

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 81A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

November 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.

Our Japanese "Ally" Part II

[After prevailing upon a POW to accept the hopelessness of his situation on Iwo Jima and save himself and his comrades for the future of Japan by convincing his comrades to surrender, Jack Craig and Larry Vincent expected the usual response.] Instead of the sullen disapproval or lack of understanding we had grown accustomed to expect, enthusiasm for this idea was reflected in his face. "You know, I speak some English," he said. His understanding of our arguments should have given us a clue, yet we felt that here was but another who had memorized the first page of a tourist book. Consequently, we ignored what we thought was a boast and ordered him to carry out his mission.

Obediently, he disappeared into the cave. Precisely at the agreed time he returned with fourteen others. All had been properly instructed to come out with their hands up, and with no weapons or concealed grenades. Any one of our own NCOs

would have drawn a word of praise for briefing a detail so well that even the famed ten percent who never get "the word" understood.

Two or three of the Japanese had decided to remain. They had been told by Kuwahata that the cave was to be blown up. When we spoke to him for approval to go ahead, he said in Japanese, "It's too bad, but there's nothing else you can do." We agreed and nodded our order to the demolition crew as we left with our catch.

During a stop at a battalion aid station to care for the wounded, curious Marines brought to our attention that which our blasé attitude toward prisoners had caused us to overlook. One of the Marines had produced a recent copy of *Time*, opened to the story of the losing battle the Japanese were waging on Iwo, and shoved it under the eyes of Kuwahata. More to our surprise than theirs, Kuwahata immediately began reading aloud, first in English for their benefit, and then in Japanese for the enlightenment of his compatriots. As we listened, it dawned on us that perhaps our day's success was not due entirely to the persuasiveness of our Japanese language skills.

Before leaving the stockade that night, we enlisted Kuwahata as a volunteer in our mop-up campaign. His motive was to save his brothers in arms. Ours was to clean out fanatical Japanese whose last grenade might take a Marine with them.. (End Part II, to be continued)

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

USMCEJL

While I was in Santa Cruz seeing my son's family, I had lunch with Tom Carey who had gone to LA High with me and later served as a USMC Enlisted

Japanese Linguist, ending up with duty at JICPOA in Hawaii. We talked about the 50th and 60th reunions I had attended. He tells me he gets *The Interpreter*. I think I originally gave you his mailing address I got from the LAHS alumni association before I really ever contacted Tom. Rather, I think I sent the address originally to Pineau in 1982 when he was seeking enlisted JLS from the USMC school.

He phoned with Thanksgiving wishes and the talk went to the mail out you made a while ago on Frank Bauman's submittal of Manchester's saga of "Whitey" the would-be interpreter who conned the Corps for a while on his Japanese language ability.

That reminded me of my correspondence with *American Heritage* in the 70s when they published his article. Later in the 90s the *New York Times* printed an update on "Whitey". I found them in my files. I am sending copies of them to you for your edification [Ed. Note: See Japanese Interpreters in issue #794 September 15, 2004].

While in Santa Cruz I had lunch with John Rosendale of Carmel who was a Lt.j.g. JLO on Guam with me in '44. He had graduated Boulder that year and come out with Jones and Oliver from JICPOA. We had a great friendship, later I saw him briefly in '49 when he was at Stanford Law School, then a casual '57 encounter in Salinas where he was a life-long resident. Nothing thereafter. He had phoned your office when he saw my things in *The Interpreter* and called me a couple of years ago.

John was a great friend of Dale Chamberlain of Boulder the USMC Lieutenant KIA on the Tinian patrol in '44. It so happens that my Guam friend A.J. Tillery of our EJLS was on that patrol and wrote it up in his bound memoir, *Well and Smartly Done*. Tillery sent Pineau a copy in '82. I sent Rosendale my copy to read. My late friend Jim Jefferson of Colorado was also a

friend of Chamberlain's at Boulder JLS.

I think of the fun at Boulder at the reunions often. I keep in touch with Slesnick and he informs me that he and Carole are about to bring forth the JLS history so long in progress.

Have a great holiday season. Watch out for spurious language speakers.

*Cal Dunbar
USMCEJL
USMC (retired)*

[Ed. Note: Dunbar, Carey, and Slesnick will like the letter CPT Earl Swisher sent to Edward Hart that I put in a coming issue. We would be pleased to receive a copy of Tillery's memoir should a loose copy be out there laying around somewhere. This letter was sent last November, but the sentiment is still correct.]

Staff of the Naval Training School (Oriental Languages) 1944-1945¹

Conover, G. Kenneth, LT, D-V (S), Officer in Charge NTSCh (Oriental Languages)
Smith, Rebecca, LT jg, WR, Assistant to the OIC (Oriental Languages)
Hinds, Tallulah P., ENS, WR, USNR, Wave, Assistant to the OIC (Oriental Languages)
Crowell, Laura, ENS, WR, USNR, Wave, Assistant to the OIC (Oriental Languages)
Johnson, Dorothy A., ENS, WR, USNR, Wave, Phys. Dir. WR Students WR representative
Elliott, Marion Glenn., Y1c, V-4
Friels, Eulan W., CSp, V-6
Harris, Adrian, Yeoman 2c
Kosena, Albert, Sp(A)1c, V-6
Mayhan, Lawrence D., Sp(A)1c, V-6
Robins, Kenneth K., Sp(A)1c, V-6

Naval Units, University of Colorado University

Roberts, F.H. Captain, USN

¹ Directory of the Students, Faculty and Employees of the University of Colorado, 1944-1945, Boulder, Colorado (Boulder, CO: University of Colorado, August 1944), 65-66.

(Ret), Commanding Officer
and Senior Officer, Present
Goldy, H. Donald, CDR, USN
(Ret), Chief Staff Officer,
Exec. Officer NROTC, Assoc.
Professor NS&T
Heimbury, W.C., LCD, USN,
Communication Officer
Bigger, Ralph W. LCD, MC-
V(S) USNR, Sr. Medical
Officer
Day, Miriam B., LT JG, W-V(S)
SC USNR, Disbursing Officer
Johnson, Dorothy A., ENS WR,
USNR, Women's Reserve
Representative

The 1934 Auburn

I had been putting together a reminiscent essay entitled "Autos I Have Known" when I read the memo by Judith Heath about Stanley's purchase and use of Jean Harlow's white phaeton automobile "in spite of gas rationing" ("Stanley Heath, LT, RN JLS 1945, Remembered" *The Interpreter*, #60, February 1, 2004). It reminded me of wife Charlotte and my experience in getting to Boulder from Berkeley, California where I had been a graduate student at UC

Berkeley while working the midnight shift at the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond. She had put in my name (and Phi Beta Kappa key) for the Japanese Language program while working for Naval Affairs in San Francisco. Our transportation was a 1934 Auburn, still in semi-good condition, which we had acquired for a "below-average" price due to gas rationing, when we started out to Boulder to join the Japanese language project in the summer of 1944. Biggest problem, how to get there when the Auburn's standard gas

mileage was less than 12 miles per gallon, whereas rationing demanded it be no less than 15. Fortunately, a good-hearted gasoline station attendant said he would classify our Auburn "as a farm vehicle" which would probably get us enough gas to get to Boulder. It almost did, although one time in Wyoming, with our gas tank almost empty and facing disbelief from the gas man that ours was really a "farm vehicle", a sympathetic farmer assured him that we could use it on his farm, and we got a good fill-up on our big tank. And

thanks to our "farm vehicle" classification we finally made it to Boulder, where I learned Japanese and ultimately became a watchdog (Naval) intelligence officer for General MacArthur at the Tokyo at the Tokyo Central Telephone/Telegraph Office (*Chuo-Denwa Kyoku*) in 1945-46. When I asked MacArthur's chief deputy, who confessed he "did not know a word of Japanese," what my orders were, he said, "Just make damn sure nobody assassinates General MacArthur" and left in a hurry. Thanks to us, and the Auburn,

General Mac survived??

*F. Hilary Conroy
OLS 1945
Emeritus Professor
of East Asian History
University of Pennsylvania*

[Ed. Note: I checked the web for the Auburn automobile and found the Auburn Duesenberg Museum. Those Auburn's were certainly handsome vehicles. I can see how the classification of "farm vehicle" might have been met with dubious expressions. I felt my inner-18-year-old begin to salivate. I cannot imagine summer driving across Nevada deserts in that car, though.]

Contact

David Hays, Archivist,
Archives,
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 184
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Phone (303) 492-7242

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:
arv@colorado.edu

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

Info on Rochefort?

Mr. Elliot Carlson is researching a biography on CPT Joseph Rochefort, USN, Tokyo School trained JLO and Intelligence Officer. He is working with the Rochefort family and is looking for first-hand impressions and vignettes that shed light on Rochefort's character and leadership of Station Hypo during 1941-42. Please contact him at 10101 Green Holly Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20902 (301) 681-3849
