

# The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

April 15, 2004

## 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.*

## Friend of Both Glen[n]s

It was my privilege to have known and worked with the late Roger Pineau (at the Dept of State). He was a one-man historian-archivist who diligently kept up research regarding the Navy school and those who trained and served in WW II. I showed him a Signal Corps photo of our Language Team with the 37th Inf. Div. on Bougainville which included a Lt jg Newton Steward who was our junior supervising officer for a few months. No one seems to know what happened to him. He wasn't with us very long but Roger was very happy for the photo and he made a copy of my copy (only pictures of our South Pacific duty were official US Signal Corps ones). We couldn't have cameras. We got lucky in becoming friends at Division HQ, Photo Intelligence photographer, Steve, who was kind enough to take souvenir photos of our group and make us extra copies.

Yukio Kawamoto  
US Army MIS, ret.

## Rose Kerr Memories

Perhaps you would be interested in some of the things that Tom did before he came to Boulder. At the beginning of WWII, the War Department hired Tom as a translator. He found that they would be willing to send him abroad for work, so he accepted an appointment with the Military Attaché in Chile as an observer and translator.

We sailed for Chile on a Chilean ship, accompanied by an obstreperous dog, named tramp [*Oh no, not a tramp steamer*]. The first house we occupied was owned by Claudio Arrau, the famous pianist. It was a modest bungalow with a well-used Steinway upright piano in the small living room. The walls were seamed with cracks, and there were little chunks of plaster missing, which seemed strange at first in such a pleasant little house.

At two o'clock one morning, we were jolted into an understanding of this small mystery by being violently shaken, almost out of bed, and alarmed by a sound like the rumbling of a freight train under the house. We dashed to the front door, supporting ourselves on the walls and doorjamb. The headline in the morning paper announced that a grade 8 earthquake "*Produjo Panico En El Pais*." The next day there were a few more cracks in the plaster.

Mr. Arrau and his lovely wife, a Joan Crawford look-alike, entertained us one evening at the Hotel Crillon. Since most of his musical education had been in Germany, we thought that he hoped we could give him some impression of his standing with the American Embassy. However, they had never informed us about their thinking on that subject.

Our first child, Stephanie, was born in Santiago, a lovely city, full of memories for me.

I have enclosed a small book I discovered in Tom's library. Perhaps you would not mind

turning it over to its rightful owners.

Rose Kerr

[Ed. Note: It turns out that the Aeronautical English-Japanese Glossary was signed out by Duane J. Flaherty, OLS 1945, Think of the overdue fines!]

## Red Flags and Christian Soldiers

(Part V)

By Tim Shorrock

My parents' desire to serve overseas was given a powerful jolt at Yale and Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where they also attended classes. Both schools were at the center of the spiritual and political awakening that swept through America in the heady days after World War II. Young Americans returning from the war against fascism looked at their surroundings and concluded that unfinished business remained: America, the new leader of the free world, should now right the social and racial injustice left untouched by the New Deal. Those ideas inspired young people to reach out, to try to heal a world sickened by war and tyranny.

"What were the lessons that come home to loyal American citizens at that time?" wrote Charles Germany, a Methodist minister from Oklahoma who went to Japan in 1947 and stayed for over 15 years. "First, ideal society is a democratic society. Second, the country where this is the most fully embodied is where? The United States of America. We had won the war against totalitarianism. Three, the foundation of the democratic society in the United States was the Christian religion. This was part of the ethos that I breathed." My parents' professors included Reinhold Niebuhr, the Christian socialist from Detroit who founded the liberal magazine *Christianity and Crisis*; John Bennett, a teacher at Union who became a noted expert on

communism and later edited Niebuhr's magazine; and Liston Pope, the son of a North Carolina textile mill owner whose life was transformed by his study of a strike of black and white textile workers, later published in the classic book *Millhands and Preachers*. Those experiences, which took place against the backdrop of nationwide labor unrest, racial tensions in the South and the first rumblings of the Cold War, had a decisive influence on my parents' intellectual lives.

They set off for their assignment in Tokyo on a converted army troop ship, the USS Marine Adder. It was filled with other missionaries heading for China and Japan. They slept apart, my mother in a section for women, my father five decks below with the men. "We used to kiss once in a while and watch the sunsets together," my mother recalled with a smile when I asked her about that trip a few years ago. Every night, she said, movies were shown on deck; but many of the new missionaries rejected the entertainment and attended prayer meetings instead. "We went to the movies," my mother laughed. "This trip across showed us the missionary community we were getting into." [End of our part V]

[Ed. Note: For the entire article on the Web, see the site: [http://www.killingthebuddha.com/dogma/red\\_flags.htm](http://www.killingthebuddha.com/dogma/red_flags.htm).]

## Lt. Cdr. K.D. Ringle

Naval Intelligence Gathered & Disregarded

### IV: Ringle, Pearl Harbor and War Hysteria

Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, completely altered the widely held government trust of Japanese Americans. Lt. Cdr. Ringle was at home when he heard of the attack. After making (over)

a few calls, he immediately left the house and was not seen by

his family for several days. In those two days, he coordinated with ONI and the FBI to round up 450 known agents of Imperial Japan operating in Southern California. Since they were working off Tachibana's lists, they knew they had made a clean sweep of Japan's agents.

However, they had not counted on the wild public hysteria and virulent anti-Japanese racism that the Pearl Harbor attack would unleash,

fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes and farms, and attacked in the streets. California authorities revoked their licenses for markets, produce houses and stores. They were barred from traveling and commercial fishing.

Despite the best efforts of Munson and the FBI to calm public fears and reassure public officials on the matter of Japanese American loyalty, the Army stepped in and took over

completely undercut and ignored the intelligence findings and the advice of Herbert Hoover and Curtis Munson and tangled Lt. Cdr. Ringle in the middle of an interagency tug-of-war. Furthermore, although only concerned with "aliens", the interfamilial connections between Issei and Nisei blended distinctions that Army authorities were unwilling to recognize. As Lt. Gen. J.L. Dewitt, the Army Commander

In the face of this public backlash and bureaucratic turnaround against Japanese Americans, Ringle made the rounds of Army and Navy officials and found himself unwelcome in the Army commands and, if not censured by the Navy, left to voice his views with no support or recognition. Colonel Karl Bendetson, the architect of Army's new policies toward the Japanese in California, would

not see Ringle or accept his intelligence. The Navy requested, but did not act on, a number of "Ringle Reports" on the loyalty of the Japanese American Community. Lt. Cdr. Ringle also visited the homes of Japanese Americans, hoping to allay their fears and assess their reaction to the war hysteria. Rather than finding an expected bitterness and sense of betrayal, he found them more cheerful and loyal than ever. As internment approached he found himself to be an ignored voice crying out in the wilderness, especially in California. Issei and Nisei alike found themselves

[To Be Continued, IV of VI]

*Adapted from Ken Ringle,  
"What Did You Do  
Before The War, Dad,"*

*Washington Post, December 6, 1981*

## Orders are Orders

As a graduate of the JLS Class of 1943, I enjoy *the Interpreter* very much. After graduation, I was assigned to OP-20G in Washington, DC as was Roger Pineau. In January 1945, five of us were transferred to the Royal Australian Navy in Melbourne, authority for all aliens on the West Coast. Army plans

Australia. The Royal Australian Navy was taking over the administration of what had formerly been the United States Navy's Unit FRUMEL (Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne) which had been stationed in Corregidor at the outbreak of the War [*They had dismantled their operation and were evacuated from Corregidor by submarine after Bataan fell*]. The Director of Signals and Communications of the RAN was only a Commander so, five of us junior in rank to Commander were sent to Melbourne to relieve the JLOs for the West Coast, declared, "A Jap is a Jap."

on duty there.

In January 1945, the US Navy did not fly south of Brisbane, Australia; therefore, in order to get to Melbourne, we needed a ride on a Australian passenger plane. On the orders, the stated reason for the priority indicates the high regard in which OP-20G was held by the US Navy, "Transpacific: For urgent change of duty: departure delay of 24 hours would directly hazard the war effort."

*Robert M. Newell  
JLS 1943*