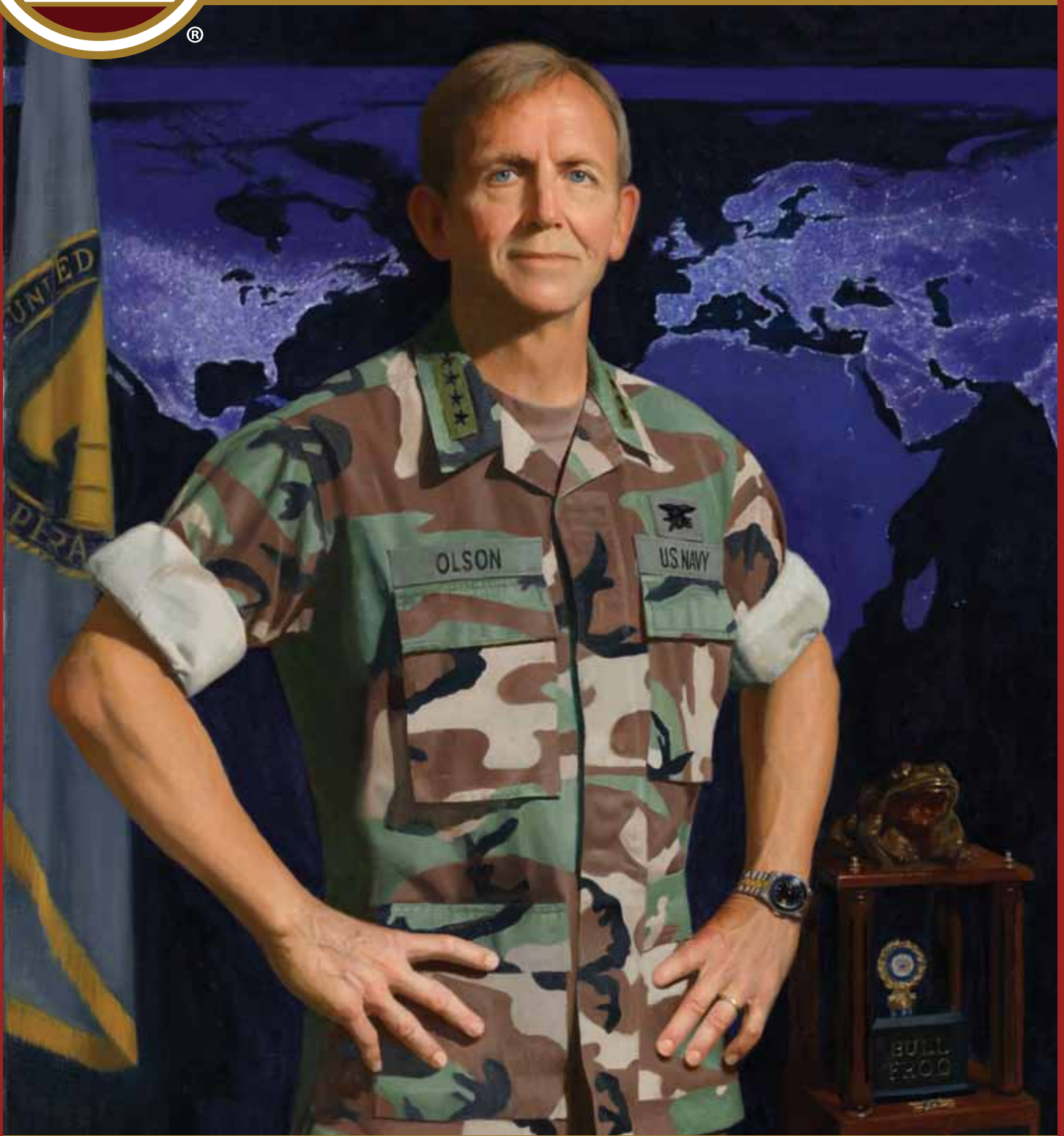


FALL 2012



THE OSS SOCIETY JOURNAL



ADMIRAL ERIC T. OLSON, USN (RET.)

2011 WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AWARD® RECIPIENT



Joe Musso Collection

John Wayne on the set of *The Sands of Iwo Jima* in 1949.

Please turn to page 26 to read Dan Gagliasso's article, "John Wayne and the OSS."



FEATURES

- 26** John Wayne and the OSS
- 34** My Cousin Rosie
- 36** Decades After Duty in the OSS and CIA, “Spy Girls” Find Each Other in Retirement
- 40** The Little Major
- 44** The Toothbrush Brigade or How I Became a Member of the OSS
- 48** Science During Crisis: The DOI Strategic Sciences Group and its OSS Inspiration
- 52** True Comics: The Secret Warriors

Cover: This is the official USSOCOM Portrait of Adm. Eric T. Olson, USN (Ret.), which was unveiled on August 8, 2011, at USSOCOM Headquarters at MacDill AFB, FL.

This portrait of Admiral Olson incorporates several symbolic details that represent elements of his life and career. The pose is his natural stance, evident as such in many photos taken during his time in command of United States Special Operations Command. The uniform he selected is the one that he wore most often—and one that was being replaced by a digital camouflage pattern as he closed out his time in service. The watch is a Rolex that was often associated with Navy SEALs in the 1970s, when he obtained his. The time on the watch is 0846 (8:46 am), the exact time on September 11th, 2001, when the first tower of the World Trade Center was struck. He wanted his wedding ring apparent, recognizing nearly 30 years of marriage to Marilyn when he retired. The main background is “The World at Night,” a slide presentation used by Admiral Olson to explain shifting strategic importance post-9/11. A few cities are slightly brighter than the others: Tacoma and New York, where Admiral and Mrs. Olson, respectively, were born; Jerusalem, where they met while serving separately on United Nations peacekeeping missions; Tunis and Cairo, where they served together; and Tampa, the home of USSOCOM. Darker than the unlit planet is Abbotabad, where Usama bin Laden hid for several years until he was killed by special operations forces near the end of Admiral Olson’s career. The flag on the left is that of United States Special Operations Command. The trophy on the right is the “Bull Frog,” an honorarium afforded the longest continuously serving SEAL. Admiral Olson held this title for his last two years of service.

Courtesy of Emerson Robbins Portrait Consultants and Jon K. Houghton



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OSS NEWS

- 3 Robert Gates to Receive the 2012 William J. Donovan Award®
- 4 Adm. Olson Receives the William J. Donovan Award®
- 7 Elizabeth McIntosh Honored by the Library of Virginia
- 8 Colonel Edwin A. Anderson Jr., USA (Ret.) Named Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment
- 9 It's an "Oh So Social" World
- 10 Ashes of Dr. Christian Lambertsen, Combat Dive Pioneer and OSS Veteran, Committed to the Sea
- 11 OSS Veterans Speak at CIA
- 12 Dr. Christian Lambertsen's Breathing Apparatus
- 13 U.S. Special Operations Command Celebrates 25th Anniversary
- 14 General Donovan's Glorious Amateurs
- 15 Walter Mess Plaza
- 16 Ferdinand Irizarry: First Civil Affairs Officer Promoted to Brigadier General
- 17 OSS Society Cited in Britain's House of Lords
- 18 M.R.D. Foot
- 20 U.S. Army Special Operations Command's VIP Entrance
- 21 OSS Artifacts
- 22 USSOCOM Welcomes New Commander
- 24 The National OSS Museum®

HISTORY

- 58 A Left-Handed OSS Caper
- 65 Remembering 109
- 66 OSS, POW, Marine and Scholar: Charlotte Chapman
- 68 Operation Oshima
- 70 Larry DeMaria Recounts the Brutality and Risks Behind Enemy Lines
- 72 Operational Group Emily

DEPARTMENTS

- 75 Book Reviews
- 90 Book Notes
- 93 Remembering OSS Veterans
- 101 In Memoriam
- 108 Help Wanted

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The OSS Society Journal is published by:

The OSS Society, Inc.
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McLean, VA 22101
703-356-6667

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