

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.

Stillwater Graduates

I commend you for attempting to collect and preserve Japanese Language School alumni papers.

Unfortunately, I can not be of much help in your efforts. I entered the very last class of the Naval Oriental Language School in the summer of 1945. By then the expanded program had established a branch at what was then called Oklahoma A&M University, which is where I took my training. By the time I finished my training in the spring of 1946, the War in the Pacific was long over. I therefore never became an interpreter and was never sent to Japan. After my discharge from the Navy, I entered Northwestern University and ultimately got a Ph.D. in European History in 1956. That same year I was appointed to the faculty of the University of Cincinnati where I specialized in Russian History. I retired in 1995.

Arnold Schrier
OLS 1946

[Ed. Note: Another old letter. I bet he knows Hugh McLean, OLS 1945.]

Leonard Weiss (1918-1996) Entered OLS 1945

Dear Bob:

Your letter of March 27 was forwarded to me by the person who bought our house in Arlington, VA, knowing where I live. Otherwise, I believe after 6 years the Post Office might not have done so. Len had been very ill, and our plans to move to a retirement community were on hold while I was in the process of selling our house of 43 years. Then he died unexpectedly of strokes and seizures. However, I am delighted to have received your letter expressing interest in what Len had done after you had both attended the Japanese Language School in Colorado [Ed. Note: See what we stir up with our JLS/OLS doings?]. So sorry, too, that he couldn't have received it himself and answered personally, for I am sure he would have liked that! Enclosed are some papers that explain his "record of what happened to the Japanese language students after they left".

Len and I met on Okinawa in 1945 just after the end of the War, at a party at the Navy Officers' Club. I was in the American Red Cross and he was a handsome young USN Lt. Jg. We dated steadily from then on, and were married in Washington, DC in 1946 after I came home. He had already returned to find a job. Even though our backgrounds were very different, it did not affect our relationship, and our marriage lasted for 50 years.

At the University of Chicago, Len had been inspired to make a career in international relations. He chose economic development, specializing in international trade, through public service with the US Government and after retirement with the World Bank. His Japanese language training might have been useful while he

attended one of several trade conferences, one in Japan, as well as one with his Japanese counterparts at embassies. As you can see by the record, after ten years in the State Department, he entered the US Foreign Service. We lived at several posts abroad and here in Washington, DC, our two children with us. Our son, David, followed in his father's footsteps and was a Foreign Service Officer, also economic, and has since specialized in international trade matters.

I hope this answers some of your questions and helps the Japanese/[Oriental] Language School Project too. As I said before, I am sure that Len would have been pleased and interested to have heard from you after so many years.

Mary Louise Weiss
April 4, 2003

[Ed. Note: Mrs. Weiss sent this letter to Robert Rickert after he had sent a letter using an old Who's Who address we had provided him. Leonard Weiss, like his fellows, was transferred to Stillwater, then was given the choice to withdraw or continue after the War ended in August 1945. It appears that he, like many others, chose to withdraw, explaining his presence on Okinawa in the fall of '45. He appeared proud of his OLS training, as he claimed attendance in his CV/Resume. We sent her a packet of newsletters, articles, photocopies of the plaque, and an address list.]

Red Flags and Christian Soldiers

(Part I)

By Tim Shorrock

In October of 1945, barely a month after he accepted the surrender of Japan on the deck of the USS Missouri, General Douglas MacArthur sat down with a delegation of American clergy at his headquarters in the Dai-Ichi Insurance Building in downtown Tokyo. The four churchmen had come to Japan to rekindle a dialogue with Japanese Christians cut short by World War II. They were the

first Americans in civilian clothes to enter postwar Japan.

MacArthur, a lifelong Episcopalian, asked them to send 1,000 missionaries as soon as possible. "Japan is a spiritual vacuum," he said. "If you do not fill it with Christianity, it will be filled with communism."

So began one of the strangest episodes of the Cold War: MacArthur's attempt to harness Christianity in his mission to transform Japan into an anti-communist and pro-American bastion of democracy. Between 1946 and 1950, over 2,000 American teachers, social workers and evangelists came to Japan in response to a recruitment drive launched by mainstream churches and blessed at the highest levels of the U.S. government. Among them were my father, a former Naval officer from Seattle who had learned Japanese during the war, and my mother, a divinity student from Connecticut with a passionate interest in China. They went to Japan in August of 1947 on a three-year assignment for the Disciples of Christ and remained in Asia for the next 22 years. I spent my childhood in Tokyo in the midst of a large American community of missionaries, diplomats, military officers, business executives and CIA operatives -- one big happy family trying to change a culture more than 1,000 years old. Going by numbers alone, the American crusade was a miserable failure. In the political turbulence after World War II, millions of Japanese joined the Japanese Communist Party and aligned themselves with the Japanese Left to organize and join labor unions and demonstrate against the spread and testing of nuclear weapons. Fifty-six years after the war, the number of Japanese who call themselves Christians remains around one-half of one percent of the population, the same level it was before Pearl Harbor.(over)

But judged on human terms, the American missionary influx

after 1945 was profound; it helped heal the wounds of war and exposed the defeated Japanese to a new kind of American, neither businessman nor soldier, willing to forgo the comforts of home to share in the uncertainties and poverty of postwar Japan. "They were young and idealistic, and identified with Japan," recalls Kiyoko Takeda Cho, a prominent Christian intellectual who lives in Tokyo and was one of my parents' first Japanese

very much appreciated, not only by Christians, but also non-Christians."

Indeed, what was unique about the post-World War II missionary movement to Japan -- and what sets it apart from almost any other missionary campaign of the past 100 years -- was its relationship to the government of the "ruling country" that dominated Japan from 1945 to 1952. Unlike Germany, which was divided

Occupation Army and the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces Pacific, also known as SCAP. From the first day of the occupation, General MacArthur had a mandate from President Truman to take whatever actions he deemed necessary to free Japan from the ideological grip of the "vicious and cruel savages" (Truman's words) who led Japan into the war. To MacArthur, this unprecedented

[Ed. Note: Tim's father is Hallam C. Shorrock Jr. OLS 1946. The missionary role in postwar Japan played by other JLS/OLS graduates, such as Hallam Shorrock, Robert Bruns, and others, is a untold story in the JLS/OLS Archival Project. I thought I would print a portion of the story in several parts, with permission. Those interested in the whole article can find it on: http://www.killingthebuddha.com/dogma/red_flags.htm, or I can send the whole article in the mail.]

Where Did They Go?

I wonder if the JLS/OLS Project has heard from, or of, Lt. Conover in recent years as well as the two Chiefs who kept tabs on us, including room inspections, und_ (exercise), etc.?

John McCubbin
OLS 1944

[Ed. Note: I printed a portion of Mr. McCubbin's letter last Spring. I will do some research and see if I can find the Chiefs' names. If anyone has some info, please sing out.]

friends. "They represented not the ruling country, but came for reconciliation. That attitude was

4th Marines: A Correction

Thanks for sending me issues of *The Interpreter*. The Aug. 15 issue contains a slight error. Glen Slaughter's "Naganuma Lesson No. 1" (which apparently the Slesnicks plan to use) has the 4th Marines on Bataan. In fact almost all of the regiment was on Corregidor and defended the island against the final Japanese assault. Only a few detachments served on Bataan: about 75 Marines fell into Japanese hands when Bataan surrendered, into four zones by a coalition of allied powers, Japan was under direct control of the U.S.

whereas more than 1,600 were on Corregidor and other Manila Bay islands.

Stan Falk
US Army JLS 1946

[Ed. Note: Stanley L. Falk (MA, PhD Georgetown University) has written five books about World War II in the Philippines and the Pacific. He is a former Chief Historian of the US Air Force. There is a webpage on him: <http://www.javadc.org/falks.htm>. Carole Slesnick has given me the names of interested Army JLSers and I thought you guys & gals would not mind the company. Might as well be corrected by an informed expert.]

power was a golden opportunity to export Christianity, American-style. [end of Part I]

Finding Stillwater Graduates

We all know that CPT Pineau expended most of his efforts locating the 1942-1944 JLS crowd. Stillwater grads have been heretofore hard to run to ground. However, we have a new database to track those who have made it into biographical sources. All I have to do is type in the name and *voila!* In the A-Bs I have already found thirty with citations, so now I expect to find up to 50% of the later classes (and maybe addresses!).