

RECON

Mar/Apr 2019 Issue

MAGAZINE

The Alamo Scouts Turn 75



This February marked the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Alamo Scouts operational history. Pictured above is a colorized photo of Alamo Scout team leader, Lt. John McGowen, taken on Los Negros Island in 1944. McGowen and his team performed the first operational Alamo Scouts mission there on 29 February 1944. Salute!



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



ALAMO SCOUTS
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION, INC.

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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*

NECROLOGY

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March 19, 2018

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The Fort MacArthur Museum Honors the Alamo Scouts



Last July, the Fort MacArthur Museum in Angels Gate Park, San Pedro, California hosted "Old Fort MacArthur Days Living History" and honored the Alamo Scouts with a replica of the guard house that was erected at the ASTC near Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea in Jul/Aug 1944. Several photos of the Alamo Scouts were also on display. For more information about the Fort MacArthur Museum, visit their webpage at <http://www.ftmac.org>

**Have a photo of an Alamo Scout? We'd love to see it!"
Scan and email (media@apo442.com) it to the ASHF today!"**



Also please join our Facebook group for the latest news and stories:

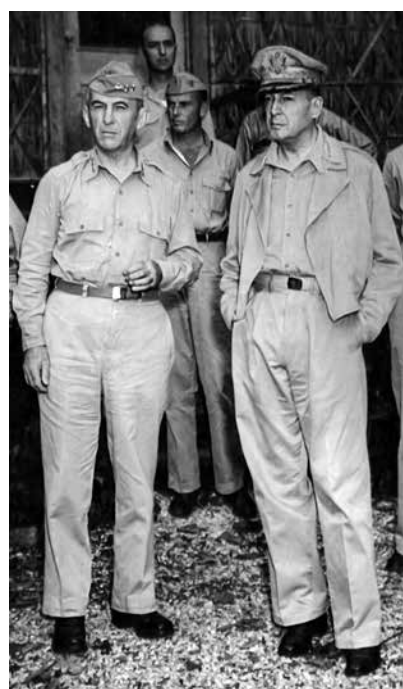
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alamoscouts/>

It's a closed group so you'll have to ask to join when you get to the page. All posts and comments stay within the group. We found this is the best way to communicate with members and Alamo Scouts enthusiasts. Sending out bulk emails only produce spam. Having a Facebook private closed group eliminates spam and lost emails.

The Alamo Scouts Turn 75

On 28 November 2018, the Alamo Scouts celebrated its diamond anniversary marking 75 years since the inception of the unit on a tiny island in the South Pacific during World War II. Over the next two years—culminating on 2 September 2020 with the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation (ASHF) will be posting numerous stories and photos about the unit in *RECON Magazine* and on selected social media outlets, including *Facebook* and *Twitter*. The ASHF will also launch a capital campaign to fund ongoing memorials, research trips, and special projects, including a 2020 Alamo Scouts calendar highlighting significant events in the history of the Alamo Scouts, the Alamo Scouts Association (ASA), and the ASHF.

A lot has happened in 75 years since the Alamo Scouts were formed during the height of World War II. America won the war, fought two more, eradicated polio, landed a man on the moon, invented the personal computer, endured Watergate, danced to disco, survived 9/11, fought another two wars, and is more connected than ever by the Internet, Facebook, snap chat, iphones, androids, and countless innovations that were unimaginable in 1943. In comparison, the world then was also more technologically advanced than it had ever been, and the military was leading the way into the brave new world of that yesteryear. Just one year prior, the mounted cavalry had traded its horses for jeeps and armored cars. Seventy-five years before that, America was only three years removed from the end of the Civil War, and Reconstruction was



Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger (left) and Gen. Douglas MacArthur in New Guinea.

in its infancy. Electric lights, the telephone, and automobiles had not yet been invented, and flight was still a generation in the future. Another three quarters of a century before that, George Washington had just assumed office as the first President of the United States. Time is relative.

But in those heady days of 1943, one thing had not changed in over 5000 years; generals needed boots on the ground and eyes behind the lines. In his classic work, *The*

Art of War, the 5th Century B.C. Chinese strategist Sun Tzu, wrote, “Be extremely subtle, even to the point of formlessness. Be extremely mysterious, even to the point of soundlessness.”

Sun Tzu wasn’t referring to the Alamo Scouts—but he could have been.

Following the American debacle on Kiska in



Camp staff at the ASTC on Fergusson Island. Front row (l-r): John McGowen, Preston Rowland, Richard Canfield, Frederick Bradshaw, John Polk, Michael Sombar, Fred Sukup. Back row (l-r): William Barnes, Milton Beckworth, Mayo Stuntz, Daily Gambill, Henry Chalko, George Thompson, Cary Moyer. January 1944.

August 1943, in which the Army suffered over 300 casualties in an unopposed landing in the Aleutian Islands (faulty intelligence), and due to the increasing squabble for control over intelligence assets between the Army and the Navy in the Southwest Pacific, Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, commander of Sixth Army, took action to create his own mysterious unit.



Lt. Col. Frederick W. Bradshaw, first Director of Training at the ASTC.

“I was an Army officer serving with the Amphibious Scouts,” said Milton Beckworth. “After our reconnaissance mission in the Gasmata area on New Britain Island, in which we weren’t picked up and nearly starved to death, the Navy held me on a ship and wouldn’t let me report to Krueger. He was furious and said, ‘To heck with this, I’ll form my own intelligence unit!’ And he did.”

Charged with the unenviable mission of fighting

and dislodging the Imperial Japanese Army from the inhospitable terrain of New Guinea, Krueger recognized the immediate need for a small, elite reconnaissance unit that would be under his direct command and not be yoked or stifled by the bureaucracy of the Army or the Navy. He immediately went to work and solicited ideas from the commanders of other elite units for training his own ad hoc tactical reconnaissance unit—one that would be at his disposal and under his direct command.



Trainees pass under the sign at the first ASTC. January 1944.

Once information was gathered, Krueger's staff submitted two plans in late October 1943 (see documents). Maj. General Edwin Patrick oversaw much of the preliminary research and offered evaluations on the proposed plans and then submitted them to Krueger for selection. On 16 November of that year, Krueger sent a request to general Douglas MacArthur's headquarters authorizing the establishment of the Alamo Scouts Training Center (ASTC). MacArthur's staff approved the request the next day.

Krueger's next order of business was to select a director of training to command the ASTC. The choice was easy. On 21 November, he selected Lt. Colonel Frederick W. Bradshaw from his own Sixth Army G2 section. Bradshaw, a brilliant attorney from Mississippi, had attracted Krueger's attention during the Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941, and was an outstanding choice. Three days later, the ASTC was established and Bradshaw's appointment announced. On 28 November, Patrick signed AG order 353-B "officially" establishing the ASTC to conduct raider and reconnaissance work in the Southwest Pacific. The Alamo Scouts were born.

The unit's war record is well-documented elsewhere, but it is important to pause and to remember the more than 1000 men who either served on an operational

team or graduated from one of the training centers. We must also acknowledge those fine candidates who tried to become Alamo Scouts, but for myriad reasons, did not make the mark. For there is no dishonor in daring greatly. Alamo Scout John Dove said it best in letter written in 1946:

"First, I would like to tell of the Scouts just as a human. He was just an American—nothing 'Super' about him. He came from combat units, for the most part, and he was a trained soldier. He didn't have any more muscles than the average G.I. nor had God given him any overdose of brains. The uniform we wore was the same size that the cook up at Headquarters wore and we had no more "guts" than the medic in a Recon Troop...The essential difference between the Scout and the other soldiers in the line was that Joe Scout decided he'd take a crack at this A.S.T.C stuff...Competition was pretty darn stiff and it was not easy to 'make the team.' It was necessary to return many men to their parent organizations as their C.O. often insisted on it."



Alamo Scout John Dove (left), and instructors Milton Beckworth and Marion Myers, share a laugh at the ASTC. March 1944.

Nor should we forget the hundreds of men who comprised the staff and overhead unit; men who trained the candidates, paid the men, built and repaired the camps, operated the mess hall, drove the trucks, handled the boats, stood guard, served as aggressor troops, and rendered aid to the injured. In the spirit of celebrating the remaining few Alamo Scouts and perpetuating the fine history of the unit, the ASHF again asks family and friends to open their photo albums, retrieve documents, locate old letters, and submit any item—no matter how insignificant—that might contribute another piece to the Alamo Scouts legacy and help tell their story for the next 75 years.

—The Editors

SECRET

30 October 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Lt. General KRUEGER;

Herewith is submitted recommendations for a general plan and program for the training of scouts and the establishment of the Alamo Scout Training Center.

1. Wherever possible the training should be of the "Explanation-Demonstration-Application (Imitation)" type. Lectures to be held to a minimum - individual and small group instruction in application to be the rule. Majority of "lecture and conference" instruction to be in the very early training; thereafter the training in general to be application while out on training missions and marches. Therefore a goodly number of instructors is considered necessary - may be reduced after Training Center is well established.

2. Every effort should be made to instill and encourage morale, esprit, pride and comradeship. Certificates of Proficiency (diplomas) could be awarded; small felt bar (to be worn on left shoulder, later, immediately under Division shoulder patch) could be awarded for each mission at Force or Army direction.

3. Emphasis in training should be on producing a scout who can get in, get required information, without fighting unless absolutely necessary, get out without detection or leaving evidence, and report the information clearly and logically. Much emphasis on stealth.

4. "Feeding out"; Third and fifth week. At end of training, rate the personnel in three classifications;

a. Superior: For Force and Army Missions; available as instructors, if desired, at Training Center; suitable as instructors for divisions and for division missions.

b. Excellent: Available as instructors for Training Center, if desired; suitable for division instructors and missions.

c. Satisfactory: For division instructors and missions.

5. Work should be hard and vigorous. Camp facilities at the Training Center should be as comfortable and convenient as possible. Required participation in athletics one day per week.

6. Daylight time for arms maintenance, laundry, bathing, hair cuts and correspondence.

7. It is believed advisable to arrange for payment of men and officers while at the Center and to provide ample personal toilet articles, tobacco etc.

- 1 -

RESTRICTED

SECRET

8. Slight infractions of discipline should be punished - more serious infractions to result in return to unit, with or without other punishment as deemed desirable.

9. Night training. Landing on nearby islands. Actual training in independent unsupported missions on nearby islands for 3 days and 3 nights, periods to be increased as practicable.

10. Men should be trained to travel as "light" as possible. Consideration might be given to having them armed with only the following weapons, carbines, pistols and the very short tommy gun.

11. If it is contemplated using the scouts on combat missions of the raider or commando type, it is recommended that the training course be lengthened by two weeks of intensive work with weapons, demolitions etc. (Flame throwers)

12. Well qualified men could be retained or returned to units available on call. Some few could be retained and be invaluable as assistant instructors, as well as being readily available.

Alamo Scouts Training Center



Southwest Pacific Area

Date 5 February, 1944

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that JOHN R. C. MCGOWEN, 2nd Lt., O-386232
Co. "G", 158th Inf has successfully completed the prescribed course
of instruction at the ALAMO SCOUTS TRAINING CENTER
from 12/27/43 to 2/5/44. This certificate is awarded in recognition
of his proficiency in all subjects included in the course.

Remarks Superior. Selected for Team Leader ALAMO SCOUTS.

By command of Lieutenant General Krueger

F. W. BRADSHAW
Lt. Col., GSC

Director of Training

Diploma of Alamo Scout John McGowen. Three weeks after the graduation, McGowen would lead the first operational Alamo Scouts mission on Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands.

RESTRICTED

A Personal Price

The Story of Alamo Scout Charles Stewart

By Lance Zedric

The turbulent military career of Alamo Scout Charles J. Stewart can best be described in the opening line of Charles Dickens' timeless novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*; "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." and so it went. His is the story of a brave and accomplished soldier who fought and survived determined enemies in two wars on three continents, who endured captivity and seized his freedom, who earned a place among the elite soldiers of the world, but who battled personal demons more terrifying than any enemy he faced on the battlefield. A modern Greek tragedy—that of a good man with a bad flaw who comes to an unjustified bad end. A cautionary tale of human frailty and the destructiveness of war juxtaposed with the higher ideals of duty, honor, and country. His story is our own.



Charles Stewart

Born in Brooklyn, New York in July 1919, Stewart was a product of the American dream. His father, James, hailed from Scotland and arrived at Ellis Island in September 1912, two years before the outbreak of the "Great War" in Europe. James, then 15, was accompanied by his 52-year-old widowed mother, two older brothers, and two older sisters. The family moved to a small place on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn, and James soon found work as a mechanic's helper at F.N. Whiley & Sons. In May 1918, he married Laura Buckhorn, a third generation German-Irish girl from the neighborhood. In early 1921, the family grew with

the birth of Frank. Four years later Donald was born. Life in 1920s America was good. Until it wasn't.

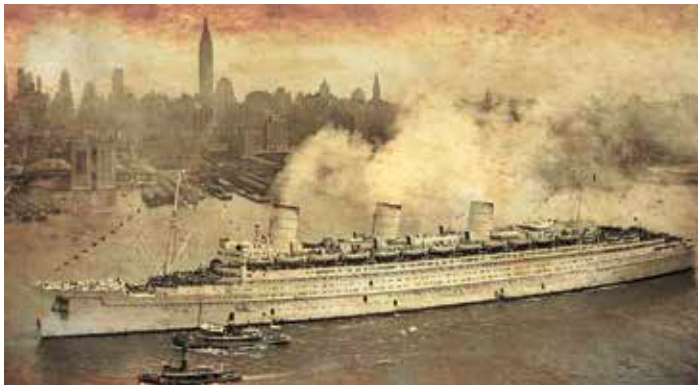
The Great Depression exacted a heavy toll on many Americans. Unemployment, hunger, stress, and the loss of hope affected many families. The Stewart's were no exception. Charles' parents separated, and his mother moved the family into her parents' home in the same borough. Charles entered high school at the height of the Depression, but school didn't help the struggling family put food on the table. Like many youth of the era, the charming blue-eyed youth moved from one job to another until he could no longer ignore the call of military service and the opportunity it offered.

On 17 March 1939, Stewart enlisted in the Regular Army, and following basic training, was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Division, at Fort Hamilton, New York. He and his unit then relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia in November of that year. Meanwhile, across the ocean, Hitler's Germany had invaded Poland on 1 September and ignited the continent in war, and although America remained neutral, it prepared to fight.

In May 1940, Stewart's unit participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers, and in February 1941, relocated to Fort Devins, Massachusetts. Later that year, it moved to Samarcand, North Carolina and participated in both Carolina Maneuvers. On 6 December 1941, Stewart's unit returned to Fort Devins. The next day, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor and thrust America into war. Two months later, the unit transferred to Camp Blanding, Florida, and in May 1942, it was redesignated the 1st Infantry Division.

The unit went to Fort Benning for more training, then moved north to Pennsylvania and trained at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Finally, on 2 August 1942, the entire division, some 15,125 strong, boarded the *RMS Queen Mary*, a converted luxury ship, bound for England. Five days later, the division arrived at Gourock, Scotland and then travelled by train to Tidworth Barracks in Wiltshire for three more months

of training in preparation for Operation Torch, the Allied landing in North Africa.



RMS Queen Mary

In the early morning hours of 8 November 1942, Stewart stood on the deck of a British transport with elements of Center Task Force, consisting of the 16th, 18th, and 26th regiments of the 1st Infantry Division and the 6th Armored Infantry Regiment from 1st Armored Division. He strained through the inky darkness to see the landing beach east of Oran, Algeria. For three and a half years, the 23-year-old private had trained for war and anticipated this moment. Like millions of men before and after him, he waited nervously for the moment that would define him, poised at the tip of the spear of the largest amphibious invasion in the history of war yet attempted. Finally, it was his time.

THREE SPACES FOR MESSAGE CENTER ONLY		
TIME FILED	MSG CEN NO.	HOW SENT
MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE) (CLASSIFIC ION)		
No. <u>2.</u>	DATE <u>10 Nov 1942</u>	
To <u>CO. CT 18(1st Bn if joined)</u>	SECRET	
1. Immediately following fall of ORAN move bulk of CT to assembly area (atchd map); keep arty in position		
2. Execute missions in Annex 8 to FO #1.		
3. Secure all enemy seacoast arty in zone.		
4. Maintain control of zones until relieved by Col Butler.		
5. Adv Div CP one-half mi E RJ 116 (route CT 16)		
85-23		1400
ALLEN CG OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER		MASON G-3 SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER
AUTHORIZED TO BE SENT IN CLEAR		

Radio message to 18th Combat Team during Operation Torch.

Despite pockets of fierce resistance from the Vichy French who sided with Germany, the initial allied landings of Operation Torch were an overwhelming success, and Stewart and his unit performed well in combat, forcing the enemy in their sector to surrender after one day. The Allies then moved quickly to occupy neighboring Tunisia, but the Germans would not give

it up without a fight.

On 22 December, Stewart's unit went into action to remove the Germans from Hill 609, a strategic target near Medjez El Bab. But intelligence was poor, so Stewart and several others volunteered to reconnoiter the hill. It was a decision that would change his life.

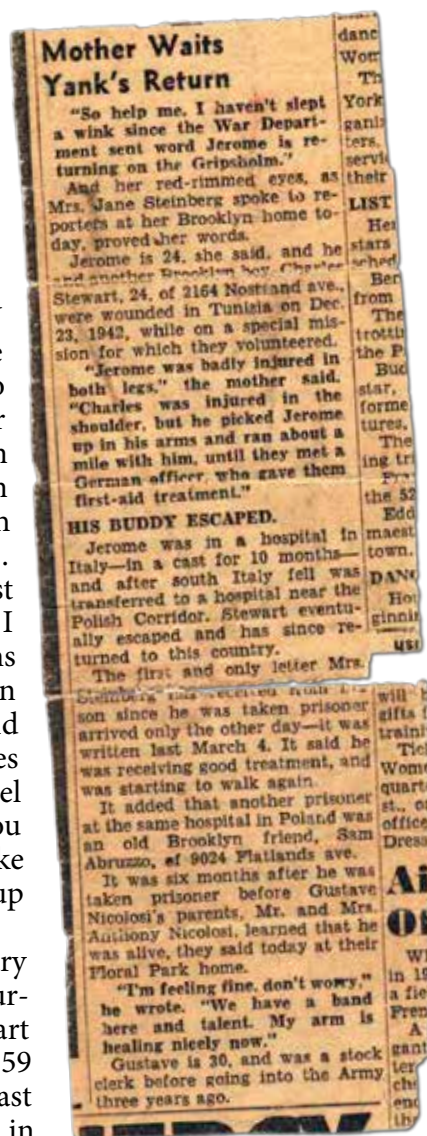
The men attempted the reconnaissance after midnight on 23 December but were detected. The Germans counterattacked savagely and killed or captured all but one officer and thirteen men. Although wounded in the shoulder and out of ammunition, Stewart carried Jerome Steinberg, a fellow New Yorker who was severely wounded in both legs, to an enemy dressing station and surrendered to a German doctor who treated them. The doctor put Steinberg on a plane to Italy for further treatment, while Stewart was transported to a POW holding point at Tunis some 15 miles away. Stewart feared that it would be a long war.

On 28 December, Stewart was flown to Sicily and taken to Camp 98, a transitional POW camp near the ancient village of San Giuseppe Jato, 18 miles southwest of Palermo. Despite the bitter cold and meager rations, most prisoners stayed in tents for 30-40 days

before being sent to a permanent camp, and Stewart was no exception, spending 37 days there.

"For the first two weeks the men were on half rations," said fellow POW Roy Larkin of the 34th Division, who was captured near Kasserine Pass in early 1943. "The men were hungry enough to eat their shoes... Camp 98 was the worst of the camps...and I saw five Americans and one Englishman chained to a pole and beaten to their knees by an Italian colonel in charge...When you remember things like that it burns you up plenty..."

On 6 February 1943, after a four-day journey, Stewart arrived at Camp 59 at Servigliano in east central Italy. Back in



Brooklyn, James and Laura Stewart had reconciled, but they not heard from their son since December, and military reports coming out of Africa were not encouraging. Meanwhile, their second son, Frank, had enlisted in the Merchant Marines two weeks before Christmas, and their youngest son, Donald, would soon be eighteen and was anxious to join in the fight. To make matters worse, the War Department sent them a telegram on 18 January 1943 informing them that Charles had been missing in action in Tunisia since 24 December. For parents, not knowing was the hardest part.

serviced by 18 hospitals and numerous work camps. At the time of Stewart's capture, the well-established camp contained several thousand POWs, including Americans, British, Canadian, and other troops each housed in separate barracks. The camp was built in 1915 during World War I to house Austrian prisoners,

SCHEDA PERSONALE P. G.

Cognome e nome: STEWART: CHARLES.

Paternità: GRAYES.

Maternità: STEWART: LAURA.

Grado: PTE. Matricola: 6913514.

Arma - Corpo: INF.

Data e luogo di nascita: 7-7-19. NEW YORK.

Nazionalità: AMERICAN.

Stato civile: SINGLE.

Religione: CATH.

Professione: MECHANIC.

Domicilio: 2164. TROSTAD. AVE. BROOKLYN. N. YORK.

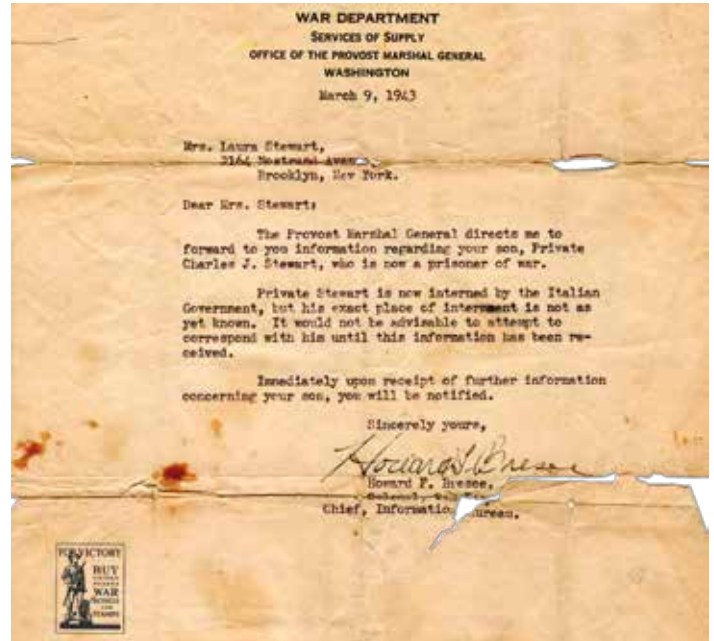
Data e luogo di cattura: 9.3.42. TUNISIA.

A. STADLERE BROS. - ROYALTY FREE CATALOGUE

Stewart's POW card from Camp 59.

The next six weeks were filled with doubt, but on 26 February, the Italian government reported that Stewart was being held as a prisoner of war in Italy. A week later, the Vatican's apostolic delegate to the United States released the names and addresses of the POWs. On 9 March, the provost marshal sent a letter to Laura informing her that Charles was indeed a POW at an undetermined camp in Italy. Although she worried about her son and his treatment as a prisoner, she was comforted to know that he was alive, and for now, that was enough. She hoped that eventually he would be allowed to write and that she could send him an occasional package from home. On 17 March, the provost marshal informed her of Charles' location, and from then on, the letters never stopped.

Camp 59 was one of 52 main camps in Italy



Letter informing Stewart's mother that he was a POW.

but the Italian fascist government re-opened it as a concentration camp for civilian and military prisoners in 1940. Although discipline was strict and punishment severe, the Italian commandant and guards treated the POWs relatively well, especially the Americans, many of whom spoke Italian.

"The bad thing about Camp 59 was the bedbugs," added Larkin. "We were quartered in old huts which were covered with pests. The men took apart their beds twice a week and killed as many as they could with rocks. But [the mice] would stay up in the ceiling and drop down on you at night and start eating. We were lousy and buggy most of the time, but we finally got rid of the mice."

Food was also an issue. Stewart and the other POWs received one small loaf of bread, one bowl of soup, and a small portion of rice daily. And occasionally, they received a small portion of meat. The quality was so poor that many refused their daily ration and lived off their weekly parcel supplied by the International Red Cross. The "American version" of the Red Cross package was most coveted and contained condensed milk, bullied beef, and 50 cigarettes per man.

Despite occasional mistreatment, inadequate medical care, lack of food, numbing boredom, and the inherent stress of captivity, Stewart and his fellow POWs adapted to camp life best they could and threw themselves into the safety of daily routine, all the while dreaming about home and anticipating their freedom.

They wouldn't have to wait long.

In early May 1943, 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in North Africa, effectively killing the vaunted Afrika Corps and opening the way for access to Italy from the south. Later in the month, Allied planes bombed targets in Sicily and Sardinia while American planes bombed Naples southeast of Rome. On 10 July, U.S. forces invaded Sicily with designs on the Italian mainland. Nine days later, the Allies bombed Rome, and by the end of the month, the King of Italy had Italian dictator Benito Mussolini arrested and called for the formation of a new government. On 17 August, Sicily was under control. The Allies were closing in.

Back at Camp 59 morale was high. New prisoners brought timely reports of the Allied offensive and bombing in the area increased. It was no secret that many Italians were tired of the war, and on 8 September, Italy capitulated. The next day, the Germans occupied Rome ensuring that the campaign in Italy would be bloody.



Camp 59 barracks.



Camp 59

News of the Italian surrender traveled fast. The commandant of Camp 59 warned that the Germans would likely soon take over the camp and suggested that the prisoners leave. Fearing a massacre, the senior officer (British) ordered that no escape attempt be made, but many prisoners feared that the Germans would transfer them to camps inside Germany or eliminate them altogether, while others believed the Germans were too busy fighting the Allied invasion to bother with them. A few more days passed, and a rumor circulated that the Germans had taken over a nearby camp and would soon take control at Camp 59. Either way, the men, many of whom had obtained maps and compasses, knew they would never have a chance like this again.

On the evening of 14 September 1943, the camp buzzed with excitement. Several British SAS (Special Air Service) and a few American POWs had planned to punch a hole through the perimeter wall at the rear of the camp and to take their chances in the countryside. Under a bright moon, the British initiated the escape

at 2300 hours, but the sentries quickly spotted them and fired into the ground tacitly allowing their escape. Searchlights crisscrossed the perimeter and confused guards shouted orders over loudspeakers while the prisoners spilled out of the hole and raced away. Others walked out the front gate. Stewart and Pvt. Anthony Proto, also a 23-year-old mechanic from Brooklyn who had been captured near Tunis, climbed over the wall and escaped into the night under a hail of bullets. For the first time in over eight months they were free.

Over 2,000 prisoners escaped that night, including hundreds of Americans—and the Germans weren't happy. They quickly took over administration of the camps and launched a brutal dragnet to recapture the prisoners, but with the recent surrender, many of the Italian people were ready to help the escapees. Fortunately, Proto spoke Italian.

For three days, Stewart and Proto evaded German patrols and walked south toward the small town of Ascoli where locals hid and fed them. They also dyed their uniforms and told them of a partisan group operating on Monte Fiore to the south. Stewart and Proto joined the partisans on 25 September but were forced to leave after five days when the Germans moved into Ascoli.

A few nights later, they contacted an American OSS officer that had parachuted in as part of the SIMCOL operation to assist escapees in their return to Allied lines. He told them of a plan for evacuating them by boat from the coast near Guilianova between the Salinello and the Tordino rivers, but when Stewart and Proto reached the coast on 6 October, they found 60 others awaiting evacuation. They waited for two days, but when the boat arrived there was no room for them,

so they remained in the area for a few days until Proto persuaded a local fisherman to take them and three

the Germans, Italian fascists, and organizing Italian guerrillas.”



Back wall of Camp 59

others to the Allied lines in his boat. Thirteen hours later, the journey was complete. The party reached British lines at Termoli on 16 October. Stewart and Proto had walked over 150 miles in occupied territory. It was good to be free.

“I served 18 months in Europe—Africa, Sicily, [and] Italy,” recalled Stewart in 1946. “I was a POW, escaped, and worked behind German lines harassing

Stewart spent the next two weeks preparing to go home. On 24 October, he returned to duty and was flown to Algiers to await transportation back to the states. That same day, the War Department informed his mother that he had been “returned to Allied military control.” The stiffly worded missive was music to her ears. On or about 3 November, Stewart boarded a plane at Casablanca and returned to New York for 20 days leave. Again, “It was the best of times”—but nothing lasts forever.

For those who experienced combat, adjusting to “normal” life was hard; seemingly more so for those who had been prisoners of war. Stewart had been both. Upon returning to the States, he enjoyed family and friends in Brooklyn and visited old haunts that he had been denied during his service. It was an especially joyous return for his family having him home for Christmas. But he was restless.



The hole in the wall (repaired) through which the POWs escaped.



Pvt. Anthony Proto

On 12 January 1944, Stewart was absent without leave (AWOL) from Camp Upton, New York. Six days later, MPs returned him to duty and he was charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). It was the first in a long line of incidents involving alcohol. His demons were real.

“I was sent back to the States, stayed in the U.S. a

few months, and volunteered to go back overseas,” said Stewart.

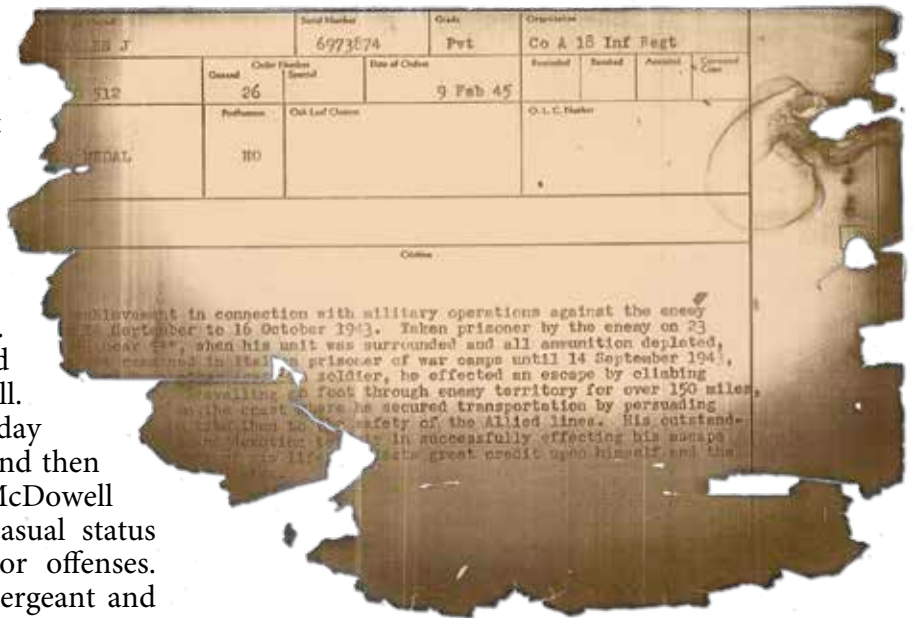
But he couldn't get overseas quick enough. In March 1944, Stewart volunteered to go to the Pacific, and in May, was assigned to G Company, 127th Infantry, 32nd Infantry Division. Subsequently, he was promoted to corporal and awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for service in Europe. However, his shipment was delayed, and the boredom and routine again took a toll. Stewart was reported as AWOL for one day from Fort Meade, Maryland in August, and then for one day in November from Fort McDowell on Angel Island, California while on casual status awaiting deployment. Both were minor offenses. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to sergeant and sent to the Pacific, where he joined the 32nd Division on Luzon and saw heavy combat on the Villa Verde Trail. Also, at that time, he was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions in Italy following his escape from Camp 59.

“I was assigned to the 32nd “Red Arrow” Division,” said Stewart. “I stayed with them a few months, then they asked for volunteers for the Alamo Scouts. I thought it would be interesting work, so I asked to go.”



Villa Verde Trail on Luzon

In early April 1945, Stewart and five enlisted men and one officer from the 32nd Infantry Division were accepted as candidates to attend the seventh training class at the Alamo Scouts Training Center then located at Subic Bay on Luzon. The entire class numbered 54 enlisted men and 9 officers and had a reputation to uphold. In only 14 months in action at the time that the class began on 23 April, the elite Alamo Scouts had compiled an outstanding wartime record, having performed 87 reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines in the Admiralties, in New Guinea, and on Leyte and Luzon, including two POW camp liberations, without losing a man killed or captured. By war's end, the Alamo Scouts would perform 112 known missions



Partial record of Stewart's Bronze Star citation.

and retain their perfect record. The Scouts would earn 60 Silver Stars, 59 Bronze Stars, 4 Soldier's Medals, and numerous other decorations and emerge as of the most successful units in U.S. military history. But the end of the war was months away, and there was still work to do.

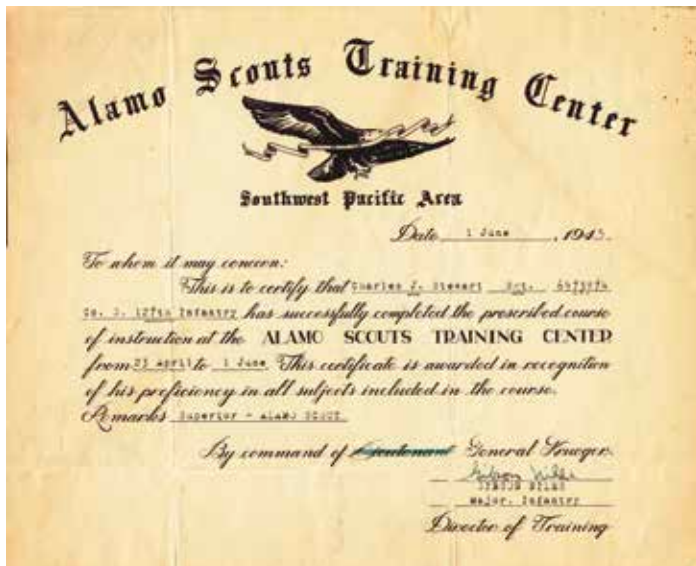
Stewart was the ideal candidate for the Alamo Scouts. Tough, smart, brave, and experienced. Like many other candidates, and especially as the only one to have been a prisoner of war, he found the conventional army tedious and preferred work that required self-sufficiency, rewarded initiative, and was less confining and structured. Stewart completed the grueling six-week course that included scouting and patrolling, communications, weapons, hand-to-hand combat, jungle survival, basic language training, intelligence collection, rubber boat handling, and other theater specific skills, and was retained as one of 15 enlisted operational Alamo Scouts from his class, which was graduated on 1 June 1945. Six officers were also retained, four of whom would lead teams.

“I entered the Scouts in early April 1945, went through the course and made one of the teams,” said Stewart. “It was one of the happiest days of my life being part of a great organization.”

Stewart was assigned to Derr Team, led by Lt. George Derr from the 33rd Infantry Division, and included Staff Sgt. Stewart Minzer from the 37th Infantry Division, Sgt. Tommy Kolas of the 43rd Infantry Division, and Pfc. Robert Hamlin and William Teague also from the 33rd Infantry Division. It was a seasoned group that would quickly see action.

The day after graduation, Derr Team was sent on a 10-day mission in the Bontoc area, where it established road watch stations with Filipino guerrillas and directed air strikes at enemy targets. The team came in for a brief rest and was sent out again on 21 June, to report on Japanese movement in the rugged Mountain Province and to report on the possible location of General Yamashita, the infamous Tiger of Malaya.

“On the last mission to the barrio of Barlig, I was one of the last men to get in,” recalled Stewart. “The team went on this mission by Cub plane one man at a time. The plane I was in had a little trouble, and by the time I finally did arrive, the rest of the team had already moved on to the sector we were to get our information from.”



In a letter written in 1946, Stewart describes a colorful experience he had during his second mission.

“After I landed, I got hold of two cargodors, things we used for the Igarote natives of the northern part of Luzon to carry a case of radio batteries and some supplies I had brought in,” he said. “These Igarotes are fierce warriors, they are headhunters, and each one’s ambition is to get himself a Jap head. Due to the delay in getting in, it was too late that day to move on to the sector the team was working. I stayed at the Igarote village and had an experience I’ll never forget. There were about 400 natives there, and as soon as I came in sight, everyone started jabbering and staring at me. The women were naked from the waist up and men naked except for a G-string. The first thing after sweating me out for about 20 minutes, they fixed me up place to sleep, killed a chicken, and fed me dinner. All the time, they kept staring and giggling at me. About 8 PM that night, I heard a lot of noise and everyone was running around excited. One of the natives, about 6’6” tall and 4 feet wide, came into the village carrying a Jap’s head. He had just killed a Jap and was bringing in proof of his victory. These people kill the Japs by sneaking up



George A. Derr

behind them using their bolos to cut off their head.

Everyone was dancing around him, and you could tell by the excitement he was a man of the hour. I was kind of disappointed because he had taken the spotlight from me. About 9 PM they started building fires in the area and everyone assembled around me. They placed a chair made of bamboo in front of me and motioned me to sit down. They then formed a huge circle, and the one who had brought in the head placed it in the center. Immediately, all the natives started dancing to the beat of drums made of brass and shaped like a frying pan minus the handle. For a drumstick, they used a large human bone, and from the drum dangled the lower human jaw bone. Some of the natives started



Tommy J. Kolas & Stewart J. Minzer

drinking nipa, a drink extracted from coconuts, and the drunker they got, the wilder the dance became, and they kept singing a weird chant at the Jap's head. It seemed to me like something out of this world. The flickering fire light on these nude brown bodies.

I finally explained to them that they would have to put out the fires and stop making so much noise. The chance of a Jap patrol picking up the commotion was too great. Everyone reluctantly started to leave. Then the chief came over to me and made a toast with five of the younger belles of the village. I started to lay down on my bed of parachutes when the five girls crawled in with me. All that night I slept on my back afraid to move. I don't think I slept all night. I still don't know if I was more afraid of the women or the chance of a Jap patrol coming in. The next morning, one of the natives who could speak a little English, explained to me that the women were presents from the chief to me. We left the next morning, and I finally arrived at the place with the rest of the team was. I think that was one of the first times a white man ever witnessed that ritual, and I don't think I'll ever forget it."

Stewart was a POW who had served in the European theater and escaped," recalled Alamo Scout teammate, William Teague. "But when he was back in the States, everyone looked at him and said, 'Why aren't you in the service?' He wasn't allowed to go back to the European Theater, but he could come over to the Pacific, so he volunteered. He did a great job with the Alamo Scouts."



Igarote natives performing a tribal dance.

"Our team had a helluva time running up and down the mountains in Luzon," added team leader, George Derr. "Charlie was with us for a couple missions and had quite a time with the Igarotes. It was tough work up there, but we had our share of fun, too!"

On or about 24 June, Sixth Army radioed the team requesting that Stewart return for rotation back to the States on points.

On 2 September 1945, Japan surrendered ending World War II. The most destructive and costly war in



Female Igarote carrier

history had claimed over 60 million lives worldwide, and those who did survive, were affected in some way. Sixteen million Americans had served in uniform, and most were anxious to return home and to resume their lives; to be safe; to find normalcy. Millions of men and women streamed back to the civilian world to find jobs, raise a family, and to forget. If it were only that easy.

Sometime in early September 1945, Stewart boarded a ship and took a long ride home, arriving in the States on 25 September. On 8 October, he was honorably discharged.

Like many ex-soldiers, Stewart found civilian life difficult—if not outright boring. The now 26-year-old had already spent six years in the army and had seen a lot. Perhaps too much. Competition for civilian jobs was stiff and prospects meager, and although the Army was rapidly downsizing and denying wholesale re-enlistments, it could always use a decorated noncommissioned officer. After a month of weighing his options, Stewart re-enlisted on 20 November in New York City and was promoted to staff sergeant.

Following seven weeks of re-enlistment leave, he was assigned to the 601st MP Battalion at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in March 1946, and then transferred to E Company, 3441 Area Service Unit at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Camp Gordon, Georgia. The transplanted "Yankee" adapted well to life in the south and soon fell in love and married. But the marriage only lasted 11 months, with the birth of their son, Charles, Jr., (Charlie) coming two weeks after the divorce. "People grow apart," said Charlie, "and I'll never know why he and my mother separated. But it

all worked out okay.”

Stewart’s military career then slowly began to unravel. In May 1948, he was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he later was court martialed and demoted to sergeant. Despite the alcohol related offense and



William Teague

demotion, he re-enlisted for another three years and was assigned to the 5th Cavalry Regiment (Infantry) at Camp McGill in Takeyama, Japan.

The post-war Army of Occupation was not the same army that had defeated Japan. Occupation duty was relatively easy, training minimal, and discipline lax. Soldiers were thousands of miles from home and had too much money and too much free time on their hands—a lethal combination—especially for Stewart, who had battled nascent alcoholism and repeatedly violated orders prohibiting soldiers from frequenting “off-limits” establishments.

From January 1949 through 11 July 1950 while stationed in Japan, he went AWOL eight times, was court martialed four times, and spent 156 days in confinement. Moreover, he was again demoted to private effectively ruining his military career. But war has a funny way of changing things.

On 25 June 1950, while he was confined in Japan, North Korea attacked South Korea starting the Korean War. American forces were unprepared and scrambled to assemble troops to help slow the advance until reinforcements could arrive. On 2 July, 1,898 men

of the 34th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division arrived in Pusan in the southern tip of South Korea and moved north to meet the enemy. But the communist juggernaut nearly drove them back into the sea.

On 11 July, Stewart was released from confinement and again prepared to go to war. On 1 August, he was assigned to A Company, 34th Regiment, and 10 days later transferred to HQ Company. On 15 August, he was slightly wounded and evacuated to a hospital for lymphangitis. A quick promotion to private first class followed, and he returned to duty on 27 August, but the combat losses in his unit were so devastating that four days later the regiment was reduced to zero strength when 185 surviving members were integrated into the 19th and 21st Regiments to support the breakout at the Pusan Perimeter. Stewart then joined the Heavy Mortar Company of the 21st Regiment.

By November 1950, United Nations forces had driven the North Koreans back up the rugged peninsula to the border of China, prompting China to enter the war. Meanwhile, Stewart distinguished himself in combat, becoming an exemplary squad leader and leading his troops in numerous operations until his tour ended on 9 May 1951. While in Korea, he participated in five campaigns, was twice promoted, and was awarded a second Bronze Star. “His unhesitant devotion to duty and aggressiveness aided materially in the successful accomplishment of his company’s many missions,” stated his medal citation. “Sgt. Stewart’s actions reflect great credit on himself and the United States Army.”

REGIMENTAL MORNING REPORT		EXPIRES	DATE	TIME
		1950	15	Aug 50
ORGANIZATION (ENL. OR REG. ETC.)		(ARMY OR SERVICE)		
Hq Co 3d Bn		34th Inf Regt Inf		
LOCATION		APO 24		
NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	MOS	CODE
Stewart Charles J.	RA6973874	Pvt.		
Fr dy to abs sk hosp LD yes				
RECORD OF EVENTS SECTION				
Company remaining in a defensive position around Bn CP Morale High				

Morning Report of 34th Regiment

Stewart had redeemed himself in war, proving that, “with great danger often comes opportunity.” But in his case, lack of danger was danger itself. Sometime in May/June 1951, he was assigned to the 2nd Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division then at Indiantown Gap, where he re-enlisted, again launching his military career in an upward trajectory. By mid-August 1952, he had quickly ascended the ranks to master sergeant and was stationed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, where

he submitted paperwork requesting that the 187 days of lost time he had accrued in his career due to AWOLs and confinement be waived so he could re-enlist. The request was granted, and on 13 September, he joined for six more years.

But no good deed goes unpunished, especially in the Army. On 22 January 1953, Stewart was sent to Germany and assigned to the 599th Field Artillery Battalion to help fight the Cold War raging in Europe, but the destructive combination of accessible alcohol, too much free time, and personal demons struck hard. Over the next six months, he went AWOL on numerous occasions, was twice court martialed, and was again demoted to sergeant. But the Army didn't want to lose him and twice reassigned him to different units, but finally, its patience had run out.

On 28 July, the Army sentenced him to 6 months hard labor confinement, demoted him to private, and reduced his pay by \$39 per month, a significant amount at the time. The next day he was confined to

At this point, the good still outweighed the bad. But five days after the board convened, Stewart received another 14 days confinement for "failure to repair," military jargon for failing to be at an appointed place of duty at a prescribed time, and in July 1954, following six months of solid duty, he went AWOL for six days. Two more incidents followed, and a Special Court Martial was held. On 18 August, he was sentenced to another six months hard labor at the USAEUR Rehabilitation Center. On 19 October, his sentence was suspended after serving 63 days. Upon the day of his release, he was again apprehended for being drunk and confined for 31 days. Another AWOL, another psychiatric exam, and more barracks restriction followed. Finally, on 14 December, the Army recommended that he be discharged. Another AWOL followed. It was not a merry Christmas.

On 10 January 1955, a Special Court Martial convened and sentenced him to 6 months confinement—but that had not worked before. A week



21st Regiment Heavy Mortar Company in action.

the USAREUR (US Army Europe) Rehabilitation Center at Kaufbeuren, Germany, which housed some 1,600 prisoners at the time, to begin his sentence. The center's three-phase program included counseling, intense military training, and physical labor to prepare soldiers, "whom the Army considered potentially returnable to duty—for return to honorable service as well-trained, well-disciplined, and self-respecting soldiers."

Stewart was a model soldier over the next three months, and the base psychiatrist determined that he was mentally and emotionally fit for duty, although he noted that Stewart, "indicated that his drinking has a lot to do with his frequent absence without leave."

In late November, Stewart was transferred to another company as a supply clerk and later promoted to supply sergeant. Shortly thereafter, a special board of officers determined that he was suitable for retention and suspended the final three months of his sentence.

Casualty List From Korea

Washington, D. C., Sept. 14 (AP).
—The Department of Defense announced today the following Korean casualties from the New York City area.

Killed in Action:
Cpl. Columbus Samuels Jr., 31-16 103d St., Corona, L. I.

Wounded:
Pvt. James Green, 112 W. 139th St., New York.
Pvt. John J. Kerr, 521 E. 157th St., Bronx.
Cpl. Robert S. Kerzner, 6757 78th St., Middle Village, Queens.
Pfc. Charles J. Stewart, 2164 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn.

Missing in Action:
Lieut. Alfred Harry Ash, 59 Ramsey Ave., Yonkers.

later, a board convened at HQ VII Corps in Erlangen, Germany and elected to discharge Stewart from the military. On or about 28 February, he was relieved from duty and transferred to the 7802nd Transit Detachment at Bremerhaven for transport to New Jersey. It would be a long trip home.

Stewart arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey in mid-March, but a week later went AWOL. On 4 June, police apprehended him at Penn Station in New

York City and returned him to military control, which resulted in another three months delayed confinement. On 29 June, he was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for separation processing, and on 7 July, was given an Undesirable Discharge, which, by definition, did not involve punishment and reflected only that the military had found him unfit or unsuitable for further service. Five months later, he attempted to re-enlist, but was denied. However, the Army forwarded his application to the Army Discharge Review Board at the Pentagon, and he was granted an audience. In April 1956, he was again denied. It was the worst of times.



USAEUR Rehabilitation Center.

“I have been awarded Bronze Stars (3) and I was in 3 campaigns in Europe, 2 in the Pacific, and 5 in Korea,” he wrote to the board prior to his appearance. “This undesirable discharge has made me ashamed to face myself or my family. I believe with my combat time I should be allowed some type of discharge under honorable conditions. Now I am a coward.”

Hardly.

A full accounting of Stewart’s military ribbons does not exist in official records. His personnel file was lost in 1943 while a POW, and again during the fire at the National Archives in 1973. The lone photo of Stewart depicting any ribbons (see p. 5) was likely taken early during the Korean War and is incomplete. Based upon dates of service, extent records, newspaper accounts, and ribbons retroactively awarded to veterans in campaigns which he participated, his ribbons are as follows:

- Combat Infantryman’s Badge 2nd Award*
- Bronze Star Medal for Valor w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters*
- Purple Heart Medal*
- Prisoner of War Medal (1985)*
- Good Conduct Medal*
- American Defense Medal*
- American Theater Medal*
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/2 Bronze Campaign Stars*
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/3 Bronze Campaign Stars and Arrowhead Device*

- World War II Victory Medal*
- Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)*
- National Defense Service Medal*
- Korean Service Medal w/Silver Campaign Star (5 campaigns)*
- Philippine Liberation Medal w/1 Bronze Campaign Star*
- United Nations Service Medal*
- Republic of Korea War Service Medal (1999)*



It is unknown if Stewart’s Undesirable Discharge was ultimately changed and scant details exist chronicling his life after the military—only that he remarried in 1960 and worked in low level management throughout most of the 1980s. Fortunately, he and his son, Charlie, reconnected in the latter years of his life. “I saw him twice after the divorce and started talking more often just before he passed,” said Charlie, a Vietnam-era veteran who served aboard the submarine *USS Hunley* at Holy Loch, Scotland, and at the submarine base at North Charleston, South Carolina. “I was living in L.A. and he was in N.Y. I believe my father went out for a walk, came home, took a nap—and end of story.”



Stewart died on 26 November 1989 at age 70 and is buried next to his brother, Frank, at Calverton National Cemetery in New York. The inscription on his headstone forever reads, “Master Sergeant.”

“He seemed quite unassuming,” added Charlie. “He never mentioned his Army service or any heroics.”

True heroes rarely do.

In addition to being decorated for valor multiple times, Stewart holds the distinction of being the only operational Alamo Scout to have served in combat in both the European-African-Middle Eastern and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters during World War II, and the

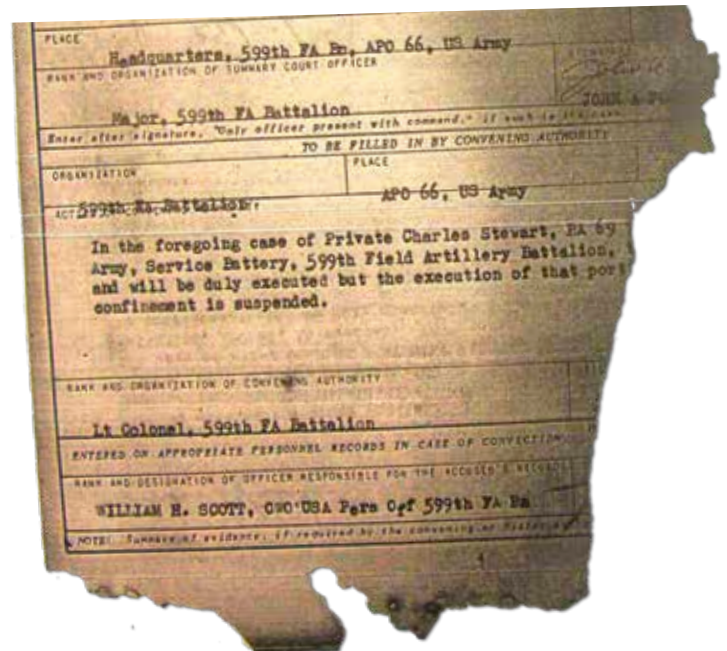


Charles Stewart

only Alamo Scout to have been a prisoner of war. His legacy is secure.

Time has worn smooth the rough edges of Stewart's personal imperfections—as it will for all of us—and few people remain to confirm or to refute the heady details of his military salad days—but like any good story—his was rife with extremes and excesses; checkered with hyperbole; illuminated by achievement; but ultimately defined by self-destruction. A classic paradox. The chaos of battle more predictable and less dangerous than the certainty of calm. The inner turmoil that served him in war failed him in peace and, given what is now known about combat-acquired Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the high incidence of

associated alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, anxiety, apathy, and suicide, it is possible that his demons were not entirely of his own making. To what extent they affected him, much can be assumed, but little is known. Many veterans who have experienced something as unnatural as captivity and as traumatic as war are forever changed and wrestle with chronic physical and emotional pain. We can only hope that Stewart found peace in the third act of his life, and that in the end, like in the final line of Dickens' masterpiece, he might have said, "[It] is a far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."



Portion of a disciplinary report recovered from the devastating 1973 National Archives fire in Overland, Missouri that destroyed 16-18 million records, including most from World War II.

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The Alamo Scouts, a Raccoon, and the Kindness of Strangers

By Lance Zedric

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation Board of Directors held its annual meeting and hosted an informal Meet-Up on 4-5 June 2018 in Washington DC. Afterwards, the board conducted a four-day research trip to the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD. But more than discussing business and researching the past, the board was reminded of the importance of reaffirming old ties, building new relationships, and in restoring faith in mankind through a simple act. The following is a brief recap of the week. Enjoy.

Day 1, Thursday

Linda (Nellist), Russ (Blaise), and I (sans Treasurer Audrene Burress) arrived at Reagan International Airport from the far west, the gulf coast, and the heartland, and quickly settled into the welcoming arms of our nation's capital to help drain the swamp from our relatively dignified confines at the Embassy Suites. But first, we needed to eat.

After lunch at the hotel, we took a cab to the Holocaust Museum. Enroute, I entertained Russ and Linda (and an incredulous middle-age cab driver from Ethiopia) with a hilarious (and mostly true) story of capturing a raccoon in my yard a few days prior. The raccoon lived in a tree next to our house and frequently "fertilized" our yard and "decorated" the neighborhood, which my wife, Ching, tolerated. But on one fateful day it made a huge deposit in the center of her chive garden. Cry havoc! Heaven and Earth moved. The skies opened up. And I had my marching orders. The next morning, the pesky "trash panda" was in custody in my live trap. I immediately transported the irate interloper to a local park and set



Lance successfully captures the raccoon that has wreaked havoc on Ching's (wife) garden of chives.

him free. A happy ending for all except the raccoon. Amidst the laughter, we arrived at the museum where several hundred school children were preparing to enter. In the ensuing chaos to beat the rush inside,

Russ quickly paid the driver and the driver sped off. Moments later, my laughter turned to horror when I realized that I had left my wife's Nikon camera in the back seat of the cab. Not good! And to make matters worse, we had paid the fare by cash and had no receipt, no cab number, no driver's name, and little hope of recovering the camera from a red taxi—the mandatory color of all cabs in the city! Ever the problem solver, Linda sprang into action and called the hotel in the unlikely event that someone turned it in. "You ain't gettin' that camera back!" brayed Russ in his best Long Island brogue, "It's a goner!" I acknowledged as much but privately hoped that there was one honest man left in DC. However, I also knew it would take a pretty big lamp to find one.



The "Tower of Faces" is a three-floor-high segment of the permanent exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum devoted to the Jewish community of the Lithuanian town of Eiskes, which was massacred by units of the German Einsatzgruppe and their Lithuanian auxiliaries in two days of mass shootings on September 25 and 26, 1941.

We returned to the hotel that evening, but no one had turned in a camera, and the expression on the faces of the hotel staff offered little reassurance that they would. Instinctively, we found solace in the hotel's complimentary two-drink happy hour before getting down to ASHF business.



The Old Guard escorts a veteran to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. Salute!

Day 2, Friday

After breakfast, we made the short drive to Arlington National Cemetery, where we trekked over the rolling hills of Virginia and visited the graves of a few old friends, including General Walter Krueger, founder of the Alamo Scouts; Gibson Niles, the third Director of Training for the Alamo Scouts Training Center; and Alamo Scout, Andy Smith, of NELLIST TEAM, a veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. We all just smiled, for we knew they were also among friends.



Afterward, we were blessed to have enough energy to visit the Museum of the Bible, but after sneezing twice in a crowded gift shop, I was crestfallen that no one said, "God bless you!" Three days after the event, Russ was still laughing!

We returned to the hotel and ate dinner with Bonnie and Bill Glass fresh in from Alabama, while their son, Brett, joined the party from New York City.



Early printing press used to print the Gutenberg Bible at the Museum of the Bible.

Day 3, Saturday

The day began beautifully, as we were joined by Josephina Asis, wife of Alamo Scout, Bob Asis, and their son, Dennis, both of whom had traveled from Seattle for Josephina's first visit to the East Coast. We toured nearby Lincoln Cottage, the seasonal home and personal retreat enjoyed by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, and generally enjoyed



L to R: Russ Blaise, Bill Glass, Linda Nellist, Brett Glass, Bonnie Glass, Dennis Asis, Josephina Asis, and Lance Zedric at the Lincoln Cottage.

the morning. After lunch, Russ revisited his NASCAR roots and treated Linda, Josephina, Dennis, and me to a 40-minute high-speed, white-knuckle, tail-gating, brake-slammin' odyssey through the streets of Washington. Once back on terra firma, the group toured the Petersen House across from Ford's Theater and death marched to the renowned Shake Shack to silence Russ's incessant whining for ice cream and to regenerate what was left of our central nervous systems. Despite the effort it took to get there, and with all deference to the movie, *Pulp Fiction*, it was a darned good \$5 milkshake!

The weary group returned to the hotel and napped separately, and then was joined for dinner by



The “Tower of Books” about Lincoln at the Petersen House across the street from Ford’s Theater.

Mark and Barbara (Geiger) Leddy, and Dr. John and Mrs. Maria (Geiger) Chechton. Barbara and Maria are the daughters of beloved Alamo Scout, John “Jack” Geiger. We shared a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship, much of it spent remembering Jack, who recently passed away, and then as quickly as it began, it was over. We said our goodbyes until next time.

Day 4, Sunday

Ate breakfast with the Glasses and rehashed the short, but intense weekend. Linda, Russ, and I then rode to College Park, Maryland, where we checked into a hotel, ate lunch, and prepared for the heavy business end of the trip; Operation NARA.

Day 5, Monday

Confidence and energy are high. Linda—the neophyte of the group—was indoctrinated into NARA protocol, while seasoned pros, Russ and I (more seasoned than pro!), received a refresher on NARA’s few do’s and many don’ts following the capture of a trusted researcher who had been stealing items from the archives for 20 years and selling them on eBay. Armed with enthusiasm and fresh eyes, we attacked Sixth Army records like a wolf on a pork chop. Nine hours later, we trudged to the car with a modest cache of newfound records in hand and a voracious appetite.

And we did eat! The famous \$16 Kahkura Chinese Seafood Buffett didn’t disappoint. Russ was satisfied

(tough job), Linda was pleased (easy), and I was foundered (expected). All told, a great first day at NARA.

Day 6, Tuesday

Confidence was still high, but energy not so much. The second day textual records hangover was in full gear, but not to be deterred, we plodded on and uncovered more historical treasures—the best being a surprise visit from SGM (retired) Bill Cowell, senior archivist for the Nixon Collection. Bill’s connection to the Alamo Scouts originated in the 1970s as a student at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center & School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where Alamo Scout Andy Smith tutored him in the finer points of intelligence. “Andy taught me a lot,” beamed Bill. “What he taught me saved my life. I have the deepest admiration and respect for Andy, and I’ll always remember him fondly.”

Bill entertained us with stories from a fabulous military career that spanned 30 years and took him all



L to R: Lance Zedric, Russ Blaise, Bill Cowell, and Linda Nellist at the National Archives.

over the world. Five years ago, he reached out to me during a visit to NARA and gave me a private tour of the Nixon collection (no longer allowed).

For dinner, we tried the Kangnam Grill, one of the highest rated Korean restaurants on the East Coast. The food was outstanding—and better yet—it was next door to the hotel and we waddled home like three fattened ducks.

Day 7, Wednesday

Confidence was — u h — w a n i n g — a n d energy depleted. But neither dimness of sight, soreness of back, or the heavy weight of NARA’s metaphorical jackboot on our necks could keep us



Kungnam Korean BBQ at College Park, Maryland.

from our appointed—and by this point obligatory—rounds at NARA! For it was the final day. The *coup de grace*, the fat lady singing, the cherry on top. Box after box, cart after cart, pull after pull, the records

came forth like late night presidential tweets. Some important, most not, others “really, really, really funny.”

After three consecutive 8-hour combat research sessions, Operation NARA was complete. Mission accomplished!

Day 8, Thursday

The last day. No more records. We had done our duty for God, country, and the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation. Now was the chance for some collective “me time.” We had earned a rest and celebrated by driving to Gettysburg National Cemetery and Battlefield. Under beautiful skies and perfect weather, we toured the battlefield and left with reaffirmed appreciation of the scope of the War Between the States and its most significant and renowned battle. We capped off the day with dinner at Lonestar Steakhouse, where we rehashed the week’s events and laid plans for greater things to come.

Day 9, Friday

Following a “Last Breakfast” together, we all piled into the rental car and drove to the airport to catch our respective flights. First, me. Then Russ. And finally, Linda. But first, I thought it important that I take a photo of Russ and Linda with my newfound camera, which had been graciously and personally returned to me at my hotel in Washington on the afternoon of Day 2 by our taxi driver, Getaw Abera, a former teacher.

to, but I remembered you telling the story about the raccoon, and I knew it was yours. I wanted to deliver it personally to ensure that you received it. I am just happy that you got your camera back.”



Getaw Abera and Lance celebrate the return of Ching’s camera.

So am I, because a picture is truly worth a thousand words. Thank you, Getaw, for restoring my faith in mankind. Now I can finally tell Russ, “I told you so!”

Postscript:

The day I arrived home from Operation NARA I learned that another local denizen had laid claim to Ching’s chives, and I was informed that it, too, would have to go! A week later, I caught the wonderfully pregnant possum and released her into the Zedric witness relocation program. Finally, we could eat our chives without fear and share them with extended family and friends—like Russ, Linda, and Getaw. A heartfelt gesture to show them how much we care. Now there’s some food for thought.



An observation point overlooking a battlefield at Gettysburg.

“I did not find the camera until the end of the day,” smiled Getaw. “I didn’t know who it belonged



No more chives for this expecting mother!

Seagull Party Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service & The Alamo Scouts

By Lance Zedric

The Situation: A paucity of human intelligence and language capability were glaring weaknesses of the United States Army in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) in the early days of World War II. Beginning in 1942, General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces there, utilized Allied organizations to address shortcomings in dealing with myriad indigenous peoples and in obtaining accurate topographical information throughout Indonesia and New Guinea. By the summer of 1944, the U.S. 6th Army under the command of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, was rapidly advancing north and west along the coast of Dutch New Guinea (see map) toward Morotai to execute the final phase of MacArthur's incremental plan to return to the Philippines, but first, he wanted to collect information about the Japanese from the native Papuans, to include those living on the many islands in Geelvink Bay to the north and in the Vogelkop—aka the bird's head—to the west. It was no easy task. Again, Krueger called upon his trusted Alamo Scouts, who already had performed 20-plus successful missions without losing a man, and whose reputation was growing, to collect what he needed. He was confident that his boys could do the job, but why not accept a little help from his Dutch friends at NEFIS—the Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service? It was a smart move.

at Camp Columbia, a U.S. military camp 10 miles southwest of Brisbane, and was comprised of three distinct sections. NEFIS I collected reports, maps, and photos on the Dutch East Indies and published monthly intelligence summaries on the area, while NEFIS II censored mail of Dutch and Australian military and civilians. NEFIS III was tasked with the mission of gathering intelligence on the military and political situations and organizing resistance organizations in Indonesia and New Guinea, which was of particular interest to Krueger.



Gerard L. Reinderhoff (later general)



Insignia of the Dutch Army.

NEFIS: Created by Capt. Gerard L. Reinderhoff of the Netherlands East Indies Army (NEIA) in May 1943 following the reorganization of MacArthur's Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB), NEFIS was headquartered

All NEFIS agents were drawn from volunteers from all branches of the Dutch military, but they lacked the experience and expertise to win support from the local population in the Dutch East Indies which had been under brutal occupation by the Japanese since early 1942. However, they hoped to have better results in New Guinea.

Early in 1944, Reinderhoff visited the first Alamo Scouts Training Center (ASTC) on Fergusson Island off the eastern tip of New Guinea, and he liked what he saw. Nine days before *Operation Reckless*, the successful 22 April 1944 landing at Hollandia, a strategic staging area on the northern coast, Dutch intelligence officer

Col. Conrad Giebel from MacArthur's GHQ, reported to Headquarters, 6th Army, on temporary duty as a liaison. On 28 May, five officers from the Netherlands Indies Civil Administration (NICA) joined him and Col. Frederick W. Bradshaw, the first Director of Training for the ASTC, who had just returned to the newly-established headquarters at Finschafen to help Col. Horton V. White and his G-2 staff plan for the return to the Philippines. Shortly thereafter,

parties in the collection of tactical intelligence. The relationship would benefit both and be a good portent of things to come.

The Seagulls: Three months after the landing at Hollandia, which provided a vital launching point for operations in Geelvink Bay and in the Vogelkop, a specially trained group of intelligence commandos (INCOs) from NEFIS III, codenamed the *Seagull Party*, arrived at the ASTC now at nearby Cape Kassoe. Its mission was to learn how Dutch intelligence parties could better operate in a tactical environment, observe the training of Alamo Scout candidates, and incorporate lessons learned into their own reconnaissance and intelligence operations. In turn, they would serve as interpreters and provide area intelligence to operational Alamo Scouts teams in the field.



Reinderhoff joined 6th Army to help plan an offensive in the Dutch East Indies before later assuming command of NEFIS I.

Although the impetus for joint Dutch-American cooperation originated from MacArthur's intelligence chief, Gen. Charles Willoughby, 6th Army planners put the plan in action using a combination of talented

On 14 July, *Seagull Party*, led by Lt. C.C. van der Star, reported to the ASTC. While living in the Dutch East Indies in 1942, van der Star had narrowly avoided capture by the invading Japanese. In 1943, he detailed his harrowing account in *Escape from Java*, a book published under the pseudonym Cornelis Van Der Grift. The enigmatic van der Star was joined by Reserve 2nd Lt. Henry Swart (Infantry), Sgt. Maj. (Infantry) P.R. de Jong, and Cpl. Y.W. Lompoliuw. Lt. R.F. de Bruïne joined the party later when the original members deployed with the Scouts. De Jong and de Bruïne were experienced soldiers and had conducted NEFIS III patrols in DNG, notably with the Van den Brandeler patrol in Jul/Aug 1943. Alamo Scout team leader Robert Sumner noted the arrival of the party in his diary.

“On 10 July, Major Niles (newly promoted) gave me a warning order to prepare for deployment and attachment to the PT Base at Woendi Island. Lieutenant McGowen was the contact officer on site, and Lt. Henry Swart, Netherlands East Indies Army (NEIA), would accompany us as interpreter.”



L-R: Lt. C.C. van der Star, commanding officer of the *Seagull Party*, and Alamo Scout team leader William Lutz on Woendi Island.

men. The confluence of their experience, insight, and leadership fostered a spirit of increased interaction among the Dutch and Americans. One that resulted from Krueger's need for Dutch familiarity with New Guinea and the Dutch need to better train their

Training: Six days into the observation at the ASTC, Swart reported, “Collaboration with A.S. [Alamo Scout] team excellent. Physical fitness of Scouts excellent. Morale very high, as Scouts receive a lot of interest and total support from Gen. Krueger. [They also] receive decorations for operations for a well-run or dangerous operation-very easily a Bronze or even a Silver Star. Most of the Scouts, volunteers

from all units, remain until they have been decorated several times, and then go back to the unit, which is allowed at all times.”

“Since no one [in the Alamo Scouts] was able to master the language [Malay] and could have an elementary knowledge or benefit,” continued Swart, “Major Williams asked me to translate 41 English sentences into Malay and then explain them during a theory lesson... no time was available for that. During my stay at Woendi, however, we got a reserve lieutenant of the anti-aircraft artillery and R.F. de Bruïne. They have the opportunity to go deeper into the matter and give more extensive lessons.”

When not on missions or conducting language classes at the ASTC, the *Seagull Party* trained with the 4th Alamo Scouts Training Class, which began on 31 July and concluded on 9 September 1944. All members of the party were assigned to training teams and participated in patrols and training exercises alongside Alamo Scout candidates.



Notebook of Malay phrases belonging to Alamo Scout Robert Shullaw of LUTZ Team.

coordinated effort between the Dutch and the Alamo Scouts.

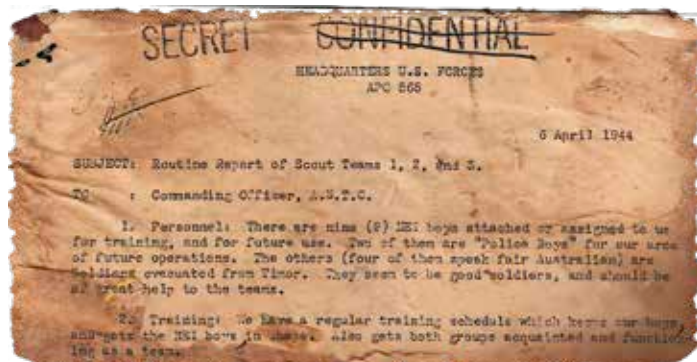
On 6 April 1944, GHQ attached seven Dutch soldiers and two NEI police boys to HOBBS, REYNOLDS, SOMBAR, and THOMPSON teams for the landing at Hollandia. Corporal Willem Lenzen, a Dutch interpreter attached to SOMBAR Team, earned a Silver Star there for helping rescue over 120 nuns and capture a notorious Japanese war criminal, while Lt.



Lt. Louis Rapmund

Hooghwinkle [first name unknown] killed an enemy while on patrol with THOMPSON Team. Other non-*Seagull Party* Dutch officers, such as NEFIS agent, Lt. L.D.G. Krol, working under the auspices of NICA, also assisted the Alamo Scouts, but Lt. Louis Rapmund, a NEFIS officer working alone from Roemberpon Island in Geelvink Bay, performed the lion’s share of work with the Alamo Scouts. From Jul-Oct 1944, Rapmund and Alamo Scout teams, supported by several PT boat squadrons operating from Woendi Island,

Missions: Members of the *Seagull Party* had no command authority and operated primarily as observers and interpreters. They interrogated POWs, provided valuable information on native culture and customs, and engaged in combat when necessary, but the *Seagull Party* augmentation was not the first



Report indicating Dutch soldiers being attached to the Alamo Scouts prior to the landing at Hollandia.



Lt. L.D.G. Krol (NEFIS), and Lt. Col. AbdulKadir Widodojoatmodijo, senior Indonesian officer of NICA, study a map on Biak Island.

conducted extensive operations in the area, to include reconnaissance, direct action, recovery of displaced refugees, and the daring liberation of 66 Dutch and Javanese from a Japanese prison camp at Oransbari

with NELLIST and ROUNSAVILLE teams. Operations with the Dutch concluded when the Scouts departed New Guinea for the Philippines on 12 October 1944.

The inclusion of the *Seagull Party* as observers on Alamo Scouts missions indicated the respect the Dutch had for the unit and for the work they had done to date, but the experienced Dutch officers brought their own special skillset to the table. Sumner recalled Swart's contribution to the team during its first mission in the Geelvink Bay area when they encountered frightened natives:

"We were moving along a trail, and suddenly the lead Scout signaled, DOWN! Now what? People moving along the track from the north. How did they get by us from the rear? Were we that lax? We could see two men, a woman and two children—natives of the area. I gave the signal to surround them immediately, and we frightened them so badly they were literally struck dumb! That must have been quite a spectacle! Seven huge white men materializing from the jungle all around them, sweating profusely and bristling with weapons. No wonder they couldn't react. We moved them inland to a small glade about fifty or sixty yards from the track. As Henry Swart spoke magnificent Malay, the language of Dutch New Guinea, he went to work questioning and reassuring them that we meant no harm. He pointed to the Royal Netherlands East Indies insignia on his cap



Alamo Scouts: Sumner Team, Back row L-R: Robert (Red) S. Sumner, Lawrence E. Coleman, Harry D. Weiland, Robert T. Schermerhorn, Front row: Paul B. Jones, Edward Renhols, William F. Blaise.

and the acronym on his shoulder flash, which the adults instantly recognized from the pre-war agency officers clothes they had commonly seen, and this reassured them. Henry explained us as Americans...As the Dutch



The NEFIS Van den Brandeler patrol pictured in New Guinea Jul/Aug 1943. Like Alamo Scouts teams, some NEFIS patrols assumed the last name of the commanding officer. De Bruïne and de Jong later served in the *Seagull Party*. Photo Courtesy Cavalry Museum, Amersfoort, The Netherlands, from the book to be published, *"Charles in Shanghai"* by Pieter Lommerse.

had been relatively easy overlords, we counted on the light policies of the past as our security for the immediate future. Apparently, no one mentioned us as there was no pursuit by the Japs during our time ashore. After burying cigarette butts, candy wrappers and tidying up the glade, Henry ostentatiously wrote down their names, village, and district in an official looking notebook for awards after the war. I gave the men some twists of tobacco and they headed on for their village, and we immediately changed position for better observation of the track from the supply area in case our plans were interrupted by a Jap search party."

While mission reports from EVANS, HOBBS, FARKAS, LITTLEFIELD, LUTZ, SOMBAR, and SUMNER teams from Jul-Aug 1944 indicate the presence of attached Dutch officers, some of which were not with the *Seagull Party*, they provide scant reference unless the officer significantly contributed to the success of a mission. However, de Bruïne remained with the Scouts after the *Seagull Party* operation had concluded and distinguished himself with LUTZ Team on Salebaboe Island on 21-22 September 1944 when he helped capture and interrogate a native boy about Japanese strength there [see *RECON* Feb/Mar 2018 for story]. Despite little mention in the official mission report, Alamo Scout Bob Ross detailed de Bruïne's action in his war diary:

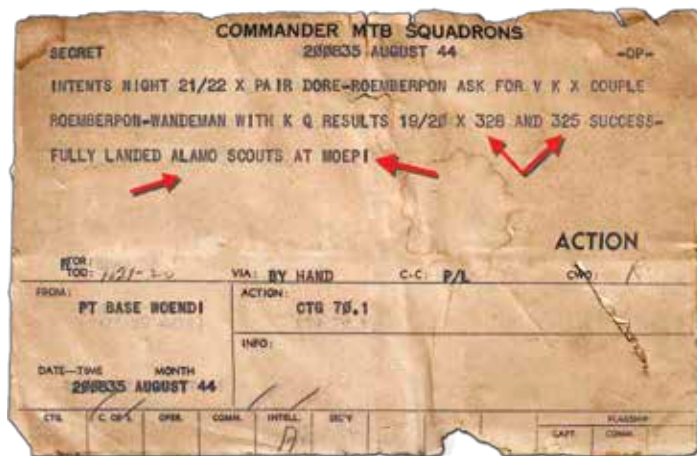
"My team and the Dutch officer [de Bruïne] stuck out for the trail which we knew was only several hundred yards inland...We then moved up to the trail with intentions of snatching the first natives who went by...Schermerhorn [Scout] and Lt. de Bruïne stayed in

one spot in the trail. Two men went above them-Gonyea [Scout] and I below... We soon saw someone coming up the trail, he was wearing a white sun helmet and carrying an axe and machete...then Lt. [de Bruïne] stopped him and he was ours...The PT crew had sandwiches and coffee ready for us and we all went below to sleep. While we ate the Dutch officer interrogated the native."



Reserve 2nd Lt. Henry Swart.

"The Team's spirit was good," added de Jong following a 13-17 August mission to Vanimo with LITTLEFIELD TEAM, "but in the last days there were many disputes that two men had all the souvenirs, and the rest nothing, and these were not distributed. A very important factor for the average American."



Radio message indicating that PT boats 325 and 328 successfully landed FARKAS Team at Cape Moepi on 19-20 August 1945.

Swart also noted differences on how the Alamo Scouts and the INCOs were treated by their respective commands.

"The fact that after six months the Scouts have received several decorations while Seagull members, 25

having worked much longer, have none, made the Alamo Scouts look down upon the NEFIS group somewhat... The difference between the NEFIS parties and the Alamo Scouts is that we were more geared towards strategic intelligence and were not allowed to fight for our intel, while the Alamo Scouts were more geared towards combat intelligence and could fight for that."



Crew of PT-325 that supported FARKAS Team and members of the Seagull Party in New Guinea.

Likewise, Lt. John McGowen, the operations officer for the Alamo Scouts at the PT base on Woendi Island, voiced his frustration with Swart and his reluctance to acquire "combat intelligence" on the fate of four downed airmen on occupied Pegun Island in a 24 Aug 1944 letter to Homer Williams, Director of Training at the ASTC:

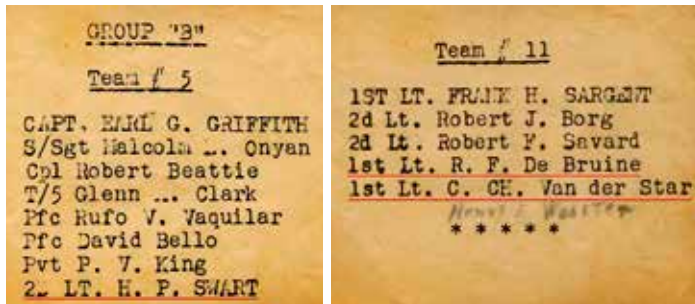
"About Lt. Swart, I was going to send him back today. He was supposed to have been with Red [Sumner] on his job, but when they started out, Swart was not there. And his not being there cut the chances of a successful mission in half. In fact, it could have easily cost the lives of the whole team. But as it turned out, it was probably better that he was not along. I had a talk



Alamo Scout Lt. John McGowen.

with him this morning and [so] follows my opinion: He got cold feet. He says he did not like the job, etc. Well, perhaps he could do better in Australia. Frankly, I am really pissed off at him. If he was a Scout or team leader, I'd relieve him of all command and connections with the scouts, with a boot in the ass. I think his presence and association with the Alamo Scouts is no longer needed, and I doubt that his presence raised our standards at all. He might make a good Malay instructor at school

if you would increase the guard around camp to ensure his safety against Jap attacks. Or better, you might recommend him as General Krueger's Chief of Staff. He seems to have great knowledge as to how the Army and Navy should work. At least he told me how this last job should've been done. Seriously, I would not ever send him out with another team, as he might not be there when he was needed most. And I can go on record as saying that I refuse to have him in any way connected with me in any kind of work-up to and including latrine detail. However, that is only my opinion, I would suggest you talk with him and the other boys before you pass judgment."



Seagull Party members (noted in red) assigned to training teams during Class 4 at the ASTC, July 1944.

Despite McGowen's stinging letter and the inevitable differences in attitudes, abilities, customs, and perception among soldiers from different armies, the Dutch and Alamo Scouts developed a sense of camaraderie as Sumner noted in his diary after the team's return from its harrowing mission on Pegun Island:

"As a bonus to our successful missions, we were ordered by ASTC to return to Hollandia, as we would be relieved by another team. Gathering up Lt. Swart, we left Woendi at 0830, 27 Aug via PT courier run and by C-47 from Biak to Cyclops Strip [Hollandia area]...I finally got a truck ordered from ASTC via telephone and as there would be something of a wait,...Swart went reconnoitering for a little jungle juice [alcohol made from torpedo propellant] and was successful. The stuff cost twenty dollars a quart, it was raw and potent. But as we were back successfully, why not! Harry and I sprung for the juice and the quart made the rounds quickly and the bottle joined its dead comrades, shot down in full bloom, too soon to be drained of its youth. We rode our bouncing truck from Cyclops, around to Lake Sentani, past the invasion beaches and to our base camp by 2230. It was good to be back."

Members of the Seagull Party, less de Bruine, returned to Brisbane in late August and filed their reports. The success of the party during its six-week observation at the ASTC and participation in training and live missions can be quantitatively assessed, but it is difficult to measure the extent and effectiveness of what they learned and implemented into actual Dutch patrols or doctrine. However, given the diversity and

success of the Alamo Scouts missions in which they participated, and in the continued joint work between the Dutch and Alamo Scouts for the entirety of the campaign, results were likely good, with each group learning something from the other.

During the war, NEFIS III sent 36 teams into enemy territory, and of the some 250 agents, 39 were killed. Conversely, the Alamo Scouts conducted a known 112 missions without losing a single man killed or captured. Ultimately, each contributed to the Allied victory in New Guinea. Mission accomplished!

Postscript: With 6th Army's focus moved to recapturing the Philippines in October 1944, its combat role in New Guinea was effectively over, and the interservice operations of the Alamo Scouts and the Dutch were buried in the pages of history. However, Bas Kreuger, a Dutch researcher living in Holland, recently discovered reports in the Dutch Military Archives mentioning the Alamo Scouts and contacted the ASHF. He then sent copies to me and I had them translated into English. In 27 years of research, I had found no references to the *Seagull Party* in Alamo Scouts records or in records contained in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. If not for Bas, the reports may not have been discovered for generations—if at all. The ASHF is grateful to him for sharing his research and for being a valued partner in the quest for uncovering a buried chapter of our nations' common history written by the brave men of NEFIS and the Alamo Scouts 75 years ago. Salute!



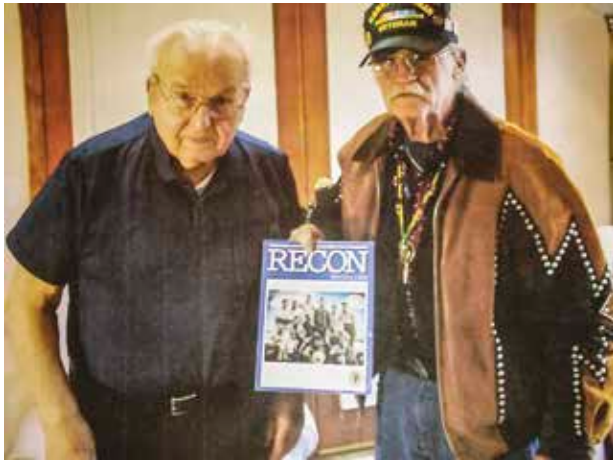
Bas Kreuger, shown recently in New Guinea, holds a photo of Louis Rapmund and an Alamo Scout taken on Woendi Island, 1944.

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All Nations Native American Veterans Memorial

The Alamo Scouts are again being honored for their valiant service during World War II by inclusion in the All Nations Native American Veterans Memorial in Jefferson, Oregon. The memorial is the only one in the United States open to Native Americans of all nations of all wars and honors the 34 Nations that produced code talkers back to World War I. Although the Alamo Scouts were not code talkers per se, 19 known Native Americans from 18 Tribes served with the unit, and some served as code talkers with their parent units.



Alamo Scout Oliver Roesler (left) and memorial founder Bill Stamm enjoy an issue of RECON.

Created on April 18, 2013 by 83-year-old Korean and Vietnam War veteran, Bill Stam of the Lakota Tribe, and his wife Gwin, 79, of the Apache Tribe, the greater memorial houses 25 blue granite stones from Philadelphia, 34 tribal flags, a Native American museum, and a trading post. The Alamo Scouts memorial consists of three vertical three stones inscribed with the names of

the Native Americans known to have served with the Alamo Scouts or at their training camp. A separate stone features a brief history of the unit and the name of all operational Alamo Scouts.

“Our latest addition to the Memorial is the Alamo Scouts stone,” said Stam, who built the memorial using his own money. “The first stone is done with some history about the Alamo Scouts. Two stones are complete, and one is in progress, but we’ll need one more stone to complete the memorial. We have 50 more names to add.”

Last year 700 people from 38 states and 12 counties visited the memorial, and more are expected next year. But the Alamo Scouts memorial has drawn special attention.



Alamo Scout Memorial Stone. Photo courtesy of Bill Stam.

“So many people are interested in the Alamo Scouts,” said Stam. “They can’t believe the stories, and the response has been incredible. It is an honor to acknowledge the service these men gave to our country!”

Stam was so impressed with the record of the Alamo Scouts that he and a photographer drove several hours to Washington, where they met and interviewed Oliver Roesler, a member of LUTZ Team, and the last surviving operational Alamo Scout.

“It was a great honor meeting Mr. Roesler,” added Stam. “He is a special part of the military history of our country and a wonderful man.”

We at the ASHF think so, too! And Bill, you are pretty special yourself. Thank you for your military service and for helping preserve the memory of the Alamo Scouts. Keep up the good work!

“The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation is committed to helping fund part of the memorial,” said Russ Blaise, Executive Director of the ASHF. “Preserving and advancing the legacy of the Alamo Scouts is what the Foundation is all about. Our goal is to raise \$1000 toward the finalization of the memorial.”

To donate to the Alamo Scouts Memorial, contact Russ or Lance, or visit the All Nations facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/allnations.veteransmemorial/>



Memorial stone recognizing known Native Americans that served in and with the Alamo Scouts. Photo by Bill Stam.

YouTube video of Bill Stam’s interview with Alamo Scout, Oliver Roesler: <https://youtu.be/I3oW8SjIMRg> Videographer: Dave Hopfer

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.**

Mail your check to:

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