

## Ranger Units

A total of six Ranger battalions were activated during World War II. In accordance with Table of Organization and Equipment 7-, Ranger Each of the six Ranger battalions consisted of a headquarters company and six Ranger rifle companies.

### 1st Ranger Battalion

On 26 May 1942, while serving in a liaison capacity with the British General Staff, Major General Lucian K. Truscott submitted proposals to the Chief of the Staff of the Army, General George C. Marshall, recommending that the Army create an American unit similar to that of the British Commandos. Shortly thereafter the War Department authorized the establishment of what became the 1st Ranger Battalion.

Under the command of then Captain William O. Darby (quickly promoted Major then Lieutenant Colonel), the unit was formally activated on 19 June 1942 as the 1st Ranger Battalion. Almost immediately, some 600 volunteers commenced intensive training at the British commando training facility at Achnacarry, Scotland. Of the original 600 volunteers, 500 successfully completed the training and associated training exercises.

On 1 August 1943 the unit was redesignated the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion.

The 1st Ranger Battalion was deactivated on 15 August 1944, following its participation in the Anzio landings and subsequent battle at Cisterna, Italy.

Burgess, Willis C.	Box 1	PVT	Company D	Photocopy of Honorable Discharge and Enlisted Record and Report of Separation forms, German map and biographic and military service information provided by relatives
Bonzek, Joseph W.	Box 1	T/5	Company E	Survey
Blum, Gilbert T.	Box 1	PVT	Company B	Survey
Davis, Arnold E.	Box 1	PFC	Company E	Survey
Davis, Howard C.	Box 1	PFC	Headquarters Company	Two surveys
Eineichner, Clarence W.	Box 1	T/2	Unidentified unit	Survey and photocopies of official correspondence and telegrams regarding his status as a POW
Ehalt, Robert E.	Box 1	MSG	Company E	Survey
Holt, Thomas M.	Box 1	LTC	Company C	Two surveys, biographical sketch and information sheets, "American Prisoners of War in Germany," prepared by the Military Intelligence Service, regarding OFLAG

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Hummer, John F.	Box 1	MAJ	Company C	Survey
Jordan, Harold B.	Box 1	T/4	Headquarters Company	Survey
Katzen, Murray A.	Box 1	T/5	Company B	Survey
Kness, Lester E.	Box 1	CPT	Company E;	Survey
Leighton, Charles F.	Box 1	SGT	Company E	[See: 34th Infantry Division; 109th Engineer Combat Battalion]
Marino, Frank C.	Box 1	T/4	Company E	[See: 4th Ranger Battalion]
Mercuriali, Gino	Box 1	2LT	Company D	Survey, informal military service record, completed questionnaire prepared for a University of Central Arkansas student, roster of 1st Ranger Battalion casualties, brief biographical sketch of Captain Ralph Colby, reflections, "Service with the Rangers," and several newspaper and magazine clippings
Metzgar, Raymond J.	Box 1	SSG	Unidentified unit	Survey and a summary of his military service
Reed, Robert J.	Box 1	SSG	Headquarters, Medical Detachment	Survey, post-World War II letter expressing opposition to wars in general and the citation for the award of his Silver Star
Ruona, Wayne A.	Box 1	SSG	Company B	Two surveys
Ruppert, Leo A.	Box 1	LTC	Company C	Survey
Ryan, Stephen F.	Box 1	CPL	Company B	Survey
Schunemann, Gustave E.	Box 1	SGM	Company F	Survey and typed memoir, "Memoirs of a Ranger"
Sommers, Sheldon C.	Box 1	CPT	Headquarters, Medical Detachment	Two surveys
Stealey, Richard E.	Box 1	CPL	Company B	Two surveys
Thiel, Robert	Box 1	CPL	Company A	Survey

**2d Ranger Battalion**

The 2nd Ranger Battalion was constituted on 11 March 1943 in the Army of the United States. Subsequently, the battalion was activated on 1 April 1943, at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. On 1 August 1943 the unit was redesignated the 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion. Upon completion of its training in both the United States and England, the battalion subsequently participated in the D-Day landings on Omaha Beach.

After driving across central Europe and participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Huertgen Forest, the 2d Ranger Battalion was deactivated on 22 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

Aeaney, William G.	Box 1	CPT	Unidentified unit	Survey
Appell, Herbert R.	Box 1	PFC	Company B	Survey
Bargmann, Kenneth H.	Box 1	T/4	Company E	Survey
Burmester, Warren D.	Box 1	SGT	Company A	Survey
Cobb, Madison B.	Box 1	CPL	Company F	Survey, photocopies of Honorable Discharge" and "Separation Qualification Record" and newspaper clippings
Gillespie, Robert E.	Box 1	T/5	Company F	Survey
Goranson, Ralph E.	Box 1	MAJ	Company C	Survey, transcribed oral history, flyer, "D-Day, The Ranger" and "Contribution," and photocopy of Major John W. Nicholson's <i>Infantry</i> article, "Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944: Lessons from Company C, 2d Ranger Battalion"
Gurney, Edward L.	Box 1	T/2	Headquarters Company	Survey
Kent, George R.	Box 1	T/2	Company F	Survey
Kerchner, George F.	Box 1	CPT	Company D	Survey
Klaus, William V.	Box 1	1SG	Company D; Company A	Survey
Koenig, Harvey W.	Box 1	T/2	Company D	Survey
Liscinsky, Stephen A.	Box 1	T/4	Headquarters Company	Survey
Mains, Clifton E.	Box 1	T/2	Company E	Survey
McClure, Kendall B.	Box 1	CPT	Company D	Survey
Miner, William P.	Box 1	SGT	Company B	Survey
Moore, Thomas F.	Box 1	SGT	Company B	Survey
Mortensen, Charles H.	Box 1	MSG	Company C	Survey

Moss, Milton N.	Box 2	SGT	Company F	Two surveys
O'Connor, Edward J.	Box 2	SSG	Company A	Survey
Patrick, James K., Jr.	Box 2	SSG	Company E; Headquarters Company	Survey
Salomon, Sidney A.	Box 2	CPT	Company C; Company B	Three surveys, typed memoirs, "C for Charley," photographs taken during the 35th anniversary of the D-Day landings, dates and locations of Company B, two maps depicting the location of Company B during the drive across Europe, and a unit history, written by Sidney Salomon, <i>2nd U.S. Ranger Infantry Battalion</i> [Photographs transferred to the photographic holdings; unit history transferred to the Library holdings]
Shirey, Robert F.	Box 2	T/4	Headquarters Company	Survey
South, Frank E.	Box 2	SGT	Headquarters, Medical Detachment	Two surveys

### **3d Ranger Battalion**

Based on the successes of the 1st Ranger Battalion in North Africa, then Chief of Staff of the Army General George C. Marshall authorized the creation of two additional Ranger battalions on 19 April 1943. The two battalions subsequently were designated the 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions.

Initially organized in North Africa as the 3d Ranger Battalion (Provisional) on 21 May 1943, the unit was activated on 25 May 1943 as the 3d Ranger Battalion. The battalion was manned with new volunteers, as well as Companies A and B of the 1st Ranger Battalion. On 1 August 1943 the battalion was redesignated the 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion.

The 3d Ranger Battalion was inactivated on 15 August 1944, following its participation in the Anzio landings and subsequent battle at Cisterna, Italy.

Eineichner, Clarence W.	Box 2	T/2	Headquarters Company	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]
Fox, William J.	Box 2		Company E	Survey
Haas, Herbert N.	Box 2	SFC	Company A	Survey

Hall, George W.	Box 2	CPL	Company D	Survey and typed transcript of an oral history, "Ranger Scout: The George W. "Jack" Hall Story"
Kasoff, Herman V.	Box 2	PFC	Company C	Survey
Katzen, Murray A.	Box 2	T/5	Unidentified unit	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]
Mitchell, Peronneau	Box 2	LTC	Headquarters Company	Survey and handwritten recollections of his military service
Prochak, John M.	Box 2	SGT	Company E	Two surveys and roster of the Steel Valley Chapter of American Ex Prisoners of War
Reed, Robert J.	Box 2	SSG	Headquarters, Medical Detachment	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]
Romine, Micky T.	Box 2	T/5	Company A	Survey
Ruona, Wayne A.	Box 2	SSG	Company C	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]
Sabine, George G.	Box 2	SGT	Company F	Survey
Stealey, Richard E.	Box 2	CPL	Company D	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]

#### **4th Ranger Battalion**

Based on the successes of the 1st Ranger Battalion in North Africa, then Chief of Staff of the Army General George C. Marshall authorized the activation of two additional Ranger battalions on 19 April 1943. The two battalions subsequently were designated the 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions.

Originally organized in North Africa as the 4th Ranger Battalion (Provisional) on 20 May 1943, the unit was activated on 8 June 1943 as the 4th Ranger Battalion. The battalion was manned with new volunteers, as well as Companies E and F of the 1st Ranger Battalion. On 1 August 1943 the battalion was redesignated the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion.

The battalion was inactivated on 24 October 1944, following its participation in the Anzio landings and subsequent battle at Cisterna, Italy.

Houston, William J.	Box 2	PFC	Company A; Company E	Survey
Kness, Lester E.	Box 2	CPT	Company A	[See: 1st Ranger Battalion]
Lavin, James J.	Box 2	CPT	Headquarters Company	Survey
Marino, Frank C.	Box 2	T/4	Company C; Headquarters Company	Survey
Upton, Alfred A.	Box 2	SGT	Company E	Survey

**5th Ranger Battalion**

The 5th Ranger Battalion was constituted in the Army of the United States on 21 July 1943. On 1 August 1943 the unit was redesignated the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion. The battalion was activated a month later, on 1 September 1943, at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Upon completion of its training, especially amphibious training, in both the United States and England, the battalion subsequently participated in D-Day landing on Omaha Beach.

After driving across central Europe and participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Huertgen Forest, the battalion was deactivated on 22 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

Beccue, Gale B.	Box 2	SSG	Company E	Three surveys
Bidwell, John L.	Box 2	SSG	Company C	Survey and photocopy of Yank article, "Ranger Reconversion," by Sergeant Debs Myers
Boyd, William E.	Box 2	SSG	Company E	Survey
Burke, John L.	Box 2	SSG	Company A; Headquarters Company	Survey
Butrico, Nichola F.	Box 2	SGT	Company A	Survey
Cardinali, Peter L.	Box 2	SSG	Company B	Survey
Fast, Victor H.	Box 2	T/2	Headquarters Company; Company E	Four surveys
Glassman, Henry S.	Box 2	SGT	Headquarters Company	Survey
Gray, Cecil E.	Box 2	SGT	Company E	Survey
Haight, Lewis J.	Box 2	CPL	Company E	Survey
Herder, Harry J., Jr.	Box 2	PFC	Company C	Survey and typed memoir, "A Catharsis"
Herlihy, Raymond M.	Box 2	1LT	Headquarters; Company D	Survey
Herring, Thomas E.	Box 2	SSG	Company C	Survey
Hilsman, Joseph H.	Box 2	CPT	Headquarters, Battalion Surgeon	Survey
Holloway, Eugene	Box 2	PFC	Company A	Survey
Kidwell, James E.	Box 2	T/5	Company D	Two surveys
MacDonald, Howard A.	Box 3	1SG	Company F	Survey

Miller, Victor J.	Box 3	SSG	Company E	Survey, collection of photocopied letters from 1943 through 1945, Company E's "Report of Operations Against Enemy Pillboxes" dated 21 September 1944, poems, "A Ranger's Prayer," "Dufflebags," and "The Pillbox," proposed article for the <i>Reader's Digest</i> , "When Did You Leave St. Avold?," transcriptions of remarks, "POW?MIA," and "Why Is a POW," and assorted correspondence with the War Claims Commission and the Veterans Administration
Mischke, Arden V.	Box 3	SSG	Company D	Typed memoirs, "5th Ranger Bn, D"
Nelson, Donald T.	Box 3	SGT	Company E	Survey
O'Brien, John K.	Box 3	PFC	Company D	Survey and photocopies of Honorable Discharge and Enlisted Record and Report of Separation
Owen, David E.	Box 3	PFC	Company E	Survey
Peseroff, Roy I.	Box 3	SGT	Company C	Survey
Raaen, John C., Jr.	Box 3	MG	Headquarters Company	Survey and typed memoir, "Sir, the 5th Rangers Have Landed Intact"
Reville, John J.	Box 3	CPT	Company F	Two surveys
Runge, William M.	Box 3	MAJ	Company F	Two surveys and photocopies of several photographs
Scarborough, John J.	Box 3	T/4	Headquarters Company	Survey
Uman, Floyd A.	Box 3	SSG	Company D	Survey

### **6th Ranger Battalion**

The 6th Ranger Battalion had its origins in the 98th Field Artillery Battalion, a mule-drawn, pack artillery unit. After arriving at Port Moresby, New Guinea on 17 February 1943, the artillery unit spent the next year training, but never engaged in combat. Accordingly, Sixth Army decided that the unit was obsolete and transferred its 800 mules to the China-Burma-Indian (CBI) Theater.

With the loss of the unit's mules and the arrival of a new battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Mucci, the unit underwent conversion into a Ranger battalion. On 25 September 1944 the unit was designated the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion.

After participating in the Philippines Campaign and successfully conducting the Cabanatuan Raid which resulted in the release of 521 prisoners of war, most having survived the Bataan Death March, the unit was inactivated on 30 December 1945.

Garrett, Robert W.	Box 3	MAJ	Headquarters, Executive Officer	Notebook with some entries
Malatesta, Joseph R.	Box 3	SSG	Company E	Survey, one-page unit history, "6th Ranger Bn," photocopy of the battalion's chronological order of events, and Eulogio Eleazar's October 1995 <i>Filipinas</i> article, "Prelude to the Leyte Landing: Raiders of Desolation Point"
Meany, Owen M.	Box 3	PFC	Company D	Survey, copy of the battalion's chronological order of events, 19 September 1994 Hillsboro Journal article, "Philippine Invasion Commemorated by 6th Ranger Battalion," and copies of photographs
Milaschewski, Howard	Box 3	T/2	Unidentified unit	Survey
Prince, Robert W.	Box 3	MAJ	Headquarters; Company C	Survey
Proudfit, William H.	Box 3	CPL	Company F	Survey
Rowzee, Homer H.	Box 3	SSG	Company A	Survey
Sharp, Rex T.	Box 3	SSG	Company B	Survey
Strausbaugh, Leo V.	Box 3	COL	Company B	Survey, copy of the battalion's chronological order of events, newspaper clippings, and extracts from <i>Commandos and Rangers of World War II</i>
Vanderson, William J.	Box 3	SGT	Headquarters Company	survey