

SPECIALIST FIVE GERALD L. BEATSON US Army (Deceased)

SP5 Gerald Beatson, a Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Agent, was drafted into the Army in August 1942. He was initially assigned to the Naples, Italy, detachment of the US Army, and then was transferred to the Military Intelligence unit Alsos on 27 December 1943. The Alsos mission, one of the most important intelligence missions during World War II, was initiated to determine whether or not the Germans had the capability to engineer an atomic bomb. Approximately 20 CIC agents, all hand-picked, were assigned to the mission.

From his first Alsos operation at the Anzio beachhead operation on 9 February 1943 until the end of hostilities, Agent Beatson exhibited outstanding professionalism, personal courage and calmness under enemy fire. In the many subsequent critical Alsos operations in which he played a part, his operational know-how and positive leadership were factors in the successful accomplishment of missions for which he volunteered or which were assigned to him. These qualities were clearly demonstrated in the first Alsos operational mission in France, at L'Arcouest, Brittany. In the face of sporadic enemy fire, he crawled through low brush in a wooded area to reach the summer house of the French physicist, Professor Frederic Joliot-Curie, the top Alsos personnel target.

Agent Beatson demonstrated this same courage, professionalism and initiative in subsequent operations, such as in Belgium on the Albert Canal in locating and recovering critically needed uranium ore, again disregarding sporadic enemy fire. He was involved in every subsequent Alsos operation, including the advance under fire into the Alpine community of Urfeldt, where Professor Werner Heisenberg, the leading German atomic scientist, was taken into custody. Finally, Agent Beatson lead a detachment of eight men in four vehicles ahead of American troops to an advance point to intercept and stall the advancing Soviet elements, thus giving Alsos members time to recover the International Radium Standards located in Weida, Germany, a community which was to be in the area of Soviet zone of occupation.

After the war, he was transferred to Los Angeles, California, where he worked in counterintelligence until his discharge in November 1945.

Agent Beatson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1989. He passed away in 1991.

For more information on the Alsos mission and Agent Beatson's role, see *The Alsos Mission*, by Boris T. Pash (1969), who commanded the mission.