

THE ORVILLE B. LEFKO PAPERS, .25 LINEAR FEET

ABSTRACT

The *Orville B. Lefko Papers* consist of the World War II documents and photographs of Orville B. Lefko. Lefko graduated from the US Navy Japanese Language School located at the University of Colorado in Boulder from 1942-1946. He served as a Navy Intelligence Officer in JICPOA, the 5th Marine Division, the Navy Technical Mission to Japan, and the US Bombing Survey.

Donated by Orville B. Lefko- March 10, 2001
Processed by Sarah A. Johnson- March 22, 2001

BIOGRAPHY

Orville B. Lefko was born on October 3, 1922 in Detroit Michigan. He attended the University of Michigan and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A in Economics in 1942. Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, Lefko entered the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado. Lefko graduated from the Japanese Language School on July 10, 1943. After a stay at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York to receive further instruction in being a Naval Intelligence Officer, Lefko was sent to Pearl Harbor, during which time he also went to the Mariannas and Kewajalein, and was assigned to JICPOA.

While in Hawaii, Lefko worked on translating Japanese War documents and interviewing Japanese prisoners. Lefko also organized a country western band, which played for dances on weekends, one night at the officers club, and other nights for enlisted men. Although the musical group was selected to tour the Pacific as a part of an USO troupe, Lefko was unable to receive a leave from his Naval Intelligence duties. The band dispersed after Lefko was assigned to the 5th Amphibious Corps.

In late 1944, along with Lt. Cmdr. Neal Jensen, Lefko volunteered for a special mission to capture a rock islet, which supported an enemy radio tower and transmitter in Philippine waters of Leyete Island. Following this, they went to the Provisional Capitol Building in Tacloban to make contact with officials. For six weeks Lefko and Jensen remained in Tacloban, surveying the surrounding land. All information collected was to be shipped to General MacArthur's headquarters in Australia. When MacArthur was notified of the mission, he denied permission for the Navy to enter Army territory. Lefko and Jensen returned to their regular JICPOA duties after the mission was called off.¹

In 1945, Lefko landed on Iwo Jima with the 4th Marine Division. Because his duties did not include combat situations, Lefko was ordered off the island. Two days later, Lefko returned to carry out his Naval Intelligence duties, which included searching caves for Japanese soldiers and documents. Although he was able to retrieve many documents, Lefko never encountered a Japanese soldier.

During the occupation of Japan, Lefko remained with the 5th Amphibious Corps. He was assigned to Commander Taylor in Sasebo and was put in charge of a motor pool while he awaited an intelligence assignment. Lefko was later assigned to the Navy Technical Mission to Japan serving as interpreter for various groups of Navy personnel investigating different aspects of the Japanese military effort, planned defenses, and activities prior to surrender. As a part of his duties, Lefko located Japanese flag-rank officers who were dispersed and working in various menial occupations to avoid interrogation. Lefko also located the place of manufacture of the Japanese suicide miniature submarines.

After his assignment to the Navy Technical Mission to Japan, Lefko served with the United States Bombing Survey. Lefko served as interpreter to various intelligence officer groups and supervised the translation of all newspaper articles pertaining to the atomic bombings published in Nagasaki from August 1945 to November 1945. After completing the translations, Lefko left Japan and returned to San Francisco on the Tryon, APH-1.

After WWII, Lefko returned to the University of Michigan to attend the Graduate School of Business Administration. In 1947 he graduated Beta Gamma Sigma with a M.B.A. in marketing and began working in Texaco's International Marketing Department. In 1950 Lefko left Texaco and from 1951 to 1953 he was an auditor with L.R.B.&M, now Price Waterhouse Coopers. In 1951, Lefko was awarded the Seidman Economics Award for his paper on Economics and Public Finance, which was written in connection with the CPA examination. In 1954 and 1955 Lefko was Manager, Marketing Budgets &

¹ The "Suicide Mission" by Neal F. Jensen, Lt. Cmdr., USNR-R, *The Neal F. Jensen Collection* Box 1-7

Sales Forecasting in Carboly Department of General Electric Company. Since 1955, Lefko has been with The Lefko Group, his professional practice. From 1955 to 1968, Lefko provided service as a Certified Public Accountant and since 1968, he has focused on business analysis. On August 5, 1967, Lefko was married to Janet Mather and on August 10, 1969 their daughter Tami was born.

Lefko is the author of “Buy-Sell Agreements and Appraisals”, published February 1976, “Holder’s Interest”, published 1992, and “Incompatibility Between Prenuptial and Buy-Sell Agreements Can Cause a Host of Problems”, published January 1999. Lefko is a speaker before legal, accounting, financial and estate planning, and other professional groups and has taught courses on economics and financial analysis. Lefko is a member of many organizations including Association for Investment Management and Research, Financial Analysts Society of Detroit, Economic Club of Detroit, ESOP Association, National Association of Business Economists, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants-Honorary Member, and Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. In September 2000, he presented a seminar on “Accounting Abuse and Manipulation” for the AIMR at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The *Orville B. Lefko Papers* are organized in the manner in which they were received. **I. RESUME** contains Lefko's cover letter, which he sent with the donated materials. It is included with the collection because it gives a description of the documents and photographs contained in the collection, as well as a brief account of Lefko's war experiences. Included in this folder is a curriculum vitae, which details Lefko's professional and educational career following the War. **II. PHOTOGRAPHS** comprise of photographs taken during WWII of the country western group Lefko organized, the landing of Iwo Jima by the 5th Marine Division, and the place of manufacture of the Japanese suicide miniature submarines. **III. DOCUMENTS** contain a part of a translation from a Japanese document, a copy of Chaplain Gittlesohn's Memorial Address- Fifth Marine Division Cemetery, and an article by the columnist David Lawrence entitled Battle of Iwo Jima- Toughest of the War. The outline on the two atom bomb cities written by Lefko, which he titled A Tale of Two Cities, a copy of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey translation of all the newspaper articles published in Nagasaki dealing with the atomic bombings, and poems about General MacArthur written by a graduate of the Japanese Language School are also listed under **III. DOCUMENTS**.

