

PULL TOGETHER

Newsletter of the Naval Historical Foundation



Rear Adm. Jay A. DeLoach,
13th Director of Naval History

See page 2 for additional details about the new Director of Naval History.

Hooper Foundation Offers Challenge Grant!

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Jay A. DeLoach: 13th Director of Naval History

Sets New Course for “Historical Products with a Purpose”

On 23 June 2008, retired Rear Adm. Jay A. DeLoach assumed the helm as the 13th Director of Naval History. With a background, career, and vision that uniquely qualify him for the position, DeLoach prepared for his interview with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead by talking with the Navy’s history stakeholders, the leaders of the other services’ historical organizations, assorted staff members with the Naval Historical Center, and other sources.

Although not a historian by training, DeLoach knows quite a bit about naval tradition and heritage. Born in San Diego, Calif., DeLoach was both the son and grandson of Chief Petty Officers. His grandfather was a Chief Machinist’s Mate in the Navy and served for 23 years from 1922 to 1945. His father, Jesse Howell DeLoach, was a Chief Yeoman when he met Ms. Berta Peña, a Texan of Hispanic-American descent. At the time of their courtship, she worked on the F-102 production line at the Convair plant in San Diego. The senior DeLoach’s career progressed and in 1960 he received a commission through the Limited Duty Officer program. With changes of duty stations, the family had the opportunity to live on both coasts.

In the spring of 1973, when DeLoach was a junior at First Colonial High School in Virginia Beach, Va., a reception was held to celebrate the return of Cdr. Eugene B. “Red” McDaniel, who had been held in brutal captivity by the North Vietnamese for nearly six years. Thirty-five years later DeLoach arrived at the Naval Historical Center to be greeted by his new deputy Capt. Michael McDaniel. In conversation, DeLoach discovered that McDaniel was the son of the former POW and that his deputy had been a freshman at First Colonial at the time of his father’s return—a remarkable coincidence.

After graduating from First Colonial High School in the spring of 1974, DeLoach followed the family tradition of naval service by attending the U.S. Naval Academy, as a member of the Class of 1978. While at the academy, DeLoach saw history in the making as Annapolis admitted female midshipmen for the first time in 1976. At the time, the officer assigned to oversee the integration of women, William J. Holland, observed that the upperclassmen initially resented the change but handled the transition well. Holland later retired as a Rear Admiral and serves

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The new Director of Naval History works with young visitors at the at a Patuxent River Naval Air Station Open House to construct Signal Flags as part of a series of educational activities developed by the Navy Museum’s educational specialist Karin Hill.

Generous Donors Ensure Important Naval History Material Is Accessible to Future Researchers

by Todd Creekman

Archivists have two main tasks to perform as they administer their collections: to preserve their records for the future and to make that material available to the public. Over the past year, the Naval Historical Foundation and the Naval Historical Center's Operational Archives have successfully partnered with two families to accelerate that process of preservation and access for important naval history collections.

For the Naval Historical Foundation, such endeavors are nothing new. Chartered over 80 years ago to protect U.S. naval heritage in the form of art, artifacts, papers, and documents, the Foundation's mission has evolved in recent years to effective distribution of its long-held collections to the Library of Congress, the Naval Historical Center, and other appropriate repositories. In addition, the Foundation in its nonprofit role has become a go-between for the donation and processing of newly arrived collections into the Naval Historical Center's various branches.



Adm. Stansfield Turner



Admiral Turner and archivists Daniel J. Lavoie II of History Associates Incorporated and Cathy Kerns contemplate the nearly 300 boxes comprising the Admiral's personal papers collection.

It is in this latter role that an innovative team approach recently processed two very different collections to help prepare them for public research. Adm. Stansfield Turner, U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1947 and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, had a distinguished naval career followed by a productive consulting, teaching, and writing career that continues right up to the present. From sea duty during the Korean War through the presidency of the Naval College, to command of the Navy's Second Fleet and finally the Director's job at the Central Intelligence Agency, Turner saw military, academic, and political action throughout the Cold War era. As with many Navy leaders, his personal papers collection was safely stored in the Naval Historical Center's Operational Archives. However, staff and resource shortages and an increasing backlog of unprocessed collections meant that his collection might languish for years before it could be made available for researchers. Responding to the challenge in a manner reminiscent of his decisive leadership style

during his Navy days, Turner and his staff offered to help. His significant financial donation enabled the Naval Historical Foundation, serving as the executive agent, to hire contractors from History Associates Incorporated to work under Archives personnel supervision to complete this daunting task. At the end of the five-month project, over 280 boxes of indexed and organized material were ready to be reviewed by declassifiers, after which cleared material can be made available to the public.

The second collection, though more limited in scope with its World War II focus, was an equally important project because of the devotion of a family to the memory of their deceased husband and father. Lt. Jonathan S. England was a graduate of Harvard College and attended Boston University Graduate School of Business Administration in the years leading up to World War II. Commissioned in 1942, he served for three and a half dangerous and eventful years in motor torpedo boats, including combat operations in the Solomon Islands campaigns in the South Pacific.

One of his training center classmates and fellow PT boat skippers was a young Lt. John F. Kennedy, whose appreciation for England's help in the aftermath of Kennedy's PT-109 combat loss is documented in the collection. With his last Navy tour in Washington, D.C., England remained in the national capital area after the war and became a successful businessman and partner at a Rockville, Md., lumber company. Though his military service was relatively short, England was an archivist's dream; he saved a considerable amount of documentation about the war, PT boats, and his own service, and did not hesitate to share his naval service stories with his wife and four daughters. That family awareness and appreciation for England's service and sacrifice led them to approach the Navy with their



Archivist Cathy Kerns joins Senior Archivist Kathy Lloyd in showing the processed England collection to his wife, Mrs. Patricia England, and their daughter Laurie England.



Lt. Jonathan England during PT boat combat operations in World War II.

husband and father's collection following his death in 2005. Daughter Laurie England, realizing the significance of her father's World War II material, persevered in her search for the proper repository until Naval Historical Center curator Mark Wertheimer visited the England family, saw the collection, and got the donation process started. Faced with the assurance of the collection's safety in the Navy's hands, yet concerned over the backlog of processing tasks facing the Archives staff, the family turned to the Naval Historical Foundation to set up another team approach to getting the processing job done. With the family's generous donation and the help of a contractor archivist, the project was completed in

two months and an organized collection finding aid was presented to the delighted family. That collection is now available for public research.

Getting significant naval history material into the custody of the Navy is an important step in ensuring that material's long-term preservation. But as these two unique projects demonstrated, commitment of private resources and the involvement of a mission-focused nonprofit like the Naval Historical Foundation can be the key to making that material available to future generations of Americans for whom World War II and the Cold War can come alive through the words of Sailors like Stansfield Turner and Jonathan England.

Sea of Voices: Oral History in Today's Navy

By Kirsten Arnold

For nearly a dozen years, the Naval Historical Foundation's oral history program has augmented the efforts of the Naval Historical Center and U.S. Naval Institute (USNI). These organizations programs have faced challenges and some alterations, but continue to collect and distribute the personal histories of Navy veterans from as early as World War I to the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Historians have been capturing recollections of naval personnel for decades. However, most of these interviews have been focused research interviews—aimed to extract specific information that could then be applied to a narrative. In most cases, these interviews were captured by hand-written notes. Though these interviews hardly pass muster as oral history, notes taken by an interviewer can sometimes be useful as a resource for later generations.

Technology facilitated the evolution of modern oral history. With the advent of wire recorders in the 1940s, the Naval Historical Foundation initiated a program to capture the recollections of those who pioneered the use of radio communications at sea during the early 20th century. These recordings are retained today at the Library of Congress Sound Division. Also in the late 1940s, Columbia University initiated a program that used a biographical approach to capture the recollections of individuals who

played leading roles in America's effort during World War II. Many of these were senior naval officers.

In the 1960s, the USNI with John Mason continued the effort to capture the histories of Navy leaders after they retired. In the 1980s, Paul Stillwell relieved Mason and annually added thousands of pages of transcript to the USNI collection. Though many of Stillwell's subjects were senior naval officers, others represented different segments of the Navy population. For example, interviews conducted with the Navy's first African-American officers led to the publication of *The Golden Thirteen*.

At the Naval Historical Center, the work of Regina Akers, an archivist and oral historian with the Operational Archives Branch, reflects a shift towards being more inclusive. Recent interviewees have included junior officers, enlisted personnel, minorities, and military dependents. For example, Store Keeper First Class Susan Chamberlain, a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, was interviewed. For SK1 Chamberlain, the Navy is a family business. Her husband is a retired naval officer with former enlisted service; her daughter serves in the active duty Navy and her son and daughter-in-law in the Navy Reserve. The Chamberlains are a great example of so many families in the United States who have served and sacrificed.

A second recent interviewee is Mrs. Samuel Gravely. This history details her experiences as the wife of one of the pioneering African-American surface warfare officers during the Cold War. Interviews such as Mrs. Gravely's provide a different perspective on life in the military, and give future historians a more complete picture.

Besides conducting interviews, Akers has started a mentoring program to encourage oral historians. She currently trains new and experienced oral historians who are planning projects; trying to establish or maintain their programs with declining personnel, material, or financial resources; or transitioning to digital equipment. She advises oral historians at government and non-government repositories on various aspects of managing, preserving, and sharing oral history collections.

Some of her pupils include members of the Naval Combat Documentation Detachment 206. Det. 206 serves as the eyes and ears for the Naval Historical Center and aims to capture current operations, often through the use of interviews. Teams are deployed

world-wide with a focus on contemporary history.

Currently serving as the Center's Deputy Director, Capt. Michael H. McDaniel, USNR, also has a collateral duty as the Pentagon Liaison Officer. In this latter capacity McDaniel identifies targets of opportunity that need to be documented. He uses the relationships built at the Pentagon with senior leadership to help gain entrée to the various fleet units and commands. McDaniel also works to interview key people so the whole story can be told and the action explained for future historians.

While the Naval Historical Center focuses on capturing the recollections of those still serving, the Naval Historical Foundation gathers oral histories and memoirs of those who have served in the past. In 1998, David Winkler established volunteer networks throughout the United States. Some volunteers conduct the interviews, and others, such as Naval Historical Foundation 2007 Volunteer of the Year John Maloney, transcribe them. Foundation volunteers and oral historians focus on interviewing veterans from World War II through the Cold War. Recently completed oral histories in the process of being published include Joe Smith's sessions with Adm. Henry Mauz (former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet); John Grady's interviews with Rear Adm. Mack Gaston (the first African-American Commander of Great Lakes Training Center); and Master Chief John McCully (Vietnam era-Seabee); David Majeski's interview of Rear Adm. Ken Wilson; and Kent Siegel's interview with Rear Adm. Roger O.

Simon. These interviews will be published and sent to the various Navy libraries throughout the United States. Before he passed away, Adm. William Crowe sat down with Paul Stillwell for a series of 16 interviews and Stillwell is under contract with the Foundation to edit and index the resulting hundreds of pages of text.

The Foundation also accepts donations of personal memoirs and oral histories. A guide for writing a memoir is provided on the Center's website. Recent memoir donations include one from World War II POW Charles Joseph Lewis, John Buckley's eyewitness account of the fire aboard the Oriskany during the Vietnam War, and the recollections of Adm. Albert Gleaves, who graduated from the Naval Academy in 1877. Oral histories collected by the USS *Little Rock* Association and Dundalk Historical Society are donated to the Foundation periodically. Individuals who served the Navy in any capacity are encouraged to submit their memoir. These histories are also published and donated to Navy libraries.

Collaboration has served as a force multiplier in naval oral history and a most successful partnership has been that of the Naval Historical Foundation and Naval Historical Center with the Library of Congress and its Veterans History Project. Currently the Veterans History Project has in its database 11,010 interviews with naval personnel. Included in its database are some 200 Naval Historical Foundation interviews.

A good example of successful collaboration between the Foundation and the historical offices of the Marine



Cathy Kerns digitizing the Navy's collection prior to 2008.

Corps, Coast Guard, and Navy was the Sea Services Digitization Project. Through a grant from the Dillon Fund in 2002 the Naval Historical Foundation purchased the equipment necessary to digitize thousands of reel-to-reel tapes, audio cassettes, and VHS tapes. The Marine Corps Historical Center initially provided the labor to begin the conversion process. When the Marines relocated to Quantico, the Foundation hired former Marine Corps archivist Catherine Kerns to operate the equipment that was moved to the Naval Historical Center.

The digitizing equipment was kept in the Operational Archives Branch with Regina Akers serving as the on-site manager because some of the material is classified. Digitized was most of the Center's collection, all of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's interviews, and all of the Foundation's collection along with thousands of oral histories from the Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Over 4,000 CD-ROMs were completed for the Navy alone. Among these were interviews with

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt (former CNO) and Adm. Stansfield Turner (former director of the CIA) and recordings of Vietnam POWs. In March 2007, the Naval Historical Foundation gifted the equipment to the Marine Corps University Library in Quantico, Va.

Along with successes, the oral historians at the Foundation and Center face the challenges all oral historians face. One of the most important steps in oral history is achieving rapport with the interviewee. It is much easier to do an interview and build trust once you know an individual. Unfortunately, there is not always time so it is imperative to have a credible reputation and build a bond as quickly as possible. Interviewees should never feel like they are being interviewed to further the interviewer's career; rather, they should feel that their interview will help see history is better served.

Time can be the worst enemy of the oral historians at the Naval Historical Foundation and Center. There are so many individuals who need to be interviewed and so few oral historians. The

process from interview to final product is extremely time consuming. Sadly, many worthy candidates are never interviewed because of the lack of volunteers and time.

Preservation issues can pose challenges for oral historians. The process of transferring the material from one media form to another can be both costly and time consuming. Finding storage space for tapes, CDs, and DVDs where they will degrade over time can be daunting as well.

Though the challenges are many, they are outweighed by the rewards. Being interviewed can offer a morale boost to interviewees. It gives them a sense that someone cares about what they are doing and finds it worthwhile and valuable. Interviews can be therapeutic for interviewees as they recount their experience and interviewers as they conduct the interview. Finally, the sense for the oral historian that he or she brought something of value to the end user be it the public or a historian is inestimable.



Photo quiz with commentary by David T. Leighton

This picture was one of several similar pictures taken for use in an article by Robert Wallace titled "A Deluge of Honors For An Exasperating Admiral," which appeared in the 8 September 1958 issue of Life (pp. 104-118). The subtitle on the magazine cover was "Rickover: Unpopular Naval Hero." The photographs taken in Rickover's office that day are the only photographs ever taken of Rickover with a group of his senior staff as far as I know. Each of the people in the photograph worked in Washington in Naval Reactors Headquarters and reported directly to Admiral Rickover.

The Life article chronicled the ceremonies in New York celebrating the arrival of the USS Nautilus (SSN 571) at the North Pole in August 1958. Rickover had not been included in an earlier ceremony in the Oval Office. A furor had erupted in the press when the Navy said he had not been included because there was no room for him in the Oval Office. This led to his being promoted to Vice Admiral and to being designated as President Eisenhower's personal representative in the ticker-tape parade in New York in which he and Cdr. William Anderson, the Commanding Officer of Nautilus, were the honored guests. The article recounted Rickover's career. Can you identify these individuals? (Answers are on page 18.)

