

# 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.*

## WAVE Photo & Response

Thank you for the pictures you sent [*We sent an enlarged photocopy of a parade in front of the gymnasium of JLS/OLS students in the winter of '43/44 and a smaller photocopy that had not been identified of WAVES in formation*] arrived yesterday. I am delighted to have the big one to replace the one I gave Jack Craig. The WAVE picture mystifies me: the date to start with. If I read it correctly it says class of September 1945. That has to be wrong [*It is. But in Captain Pineau's research papers there is much conjecture*]. The other curiosity is that the ladies appear to be lined up in some other order than the usual height [*Tallest right to left then front to back, as I remember from drill & ceremonies*]. I do think I recognize some of the faces, but what do these 36 or so represent? Order of academic excellence? Is it that the group has about-faced so that the taller ones are in the rear? Why are they in the "rough", or the grassy

area? What was the occasion for a group photo? Have you identified any of them? If I am correct, they were in the same group as I and graduated in September 1944.

One amusing feature is that some of the hairdos are longer than regulation. When we were shipped to Smith College for our official WAVE orientation, the powers-that-be were shocked at our alleged 'sloppiness'. Most of us had to have our hair 'shortened' and our skirts 'lengthened' – especially the tall girls, as the skirts were to be a certain # of inches above the ground, no matter where they hit our legs.

The other big Smith memory was the weekly Saturday review. Because we were so secret [*a curious mix of secret and public, as articles on the JLS/OLS and its students appeared in the papers, yet graduation lists were not published or retained*], we were shunted off to stand at parade rest on a knoll, while other officer candidates marched. There we were against a clear blue October sky looking very glamorous, the photographers were drawn to us like magnets.

We were already commissioned and, in most cases, outranked those in charge. This made them more nervous than it did us! We had four bunk rooms – two up and two down, in one of the smallest single rooms of the historic Wiggins Tavern. Inspections were carried out with nautical precision – bouncing dimes on the blankets, etc. The most amusing criticisms I remember was "bobby-pin adrift on the deck." The chefs at the Hotel Northampton did keep their hands in by giving us occasional Lobster Thermidor or pecan pie. Powdered eggs, however ....

Here's a challenge for you, can you find among the grade postings by section who was in my section? Memory fades after El Wells and Margaret Jackson – but there were 6 in a section. I remember seeing the postings on display at the '92 Reunion.

[*Ed. Note: Another letter from the gregarious Marylou, who passed in March of 2005.*]

MaryLou Williams  
JLS 1944

## Learning Cantonese in 1945

I took the Navy Officer Qualification test in the Spring of 1943, and was allowed to complete my degree program (in three years and one summer), entering the Naval Midshipmen's School at Notre Dame in September 1943. I was commissioned in January 1944, and was selected to teach navigation, remaining there for two more classes.

I volunteered for submarine duty but was turned down because of my height (6'4"). I don't remember exactly how I was selected for the Oriental Language program, but know that I was sought rather than my doing the seeking. We were told that it was expected that bases would be needed in south China before we could invade Japan, and we would be assigned to the military government expected in China.

I was in the Cantonese program, which required eighteen month training. There were nine students in my group (Mssrs Fond (chairman), Wong, Leung, and Yip). We had an hour with each of the instructors each day, several hours of homework, ate meals together, and had an hour test each Saturday with each instructor. We expected to learn to read and write, and to understand the oral language and be able to speak it. The written language was identical throughout China, but posed problems in terms of the basic 212 characters from which all other characters were composed. Usually two characters were needed to express the meaning of one word in English, and a great deal depended on context. Literal translation was often very unusual and funny, whether moving from English to Chinese or vice versa.

Cantonese has nine tones, in relation to Mandarin (the national language) with four tones. The tones were essential in understanding the spoken language. For instance, "mahn fahn" with one pronunciation means "evening meal", and with another means "horse manure". The making of the characters in relation to tone had been done by British missionaries for foreigners to learn Cantonese. Our native born instructors, however, had learned to speak their language from infancy, and had never been taught the markings – and consequently they did not agree as to the tone; they would say the word to themselves and attempt to determine what the tone should be. On the Saturday tests we were expected to indicate the tone of each character, and we really needed not only to remember the character and its pronunciation but also which instructor had given us the tone.

One interesting anecdote. One of the instructors, Mr. Leung, was from Gwong Sai Province, west of Canton, and was somewhat short and fat (as is true of some persons in south China), while another instructor, Mr. Yip, was originally from Manchuria (and was tall and slim) but had lived in south China for many years. Mr. Leung once said to us, "If Mr. Yip gives you the tone of a word come to me and I will tell you whether it is correct or not. Because, you see, Cantonese is not really Mr. Yip's first language, and you see that long neck that he has; you never can trust a person with a long neck." We, of course, did not tell Mr. Yip what Mr. Leung had said. We learned that prejudice may extend beyond race or religion.

(to be cont'd.)

Charles L. Latimer  
OLS 12/44-8/45

[*Ed. Note: Lincoln described Phil Sheridan as having "not enough neck to hang him by." Phil must have been very trustworthy.*]

Lossea: Wayne Suttles

## Justice Greenfield

[Edward J. Greenfield received his BA at New York University, PBK and attended JLS from January 1943 to May of 1944.]

After graduation I received my commission and served in the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC. I was then sent overseas and served as a translator, interpreter and prisoner interrogator in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies. I was temporarily assigned to the Australian Army and then to the Dutch Navy. At one point, I participated in the interception and capture of the Japanese troopship which had disguised itself as a hospital ship, the *Tachibana Maru*, which we diverted to the Philippines.

Upon the dropping of the atomic bombs, I was sent to Japan before the truce, to help in the disarming of the Japanese naval bases at Kure and Sasebo, and was in the first group of Americans to enter the devastated cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shortly after the drop. I served as intelligence officer for the Seventh Fleet, and spent considerable time in Tokyo, but also was assigned to Shanghai and to Korea.

Returning to the United States in July '46, I entered Harvard Law School, from which I graduated in 1948. I then became a litigating lawyer – my first case was representing a client who spoke little English, so we communicated in Japanese! I was elected as a judge in 1963, and served as a Justice of the New York Supreme Court to 1999, when I retired and returned to private practice. My fluency in the Japanese language had dissipated, but I did utilize it on the bench when I tried the multi-million dollar case of IBM v. Mazda Motors, with a host of documents and witnesses, and we largely dispensed with the services of the official court interpreter.

[He is married to Nancy K. Greenfield and has two sons, Robert and Mark, and one grandson.]

Edward J. Greenfield  
JLS 1944

**Losses:** Maurice Hellner, John Shively, Bill Hoekendorf, Jack Craig, Hutch Harnsberger, Michael C. Rogers

## Looking for USN & USMC Intell. KIA and WIA Names

Doug Brower and his wife <patoloco@verizon.net> are looking for the names USMC and US Navy intelligence officers and enlisted who were KIA or WIA in World War II, Korea and Vietnam in order to complete web-based honor rolls and displays. They are also working on a POW/MIA Hall of Valor. He knows about Gerald Holtom, the Goetge Patrol, and Ray Luthy's combat injury.

### Robert E. Brandon JLS 1944, (1922-2004)

Robert "Bob" Ellis Brandon died on May 19, 2004, following a lengthy illness. A longer obituary will follow.

## Pineau Family Gift

I am writing to you on behalf of my brother, Anthony A. Pineau and my sisters, Suzanne Pineau and Antoinette Pineau. We are finally concluding the affairs and closing the estate of our mother, Maxine Pineau, who passed away [more than two years] ago.

We made a few choices about charitable contributions we wanted to make in honor of our mother and father. Our first, and easiest, choice was this gift to The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project. We so enjoy reading our copies of *The Interpreter*. The names that appear there, on letters to you and in stories of the JLS, are names that floated through our childhoods and through the recollections Dad shared with us throughout his life.

Learning the Japanese language was seminal for our father. Through all the rest of his life's work, he managed never to stray far from his love of the language, the people, their country, history and culture. We are so pleased that his papers found a home in Boulder, and began a collection from which others can learn. In addition, Boulder was the nearly-magical first home of the young and newly-married Maxine and Roger Pineau, the place where their life together began. Please accept this

donation in memory of our parents.

I am also enclosing a packet of papers. It appears to be all of Dad's famous/infamous week-ending exams. It was our understanding that the students took these tests every Friday and their continued presence at the Japanese Language School was contingent on their performance, under pressure, every week. I was so happy to find this small treasure among my mother's many stored cartons, and to note that Dad was, in this endeavor as in so many others, for the most part, "very good."

Julie Pineau Hubbard

## So What !

"We cannot kindle when we will  
The fire that in our heart resides;  
The spirit bloweth and is still, in  
mystery our soul resides;  
But tasks in hours of insight willed  
May be through hours of gloom  
fulfilled."

Wide awake, between the hours of darkness and light, I lie in this my 86<sup>th</sup> year, reviewing my life, seeking answer to a question. One might think the likeliest source for justification or argument to present at the bar would be those belonging to my 63 years of teaching in college and university, or my 63 years of marriage and family. But no. My mind settles upon myself alone in the terror of late spring and summer, 1945.

More than a year before that time I had been taken from my preparation toward Harvard's doctorate in English Philology (requisite courses, reading exams in Latin, German, and French, oral, and thesis) as a Naval Agent and started on my way to the Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado despite the fact that I had been classified 4-F in the draft because of a heart murmur and had been handed a card to show exemption from any military service. "No matter," encouraged Commander Hindmarsh as he signed me up for the program in Japanese. Overnight in the Boston B.O.Q., I became a Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class; a day or two later, I was bound for Denver out of New York City. (to be cont'd)

Robert D. Thornton  
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Professor Thornton just finished this and sent it to us on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2004. I regret the delay.]

## Reprise on Navy Wife

A note, "A Navy Wife, III" by Addie Busch mentioned the susceptibility of language students designated "Special Agents" to being drafted. I arrived in Boulder to enter the Japanese Program, about one month shy of my eighteenth birthday, with the title of "Naval Agent", bracing to a seventeen year old even though the pay after room and board was deducted netted out to that of an apprentice seaman. On my eighteenth birthday, the Navy - perhaps mindful of the problems Ms. Busch mentioned - shipped me to the Denver recruiting center to be enlisted as an Apprentice Seaman with orders to return directly to Boulder. I was promised promotion to Yeoman 2nd Class if I survived Book Two; that promotion never happened but that is another tale. My classmates were recently minted ensigns or jg's who had the advantage of OTS to learn the niceties of Navy etiquette such as when to salute, a benefit my brief passage through Denver never provided. At least, however, my transformation from "Naval Agent" to Apprentice Seaman kept me out of the clutches of the Army.

John F. Magee  
OLS 1945

## JLO's on the Missouri

Professor Roger Dingman (USC) needs to find anyone who has knowledge if there were USN or USMC JLOs (names) on the *USS Missouri* during the surrender ceremony. He has read the funny account by Lionel Casson of the 10 JLOs who were shipped from JICPOA at breakneck speed to that battleship, only to be sent away for their want of "whites". Any information?

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