INTRODUCTION

In an attempt to revisit past eras, Lakeside’s archivist, Leslie Schuyler, has solicited parent volunteers to conduct research into past student publications, including Tatler newspapers and Numidian yearbooks. The objective is to help retrieve and preserve the memories of this time and the legacy of Lakesiders past. This report provides preliminary results of research focusing on Lakeside and WWII. It includes information gleaned from newspapers and yearbooks published between October 1934 and September 1945.

The report divides these eleven years into three parts. The first section, The Early Years, provides a brief overview of Lakeside prior to the war. Section two, The War from Afar, focuses on a period of economic recession in a continent isolated in peace. Tatler newspapers from these years highlight Lakeside’s football team (particularly revered for winning the 1937 Northwest Regional Football Championship) and students who stood out due to their leadership qualities, academic responsibility, and scholastic achievement. Section two also focuses special attention on the fourteen Lakeside alumni who perished in the war and thus overlaps, chronologically, with the third section. The third section, Lakeside During the War, covers the time period from December 7, 1941 (the date of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor) until August 1945 (the end of WWII). Most, if not all, of the students from the undefeated football team of 1937 joined the armed forces. The school’s history is haunted by the loss of fourteen students who attended Lakeside during those years and were killed in WWII. Appendix I details Lakeside’s tributes and memorials to WWII; Appendix II provides more detailed information on the fourteen Lakesiders who were killed in the war; and Appendix III offers readers a few examples of the writings of those who served.

The main purpose of this report is to provide an overview of how WWII affected Lakeside in general, and, more specifically, to contrast its effect on students and the school before, during, and after the war. What has resulted from this work is a tale that involves valor, a change in the course of history, a campus spirit of competition and cooperation, and a more purposeful meaning to the word “memorial.”
LAKESIDE AND WWII

The Early Years: 1929-1936

John Hewitt founded the Tatler student newspaper in 1934 in order to give news of Lakeside School and to provide an organ of expression for students; the founder also wanted the Tatler to communicate the true spirit of Lakeside to its audience. Hewitt had much to write about because in the early 1930s Lakeside School was under enrolled and underfunded. For instance, in 1932, in the aftershock of the Great Depression, only five students graduated; in 1933, only six graduated. The school was $150,000 in debt, teachers were working with no pay other than room and board, and public school students thought of Lakeside as a reform school.

Just prior to the Great Depression, the school had acquired a taste for national recognition when, in 1929, Wilbur Huston was named “America’s Brightest Boy.” This honor was earned as a result of his winning a scholarship contest sponsored by Thomas Edison.

In 1934 Robert “Sim” Adams was hired as headmaster of the depauperate Lakeside. He and his staff set about to recruit good students from throughout the country, as Lakeside had a boarding program at the time, while simultaneously making the school financially solvent. Of course, no one yet knew that these same students would be further recruited to fight, and in the case of fourteen Lakesiders, lose their lives in the Second World War.

This report tells the story of how students of Adams’ early tenure were affected by and responded to their early years at Lakeside. In his book Ways of the World: a Global History (2009), R. W. Strayer asserts that WWII officially began when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941. As Japan formed pacts with Germany and Italy, Lakeside was growing into a nationally recognized school. As with many Americans at the time,
Wilbur Huston’s commitment to the pacifist movement evaporated, and in 1943 “America’s Brightest Boy” joined the armed service.

The War from Afar: 1936-1941

In the late 1930s millions of soldiers and civilians were arrested, abused, and murdered while Western Europe and North America remained silent. The Japanese Imperial Navy used this decade to invade numerous small islands in shallow seas by amphibious assaults. These coral and volcanic atolls had runways, or where there weren’t any, landing strips were quickly installed.

The archives’ holdings help us reconstruct what life was like for Lakeside students, many of whom appeared in numerous Tatler articles, and all of whom gaze back at us from photographs taken at the time. The Lakeside student council was formed in 1933 (Tatler, September 24, 1936 page 1). After the recession, Lakeside was left in a state of shell shock; however, students recruited by Headmaster Adams’ promotional team soon surfaced and exposed their many talents and versatility. In 1936, Chuck McAllister ’38 joined the council as treasurer and then became president for 1937–38. The council acted as an anchor for friendships that stretched from Spokane to Honolulu. For example, in 1937 the two “Macs” (Chuck McAllister of Spokane and Ted McKay of Seattle) were inseparable. McKay joined McAllister on the council as vice-president. The two were also co-captains of the Lakeside football team under Coach Les Wilkins. The football team was very good, which gave Lakeside positive exposure at regional and national levels. McAllister played guard and McKay was the quarterback for three years before he became halfback/pass defender his senior year. Because the team was small, McAllister, McKay, and other individual players often played both defense and offense.
In 1938 McAllister won the Lincoln Speaker’s Forum (*Tatler*, February 24, 1938), a popular school speech competition. He spoke on “Lincoln's personality.” He also spearheaded the committee that wrote and approved the new student constitution of 1938. McKay was a judge on the first student court. He wrestled, but his strongest suit was boxing. He organized the 1938 Smoker, a father-son event that pit interesting combinations of boxers against each other. One such combination paired the Roosevelt High School quarterback with Lakeside’s halfback (McKay himself). After single elimination bouts, McKay was declared the overall winner. Over 600 people attended the 1938 Smoker (*Tatler*, May 6, 1937 page 1.)
Another member of the early football teams killed in WWII was Allan (“Al”) Goodman ’37. Al played football as an end in the fall of 1936. According to Goodman’s citation in the June 1937 Tatler, aside from his many athletic sports other than football, he played basketball, track, and he boxed. Goodman liked to sing and write poetry. One of his poems is included at the end of this report.

Thomas (“Tom”) Symons ’37 played tackle early at Lakeside, but he took sick leave in 1936. After graduating, Symons hoped to attend UCLA and eventually enter ‘the radio business; alas, the war changed all that and Tom died while a prisoner of war in the Pacific Theatre.

Ralph Wells Booth ’36 was another casualty of WWII. He also played football. Booth entered Lakeside in 1933, and his citation in the June 1936 Tatler tells us he was a member of Lakeside’s Rifle Team that placed 15th in the nation. He planned to attend the University of Washington after graduation. One of McKay’s columns in the newspaper reads: “…former football end, Booth, returned to campus for the 1938 Smoker.” Booth was killed in a motor vehicle accident in England in January of 1944 while serving.

Robert Kingsbury (“King”) Huntington ’40 was a member of the Tatler staff and played football for Lakeside during his senior year at Lakeside. Huntington enlisted in Navy in April of 1941. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement as rear gunner in a torpedo plane during an attack against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942. Flying without fighter support and with insufficient fuel to return to their carrier, Huntington and his fellow crewmember pressed home their attack with utter disregard for their own personal safety, in the face of a tremendous antiaircraft barrage and overwhelming fighter opposition. Huntington was one of 29 from Torpedo Squadron 8 who gave their lives in this
attack. The USS Robert K. Huntington (DD-781), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was named in his honor.

A common campus experience for boys who later lost their lives in WWII—aside from playing football—was writing about football and other campus sports for the *Tatler*. Writers included Ted McKay ’38 whose column (“McKay’s Kolum”) even featured a report from the Berlin Olympics in which McKay notes his respect for fellow attendee Grantland Rice who was widely known as one of the greatest sports writers of all time.

In addition to being the sports editor for the *Tatler*, Bob Bronson ’40 was student council president, played basketball, and was a member of Lakeside’s Big “L” Club (the Letterman’s Club). Bronson died of a prolonged illness while serving.

The *Tatler* column, “Obie’s Dope” was written by Robert O’Brien ’38, the ever-reliable guard and center of the championship football team. O’Brien was the sports editor for the 1937-38 *Tatler*. O’Brien joined the National Guard and was killed in 1943.

Although many of the WWII fatalities associated with Lakeside students occurred in the South Pacific, George Dodson Fix ’41, John Kerl ’38, and Harold Dupar ’43 fought and died over Italy. John Kerl (nicknamed “golden boy” for his blond hair and light complexion) played for the 1937 championship football team and was a senior class officer. Basketball, tennis, history, and science were some of his hobbies. Kerl’s diverse background helped him win an essay contest in which he wrote on the subject of “Competition and Cooperation.” In addition to the McAllister father and son team, both McKay and Kerl spoke to their fellow graduates at commencement in 1938. Kerl was killed in action over Italy in 1943.
Harold Dupar ’43 served as the business manager for the Tatler and Numidian, played tackle on the football team and guard on the basketball team, and managed Lakeside’s baseball team. He was one of the school’s youngest war casualties, killed in Anzio, Italy, on June 24, 1944, little more than a year after he graduated from Lakeside.

George Dodson Fix was a member of the class of 1941, although he wasn’t able to graduate with his class because of an illness that removed him from school during his senior year. Fix was cited for bravery on patrol duty before he was killed in combat over Italy in November of 1944 in the Battle of Metz.

Philip Shank ’43, nicknamed “Shorty,” played football, was a track star, and faithfully served on school dance committees “since he first courted a cat to a Lakeside rat race.” (1943 Numidian yearbook). Shank was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in northwest Europe on March 12, 1945, less than two years after he graduated from Lakeside.

Arthur Driscoll Robbins, a member of the class of 1937, was killed in action on June 10, 1945 in the Battle of Okinawa.

Of the 14 Lakeside alumni lost in WWII, the Tatler newspapers or Numidian yearbooks have little information on Robbins or Robert E. Fifield ’43 who attended Lakeside for his 8th grade year only. Fifield died in the Battle of Midway in 1942.
The *Tatler* newspapers from the early war years focus on student activities, academics, and sports. There is little or no mention of the building war. This all changed on December 7, 1941, with the attack on Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, life at Lakeside was noticeably different than what had come before, and what would come after. Curfew was enforced, bus runs were cut, gas was rationed, men were toting shotguns, and lights and flammable materials were restricted even at school dances! Procurement of scrap metal by students was an ongoing affair. Interestingly, *Tatler* articles made no mention, until the end of the war, of the invincible Boeing bombers built in Seattle; possibly because this kind of information would have been considered secret at the time.

There were no war protests and complaints about the draft, at least as far as we can see from published *Tatlerns*. Conscription was not enforced on high school boys but underage boys still ended up in battles. Men were allowed to continue on to college, and this is how McAllister ’38 and McKay ’38 ended up in the same marine unit and in combat at the same time as each other and with Shank ’43 and Dupar ’43. The problem of attrition of soldiers was solved in part by providing incentives for students to jump ahead using Lakeside summer school naval programs. The military needed soldiers, but apparently they did not recruit boys who wanted to jump into more intensive training tracks. The summer school which formed for the first time at Lakeside in 1943 was a success.

In 1944 and 1945 the *Tatler* published a summary of military news both abroad and at home with each issue of the paper. The section devoted to war news was entitled “The Lions Trail.” A sub-section of this report was a list of where soldiers were stationed, what arm of the service had them (e.g., army, navy, marines, etc.) and any other news about individuals that was fit to print. The late spring 1944 issues of the *Tatler* were particularly focused on Lakesiders caught up in the war. Information concerning 23 soldiers or soldiers-in-training, came from these issues. A rough sample of this group showed that as many as two thirds signed-up for V5 and V12 naval programs. Five or so enlisted in radio/radar/Seabees and intelligence/linguistics. Two were commissioned marines and one was in the army. The V5 Flight School lasted for three months and the program consisted primarily of college students and graduates who volunteered for Naval Flight Training. After graduation the cadets were transferred to various flight training schools around the country. The V12 Navy College Training Program was designed to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the United States Navy at the time.
V12 participants were required to carry seventeen credit hours and nine-and-a-half hours of physical training each week. Study was year-round, with the number of terms for a trainee dependent on the previous college background, if any, and his course of study. From the V12 program, most of the Navy candidates went on to a four-month course at a reserve midshipmen’s school, and the Marine candidates went to boot camp and then to the twelve-week Officer Candidate Course. The curriculum was heavy on math and science for “regulars” (those entering college for the first time). Those students who already had some college credit, called “irregulars,” were allowed to continue in their majors with the addition of courses in math and science.

Faculty turnover was high during this time. For young faculty members conscription was an ever-present concern. Mr. Eugene Elliott, a Lower School English teacher, advisor to the Tatler and Numidian, and in charge of the school’s drama productions, was the first faculty member to leave for the service in the summer of 1942. Elliott had a penchant for cryptography; while in the service, he worked for the cryptography department. It was through the success of deciphering Japanese codes that the intelligence group at Pearl Harbor was able to interpret enemy movements and motives thus keeping them always out of sight just over the earth’s curvature. (Tatler, October 26, 1943).

Major Bill Murray, Lakeside’s athletic director, was called to service in the winter of 1942. Murray stayed close to home where he took charge of military barracks at Fort Lawton in the Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle.

Math and physics teacher, and founder of Seattle’s Camp Discovery, J. Gordon (“Gordie”) Hamilton was called away in 1943 to serve in naval intelligence. Hamilton served three years in the Pacific before being discharged as a lieutenant commander.
Lieutenant Commander Jean Lambert was assistant headmaster, coach, member of Lakeside’s math faculty, and dorm supervisor. As Lakeside’s dorm supervisor, Lambert hid under the bed covers of missing students who he then surprised on their way back into their rooms. Now that is a real Halloween! Lambert was drafted early to help control mayhem in barracks of new army recruits; a job similar to what he dealt with at Lakeside. He was discharged from the Navy in the spring of 1946. Lambert filled-in as headmaster when Sim Adams died unexpectedly in September of 1950. His work at Lakeside is summarized in the May 31, 1951 issue of the *Tatler*.

Hamilton and Murray were also drafted for the war’s duration; both returned to Lakeside in the spring of 1946.

On the home front one could find ways to help. War bonds were well-received and supported in North Seattle both on and off campus. The *Tatler* was a strong supporter of the bonds. According to the newspaper, Lakesiders raised enough money to fund a complete Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress.

Nonetheless, discussions on socio-political issues were still a part of the school’s curriculum. Faculty member H. J. Belgum discussed race hatred with students and the *Tatler* published his short plea which focused on the incarceration of Japanese citizens in the western part of the country as an example of this. (*Tatler* June 4, 1943) A socialist candidate for president was even allowed to speak on campus where he campaigned for lenient treatment of Germans after the war (*Tatler*, September 20, 1944).

There are several references to students working on Boeing planes (*Tatler*, February 26, 1945) and plane projects in and out of factories during the war. Women also worked inside the Boeing plants. *Tatler* articles did not include information on teenage girls working in factories in Seattle. In 1943, Cliff Winkler ’43, a student who had worked on Boeing planes while at Lakeside, graduated and immediately went to work in the Marianas Islands building the landing strip from which B-29 planes would attack Japan.

Even though things continued to improve in North America, bad news could not be avoided. Lakeside students were exposed to the complexities (and perhaps, even, the excitement)
of war from alumni letters published in the *Tatler*, and from soldiers who spoke on campus. A testimonial presented to faculty and students on October 19, 1943 by Private First Class Harry Thomas covered his three years as a marine begun before his fifteenth birthday. He had then gone to Pearl Harbor where he manned a machine gun in the 1941 enemy attack. Later he was assigned to the cruiser Astoria from which he watched the Lexington and Yorktown aircraft carriers sink during the Coral Sea and Midway battles. The Astoria was then sent to Guadalcanal where the AA battery fought off enemy planes. During the night, naval action finally sunk the ship. Thomas told of shelling, burning bodies, being hit four times by shrapnel and molten metal, and falling 30 feet to another deck. When the Astoria blew up, Thomas went overboard wearing a lifebelt. He was picked up by a destroyer and returned home weeks later (*Tatler*, October 26, 1943 page 1).

Harold Dupar ’43, wrote of the opposite problem. Instead of flying shrapnel, Harold faced boredom in the dirty fields of Kansas. It was 117 degrees when he arrived for army training on August 13, 1943. “Dupe” was very bored and wrote long letters, one of which was published in the October 26, 1943 *Tatler*.

Charles Becktol ’37 who survived three years as UW quarterback and then went on to serve the entire Marshal Islands Campaign, tragically lost both of his legs in the invasion of Saipan.

And there are many other stories to be told about the war and its effects on the school and students. If you would like to share your Lakeside-related WWII story with the archives, please contact the archivist at archives@lakesideschool.org.

Many thanks to A. B. Adams P’13 whose dedication to, interest in, and in-depth research on this topic resulted in the above report. To view a special exhibit based on this report, click here.
APPENDIX I: CAMPUS WAR MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES TO WWII CASUALTIES

In 1948 the Charles Ralyea McAllister Memorial House, a building made possible through the generosity of friends of Chuck and of the school, was completed and dedicated. Following graduation from Princeton, Chuck had joined the Marine Corps, and on July 21, 1944, was killed leading an attack on a Japanese unit that had surrounded part of his men.

In November 1949 ground was broken for the Theodore Aiken McKay Memorial Chapel. The Chapel was dedicated in October of 1951 in memory of McKay and the thirteen other alumni who perished in the war.

An electronic Baldwin organ in northwest corner of McKay chapel was given in memory of Harold Dupar who was killed at Anzio not long after he graduated from Lakeside. The organ was a gift of the Dupar family. The family later gave the school two named scholarships in Harold’s memory.

In the winter of the 1952-53 school year, the new George Dodson Fix Memorial Library was dedicated. Fix was killed in France while serving as a commando with the “Yankii Division.” Funds given by his family and by friends went into the construction of the library which later became the Alumni Center and is now home to the admissions and communications departments.

“Just a few words of welcome and appreciation to my boys who have attended Lakeside from 1930 through these many years. I am proud that so many of you responded to the call to arms, and thankful for your safe return. For those boys who sleep in foreign lands, I say ‘Rest in peace! And God bless you all!’” – “Ma” Long, who owned a store close to Lakeside where students frequented. (Tatler, April 20, 1946)
APPENDIX II: DETAILED INFORMATION ON LAKESIDE WWII CASUALTIES

From the plaque honoring "Lakeside boys who died in service of their country." (Names are in the order listed on the physical plaque, now located in archives storage.)

John Irving Kerl ’38
Ralph Wells Booth ’36
George Dodson Fix ’41
Robert E. Fifield ’40
Robert Bronson ’40
Robert K. Huntington ’40
Robert M. O’Brien ’38
Theodore Aiken McKay ’38
Charles McAllister ’38
Arthur Driscoll Robbins ’37
Corwin Philip Shank, Jr. ’43
Harold Everett Dupar ’43
Allan Wade Goodman ’37
Thomas W. Symons, Ill ’37

Veteran names with service and death information. Researched by Leslie Schuyler (archivist 2008 – present)

Ralph Wells Booth ’36 attended the University of Washington and enlisted in the army shortly after Pearl Harbor. He was sent to the Armored Forces School at Fort Knox. He then went to Panama for 26 months. From there he was sent to England in January of 1944 and died on May 9 of that year in a motor vehicle accident.

Robert Bronson ’40 died of a prolonged illness in 1942 while serving in WWII.

Harold Everett Dupar ’43 attended the University of Washington for one semester and then enlisted in the army. He trained at Fort Riley, Texas, and went overseas with an infantry division in March of 1944. He was killed in action in Anzio, Italy on May 29 of that year.

Robert E. Fifield ’40 attended Lakeside for his 8th grade year. He was killed in the Battle of Midway in 1942.
George Dodson Fix ’41 left Lakeside in his senior year due to illness. He was a Private First Class in the army, and had been cited for bravery in October of 1944. He was killed in combat over Italy in the Battle of Metz that same year.

Allan Wade Goodman ’37 was killed in a training airplane accident in California in 1943.

Robert K. Huntington ’40 enlisted in the United States Navy April 21, 1941. He served on board the Lexington (CV-2) and was rated aviation radioman third class before being transferred to Torpedo Squadron 8 on board the Hornet (CV-8). He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement as rear gunner in a torpedo plane during an attack against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942. Flying without fighter support and with insufficient fuel to return to their carrier, Huntington and his fellow crewmember pressed home their attack with utter disregard for their own personal safety, in the face of a tremendous antiaircraft barrage and overwhelming fighter opposition. Huntington was one of 29 from Torpedo Squadron 8 who gave their lives in this attack. The USS Robert K. Huntington (DD-781), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was named in his honor.

John Irving Kerl ’38 was killed in action over Italy in 1943.

Theodore Aiken McKay ’38 attended the University of Washington. He, like his friend Chuck McAllister ’38, enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was killed in action in Guam in 1944.

Charles McAllister ’38 attended Princeton University, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1942. He “died a hero’s death charging a gun position during first assault wave on Guam” on July 21, 1944.

Robert M. O’Brien ’38 attended Santa Clara College and later joined the “Fighting 161st” National Guard Regiment. He is believed to have been killed in 1943 at Munda in the Pacific Theater.

Arthur Driscoll Robbins ’37 attended Princeton University for years though he earned his degree from the University of Washington in 1942. In the spring of 1942, he enlisted in the Marine Officers Candidate School. He trained in South Carolina beginning in January of 1943 and he earned his commission as Second Lieutenant. In December 1943, he was sent to the Pacific. He was killed on the island of Okinawa on June 10, 1945.
Corwin Philip Shank, Jr. ’43 attended Baylor University and was in the Army Specialized Training Program. He was killed in 1945 in the Battle of the Bulge.

Thomas W. Symons, III ’37 had “his eye on U.C.L.A.” for college, according to his senior citation. Symons died a prisoner of war in the Pacific Theater in 1944.
APPENDIX III: EXAMPLES OF POETRY AND WRITINGS FROM VETERANS

THE SHIP
By Wade Allan Goodman

A stately ship, her standards high, Sails swift before the breeze.
With speed that makes the rigging sigh

She lashes through the seas. She’ riding on a trail of beams Full golden in their glow
Of sunset sinking slow. It seems

I know just where she’ll go.

She dips and leaps across the wave, Her bow a froth of foam.
She’s missed for months a storm grave

And now is headed home.

Her canvas damp with flying spray
Like diamonds in the sun,

Her decks aslant, her hull asway, The homeward trip’s begun.

Her mast weaves patterns in the sky
Or writes upon a cloud From far below a joyous cry Sets seagulls screaming loud.
She disappears right through the sun

Outlined in living flame.

To leave me here, a lonely one, Midst loneliness again.

“We have had some pretty heartbreaking days, to be sure, which open a lot of unanswerable questions in my mind. But at the same time they answer questions about human beings that no one who has not seen what we have seen could either answer or understand. You see unselfishness perfected. And hardships overcome. And careless abandon to enjoy what you have and be thankful for it. You learn something about concealing your fears. And you find out a little bit what a small distance separates a man from an animal, how few are your needs and fundamental desires. Anyway some one [sic] has got to do this work and no one likes it—no one I have seen outside of a book. So it might as well be me. Besides I am still fine and going strong.”

--Excerpt from a letter written by Arthur Driscoll Robbins ’39 in May 1945, one month before he was killed in action.
“I surely wish I were back in Lakeside again, especially after receiving the two issues of the Tatler. … I hope the football team takes Foster and Issaquah this year. They both need to have their ears pinned back. … We spend two weeks learning to march. The heat was torrid, and every day about twenty men passed out. … This week I think we shoot some moving targets, and that will be fun. …Later on we will get into machine guns, mortars, and grenades … The sooner I get out of Kansas, the better. Perhaps I shall be in the South Seas or someplace else by spring.”

–Excerpt from a letter written by Harold Dupar ’43 on October 12, 1943. Dupar was killed in action over Italy in May of 1944.
CITATIONS

Jane Carlson Williams ’60 Archives at Lakeside School. Collections: Alumni papers; Building and Grounds records; Faculty and Staff papers; Numidian student yearbook collection, 1939-present; Tatler student newspaper collection, 1934-present.


Seattle Times Historical Archives (1900-1984), Seattle Public Library online databases and indexes. http://www.spl.org/library-collection/articles-and-research/databases-a-z