

*The Interpreter*

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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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.*

## WAVES & the Navy Annex, 1944-46 (Continued)

Thanks for the WAVE list and Odette Jensen May's phone number (possible phone number). I see that Jane Bein Hendon is on the list, and I have fond memories of her and her husband, Rufus, a delightful young married couple who were at the Communications Annex at that time. They were known as "Rufus and Beany" -- I think because her maiden name was pronounced "Bean" not "Bine."

I'm pleased that you have used our current exchanges and hope they will be interesting to your readers. By the way, Ed Hart sent me the lyrics to an amusing skit which we Boulder Boys put on in Washington in a friendly roast of our senior officers when they were promoted. Although he had not participated in it, he saved the text (which I lost somewhere along the road of life). I wrote it along with Roger Pineau and others of us who played the part of the three or four honorees.

They included the skipper of OP-20-GZ, Redfield Mason, known as "Rosie" to his peers. I called him "legendary" in one of my earlier letters to you because by the time we arrived from Boulder in the summer of 1943, he had already become famous there as one of the Japanese cryptographic experts who helped win the Battle of Midway. It was said that he worked almost incessantly during the action, catching what sleep he permitted himself by sacking out atop his desk.

After the war, he became a star on an early TV quiz show -- I think it was "The \$64,000 Question". He won a pile of money by correctly identifying the twelve labors of Hercules. I was told that he had the kind of unique memory that enabled him to riffle through a deck of cards and tell you the sequence. He went on to become an admiral before he died in the 1990s.

A suggestion: Wouldn't it be interesting to ask the Boulder WAVES who worked in Op-20-G to describe what they did there? So much has been written about what was formerly verboten to mention, that I would think the time has come to single them out for their contribution. I shouldn't think that the Navy Department would have any objections, do you? And at the same time it would be good to learn what these talented women have been doing in the last 60 years.

Gene Sosin  
JLS 1943

*[Ed. Note: I am going to place many of the stories that were submitted for the WAVE 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Boulder, to better reveal what the WAVE assignments were and what WAVES did after their hitch in the Navy.]*

**Army JLS Memoir**

Jack Seward, US Army JLS, offers his *Seward's Follies* for \$10. Write to him:

10507 Brinwood  
Houston, TX 77043

## Occupational Hazards: of "Old School Ties", Christian Burials & a Navy Example, I

Shortly after the Occupation began, I was ordered by General McBride, in command of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Army Division headquartered at Fukuoka, to proceed at once to Kokura in Northern Kyushu to join the Division's 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment for temporary Occupation duties. I arrived there roughly a week before the Regiment. I contacted the Mayor of Kokura, a retired Japanese General and former member of the Imperial Household Department. The General soon came to the station in a big black limousine fueled by a charcoal device attached to the rear, and we immediately engaged in a preliminary conversational ballade on the station platform.

He spotted me as an Intelligence officer. I admitted I was and that I had been a student at Cambridge University in England. "Ah so", said the General. "Then you must remember the visit of Prince Chichibu to Oxford University before the War. I was honored to be a member of his suite". "Indeed I do", I replied. "A pity His Highness visited the wrong university."

The General smiled and then we got down to business, but not before he admitted a certain preoccupation since his son who had been Japan's Military Attaché in Berlin during the War had been taken by the Soviets and inquiries as to his whereabouts via Swedish diplomatic channels had proven fruitless.

It was agreed between us that the General would secure quarters for me at a local hotel "at the expense of the Japanese authorities concerned with such matters" as he put it, and he would keep me informed of any Occupation developments of particular interest to me as an

officer assigned to the 126<sup>th</sup> that had yet to arrive.

News spread rapidly of my arrival, and I was soon visited by a Japanese Methodist preacher who had studied at a US West Coast Methodist college. The preacher was "irate that Christians had been forced during the War to have heathen funerals." I told him to keep in touch. Since he spoke perfect English, I might need him for interpreting once my regiment arrived. (end of part I)

S. Paul Kramer  
JLS 1944

## OLS and Its Life Influence, 2

The classes in Japanese, in my recollection, were effectively conducted. The sensei were helpful and patient. I remember the Naganuma Readers, and I still have the "List of 500 Kanji" for Books one and two, by Ashikaga. The sensei who stands out most in my memory was "Mo" Itagaki. He and his wife kindly invited me and two or three other trainees to their apartment for dinner one evening. Mrs. Itagaki's cooking was our first introduction to Japanese cuisine, and we were given our first lesson in the manipulation of chopsticks.

I and, I'm sure, most of my fellow-trainees really enjoyed Boulder -- the campus itself, the coeds, the accessible hiking trails, and the tavern featuring low-alcohol beer and a blind pianist and singer [*the Timber Tavern?*]. Unfortunately, just as things were going well and we were beginning to feel we were making real progress in Japanese, political strings were apparently pulled back in Washington and the school was moved from beautiful Boulder to the relatively uninspiring campus of Oklahoma A&M College (now OSU) in Stillwater [*actually, the move was due to the projected doubling of CU's student body with the coming*

*end of the War, from 3,900 to 8,000. There would be far less room for the OLSJ.*

Scanning the list of OLS trainees you sent, I recognize the names and have clear memories of the following in both Boulder and Stillwater, mostly members of the 4-2-45 cohort: Herb Armstrong?, Joe Bitzan?, Gordon "Puff" Clark?, George Fox?, Jim Hester# (who went on to academic prominence, I think at NYU), B.G. Herbert?, Bob Kittredge?, Joe McCracken?, Norrie Sample?, Jim Sanderson?,

*on address list, ^passed away, ? unknown, as yet]. I'm sorry to say that I haven't stayed in touch with any of them, although I did spot George Fox once in a Pentagon dining room, 20-odd years ago. He was in uniform – a colonel. (to be cont'd)*

*David H. Green  
OLS 4-9/45*

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### **John H. Brady Died December 29, 2004**

Looking for Obituary to place.

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April 3, 2004 in Danville. Smith was an authority on Japan and wrote four major books about Japanese Industrialization, political change, and farm life in the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries during his long career.

Smith "changed our understanding ... of Japanese economic development and

three years, his widow Jeanne Smith said.

Thomas C. Smith was born on November 29, 1916, in Windsor, Colorado. Raised in Santa Barbara, he graduated from Santa Barbara State College and received his MA in French history from UC Berkeley. He was pursuing a PhD in French history at

for 22 years before coming to Berkeley in 1970 as a professor of comparative history. He retired in 1987.

*from Linda Davis,  
Contra Costa Times,  
April 13, 2004*

*[Ray Luthy tells me that he sent you Tom Smith's obit. Tom was my Boulder room mate in the Bastille until I got married, and he was my best man at our wedding. He was a great friend and Marine. From all reports, Tom was a highly acclaimed professor. The ranks are thinning.*

*Glen Slaughter  
JLS 1943*

### **Historian Thomas C. Smith, JLS 1943, dies at 87**

Distinguished historian and professor emeritus at UC Berkeley, Thomas C. Smith died

*When you mentioned Professor Thomas C. Smith, it did not register with me, since we all knew him as Tom. After I sent the obit to Glen, he wrote and said Tom is surely one we will miss. I asked Tom after his son was born, why he named him Zacharias. He said just about anyname Smith would have been too common. [The name was hardly a random pick as CPT Zacharias was a famous Japanese speaker-F. Pitts]*

*Ray Luthy  
JLS 1943*

*Ed. Note: Again, I regret this delay. JLS/OLS graduates were certainly well represented on the faculty of UC Berkeley and Stanford. I have not had success interesting the Alumni social life in the ... modern era. His conclusions were often quite striking," said UC Berkeley professor Irwin Scheiner.*

Smith, a Walnut Creek resident, suffered from Alzheimer's disease for about

*Association, the History Department or the East Asian related departments in any event recognizing the Berkeley JLS, nor the influence that JLS/OLS graduates have had on their institution: Ashikaga, Hamilton, Hart (visiting P.), Kadish, McLean, McCullough, Malia, May, Muscatine, Mussen, Nakamura (JLS Instructor), Rogers, Scalapino, Walne (JLS Director), and White. This record of the faculty does not count the many Berkeley graduates went into the JLS or many JLS/Ols graduates later went to Berkeley for graduate school.*

*Mrs. Smith is now on our mailing list and remembers Ray Luthy and Glen Slaughter fondly.]*

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Berkeley when World War II broke out. He enrolled in the US Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado and developed a lifelong interest in the Japanese language, culture and history.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Marine lieutenant and served as a combat interpreter and translator in the Pacific. While he was home on leave in 1945 the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan.

Smith was an assistant professor at Stanford University Walt Snickenberger#, Walter Wade?, and Jim Zumberge^ [#