Publication of the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation



The Alamo Scouts Go Color



The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation's historian has a new hobby.



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



Alamo Scouts Association 1980 - 2012 Co-founders: Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret) Command Sergeant Major Galen C. Kittleson (Ret)

In Memoriam Director: 1980 - 2004 Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret) In Perpetuity

Cover Photo: Officers and enlisted men of the multi-service team pose for a photo at Seeadlor Harbor prior to leaving for Sansapor aboard a submarine. Photo Courtesy of George S. Thompson Photo Colorization by Lance Zedric

News

The ASHF Board of Directors will not hold an organized Meet-Up this year, but will be planning one in 2018.

NECROLOGY

Henry L. Adkins March 25, 2016 Team Leader, 9th Class Graduate

> Jay V. Russell May 22, 2016 7th Class Graduate

Charles Galen "Chuck" Nellist October 7, 2016 Son of Alamo Scout William E. Nellist and brother-in-law of Linda Nellist

Anna Mae Watson October 24, 2016 Wife of Alamo Scout William R. Watson

Carl A. "Skip" Bertoch February 28, 2017 9th Class Graduate/Adkins Team

Maude Kimiyo Hall March 15, 2017 Wife of Alamo Scout Aubrey "Lee" Hall and mother of Audrene Burress & Jo Villareal

> William R. Watson March 24, 2017 2nd Class Graduate/Reynolds Team

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Table of Contents

By Any Other Name	1
ASHF SF Trip 2016	9
A Touch Of Color	11
Chanly Team	13
Commando	17
Membership	18

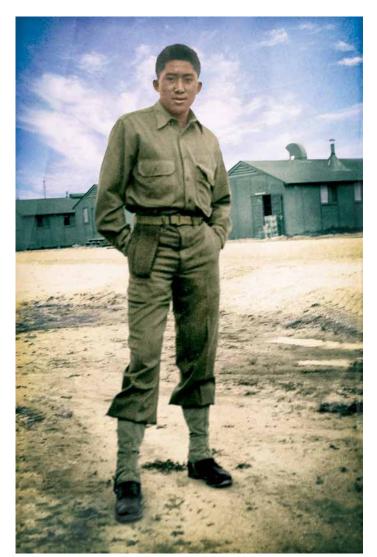
By Any Other Name the Story of Alamo Scout George Urbano By Lance Zedric

The villain's robe is made of the finest Japanese silk and hangs regally on his muscular shoulders. His face, resembling an ancient warrior, is painted chalk-white, and thick black eyeliner accentuates his Oriental features. His gaze is heavy and menacing. The powerful 235-pounder, in a sacred sumo-like ritual of purification, tosses coarse salt around the ring to honor the Shinto gods. The referee momentarily turns his back and the devious challenger removes more salt from his trunks--and *Bam*! --throws it into the beloved champion's eyes. He then climbs to the top rope, leaps down and delivers his signature elbow smash to his rival's head. The crowd erupts! The sadistic samurai lands a vicious karate chop to the chest followed by a thudding kick to the midsection. The reeling homegrown favorite doubles over and falls backward on the mat pawing at his eyes while the brown-skinned gladiator prances around the ring feeding off the energy of the rabid fans. Like a tiger, the hated antagonist pounces on his helpless prey and pins his shoulders on the mat. The referee slams his hand down, One—two—three! The crowd goes wild—some cheer—others hiss—all are entertained. The Great Kabooki has struck again. Such was the life of professional wrestler and former Alamo Scout, George "Rey" Urbano.

Named by his father after King George V of England, "Rey" was born in the Philippines on April 25, 1924 and was the youngest of four children, including sisters, Belen and Marina, and older brother, Isidro, born in 1920. Rey's father, Juan, was a noted inventor and businessman in Manila, and in 1917, invented an illuminating fountain pen. He became the first Filipino to hold a U.S. patent. In 1926, he emigrated to the United States, and within two years, his wife Sixta, and the family, joined him in San Francisco where they began carving out their version of the American dream. Juan became active in the business community and formed the Urbano Manufacturing Company, while Sixta sold jewelry and raised the children. The family enjoyed a good life.

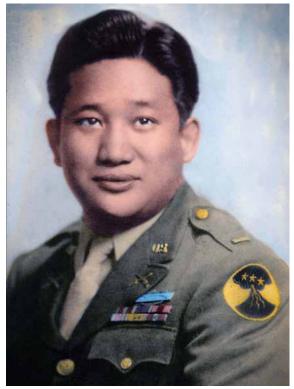
But happiness was short-lived. Sixta died in 1939 at age 42, leaving 15-year-old Rey to finish school without the loving hand of his mother. After her death, Juan returned to the Philippines on business and Rey lived with another family. He attended San Francisco Polytechnic High School, where the athletic youth played football and participated in judo. After graduation, he attended college for a short time, but with a war then raging and his native country occupied by the Japanese, he followed Isidro's lead and later enlisted in the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment on January 29, 1943 at age nineteen. Isidro had enlisted in June 1942, and would become an officer, but his 5-foot 7-inch 137-pound little brother had some growing to do. Infantry training would help take care of that.

Eighteen months later in the steamy jungles of New Guinea, the Alamo Scouts, an elite top secret reconnaissance and raider unit, was seeking volunteers to conduct dangerous missions deep behind enemy lines. The unit wanted quiet men of high character and uncommon abilities. Selfless men who could work together in small teams of 6-7 operators



Rey Urbano in California before deploying to the Southwest Pacific Theater with the 1st Filipino Infantry.

led by a junior officer. Brave men who could land on enemy shores in a rubber boat, operate among the enemy, and get out undetected. And loyal men who would never speak of what they had done.



Isidro Urbano

In mid-summer 1944, Rey, now a corporal, and Isidro, a 2nd lieutenant, volunteered for the Alamo Scouts, which had performed 25 missions in the Admiralties and in New Guinea without losing a man. But would the Scouts accept brothers?

It is unknown if Maj. Homer Williams, then Director of the Alamo Scouts Training Center (ASTC), or Capt. Lewis Hochstrasser, the executive officer, knew that the men were related. And although no published regulation prohibited it, Rey and Isidro each provided a different hometown on their paperwork, possibly to conceal their familial connection and enhance their chances of being retained. Isidro used the family address in San Francisco, while Rey listed an address on 145th Street in Jamaica, Long Island. Both were accepted.

On July 31, 1944, the ASTC at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, welcomed the Urbano's and 76 other candidates from various 6th Army units, including the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, 1st Cavalry, 11th Airborne, and from the 31st, 33rd, and 40th Infantry Divisions respectively. The roster also included three officers from the War Department and one

enlisted man from the U.S. Navy, the only such candidate accepted during the war. For six weeks, the hopeful candidates practiced infiltrating by rubber boat, scouting and patrolling, intelligence gathering, communications, silent killing, judo, and more. Everything they would need to survive in the enemy's backvard. But it wasn't easy.

On September 9, 1944, Rey and Isidro were among the 48 men (36 enlisted and 12 officers) that graduated from the 4th ASTC class.

"We had some damned fine candidates in our class," recalled Alamo Scout Terry Santos. "But the needs of the army dictated that we only keep two teams. We even had one man from the Navy. He was my tent mate."

The 4th Class was one of the most accomplished of the nine that trained at the ASTCs. Graduate Robert Borg would compete in three Olympic Games for the United States and win a Silver Medal in dressage at the 1948 Games in London--still the highest U.S. finish in the event. After the war, Charles Pratt became a famous Hollywood film

A.S.T.C., FOURTH CLASS 31 JULY TO S SEPTEMBER

STUDENT TEAH ASSIGNMENTS

officer team leader assignments are effective for two weks, after which officer leaders will be rotated each week. Some changes of Enlisted team essignments may be made during the course.

GROUP "A" Team # 1

1ST LT. TOH J. MOUNSAVILLE S/Sgt Denmore H. Ewart Sgt. Dale Pontius Cpl William A. McGregor Cpl Glenn L. Herryford Pfc Franklin B. Fox Pvt Delbert Z. Motteler

Team # 2

1ST LT. PAUL E. WOOD T/Sgt John W. Bauman 1st Sgt Melquiades Ventura Cpl Charles A. Pratt Pfc Clifford E. Town Pfc Warren M. Arnstrong Pvt Felix Viloria

Team / 3

CAPT. ATANACIO CHAVEZ S/Sgt Albert W. Johnson Sgt John E. Hidalgo Cpl Billy G. Reynold Pfc Stephen Solovey Pfc Francis H. Laquier Ffc Sabas A. Asis

Team # 4

2D LT. WILLIAN E. COLE Sgt Stephen W. Pease " Sgt Harold W. Hard T/Sgt Alfred Alfonso Ffc Lloyd R. Barr Pfc Richard L. Jandt Pfc Jose E. Estrada (Sgt 1st Class R. DeJong)

GROUP "3"

Team # 5

CAPT, MARE G. GRIFFITH S/Sgt Malcolm ... Onyan Cpl Robert Beattie T/5 Glenn ... Clark Pfc Rufo V. Vaquilar Pfc David Bello Pvt P. V. King 2. LT. H. P. SWART

Team / 6

IST LT. WILLIAM 3. NEILIST S/Sgt Thomas Siason Sgt James J. Moriarity Opl Thomas 2. Molellan Pro Gilbert J. Cox Pvt Galen C. Kittlfson Pvt Sanson V. Sensano Cpl Y. W. Lompoliuw

Team "

IST LT. JOHN L. DURANT T/Sgt Ray E. Corpuz Cpl Andy E. Smith

Col George R. Urbano Col Leo V. Sapp Pvt John M. Lubko Pfc Kenneth R. Rotch

Team # 8

2D LT. ISIDRO D. URBANO T/Sgt Daniel C. Belarmino T/5 Paul E. Draper Pfc Robert L. Wayne Pfc Bernard J. Lagee Pfc Gabriel F. Forlales

Rotational roster of training teams during the 4th Class at the ASTC. The Urbano brothers are denoted by red arrows.

producer, and Andy Smith played professional baseball. Galen Kittleson, the youngest graduate, became a Special Forces legend and the only man in U.S. history to participate in four POW liberations in two different wars, including the famous Cabanatuan raid in WWII and the Son Tay raid in Vietnam. Others would become career soldiers and lead remarkable lives, but four would ultimately die in combat. War was serious business.

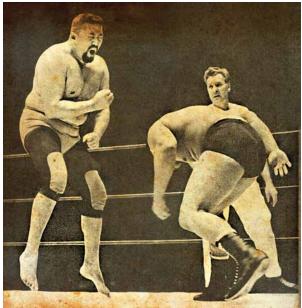


George Rey Urbano in his first wrestling photo taken in 1950. *Photo courtesy of L.A. Public Library.*

Rey and Isidro were not retained as operational Alamo Scouts and returned to their units after graduation where they conducted similar reconnaissance work. In October 1944, they took part in the Allied landing in the Philippines and saw action. Less than a year later, the war ended. Isidro remained in the military, but Rey had seen enough.

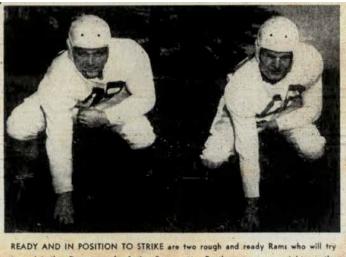
Like millions of veterans, he returned to the States and resumed civilian life. In 1947, he enrolled at San Francisco City College and walked on the football team, which featured several outstanding players, including Burl Toller at tackle, who was the first pick of the Cleveland Browns in 1951, and later in 1965, became the first African-American official in the NFL. The squad also listed future olympian sprint medalist and NFL Hall of Famer Ollie Matson at running back.

Although he had grown to his full height of 5'9, Rey was still undersized for a college football player, but the military had hardened him. By his sophomore year, the 23-year-old weighed 200 pounds and won a starting spot as a guard on the offensive line. He helped the team to a perfect 12-0 record, including a 20-7 victory over Chaffey Junior College in the inaugural Gold Dust Bowl game played on December 11, 1948 in Vallejo, California, and to a mythical national junior college championship. Rey earned All-Conference honors and entertained several offers from four-year universities. All the while, he continued to wrestle. "I had wrestled at City College of San Francisco," said Rey, "just to keep in shape for football."



Urbano (left), wrestling under the alias of Taro Sakuro, chops down Alberto Torres (right) during a match in 1962. Photo courtesy of Wrestling Revue.

"The Dean of Men got a job for me and my new friend Ray Urbano in the campus kitchen," recalled teammate Walt Jourdan. "He played football in the fall, and wrestled in the spring...The job took care of two of our meals; breakfast and dinner, but our hours were from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM; which was lunchtime. An expectation that a 19-year-old athlete would not eat lunch was unreasonable. Fortunately, the kitchen was run by students who were training to be in the hotel industry. We quickly befriended them and enjoyed the fruits of these friendships by receiving free sandwiches and big slices of cake. Ray and I would take turns sneaking the food into the bathroom, locking the door, and devouring the sandwiches in five or six massive bites. The cake, always moist and fresh, was a three-bite affair. No forks necessary. We sucked tap water from the faucet, and were back to work in five minutes. Longer than that would have been suspect. Most importantly, we were refueled for afternoon practice. I didn't know it at the time, but we would soon be chasing history."



READY AND IN POSITION TO STRIKE are two rough and ready Rams who will try to quiet the fierce growl of the Sacramento Panthers tomorrow night at the Panthers' own den. Pictured above are, left to right: Neal Gunn, and George Urbano. Both hold down guard positions.

Neal Gunn (left) and Urbano (right) of the City College of San Francisco Football Team, pose for a photo during the 1948 season. Photo courtesy of The Guardsman.

In 1949, the University of Southern California offered Rey a football scholarship, but the restless 25-year-old was tired of school. His father, who had returned to the

Philippines years earlier to manage the Filipino-American Corporation, had also become a filmmaker and urged him to make movies. But Rey had other ideas. He had previously trained at the wrestling school of Pantaleon Manlapig, the popular Filipino wrestler who had carved out a fine pro career in America, and decided to follow his path. Wrestling was in his blood.

Billing himself as "Ray Urbano," Rey defeated Chico Garcia in his first professional match in Honolulu, Hawaii on April 23, 1950 and received hyperbolic praise from the *Ogden Standard-Examiner* in Utah. "Rey Urbano came here recently from the Philippines and has impressed with his ability under all kinds of fire," the article stated. "He honors his religious belief by a respectful gesture before leaving his corner. Then he battles with an intense fury. The Islander uses the side of his hand in a cutting manner not unlike the chopping knife he used at home in the sugar cane fields. It is both legal and effective."

Rey's star was on the rise. A year later, he wrestled in front of 9,500 fans at the L.A. Olympic Coliseum and appeared ready to break through as a fan favorite and top contender. But the clean-cut nice guy image hurt him in a profession that thrived on and celebrated villains. For the next eight years, he wrestled throughout the west and southwest as "Rey Urbano," and once was even billed as an Indian, "Kickapoo Rey."

"I thought the promoter was kidding," he told writer Hall Totten, "but when I arrived, I noticed a big poster listing me as an Indian from Oklahoma. So when a group of reservation Indians spotted me and said, 'There's Kickapoo Rey,' I simply raised my hand and said, 'How!""

While Rey's budding international career was advancing, his personal life was mixed with tragedy. On September 18, 1952, Isidro was killed in action while leading a patrol with the 7th Infantry Division in North Korea during the Korean Conflict. He was the last former Alamo Scout to ever die in combat, and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the country's second highest award, for extraordinary heroism. He was interred in Golden Gate National Cemetery only a few weeks before his brother's wedding. It was a sign of more trouble to come.

Although not yet a household name, the handsome athlete was an eligible bachelor and a celebrity in the Filipino community. On November 29, 1952, Rey married a young socialite in a celebrated affair in Los Angeles, but the marriage didn't last.

In 1959, a couple years removed from a divorce, Rey adopted the Japanese persona, "Taro Sakuro," and in February 1962, won the NWA Southern Junior Heavyweight crown. The following month, he captured one-half of the NWA U.S. Tag Team title with Oyama Kato in the Tennessee [wrestling] territory. In 1963, he partnered with fellow World War II veteran Sputnik Monroe and wrestled the likes

Carpenter Stars In Spring Game

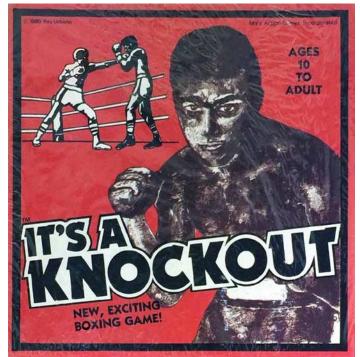
In a note to his department, Texas Tech publicist Bill Holmes says Big Spring's Gene Carpenter 'did right well' in the recent basketball spring training game there ... Gene counted 24 points in leading the Reds to an 87-68 win over the Whites . . . He made nine of 15 field goal attempts and six of eight free throws . . . In addition, he captured 28 of his team's 55 rebounds . . . Since the other team had the celebrated Jim Reed, Carpenter had the Tech coaches singing his praises . . . Rey George Urbano, who wrestled here last week, was named for the then King of England and, had he he abided by his father's sug-gestion, would have embarked upon a motion picture career . . Juan B. Urbano, the grappler's father, was the first inventor in the Philippines to hold a U.S. patent ... He's now head of the American Filipino Corporation, producer of motion pictures . . . During World War II, Rey was a member of the famed Almo Scouts under Gen.

Walter B. Krueger . . . In seven baseball games the past season, HCJC's Jayhawks hit only one triple . . . That blocking formation used in the Big Spring High school football camp this spring, wherein five players drive into one in sequence, is called "bull in the ring" Some observers unfamiliar with the procedure had asked . . . Once, when Dizzy Dean re-ceived a letter from Branch Rickey couched in the loftiest prose at Rickey's command, and he can get very Churchil-lian, Diz told a friend; "Why, even the president of the Con-stitute of Technologicals would have had a hard time tryin' to figger out what he wuz talkin' about" . . Mike Souchak, the pro golfer, is often referred to as a former Duke University football star . . . In reality, he was never more than a secondstring end there ... He was a good extra-point kicker, however . . . Converted successful-ly 76 of 88 tries over a period of three seasons.

News clip from the Big Springs Herald (TX), May 8, 1955. Note the reference to the Alamo Scouts.

of Dory Funk and the famous Chief Wahoo McDaniels. It was a changing point in his career.

In 1965, Rey changed his name to "Tokyo Tom" to capitalize on the bad guy persona which was popular with fans and to replace "Tokyo Joe" who had been banned from wrestling in Texas due to a prison conviction.



Board game produced by "Rey's Action Games, Incorporated" in 1980.

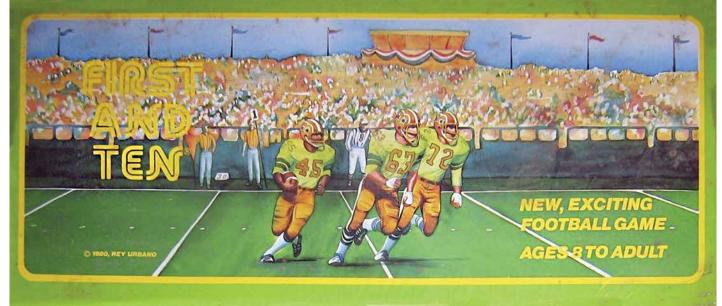
"Rey Urbano was a part of the glory days of the Amarillo Territory in the mid 60's," said Dory Funk, Jr. "The top wrestling talent included The Sheik, Tokyo Joe, Ricky Romero, Nelson Royal, Sputnik Monroe, Danny Miller, The Viking, Dory Funk Sr., [and] myself... It was my father's idea to bring a friend, Rey Urbano, to replace Tokyo Joe...For the next three years, Tokyo Tom (Rey Urbano) was one of a few top heels that carried the territory...[his] *Karate Thrust* was so over the top that we came up with the first *Karate Collar* matches and did capacity business. Rey was a great worker who knew and understood his Karate gimmick, and along with the Sheik and his *Ball of Fire*, the Amarillo Territory had a run of fabulous business. Rey was one of the nicest, most sincere 'Bad Guys' I have known."

"I realized that pats on the back weren't paying my bills," said Rey. "When I changed hats to become the bad guy, it became quite an enjoyment ..."



George Rey Urbano

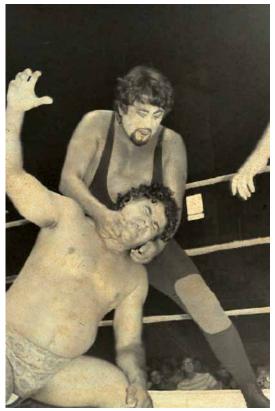
But fame was dangerous. Rey was heckled, spat on, shot at, and physically attacked. The danger became so serious that he hired 450-pound manager, Big Jess Ortega, and asked promoters for increased security. "One night, a woman took off one of her spiked-heel shoes and hit me so hard on top of the foot with the sharp heel it drew blood," Rey said in an interview with Totten. "The pain was terrible, but I had an image as one who could not feel an injury to my feet, so I



Football board game developed by Rey Urbano.

simply bowed and smiled...I accepted the fans."

On another occasion after defeating the Canadian champion in Ontario, a riot ensued outside the stadium and a fan attempted to stab him. "My beating the champ caused the people to react that way," he recalled in a 1968 interview with the *Fremont Argus.* "My life was saved by the knife being deflected by my lower ribs."



The Great Kabooki clutches an opponent. Photo by Dave Drason Burzynski.

At 41, Rey had tolerated thousands of crazy fans and faced a lot of tough opponents, but in 1966 he faced the toughest yet. Doctors diagnosed him with a brain tumor and recommended surgery. "They told me I'd never wrestle again." he said. "They [the doctors] thought I would never come out of it."

Fortunately, the tumor was benign and Rey survived the operation. "Even though I was told I couldn't return to the ring," he told writer Demas Lamas, "I thought to myself that if I didn't try it, I might look back in five years and wonder what I'd missed...I owe my life to my past history of physical conditioning—that's what pulled me through."

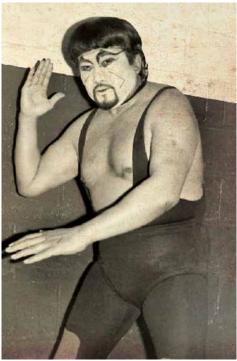
Not a man to sit idle, Rey returned to college full-time at California State University, Hayward [now California State University, East Bay] and graduated with a degree in recreation. In 1970, he began working as a supervisor for the Port Hueneme Recreation and Parks Department, where he often led physical education classes and wrestled an occasional match to support the local high school and other causes. The next year he began training for a comeback.

And what a comeback! In August 1972, Rey returned

to the ring as "Tokyo Tom" and wrestled several matches in Ohio, Michigan, and in Toronto. Based on his success, he resigned his position with Port Hueneme at the end of the year.

The next year, he reinvented himself as the "Great Kabooki," a crafty Japanese villain that fans loved to hate—a hidden irony given that he spent two years fighting the Japanese in the war. "I'll be wrestling with a new name, and a new image," he said in an interview in the *Oxnard Press-Courier*, "but I will also be promoting wrestling."

"One of the most overlooked men during the 1970's era of Big Time Wrestling in the Detroit territory was Rey Urbano, "The Great Kabooki," observed wrestler Percival Friend. "He gave fans more excitement than they could want. His chops on the chests of foes left huge black and blue imprints on them. The salt he carried for his ceremonies often blinded opponents. His white-painted face, highlighted by black paint around the eyes and mouth, was an identifiable part of his image. He was a very feared man...Being originally from the Philippines, he was a perfect man for the character he was about to change into. The Oriental look gave him an advantage of putting fear into the eyes of his peers. We had just come out of the Second World War, and the Japanese were not well thought of because of the things that they did during wartime."



Urbano in a promo shot as The Great Kabooki. Photo by Dave Drason Burzynski

In 1973, nearing age 50, Rey wrestled 22 matches, but his body began to break down. The next year he only wrestled four matches and again faded from the wrestling scene. He married for a third time and even found time to indulge his love of Polynesian food working as a part-time chef at Mama Olson's restaurant in Oxnard, California while attempting to market a board football game. "While I was on the professional wrestling tour, I had lots of free time," Rey said in an interview with the *Press-Courier*. "And to break the boredom, I started visiting famous chefs in the hotels in which I stayed. From personal friendships I discovered recipes from them that I doubt they would have given others."



Promo or the world title match between The Great Kabooki and Macho Man Randy Savage held in Lexington, Ky. Urbano wrestled the final match of his career two nights later.

Over the next couple years, Rey expanded his interest to business and developed "First and Ten," a football board game that he had conceived in the early 1960s. In 1976, he sold it to Ford Motor Co., which used it in a promotional campaign. He then trademarked it and unsuccessfully attempted to sell it to the National Football League. "During the days, my time was free," explained Rey, "and I'd buy some of the football games on the market. But they were ridiculous. I thought I could come up with a football game that was very simple and very realistic."

In 1980, he formed "Urbano and Associates," remarketed his "First and Ten" board game, and then released "Knockout," a boxing game. Despite the foray into big business, great financial success eluded him. At the height of his wrestling popularity he only made \$1000 a week.



Urbano wrestled as Taro Sakuro in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Like for many professional athletes, retirement was difficult for Rey, but at age 58, he stepped back into the ring and resurrected the "Great Kabooki." Although he was the first to use the painted face gimmick, a new "Great Kabuki," a younger, more marketable Japanese star [Mera Akihisi], had entered the wrestling scene in 1981. Despite the difference in spelling, having two wrestlers with the same name created confusion that lasts today.

In the fall-winter of 1982-1983, Rey launched a farewell tour in the Midwest with International Championship Wrestling (I.C.W.) and wrestled 16 matches as the Great Kabooki. On February 17, 1983 he wrestled the wildly popular Macho Man Randy Savage for the World Championship, and two nights later, he and tag team partner "Ratamyus" (Howard Newell) defeated Angelo Poff and George Weingeroff at MacArthur High School in Decatur, Illinois in front of only 250 fans. It was the last match of Rey's storied career.

"I had the privilege of wrestling against Kabooki a few times during my early years in the profession," added Percival Friend. "He was very adept at catch as catch can style as well as Greco Roman and Sumo style. I had also been a referee in many matches he was involved in. Many times, I feared for my life just being the third man in the ring."



Urbano (far right) reunites with fellow wrestlers Tito Carreon (left) and Tony Borne (center) at a wrestling reunion in Seattle in 2007. Photo courtesy of Mike Lano.

Due to the "theatrical element" of professional wrestling, complete and accurate records of earlier matches and unsanctioned contests are difficult to obtain. The results of 211 of Rey's matches are unknown. All told, he wrestled under four aliases in 989 known matches against 399 opponents for a mark of 308 wins, 350 losses, and 129 draws. Throughout his career, he wrestled some of the top names in the sport such as Macho Man Randy Savage, Bobo Brazil, Wahoo McDaniel, Bruno Sammartino, Mighty Igor, Ben Justice, Gorilla Monsoon, and others.

"People mistake a wrestler's appearance for the match being fixed," Rey said. "I've put several people to sleep to confirm their beliefs."

"He quietly over the years entertained fans and became a friend to all he came in contact with," wrote "Supermouth" Dave Drason (Burzynski), in *Wrestling Revue*. "With a low key shy personality along with a wry sense of humor, he became a ripe target for a number of unsuspecting pranks, yet he was one of the most beloved members of the wrestling fraternity."

George Urbano never attended an Alamo Scouts reunion, and no evidence exists that he corresponded with any Scouts after leaving the service. He married three times and had no known children. Like many combat veterans, he was restless and personal relationships suffered. He preferred the nomadic lifestyle of a professional athlete and wrestled long past the age when most athletes are forced to retire because of injury or diminishing skills. Life on the road appealed to him, as if he were trying to stay one step ahead of whatever was chasing him.

But in the golden years of his life, Rey slowed down and enjoyed membership in the Cauliflower Alley Club (CAC), a fraternal non-profit organization composed of retired and active professional wrestlers and boxers in North America. In 1992, he was honored by the organization for his contribution to pro wrestling and spent the next 15 years attending wrestling reunions and keeping in touch with old friends and making new ones.

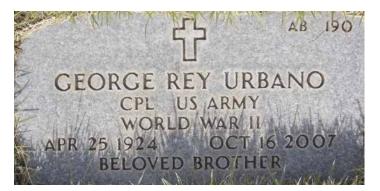
"I saw Rey after I moved to Las Vegas," said Walt Jourdan. "He was very sick and lived in a nursing home where he died. Rey was an all-around good person."

George Rey Urbano passed away on October 16, 2007 in a nursing home in Las Vegas at the age of 83 and is buried at the Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery.

During his visits to the CAC, he offered a philosophy for life that everyone can learn from: "Have fun—enjoy the company—reunite with old friends and foes—take nothing but pictures—and leave nothing but good memories when you go."

Wonderful advice from a man we never knew, but wish we had.

Author's note: As an avid wrestling fan growing up in the 1970s, I remember "Rey Urbano" and the "Great Kabooki" well. What an honor it has been learning about his wrestling life and his service with the Alamo Scouts. Anyone having additional information about George or Isidro Urbano, please pass it along.



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-Wrestling Revue Magazine. 1963. P. 48. Photo of Taro Sakuro.

MeetUp 2016 The San Francisco Experience

Alamo Scout Terry Santos doesn't crave the spotlight—but the 92-year-old World War II double Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient was a shining star at the Presidio Social Club during an Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation MeetUp on Friday, July 29, 2016. Santos was the guest of honor at a social dinner for friends of the foundation hosted by ASHF treasurer Audrene Burress, daughter of Alamo Scout, Aubrey (Lee) Hall, and cheerfully accommodated several requests for photos and small talk from friends and patrons.



L to *R*: Alamo Scout Terry Santos and ASHF Executive Director, Russ Blaise, at the Presidio Social Club.

"Terry was a rock star at the event," said ASHF historian, Lance Zedric. "Complete strangers, a former Navy SEAL commander, and restaurant workers stopped by the table and thanked Terry for his service. Some even asked to have a photo taken with him. This shows that people still recognize and appreciate what our WWII veterans did over 70 years ago."

The informal meet and greet was fittingly held at the Presidio of San Francisco, a fortified Spanish outpost established in 1776, and the former post-WWII home of the Sixth U.S. Army, the parent unit of the Alamo Scouts. In October 1994, Sixth Army was deactivated and the post was transferred to the National Park Service, which refurbished many of the buildings and now leases them to individuals and businesses. "I was stationed at the Presidio on two occasions with the All-Army Track & Field Team," added Lance, "and the MeetUp was held just a few blocks from my old barracks within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge. The scenery is beyond compare, and it's easy to see why the Presidio of San Francisco is one of America's signature locales. A fitting place to honor Terry and to recognize the contribution of the Alamo Scouts."



L to *R*: Sid and Cindy Berg, Grayson Kirtland and Tim Williams before dinner at the Presidio Social Club.

"I had a wonderful time," beamed Terry. "It was nice seeing old friends and talking about my time in the 11th Airborne Recon and Alamo Scouts. There aren't many of us left."

The MeetUp also welcomed a special guest; Grayson Kirtland, great-grandson of General Walter Krueger, commanding general of the Sixth Army and founder of the Alamo Scouts. "We were thrilled that Grayson could join us for the evening," said Russ Blaise, executive director of the ASHF. "Grayson related several personal anecdotes about his greatgrandfather that revealed the personal side of one of the great military figures of the war. We'd like all the ASHF members to share similar stories with us."



L to R: Tim & Megan Williams, Linda Nellist, Russ Blaise, Audrene Burress, and Lance Zedric on Pier 39.

"My great-grandfather destroyed his private letters and war correspondence," lamented Grayson. "He wrote the book, *From Down Under to Nippon*, after the war, but it mostly addressed military operations and little else. In fact, I never heard him talk about the war. And that's too bad."



L to R: Tour Guide Captain Tom Gehman USNR, Audrene Burress & Lance Zedric aboard the USS Hornet.

Long-time supporters Tim and Megan Williams [son-in-law and daughter of George Thompson], and Sid and Cindy Berg [friends of Bill Nellist], also attended. "Visiting with Terry and the others was a treat," said Tim. "The veterans of Terry's generation sacrificed so much for us, and we need to preserve their stories."

"My dad discouraged Tim and me from attending reunions," chuckled Megan. "I just think he wanted to keep all the fun to himself, but we do have all of dad's wartime letters—hundreds of them. They're very precious to us."

But the fun wasn't limited to just the dinner," said Russ. "Some of us visited *Pier 39* and the Haight-Ashbury district on Friday before dinner, and on Saturday, the ASHF Board held its annual meeting. Afterwards, we all toured the USS Hornet moored in nearby Alameda, former home of ASHF secretary, Linda Nellist."



"Linda was a godsend," added Lance. "She knew the Bay area well and chauffeured us to wherever we wanted to go. "Without Linda and Audrene, we'd still be lost or stuck in traffic!"

"The weather in the San Francisco Bay area was fantastic and everyone seemed to have a great time," smiled Russ. "We visited Terry, welcomed Grayson into the ASHF fold, and laid the groundwork for some exciting new projects. We accomplished a lot. It was a perfect weekend, and I encourage the families of Scouts and ASHF members to join us at our next Meetup wherever it may be."

"Alamo Scout Bill Nellist was a great friend and mentor to me," reflected Sid. "Keeping in touch with the families of Alamo Scouts at a MeetUp honors Bill and his service to our country. And I think that's what it's all about." – We agree.

A Touch of Color

RECON recently sat down with author and ASHF Historian Lance Zedric, to discuss a new effort to colorize several black-and-white Alamo Scouts photographs.

RECON: Do you have a background in photography? Zedric: Yes, I've been involved in photography my entire professional life. As an administrator at Monmouth College [IL], I was in charge of the institution's photo lab, and then I was a trained photo interpreter in the military. Also, my wife [Ching] was a noted photojournalist in China, and since 2001 we have owned a photography business, so I've always had my hand in photography.



Col. Frederick Bradshaw, first director of the Alamo Scouts Training Center.

RECON: How did you get started colorizing photos?

Zedric: Actually, it was a combination of things. Ever since I was a child, I enjoyed reading about World War II, but the photographs in books and magazines were all in black and white. I often wondered how they would look

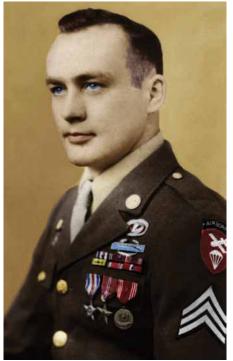


1LT George S. "Tommy" Thompson. New Guinea, 1944.

in color, and several years ago I watched a colorized history of World War I. Then, the History Channel aired a colorized documentary on World War II. That piqued my interest, but it wasn't until late August of last year that I tried my own hand at it. I attempted to colorize a few old family photos, such as single subject photos, and then I graduated on to photos containing multiple subjects and backgrounds. My first few attempts were horrible. I made every mistake possible! But it was a great learning experience--and fun, too.



Alamo Scout team leaders following an awards ceremony on Leyte, P.I., Dec 1944. L-R: William Nellist, Tom Rounsaville, Robert Sumner, John Dove.



Sgt. Galen Kittleson, 1945.

RECON: How does one even begin to colorize a photo?

Zedric: [laughs] Watch a lot of tutorials on youtube first! It will save a lot of time and frustration. But you must have good photo editing software. We use Adobe Photoshop CS. Once you've mastered the basic commands, select a good, sharp photo and scan it at a high resolution, save it, and make a copy. Then get to work.

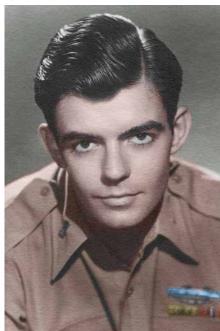
RECON: Describe what goes in to colorizing an Alamo Scouts photo? Zedric: A lot! In fact, unlike colorizing a family photo, colorizing a military photo accurately is incredibly difficult and time-consuming. Naturally, soldiers should blend into their surroundings, which makes it difficult to assign distinct colors, such as slightly varying greens, to vegetation, tents, and jungle uniforms. Likewise, in photos where the scouts are wearing khaki uniforms, they blend into the surrounding sand. But getting a Scout's complexion correct, or close to it, is the most difficult aspect of colorization. While it doesn't have to be perfect, the end result should not appear fake or cartoon-like.



Alamo Scouts Aubrey Hall (left) and Charles Harkins (right) practice applying a splint during jungle first aid training at the ASTC. Jan 1944. Army Photo. Note: Harkins (Sombar Team) was killed in action on Leyte in Dec 1944, after rejoining his unit.

RECON: What is your motivation for doing this?

Zedric: I love photography, history, and working with the Alamo Scouts. When I combine the three, it's a win-win-win situation. I get the best of three things that I love to do. As a professional educator and historian, I believe it's important to present history in a medium



Team leader Wilbur F. "Bill" Littlefield

that sparks interest. I teach high school students who, until a few years ago, actually thought that World War II was fought in black and white! To a new generation of technologically advanced young people born in a rapidly changing digital age, World War II may as well be ancient history. It's my hope that a few colorized stills will help change that. It is also an opportunity to call upon all ASHF members to scan and pass along all unsubmitted photos that can be colorized to further educate the public and showcase the amazing story of the Alamo



Photo colorization of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger (third from left) inspecting a Japanese heavy machine gun captured by the Alamo Scouts in New Guinea in August 1944. Major Homer Williams, Director of Training at the ASTC, stands to Krueger's left. Army photo.

CHANLEY Team Casiguran Sound & Baler Missions By Lance Zedric

Interservice cooperation is the hallmark of modern special operations forces missions and a key component in their success, but many traditional military commanders of World War II did not embrace the nascent "elite unit" concept, viewing it rather as a drain of manpower and an indictment of the effectiveness of conventional forces. But in the spring of 1945, CHANLEY Team of the Alamo Scouts, three special naval officers, two agents from the Allied Intelligence Bureau, and a squad of 10 Filipino guerrillas supported by six U.S. Navy vessels from Task Unit 78.9.2 of Task Force 78, helped validate the importance of utilizing combined forces. The interservice team performed two valuable and distinct reconnaissance missions that identified enemy forces around Casiguran Sound and ascertained the advisability of establishing an airstrip in the Baler Bay area on the east coast of Luzon.

Herman S. Chanley was not the typical Alamo Scouts team leader. The handsome second lieutenant from Wheatland, Indiana, hailed from the 1st Cavalry Division and had just celebrated his 23rd birthday. He had graduated from the second class at the Alamo Scouts Training Center on Fergusson Island, New Guinea, in March 1944, and was retained as an enlisted man on HOBBS Team, where he gained valuable experience at the landing at Hollandia, and as part of a top-secret interservice team that landed by submarine at the western tip of New Guinea in June of that year. Two months later, he led a reconnaissance east of the Tami River and was awarded a battlefield commission, one of the first in the Alamo Scouts. In December 1944, Chanley was given his own team during the Leyte Operation and operated on Biliran Island. He had earned his chops.

And so had his men. Fellow Hoosiers Allen H. Throgmorton and Glendale Watson, both staff sergeants, were seasoned NCOs. Throgmorton graduated from the third training class and was a former member of LITTLEFIELD Team, while Watson, along with team member Sgt. Juan Pacis, graduated from the fifth training class. Pacis (age 37), and privates first class Juan Berganio (age 37), and Nicholas Enrique (age 32), from the 1st Filipino Infantry Battalion, were among the oldest Alamo Scouts ever selected, but added language capability and a wealth of experience. Berganio and Enriquez had graduated from the second class and had been with the unit for over a year.

On February 17, CHANLEY Team arrived in the Baler area and contacted the 103rd and 205th Guerrilla Squadrons. The 103rd consisted of about 500 men armed with only 15 weapons, whereas the 205th had 52 miscellaneous weapons and about the same number of men as the 103rd. However, the 205th was not as cooperative as Chanley had hoped. With the civilians of Baler facing a critical food shortage with only a single doctor, it was vital that the town be retaken soon, but despite a reduced Japanese presence, enemy strength was unknown.



2nd Lt. Herman S. Chanley

"In the early morning of February 17, 1945 we started from Cabucbucan to Bongabon, and rode through the hills, but we were disgusted because the truck couldn't get through the highway," noted Alamo Scout Juan Berganio in his diary. "It was halfway to our destination, so we had to hike. Lucky it was around two 2 P.M., which gave us more time to walk and to reach a village. The hike was really rough and ragged, and our guides had a hard time following us. We didn't reach our destination that day but slept in a little barrio in the town of Baler. The Lt. in charge of the guides was Lt. Valdez, a resident of Baler. That night we had a good supper. Mostly a Spanish menu. It was pork, and how it was cooked I don't know, but it was so delicious. After supper, we slept. At 8:00 A.M., we ate breakfast and proceeded to our OP. It was around 11:00 A.M. when we started our hike to Baler. It took us about four hours to reach our OP, but prior to that we stopped for lunch. The people offered us



Allen H. Throgmorton

something to eat before going any farther. We stayed by the beach in little shacks and established our radio station, ready to contact HQ, 6th Army."

From 19-23 February, the unit collected information from the Casiguran Sound and Bay area, and on the 24th, Watson and Berganio and nine guerrillas traveled to Dinadiawan (Point #1) and contacted "Palido" and "Pascual" from the AIB and received the latest information from the area. Enter the U.S. Navy.

"The Navy took us on the other side of the bay because the water was too rough for a sailboat or any non-motorized craft," wrote Berganio. "We tried going to Dinalongan (Point #2) several times by sailboat, but as soon as we neared the beach the tides got so rough that we had to turn back. The beach was rocky and had lots of coral, so we didn't take a chance of landing for fear we might lose a life. Caution was in our minds, so we returned to Baler that night. We tried several times but in vain, so we waited until the Navy men came. While we waited, we attended some birthday parties where I met a few girlfriends..."



Juan Berganio

"The Navy arrived at Baler Bay the morning of 1 March with two mine sweepers, two LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry), one destroyer, and a destroyer escort to pick up the Scout team which was to assist them in making the reconnaissance of Casiguran Sound," wrote Chanley in a mission report.

According to Lt. Harry Hopkins, commander of LCI-635, his ship picked

up the scout team at 8:50 A.M., and then delivered Chanley to the USS CONY for a conference with Comdr. Allen W. Moore and three Navy observers, including Capt. Wilfred L. Painter from the CinCPac [Commander-in-Chief, Pacific] staff; Comdr. Stuart B. Clark from Comphilseafron [Commander Philippine Sea] staff, and Lt. Carl F. Schipper from the

ComSeventhFlt [Commander Seventh Fleet] staff. At the meeting, the reconnaissance plan was discussed and it was decided to pick up Watson at Debutunan Point, where he had earlier established a radio station and had been scouting the Japanese in the Casiguran area. After the conference, Chanley returned to *LCI-635*, and at 1:44 P.M., picked up Watson. The party returned to *LCI-635* and were later joined by the Navy observers. The reconnaissance was a go.

At sunrise on 2 March, *LCI-635* beached south of Dilalongan Point and disembarked the reconnaissance party consisting of CHANLEY Team, the three Navy observers, and a squad of Filipino guerrillas commanded by Lt. Dionco. The LCI then



Glendale Watson

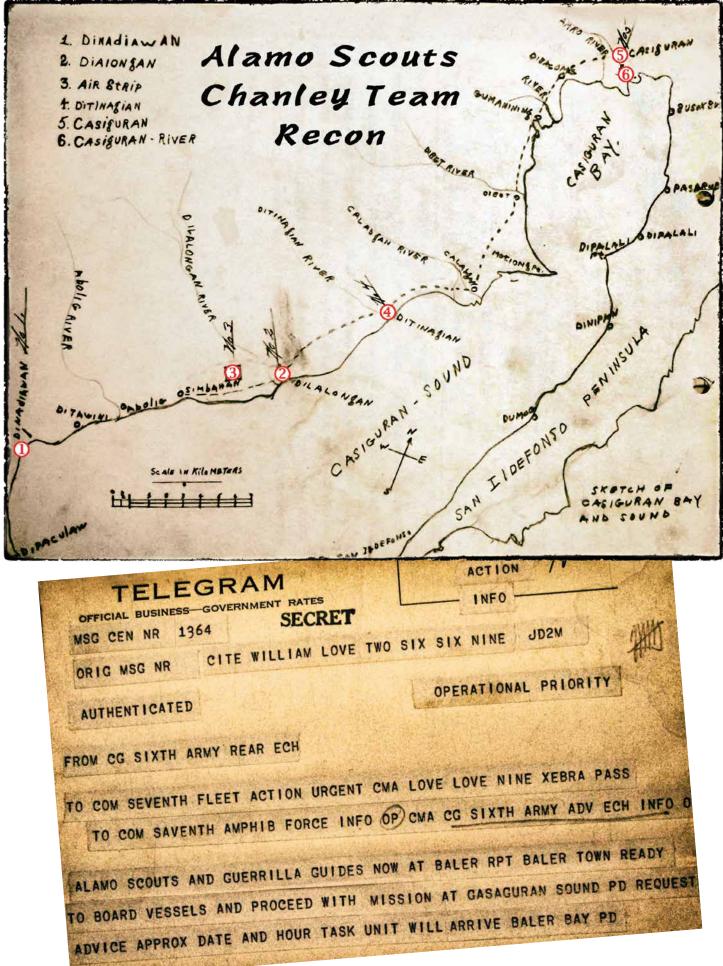
returned to sea and positioned itself 300 yards away with the USS CONY nearby.



USS Cony

Upon landing, Sgt. Watson with five guerrillas, proceeded to the right flank near the Dilalongan River, so as to give warning in case any enemy was to approach from that direction," reported Chanley. "Sgt. Throgmorton with four guerrillas furnished the left flank security, while [I] with eleven men, made the reconnaissance of the airstrip."

The unfinished civilian airstrip (Point #3), located east of the Dilalongan River three miles from the coast, was overgrown by kunai grass and was deemed unsuitable. But "the naval officers decided on a site just a kilometer southeast of the old strip," added Chanley. "The new field would run east and west, parallel to the coast. A perfect rock base is furnished by several old stream beds in the area. Thirty-two hundred yards of flat land were paced off."



With the information in hand, CHANLEY Team, less Throgmorton and four guerrillas, and Lt. Dionco and his squad, which would stay in the area for another night to collect additional information on the Japanese near Ditinagian (Point #4), were picked up by *LCI-635* at 10:20 A.M. Fifteen minutes later, *LCI-1003* beached 600 yards south of Dilalongan Point and picked up Throgmorton and his party, which had formed a roadblock in support of the reconnaissance.



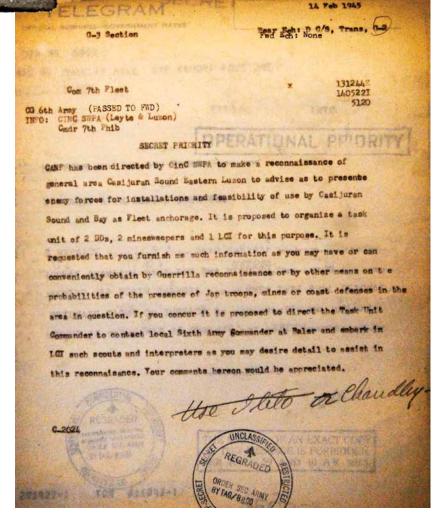
LCIs after unloading troops and equipment.

The results of the mission were immediately apparent. A succinct naval report summed it up best: "According to definite information secured by the scouts Japs previously reported to be at Ditinagian departed for Casiguran Town (Point #5) upon the arrival of this Task Unit. The total number of Japanese reported by the scouts to be in the area is not over one hundred lightly dug in at Casiguran Town. Scouts reported that there are no enemy installations on the shores of Casiguran Bay or Sound...Reconnaissance showed site suitable for 7000-foot airstrip."

But the fun wasn't over yet. Just two minutes after pickup, *LCI-1003's* anchor malfunctioned and the ship was unable to remove itself from the beach. *LCI-635* attempted to tow the ship, but the rapidly falling tide made retraction impossible. According to J.W. Jessee, commander of *LCI-1003*, "The remainder of the scout unit was then transferred from *LCI-1003* to *LCI-635* and all confidential and secret publications were removed from this ship to *LCI-635*. The surf on the beach was negligible and the seven-hour wait for high tide passed without incident. At 1902 [7:02 P.M.] the *LCI-635* moored alongside to starboard and towed this vessel off the beach without difficulty, and after the exchange of the scouts and publications was effected, the Task Unit 78.9.2 again steamed through the night in the Casiguran Sound area."

At 5 P.M., the next day, *LCI-635* returned to Debutunan Beach and picked up Lt. Dionco and his party. The following morning, CHANLEY Team and all members of the scouting party disembarked at Baler. "After the Baler mission was completed, we went back to Calasiao by air," wrote Berganio. "We rode in a C-47. Upon reaching HQ, we went to the Scout camp, but we didn't stay long. We had a couple days' rest before we went on another mission."

CHANLEY Team missions in the Casiguran Sound and Baler area are not among the most glamorous or dangerous performed by the Alamo Scouts during the war, but they are shining examples of interservice cooperation that demonstrated the operational breadth and flexibility of a unit that began as a simple *ad hoc* reconnaissance outfit and grew into a special group of highly-trained, tightly-knit teams proficient in long-range reconnaissance, intelligence-gathering, direct action, guerrilla operations, unconventional warfare, and in part, civil administration. The missions are but part of a body of work that includes 110 known operational missions without losing a man, and further cement the Alamo Scouts' place among the finest special operations forces in U.S. history. The best of the best.





Commando: For Action and Adventure is a 65-page, 6x7-inch war comic [fiction] initially published in London in June 1961, by D.C. Thomson & Co. To date, more than 4000 issues have been published, with action occurring worldwide from ancient times into the future. New titles are published twice a month.

Rescue in the Jungle #3717, is the fictitious account of Alamo Scouts Mike Banner and Sam Apo, who liberate hundreds of Allied soldiers from a Japanese prison camp. The action is based on the real Cabanatuan POW camp raid in which NELLIST and ROUNSAVILLE teams, along with Jack Dove, a company of 6th Army Rangers, and two units of Filipino guerrillas, liberated 513 POWs on January 30-31, 1945.



Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation Membership

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation offers three types of memberships to those who wish to support the organization. Annual dues are \$25.00, and will be used to help maintain the Alamo Scouts website; secure memorial plaques for the unit at historical and military institutions; fund special projects; and support ongoing archival research and procurement of historical unit-related memorabilia for educational purposes. Membership also entitles you to a membership card, a newsletter, our new RECON magazine, and attendance to any of the ASHF events. We offer a 3 and 5 year membership. Get a three-year membership for \$70.00 (\$5.00 savings) or a 5-year membership for \$115.00 (\$10.00 savings).

Select from the appropriate membership category.

Gold Membership - Alamo Scouts, ASTC Graduates, Staff & Overhead Personnel.

Silver Membership – Spouses & direct relatives of Scouts.

Bronze Membership – All others who wish to support the ASHF.

1-Year Membership - \$25 3-Year Membership - \$70 5-Year Membership - \$115

ASHF Grand Membership Plan

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation is introducing a "Grand Membership Plan" where all grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc., of an Alamo Scout, can receive a 20% discount on their 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year ASHF membership.

Grand Membership may be paid by check or by credit card (through PayPal). Please contact Bonnie Glass, ASHF Membership Committee Chair, via email: bonnie.glass@alamoscouts.org or Russ Blaise, ASHF ExecDir: ashf@alamoscouts.org if you have any questions.

1-Year Grand Membership - \$20

5-Year Grand Membership - \$92

3-Year Grand Membership - \$56

For all memberships, please provide your full name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. If applying for Silver Membership and/or the Grand Membership Plan, please indicate the name of and relationship to an Alamo Scout. **Also, print (clearly) how you want your name to appear on your membership card(s).**

Make check payable to: ALAMO SCOUTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Recently created hybrid Alamo Scouts insignia taken from the original drawing by Harry Golden, and the Meyer's patch. Created in Adobe Illustrator by Russ Blaise.