

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 82

★ 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.

Our Japanese "Ally" Part III

[After prevailing upon a POW to accept the hopelessness of his situation and save himself and his comrades for the future of Japan by convincing his comrades to surrender, Jack Craig and Larry Vincent continued the 'Mop-Up' campaign on Iwo Jima] In the next two weeks we found that we had more than just the oddity of a Japanese who could speak English and understand Western ideas. Besides helping us gather one hundred prisoners (at that time in the War, a surprising number for one regiment to amass in so recently secured and so bitterly contested a sector), he gave us ample evidence of the resourcefulness and bravery of the Japanese soldier, which the Marines had come to know and grudgingly respect.

We were at a hole close to Kuwahata's old cave in which he reported at least twelve or thirteen Japanese. They were a tough Navy crowd under the command of a stubborn chief petty officer. Upon contacting

one of the occupants, Kuwahata decided that it was alright to go down into the cave. When he failed to return at the appointed time, we feared for the "new arm" of the Corps. We shouted into the cave to no avail, and we sat down to wait and hope. Even Marines who a week ago had vowed "to kill every bastard Jap on the rock" were pulling for the little corporal.

There passed half an hour of agonizing helplessness in which we refused several offers of Marines who volunteered to go down after Kuwahata. Then we heard a shot. Our hopes, which had sunk with that sound, soared the next moment as Kuwahata came squirming out of the hole. When his glibness of tongue had failed him, his agility came into play. He was faster than a bullet that day.

Any stray passer-by would have thought that the feeling we all displayed could have only been for one of our own. We would have explained, "This is not just a Jap POW, this is Kuwahata!"

(End of Part III, to be continued)

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

David Stocking USMC, JLS 1943

The St. Francis
Union Square
San Francisco July 22, 1943

Dear Ed:

Just a note to let you know we're straightened out and the next address will be:

Ens. DWS USNR
Intell. Center Pac Ocean Area
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Cal.

I like this town very much, better than any its size I've seen. May not be here long, however, since apparently we fly (conf.) [confidential].

I didn't like much of what I saw of your state of Utah. The Lake was all right, but it took us far too long to go across it, and after that it was much like Nevada. The next morning I woke up to see the farms of California and figured that the reason people raved about California was the contrast to God-forsaken Nevada, a drearier spectacle I never before beheld.

Here, by the way, are the words, in part, to a song we wanted to learn [Ed. Note: See *Ned Coffin's* version in #64.]:

On The Range of the Buffalo

"T'was in the town of New Haven
in the spring of '42,
A man by the name of Hindmarsh
came walking up to you.
Said "How do you do young fellow
And how'd you like to go
And spend one summer pleasantly
on the range of the buffalo.

chorus: Buffalo, Buffalo, etc.

With kanji cards + Tokuhons
Our troubles they began
With muttered curse and
Swearword
Our fevers high they ran.
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays
It doesn't pay to know
-Its what you learn of Fridays,
on the Plains of the Buffalo

chorus: Buffalo, Buffalo, etc.

On campus I was lassoed
By a Colorado gal
She slapped me on the back
With a hearty "hya pal"
Into my frail, white body
She tried to sink her hooks
But I shot her full of kanji
and returned to the goddam books

chorus: Buffalo, Buffalo, etc.

Twas in the town of Boulder
In the spring of '43
A man by the name of Conover
Came from across the sea
Said, "My ship is made of
Concrete,
My [***] I think the same
The way they keep their
potholes' indeed a bloody
shame"

chorus: Buffalo, Buffalo, etc.

The crew forsook their kanji
For the dustpan and the mop
The Captain soon decided
all padding he would stop

but when they cut out all
smoking as bad for cardiac
'Twas the final regulation
That broke the camel's back

chorus: Buffalo, Buffalo, etc.

[One verse omitted by ed., DMH]

That's all Dick White could
remember on the train.

No doubt you'll be settled by
the time you get this. We have a
pretty good room here - Stan,
Jim, and I.

Give my regards to
everybody & I'll write later.

Dave [Stocking]

[Ed. Note: Another great note submitted by Edward L. Hart. Stocking, Hart, Sosin, and Ryder had all come from the University of Michigan and were in the same class in Boulder, see # 72A, February 15, 2004. Writes Hart, This letter was "written from San Francisco while he was on his way to an assignment at Pearl Harbor after our graduation and assignments in various parts of the world... By that time I was already in Washington, DC, working on Japanese navy codes. We had three intercept stations on the West Coast, with direct lines to Washington, so we were reading the messages almost as soon as they were sent. At least once, as I remember, we had read a message while the intended recipient was asking for retransmission due to poor reception.... [This] letter is of interest because Dave produced the words to a song that was current among JLS students. I think it must have been performed somewhere or other or I wouldn't have remembered it. Maybe Gene Sosin knows something about it. No doubt the song, and the tune this was sung to are familiar to you...." Ed. Note: The song was a, how shall we say, 'corruption' of Woody Guthrie's 1930's song of the same title, see issue #64. We are glad to get the rest of the song, even if the last verse was a bit much for this publication. Frankly, I was surprised that it took a group of 21 year-old men that long in a song before the verses, er, 'got out of hand'.]

The Chinese Program

Dear Mr. Hays:

Very much appreciated receiving
your information regarding

Language School Students/Graduates, very interesting to say the least and, it brought back many fond memories of some very talented people.

Commander Hindmarsh created only one class in the Chinese language and from your roster of language students I was able to cull the following who were students of that class:

Austin Bell
Francis Carpenter
Jim Ferrigan
Hank Knoche
Charley Lemert
Bernie Miller
Harrison Parker
John Potter
George Skinner
Dick Reed

During the time we resided in Boulder after WW II, we enjoyed visits from Jim Ferrigan and Charley Lemert, the latter a Federal Judge in Ohio. Sadly, I have not remained in touch with the others and thus am unaware of their individual status. Interestingly, Hank Knoche, in addition to being a scholar, was a first string member of the CU Basketball Team.

George Skinner was married to his lovely wife in Boulder while enrolled in our Mandarin class. My wife Shirley and I were greatly honored to serve as matron of honor and best man.

Hope this helps.

Henry Bittner
OLS 1945

[Ed. Note: Actually, the number is a bit larger than this. I have provided Mr. Bittner a graduation list of the Chinese Program: Mandarin, Amoy, Cantonese, and Foochow. I will look up these names for addresses.]

Staff of the Naval Training School (Oriental Languages) 1945-1946

Crowell, John C., LCD, USNR
(S), Officer in Charge NTSch
(Oriental Languages)
Sobol, Harriett, Y1c, (T) V-10,
USNR
Giesler, John C., SC 3/c (T), V-
6, USNR
Pankoff, Arthur A., Yeoman 2c,
V-3 USNR
Van Ginkle, John M., SC 3/c (T),
V-6, USNR

Womack, LaVerne D., SC 3/c
(T), V-6, USNR
Lockard, Edwin A., SC 3/c (B),
V-6, USNR
Landgraf, John L., SC 3/c (B),
V-6, USNR
Cvecka, Andrew S., SCp (A)
(T), V-6, USNR
Kosena, Albert, SCp (A) (T), V-
6, USNR
Haines, Jack D., Sp(A)1c, (T) V-
6, USNR
Czemiak, Edward M., Bkr 2/c
(T), V-6, USNR

Naval Units, University of Colorado University

Van Bergen, Nicholas B. CPT,
USN, Professor of Naval
Science and Tactics,
Commanding Officer V-12
Unit, NTSch (Oriental
Languages)
Moore, Vincent J., CDR, USN
(Ret), Exec. Officer NROTC,
Assoc. Professor NS and T
Heimbury, W.C., LCD, USN,
Asst. Professor NS and T
Buck, George R. CDR, MC
USNR, Sr. Medical Officer
Hughes, Delmar V., LCR, MC,
USNR
Neuman, Harold A., LCD, DC,
USNR
Crowell, John C., LCD USNR (S)
Officer in Charge NTSch
(Oriental Languages)
Mills, Ernest P., LT, USN
(ret). OIC V-12 Unit
Darlington, Jane R., LT, SC(W)
USNR, Supply and Disbursing
Officer¹

[Ed. Note: This is the last cadre of the school in Boulder. We do not have immediate access to the cadre roster for the OLS at Oklahoma A&M. Mr. McCubbin had requested their names and information on their careers.]

¹ Directory of the Students, Faculty and Employees of the University of Colorado, 1945-1946, Boulder, Colorado (Boulder, CO: University of Colorado, December 1945), 87-88.

Ronald I. Spiers Diplomat

Ronald I. Spiers, born in July 1925 in Orange, New Jersey, joined the US Foreign Service in 1954 and served in a wide variety of assignments until his retirement in 1992. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College (BA 1948) and Princeton

University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (MPA, 1950), and was a foreign affairs specialist with the United States Atomic Energy Commission from 1950 to 1954. He was an Ensign in the US Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater and as Commanding Officer of an amphibious landing craft. He attended the US Navy Oriental Language School in Boulder, Colorado and Stillwater, Oklahoma.

During the course of his State Department career he served at the US Mission to the United Nations, as negotiator for the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and as a US representative in a succession of arms control negotiations with the USSR, including the nuclear test ban, non-proliferation, Strategic Arms Limitation and ABM treaties. He was director of NATO Affairs (1964-1966), Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs (1969-1973), Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research and State Department member of the US Intelligence Board (1980-81, and Under-Secretary of State for Management (1983-1989). He served abroad in Geneva, as Political Counselor (1966-1969) and later as American Minister in London (1974-77), as the first American Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (1973-74), as Ambassador to Turkey (1977-1980) and to Pakistan (1981-1983). Recipient of two Presidential Distinguished Executive Service Awards, he was accorded the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the four star rank of the Foreign Service, by President Ronald Reagan and the US Senate in 1984.

In 1989 Ambassador Spiers was nominated by President George H. Bush and appointed by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar as Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Political Affairs. In this capacity he was the senior American in the United Nations Secretariat, responsible for General Assembly affairs and for coordinating implementation of UN resolutions after the Gulf War. He retired from the United Nations in 1992.

Mr. Spiers lives in South Londonderry, Vermont. He is a Trustee of Public Funds, writes and lectures in foreign affairs and is a consultant to the Department of State. He was American co-chairman of a joint US-Chinese working group on the future of the United Nations in 1995-96, a member of a similar working group with Russia in 1993-94 and a Visiting Senior Fellow at Dartmouth. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Diplomacy, the National Academy of Public Administration and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He and his wife, Patience, have four children and eight grandchildren.

from Who's Who in America®
[Marquis™], 54th Edition, 2000.

New Providence, NJ:
Marquis Who's Who, 1999.
[WhoAm 54]

[Ed. Note: No doubt Ambassador Spiers ran across fellow diplomats J. Owen Zurhellen, Jr., Halsey Wilbur, Richard Finn, Charles Cross, Phillip Manhard, Leonard Weiss and many other Foreign Service JLS/OLS graduates and attendees during his time in the Foreign Service. Some graduates only served brief stints, like Edward Seidensticker, before entering other occupations.]

A Navy Wife, I

I didn't realize until you expressed interest in hearing from JLS wives how much of that period of my life I had stored up. I can't wait to write you all about those years!

Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee that this will be written in a systematic fashion and with some semblance of organization. I am leading a pretty busy life trying to find time to write my column and my in-progress book, tuck in my part-time work for my physician daughter, and now giving myself and my children the gift of the reminiscences about our early days in the forties. Please bear with this stream of consciousness. (End of Part I)

Mrs. Addie Busch
150 Walnut Hill Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3157

[Ed. Note: Mea culpa, an old letter, when we didn't print long letters. Happy to include it now]