The Japanese Language School Archival Project

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, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Dunmore Response

“I read with interest, the article in your last issue (March 1, 2002) from M. E. Orlean 1st Lt. USMCR (Ret’d) – JLS 1944. It was in regard to the letter from “Bob Moore”!

My husband was also in the First Marine Division, wounded at Peleliu – then went to China. His name was Edwin Dunmore.”

Dorothy Dunmore

Fr. John Hasbrouck Passed Away

Fr. John Baptist Hasbrouck died on March 8, 2002 in the Trappist Abbey infirmary in Lafayette, Oregon. He had just been brought home from Oakwood Place. The whole community gathered around him in the infirmary for the prayers for the dying. A hospice nurse was there with him. She told us had only an hour or two left.

His last hours were very comfortable for him, thanks to the hospice nurse. His whole body was ready to go. His breathing was deep and soft and there was something of a “death rattle” to it.

His funeral Mass was held on March 13. Several of his brothers attended. He was buried in our cemetery with the other monks who pre-deceased him.

We are happy that he was able to die at the monastery. But we wish he had more time to say “goodbye”. That was not to be.

He leaves us with many good memories of him. I think one of his chief gifts was his 32 years as Prior (second in command). He was the perfect “vice president” of the “company”. Very dependable and solid! We will miss him.

Fr. Richard Layton
Procurator
Trappist Abbey
Lafayette, OR

[Ed. Note: Fr. Layton’s letter was edited for The Interpreter. Fr. Hasbrouck had been a lively correspondent with our JLS Project, recipient of the news letter, and had donated a memoir to our JLS holding prior to suffering his stroke. Thanks go to Arthur Dornheim for sending us the sad news.

Dear Mr. Hays:   March 15, 2002

John Hasbrouck was a classmate of mine in the summer 1942 group under Henry Tatsumi. Upon graduation, in June 1943, John was commissioned in the Marine Corps and served in several Pacific battles. Surprisingly, he did what he wanted to do upon decommissioning – become a Trappist monk.

Sincerely,
Arthur Dornheim
JLS 1943

Letter edited for The Interpreter.
From Fr. Richard’s comments about Fr. John’s talent for command, I should say that it seems you could take the monk out of the Marines, but you couldn’t take the Marines entirely out of this particular monk. DMH]

Dr. Robert Moore, JLS 1945
ILT, USMC, Died

The USMCR veteran who wondered if Marine JLOs had ever contributed, passed away in March. Details forthcoming.

The Usefulness Of Marine JLOs

In answer to Bob Moore’s question and Glenn Nelson’s commentary, I add my own: Were Marine JLOs “useful”? I like to think I was useful as a Marine JLO, although that use was marginal. The emphasis for Marine JLOs looked to the planned invasion of Japan when I think we would have been vital. But we had some usefulness.

Okinawa taught me (useful knowledge today) that not all caves are just holes in a mountain but can be well equipped command and battle stations. I recall looking for documents in a cave in the Southern Peninsula while fighting was going on overhead. I particularly recall thinking to my 23-year-old self as I walked down a narrow apartment-like corridor that, with the accompaniment of ominous movie music, I would have been seriously frightened. But I actually was not afraid [too stupid]. I distinguished myself on patrol by falling off the side of a steep hill in the Northern Peninsula simply by losing my balance (that Dai-Jiten was very heavy). I also did one battlefield interrogation in the lightly defended North and still have the drawings of machine gun positions by a POW which may have been of use.

JLSers will enjoy one “war story”: one of my duties in the early days of fighting was to get Okinawan civilians, mostly farmers, out of the way of the fighting by urging them to go to the camps we had set up for them. I was haranguing a fairly large group of dubious peasants on the road with promises of safety and white rice but suspected that they were not buying my assurances. Finally, I asked them for their own sakes to please believe me: “Dozo” I said and I’ll never forget the woman in the first row who, with all the contempt she could muster, repeated “Dooozo!” to the crowd, reminding me that “Dozo” was an honorific to which Okinawans were not only unaccustomed, but which they must have regarded as something of an insult. I hope they took my advice because, as I’ve been told, more civilians perished than Japanese soldiers.

We were brought back to Pearl Harbor after Okinawa to do some interrogations in depth. I did a 15 page report from a highly cooperative young seaman which, had it come earlier in the War, could have met Bob Moore’s standard of usefulness since it confirmed the accidental sinking of the battleship Mutsu and described minefields in the Inland Sea among other useful intelligence. I look at it today as a monumental effort.

Like Glenn Nelson, I ended up in North China, in Tientsin, to be part of the Marine detachment which was there ostensibly to accept the surrender of Manchuria by the Japanese, but was actually part of the effort to draw a line in the sand against the Chinese Communists. It was the withdrawal of that detachment three or four years later which led to the charge, “Who lost China?” Since I left after three months, it wasn’t me.

I lived on Race Course Road in that surprisingly cosmopolitan city and, through my knowledge of Russian, had access to a lively Russian émigré community, largely Jewish. My Chinese vocabulary is limited to the deathless words, “Yudai Kung-fui, Arshe Suha Lo”, which means to the ricksha driver, “Take me to the Jewish Club on Twenty-fourth Street.” My most significant adventure as an interpreter was to be driven, shortly after my arrival, with the Japanese contact to the outskirts of Tsientsin through an immense cheering crowd of Chinese (who must have been anticipating an execution) to inspect, of all
places, ... the Japanese golf course. Banzai!

Jack E. Bronston
USMCR, JLS 1944

Facilities

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.

SDonations Accepted

There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of $10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.

Contact

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

Welcome to the Reunion

To those who are coming to the US Navy JLS/OLS 60th Reunion, welcome to CU, Boulder, and Colorado, respectively. This Reunion is for you. To those whom prior commitment, infirmity, or responsibility has kept away, we will miss you, but you will be honored in your absence. To those who have passed, we will hoist a toast to your memory and dedicate a plaque to all who taught or attended the JLS/OLS between 1942 and 1946.