, Virginia, in 1982 following his retirement from Reynolds Metals Co., Richmond, where he was a group personnel director and responsible for personnel administration for three divisions of the company. His career with Reynolds spanned 27 years.

A graduate of Northwestern University, Chicago, he served in World War II and was recalled to active duty during the Korean conflict as a member of the teaching staff at the Naval Intelligence School in Washington D.C. With his service in two wartime conflicts and his years in the Naval Reserve, Vic Schuster retired from the Navy with the rank of captain after 35 years of military service.

His retirement years in Abingdon kept him busy in community volunteer activities. He served on the personnel committee of Abingdon

Presbytery for seven years. He was director of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce for 2 years. He chaired the County committee for State Business Community qualification, which was successfully achieved in Sept. 1990.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Hendrika Van Beekum Schuster; daughters, Donna Schuster Mead and son-in-law Patrick Mead of Powhatan, Virginia, and Marcia Schuster Douglas of Charleston, S.C.; and son, Kent Schuster and daughter-in-law Melody Rice Schuster of Midlothian, Virginia. The Schusters have nine grandchildren and Victor was astonished to have "founded a dynasty" of 16 great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at the State Veteran's Cemetery in Amelia, Virginia, on Sept. 29, 2008.

Bristol Herald Courier
September 28, 2008

WILLIAM ALVAH JONES JLS 1944



**Boulder, Spring 1944,
William A. Jones (Detail of Image),
Pineau_31_02_00_22j**

William Alvah Jones born in Woodford, SC on March 31, 1918, youngest son of Ira Joseph Jons and Agnes Lucille Jones, died April 4, 2011 in Roswell, GA.

He is survived by one son William Crawford Jones; daughter-in-law Kathryn Hinner Jones; granddaughter Virginia Jones Reagan and her husband

Jeremy Matthew Reagan, all of Roswell, GA. Mr. Jones is also survived by a grandson Ian William Jones, his wife Felicia Corbett Jones and two great-grandchildren, Grady Turner Jones and Callie Ann Jones, all of West Islip, NY. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Louise Crawford Jones in 1998.

Mr. Jones graduated in 1938 from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, magnum cum laude with a B.A. major in German and minor in French. He later attended the National University of Mexico in Mexico City for a degree in Spanish and also graduated with a M.A. in German from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN in 1941. He served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater as a Japanese Language Officer and Intelligence Officer with the rank of Ensign and later as a Lieutenant, J.G., from March 1943 to June 1945. He was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

He taught German, French, and Spanish for ten years at Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, TN; Biltmore College, Asheville, NC; Converse College, Spartanburg, SC; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; and The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

He retired in 1980 following a long career of thirty-three years as a civilian administrator at the United States Department of Defense mostly as an executive with The National Security Agency, Ft. Meade, Maryland.

He lived in Silver Spring, MD until 2004 when he moved to the Atlanta, GA area to be near his family.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
April 8, 2011

Reprise on Sam King

Sam King was the commander of our military presence at the school, and a hero for many of us. I was in his wedding, holding a raised sword together with a dozen or so other swords creating "an arbor" for him and his bride as they exited the church.

Don Knode



**Pineau 11_02_00_10, Guam, 1944:
CPL Dunbar, SSG Anderson, PFC
Hanson, LT j.g. Oliver, LT j.g.
William G. Jones, CPT Sandagger**

CAL DUNBAR ON GUAM

Thanks for the very beautiful and interesting season's greetings card. The photo really surprised me. I think it was taken in the late fall of 1944 at Guam. The reason I date this in 1944 rather than in 1945 is that Hansen left G2 Guam to go with the 3MarDiv language section to Iwo Jima in late January or early February of 1945. D Day Iwo Jima was 19-February 1945. So this photo must have been taken in late 1944. The people are, L to R, Pfc Cal Dunbar, S Sgt Marvin Anderson, Pfc LeRoy Hansen, Lt. jg John Oliver, Lt. jg William Jones. The far right person is Capt. Sandagger of the Marine unit from the 9th AAA which was the prison guard force for several months until relieved by a permanent army MP outfit.

Hansen and I had just arrived on Guam, 16 Sept. 1944 with replacements for 3MarDiv after having been held at Eniwetok in the Marshalls for over a month because the Marianas Campaign ran late. This photo is of the G2 language section which was thrown together. Jones and Oliver came from JICPOA at Pearl Harbor. Anderson came from the Ninth Marines, 3MarDiv. Hansen and I came from Camp Pendleton to Hawaii on the USS Helena, then via Pearl Harbor on the SS Sloterdijk. The Island Command Guam personnel had left Pearl Harbor with the invasion forces for the Marianas Campaign prior to our arrival in Hawaii. Hence we were with the replacements for 3MarDiv that came on the Sloterdijk later in a much-belated trip with the holdup in the Marshalls til Guam was secured.

Although declared secure 10 August 1944, we continued to take prisoners out of the boondocks until I left for home in January 1946, and even then we did not get them all. I think I supplied this photo to Pineau along with the other material I sent him for his archive file. It all brings back long memories. Whatever happened to Sandagger, I do not know. I never saw him after about 2-45. Of course, Anderson, Hansen and Oliver are confirmed dead. Jones is unknown.

Glad to hear *The Interpreter* is all set and it is very nice enjoyable reading. I even know a few of the JLS Boulder people mentioned over the years. I guess none of your students came through Yellowstone last summer as we had no contact. Have a good holiday season. I look forward to your contacts.

Cal Dunbar
USMCEL 1943-1945

Reprise on Ferris Miller

There were a number of us, graduates of the Boulder Japanese language school, in Okinawa shortly after an assignment in NYC, and Ferris Miller was one. On a sweltering hot day when we had little or nothing to do, it was decided that we should spark things up a bit by visiting a four story cave not too long before occupied by Japanese soldiers. It was agreed before choosing partners and entering, that at a certain time of day (say, 4:00 pm) we would reassemble outside the cave to count noses. This we did. Only one of us was missing - Ferris Miller. Thereupon, those not too exhausted by their earlier exercise, volunteered to reenter the cave to search for Ferris. As you can imagine our imaginations ran high -- killed

by a Japanese soldier or by a Japanese hand grenade, trapped by a cave-in, immobilized by a heart attack, lost after wandering into an unknown part of the cave?... Fortunately, after an hour's search, there was a happy ending. He was found in the deepest section of the cave, seated with a flashlight propped over his shoulder reading a Japanese army manual he had found.

Best regards
Don Knode
JLS 1944



Travers E. Durkee
JLS 1944

Travers E. Durkee passed away unexpectedly but peacefully last Saturday, January 15th, 2011 at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz. He was 88 years old.

Travers Edgar Durkee more lovingly known as Ted was born in Chico, Ca on November 14th, 1922. He was the youngest son of Frank B. and Wanda Durkee also of Chico, Ca. He spent his childhood growing up in Sacramento. Ted graduated from C. K. McClatchy High School in 1939. Ted then attended Stanford University where he earned his PhD in History. 1942 was a significant year for Ted when he met the love of his life Patricia Seiner at Stanford. The two were later married on July 13th, 1943. Also during this time, Ted joined the war effort as a Naval Intelligence Japanese Language Officer.

After the war he started his civil service career in

Sacramento and then moved to Los Angeles County. After working 18 years in LA County, Ted accepted the position of Chief Administrator Officer for Santa Cruz County in 1973. Ted retired after 25 years of public service in 1977. In 1980, Pat and Ted opened the now legendary Seafood Mama's restaurant in Capitola.

Ted dedicated his time towards being a wonderful community volunteer for so many great organizations. Some of his efforts included being on the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Historical Trust and the Santa Cruz Sutter Health Hospital planning committee. He was instrumental in getting both the Museum of Art and History and Sutter Hospital opened. He was very influential while serving on the county Planning Commission. Ted was a board member of Janus of Santa Cruz, where he also volunteered many hours counseling patients about drugs and alcohol. Ted was a Hospice Caring project volunteer as well as supporting Land Trust and Planned Parenthood in its many endeavors. His final act of volunteerism was caring for his beautiful wife Pat who has Alzheimer's.

Ted enjoyed 26 years of 'happy sobriety' and was very proud of that accomplishment! No dedication of Ted would be complete without mentioning his love for Big Band and Jazz music. One of his favorite things to do was listen to Jazz at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center in Downtown Santa Cruz. Ted is survived by his loving wife Pat of 67 years and their three children: Toby Durkee of Forestville, Tim Durkee of South San Francisco and Leslie Greathouse of Santa Cruz. Ted's daughter Kit Durkee preceded him in death in 1994. Ted has eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who he loved dearly. Donations in his memory can be made to the Santa Cruz Hospice Caring Project, Hospice of Santa Cruz County 940 Disc Drive Scotts Valley, CA 95066.

Santa Cruz Sentinel
January 23, 2011

ONE MARINE'S WAR: A COMBAT INTERPRETER'S QUEST FOR HUMANITY IN THE PACIFIC

BY GERALD A. MEEHL

An unusual account of a young American in combat in the Pacific during World War II, this book describes the experiences of a Marine language officer who was decorated for saving enemy lives, not taking them. Author Gerald Meehl recounts how Robert Sheeks overcame his initial bitter hatred of the Japanese, formed after seeing first-hand the brutal actions perpetrated by the Japanese military against Chinese civilians in Shanghai years before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Meehl traces Sheeks' extraordinary humanitarian quest to prevent the needless deaths of Japanese soldiers and civilians while serving as a combat interpreter during the intense fighting on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

When his studies at Harvard were interrupted following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Sheeks was recruited and trained as a Japanese-language interpreter. During intense training at the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School, first at the University of California, Berkeley, and then at the University of Colorado, Boulder, he was deeply impressed by the kindness of his dedicated and cultured Japanese American instructors. He began to reconsider his negative attitudes toward those he had so long despised. Later, during combat on Tarawa in 1943 while serving in the 2nd Marine Division, he became frustrated by the virtual impossibility of communicating with the defending Japanese troops. Deep inside fortified bunkers, attempts to persuade them to surrender were hopeless, since they could not hear voices calling above the din of battle. Following the fighting on Tarawa, Sheeks combined multiple means of communication ranging from voice-amplifying equipment to air-dropped leaflets in an attempt to persuade enemy soldiers and civilians to surrender rather than fight to the death or take their own lives. Ultimately, Sheeks was awarded the Bronze Star, winning the respect of his peers and countless Japanese for his successful efforts that resulted in the surrender of large numbers of enemy civilians and troops during the savage battles on Saipan and Tinian in 1944.

Gerald A. Meehl is the coauthor of *Pacific Legacy*, *Pacific War Stories* and *Fast Boats and Fast Times*. He has written more than 200 articles on scientific and historical subjects, has traveled extensively throughout the Pacific during the last

four decades, and has photographed every major Pacific island battlefield as well as many other locations related to World War II in the Pacific. His photographs have been published in numerous journals and periodicals. He received his PhD from the University of Colorado, and he was on the science team of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Advance Praise for *One Marine's War*:

"Gerald Meehl has written an insightful and honest account of a Marine interpreter's participation in the drama and horror of the Pacific War. The personal history of Robert Sheeks unfolds with vivid detail of a young boy's war experience in the 1930s in Shanghai, to the carnage on the battlefields on Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. . . . *One Marine's War* is that incredible example of a soldier's realization of life-affirming humanity in the midst of the brutality of the Pacific War."

—DANIEL A. MARTINEZ,

Pacific War historian and author

"This is the remarkable story of a decorated U.S. Marine who in World War II helped the Japanese to surrender instead of fighting to the death on Pacific island battlegrounds. Author Gerald Meehl reveals how one Marine's deep hatred for the Japanese transformed to compassion and humane saving of their lives. Bob Sheeks and I both served in the 2nd Marine Division at Tarawa as combat intelligence and language officers. Meehl's book provides unique and fascinating perspectives that are new to me."

—COL. HARRY D. PRATT,
USMC (RET.)

"I first met Marine veteran Maj. Robert Sheeks on Saipan in 1994 during a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of U.S. liberation of the Mariana Islands from Japanese colonialism. Bob had served as combat interpreter and intelligence officer in the battles for Saipan and Tinian. Many in the assembled audience of Saipanese were young children in World War II whose lives and those of their parents had been saved by U.S. Marines, leaving a legacy in the hearts of the peoples of the Northern Marianas, now a self-governing U.S. Commonwealth. In *One Marine's War* author Gerald Meehl reveals a remarkable story worthy of remembrance."

—AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN
WILLIAMS, Negotiator

**Micronesia Marianas Future
Political Status, Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense—Eisenhower
and Kennedy Administrations,
WWII Veteran Pacific, USN**

<http://www.usni.org/store/books/catalog-spring-2012/one-marines-war>