Great Entrances
After August 11th, 1945, there were still many Japanese military units that had yet to surrender, disarm and repatriate to Japan. JLOs were often detailed to perform interpretation for such capitulations.

At one island, the Japanese military commander had decided to perform the surrender with the utmost of ceremony: full uniforms and regalia, units drawn up for inspection, a band playing, and swords and flags surrendered, in this way to gain the most honor from a demeaning exercise.

So there were the ranks of Japanese troops in their dress best, formed up on the parade ground. Meanwhile, the assigned JLO was being transported to the island via landing craft. At that very point, he observed what thousands of Marines before him had already discovered -- decamping a landing craft was no mean feat. For no sooner did the Japanese formation strike up their band and come to attention, than the JLO fell face first, headlong, into the surf.

Story from Frank Tucker
JLS 1943

Another Take on Late JLS Graduates

“Now, turning to the February 15th Interpreter, I find that I am among the 7/44-7/46 Entrants. The reason I was so late in your group of students in that, a month after Pearl Harbor, my unit of the 2nd Marine Division (then at San Diego) was sent to defend American Samoa. Shortly after my arrival, Captain Ferdinand Bishop, USMC, a 1937 graduate of the Embassy School in Tokyo, was directed to conduct a 6-month course in beginning and military Japanese. We had no BJs in the Brigade, so they selected people with some foreign language background. I’d been a French major at UCLA, so I became a Japanese Language Officer instead of an 81mm mortar platoon leader. This was probably a distinct advantage as mortar units tended to attract lots of enemy fire.

In October ‘42 we joined the 1st Marine Division in the Solomon Islands on Guadalcanal. After the Guadalcanal operation, we went to New Zealand to refit, and we were sent to POW camps in New Zealand and New Caledonia to interrogate and translate. The next operation was Tarawa (only five days), and we escorted the Korean labor POWs (there were no live Japanese) back to Pearl Harbor.

Having completed better than two years in the South Pacific, two of us from the Samoa School, myself and Lt. Elmer Stone, were ordered back to the US for leave and more education. We were assigned to enter the July 1944 class, along with Ens. Winebrenner, who’d been a prisoner in a Japanese Internment Camp in Shanghai. Because all three of us had had previous training in Japanese, a shortened course was set up for just the three of us. We completed our course in July 1945 and Winebrenner and I were sent back to the Pacific.

As far as I know, we three, plus a Navy Commander who escaped from the Philippines and got to Australia via Indonesia, were the first students to have had actual contact with Japanese forces in the field prior to arrival in Boulder. The Commander was a student in the Malay course. I should mention three other graduates of the Samoa School attended Boulder: Capt. William Croyle, Lt.’s Seldon Brown, and Ralph Baker. They all graduated from Stillwater.”

Col. Harry D. Pratt, USMC ret.
JLS, 1945

Yet Another Coincidence

It turns out that unbeknownst to the students, staff, or faculty of the Archives, one of our staff is actually the son of a JLS graduate. Harvey N. Gardiner, long-time staff archivist here, is the son of late Clinton Harvey Gardiner, JLS 1944.

After leaving Boulder, the elder Gardiner attended the Princeton School for military government, served on the military government staff at Fort Ord and Monterey, and was assigned to the 3rd marine Division as interpreter to General Blake’s staff. He also spent five month at Truk and related areas removing Japanese personnel. He was an academic historian whose work on South America included Japanese topics.
Archives is located in the basement of Norlin Library at the east end of the historic quadrangle on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado.

The Archives is open MWF, 1100-1700, but is staffed from 0800-1700, M-F. Out of town researchers may arrange for early and every day entry. Photocopying and both photographic and audiovisual reproduction services are available.

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

- New JLS Website: http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jls.htm