

The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project
The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

July 15, 2003

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.

Taking a chance:

A journey to Boulder

I was a sophomore at Yale at lunch in Berkeley College dining hall when I saw a Navy officer of some rank—I didn't know the meaning of the insignia then. I asked one of the fellows at my table what the Navy officer was doing at Berkeley. I was told he was recruiting for Navy intelligence. Having recently flunked the physical (eyes) to become a Navy flyer and still being anxious to get into the Navy, after lunch I sought him out.

When I approached the room he was using, the door was open and the Navy officer, Lt. Comdr. Hindmarsh, was engaged in conversation in Japanese with another student. (It was Ken Lamott, who later was a classmate.) At any rate, I soon gathered that the officer wasn't looking for someone like me and I got up to leave. "Just a minute, young fellow, where are you going?" I responded that I had misunderstood his mission. He told me to wait and then when

Ken left, he had me in for a talk. After I made it clear I had no experience in Japanese or Japan, and after he had questioned me further, Hindmarsh said, "I'll take a chance on you, if you take a chance on me." He told me that if I flunked out, I'd be an enlisted man in the Navy. I enlisted a paper and left Yale on Armistice Day, 1942.

At home, waiting to be called to duty, I received a letter saying my contract was canceled and that I was to go to the nearest Naval recruiting station and enlist—and the Navy would find me. I soon went to Great Lakes with a trainload of recruits. Lined up on an assembly hall, my name was called out and I was processed. That's how I ended up in Boulder in January, 1943.

Daniel Karasik
JLS 1944

**Display for
Ernest Beath,
JLS 1943**

With the help and assistance of Captain George McGinnis, USN (Ret), in April 2002, a very generous gift of "personal treasures" from Mrs. Eleanor Beath, wife of Lieutenant Ernest B. Beath, UNNR were donated to the Wenger Command Display. Lieutenant Beath was a Japanese language officer who participated in many Pacific Fleet Battles during WWII.

The treasures donated, that are presently on display are: A compact disc made of aluminum, recording a special message home by Lieutenant Beath. Recorded at 78 RPM; picture of a Japanese Prisoner picked up off of Iwo Jima, Japan in 1944; picture of a Prisoner of War shot down over Saipan, Mariana Island; picture of a prisoner of war property recovered from a down Betty bomber. Included was a picture of His Majesty Hirohito. A picture of Lieutenant Beath intercepted, recorded, translated and typed out the Emperor of Japan's "surrender message" "Finally, a canceled air mail (six cents) letter written to

his wife, postmarked "USS Missouri, 2 September 1945, Tokyo Bay".

The Command Display gratefully acknowledged these historical items.

Bill Lockhary
Cryptolog

Life After JLS

I was not recruited for Boulder by Cmdr. Hindmarsh, but by Capt. Zacharias, then Navy Chief of Intelligence, who had learned of my previous civilian Intelligence work. Zacharias sent for Hindmarsh, ordered him to sign me up, Hindmarsh was dismissed, and then had a brief discussion about my future Navy work.

Once having graduated from Boulder and ordered overseas, I had three different tours of duty, each of some length. The first was at ATIS where I served under Royal Navy Comdr. Lionel Hopkinson. At one point, while working with two Nisei sergeants on a captured booklet detailing the methods used for insertion of Japanese spies within the Soviet Union, I was suddenly confined to the ATIS compound until the arrival of a body-guard in the form of Chief Beals, a former Navy boxer, my office was posted "Off limits to all but authorized personnel", and the spy material classified "top secret". Subsequently Beals and I were detailed to "secure" General MacArthur's classified files aboard a freighter for transport to Manila. This duty lasted several days.

During the Japanese Occupation, I was attached to the 126 Infantry Regiment which occupied Kokura, the neighboring cities and the surrounding Kyushu countryside. This duty lasted several months, and I did no translating or interpreting since the regiment had a sergeant who spoke excellent Japanese. Instead I did pure Intelligence work, often with the Mayor of Kokura, a retired General with whom I had

conferred frequently prior to the Regiment's arrival.

I then joined the NERUS as ship's company. The NERUS, a subtender, was charged with the maintenance of the surrendered Japanese subs in operative condition until the Allies decide what to do with them. They were nested in Sasebo Harbor and I was ordered to see to the coherence and morale of the crews. I visited them daily; their skippers all spoke English. In late April 1946 we were ordered to blow up the subs off Nagasaki. I called the final roll, the crews were debarked and I then left each submarine with the NERUS demolition officer who had already lit the fuse of his explosive device. This operation was called ROAD'S END and I received a Commendation for my work plus a fitness report that my boss said was the highest he had ever given in his navy career. My final interview with Captain Follmer of the NERUS entailed a discussion of what to do with the bow watch who had shot and very slightly wounded me while on duty. Confined to the brig he insisted it was accidental. It was decided to avoid a General Court.

Although I never did any real interpreting or translation while overseas, I can say that Boulder was of enormous value in my work. By learning the language I came to understand the Japanese thought process and absorbed Japanese culture from the Sensei. Also, I made some lifelong friends including Sam King who, with his wife, often visits me in Washington. I must admit, however, that my spoken Japanese was a source of mirth to some of the submarine enlisted men. They described it, rather shrewdly I thought, as "missionary style". This had a certain ribald connotation. To the Oriental, before World War II, a sexual congress "missionary style", our customary manner, was a source of awe and amusement.

S. Paul Kramer
JLS 1944

Foley, Arthur W. "Mike"

Age 82. On January 16, 2003. He was born in Lewistown, MT. He served in the USNR after completing a lengthy course at the Japanese Language School, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Employed at National Security Agency and its predecessors. Retired in 1978; wintered in Florida until 2000 when he became a year-round resident. Participated in several choruses and choirs for many years. Survived by wife, Inez; stepson, Walter D. Foley; daughters Kathleen Leddy and

Jennifer Round and granddaughter, Maureen Leddy. Ceremonies were held at Arlington Cemetery on April 16, 2003. Family and friends gathered at the Fort Myers Officers' Club after the service.

Inez Foley

16 April 2003 Arlington National Cemetery

Mike's family and friends met at the Administration Building where we were told that there would be full military honors. First, there was a horse drawn caisson. The family was invited to walk behind the caisson for

nearly a mile. Accompanying us but at a little distance was a 30-piece Navy band which played "Onward Christian Soldiers."

When we reached the columbarium for the service the band stationed itself on a slope across from us and played the Navy Hymn. This was followed by the three rifle volleys and Taps. Then the Navy Chaplain spoke a few words, read a Psalm and gave a prayer after which the band played "America the Beautiful."

Then we turned toward the wall of niches for the actual interment.

Afterward we went to the

Officers Club at nearby Fort Meyer for refreshments. Because of new security regulations we were turned away by an armed guard and told to go to the other entrance on the other side of the post. When we arrived at the gate everyone had to get out of their cars — all doors left open for inspection. The inspection included opening the hood and the trunk and looking under the car with a long mirror. Eventually everyone was fed and rested.

Inez Foley

[Ed. Note: Present ARMS! Order ARMS! Or translated to civilian, we salute him. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Foley for providing this information.]

Rachael Williams Passes Away at 88

Rachael M. Williams, widow of COL Thomas E. Williams USMC, died in Denver April 17 of diabetes complications. Born April 13, 1915, in Englewood, Colorado to Stella and Joe Henry, Rachael spent an enviable childhood on her father's cattle ranches in Wyoming and an adult life traveling the globe with her husband and children. COL Williams' career in intelligence spanned World War II, with the Sixth Marine Division in

Okinawa and China and key events in the Cold War from postings with CIA and NATO in England, Italy and Germany, and the Atlantic Command Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Rachael, an avid reader of history, was an apt partner for her husband in such historic times.

Rachael studied history at Colorado Women's College and gained practical business skills at Barnes Business College. She won a scholarship for piano artistry, especially for her interpretations of Chopin's work. She was an avid trout fisherwoman and nature lover.

The Williams are survived by their daughter, Dorothy W. Dowdy of Fairfax Station, Virginia, their son Dr. Thomas E. Williams, Jr. of Deming, Washington, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Anyone wishing to honor Rachael may do so by making a contribution to the American Diabetes Association.

*Dorothy W. Dowdy
7709 Manor House Dr.
Fairfax Station, VA 22039*

[Ed. Note: Glenn Nelson and Glen Slaughter served in the 6th Marine Division under COL Williams. Ms. Dowdy and Dr. Williams donated their father's papers.]

New Collections

The following are further collections held or recently received by the Archives:

- Thomas E. Williams (add.)
- J.G. Otagiri
- Donald Keene (add.)
- Holtom Family

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Griffith Way