

# RECON

March/April 2016 Issue

MAGAZINE

## WRITTEN IN STONE



The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation dedicates a memorial stone to the Alamo Scouts at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC.

***Letters Home–The McGowen Project***  
***See story on page 3***



The U.S. Sixth Army Special Reconnaissance Unit of World War II



ALAMO SCOUTS  
**HISTORICAL**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation, Inc.

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The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation  
is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated  
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Alamo Scouts Association 1980 - 2012

Co-founders: *Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret)*

*Command Sergeant Major Galen C. Kittleson (Ret)*

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***In Memoriam***

Director: 1980 -2004

Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret) *In Perpetuity*

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# SAN FRANCISCO MEETUp



On Friday, July 29th, and on Saturday the 30th, the ASHF Board of Directors will be meeting in San Francisco, California for its annual board meeting. We invite all ASHF members to join us for those two days.

We are staying at the Embassy Suites Hotel, located at 150 Anza Blvd. Burlingame, CA 94010. The hotel is four (4) miles south of the San Francisco International Airport.

All hotel, travel, and dining are your responsibility. We will have set times that we all can get together for a short outing and take in dinner.

Please let me know if you are planning to join us for any of these two days. You can contact me by email: [ashf@alamoscouts.org](mailto:ashf@alamoscouts.org)



# WRITTEN IN STONE

## -The Alamo Scouts Memorial Campaign *Part 2*

On a clear August morning at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) in Fayetteville, NC just outside the gate of mighty Ft. Bragg, the sun glistened off a polished white stone. Before it, 53 similar stones, each engraved in black, bearing the names and insignia of other airborne and elite units from World War II to Afghanistan, silently welcomed another member to their hallowed ranks and ensured that for generations to come the legacy of the Sixth U.S. Army Special Reconnaissance Unit—more famously known as the Alamo Scouts—would not be forgotten. It was a beautiful day.



*Entranceway to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum. Note the memorial stones lining the walkway.*

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation discovered the unit stones in November 2014 following the dedication of Bradshaw Hall at the Special Operations Mission Training Center on Ft. Bragg. “LTC Gil Cardona, commander of the SOMTC, arranged a tour of the museum,” said ASHF historian Lance Zedric. “When I saw the stones of the other elite units, I knew what our next project had to be, and the ASHF board agreed.”

And so did its members. Within two weeks, the ASHF submitted an application and the museum staff accepted and approved it. Upon acceptance, ASHF executive director, Russ Blaise, designed the stone and worked with the staff on an approved design. “The museum had very specific criteria on what could appear on the stone,” said Russ. “We

pushed the limits, and our stone is actually the first to have an italicized phrase on it—*Silent Warriors*.”

Meanwhile, over \$4600 had to be raised to purchase the raw stone, which had to be harvested from a special quarry in Mt. Airy, NC. Enter Facebook. “Lance launched a fundraising campaign on his personal facebook page and raised the money in just five weeks,” grinned ASHF treasurer Audrene Burress. “Donations from Scout families, friends, and strangers came pouring in. I think people recognized how important it was to honor our veterans, and the response was amazing.”

Once funding was secured and the stone purchased, a dedication date was set and a speaker obtained. “Paul Galloway, the executive director at the ASOM was very accommodating,” said Russ. “He and his staff assisted with every detail, and there were a lot. But they made the entire process simple.”



*Bruce Kittleson gives the benediction.*

Bruce Kittleson, son of Alamo Scout Galen Kittleson, gave the benediction after the playing of the National Anthem. Russ delivered opening remarks and presented an Alamo Scouts Challenge Coin to guest speaker, MG Darsie Rogers, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Command. In his dedication speech, the general recounted the accomplishments of the Alamo Scouts and noted the similarities between the Scouts and modern special operations forces. Lance offered closing remarks, followed by Russ and General Rogers, who unveiled the stone. The program concluded with the playing of *The Ballad of the Green Berets* and retirement of the colors by the Special Forces Honor Guard.



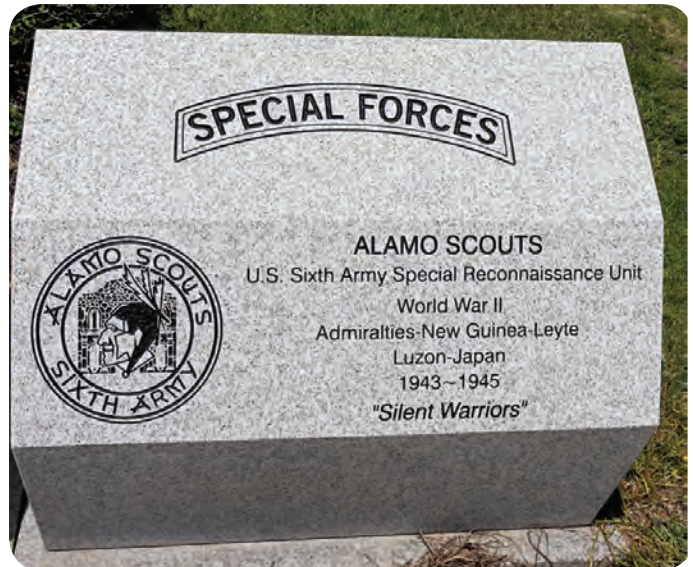
Afterwards, the more than 50 people in attendance took photos, toured the ASOM and nearby North Carolina Veteran's Park, and visited. Later that night, several of the attendees, including Gil Cardona, director of the Special Operations Mission Training Center and some of his staff, gathered for dinner at Luigi's Restaurant in Fayetteville. "We had a mini-reunion of sorts," added Russ. "It was great having so many people together again to honor the Alamo Scouts and just to keep in touch. We're like family, and it keeps growing."



*Guest speaker, MG Darsie Rogers, commander of the 1st Special Forces Command.*



*(L-R) Lance Zedric, MG Darsie Rogers, Russ Blaise and a Special Forces color guard stand at attention for the playing of the "Ballad of the Green Berets."*



*MG Darsie Rogers and Russ Blaise unveil the Alamo Scouts memorial stone.*

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who donated and supported the Alamo Scouts Memorial Stone.



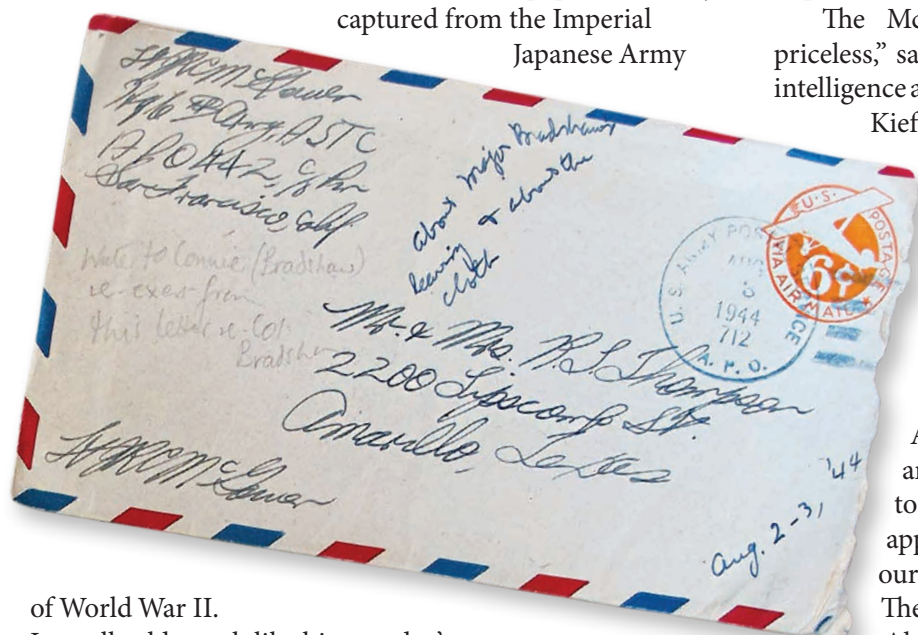
# Letters Home--The McGowen Project

- 70 years after the end of World War II Alamo Scout John McGowen's letters to his parents help troubled youth in the classroom and in life.

by Lance Zedric

A fresh-faced high school student examines an envelope postmarked August 25, 1944. It is yellowed and brittle and bears the marks of time. But like he has done many times, the precocious freshman carefully opens it and removes a letter written on rice paper stationery captured from the Imperial

Japanese Army



of World War II.

It smells old, much like his grandpa's house, but the connection is tenuous. Perhaps that will come later. He unfolds the delicate missive and gently flattens it on his desk then inserts it into a transparent protective sleeve. The eager student confirms receipt of the letter with his teacher and goes to the computer lab and logs into his station. If the letter's cursive is not too faded, and if the student can decipher the colloquial military jargon and transcribe for 45 minutes, he can earn 15 minutes of free time on the computer or bonus points. But more important, if only for a day, he will have experienced a sense of academic and personal accomplishment that he has rarely enjoyed in a traditional school. He types the same familiar salutation that appears on each of Alamo Scout team leader John McGowen's 225 wartime letters--*Dear Mom & Dad*:

For most, the endearing words are timeless and reaffirm strong familial bonds between child and parents, reinforced through years of love and nurture, but to some in ASHF historian Lance Zedric's special education class at Kiefer Academy, a private day treatment facility in Peoria, Illinois, who have experienced dysfunctional home lives or who have been removed from mainstream schools for aggressive behavior or other social or emotional difficulties, the challenge is as real and as frightening as the implacable enemy that McGowen and the Alamo Scouts faced in the Southwest Pacific over 70 years ago.

Zedric conceived the idea of using McGowen's war letters in class in 2013, when McGowen's widow, Christine, and McGowen's son, John, a retired army colonel, graciously donated them and over 200 of McGowen's wartime photos in hope that they might be of interest to the ASHF.

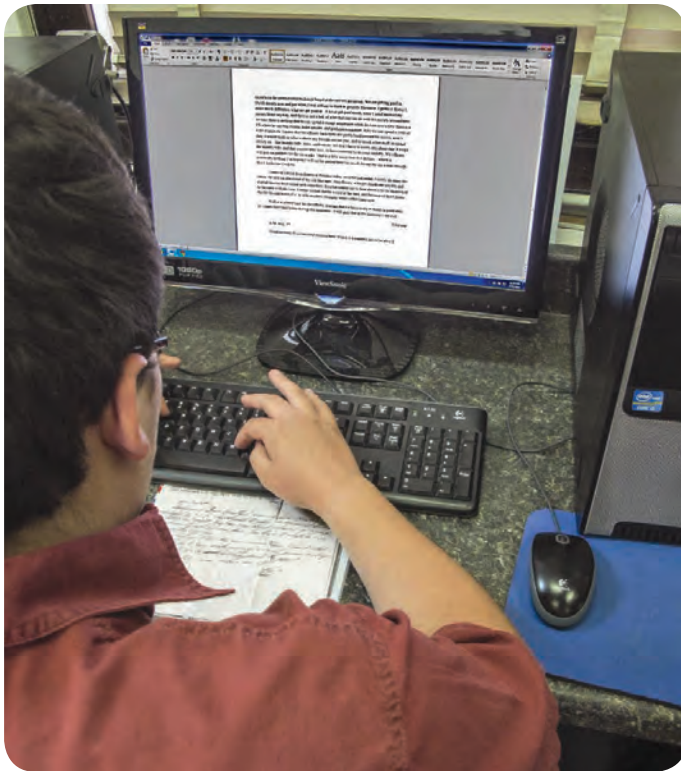
The McGowen letters and photos are historically priceless," said Zedric, an Army veteran who served as an intelligence analyst during the Gulf War, and who has taught at Kiefer since 1997. "They are also incredibly poignant and emotional, and I immediately thought how I could best utilize them in my class to help students improve reading and decoding skills, and how to use them therapeutically. Essentially, I use whatever it takes to get through to my students, but something special happens when using original military items from World War II, and especially from the Alamo Scouts. They resonate with teenage boys and pique their interest. Teaching at Kiefer is akin to waging unconventional warfare. Conventional approaches have mostly been unsuccessful with our students, and special methods have to be used. The parallel to special operations—which the Alamo Scouts were pioneers in—is amazing."

The transcription process was simple. Three days a week students were assigned a letter and issued a protective sleeve and magnifying glass. After transcribing



*Lt John McGowen aboard a PT boat returning from an operational mission in New Guinea, 1944.*

the letters, either individually or as a two-person team, the students typed a brief synopsis at the end of each letter that included all references to Alamo Scouts missions or training; the proper names of anyone mentioned in the letter; and references to any by-name locations or significant events.



*A Kiefer Academy student transcribes a war letter from John McGowen to his mother.*

Students then turned them in and received a daily grade based on accuracy and effort, and earned personal and group incentives upon reaching completion goals. Students earned additional incentives by transcribing letters during free time or during study hall once their regular school work was completed. In three semesters over three years, every student in the all-male classroom completed at least one letter, with two students transcribing over 30.

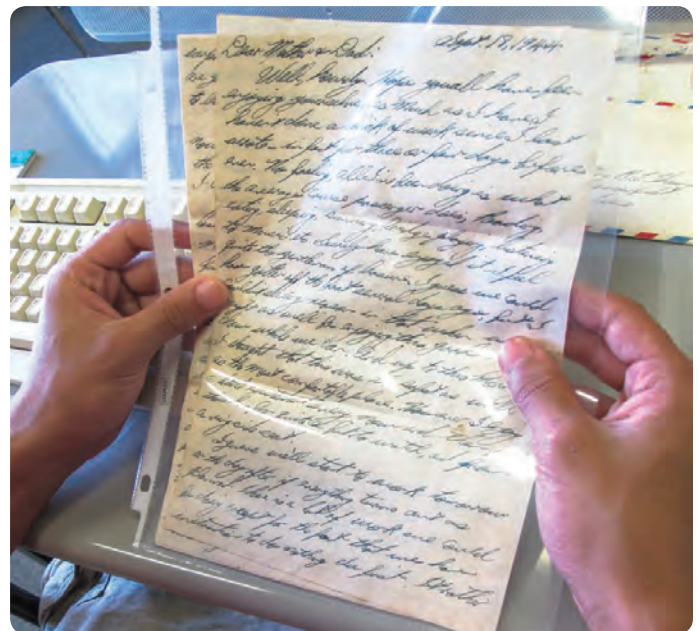
“None of my students could read cursive when we began,” added Zedric. “After a few short weeks, they were transcribing very difficult and lengthy letters, many of which were hastily penned while McGowen was riding aboard PT boats, transport ships, and airplanes, which was often the only time he had the opportunity to write home. But reading skills, punctuation, and decoding weren’t the only skills honed. The students also showed dramatic improvement in keyboarding and computer application, but the most salient gain was in their willingness to attempt and complete a difficult project. The boys took the challenge personally, as if they were part of something bigger than themselves, which they were. The transcribed letters will become part of the ASHF Archive and eventually be included in collegiate and military archives across the county for people to enjoy for generations. The boys think that’s pretty cool, and so do I.”

“Letters Home was an outstanding project,” said Gwynetta Bullock, Director of Kiefer Academy. “It was the type of innovative teaching that we encourage to reach students who have emotional and educational challenges, but who deserve the same opportunity as mainstream students in a public school setting. Clearly, when faced with

interesting and challenging work, the majority of students in Lance’s class exceeded expectations and enjoyed a learning experience that most of their peers in public school will never have the opportunity to try. I’m thrilled that Kiefer was a testbed for a unique educational approach that combined the past with the present to provide skills and understanding for the future.”

Kiefer Academy operates under the auspices of the Children’s Home Association of Illinois, and features 18 self-contained classrooms (9 HS / 4 JH / 5 primary). The Children’s Home was founded in 1866 to house orphans of the Civil War and is one of Peoria’s oldest institutions. Each classroom is staffed by a state licensed teacher (teacher therapist) and a teaching paraprofessional (teaching assistant), and contains a maximum of nine students that have been placed in a more restrictive educational environment whose behavioral and/or educational needs cannot be met by their home schools. Of the approximately 140 students at Kiefer, 13 live at the Children’s Home’s residential facility off-site, while the rest are bused in daily from school districts within a 70-mile radius. Most students that successfully complete Kiefer’s level system become eligible to return to their parent school’s special education program, and in some cases, re-integrate into mainstream classes. But for others, some of whom have significant behavioral and legal issues, Kiefer is a last chance at obtaining a high school diploma.

*Letters Home* received widespread support from veterans within the school. SSG Michael Gilmore, an army combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, who left Zedric’s classroom in early 2014 to become a veteran’s advocate for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Illinois, and Jim Butler, a 12-year navy Vietnam era veteran, assisted in the classroom. The teaching team mentored the students throughout the process and stressed attention to detail, work completion, and personal and collective accountability.



*A student examines a letter in a protective sleeve.*



"My teaching partners brought a great skill set to the table," praised Zedric. "Their military and teaching experience, coupled with a love of kids, contributed to the perfect learning environment. Mike and Jim were incredible. Bruce Melz, the computer lab teacher and a Vietnam era army veteran, was also a great resource and supported the students whenever they needed help. The kids were fortunate to have them."

"The boys in our class learned so much," said Gilmore. "And so did I. The letters that McGowen wrote reminded me of when I was deployed, and I identified with the feelings that he experienced. It's important that young men like our students, especially those who might not have positive male role models—or any at all—be able to identify with someone who wasn't that much older than they were at the time of WWII. McGowen was an incredible individual, and I think all the boys looked up to him."

"This was one of the coolest projects I've ever done at school," added Gary.<sup>+</sup> "I couldn't wait for English class. I learned a lot about New Guinea and the Philippines. I never knew where they were or that they even existed until I read the letters. At first, it was difficult—especially when McGowen used military terms, but after a while I kind of liked them."

McGowen joined the fledgling Alamo Scouts from the 158th Infantry in December 1943, and graduated from the first Alamo Scouts training class six weeks later. He led the first operational Alamo Scouts mission on Los Negros Island in the Admiralties in late February 1944, and remained with the unit throughout the war. McGowen led teams on seven missions and served as an operations officer coordinating operations between other Alamo Scouts teams and the navy. He earned two Silver Stars, the Soldier's Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and several campaign ribbons.

"The students enjoyed reading between the lines while transcribing the letters," added Butler. "They felt like they knew a secret that nobody else knew. I didn't see any frustration in our kids, and we asked a lot from them. I couldn't be happier with the outcome."

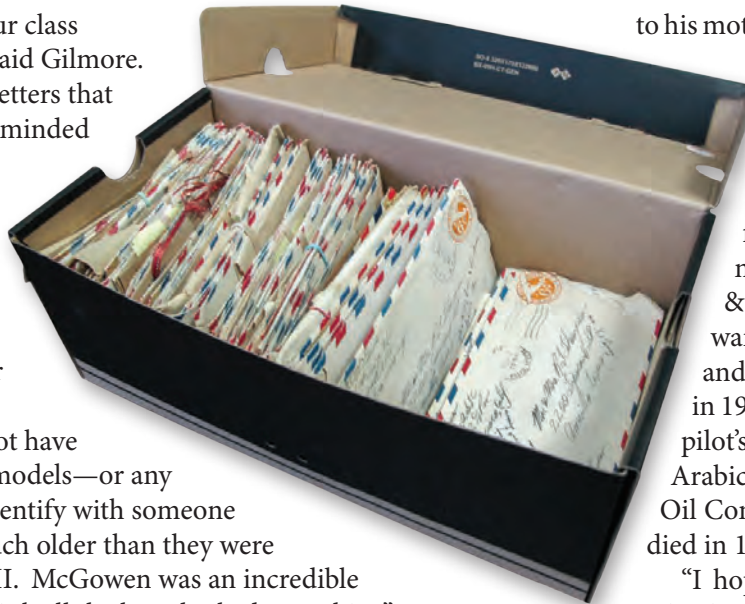
"Reading cursive was hard in the beginning," lamented Joey. "But once I got the hang of it, it got easier. Now I can read cursive fine. Some parts of the letters were interesting. I liked reading about McGowen hanging out with friends on leave, and it helped knowing what he looked like. Having photos made the letters come alive."

"I am really delighted that all 225 of John's letters, written to his mother during the time he was in the Alamo Scouts, have been transcribed by Lance's special education students," beamed Christine, herself a retired special education teacher now living in England. "I know this was no easy task, as John's handwriting was not the easiest to read!"

Although only 25 when he joined the Alamo Scouts, McGowen wrote hundreds of letters to his family, especially to his mother, about politics, agriculture, and scores of other topics including his frustration with her for being so worrisome and overprotective. McGowen was among the most highly educated men in the unit. A native of Amarillo, Texas, he was fluent in Spanish and earned bachelor and masters of science degrees in agriculture & economics from Texas A & M before the war. He attended Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1940. After the war, he earned a commercial pilot's license, learned to read, write, and speak Arabic, and worked for the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) until retirement. He died in 1991.

"I hope that having access to the letters was motivational for students who are often hard to reach and that it will have given them a more personal perspective on one soldier's thoughts, feelings and experiences in World War II," said Christine. "I believe John would have been proud of the students, and would have felt surprised and humbled at the fact that the letters he wrote to his mother some 70 years ago were still being read."

"I love history, especially World War II," added Jeffrey. "So, *Letters Home* was a lot of fun for me. Sometimes I'd get a letter that was five or six pages long. I can't imagine writing a letter that long to my mom. McGowen was in his 20s, and he still had arguments with his mom, which I could relate to."



*Kiefer Academy, Peoria, Illinois.*

The letters really told me a lot about this person. I could tell that he was a good guy and that he had a loving family. These letters showed me a man who really missed home. It must have been tough without cell phones and computers."



“We are proud of the students at Kiefer Academy for taking on a project like this,” said Russ Blaise, executive director and chairman of the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation. “Bringing WWII to life in the minds of these

served as the ASHF historian since 2003, and has worked as a historical consult for The History Channel, PBS, Japan Television, Flashback Television, and Miramax Studios.

+Note: Student names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.



*John McGowen's mom, Alma Ellen Thompson.*

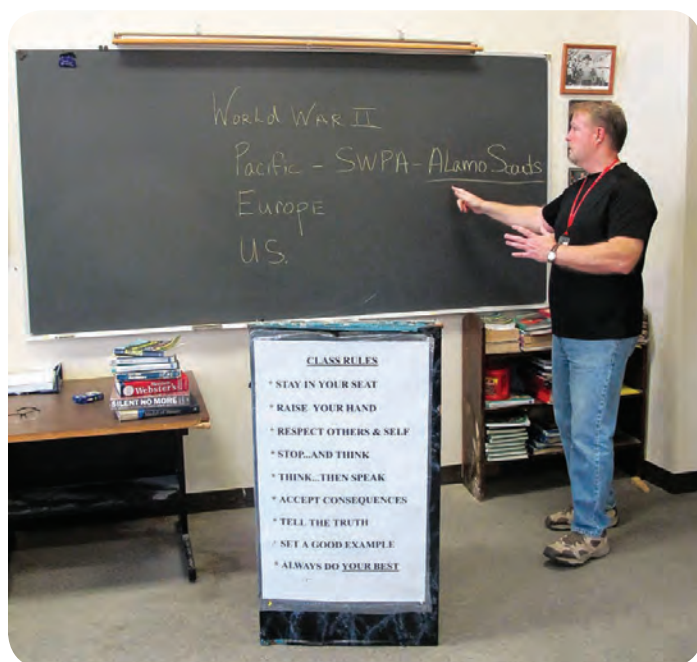
young kids is what we at the ASHF like to hear. Our goal has always been about education and researching the history of the Alamo Scouts. I hope the families of other Alamo Scouts see the merit of this project and follow suit with more letters.”

“We wanted to finish the project by the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII,” said Zedric. “And we accomplished that. John’s letters showed the students that even successful people go through tough times, such as war and separation, and that they also have conflict and disagreement within their own families. But more important, they illustrated how preparation and the good choices we make in youth often affect us for the rest of our lives. And empowering young people with the academic and emotional tools to make good choices is what quality education is all about.”

Lance Zedric is a graduate of Monmouth College (IL) and holds a master’s degree in history from Western Illinois University. He graduated from the U.S. Army Intelligence Center & School and served as an intelligence analyst in Korea, and in support of Coalition Forces during the Gulf War. Lance is a multi-recipient of the Educator of the Year award at the Children’s Home, and has authored 10 books, including the acclaimed, *Silent Warriors of WWII: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines* (Pathfinder, 1995), the first published history of the Alamo Scouts, and *Silent No More: The Alamo Scouts in Their Own Words* (War Room Press, 2013), a comprehensive oral history of the unit. Lance has



*John McGowen's military ID card before joining the Alamo Scouts.*



*Lance Zedric teaches a class on Alamo Scouts history.*

## Alamo Scout gets two awards in one day!



In a ceremony on October 24th, in San Francisco, California, Terry Santos received two awards for his service in WWII and for his service as Secretary of the ASA/ASHF. In case anyone was wondering, this soft-spoken 94-year-old is also the recipient of two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars w/ V-devices, the Purple Heart, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four campaign stars and arrowhead device, the Combat Infantry Badge, parachutist wings w/two gold stars, two Presidential Unit Citations, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, and other awards. He also holds the Special Forces Tab and trained with the OSS in Quantico. Moreover, he was the eyes on the ground (Provisional Recon Platoon) for the 11th Airborne during their famous raid on the Los Banos POW camp in which 2,147 internees were liberated. Not a bad three-year military career.

Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation (ASHF) board members, Audrene Burress (left) and Linda Nellist (right), present a special plaque to Terry. The citation reads, "In recognition for valor in World War II and for dedicated and outstanding service as Secretary of the Alamo Scouts Association and Social Ambassador of the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation."



Alamo Scout, Pathfinder, and 11th Airborne Division Recon veteran, Terry Santos (left), is recognized by U.S. Congressman Michael M. Honda, 17th District of California, on Saturday in San Francisco. Terry was a 2015 Bataan Legacy Historical Society Honoree, and was a graduate of the 4th Alamo Scouts training class.



# SWPA Intel and founding of Alamo Scouts

by George Eaton

In November 1943 Lieutenant General Walker Krueger, Commanding General of Sixth Army in the Southwest Pacific Theater (SWPA) issued an order to create a training school “for training selected men in reconnaissance and raider work.” According to Krueger, in his 1953 history of the Sixth Army, *From Down Under to Nippon*, the intent was to create a pool of specially trained soldiers. Some would be designated Alamo Scouts and kept under Krueger’s control. The rest would be returned to their own units for similar use.



Lt General Walter Krueger



BG Charles Willoughby

Why did Krueger decide to create this pool? Late November 1943 was after the Kiriwina operation and a couple of weeks before the launch of the Arawe and Cape Gloucester assaults. What did he need during the early operations? Was there a problem with army intelligence in SWPA?

Yes. It had only taken one small operation and the planning for the second operation to frustrate Krueger enough to take matters into his own hands. Lets review the intelligence collecting machinery in SWPA to see what drove Krueger’s decision.

Upon their escape from the Philippines in early 1942, General MacArthur created his new GHQ, SWPA in Australia. One of the first sections in action was the Central Bureau, charged with intercepting and decrypting Japanese radio traffic. In 1942 the United States was unable to decrypt Japanese Army messages. The United States had been able to read diplomatic traffic since before the war, as well as much Japanese Navy traffic. But the Japanese Army system remained elusive. In fact, the first Japanese Army code was not truly broken until September 1943. Until then the Central Bureau and GHQ relied on data from the Navy. Information derived from encrypted Japanese messages was known as *Ultra* intelligence.

The Chief of Intelligence for GHQ, known as the G2, was BG Charles Willoughby. Willoughby was expected to turn smidges of raw data into processed intelligence. Initially, he

worked with bits and pieces of raw data delivered to him. By late 1942, he was processing a *Daily Intelligence Summary* that included some *Ultra* sourced intelligence. After the Japanese codes were broken in late 1943, he produced a *Special Intelligence Bulletin* solely based on *Ultra*.

The processing of data into intelligence is an often untidy process. Analysts take a wide variety of information-*Ultra*, prisoner interrogations, identifying debris and papers from a battlefield, aerial photography, etc., and try to form a picture about where the enemy is and prognosis about what the enemy will do next. In SWPA that analysis would be integrated in the planning process and disseminated to units as needed. Information from an *Ultra* source was often disguised as a “POW interrogation revealed...” or similar cover to preclude letting out the secret of penetrating the Japanese codes. Processed intelligence information was passed to Sixth Army, but true *Ultra* information was not available in bulk until February 1944. Even then, because SWPA units operated in small packets over large areas, *Ultra* was not passed below 6<sup>th</sup> Army level until Leyte when Corps and Divisions could operate as unified structures.

A final aspect of codebreaking in SWPA and its importance to Sixth Army were the different codes used by the Japanese Army. The Japanese used a 4-digit encryption



Japanese Purple Code encryption machine.

method for codes at the division level and higher. Regiments only used a 3-digit system. In theory, the regimental 3-digit encryption should have been easier to break, but in fact, the regimental code was never broken. It was a matter of volume. Divisions and higher used the same 4-digit code up, down, and across the force generating a large volume of messages to intercept and break. Regiments only communicated up the chain. If a regiment wanted to talk with an adjacent regiment, they had to send a message up to division who then sent a message down to the neighboring regiment. But each regiment had its own code. While a division issued

tens of messages each day in the 4-digit code, it might only issue 3-4 per day in the 3-digit code to each regiment. Central Bureau never had enough messages to decipher the encryption.

What did all of this mean for General Krueger at 6<sup>th</sup> Army? First, in the initial operations in mid 1943, there simply was no intelligence based on intercepted Japanese Army messages. The only information available was from Navy sources. This information was too strategic in level or too spotty to be useful. Even later, well after he had created the Alamo Scouts and there was a flood of *Ultra* based intelligence, what Krueger received did not give him the tactical information needed to determine what Japanese regiments were on the ground and where they were. He simply did not have the data needed to plan for the combat situations Sixth Army faced in New Britain and New Guinea and no system for generating that information.

What about the other ways of collecting intelligence about his opponents? Those streams were also deficient. Initially, there were insufficient POWs to interrogate to develop corroborating information. Since the early battles were here and there, on this island and then another, Sixth Army was almost facing a new set of opponents with every operation. Because of a lack of Japanese translators at GHQ and Sixth Army, what little materiel was captured took a long time to analyze. Regular patrolling that would have worked in Europe did not work in SWPA due to the water approaches and alertness of the Japanese. Beach conditions could not be determined. The only other available method was also deceptive in results. Allied Air Forces delivered a wide range of high quality aerial photography but, no matter the quality, the cameras could not penetrate the canopy of the jungle. The Japanese were adept at camouflage, usually moved only at night, and had strict light discipline. Krueger simply could not tell if the enemy was present behind the beach.



*Reconnaissance aircraft flying over dense New Guinea jungle.*

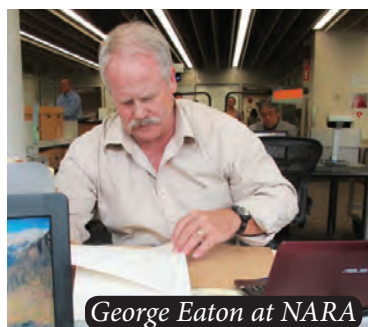
In his book, *From Down Under to Nippon*, General Krueger specifically mentioned the lack of detailed intelligence in the Kiriwina assault and in the planning phases for Dexterity for his decision to create the Alamo Scout Training Center. He felt he was going in blind. The Alamo Scouts were a specific solution to a problem Krueger

had to proactively fix. Even later, when better intelligence was being produced, the Alamo Scouts continued to fill in the holes and provide the eyes and ears needed to supplement intercepted messages, POW interrogations, photography, and exploitation of captured documents. The success of the Alamo Scouts in delivering actionable intelligence in their first missions proved Krueger right and made the Alamo Scouts the legend they became.



*Hand drawn map of Sixth Army landings in World War II.*

George Eaton has been the Army Sustainment Command Historian (ASC) since 2002. ASC is the command that manages the Army Prepositioned Stocks, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), Logistics Assistance Programs and the Directorates of Logistics on every post in the Army. Mr Eaton served 21 years on active duty retiring as an Army Lieutenant Colonel. He graduated from Knox



College, Galesburg, IL, in 1980 with a double major in History and Theater. He earned a Masters Degree in Military History from the University of Minnesota in 1990. George is now writing a biography of General Krueger.



# Establishing the Alamo Scouts Training Center

Adjutant General  
Order 353-B

HEADQUARTERS ALAMO FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 712

"Alamo Force" was the  
codename for Sixth Army.

AG 353 - B

28 November 1943.

Subject: ALAMO SCOUTS TRAINING CENTER.

To : See Distribution.

The first ASTC was established on 3 Dec 1943  
on Fergusson Island.

1. The ALAMO SCOUTS TRAINING CENTER is hereby established under the supervision of Headquarters Alamo Force at the earliest practicable date prior to 1 January 1944, and at a location in the vicinity of the present headquarters.

Alamo Force HQ was on nearby Goodenough Island.

2. The training center will train selected volunteers in reconnaissance and raider work. The course will cover a six-weeks period. Specially selected graduates will be grouped into a pool at the disposal of the Commanding General, Alamo Force and will be designated "Alamo Scouts"; the remainder will be returned to their respective commands for similar use by their commanders.

3. Commanders of combat units will be called upon from time to time to furnish personnel for the above training. Personnel so selected must possess the highest qualifications as to courage, stamina, intelligence and adaptability.

By command of Lieutenant General KRUEGER:

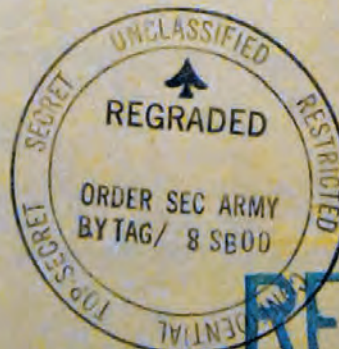
Krueger was the commander  
of "Alamo Force."

Later commanded the 6th Infantry Division.  
Killed in action on Luzon, 14 Mar 1945.

*Edwin D. Patrick*  
EDWIN D. PATRICK,  
Brig. Gen., General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

## DISTRIBUTION:

32d Division  
112th Cav. Regt.  
2d Bn, 158th Inf.  
Alamo Staff  
24th Div. ) On arrival  
1st Cav. Div. ) this area.  
ASTC - 5



RECORD

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# ASHF Research Trip 2015



National Archives II in College Park, Maryland.



Exterior view of 6th Army Message Center (6th Army HQ, Milne Bay, New Guinea) 19 June 1943.

Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation executive director Russ Blaise, and historian Lance Zedric, unearthed a treasure trove of Alamo Scouts primary source documents, photographs, and film during a research trip to the National Archives in College Park, MD from 27 July through 1 August. The research trip was the fourth undertaken by members of the former Alamo Scouts Association (ASA) and the ASHF since 2008.

“Our research trip was again very fruitful,” said Lance. “We discovered 531 uncensored radio messages sent by Alamo Scout teams during the Leyte Operation and Luzon Campaign, in addition to scores of other documents and ephemera involving training and missions. Most of the messages were received through the Filipino Message Center and bear remarks made by the Sixth Army G-2 Section (Intelligence). It’s rare to find messages in such a raw condition, but that’s the beauty of them. They contain non-sanitized, real-time information before it was analyzed, summarized, and released as an intelligence product for planners and battlefield units. Great stuff!”

NS

FIL MSG CENTER MESSAGE  
RECEIVED

OUR FILE NR: 4  
ORIG MSG HEADING: WQ18 V O4Y NR 9 URGENT CK 61 150905/1  
TOR: 180953  
TIME OF DELIVERY: 181345T REC'D BY SPABANE

ORIG MSG NR: 9

FROM: SUMNER

TO: CG SIXTH ARMY ATTN G-2

2000T- 0400T

STRONG BARGE ACTIVITY ORMOG BAY FROM TWO-NIL-NIL-NIL-FOUR-NIL-NIL-  
2mi WNW PORT BELLO.  
FROM RIVER MOUTH THIRTEEN-HUNDRED PT SIX FIVE DASH THIRTEEN THIRTY PT ONE  
FOUR-FO BARGES HEARD BETWEEN ORMOG AND MERIDA, PD APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED  
0500T. 100  
ENEMY LANDED MERIDA AREA NINE-FIVE-NIL-NIL-FOUR AREA SAFE FOR JAPANESE  
ACTIVITY, PD EVERY NIGHT PALOMPON REINFORCED BY BARGES PD ORMOG PD  
JAP BARGES AND MOTOR LAUNCHES FROM CEBU TO ORMOG WITH REINFORCEMENTS  
HIDING IN DAYLIGHT ALONG POINTS PACIJAN EN (CAMOTES) UNKNOWN, PD HIDEOUTS  
UNDER TREES AND CLIFFS CLOSE TO BEACH IN NAMED AREAS FROM RELIABLE SOURCE, PD  
(006301) +30083-73079 (2mi WNW)  
BARGE AND SUPPLY INSTALLATIONS FROM THIRTEEN-NIL-NIL-PT SIX FIVE DASH  
PORT BELLO, and (102302) same v/c  
THIRTEEN THIRTY PT ONE-FOUR-FO-THIRTEEN TEN PT TWENTY DASH UNRECORDED THIS TIME  
THESE HAVE NOT BEEN DESTROYED BY US AIR ACTIVITY, PD

G2 comment: Service being obtained to ascertain  
if T00-150905T is correct. BA1387

FORM - 2

FILIPINO MESSAGE CENTER  
MESSAGE RECEIVED

OUR FILE NR: 1

ORIG MSG HEADING: JJ12 V C093 NR 1/22 OP OK 56

ORIG MSG NR: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: ROUNSAVILLE

TO: COM GEN SIXTH ARMY

MESSAGE:-

LONGEST ROUGHEST 17 HOUR STROLL WE EVER MADE. SEND  
CHAPLAIN TO CONSOLE US. SENT AGENTS INTO MADUPAPA AREA TODAY,  
WILL GO THERE TONIGHT IF POSSIBLE. PRESENT LOCATION THREE  
HUNDRED YARDS WEST GATTAPAN. NO FURTHER LEADS ON THE STUD, JAPS  
INACTIVE HERE. ROUNSAVILLE, DENEGAT, OKLAHOMA.

T00: 22 APRIL/45

TOR: 221302/1

KC/ SECRET

Col. Rawalle

Message sent by Rounsaville Team during operations on Luzon. Apr 1945.

“The foundation is fulfilling its promise to keep searching for more information on the Alamo Scouts,” added Russ. “The generosity of our members is what keeps trips like these possible. Without their support these documents could have gone undiscovered in our lifetime, and it’s important that we keep the memory of the Alamo Scouts alive for surviving members and their families to appreciate.”

All told, the research trips have netted more than 2000 Alamo Scouts-related historical items. A special thanks to those who have supported the trips.



Donations support research projects and keep the ASHF viable.



FROM: THOMPSON (STATION)  
TO : COM GEN SIXTH ARMY



Gen. Krueger's house on Leyte



SWPA-SIGC-44-14508 Oct. 28, 1944  
View of Major Gen. Linda R. Swift, CG,  
I Corps, speaking to graduates, after  
presentation of certificates, of the  
(Alamo Scout Training Center, Hollandia,  
Dutch New Guinea.)  
Photographer W/lt. Harry Fahn

(NW PACIJAN, CAMOTE) <sup>200</sup>  
200 yds E of TALONG POINT, EAST TWO HUNDRED YARDS NEAR CLIFF <sup>are 2</sup> ~~are~~ TWO TYPES <sup>of</sup>  
BARGES AND FIVE FLATBOTTOM BOATS, PD BOATS NEAR CLIFF CAMOUFLAGED  
WITH TWO MASTS, PD ESTIMATED ONE THOUSAND TROOPS ARRIVED IN BARGES  
NOW STAYING IN HUTS ON BEACH, PD BOATS WILL PROBABLY LEAVE AT ONE  
151900H.  
NINE-NIL-NIL HOURS TONITE PD TWO BARGES ~~NINE~~ <sup>1</sup> ONE FLATBOTTOM WITH  
TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE MEN AT PANHAY POINT NORTHEAST COAST OF  
PACIJAN ISLAND. PD ALL BOATS WILL PROBABLY LEAVE PACIJAN FOR ORMOC  
AT NINETEEN HUNDRED TONITE PD INFO FROM GUERRILLAS, PD-

JD2M V CG93 NR 1/1 O CK 77 50 BT

ROUNSAVILLE  
COMGEN SIXTH ARMY

ROUNSAVILLE (ALAMO SCOUT) REPORTS ON LAGUNA, 24 FEB.

(6 MI SE LILIO, SE LAGUNA) MOUNTAINS (S OF, AND  
JAPS EVACUATING MT BANAHAO, TO PATAGUIN AREA SOUTHEAST OF  
Hwy #1, FROM SAN PABLO TO ALAMINGO, LAGUNA). AREA, 12,000  
PABLO. ONE THOUSAND JAPS IN MT BANAHAO, TWELVE THOUSAND AT  
PATAGUIN. MAPS WILL BE SENT TO VANDERPOOL AS TO DEFINITE LOCATI



FUGA I



ALAMO SCOUTS TRAINING CENTER  
APO 442

2 September 1944

SUBJECT: Patrol for purpose of capturing prisoners

TO : G-2, Alamo Force

1. An Alamo Scout Team consisting of:

S/Sgt John G. Fisher (in command)  
Sgt William Watson  
Pfc Joshua Sunn  
Pfc Anthony Ortiz  
Pvt Joe Moon

received the mission of capturing Japanese prisoners from those who pass through the village of ARSO, located approximately 25 miles south of HOLLIKANG.

2. Team departed ASTC morning of 28 August 1944 arriving in the vicinity of ORSO night 29 August. Enroute between the villages ISOBO - ARSO numerous dead Japanese were noted, estimated to have been dead from thirty (30) to sixty (60) days. Practically every hut in ORSO contained bodies of Japs.

3. Natives reported that numerous Japs were at AMPAS; that the Japs entered ARSO from the three (3) neighboring villages and came down the ARSO River on rafts.

4. Team captured and returned with three (3) Japs in fair physical condition. Natives reported sighting a fourth at ARSO but he successfully eluded the team. Team returned to Alamo Force Headquarters 1 September.

5. Contact with liaison plane on both days was poor. Rations dropped were hard to locate.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: That

a. Smoke grenades be carried in order to draw planes attention.

b. Rations dropped should have burning smoke grenade attached to help locate it.

c. Hobnail boots be provided for such terrain.

*S/Sgt John G. Fisher*

JOHN G. FISHER  
S/Sgt, 1st Cavalry Division  
Team Leader.

RECORD



John G. Fisher

A report written by SSG John G. Fisher recounting a "prisoner grab" mission he led in New Guinea in late August 1944. Missions led by enlisted men were often designed to help earn a battlefield commission.



SECRET

COPY NO: 6

## G-2 Section--Copy of Incoming Operational Messages (K-2)

Originator: ILETO (ALAMOSCOUT)  
 To: G-2  
 TCO: 12 Dec (Time not stated)  
 TOR:  
 G-2 TOR: 132210 I

E/C No:  
 G-2 No:  
 Recd Via: Messenger  
 Recd by: Downey

This copy to:  
 FOR YOUR ACTION

## DISSEMINATION

C of S... (✓) X Corps... ( ) ALP... ( ) G-2 CTR... ( ) Spec Intel... (✓)  
 G-3... (✓) XIV Corps ( ) LT In... ( ) SOPA... ( )

Estimated 150 Japs <sup>was located</sup> N BALANGIGA  
 (S <sup>central</sup> SAMAR) yesterday. 2 civilians  
 killed and 2 wounded at SAN JAVN  
 (2 1/2 mi N BALANGIGA). Have notified  
 Maj ABIA (Philippine Army) at LAUAAN  
 (5 mi W BALANGIGA) to send force to  
 BALANGIGA.

An estimated 90 Japs 3 mi N  
 BULUSAO (10 mi W BALANGIGA) were  
 attacked yesterday. Fighting still going  
 on.

Notify ASTC to send pickup  
 at LAUAAN morning of 14 Dec. Dist Made



Raphael M. Ileto

SECRET

BA-2471

Handwritten radio message received from Ileto Team during a mission to Samar Island during the Leyte Operation, Dec 1944. Below left: Team leader Rafael Ileto on patrol while a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. U.S. Army Photo.



# Alamo Scouts Go International

Alamo Scouts historian Lance Zedric delivered the keynote address at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of V-J Day on Saturday, August 15 in Toronto, Canada. The solemn program, conducted by the *August 15, 1945 Foundation of Southern Ontario*, observed the capitulation of Japanese forces in World War II on August 15, 1945 and recognized the plight of Dutch-Indonesians under Japanese control in Indonesia, New Guinea, and throughout the Pacific.



Lance delivers the keynote address commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-J Day. Photo by Bas Opdenkelder.

The program, entitled “Thank America,” began with the singing of the Canadian and Dutch national anthems, and featured remarks from Ms. Emmy Scholten, Deputy Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Toronto, and from LTC Christa Oppers-Beumer, Defense Attache of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ottawa. Soloist Marieke de Korte sang the *Captives Hymn*, and Lance followed with the keynote address.

“It was an honor to represent the United States and the Alamo Scouts,” said Lance. “The Scouts connection to the Dutch-Indo community is deep. Several teams worked with the Dutch in western New Guinea, and I spoke about the famous mission at Cape Oransbari where Nellist and Rounsaville teams, along with Louis Rapmund of the Dutch military, liberated 66 civilians, including a Dutch governor, Theodor Beynon, and 14

members of his family. While in Canada, I was a guest at the home of Beynon’s youngest daughter, Louise, and her husband, Bas Opdenkelder, editor of *De Nederlandse COURANT*—The Dutch Newspaper in Canada. Their friendship and hospitality was unmatched, and it wonderful getting to witness their story come full circle.”

The program continued with a reading of *The Lord’s Prayer* and the Lament, and by the playing of *Reveille* by a bagpiper. Foundation co-chair, Wil Moens, recited a portion of *For the Fallen*, by Laurence Binyon, and

the program concluded with the formal laying of memorial wreaths by representatives of the *August 15, 1945 Foundation*, the Bond van Wapenbroeders (Toronto), the Dutch Canadian Legion Association (Hamilton), and by dignitaries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

A festive Dutch-Indonesian celebration followed, featuring an Indonesian buffet of traditional *rijsttafel* and desserts. The Balinese gamelan ensemble, Rat Nadi, played traditional Indonesian music while dancers from the Indonesian Consulate in Toronto gave performances of Javanese and Balinese dances.

“It was a moving program,” said Lance. “The solemnity of the occasion, coupled with the raw emotion of the guests, followed by a celebration with food and dance, was unforgettable. Several members displayed books and artifacts of camp life under the Japanese, but the uniform of Alamo Scout Bill Nellist and the memorabilia from other Alamo Scouts, made quite an impression on the several hundred guests, many of whom had been interned in the camps or who had relatives in the camps. Seventy years after the end of World War II, the Alamo Scouts are still viewed as liberators and heroes. And that is noble in any language.”



Display of Alamo Scouts memorabilia at the program in Toronto.





Group photo of delegation members. L-R: Lance Zedric, Emmy Scholten (Deputy Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), Pol Maenhut (Commissioner of August 14, 1945 Foundation), Wil Moen (Co-commissioner), and LTC Christa Oppers-Beumer (Defence Attache, Kingdom of Netherlands). Photo by Bas Opdenkelder.



Lance lays a wreath in remembrance of the fallen of World War II. Photo by Bas Opdenkelder.



Bas & Louise Opdenkelder



The Beynon family rescued at Oransbari.



Rounsaville Team: Back row L-R: Francis Laquier, Harold Hard, Frank Fox. Front row: Tom Rounsaville, Alfred Alfonso.



Nellist Team: Back row L-R: Galen Kittleson, Thomas Siason, Andy Smith. Front row: Wilbert Wismer, Bill Nellist.

"...They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them..."

"Laurence Binyon – excerpt from *For the Fallen*



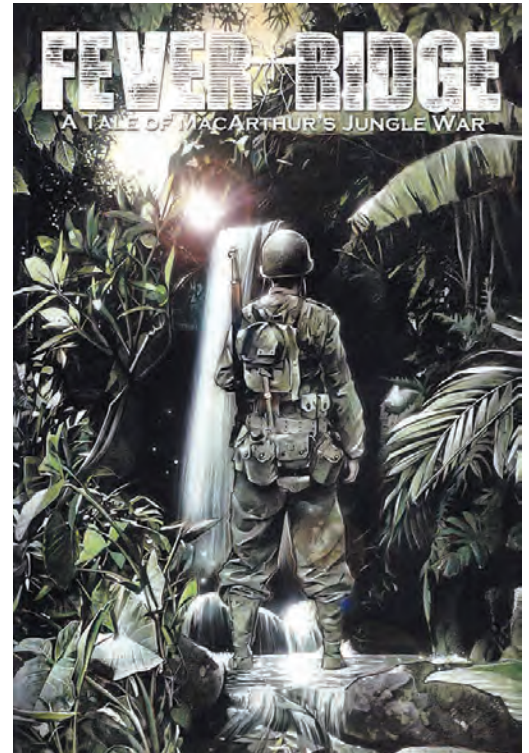
# Fever Ridge: A Tale of MacArthur's Jungle War

## *A Book Review by Lance Zedric*

I must be old and getting more out of touch by the decade.

About four years ago, when attorney turned author Michael Heimos e-mailed me that he was writing a graphic novel entitled, *Fever Ridge*, based loosely on the experiences of his grandpa while serving in the 6th Infantry Division, and partly on the exploits of the Alamo Scouts in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA), I was intrigued. But I must confess, given the anachronistic late baby boomer I was, and having treaded precariously for years in the unfamiliar waters of the millennial techno pool, he caught me with my genre down and my age showing.

I wanted to help, but what did he mean by “graphic novel”? The “novel” part I understood, but “graphic” stumped me. Was he referring to “graphic” violence? After all, war is violent—and graphic. Or did the novel just contain “graphic” language? I’d heard plenty of that growing up in a blue-collar town in Central Illinois, and having spent years in high school and collegiate locker rooms and four years in the Army, I could speak “graphic” with the best of them. That “graphic” was right in my wheelhouse, so I used my best online poker face and replied with booming, author-like authority that I would help in any way I could. But what about other forms of “graphic”? Photographic—not a problem. Loved photos. My wife was a photographer, so even by proxy I was in. Or could it be a “lithographic” novel? No, sounded too artsy. Nobody does “old stone” novels anymore. They went out with the pharaohs, so that narrowed it down to either a “typographic” or “pornographic” novel. “Foul! Foul!” I shrieked. Neither was acceptable. One can’t have misspelled pornographic novels circulating! Nah, we’re talking about the Alamo Scouts here. They performed over 110 missions behind enemy lines in World War II. They were real!



So what was a graphic novel? I had to know, but somehow life—and early onset middle age coupled with fatherhood, forgetfulness, and the writing of two books of my own—interrupted my thought stream, which wasn’t all that deep to begin with. Fast forward to late January 2016, when I discovered *Fever Ridge*, which had been published in 2013, for sale on the internet. So I ordered it. When the book arrived I had my answer in less than a minute. A graphic novel is a comic book on steroids. Lots of them. Boy, did I feel dumb! Must be “Low-T.”

According to the author, *Fever Ridge* “is a historical fiction substantially based on true events,” that explores “unique perspectives, exotic locales and peoples that may be different than any you have encountered previously...including a secret that could have changed the war, and the world.”



Sounds great, but keep in mind, it is a novel—an eclectic hybrid of sorts, that interweaves elements of the Teutonic Knights, Nazi rockets, WWII U.S. internment policies, fanatical Japanese soldiers, New Guinea natives, Douglas MacArthur, cannibalism and more into what the author calls his “experiment in Intertextuality and Mystical Realism.” I don’t know about all that, but it dovetails nicely into a wildly creative homage to a beloved grandpa and illustrates the author’s admiration for American and Australian soldiers that served in the war.





ALAMO SCOUTS  
**HISTORICAL**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

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