

# 1ST RANGER BATTALION

## D I A R Y

PAR# 3

June 8, 1942 - First group of officers interviewed at V Corps Headquarters at Lurgan, Northern Ireland and 34th Division Headquarters at Omagh by Major William O. Darby and Colonel Hayford. Major William O. Darby, O-19133 FA detailed in addition to his other duties as Commanding Officer 1st Ranger Battalion (Prov) with station at Carrickfergus, N.I.

June 9 - Interviews of officers continued at USANIBC at Wilmont. Orders received from V Army Corps directing first group of officers to temporary duty with 1st Ranger Battalion (Prov) at Carrickfergus, N.I.

June 10 - Following named officers detailed on temporary duty with 1st Ranger Battalion (Prov) per par 2, Special Order #9 Hq USANIF & V Army Corps (Reinf), dated June 10, 1942.

Capt. Herman W. Dammer	O-389797	CAC	209th CA (AA)
Capt. Alvah M. Miller	O-352040	CAC	209th CA (AA)
Capt. Stephen J. Meade	O-331376	CAC	103rd Sep CA Bn
Capt. William E. Martin	O-370069	FA	Hq Btry, 34th Div Arty
Capt. Roy A. Murray	O-302782	Inf	133rd Inf
1st Lt. Willis R. Hale	O-341827	CE	112th Eng
1st Lt. Gordon L. Klefman	O-325561	FA	151st Fa
1st Lt. Leonard F. Dirks	O-386526	Inf	133rd Inf.
1st Lt. Earl L. Carran	O-414866	CAC	103rd Sep CA Bn
1st Lt. Axel W. Anderson	O-395063	QMC	22nd QM (Car) Co
1st Lt. Frederic F. Ahlgren	O-402388	FA	151st FA
1st Lt. Walter F. Nye	O-405343	Inf	133rd Inf
1st Lt. Max F. Schneider	O-384849	Inf	168th Inf
1st Lt. Dean A. Knudson	O-391246	Inf	168th Inf
1st Lt. Edwin M. Olsen	O-410103	FA	Hq Btry, 34th Div Arty
1st Lt. William B. Lanning	O-382657	Cav	13th Armd Regt
1st Lt. William A. Jarrett	O-420951	MC	53rd Med Bn
1st Lt. Robert Flanagan	O-367706	Ord	Maint Bn, 1st Armd Div
2nd Lt. James W. Jensen	O-405081	SC	Hq USANIF & V Army Corps
2nd Lt. Joseph H. Randall	O-418342	Inf	168th Inf
2nd Lt. Robert W. Conwell	O-391975	Inf	168th Inf
2nd Lt. Thomas N. Holt	O-422344	Inf	135th Inf
2nd Lt. Edwin V. Loustalot	O-395585	CE	112th Eng
2nd Lt. William C. Davison	O-397741	Cav	13th Armd Regt
2nd Lt. James J. Larkin	O-434034	CAC	209th CA (AA)
2nd Lt. Howard W. Karbel	O-452720	Inf	168th Inf
2nd Lt. Frederick J. Saam	O-393792	CE	112th Eng.
2nd Lt. Donald L. Nabity	O-379471	Inf	133rd Inf
2nd Lt. Charles M. Shunstrom	O-452096	Inf	133rd Inf

Above named officers arrived at Carrickfergus.

- June 11 - First group of volunteers (300 EM) arrived from 34th Division.
- June 12 - Enlisted volunteers from 1st Armored Division arrived. Lt. Jensen relieved and returned to old organization.
- June 13 - 2nd Lt. George P. Sunshine, O-450919, SC, detailed from 203rd Signal Depot Company.
- June 14 - Completion of intake of volunteers. 575 volunteers. Men interviewed by boards of officers.
- June 15 - Interviewing continued. Transportation received (9 1/4 ton "peeps"). 104 reflects returned to old organizations. Companies organized and assigned to areas. Six boards of officers on recruiting tour to 34th Div and 1st Armd Div.
- June 16 - Further recruiting and interviewing.
- June 17 - Enlisted men medically examined.
- June 18 - 1st Lt. Leilyn M. Young O-389005 Inf 133rd Inf.  
2nd Lt. Robert L. Johnson O-374824 Inf 135th Inf.

Above officers joined this date. Medical exams completed.

- June 19 - The 1st Ranger Battalion activated this date by General Order No. 7, Headquarters USANIF & V Army Corps (Reinf). The following detachment of 7 Officers and 12 Enlisted Men detailed to temporary duty with 2nd Canadian Division, Cowes, Isle of Wight, England for attachment to British troops for training.

1st Lt Frederic F. Ahlgren	O-402388
1st Lt. Walter F. Nye	O-405343
1st Lt. William B. Lanning	O-382657
1st Lt. James B. Lyle	O-452005
1st Lt. Leilyn M. Young	O-389005
2nd Lt. Frederick J. Saam	O-393792
2nd Lt. Robert L. Johnson	O-374824

St Sgt Clyde A. Dahlquist	20707472
St Sgt William M. Musegades	20708273
Sgt Joseph Dye	6663075
Sgt William J. Huckle	20703132
Sgt Ernest R. Jensen	37042164
Sgt Walter Klebanski	6838897
Sgt Edwin Mahoney	15041616
Sgt Garrett J. Rensink	37042068
Sgt Clyde C. Thompson	15041502
Sgt John R. Van Skoy	6660669
Corp William E. Arimond	20712931
Corp James R. Haines	32114616

June 20 & 21 - Final selection of enlisted personnel made and submitted to Headquarters USANIF & V Army Corps (Reinf) for transfer.

June 22 - 488 Enlisted Men transferred to the new organization per par 1, Special Order #20 Headquarters USANIF & V Army Corps (Reinf) dated June 22, 1942. Innoculations and primer injections given. Enlisted personnel to form the battalion were drawn from a group of volunteers as shown on the following table:

ORGANIZATION	T/SGT	1ST SGT	S/SGT	SGT	CORP	T/5	PVT1CL	PVT	TOTAL
133rd Inf.			2	9	12		19	33	75
135th Inf.			3	13	10	1	12	30	69
168th Inf.	1		6	20	9		12	23	71
209th CA (AA)			1		3		6	18	28
396th QM							1		1
94th QM								1	1
68th FA				1	3	5	5	5	19
125th FA	1			1	3		2	3	10
175th FA			1	1	1		2	6	11
109th Eng				1	1		3	7	12
203rd Sig								1	1
151st FA Bn					2		1	10	13
1st Armd Regt				3	2	6	6	14	31
13th Armd Regt			1	5	1	2	1	11	21
6th Armd Inf.				2	3	2	4	19	30
397th Eng								1	1
63rd Sig Bn								1	1
16th Armd Eng				1	2	2	1	6	12
91st FA						3	4	1	8
185th FA Bn				2	1		2	5	10
103rd CA Bn				1	1		2	8	12
53rd Med Bn		1					1	4	6
106th CA Bn					2		3	4	9
81st Recon Bn							3	7	10
701st Tank Dest Bn								1	1
5th Genl Hosp								3	3
27th FA Bn							1	6	7
14th Ord Co				1					1
Maint. Bn 1st Armd Div			1						1
Supply Bn 1st Armd Div				1					1
47th Med Bn					1			1	2
10th Sta Hosp								1	1
34th Div FA								6	6
Hq ETOUSA	1	1							2
	3	2	15	62	57	21	91	237	488

June 23 - Spent in issuing arms, clothing and equipment.

June 24 - Day spent in clothing and equipping. Major William O. Darby, O-19133 FA assigned as Battalion Commander effective June 19, 1942. 26 Officers on temporary duty with the battalion since June 10, assigned by par 6, Special Order No. 22, Hq USANIF & V Army Corps (Reinf), dated June 24, 1942. Assignment effective June 19, 1942 as shown below:

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer - Major William O. Darby  
Executive Officer - Captain Herman W. Dammer  
Adjutant - 2nd Lt Howard W. Karbel  
Supply Officer - 1st Lt. Axel W. Anderson  
Medical Officer - 1st Lt. William A. Jarrett

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Commanding Officer - 1st Lt. Gordon L. Klefman  
Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. Frederick J. Saam  
Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. George P. Sunshine

COMPANY "A"

Commanding Officer - Capt. Stephen J. Meade  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Earl L. Carran  
Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. Robert L. Johnson

COMPANY "B"

Commanding Officer - 1st Lt. Alfred H. Nelson  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Dean H. Knudson  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Leilyn M. Young

COMPANY "C"

Commanding Officer - Capt. William E. Martin  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. William E. Lanning  
Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. Charles M. Shunstrom

COMPANY "D"

Commanding Officer - Capt. Alvah M. Miller  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Frederic F. Ahlgren  
Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. William C. Davison

COMPANY "E"

Commanding Officer - 1st Lt Max F. Schneider  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Robert Flanagan  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. James B. Lyle

COMPANY "F"

Commanding Officer - Capt. Roy A. Murray  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Walter F. Nye  
Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Edwin V. Loustalot

June 25 - Brigadier Leycock, G.O.C. Special Service Brigade, Lt. Col. Glendenning, Executive SS Brigade and Capt Hunt, Staff Capt Supply, reviewed and inspected troops at Carrickfergus.

June 26 - Spent in clothing and equipping.

June 27 - 4 officer attached for temporary duty and assigned as shown below:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Platoon Leader - 1st Lt. Edward M. Olson

Company "A"

Platoon Leader - 2nd Lt. James J. Larkin

Company "D"

Platoon Leader - 2nd Lieut. Joseph H. Randall

Company "F"

Platoon Leader - 1st Lieut. Leonard F. Dirks

June 28 - Advance party consisting of 2 officers and 7 Enlisted Men left Sunnyland Camp, Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland for Achnacarry, Scotland via Larne and Stranraer.

June 29 - Arrival of advance detail at Commando Depot, Achnacarry, Scotland. Preparation for departure of main body. Lts. Holt, Nabity, and Hale and Conwell returned to original organizations.

June 30 - Companies A, B and C left Sunnyland Camp for Achnacarry.

July 1 - Companies A, B and C arrived Commando Depot at 5:00 AM - Battalion Commander, with Adjutant and enlisted men of transportation and personnel sections left Sunnyland Camp at 5:00 AM and arrived Commando Depot at 9:00 PM.

July 2 - Companies D, E and F and Hq, left Sunnyland Camp for Achnacarry.

July 3 - Companies D, E, F, and Hq arrived Commando Depot.



- July 4 - Started on training program.
- July 5 - Continuance of training program.
- July 6 - Program temporarily halted to make preparation for visit of inspection by G.O.C. Scottish Command.
- July 7 - Demonstrations by all companies for Lt. General Thorn.
- July 8 to 10 - Program continued.
- July 11 - Seven Officers and twelve enlisted men on temporary duty with 2nd Canadian Division returned to duty with this Battalion.
- July 12 - Training continued. Private Lamont D. Hoctel, 35170079, Company "E", drowned during stream crossing exercise.
- July 13 to 18 - Program continued.
- July 19 - Inspection by Major General RUSSELL P. HARTLE, Commanding V Army Corps (Reing)
- July 20 to 31 - Program of instruction continued and brought to conclusion.
- August 1 - Detachment of 4 officers and 40 Enlisted Men sent on detached service to Nos. 3 and 4 Commandos for Dieppe operation. See attached copies Special Orders #13, para. 16 and 17.
- Battalion moved by rail and motor to vicinity Dorlin House, Argyle, Scotland, for period of instruction under control Royal Navy. Companies A and B located at Roshven, Companies C and D at Glenborrodale, Companies E and F at Glencripesdale and Headquarters Company at Salen and Shielbridge.
- August 2 - Day spent in settling in new locations.
- August 3 to 31 - Training in landing operations using R boats, drifters, cobbles and cutters.
- August 15 - Two officers and four Enlisted Men sent on detached service to Farnham, England for Dieppe operation. See attached copy Special Orders #20, para 1.
- August 19 - Six officers and forty-four enlisted men participated in raid on Dieppe, France with #3 and #4 Commando and with 2nd Canadian Division.

MISSING: 2nd Lt EDWIN V. LOUSTALOT, 0395585, Co "B"  
 2nd Lt JOSEPH H. RANDALL, 0418342, Co "D"  
 Sgt ALBERT T. JACOBSEN, 37042277, Co "B"  
 Pvtlcl WALTER A. BRESNAHAN, 36131288, Co "B"  
 Pvtlcl EDWIN R. FURRU, 20714853, Co "B"  
 Sgt LLOYD N. CHURCH, 20705919, Co "A"  
 Tech 4th Gr HOWARD M. HENRY, 35125112, Co "E"

WOUNDED: Sgt John J. Knapp, 20706608, Co "C"  
Sgt Kenneth G. Kenyon, 2070950, Co "D"  
Tech 4th Gr Marcell G. Swank, 20706985, Hq Co  
Pvtlcl Erwin J. Moger, 36209900, Co "A"  
Pvtlcl Charles Reilly, 20253106, Co "E"  
Pvtlcl Stanley Bush, 36102067, Co "F"

See also attached copy "Report of Action".

- Sept 1 to 2 - Preparation for movement.
- Sept 3 - Battalion moved by rail to Dundee, Scotland. Organization billeted with families in town.
- Sept 4 to 23 - Training at Dundee. Opportunity taken to work with #1 Commando, under command of Lt Col T. TREVOR, Welsh Guards. Emphasis laid on schemes of attack on pill-boxes, AA sites and seacoast defence batteries.
- Sept 11 - Pvt James R. Ruschkewicz, 36165787, Company "C" was killed and Pvt Aaron M. Salkin, 33068148, Co "C" severely injured in accidental explosion of land mine at Barry rifle range near Dundee.
- Sept 24 - Battalion moved by rail, to Corkerhill Camp, vicinity of Glasgow, Scotland. Assigned to II Army Corps and attached to 1st Infantry Division. Attached for administration and supply to 18th Combat Team.
- Sept 25 to Oct 12 - Training vicinity Corkerhill Camp. Preparation for operations.
- Oct 13 - Battalion moved by rail to Gourock, Scotland. Embarked Companies A and B on HMS "Royal Scotsman", C and D on HMS "Ulster Monarch" and E, F and Hq on HMS "Royal Ulsterman".
- Oct 14 - 16 - In Clyde area. Preparation for exercise "Mosstrooper".
- Oct 17 - Ships left Clyde for Loch Linnhe.
- Oct 18 - 19 - Exercise "Mosstrooper".
- Oct 20 - Back to Clyde.
- Oct 21 to 25 - Final preparation for operation "Torch".
- Oct 26 - Sailed from Clyde in convoy of 41 ships, excluding escort.
- Nov 5 - Put in at Gibraltar to tank up on oil and water.
- Nov 8 - Battalion landed at 0130 hours in attack on French North Africa as shown on attached overlay. Objective of Force A and B under Major Dammer, the two 75mm gun battery. Objective of the battalion, less A and B, under Lt Col Darby, the four 105mm battery on hill. Surprise complete, operation very successful. Approximately 300 prisoners taken.

Company C sent on mission of protection of 1st Division Headquarters in afternoon, this date.

Nov 8 (Cont'd)

Company E placed in reserve of 18th CT.

Nov 9 - Company C relieved of protection of Division Headquarters and attached to 18th CT. Assigned mission of blocking road south of St. Cloud to prevent

DEAD - November 8 and 9:

1st Lt Gordon L. Klefman, 0325561, Company "C"  
Pvtlcl George W. Grisamer, 36153957, Company "B"  
Tech 4th Gr Elmer I. Eskola, 20707902, Company "C"  
Pvtlcl Alder L. Nystrom, 37037106, Company "C"

WOUNDED - November 8 and 9:

Pvtlcl Innes A. Jernberg, 39086331, Company "F"  
1st Lt Earl L. Carran, 0414866, Company "B"  
Corp Melvin P. Gramke, 20703167, Company "E"  
Pvtlcl Clinton L. Westrum, 20714914, Company "C"  
Pvtlcl James O. Edwards, 33031650, Company "C"  
Pvtlcl Charles F. Grandt, 34146593, Company "C"  
Corp Gilbert E. Wilson, 35021630, Company "C"  
Pvt Allan E. Swanson, 20712877, Company "C"  
Pvtlcl Burton D. Boudreau, 20700532, Company "C"

See attached "Report of Action".

Nov 10 - Battalion relieved of attachment to 1st Division and placed in II Army Corps reserve. Lt. Col. Darby appointed Town Major. Battalion employed in guarding prisoners, gun positions, hospitals and providing security for town of Arzew. Office of Town Major dealing with problems of administration of town.

2nd Lt. Warren E. Evans 0885703 appointed from M/Sgt per par 1, SO 256 Hq II Corps, 20 Dec. 1942.



Nov 11 to Dec 15 - Pursued duties of security of Arzew. Training along all lines.  
Boat training with 561st Boat Maintenance Regiment.

Dec 16 - Inspection and review by and for Major General Fredendall, Commanding General, II Army Corps, preceded by problem vicinity Car Carbon. Sgt's Kenyon, and Swank, Pvt's Edwards and Bush decorated with Purple Heart for wounds received at Dieppe, France.

Dec 19 - Lt Col Darby and Major Dammer left by plane from Taferoui for Algiers. Reported to Col Partridge, G-3. Received plans for "Peashooter" show.

Dec 27 - Battalion less rear echelon embarked on HMS "Queen Emma" for dry run in preparation for Galita exercise (Peashooter).

Jan 2 - Received word that Galita exercise called off. Battalion disembarked.

Jan 3 - 16 - Normal training activities vicinity of Arzew.

Jan 17 - Assigned to Fifth Army.

Jan 18 - Assigned to Fifth Army Invasion Training Center as demonstration and experimental troops.

Jan 31 - Seven Officers and 101 Enlisted men reported for duty as replacements. See Attached list. Company G, established as training company. Lt's Lyle, Nye, and Knudson appointed instructors.

Feb 7 - Battalion relieved from assignment to Fifth Army and duty with Invasion Training Center and moved by plane to Tebessa. Moved by truck to Hq II Corps about 5 miles east of Tebessa.

Feb 9 - Moved by truck to Fagga. Mission of the battalion given as harassing, raiding and reconnaissance. Capt Jacob, Lt's Knudson and Lanning relieved from Battalion for physical reasons. Lt Lyle assigned to command Company "G".

Feb 11 - 12 - Raid on Italian positions NW of Sened Station. See attached report of action.

Feb 13 - Following Officers and men decorated with Silver Star by Major General Fredendall:

Lt Col Darby	Sgt McCollam
Maj Dammer	T/5 Low
Lt Dirks	T/5 Sweazey
Capt Murray	Pfc Dean
Capt Schneider	Pfc Dye
Sgt Heacock	Pvt Ferrier
Pfc Nixon	Sgt. Rensink

CONTINUED:

Feb 13 - 1st Sgt. Lester A Kness and Staff Sgt. Walter J. Wojcik appointed  
2nd Lt's.  
1st Lt Dirks appointed Captain.

Feb 14 to Mar 1 - See attached Report of action.

Mar 2 to Mar 13 - Rest and re-fitting at Le Kouif.

Mar 14 to Apr 10 - See attached Report of Action.

Apr 12 - Father Basil left the Battalion to report back to Special Services  
Brigade (British).

Apr 15 - Company E relieved from guard of II Corps Headquarters.

Apr 17 - Battalion moved by truck to Ouled Rahmoun.

Apr 18 - Battalion entrained at Ouled Rahmoun, for Nemours.

Apr 22 - Arrived at Nemours.

May 4 - 36 officers reported for duty. See attached copies Special Orders 115 and 117, Hq 1st Replacement Depot.

May 5 - 185 enlisted men reported for duty. See attached copy Transfer List 118 Hq 1st Replacement Depot.

May 7 - Training begun on new intake.

May 11 - 79 Enlisted Men assigned and joined.

May 15 - 118 Enlisted Men assigned and joined.

May 20 - 172 Enlisted Men assigned and joined.