

COLONEL BORIS T. PASH **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



COL Pash had a remarkable career in Imagery Intelligence and Human Intelligence. In 1940, he was called to active duty from his job as Assistant Boy's Vice Principal at Hollywood High School because of his reserve commission. He was assigned to the G2 Ninth Corps and then to G2 Western Defense Command and Fourth Army upon its activation.

By spring of 1943, COL Pash was the Chief of the Counter Intelligence Branch of the Western Defense Command. At the request of the Manhattan Project Commander, he began an investigation into suspected Soviet espionage activities in the Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, California.

In the fall of 1943, COL Pash was appointed to a mission to follow invading forces into France. This mission was given the codename of "Alsos," which is Greek for "grove", presumably a reference to the Manhattan Project Commander MG Leslie Groves. Pash was diverted to Italy after Rome fell in 1944 to investigate captured Italian scientists. He concluded from his investigation that the German atomic effort was not as extensive as feared.

COL Pash returned to London to rejoin his Alsos team before the invasion of France. Pash's team followed behind the advancing armies and entered Paris with the French 2nd Armored Division. They interrogated French scientists who had collaborated with the Germans. In April 1945, COL Pash led a small force behind German lines to locate German atomic scientists in the Black Forest area.

COL Pash served in the Office of Policy Coordination upon assignment to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in March 1949. He was Chief of the Programs Branch that planned operations such as promoting defections from Communist countries and facilitating the escape of political refugees.

He left the CIA in 1952 but continued to work on several projects. From 1952 to 1953, COL Pash was the Special Forces Planning Officer with US Forces Austria. He served the next three years as Chief of Counterintelligence for Sixth Army in San Francisco. He spent the last year of his military career on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Guided Missiles.

COL Pash retired in 1957 on disability due to war injuries and joined the civil service. As a Department of the Army Civilian, he served as Chief of the Eastern European and USSR Division of the Quartermaster Technical Intelligence Agency where he produced intelligence on Eastern European and Soviet developments in the Quartermaster field. He then served at the Foreign Science and Technology Center of the Army where he reviewed technological reports and USSR publications for the US Army Intelligence interests. COL Pash concluded his distinguished career of government service June 1963.

COL Pash's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Order of the British Empire, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic/Pacific Campaign Medal, the European/African/Middle East Campaign Medal, The Department of the Army General Staff Badge, the Department of Defense pin, the American Campaign Medal, the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

In 1980, COL Pash published The Alsos Mission, a book about the espionage commandos who stole Hitler's most lethal weapon.

COL Pash was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988. He passed away in May 1995 in San Francisco at the age of 94.



COL Boris T. Pash receives his Hall of Fame certificate from MG Julius Parker in 1988.



COL Boris Pash (right) in April 1945 with the Alsos Mission in Hechingen.