



ALAMO SCOUTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

<http://www.alamoscouts.org>

Clearwater, Florida



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

December 2013 - Newsletter

2014 Albuquerque, New Mexico Reunion **Last Official Reunion!**

The votes are in. The last official reunion of the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation (formerly the Alamo Scouts Association), will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from July 31 to August 2, 2014, marking the end of an institutional event begun in 1981 by ASA founders Robert Sumner, Galen Kittleson, Wilbur Littlefield, and Mayo Stuntz.

The collective decision to discontinue reunions was difficult and emotional, but necessitated by several factors, including rising costs of putting on a reunion coupled with the reality that only 10 known Alamo Scouts survive, most of whom are unable to travel long distances. Despite the sense of finality, the ASHF and its members are excited about the opportunity to fittingly conclude this chapter of the organization's life and to celebrate the friendship and camaraderie forged by three decades of association.

Our host for the 2014 Albuquerque reunion is Sheila Hard, daughter of Alamo Scout Harold Hard, a member of the Rounsaville Team that participated on the Cabanatuan Raid. She and your Alamo Scout board has been working hard to make this final reunion a memorable affair, and we would like for everyone to consider attending. If so, we highly encourage you to reserve your rooms right away. We are staying at the Hotel Andaluz in downtown Albuquerque. www.hotelandaluz.com/

Reservations: 1-877-987-9090

Alamo Scout special room rate: \$109

Reunion will run Thursday 7/31/14 (check-in)

With check out Sunday 8/3/14

The \$109 room rate will be honored two days before and two days after reunion. Check with the hotel on their exact cancellation policy, but most allow cancellation up to 24-48 hours before arrival.

Tentatively, we are in the process of planning one or two special events during the reunion. The ASHF Business Meeting is planned for Saturday morning, followed by the Banquet on Saturday night. More info to come in the following months as plans come together.

Note: Although next years' reunion will be our last, your continued membership and support is important. More on that on page 4.

2013 Indian Rocks Beach, Florida Reunion Reunion within a Reunion!

The reunion in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida this year was very special for two individuals. Alamo Scout Jack Geiger and PT Boat crewman Raymond Wilbur met for the first time after 69 years. On November 19, 1944 Wilbur and his boat, PT-495, were assigned to take Alamo Scouts John McGowen, Oliver Roesler, Bob Ross, and Geiger to Poro Island to resupply THOMPSON TEAM, but the boat was severely damaged during the operation. Of the 22 men aboard, one was killed and 17 wounded, including all of the Alamo Scouts except Ross. Wilbur suffered a horrible wound to his arm, but Ross and Geiger helped save him. "John and Bob Ross saved my arm and my life," said Wilbur. "I'm glad that I finally got the chance to thank them." And so are we.



Raymond Wilbur & Jack Geiger



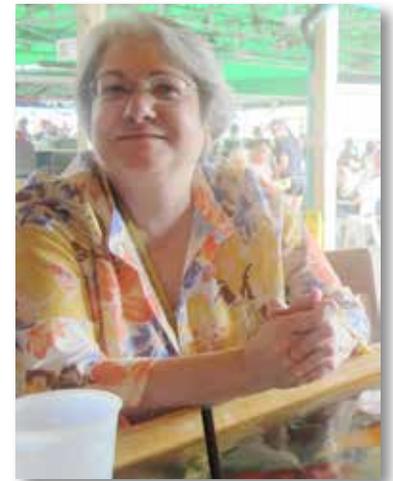
Jack and Raymond meet again after 69 years.



L-R: Raymond Wilbur, Valerie "Sumner" Morales & Jack Geiger take a gander at "Silent No More".



Sheila Hard speaks at the business meeting about next years reunion that will be held in Albuquerque, NM.



Bonnie "Coleman" Glass, our new membership committee chairperson.



Attendees of the 2013 reunion: Back Row, L-R: Glenn Groen, Earl Coleman, Jerry Nolls, Bill Glass, Rick Vessels, Megan Williams, Tim Williams, Jeanne Heffern, Frank Heffern, Dawn "Wilbur" Vessels, Carol "Geiger" Stewart, Sheila Hard, Valerie "Sumner" Morales, John McGowen Jr., Gil Morales, Russ Blaise. Front Row, L-R: Audrene "Hall" Burress, Bonnie "Coleman" Glass, Jerry Littlefield, Kathy Coleman, Raymond Wilbur, Jack Geiger, Christine McGowen, Betty Geiger, Barbara "Geiger" Leddy, Jolene "Hall" Villareal, Rebecca Blaise.



The SPAM award is given to the person that traveled the longest distance to the reunion. Audrene "Hall" Burress traveled from Hawaii, and Christine McGowen traveled from England.



Tim Williams gets his chance to talk at this years banquet dinner.

ASHF Launches News Blog
http://www.alamoscouts.org/news_blog.html

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation recently launched an internet News Blog on its website. The News Blog will be updated as relevant ASHF news comes in. We ask that everyone check the blog at least once a week to keep informed on the latest ASHF news and features.



2013 Indian Rocks Beach, Florida Reunion
Business Meeting. New changes for 2014 and Beyond!

As everyone is aware, the last official ASHF reunion will be held next year in Albuquerque, New Mexico. But that doesn't mean that we have to stop meeting altogether. One idea that was kicked around was to have regional "Meet-Ups," where members could hold smaller meetings in their part of the country with no financial risk or responsibility to the ASHF and less stress on the organizers.

One possible "Meet-Up" site could occur in the Washington DC area when Lance and I conduct our research trip at the National Archives in nearby College Park, MD. The dates would be posted in the ASFH Newsletter and on the website, and interested members could drive or fly in for the weekend and join us for a day touring the museums in DC. Afterward, everyone could go out for dinner and catch up. Also, given enough interest, we could explore the possibility of having a full reunion every 3 to 5 years. We're open for ideas and suggestions.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues and Membership cards were other items discussed. Presently, the ASHF has 103 active members, but 47 memberships will come due during 2014. Starting in January 2014, the following ASHF Membership rates are available:

YEARLY membership dues(1-year)	\$20.00
THREE-year membership dues (new)	\$55.00
FIVE-year membership dues	\$90.00

If a member is late paying dues, the paid membership will be effective from the previous expiration date. Bonnie Glass, the daughter of Alamo Scout Lawrence Coleman of the Sumner Team, has gracefully volunteered to chair the membership committee. Megan Williams, daughter of Alamo Scout team leader George "Tommy" Thompson, will assist Bonnie. We urge everyone to pay their dues on time so Bonnie and Megan won't have to chase you down!

Also beginning in 2014, Membership cards will be emailed via a PDF (Portable Document format) file and members will print their own cards. However, surviving Alamo Scouts and other members who do not have computer or internet access, will continue to receive their printed membership cards printed in the mail.

NEWSLETTER

Due to the increased cost of producing and mailing a printed newsletter, and operating the ASHF, all members with email accounts will receive the newsletters via email in a PDF file, which allows us to send larger, easily viewed files at little cost, which means better quality newsletters. Starting in late 2014, we will produce a special yearly magazine style newsletter that will be printed and mailed to each member. Email me your latest email address so I can update my records: ashf@alamoscouts.org

FUNDRAISING

We are looking into establishing a committee to spearhead promotion and fundraising efforts. If anyone is interested, please contact Russ Blaise.

A Book Review
Of Michael F. Dilley's
Behind the Lines: A Critical Survey of Special Operations in World War II
By Lance Zedric

Behind the Lines: A Critical Survey of Special Operations in World War II (Casemate, 2013), illustrates why Michael F. Dilley has been among the pantheon of America's special operations authors for over 20 years. In his latest work, he masterfully weaves the myriad nuts and bolts of 23 selected WWII spec ops missions—rich in historical content and military significance—into the contextual fabric of the time and deftly examines the success of each mission based on criteria established by top military writers.

The book is no staid retelling of history nor boring academic treatise. There's no falling out or dozing off with Behind the Lines. In a fast-paced, crisp writing style, Dilley clearly illustrates the imagination, flexibility, and physical and emotional courage common in the special operations forces of the time and examines how the mistakes made, successes achieved, and lessons learned apply today.

Painstakingly researched, meticulously documented, and always readable, Dilley offers incisive, straightforward, and page-turning analysis that informs, educates, and entertains. Rather than a taking provincial view, he serves up a tasty, international sampler of special ops missions from Axis and Allied forces alike. Readers will be enthralled with the daring rescue of Benito Mussolini by Germany's Otto Skorzeny; take pride in the obscure, but significant contributions of the all-black 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion; or experience the bitterness of loss by the British SOE in Operation Rimau just to name a few. Whether it's sneaking into a NYC apartment with a secret team from the Office of Naval Intelligence to crack a Nazi spy ring, or rowing ashore in a rubber boat with a team of Alamo Scouts on a harrowing mission to an enemy held island in the Pacific, Dilley provides the perfect blend of facts, figures, and fun.

The author, a long-time champion of the famed Alamo Scouts, devotes three chapters to the unit—more than to any other single organization. The first chapter examines the establishment and operation of the Alamo Scouts Training Center. Subsequent chapters recount an attempted rescue mission on Pegun Island; and the famous joint operation with Army Rangers and Filipino Guerrillas where they liberated over 500 Allied prisoners from the Cabanatuan POW camp in late January 1945. Dilley punctuated the section on the Alamo Scouts with the inclusion of eight glossy photos and an esteemed place on the back cover of the dust jacket.

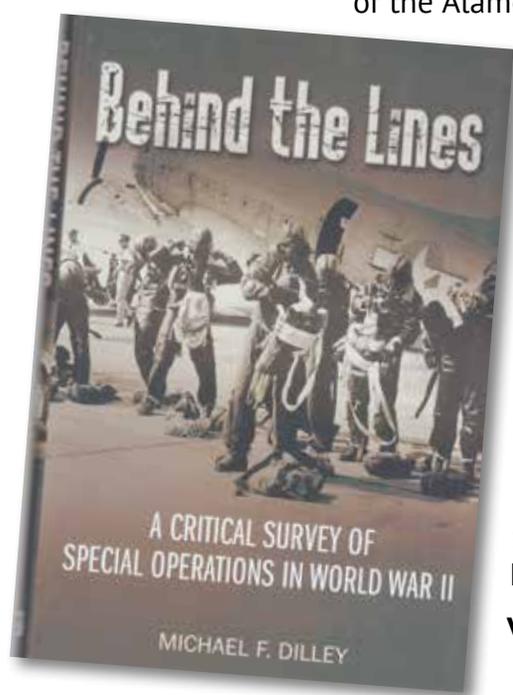
The history of special operations forces is chock-full of amazing stories—each unique and distinct. But at their core exist a few basic commonalities—namely, the ilk of the men who filled their ranks, the unique or special training that they received, and the hardship and danger they endured undertaking what ordinary men could not. With books like Behind the Lines, it is certain that those who dared boldly and who lived at the tip of the spear will always be remembered, and hopefully, men like Mike Dilley will be there to write about them. Read the book!

Visit Dilley's website at <http://www.michaeldilley.com>



Photo by Pete

Michael F. Dilley
- military historian and author



A Blanche DuBois Moment

By Lance Zedric

What do Blanche DuBois, the tragic character in the great American playwright Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," and the Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation have in common? Simple. They both rely on the "kindness of strangers." This was most profoundly demonstrated by Janet Tennison, a newfound patron of the ASHF in a recent email: "Our family was dear friends of Joseph 'Pete' Moon, who was an Alamo Scout during World War II," she began. "He had no direct family at the time of his death and all his war mementos were given to my brother."

Many such historically responsible souls have come forward over the years and freely scanned, copied and photographed aging relics and brittle ephemera from years gone by, and all hold a special piece of the infinitely complex but continually emerging puzzle of what and who were the Alamo Scouts. A graduate of the second training class, "Pete" Moon was an original enlisted member of HOBBS Team and performed missions with several teams before earning a battlefield commission and assuming a team of his own late in the war. According to a recently discovered Sixth Army mission report, MOON Team operated behind enemy lines in the mountains of northern Luzon from 19 May to 4 Aug 1945, making its 78-day mission the longest in the history of the unit. The addition of news clippings and war documents supplied by Tennison, including a detailed letter of commendation from the 14th Filipino Infantry, coupled

with information garnered from other sources, brings the contribution of MOON Team, which operated during a rapidly changing time, into focus and sheds light on an otherwise dark informational period of Scouts history. According to Tennison, the grouping includes a "scrap book [with photos & clippings], an Alamo Scout patch, orders written on rice paper and a Japanese sword he [Pete] brought back with him. The sword has writing on the handle," added Tennison, "but my brother didn't want to remove the cover. He said he has lots of stories Pete told him. There were also some classified orders I couldn't get good pictures of."

Naturally, the ASHF will see what it can do to help Janet obtain the photos. But the ASHF needs more people like her to come forward and to help unearth the trove of historical treasures sealed away in family scrapbooks, photo albums, and attics. The organization is only as strong as its membership and



(L) Pete Moon with friends.



Pete Moon

its commitment, which is significant, but time and energy are finite, and it is imperative that we locate, catalog, and copy every bit of information still out there. But we can't do it alone, which proves there may be a little Blanche DuBois in all of us.

Note: A special thanks to Janet Tennison and her brother.

Need help scanning, photographing, or archiving photos and documents to donate to the ASHF? Contact Russ or Lance.

No 1/20 (84076) BRYANT
 BRYANT FROM MOON CMA IN REGARDS
 TO SUPPLY DUMPS IN INTICAK RPT INTICAK
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 WHO WITHDREW FROM DIRECTION OF
 BAGUIO CMA DUG CAVES ALLNG SOUTH
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 BRIDGE AT GRIDS FIVE NINE POINT TWO
 DASH NINE TWO POINT EIGHT PD CIVILIAN
 WHO HELPED CONSTRUCT CAVES REPORTS
 THERE ARE TWENTY FIVE PD THESE CAVES
 ARE BEING USED FOR STORAGE OF FOOD
 AND QUARTERS FORMEN PD AS OF NOW
 WE HAVE LOCATED FOURTEEN OF THESE
 CAVE FROM OUR POSITION PD

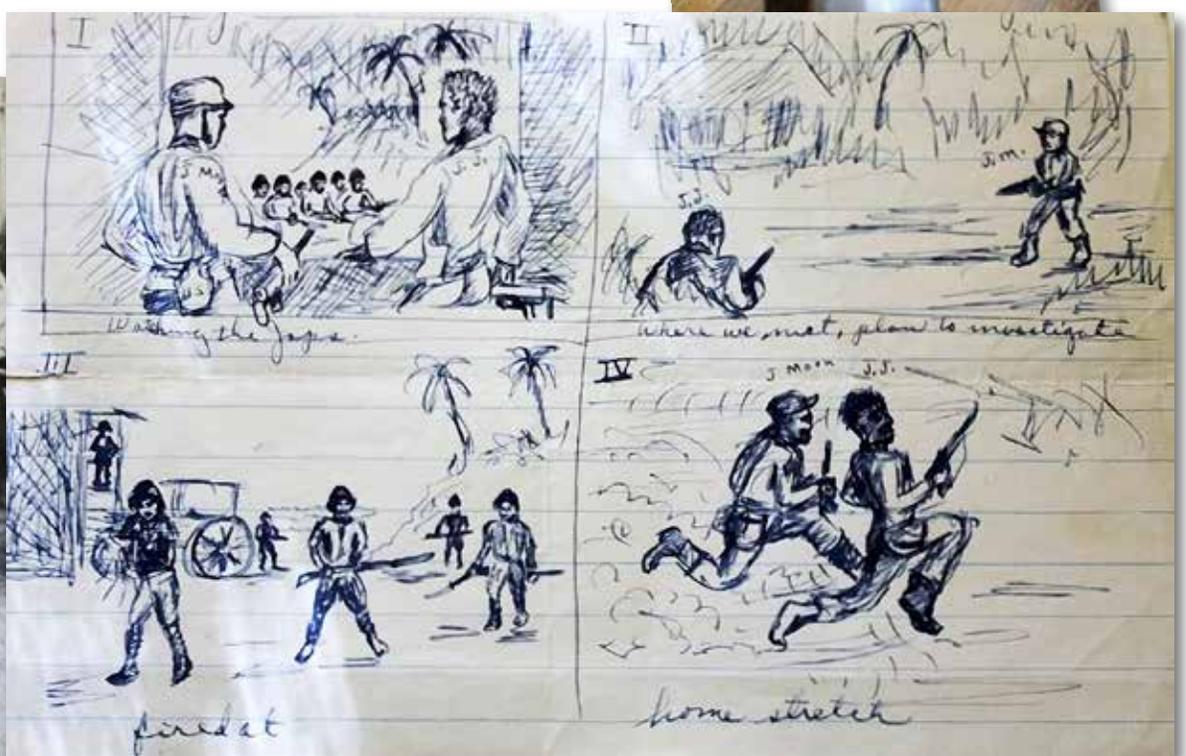
No 1/21 (91954) BRYANT
 BRYANT FROM MOON PD FROM OUR
 OBSERVATIONS OF PAST TWO DAYS
 AND FROM GUERRILLA REPORTS CMA

A handwritten message from MOON Team to G-2 during the team's mission in northern Luzon in summer, 1945

DANGEROUS RADIO WORK
 Pfc. Joe Moon of Rocklin has been awarded the Silver Star for operating, with a group of men, an observation post and radio station in the midst of enemy troops for five weeks on Poros Island in the Philippines. They radioed daily reports to army headquarters, and were once surrounded by 200 Japanese in a small hut, but by keeping quiet they escaped detection. They finally escaped into the hills and were picked up by a PT boat and taken back to the American lines.



Pete Moon



A period sketch by Joe Moon (J.M.) depicting his and Joseph Johnson's (J.J.) encounter with Japanese troops during a mission.

ALAMO SCOUTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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2014 Reunion Host
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Director
Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret), *pro perpetua*
November 15, 1921 - August 3, 2004

Alamo Scouts Association 1980 - 2005
Co-founders: Colonel Robert S. Sumner (Ret)
Command Sergeant Major Galen C. Kittleson (Ret)

Alamo Scouts Website
www.alamoscouts.org
Co-founders: Russ Blaise and Lance Zedric

NECROLOGY

JOSEPH F. NOVELLA
AUGUST 27, 2013

ROBERT L. BUSCHUR
OCTOBER 22, 2013

JULIE DOVE
OCTOBER 29, 2013

WILLARD J. "BILL" BOES
OCTOBER 26, 2013

The Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the state of Illinois.