

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 68

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

October 1, 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.

Grotto Reprise

David,

The *Interpreter's* recent mention of the Grotto and its demise prompted me to open my file of *Sono Hi No Uwasa* to Volume 1, Number 3 (Sept. 17, 1942). As you know, this was the student newspaper founded by our class in 1942. On the front page is this blessedly anonymous verse, exactly as printed:

Twinkle twinkle little Grotto
 Tho as a joint you weren't so hotto
 Still, while you in ashes smoulder,
 desolate indeed is Boulder.
 Do you now serve the angels beer,
 just like us stewpots living here?
 Or do you with quivering trepidation
 endure some Hellish Prohibition?
 At any rate

Thy fiery fate
 Leaves my life
 Quite desolate.

Bill Amos
 JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Bill Amos is going to send us little quips from *Sono Hi No Uwasa* every now and then, so I am thinking about a column, named *Sono Hi No Uwasa Quips*]

Bastille Bastards 1942 Reprise

To: *The Interpreter*,
 Glen Slaughter, JLS 1943
 From: Katherine Holtom
 Jones, Ph.D., Niece of
 Danny Holtom
 (Daniel Clarence
 Holtom, Jr.) and
 Gerald Price Holtom,
 2nd Marine Raiders
 (Killed Makin Island,
 August 17, 1942,
 buried with full
 military honors,
 Arlington National
 Cemetery, August 17,
 2001)

Dear Glen Slaughter and the *Interpreter* readers: It was quite a surprise to open the *Interpreter* and see the names of my Uncle Dan and Uncle Gerald. In the photograph of the Bastille Bastards 1942, I believe Uncle Dan is on the right hand side. I actually found a photograph of the snowman of CDR Hindmarsh (I will try to locate it). Uncle Dan was killed in an automobile accident in 1950. I guess we all knew he was a little wild! He and his younger brother, John served in the Navy and went out on submarines from San Diego to question Japanese POWs.

As for Uncle Gerald (CPT Gerald Price Holtom), its wonderful to learn that Glen Slaughter and "Nabe" Pierce were his replacements in the famous Raider Battalion. Uncle Gerald was killed in action on August 17, 1942 on Makin Island. He and 18 other Marines were buried there. However, one surviving Marine spent the next 59 years campaigning for the Marines to bring back their fallen comrades. They finally located the Marines' remains in 1999 [see the *Interpreter* issue #s14 and 16]. They were brought back to Hawaii for identification. They found Uncle Gerald's dogtags immediately. He was identified based on both dental records and DNA from my dad. On August 17, 2001, most of the

19 fallen Marines were buried at Arlington Cemetery with full honors. Sixteen Holtoms and Prices attended the ceremonies. My younger son, Leonard L. Jones, second from the left, looks like Dan Holtom, even in his interests, but isn't so wild. Dan worked on films at UCLA, Lenny puts sound tracks on movies in Hollywood.

As for Gerald Holtom, he was in Honolulu on December 7, 1941 [with the *USMC JLS*]. As my dad put it: "He hitched a ride to Pearl Harbor," and was putting out fires as the Japanese were dropping their bombs. In his final letter home, he wrote that he could "hardly wait" until he got home so Dan and John could salute him! We will salute him ever more – AND, we salute Glen Slaughter and "Nabe" Pierce [Passed away last year] for stepping in his shoes in the Second Raiders.

Best Wishes

Katherine Holtom Jones, Ph.D.
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 The Woodlands, TX 77381-6619

The Author was aboard DD 997 US Hayler, as a Navy Research Physicist during the Gulf War.

[Ed. Note: We sent her the early issues that featured the Holtoms and a letter from Jack "Watanabe" Pierce. We thank Ms. Katherine Holtom Jones for her great letter.]

Keene at JICPOA

I am sending you some of my official papers as a naval officer. They are extremely boring, but perhaps they may be of use if anyone is interested in tracking where language officers went. I am also sending a photograph taken in 1943 or 1944 in Hawaii. The three people in the picture (Keene, de Bary and Cary) were all Boulder graduates in January 1943. We were stationed in Hawaii and lived in the same house on Kamehameha Avenue, but worked in different places. Otis Cary was officially at JICPOA (Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Operating Area), but spent most of his time at prisoner of war camps. Ted de Bary was at the District

Intelligence Office in Honolulu. I was at the Annex, a supposedly secret office on Kapiolani Boulevard in Honolulu, where Navy and Army personnel translated captured documents. I think that the office was situated in Honolulu rather than at Pearl Harbor because the Navy was very reluctant to admit Japanese-Americans into the navy yard, even if they were in military uniform. The office specialized in translating handwritten documents, and for this reason it was believed that the nisei interpreters would be better at deciphering handwriting than naval officers.

The Boulder graduates who worked at this office were Sam Brock, Richard Beardsley, Charles Hamilton and myself. I enclose a poem written by Charles Hamilton, known by his Chinese name Ch'a-êrh, to me, known by my Korean name T'ang-nap. The references are all to our life in Honolulu in 1943-1945. Tanaka was a nisei who, because he didn't know any Japanese, was made the chauffer. M's Coffee Tavern was the best restaurant in Honolulu during the War, very hard to get into, especially if one was in naval uniform. The McKinley Grill was directly across the street from the Annex. It featured a waitress with an unchanging simper. We called her Beatrice after the character in *the Divine Comedy*. Major Bruner was the exasperating army officer who headed the Annex for one long year.

Donald Keene
 JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: I had one of those exasperating army bosses for 18 months in Germany]

Wit Amidst Squalor

In early April of 1945 on Iwo Jima, the campaign for the island was winding down. Two Marine JLOs, Jack Craig and Larry Vincent were sitting in a tent. It was afternoon and one of the tent flaps had been drawn up. Everyone was exhausted and extremely dirty. They had worn

the same fatigues for 26 days, including socks. If not for smelling the same, no one would have been able to stand each other. Even so, standing each other was still a trial. Everyone had numbed senses, there was no water, and all were condemned to filth. Lt. Craig was looking at a Japanese atlas when he declared in some surprise, "Japan is an 'arch'-apelago." Lt. Larry Vincent responded, "It's pronounced 'Ark'-apelago, not 'arch'-apelago." Craig looked up

from his atlas and eyed Vincent slantendicular, retorting archly, "You, have a mind for petty detail."

*Related to DMH by
Larry Vincent, JLS 1943
The Actors' Fund Home
155-175 West Hudson Ave.
Englewood, NJ 07631*

Hal Wren Article

Write the American Bar Association, Senior Lawyer's Division, 750 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611-4497 to order Vol. 13, Number 4,

Summer 2003 issue of *Experience*, carrying "The US Navy Japanese Language School" by Hal Wren (pages 34-38). We have copies available, but they are only photocopies. The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project provided several images for the article, free of charge.

We congratulate Hal Wren, JLS 1944, for his most recent publication and for spreading the word about the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School.

New Collections

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

- Larry Vincent (add..)

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Robert E. Ward
- Yoshiko Shinoda (in memory of mother, Grace Yokouchi, sensei)

An "Involuntary Tourist": JLS & Japanese Political Science

With no sense of false modesty, I admit to being quite taken with the idea that, as an individual, I have become the subject of oral history through the JLS experience. My career summary is, to me, a documentation of a remarkable series of coincidences.

For example, unlike many JLS officers, for several years before the War, I had already been engaged in the study of

East Asia, specifically Japan. In 1941, as a civilian, I was involved in intelligence: the evaluation of the strategic vulnerability of Japan. When the War began, my draft status was "frozen" (i.e. I could not be drafted nor could I enlist). In 1943, I was released and recruited by Commander Hindmarsh into the JLS.

In light of my subsequent career, military service offered invaluable preparation: intensive language study and travel as an "involuntary tourist", around the Pacific area from the Aleutians in the north to Australia in the South, from Hawaii in the east to Guam in the west and later, China, Korea and Japan. When the surrender

came, I was on the staff of General Curtis LeMay. Later, in Tokyo and in Washington I studied the causes of Japan's defeat, the occasion of surrender.

Like some of my JLS colleagues, I returned to the academic world to earn a doctorate concentrated on Japan. In a fortunate career [at Rutgers University] centered on teaching and research, I have made numerous trips to Japan.

*Ardath W. Burks
JLS 1944*

[Ed. Note: JLS/OLS graduates have made considerable contributions in the area of the study of Japanese government. A quick check of the CU

catalog on the subject of Japanese politics and government since 1945 turned up names such as Ardath Burks, Robert Ward, James Morley, Willard Elsbree and Lawrence Olson. Even JLS/OLS sensei contributed. Works by Nobutaka Ike were also listed. I am certain there are more names and I admit I am not an expert on the study politics and government. Please excuse me if I left off some obvious names.

Professor Burks' archival materials are held at Special Collections, Rutgers University Library, where one would expect them to be.]