

COLONEL GEORGE R. ECKMAN **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



COL George Eckman during World War II (photo taken from The Alsos Mission by Boris Pash)

An experienced newspaperman, George Eckman entered the US Army in 1940 as a Counterintelligence Specialist and quickly established himself as an outstanding intelligence professional. While on duty in the G2, Ninth Corps Area (later redesignated 4th Army and Western Defense Command), Eckman established the Seattle Field Office of the US Army Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC). He also had the added duty of providing vital security oversight for the highly classified Manhattan Project Field Office in Paseo, Washington.

COL Eckman's excellent work led COL Boris Pash to hand-select him as Executive Officer of the Alsos Mission, a special task force created and led by Pash to uncover and thwart German efforts to develop an atomic bomb. In his capacity as the Alsos Executive Officer, he was a principal force behind the planning, programming, and support to Alsos' many successful activities, which included the capture of key German scientists and nuclear

material. Because of his work, Alsos became one of the great operational intelligence successes of World War II.

Following the war, then COL Eckman was assigned to the CIC Center and School, Fort Holabird, Maryland. As Director of Training, he completely revamped counterintelligence doctrine and training to effectively meet post-war counterintelligence challenges. In late 1947, COL Eckman became the Deputy Commander of the 9970th CIC Detachment headquartered in Frankfurt, West Germany. From 1949-1952, he commanded the 108th CIC Detachment, Governor's Island, New York. From there, he transferred to Japan, where he assumed command of the 441st CIC Detachment, Far East Command.



COL Eckman, Commander, 108th CIC Detachment, 1951

On his rotation back the US in 1954, COL Eckman assumed command of Detachment M, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army. Detachment M was the title of the intelligence organization that provided security for Special Intelligence during the 1950s.

COL Eckman retired from active duty on 31 October 1958. He received the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

COL Eckman passed away in October 1971. He was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1989.

For more information on the Alsos mission and COL Eckman's role, see *The Alsos Mission*, by Boris T. Pash (Hall of Fame 1988), who commanded the mission and was one of the nominator's for COL Eckman's Hall of Fame packet.