December 2007 **ALAMO SCOUTS** Newsletter

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

ALAMO SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

"Freedom isn't free. There is always a price." ***Galen Kittleson***

"In Japan everybody knew the rules--stay out of sight and out of mind. We maintained that posture." ***Carl Bertoch***

http://www.alamoscouts.org

Alamo Scouts Reunion, October 10-14, 2007

This year the Alamo Scouts reunion was held in Denver, Colorado. Hosted by Conrad Vineyard, arrangements were made to meet at the hotel near the old Stapleton Airport. The first encounter upon entering the Renaissance Hotel was the familiar face of Terry Santos, who so consistently takes care of registration details and makes numerous other arrangements that some of us take for granted, or are unaware of.

If there was a theme this year, it could have been called "documenting memories." Arrangements had been made to have two separate video camera interviews. One interview session was for individuals and their families. These were conducted in private for each family. The other interviews were to gather general information from anyone, before and after the dinner. Copies are available form the interviewer. Please contact Connie Vineyard.

Terry Santos and Bill Littlefield man the registration table. There also: Author Larry Alexander.

On Friday, There was lots of time to visit in the morning. By 11:00 am we boarded a chartered bus and headed to the Denver Mint. Our bus driver was very knowledgeable about Denver and took several side trips to show us the town and inform us about its history. Denver received a surge in population from upper class people who moved there from the east coast. Their move was due to doctors' recommendations for a climate change for those suffering from "consumption;" more commonly known as tuberculosis. Large houses were built by the newly arriving residents, most of which had large covered porches so patients (residents) could spend as much time as possible outside in the dry air of the Rocky Mountains.

The Denver Mint was an interesting tour. This is where the U.S. Treasurer had established an office to create coins for the U.S. currency. Different from the place where paper money is printed, the Mint serves to fulfill the need for new and replacement coins. Our tour started in the combination retail sales for limited edition coins and gift store. There were many coins to choose from as well as uncirculated sets, and new release coins like the presidential dollars and state theme quarters.

Kathie (McConnell) Henderson, Christine McGowen, Linda Nellist and Jane Nellist.

Once inside the tour was guided by employees who were knowledgeable about the process and the history of the building itself. After the tour we ate a late lunch at a beef BBQ restaurant. The décor was western. If you wear a neck tie to this restaurant, they will take a pair of scissors and cut it off, right at the chest level. Those who sacrifice a tie will see its remains posted on a wall along with your name.

The traditional banquet was very nice, conveniently located within the hotel which had an offering of very good food. There was a series of toasts to the Scouts, the Country and the general experience of the reunion, including those who were no longer with us. After the dinner, we had another opportunity to interview with a videographer. There was more time to visit, catch up on one another's news and information as well as enjoy a nice dinner.

Also attending was author Larry Alexander who interviewed several scouts and family members in preparation for his new book about the Alamo Scouts. He recorded information with a focus on individual personalities of scouts, how they lived and approached the duties of wartime combat.

On Saturday morning there was a business meeting that was somewhat punctuated with announcements and information about the next reunion. **Bill Littlefield gave a summary report from the treasurer and ended his presentation with an announcement that he could no longer fulfill the duties as Treasurer. He then nominated Audrene (Hall) Burress as the next Treasurer. As she was present; did not object or decline, the motion passed immediately, and she accepted the role of ASA Treasurer.**

Terry Santos, The Hendersons, Marie & Gary Hard, Les McConnell and reunion host; Priscilla & Connie Vineyard.

Plans have already been made to hold the next reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Home not only to the Alamo, but the National Museum of the Pacific War (also known as the Admiral Nimitz Museum) in Fredericksburg, Texas. There will be a dedication to the Alamo Scouts and a plaque placed in their honor, in April. Scouts who attended: Bill Littlefield, Conrad Vineyard, Audrey Hall, Terry Santos, Bob Buschur.

-Les McConnell *-Photos by: Linda Nellist*

Thank you to, Bill Littlefield for the many years of duty as Treasurer, and congratulations to, Audrene Hall Burress for taking on the duties as Treasurer.

ALAMO SCOUTS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND FORMER COMRADES IN ARMS

Lance Zedric (author of Silent Warriors of WWII: The Alamo Scouts) and Russ Blaise (ASA Executive Director) are currently compiling information for publication of an oral history of the Alamo Scouts.

They need copies of diaries, letters, recordings, stories, notes, medal citations, photos, or any written or recorded information that they can use to tell the story of the Alamo Scouts.

For more information contact Lance at alamoscouts@aol.com or Russ at Russ@alamoscouts.org.

To Give or Not To Give

by ASA Historian Lance Zedric

Should I donate dad's Alamo Scouts uniform to a museum? Would the Smithsonian be interested in the samurai sword he brought back from the Pacific? What about the scores of faded war photos that no one can identify? Maybe the National Archives would want his Japanese flag or perhaps the local library would display his stuff! If not, I could always sell it on Ebay! But I can't give it away, and I don't really know what it's worth—if anything. Sound familiar? You're not alone.

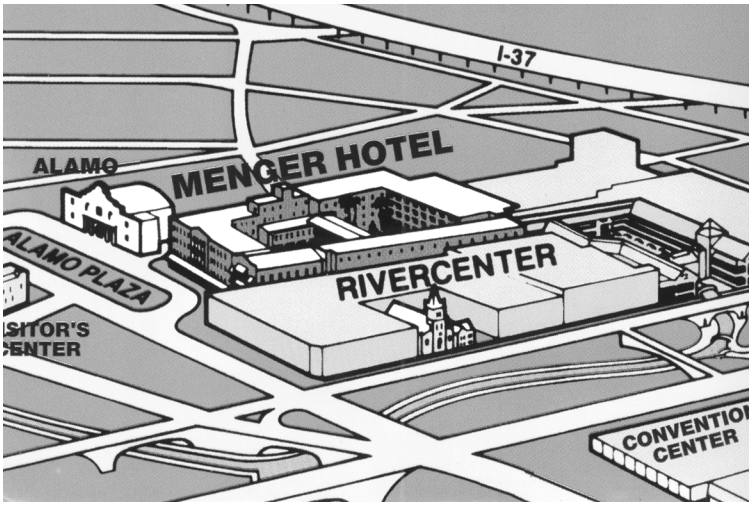
One of the most paralyzing tasks that people face in their lifetime is what to do with their veteran's weapons, war trophies, and other military memorabilia once they've passed on or no longer want it. To the common person, displaying grandpa's 40mm WWII brass shell casing ashtray with "Finschaven, Hollandia, and Leyte" etched in the side, or featuring dad's combat boots that he wore on Luzon in the family den is not high on their priority list nor is it always appreciated by spouses. But there is hope.

Over that past several years many Alamo Scouts and their relatives have asked what to do with such items, and my response has been that "the items need to be identified, labeled, photographed and retained in the hope that the ASA can find a suitable home for them in the form of a permanent display." Several people have urged me to serve as a repository for such items until that goal is met, but I have resisted until now. If anyone is interested in sending any Alamo Scouts related items to me for identification, photographing, archival cataloging, and storage until a permanent home can be found, feel free to contact Russ or me for information on how to get started. Upon receipt of the items, the ASA will issue the donor a signed Repository Receipt and digital photos of the items on disc. Russ and I already have scores of historical documents, photographs, and other items in the archives and we are busy photographing and labeling each one.

But why the ASA? Simple. No one cares more or knows more about the Alamo Scouts than the collective members of the organization. While the Smithsonian and National Archives are the preeminent entities for historical preservation, they are simply too big. Millions of artifacts are donated each year and are routinely stored in warehouses never to see the light of day. In fact, theft is one of the major problems associated with museum donations, and any donor should take extreme care in selecting a museum. *-Lance Zedric*

2008 ALAMO SCOUTS ASSOCIATION REUNION
San Antonio, Texas

Wednesday March 12th through
Saturday March 15th
Place - **The Menger Hotel** 204 Alamo Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205
www.mengerhotel.com
1-800-345-9285,
Call to make room reservations



Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, March 12th – Gather in the Hospitality Room.

Thursday, March 13th – Bus will pick us up at hotel at 10:00 A.M. for our trip to National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredricksburg Texas. 11:30 is the Plaque Dedication Ceremony honoring Bob Sumner and the men of the Alamo Scouts. A rifle squad will fire a 21 gun salute and a bugler will play "Taps" after the ceremony. For those who wish to tour the museum, there will be a $5.00 charge per person. Note: Museum member will be allowed five(5) "free" attendees!! Bus will stay on the museum grounds to drive us back to our hotel. Dinner on your own.

Friday, March 14th – Bus will pick us up at 10:00 A.M. for a tour of the L.B.J. Ranch and a tour of Lady Bird's flower Gardens. Return to hotel approx. 3:00 P.M.

The **"Banquet Dinner"** with be at the hotel. Entree' Choices for Dinner:
Marinated Rib Eye Steak with potatoes (Med.Well) or-
Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken with wild mushrooms.
Please choose one and note it when mailing it your check.
There will be a portable cash bar for dinner.

Both entree' come with Shallots, chevre cheese, Potatoes & fresh sauteed spinach

Those who do not pre pay will not be served dinner.

For those who are going to the Banquet Dinner only **$50.00**

Saturday Morning, March 15th, 10 to 12 – ASA Business Meeting. After that you are on your own. (For suggestion please contact Terry at 415-564-9571)

The total cost per person will be **$120.00** this figure includes all charges includes registration fees, no other charges by the ASA.

Please make checks to: **Terry R. Santos.** Do **NOT** include ASA after Terry's name!!!

Mail Check to: **1963 47th Ave.**
San Francisco, CA 94116-1046

P.S. San Antonio Trans Airport Shuttle to/from the hotel is $12.00 per person each way when round trip is purchased. Otherwise $14.00 one way.

ALAMO SCOUTS DISPLAY

The ASA is attempting to assemble an authentic, museum quality Alamo Scouts display consisting of two mannequins outfitted in vintage uniforms and associated equipment. The purpose of the display to accurately depict the Alamo Scouts and to further promote the legacy of the unit in accordance with the aims of the ASA. The ASA requests the donation of any of the items listed below in addition to any military or personal items used by Alamo Scouts in camp, during training, or on actual missions. When vintage WWII equipment cannot be obtained, suitable repro items will be used. Monetary donations will also be accepted and should be earmarked for specific equipment. ASA Historian Lance Zedric will furnish life-size mannequins and produce museum quality display boards. So, dig out that old stuff and join in the fun! *-Lance Zedric*

M1941 Herringbone Twill (HBT) Utility Fatigue Uniform w/ Softcap and Belt
Jungle Camouflage Uniform (One-piece)
G.I. 2-Buckle Brown Boots

M1938 Leggings (khaki)
M1923 Ammo pouches
M1936 Pistol Belt w/suspenders
M1910 Canteen w/Cover
M1942 First Aid pouch
M2 Jungle Medical Kit
M1932 Mess Kit
M3 Gillette Military Razor
Personal Care Items
Poncho/Bedding Roll

SCR-694 Radio
SCR-300 Radio
One-Time Pad
Alamo Scout (Krueger) Card
Vintage Map of New Guinea/Leyte/Luzon

M1938 Lensatic Compass or Australian Oil Compass
Military Watch
Lucky Strike Cigarette Pack (Green)
V-Mail
Army Stationary
Occupation Script

M-1 Carbine w/magazine
M-1 Garand w/magazine
M-1 Bayonet w/ M7 Scabbard
M-1911A1 .45 Pistol w/holster
M17A1 Folding Stock Carbine w/magazine
M-1942 M1 Thompson Sub-machine gun w/drum
6-man Rubber Boat w/oars

NECROLOGY

John H. Crichton	16 May 2007	Denny M. Chapman	06 Oct 2007
Robert L. Woody	04 Aug 2007	Glenn L. Heryford	04 Nov 2007
William C. Gerstenberger Jr.	28 Aug 2007	Milton H. Beckworth	08 Dec 2007
Lowell P. Eddy	10 Sep 2007	Cruz Vega	04 Dec 2001

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

Executive Director	Secretary	Treasurer	Historian	Membership	2008 Reunion Host
Russ Blaise	Terry Santos	Audrene Hall Burress	Lance Zedric	Russ Blaise	Terry Santos

Alamo Scouts Association
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

THE ASA ARCHIVES NEEDS COPIES OF YOUR PHOTOS, LETTERS, DIARIES, ORDERS, NOTES, CITATIONS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE RELATED TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBER'S SERVICE AS AN ALAMO SCOUT.

2008 Alamo Scouts Membership Form

The Alamo Scouts Association is offering three types of memberships to those who wish to support the organization.

Annual dues are **$15.00**, 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, newsletter, and attendance at our annual reunion.

Please select the appropriate membership category & complete the information below.

_____ **Gold** Alamo Scouts, ASTC Graduates, Staff & Overhead Personal

_____ **Silver** Spouses & direct relatives of Scouts.

_____
Relationship & Name of Scout

_____ **Bronze** All other that wish to support the Alamo Scouts Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Other family members that wish to join:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship: _____

Use the back of this form to add more members if needed.

Make check payable to: **ALAMO SCOUTS ASSOCIATION**

To get info on where to mail your $15.00 check. Full out the form on this web page: http://www.alamoscouts.org/membership/application.htm

Please Note: $15.00 membership renewal is due between the dates of January 1st, 2008 to February 15th, 2008. Any renewals or new memberships received after February 15th, will be **$18.00.** The extra cost will cover the expense of printing an individual card as opposed to printing in large quantity.