



Shadows In The Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines In World War II

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A new account of World War II heroism from the national bestselling author of *Biggest Brother*.

Determined to retake the Philippines ever since his ignominious flight from the islands in 1942, General Douglas MacArthur organized a first- rate intelligence-gathering unit. They were called the Alamo Scouts.

Larry Alexander follows the men who made up the elite recon unit that served as General MacArthur's eyes and ears in the Pacific War. Drawing from personal interviews and testimonies from Scout veterans, Alexander weaves together the tales of the individual Scouts, who often spent weeks behind enemy lines to complete their missions. Now, more than sixty years after the war, the story of the Alamo Scouts will finally be told.

Shadows In The Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines In World War II Details

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Am says

This book is about my father and his Special Forces unit in WW2. It's a fictionalized account of the Scouts' exploits during the war in the South Pacific. It's very close to my heart, and should be read by any WW2 junkie or curiosity seeker.

William DuFour says

An excellent book on a little known outfit who helped win the war in the Pacific and were the pioneers of Special Forces.

Scott says

A very good read on a forgotten aspect of the war in the Pacific.

The author shows a great deal of knowledge about the individuals involved plus the local geography.

I highly recommend this book.

Keith says

This book was a little different than many WWII books I've read in that you read individual stories of a somewhat large group of men. It was really interesting learning about some of their heroics in the Pacific Theater. It feels almost disrespectful writing this, but by the ends some of the stories started feeling redundant. I think I learned most from this book about the indigenous people on the islands where the battles took place. It is really sad that these men didn't get recognition for being special forces until the 80's.

Doug Dams says

General Douglas MacArthur distrusted the OSS and the joint chiefs of staff and wanted his own reconnaissance unit. He asked Maj. Gen. Walter Krueger to form an all volunteer unit to work behind enemy lines. Maj. Gen. Krueger's command was code named Alamo Force in honor of the Spanish Mission in his adopted hometown. Krueger formed the 6th Army Special Reconnaissance Unit which became known as the Alamo Scouts.

The Alamo Scouts in camouflage uniforms were sent behind enemy lines by submarine or PT boat and collected data on possible invasion beaches, tides and currents, troop numbers and locations, enemy morale, defensive positions, the availability of roads and fresh water.

They also took part in rescuing POWs and civilians from Japanese prisons. After the war the scouts were

sworn to secrecy and their missions classified. In 1988 the Alamo scouts missions were declassified and their unit was made public. This book tries to provide a history of the Alamo scouts by recounting several missions where information was made available. The missions and the bravery of the Alamo scouts is evident in the mission stories. But the author sort of failed in linking these men and their stories to McArthur's campaign to retake the Phillipines. I've read several other books about WWII and I found this the least well told history. I did learn a lot about the Alamo scouts but I also wanted to know more about the training and skills they acquired.

The book is worth reading to hear the stories of courage and duty. So, I'd recommend it on that level. But I can't the history was told in a readable straight forward way.

Cullen says

This is a pretty good book about a largely unknown aspect of the Pacific War. Given how much of what the Scouts did was classified after the war because the tactics and techniques would be used by the Rangers and Special Forces, only recently has their story been able to come out.

What's really amazing about the Scouts is that they never lost a man in combat. These were guys who went behind Japanese lines, gathered intelligence, raided supply depots, rescued prisoners, and even went after Japanese generals in the Philippines. The Japanese never knew what hit them.

While Larry Alexander does a fairly good job of trying to include as many of the Scouts in his history as possible, he does so with a downside ... you kind of lose track of who is who. I'm not sure how he could have done it better, but I think something is lost in his approach.

Despite that, this is an exciting and interesting aspect of the war that is worth reading about.

Donnie Edgemon says

The Alamo Scouts are one of those small units that performed remarkable tasks in WWII. The war was full of such units that have great stories, and I enjoy reading about all of them. I did not love the writing style of this book, though. In some ways it reads like an official account in that it progresses mission by mission without much separation between the relatively extraordinary and routine actions. In other ways, the book is a bit contrived because it is clear that the author re-created conversations that are likely to have happened, but transpired without any transcripts, so it is impossible for an author to capture exact dialogue sixty years later. Maybe it's just a pet peeve of mine, but if it is not an exact factual quote, do not put quotation marks around it!

Fred says

This was a great book about a little known and researched unit of the United States Army that fought throughout the Pacific theater of operations in World War 2. The Alamo Scouts are basically an early Special Forces or Commando unit that specialized in LRRPS type missions. They would typically infiltrate behind Japanese lines, insert onto islands, etc. in a small team, operate for days or weeks at a time behind the enemy lines and then exfil just as silently with all sorts of information. Sometimes, their missions turned more commando in nature involving the freeing of POWs, etc.

Worth reading for fans of obscure military history, but not a great place to start for a casual reader looking for a more general book on WW2.

Justin Tischendorf says

In *Shadows In The Jungle* it tells the story of an elite intelligence unit named the Alamo Scouts, made up of the most elite soldiers in all military branches that perform the most dangerous of tasks such as recon on Japanese-held islands and assess enemy locations, conditions, morale, troop strength, and rescue missions and while they do all this stuff they have to try and stay completely undetected to keep the element of surprise on their side. I think this story is so amazing because it tells the story of an elite group of soldiers and how they got recruited, what training they went through to get accepted into the Scouts, and every mission from the Philippines to every mission in the Japanese island chain. The main story focused on General Douglas MacArthur and his role in Alamo Scouts and the fight for the Philippines so he could win back the islands that he lost. The story of the book is really amazing because it tells you the story of behind enemy line missions by elite soldiers that helped the US win crucial islands so we could make it all the way to Japan and win the battle in the Pacific.

I like this book because of the story behind it, it's such a compelling story in its own way because it also tells the story of individual soldiers and how they got chosen for the Alamo Scouts. One thing I didn't like about this book was how at one point they told the history of the Scouts then told about who started the Scouts and how they got started. The reason I didn't like that part of the book is because I'm one of those people that don't like to find something out until it happens. All around the book is very amazing, tells a great story of WWII action experience, and even though there are many WWII books out there talking about major battles, this book focuses on one major military group and many different missions that this group went on and survived to talk about it.

J.S. says

Stories from the Alamo Scouts, an intelligence-gathering unit which served in the Pacific in covert operations during WWII. The beginning of the book starts off with a big WOW!, recounting the story of an elderly man with a cane being attacked by a mugger - and then promptly taking down the mugger using his cane. Immediately following that is another exciting story of an actual jungle operation. Compared to that incredible beginning, it gets a little dull while it explains the history behind the founding, recruitment, and early training of the Scouts. But it doesn't last long before getting back to exciting stories of dangerous missions.

For most of their history, the Alamo Scouts were considered secret and they and their heroic stories remained largely unknown. So it's unfortunate that by the time this book was written most of the men had already passed away. But Larry Alexander makes the most of the information he was able to get from the surviving members. There's a lot of dialog in the book, which seems a bit dubious given the 60 years that have elapsed since the events, and much of it sounds very Hollywoodish, but it's still an exciting read. Readers who enjoyed *Ghost Soldiers* by Hampton Sides might enjoy this one, too.

Maggie Shanley says

Solidly researched historical overview of the Alamo Scouts and their role in intelligence gathering and rescue missions in the Pacific during World War II. This book was very good, but not quite as engaging as Ghost Soldiers by Hampton Sides.

Olethros says

-Todavía quedan cosas a tratar sobre la Segunda Guerra Mundial que estén poco o nada sobadas.-

Género. Novela.

Lo que nos cuenta. Aproximación novelada (pero sin un ápice de ficción, al parecer) a los Alamo Scouts, unidad bastante pequeña de las fuerzas armadas estadounidenses que mezclaba actividades cercanas al reconocimiento profundo, la inteligencia especialmente y algo de operaciones especiales tras las líneas japonesas, cuya actividad en el Pacífico durante los dos últimos años de la Segunda Guerra Mundial ha sido información clasificada hasta no hace mucho.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Mike says

I just could not get enough of resistance movements after reading the Jedburghs so I picked Shadows in the Jungle up. I don't regret picking it up but I wish that I had not read it right after Irwin's book. This book seemed to lack the detail and personal aspect of the resistance that The Jedburghs portrayed. Telling the tales of one of the most efficient special forces units of all times, Larry Alexander kept my interest up enough to keep me reading. Some of the accomplishments of the Alamo Scouts no doubt helped sway the outcome of the war in the Pacific however, it seems as if Alexander was trying to reach a word limit for an editor when he included some of the sleepers he did. Some stories were just not worth telling in comparison to some of the other gems he included. Overall the bits of humor were quite refreshing but do not choose this book over The Jedburghs if you are looking for a book about underground resistance movements of the late 1930's and 40's. And who is not looking for a book about underground resistance movements of WWII?

Charlie says

The Alamo Scouts were Shadow's in the Jungle. This elite group performed like no other. The more I read about them the more it was hard to believe what they went thru. Some of their raids to release POW's were beyond belief. The Scouts had nerves of STEEL.

Larry Alexander, the author, did an excellent job in putting this story together. He did such a good job that I plan to google books about the Alamo Scouts.

Lee says

This book details many of the missions of the Alamo Scouts an elite reconnaissance force established by General Macarthur in the Pacific, he didn't trust the OSS. These small units of soldiers would go onto the islands in the Pacific ahead of the invasion force and scout out targets and landing zones for the Navy. The Alamo Scouts conducted 108 missions behind enemy lines killing more than 500 Japanese soldiers and rescuing hundreds of enemy P.O.W's and civilians held by the Japanese. They conducted the scouting missions and participated in the Great Raid where the Army Rangers rescued many of the survivors of the Bataan Death March. The most remarkable part of their story is not a single Alamo Scout was ever captured or killed in combat. An excellent book though some of the stories do read a little bit like a mission brief as opposed to an engrossing story.
