MARINE CORPS MAJOR PIERRE "PETE" ORTIZ was a Manhattan-born and Paris-educated polymath fluent in five languages. An adventuresome French Foreign Legion veteran specifically recruited by General William J. Donovan's Office of Strategic Services (the precursor to both the CIA and the U.S. special forces) upon his enlistment in the Marines, Ortiz was the officer "Wild Bill" instinctively knew he needed and could rely on to complete a string of clandestine missions behind Nazi lines.

While recuperating from gunshot wounds received during an excursion into enemy-held North Africa, Ortiz delivered his after-action report directly to Donovan in Washington. After reading it, "Wild Bill" scrawled across the top of the report: "Please re-employ this man as soon as possible." Ortiz's handlers heeded Donovan's request. Within a year, Ortiz surreptitiously parachuted into the Haute-Savoie region of occupied France, where he made contact with a branch of the French Resistance known as the Maquis.

By the time he retired as a United States Marine Corps colonel, Pete Ortiz had been awarded two Navy Crosses for extraordinary heroism in World War II. He was one of the very few U.S. Marines to serve in combat in Europe during World War II, and one of the most decorated Marine officers of the war.

BOB DRURY and **TOM CLAVIN** are the #1 *New York Times* bestselling authors of *The First to Go West; The Last Hill; Blood and Treasure; The Heart of Everything That Is; Lucky 666; Halsey's Typhoon; Last Men Out; Valley Forge;* and *The Last Stand of Fox Company,* which won the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. Award. They live in Manasquan, New Jersey, and Sag Harbor, New York, respectively.

Read by George Newbern

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