William Himel
Linguist

Bill Himel, a Kensington, Maryland resident for the past 55 years, died of cancer on February 20, 2005 at the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, MD. He was 90.

Bill, born in 1914 in Knoxville, Tennessee, earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Northwestern University. After graduating, he worked on a Civilian Conservation Corps crew. He then studied at the US Navy Japanese Language Schools at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Colorado at Boulder and at the US Army Military Intelligence Service Japanese Language Schools at the University of Michigan and Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He was one of the few officers to have received Japanese training in both the US Navy and the US Army. He served in World War II as a Japanese Language Officer, interpreter and instructor. He married violinist Sakiko Shiga, of Seattle, Washington, in 1944. In 1947, the couple moved to the Washington, DC area, first settling in Arlington, Virginia.

Bill worked for the federal government as a document translator at the National Institutes of Health and at the US Patent Office until his retirement in 1979. He continued his foreign language education locally at the American University, Howard University, and attended evening Japanese and Chinese classes at the National Institutes of Health up to within a few weeks of his death.

He was instrumental in establishing foreign language instructional programs in Montgomery County public elementary schools in the 1950s. He was also the founder and manager of the Little Singers of Montgomery County, a youth chorus that performed folk and traditional songs in their original foreign languages for over two decades. He also produced a series of foreign language song instructional lp recordings.

He was an active and longtime member of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American Veterans Association, the National Organization of Women, the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, the Nisei Veterans’ Committee, and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Mr. Himel’s wife, Sakiko, died in 1984. They had three children, YHT Harlan Himel of Sacramento, CA; C. Marie Himel of Falls Church, VA; and James Himel, of Catonsville, MD, and three grandchildren. He remarried in 1999 and is survived by his second wife, Mr. Himel’s wife, Sakiko Shiga, sister of an old friend of mine from Whitman College. If this is not a coincidence, I wonder how it happens that an alumnus of the Navy school is attending our reunion. If you pick up any information on him I’d like to know about it. Incidentally, the individual in your list corresponds to a William “Himmel” in Dave’s class directory with essentially the same Maryland address.

Philip N. Jenner
US Army MIS

[Ed. Note: It appears that Bill Himel’s dual attendance in both the Navy and Army schools caused a bit of confusion. According to Professor Stienick, he attended the US Navy JLS at the University of California, Berkeley, Class 1, beginning on 1 October 1941 but dropped out (he did not show up with the transfers but entered with the Boulder arrivals on June 24, 1942). So he was a Berkeley/Boulder/Camp Savage man, probably the only one. As a nod to his Army affiliation, we do have a small number of Army JLSers on our mailing list.]
CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARINES

Re yours of 119: I knew Aubrey Farb in 9/44 at Guam. He was a USMC Lt. attached to 3 Mar Div. I had only a brief contact with him at the original POW stockade. I never saw him thereafter but I presume he stayed attached to 3 Mar Div through Iwo. 3 Mar Div was located some miles east of our Agana stockade. They were involved in training for operations such as Iwo and the forthcoming cancelled Japan invasion. A few of their JLO people visited the stockade to practice conversational interrogation with POW’s, but infrequently. We were busy trying to round up stragglers in the boonies and had no interest in 3 Mar Div. Activities.

Farb came off as an easy going intellectual-type [Now that probably did not separate him from other Boulder trained JLOs] who treated us enlisted politely. My remembrance of him is pleasant. Glad to hear that he made out o.k. postwar.

I sent Dingman my file of vignettes. He inquired about Rota/Truk surrenders.

Cal Dunbar
USMCEL 1944

Roger Hackett, Professor Emeritus of History
"Zuru Zuru Koko Ni Kimashita"

(Cont'd) Roger Hackett was in Okinawa preparing for an invasion of Japan, when the war ended. Hackett was subsequently sent to China, where he was reunited with fellow Marine Charles Cross, to help with the demilitarization of the Japanese there. Despite various armed services' entreaties to work with the allied occupation force in Postwar Japan, Roger made his way out of the service and back to Carleton College in 1946 (he had still not been to Japan since he left in 1940). A more focused Roger Hackett quickly finished up his undergraduate degree at Carleton while swimming for the varsity team and falling in love with Caroline Gray. Roger would later claim that his only reason for returning to Carleton after the war was to meet her. He spied Caroline not long after his return to school and sweats he didn’t let her out of his sight until they were married six months later. Caroline Gray, a budding scholar in her own right, was the better typist of the two and quietly typed his seminar essays while unbeknownst to him (Roger only found out the truth years later) paying to have someone else type her honors thesis. As she typed, Roger essayed his way right into Phi Beta Kappa.

Following a summer course in the International Studies Center in New Hampshire, Hackett went on to Harvard where he found stimulation in the form of both John Fairbank and Edwin Reischauer. A career as a diplomat seemed to be calling. As his graduate studies expanded into a full-fledged Ph.D., Hackett stayed on two extra years at Harvard to teach in the Reischauer/Fairbank Asian Studies course. The Hacketts began a family of their own at this time and the eventual result was three children: Anne, David, and Brian. At the same time, Roger was reunited with his younger brother David who was also attending Harvard (in Chemistry and Biology). Roger has always claimed that his older brother Harold was the writer of the family and his younger brother David the most brilliant mind. The two younger Hackett brothers met on common ground in the poetry class of Archibald MacLeish, one of the most mesmerizing lecturers on campus. David, eventually a prominent young member of the science faculty at Berkeley, was to be tragically murdered at the age of 39. David's son Paul Roger Hackett has since gone on to become the head football coach at USC [He has also coached for the Kansas City Chiefs, the Carolina Panthers, the New York Jets and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.]

Roger now lives his sporting dreams, at least in part, vicariously through his nephew Paul. In the early 1950s, however, the brothers found safe turf at a Boston jazz club where they could talk music and nurse a beer for hours. (to be cont’d)

Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan
Winter 2000 Newsletter

4th Marine Division Language Officers 1: Training

In a few days I will be sending you a packet of materials concerning the activities of the 4th Marine Division Language Officers during World War II. The packet contains: (1) a dozen original Japanese prisoner interrogation reports written by our language officers during actual combat on Iwo Jima; (2) a Japanese map showing disposition of enemy units and gun positions captured by the 3rd Marine division on March 5, 1945, translated by language officers, and used as a tool in completing the combat operations; (3) three photos -- one, a dramatic photo of Iwo from the air showing a battalion of surviving Marines waiting to board ship after a month-long battle on Iwo that killed over 7,000 of their buddies and 20,000 Japanese, and two, a couple of photos showing our language officers talking Japanese soldiers out of underground bunkers on Roi-Namur Island, Kwajalein, our first operation.

To explain how I happen to possess these artifacts after 60 years, I should go back a bit.

When the first class of 150 graduated from the language school in June 1943, thirty of us were selected for Marine Corps commissions. We were sent to a small place called Green's Farm, just outside Camp Elliott, San Diego, where a couple of gunnery sergeants tried to make Marines out of us. They were only slightly successful. But a couple months later, eleven of us were assigned to the 4th Marine Division. They were Chuck Cross, Dave Anderson, Wally Rockler, John Rich, Bill Brown, Ray Luthy, Tom Smith, Bedford Johnson, Don Redlin, Dan Williams, and myself. We spent the war together, through thick and thin. Luckily all of us survived, and with the exception of Ray Luthy, who lost a leg during a mortar attack on Iwo, none of were seriously injured. Because the 4th Division was still in training at Camp Pendleton and was not due to sail until January, 1944, the group was sent briefly to the Army Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota, for a short Japanese refresher period. My wife and I lived in a highway motel south of Minneapolis with the Luthys and commuted every day through the snow to the camp. [to be cont’d]

Jerry Hoeck, JLS 1943
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[Ed. Note: Glenn Nelson had asked who the identity of the 10 Marine officers who had gone to Camp Savage and Mr. Hoeck has answered the question. But it seems there were 11.]

Note on 4th MAR DIV JLOs

Thanks for the note quoting Gerry Hoeck's listing of the names of the members of the "Summer Group" (graduating July 1943) Boulder Marines who were assigned to our 4th MarDiv. All of us joined the 4th MarDiv at Camp Pendleton, and were with the Division when it sailed from San Diego in Jan 1944 to its first landing, which was Roi-Namur, at the N end of the Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. As Gerry mentioned, we 10 were with the 4th MarDiv in all 4 of its landings, were grateful to survive, and with the exception of our friend, buddy, comrade, and colleague Ray Luthy, were not injured.

Gerry’s list is eleven (11), not ten, of us who joined initially the 4thMarDiv. Ten were ordered to Camp Savage, MN, from Camp Elliott, and I was ordered to a Navy Communications School in LA, for the purpose of special radio training in to be used in intercepting Japanese messages and other broadcasts, during our battles. So, we totaled eleven when we all arrived at Camp Pendleton and joined the 4th. (to be cont’d)

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Well, that answered my math question. I guess they recruted you for language, not math. The math guys went to Los Alamos.]
Donald H. Shively
Leader in Japanese Studies in US

Donald H. Shively, a noted scholar of Japanese literature and culture whose work helped forge the emerging discipline of Japanese studies in the United States in the decades after World War II, died on Aug. 13, 2005 in Oakland, Calif. He was 84 and lived in Berkeley.

The cause was complications of Shy-Drager syndrome, a neurodegenerative disease, according to the University of California, Berkeley, where Dr. Shively was emeritus professor of East Asian languages and cultures. Dr. Shively had also taught at Harvard University for many years.

An authority on the popular culture of the Tokugawa period (1603-1868), Dr. Shively was best known for his translation of "The Love Suicide at Amijima," a domestic tragedy by the renowned Japanese dramatist Monzaemon Chikamatsu (1653-1725). Dr. Shively's translation, originally published in 1953, was re-issued by the University of Michigan in 1991.

Written in 1720 as a puppet play, "The Love Suicide at Amijima" was quickly adopted by the kabuki theater for performance by live actors and remains a staple of both theatrical traditions. The play told the story of a paper merchant torn between his love for a young prostitute and duty to his wife. (A film adaptation, "Double Suicide," directed by Masahiro Shinoda, was released in 1969.)

In focusing on ordinary townsmen rather than on samurai or noblemen, Chikamatsu's play was a seminal example of the populist literary tradition then emerging in defiance of the widespread censorship and repression of the Tokugawa shogunate.

Donald Howard Shively was born on May 11, 1921, in Kyoto, Japan, the son of American missionaries there. Educated almost entirely in Japan, he entered Harvard in 1940, before World War II interrupted his studies. A member of the Marine Corps, he worked as a Japanese-language officer during the war. Returning to Harvard, he received his bachelor's degree in 1946, a master's degree the next year and a Ph.D. in 1951.

After teaching at Berkeley from 1950 to 1962, Dr. Shively moved to Stanford, where he taught from 1962 to 1964. He was a member of the Harvard faculty from 1964 to 1983. That year, he rejoined the faculty at Berkeley, where he was also the head of the university's East Asian library. He retired in 1992.

Dr. Shively's first two marriages, to Emily Mary King and Ilse Dorothea Raacke, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Berry, a professor of Japanese history at Berkeley whom he married in 1980; two sons from his second marriage: Kent Raacke Shively of Seattle and Evan Raacke Shively of Marshall, Calif.; two daughters from his marriage to Ms. Berry: Anne Shively Berry and Catherine Shively Berry, both students at Oberlin College; two sisters: Mary Pursel of Honolulu and Alice Bunce of Virginia; and three grandchildren. A son from Dr. Shively's first marriage, Bruce King Shively, died in 2003.

Dr. Shively edited several books, among them "Personality in Japanese History" (University of California, 1970, with Albert M. Craig); "Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture" (Princeton University, 1971); and "Studies in Kabuki: Its Acting, Music and Historical Context" (University of Hawaii, 1978, with James R. Brandon and William P. Malm).

In 1982 he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the government of Japan.

Margalit Fox
New York Times
August 24, 2005

RICs Reconsidered

Concerning the recent lists of “BIC” at “NAVTRASCH JapLang”, I have two additions, possibly. Thomas Howell Breeze [on our mailing list] and Albert Jacob Hausske [on our mailing list], Navy and Marines respectively, were if not born in China, certainly were raised there. Al spent a lot of his pre-6th grade entry into the North China American School in the ‘outskirts’ of Beijing, in some “boony” situations. As a result, his command of Mandarin was superb.

Halsey Wilbur and I worked across a large desk from one another for eight or ten months in late ’39 and ’40 at Citibank’s Shanghai Branch. My recollection was that he was born in Japan. Again, as I recall, he did attend the Shanghai American School at one time.

Evan G. Davis
JLS 1944

SHIVELY BROTHERS
COMMENT

David,
My 16Sep05 email about John and Don Shively's not attending the JLS during WW2 should have been a question.

My records of USN JLS attendees is temporarily packed away, so I did not check, against those lists, the comments from both Bob Sheeks and Bill Hudson indicating that those notable USMC WW2 Japanese Language officers did not attend the CU Boulder training, that we did.

Yesterday, I happened to see a copy of the program for the 1992 Boulder JLS Reunion and noted that both of their names and respective addresses were included. So, I leave it now as a question.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

Dear Dan:
Thanks for your email. Both of the Shively brothers were fluent enough in Japanese to be commissioned directly into the USMCR as linguists without benefit of Tokyo, Hawaii, Berkeley, Harvard, Boulder, or Stillwater. Bill Hudson also mentioned their direct commissions as JLOs. I looked on all our lists and did not find them, so I came to the same conclusion. The elder Shively (John R.) taught at the USMC Japanese Language School at Pearl Harbor.

As far as their inclusion in Roger Pineau's reunions, remember that CPT Pineau included many Tokyo, Hawaii, and Camp Elliott trained linguists, on top of the Berkeley, Harvard and Stillwater graduates. He did not confine his interest to fellow Boulderites, alone. I have always concluded that CPT Pineau's inclusion was good enough for me.

David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

Roger Hackett,
Professor Emeritus of History

"Zuru Zuru Koko Ni Kimashita"

(Cont'd) Armed with an SSRC grant to Tokyo University, Roger Hackett went back to Japan for the first time since leaving as a college-bound 17 year-old. He was to be a special graduate student attending seminars and lectures and researching Yamagata Aritomo. In his preliminarily Orals for the Ph.D. at Harvard he offered two Chinese fields and an "international field." He was a Japan specialist but in early 1950s America nobody was yet teaching advanced work on Japan. He remembers being something of a disappointment to the Todai faculty. Welcome to the Japanese university with open arms as a promising young scholar from Harvard, he saw host faculty excitement fade as soon as he announced that he was interested in "modern" history. Todai had nobody in the literary (bungakubu) faculty teaching kindaiishi (modern Japanese history), certainly nothing as "new" as the Meiji era.

With the extra two years at Harvard and now pursuing research in Japan, Roger Hackett had committed himself to life in the academy. A chance meeting with Bob Scalapino (Berkeley professor of Political Science) in the Isseido bookstore in Kanda led, by fits and starts, to a 1953 faculty position at Northwestern. It was Roger Hackett's responsibility to open up East Asian History to the undergraduates at Northwestern with an East Asia course, a modern China course and a modern Japan course in the first year (during which time he was expected to finish his dissertation). Northwestern's History department was a small and collegial bunch with rotating faculty social functions hosted at
each of the professor's homes in turn. Roger Hackett first shared an office with famed Woodrow Wilson scholar Arthur Link, and would eventually buy Link's Evanston home which became the Hackett's first house. Five years after joining the staff, John Fairbank talked Hackett in to the Editorship of the Journal of Asian Studies, which he undertook from 1959-1962. While Northwestern had no Japanese language program and no graduate students, the JAS editorial duties brought Hackett into contact with virtually everyone in the field, and brought "everyone" in contact with him. (to be cont’d)

Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan
Winter 2000 Newsletter

4th Marine Division
Language Officers 2: Combat & The Film

[cont’d] Finally we joined our Division in December and saw our first combat at Kwajalein 60 days later. Kwajalein was a picnic compared to what went on the following June and July when we invaded Saipan and Tinian. On Saipan, we ran the gamut, from talking soldiers out of caves, from trying to stop women and children from jumping off cliffs into the ocean, from trying to get information from prisoners, to looking for codebooks and important documents. We were busy.

Then came Iwo Jima — about six months later. Before we went to Iwo, I was approached by Lt. Will Price, the commanding officer of our Marine Corps combat photographers. Will was sort of a Hollywood celebrity in our outfit. Not because he had been dialogue director on "Done With The Wind" but rather because he was married to the actress Maureen O'Hara. Will wanted if he could assign a few cinema-photographers to shoot what our language officers did on Iwo. I said okay, not knowing what a chaotic hell Iwo would be. But regardless, his photographers shot the footage, and when we finally returned to our rest camp on Maui after the operation, he asked me to write a rough script for a possible documentary film what he could show to the generals. Lo and behold, a few weeks later he and I were ordered to the States to make a 30-minute film called "Operation: Prisoners" We worked at the old Consolidated Film Studios across from Manhattan in Fort Lee, New Jersey and also at Consolidated and Walt Disney's in Los Angeles. It took us three months and we premiered the film at Marine Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to a receptive audience. And needless to say, the material I am sending you is part of the research I commanded to write the film.

While we were in New York, the CBS radio network asked me to appear on a Sunday night "60 Minutes" type of nation-wide show. The war was just ended and they were interested in our Japanese language training, what happened with Japanese prisoners and whether the troops who were about to occupy Japan would be met with fierce resistance and suicide attacks. The show was recorded before a live audience in a Broadway theatre and my fellow World War II participants were interesting -- Marlene Dietrich, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, and Bob Hope's sidekick, Jerry Colonna. In answer to the question about the occupation, I predicted it would go peacefully. My reason was that the Emperor had accepted General MacArthur as the supreme commander and the Japanese always respected authority. Luckily it turned out to be right. (to be cont’d)

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Further Note on 4th MARDIV JLOs

For what it is worth I wrote about his USMC training effort in my memoir, Born a Foreigner: A Memoir of the American Presence in East Asia, (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), pp. 44-45.

"I soaked it all up but realized that no one at Green's Farm knew what Japanese language officers actually did in combat. We would learn by doing in the fighting units we would join.

That would be three months later for the dozen of us who were assigned to the newly activated Fourth Marine Division (really only the 11 on Jerry Hoeck's list: Chuck Cross, Dave Anderson, Wally Rockler, John Rich, Bill Brown, Ray Luthy, Tom Smith, Bedford Johnson, Don Redlin, Dan Williams and Jerry Hoeck) that it would be for the rest of the group. While they went overseas and were soon involved in operations, we went to Camp Savage, just outside Minneapolis, where we were exposed to a cram course in Japanese military documents, courtesy of the United States Army and in the company of several hundred Nisei enlisted men. We learned a lot but could have learned more if it hadn't been for the lively Minnesota hospitality.

As a small concession to our military status and on the assumption that Marine officers would naturally understand the procedures for the morning and evening formations, we took turns commanding companies of Nisei, all of whom were infinitely superior to us in Japanese. We were advised by the camp's adjutant, an unenergetic Caucasian major from Tennessee, that it was not necessary to render a scrupulously accurate accounting of our company's strength on each occasion but to shout out, "C Company, All Present or Accounted for, Sir!" no matter what we had just heard from the First Sergeant. The major's view, expressed rather wonderfully, was that "These people wouldn't go anywhere, even if they could."

We also learned to overlook the fact that most of our command was out of uniform, wearing a civilianized collection of towels, ear muffs, and bright colored mittens as these thin blooded transplants from Hawaii and Southern California desperately sought to cope with the big chills of Minnesota. Many of the absentees from roll call were scrounging for wood for their stoves because they never could keep their battered un-insulated huts, inherited from the Minnesota National Guard, nearly warm enough. (to be cont’d)

Charles Cross
JLS 1943

Note on 4th MARDIV JLOs

(Cont’d) As mentioned before, I would have gained more by being with the others for further Japanese language training at Camp Savage. However, being a USN CommSchool grad, as were the Navy communications officers on the transport vessels we boarded (and I do remember the names of all of the APAs on which we were passengers), gave me easy access to their radio rooms, and I did copy Japanese broadcasts for referral to our boss, the Division D2 (LtCol. Gooderham L. McCormick) and occasionally to our Division Commanding General, if I was assigned to their ships. In fact, I arrived at the 4thMarDiv several days before my fellow-JLOs from Savage arrived, so had the opportunity of early meeting the enlisted Japanese language graduates from the Camp Elliott USMC language school.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

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