

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ 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.

An ATIS JLO

I was a member of the first class to graduate from Boulder—some 50 of us, as I recall, in June 1943 [Actually, 3 groups of Berkeley-to-Boulder types graduated before: in August and October of 1942, and in February of 1943. But the first class of Boulderites graduated 1 July 1943.]. After graduation and commissioning as an Ensign, I was assigned to the Allied Translators and Interpreters Service (ATIS) in Brisbane, Australia, as part of the Southwest Pacific Command under General Douglas MacArthur. ATIS included both US Navy and Army language personnel from the UK, Australia and other allied powers.

After a year of working on captured Japanese documents at ATIS, I was assigned in the fall of 1944 to the X Corps of the US Army to take part in the invasion of Leyte. I remained in the Philippines with the X Corps until the summer of 1945, when I was reassigned to Washington, DC. I received an honorable

discharge from the Navy as a Lieutenant in April 1946.

Since I left the Japanese language field after World War II, my wartime experience had only a tangential effect on my career. Nevertheless, I might note that my last assignment in uniform was in the Office of Naval Intelligence, working on Far Eastern affairs. I went directly from that work to a similar civilian job in ONI, that of Far Eastern analyst. Parenthetically I might add that I elected to do this rather than return to teaching in the field of French literature in which I had received my Ph.D. right before going to Boulder. From ONI I went on to become the liaison between the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council, heading up the Office of National Security Council Affairs in the Pentagon.

In 1962 I transferred to the Department of State, working in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and soon found myself assigned to Paris as the US Permanent Representative to UNESCO, an assignment in which I served from 1964 to 1969. I returned to the US when appointed by President Nixon as assistant director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

After leaving government service in 1973, I became director of the Washington Office of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, an association and accrediting agency of the university-level business schools, with particular responsibility for international and governmental affairs. Since retiring in 1985 I have been a consultant on various projects, notably as editor of a number of publications.

In closing, I should like to add, as an additional note of interest, that my wife, the former Eleanor Borden, was a WAVE officer during World War II,

working in Washington on breaking the Japanese code.

Robert H. B. Wade
JLS 1943

{Ed. Note: Another old letter. When I show such letters to my new 18-year-old student assistants, they are amazed by the accomplishments of the JLS/OLS graduates, as am I.}

Our Japanese “Ally”

Every one of our Japanese language officers in the Pacific has had his own experience with the prisoners of war who have been captured by his unit. In their sudden change from a ferocious foe to a docile captive with an amazing forbearance of pain, and willingness to speak, they have made clear the basis of our early estimate of them as an inscrutable enemy. Each prisoner thus revealed another side of the surprising Japanese character and mind, so no story about them can claim to be unique. This is merely an account of our most unusual prisoner.

*Kuwahata's first claim to distinction is that he is the only POW we've known whose knowledge of English went beyond “Sank you very macho,” or “Thank you very much.” This statement may cause raised eyebrows among those who have believed the extravagant claim that fifty percent of all Japanese speak good English. From our experience with about five hundred prisoners, we have found only one with whom you could sit down over a glass of sake and discuss the state of the world without a thorough knowledge of Japanese. This one is Kuwahata.

We first met him on Iwo Jima. Sato, a previously captured Japanese, had volunteered to help us spread the word among the remnants of the Iwo garrison forces that good treatment awaited them at the hands of the Americans. His first act was to enter a cave in which a number were believed to be holding out. When he soon reappeared at the mouth of the cave with our hero,

Kuwahata, we knew we had in the newcomer a different breed of Japanese soldier.

Before this time, a half day was the shortest period for convincing holed-up Japanese of our good intentions. Not content with breaking this record, Kuwahata agreed to go back and sell the idea of surrender to his companions. Other recent “converts” had been more reluctant to give themselves up again to the dangers of *Bushido* from which they had just escaped.

When Kuwahata first came out, Sato and we proceeded to make him acquainted with the present situation on IWO. We especially stressed the hopelessness of the position of such as he, and the futility of dying like an animal in a hole. We had a lively discussion as to the future, and how much more constructive a life men could lead in building a peaceful world. Surely, at a time like this, Japan would have great need for her young men to take their rightful part in the reconstruction.

(End Part I, to be continued)

Lieutenants John J. Craig
& Lawrence C. Vincent
USMCR, JLS 1944 and 1943
Guam, August 1945,
Lawrence Vincent Collection

Staff of the Naval Training School (Japanese Language) 1943-1944¹

Conover, G. Kenneth, Lieutenant D-V (S), Officer in Charge
Smith, Rebecca, Lieutenant Junior Grade, WR
Elliott, Marion G., Y1c
Friels, Eulan W., CSp
Harris, Adrian, Yeoman 2c
Magill, Charles E., CSp
Thompson, Aubrey M., CSp
Weisz, Samuel I., Yeoman 2c

¹ Directory of the Students, Faculty and Employees of the University of Colorado, 1943-1944, Boulder, Colorado (Boulder, CO: University of Colorado, August 1943), 63-64.

Walne, Florence, Director

**Naval Units, University of
Colorado University**

Roberts, F.H. CPT, USN (Ret),
Commanding Officer and
Senior Officer, Present
Hoover, Guy B. Commander,
USN (Ret), Chief Staff Officer
Glazier, McCleery, Lieutenant
Commander, MC V (S) USNR,
Sr. Medical Officer
Vitalich, John, Jr., Lieutenant
Junior Grade SC-V (G) USNR,
Supply and Distribution
Officer

Brooks, William E., Lieutenant
Junior Grade, ChC-V (S),
USNR, Chaplain
Hinds, Tallulah P., Ensign WR,
USNR, Wave

*[Ed. Note: A continuation of the staff
listings of the JLS/OLS developed at
the request of John McCubbin. There
is a much more complete roll of staff
after 1942, although you will note
that no instructors are listed. CPOs
may have been borrowed, from time
to time from the Radio School or the
V-12 Unit. For that reason, I
included the Naval headquarters
cadre. I think that I have found about
five or six already.]*

Und_ for the Audience

Sometime around May 1943, the University was scheduling an annual crowd event when it occurred to them to include the students of the Navy language and communication schools in this event, which was to be held in the football stadium [*Folsom Field*].

The language school “boys” were asked to dress up in some kind of common outfit and to demonstrate their physical skills in the mass performance of some

physical exercises [*Oh Boy, I can see where this is going.*]. So we were issued white t-shirts, white shorts, white stockings, and, I think, even white shoes. CPO Hedge then set about training us to move our bodies in unison, probably over the course of two or three weeks, during our *und_* classes. Finally, the “big day” arrived, we marched very well out onto the football field and performed our first joint exercises well enough to the surprise of those in the stands who thought we were a kind of “nerds’ folly”. The final exercise

was to be the showy “jumping jacks”. We managed with skill to stand first at attention and then to leap in the air, while spreading our legs and raising and spreading our arms. Action was scheduled on counts - - (one) jump up and spread arms and legs; (two) return to the ground at attention; (three) jump up, etc. When returning to attention at the 8 count; we were to expect another “8” shout and to return to the air and then return to the ground, when we heard “7”. The exercise would be over when we

heard “1”.

But the Chief leading us said “9” instead of “8”. What to do? Since we were scheduled for a 16-count, half of us decided to stop at “16”, while the other half reasoned, “correctly”, that we had to return to “1” before we could stop. The result was not “uniform”, thus proving to our civilian audience that we were indeed “scholars” and not very “military”, or “athletic”.

Arthur Dornheim
JLS 1943

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JLS Website:
<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archives/collections/jlsp/index.htm>

New Collections

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

- James Jefferson
- J. Keith Mann

\$ Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- David H. Green
- Marylou Williams
- Duane Flaherty
- Albert S. Karr