January 2011

ALAMO SCOUTS Newsletter

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

ALAMO SCOUTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

"At the end of the war the word was 'go home, shut up, and don't tell anyone what you did.' And for fifty years we did just that. We were just following orders..."

-Conrad "Connie" Vineyard, ASTC Class 9

http://www.alamoscouts.org

Historian's Corner

Their Swords into Plowshares

Too often in the media and in our daily lives we hear and read only about disaster, crime, and the personal failures, foibles and follies of the rich and famous. Seldom, unless we seek them out, are we exposed to and inspired by the myriad accounts of achievement by the common man; his physical triumph under extreme hardship, or even by his personal redemption after a fall from grace. And rarely, are we granted a special pass to blow the dust off the pages of time and retreat to a bygone era chock full of idyllic notions and loving memories, and with misty eyes, heaving chest, and weathered hands, wring one last drop of youth from our fading minds. Sadly, this isn't one of those occasions! However, it is hoped that your curiosity is piqued, your enthusiasm is emboldened, and your heart is smiling.

Alamo Missionaries David & Latu Mone -1947

Although the story of David Mone, a Tongan missionary living in New Guinea during World War II, is not front page news on the New York Times, we believe that in the spirit of the holidays it deserves a spot on page 1 of the ASA Newsletter, not because David was a great guy and made the best Eucharistic wine in the Southwest Pacific, or because he kept his family safe from the brutal occupation of the Japanese, but because of his association with the Alamo Scouts and their ongoing commitment toward advancing his noble work and bringing God a little bit closer to a people and a land that time forgot.

Mone and his wife had arrived in eastern Papua New Guinea shortly before the war out broke and had left a seven-month-old baby with his in-laws to fulfill their mission to convert souls. Remarkably, they had managed to avoid capture by the Japanese, eventually finding their way to the D'Entrecasteaux Island Group. Primary sources indicate that a Methodist mission already had been established at Salamo on Fergusson Island by mid-1942 when the Allies constructed a PT base there, but several smaller missions were scattered throughout nearby islands. In early December 1943, the Alamo Scouts moved in and erected the first Alamo Scouts Training Center near the village of Kalo Kalo, and soon developed a close relationship with the black missionaries there. But it was on a field problem to one of the smaller islands that Alamo Scout John McGowen meets Mone and writes homes of his encounter:

"Dear Mom and Dad: …About the third day we rowed over to a small island and climbed the highest peak. It rained like a son of a gun and it was quite a job getting down. Finally, we did get down and went to the Mission that was there. There I saw the funniest thing that I have ever seen in my life. Another team was there and they were all sitting around in sarongs drinking tea. I'll swear that was the funniest sight I have ever seen. They had been out in the rain also, and the Mission boy had given them the sarongs to replace their wet clothes. The Mission boy gave us some tea also, and it surely was good since we were wet and cold. The next day we rowed over to another island, and there I saw and learned more than I ever have before. It was an experience I wouldn't have missed for fifty Pounds. It was the mission station for the area. There was a Tongan in charge of the whole station, and he was doing a wonderful job, and doing the work of about five missionaries. His name was David Mone, and he had his wife with him. He was left behind when the Japs were in this area, but he went back into the hills and got out okay. He was one of the most remarkable men I have ever seen, and his hospitality would put us Southerners to shame. He was a Tongan, and the most handsome physical specimen I have ever seen. He is just a nice brown, and built like Atlas."

John McGowen

[Continued on next page]

According to ASTC training records the Alamo Scouts did not go on their first field problem until January 14, 1944, followed by one other possibility on January 28, and it is likely that the initial meeting occurred during one of those two weeks. McGowen continued:

"The afternoon we landed he asked us to come up to the mission and spend the night, but we refused since we were on a problem. But we did consent to go up to see his mission that night. He had his pupils perform for us, and it was entertainment like you couldn't get to see at any price. First, he had his pupils sing, and a more beautiful choir I have never heard. They sang several songs. One of the most beautiful was the Rock of Ages. First they sang it in English with the music we know, then they gave us the native version of it and the native melody. It was the sweetest melody I have ever heard, I just can't describe it. The most perfect voices I have ever heard, and the melody had just a slight minor chord, yet it was well liked as a symphony. It made cold chills run up and down my back. After that he asked us if we would like to see some of the dances his wife had taught the girls—of course, we did. First, they just sat down and sang with their hands. It was beautiful, and so were the girls. They were all about fourteen or fifteen years old, and all they wore were grass skirts."

Alamo Mission Native School -1947

Apparently, McGowen and the others were so moved by the display that they promised to support the building of another teacher station mission in the future, but they would not be there long enough to see it built. With the help of McGowen Team, the Allies quickly rolled through Los Negros and focused their sights on New Guinea and moved west toward Finschaven. The ASTC on Fergusson was closed on April 8, 1944 after just four months and five days in operation, and a new one established in the Finschaven area on April 10th. But the legacy left by a few Alamo Scouts lived on. Sometime in 1946, a mission bearing the name, ALAMO, in honor of the Alamo Scouts, was established. In a letter to McGowen's mother in April, 1947 Mone writes:

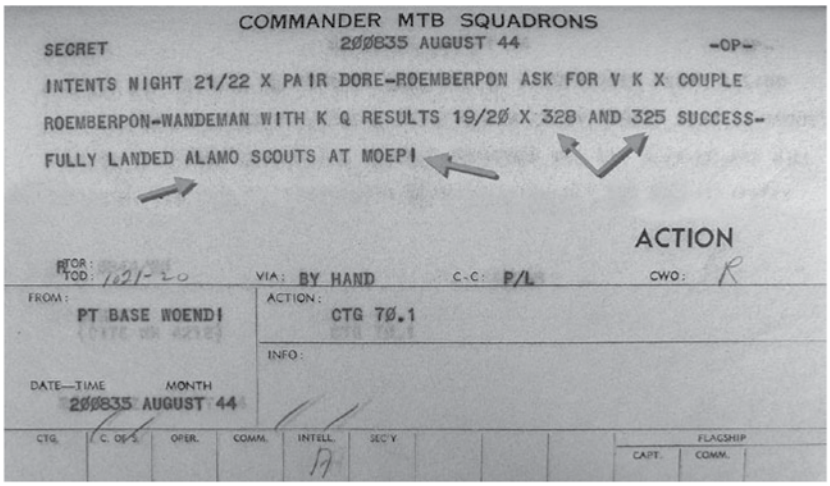
"Dear Mrs. Thompson: Your people had done a great help for our work here in Salamo, New Guinea. Last year they sent us 70 dollars and again last week another 50 dollars, and now the money is 120 dollars. All that money I put to be used in support of a new mission in the bush called Alamo. It was called after your Alamo Scouts party. I sent three photos of the place to your home…God bless you."

Based upon McGowen's letters home, his mother raised money for construction of a new mission and sent the money to New Guinea. Mrs. Thompson and Mone wrote until her death in 1949, but John and David continued their correspondence for years while John worked in Panama and in Saudi Arabia, and while David continued his missionary work in New Guinea and on Tonga. But the friendship forged and the commitment made on a tiny island in 1944 was not limited to just letters. For years, John supported David and his work through money and gifts. In 1962, Mone wrote:

"Dear John: Once again thank you very much for everything. We cannot thank you enough for all your gifts. We again received the National Geographic Magazines this year through your very great gift. Thank you so very much and God bless you all. –David."

Alamo Station Mission -1947

Who says there's nothing good left to read anymore! *-Lance Zedric*



COMMANDER MTB SQUADRONS

SECRET 200835 AUGUST 44 -OP-

INTENTS NIGHT 21/22 X PAIR DORE-ROEMBERPON ASK FOR V K X COUPLE

ROEMBERPON-WANDEMAN WITH K Q RESULTS 19/2Ø X 328 AND 325 SUCCESS-

FULLY LANDED ALAMO SCOUTS AT MOEPI

ACTION

FROM: PT BASE WOENDI

ACTION: CTG 7Ø.1

INFO:

DATE—TIME MONTH 200835 AUGUST 44

CTG. | C. OF S. | OPER. | COMM. | INTELL. | SEC'Y | FLAGSHIP CAPT. | FLAGSHIP COMM.

This message, and scores like it from the commander of the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, were located last summer at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The message is dated 20 August 1944 (0835 hours). The first line of the message indicates that on the night 21-22 August a pair of PT boats will patrol from Dore to Roemberpon Island, while the second and third lines state that on 19-20 August PTs 328 and 325 successfully landed Alamo Scouts [Farkhas Team] at Moepi.

REUNION 2011
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

2011 Alamo Scout Reunion
Charleston, SC
June 8th thru June 12th
Reunion Host: Audrene Burress/Terry Santos

To all Alamo Scouts, Associates and Family. We have secured our 2011 reunion dates, and location. Please get your rooms reserved at your earliest convenience as we only have a certain number of rooms guaranteed at the Alamo Scout rate. I've been told by the Courtyard Marriott that June is their high season and they expect their rooms to sell out. The hotel has a 48 hour room cancellation policy so you can always cancel at no charge if your plans should change. Hotel details are listed below. More details on specific activities will follow in the near future.

Dates: Wednesday, June 8th, check-in
Thursday and Friday, to be announced
Saturday June 11th, banquet 5:30 PM on site at Hotel
Sunday: Check-out
Hospitality Suite: Daily
Hotel: Courtyard Marriott, 35 Lockwood Dr. Charleston, SC. 29401
Toll Free: **1-800-549-8154**. Refer to group code # **TASC**

Alamo Scout Room Rate: $144 plus taxes per night. Active duty or retired military can request a military rate that is a little lower. There is a restaurant on site as well as a hotel shuttle that will do runs to downtown and the historic district for a $6 a day pass.

Looking forward to seeing all our "old" and "new" friends. Lets make this is the best reunion ever. See you all in beautiful and historic Charleston next June.

United States of America
United States Patent and Trademark Office

ALAMO SCOUTS SIXTH ARMY

Reg. No. 3,878,871
Registered Nov. 23, 2010

COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP

PRINCIPAL REGISTER

ALAMO SCOUTS ASSOCIATION (ILLINOIS CORPORATION)
1201 N. DEL VALLE PLACE
TUCSON, AZ 85712

FOR: INDICATING MEMBERSHIP IN AN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRESENT AND FORMER SOLDIERS WHO HAVE SERVED MILITARY DUTY WITH ASSIGNMENT OR ATTACHMENT TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S SIXTH ARMY SPECIAL RECONNAISSANCE UNIT, IN CLASS 200 (U.S. CL. 200).

FIRST USE 9-0-1980; IN COMMERCE 9-0-1980.

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE "ALAMO SCOUTS SIXTH ARMY", APART FROM THE MARK AS SHOWN.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF THE WORDS "ALAMO SCOUTS SIXTH ARMY", IN STYLIZED LETTERS, SURROUNDING THE DEPICTION OF THE HEAD OF AN INDIAN IN PROFILE, REPRESENTING SILENT RECONNAISSANCE. THE HEAD OF AN INDIAN IN PROFILE IS SUPERIMPOSED ON A DEPICTION OF THE "ALAMO".

SER. NO. 77-895,160, FILED 12-16-2009.

SEAN CROWLEY, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

David J. Kappos

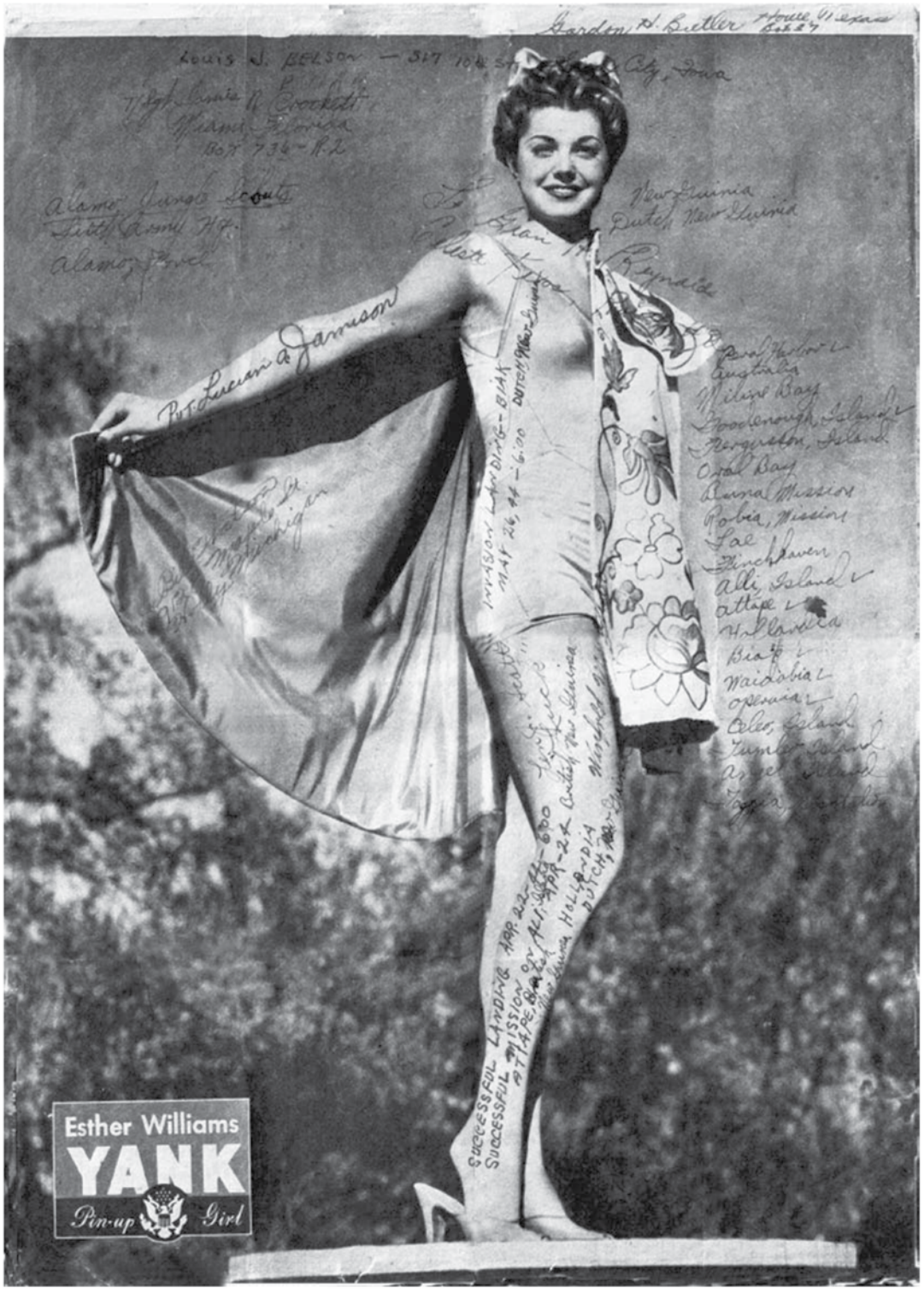
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

TM

Thanks to the generous and tireless efforts of attorney Michael Thompson, son of Alamo Scout George Thompson, the Alamo Scouts Association now owns the registered trademark to the image and likeness of the Alamo Scouts Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI). Since the patch was not officially recognized and approved by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry, it was available for private trademark registration, through which the ASA could approve and limit its public and private use.

Esther Williams

For almost two decades I have looked under virtually every rock from Peoria to the Vogelkop in search of information on the Alamo Scouts. But until now I had not considered looking on Esther Williams, the famous swimmer, actress, and pinup girl from the 1940s, whose beautiful face and athletic body graced the page of scores of magazines during World War II. Thanks to Ms. Williams allure, some highly motivated Alamo Scouts from Reynolds Team, recorded a few obscure details of Alamo Scouts operations on her pinup found in the April 14, 1944 edition of Yank, and help provide yet another mystery to be solved.



All of the Alamo Scouts on the pinup (see photo) have been verified, as have several of the more common missions and place names, such as Lae, Finschaven, and Aitape. However, the column of place names along the right side of the pinup suggests that the Alamo Scouts may have "visited" more places than credited for. Due to faded handwriting and poor spelling (who can blame them), identifying four of the place names has been maddening, again casting doubt on the omnipotence of the internet and reaffirming the need for "boots on the ground." And that's where I need help. Anyone with knowledge of the following is urged to step forward and to release me…please!

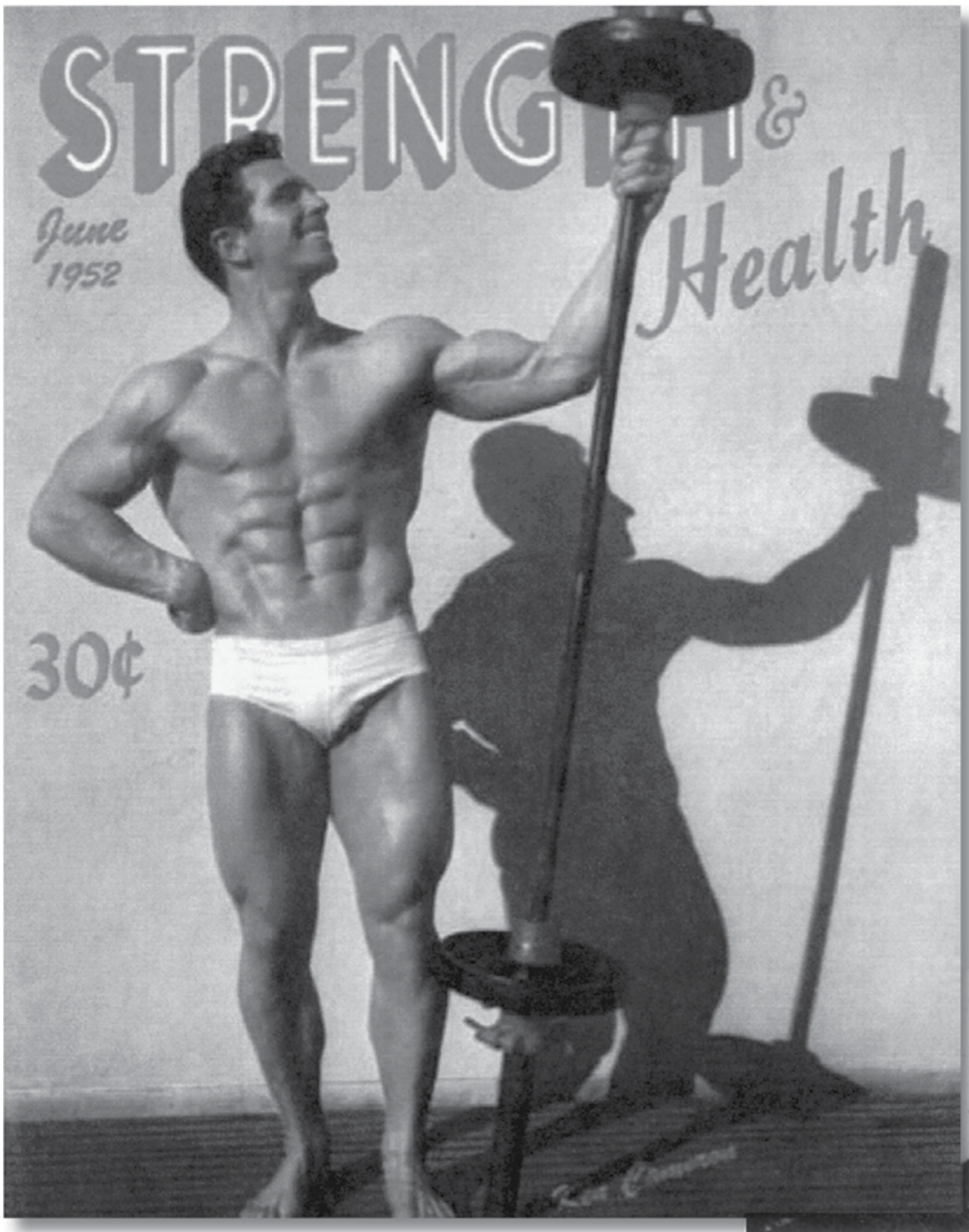
Robia Misson - Toggia Plantation - Waidabia - Operaia

FYI: The first issue of Yank rolled off the presses on June 6, 1942 and was in publication for four years becoming the most widely read military publication in U.S. history. It was published in 17 locations, including on three continents with 21 separate weekly editions being circulated around the world. The staff consisted of only enlisted men and featured writers, photographers, artists, and editors who dedicated the magazine to the lower ranking soldiers.

N.B. - Williams appeared on four pinups in Yank magazine. She is 89 years old and lives in southern California.

If YOU know of an Alamo Scout who accomplished something out of the ordinary (so many did) or achieved singular recognition or distinction, please let US know. We'd love to hear about it.

Pictured is former Alamo Scout, Kenneth Cameron, on the cover of Strength & Health Magazine in June 1952. As a top bodybuilder and weightlifter in the 1950s, Cameron won several titles, including Mr. Muscle Beach and Mr. Los Angeles, and placed in the Mr. America contest.



The color photo may be viewed at the ASA Photo Archive (Photo 287) at www.alamoscouts.org.

Kenneth Cameron with Guan, while on occupation duty in Kyoto, Japan. November 1945.

Don't Forget!

Your charitable gift to the ASA is now tax deductable! To make a donation to the historical research fund or for more information, contact Audrene or Russ. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Challenge Coins

Alamo Scouts challenge coins are still available. Use the enclosed form to order as many as you like. They make great gifts and there's room on the edge to inscribe the name of your Alamo Scout or loved one.

ASA Membership

Membership dues for 2011 are now due! Those who paid for the five and ten year membership plans, and those who have already paid their 2011 dues, are off the hook. But those who have yet to pay for previous years, please pay before March 1, and include this year's dues as well. Some members are up to three years delinquent, and many are one or two years behind. Those who do not bring their account up to date will no longer receive ASA Newsletters and will be removed for the ASA rolls. For 2010 we had 82 paying members, down 17 members from 2009. And as everyone knows, the cost of doing business continues to increase while membership declines, so please pay today to help ensure the immediate and long term health of the ASA.

Remember, an ASA Membership makes a great gift. If you know of any ASA members who might need help with their membership dues, or know of a family member or friend who might enjoy a membership, sign them up! What better gift than the historical legacy of the Alamo Scouts.

THIS IS BIG!!

Everyone will want to attend the 2011 ASA reunion in Charleston, South Carolina (hint hint). Something big is going to happen (wink wink). Perhaps it's something that has never happened before (for sure), or something that might never happen again (let's hope not). For more information on these electifying events (more than one) of epic proportions, don't bother calling Lance or Russ (we aren't telling), or contacting Terry or Audrene (they don't know), or rattling George's cage (can't find him), or even by using the Freedom of Information Act (not enough time), you'll just have to show up. And no matter how many days you stay (think 4), it might be a good idea to at least attend the banquet (triple wink). See you there!!

Alamo Scouts on facebook

Alamo Scouts now has a Facebook page. You are welcome to post comments and stories.
Go to: **http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alamo-Scouts/115561067168** and click "Like". There are 96 people so far that "Like" the Alamo Scouts. The facebook has replaced the message board so feel free to leave your comments and photos. The guestbook is still in operation.

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

Executive Director	Secretary	Treasurer	2011 Reunion Host	Historian	Membership
Russ Blaise	Terry Santos	Audrene Hall Burress	Audrene Hall Burress	Lance Zedric	Russ Blaise

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

Alamo Scouts Website
Co-founders: Russ Blaise and Lance Zedric