



du-Hoc and Ouistreham. The initial COSSAC plan from August 1943 proposed the use of one US parachute battalion and two Ranger battalions in the Grandcamp area, with the paratroopers assigned to neutralize the Pointe-du-Hoc battery while the Rangers would deal with the two batteries near Maisy. Over the next few months, however, these plans were refined as more intelligence was gathered from France. Information from the French resistance indicated that the Pointe-du-Hoc battery was a dedicated coastal defense unit armed with potent 155mm GPF (*Grand Puissance Filloux*: High-Powered Filloux) guns, while the neighboring Maisy batteries were divisional artillery batteries armed with less formidable weapons incapable of reaching either the Omaha or Utah Transport Areas. This assessment was further reinforced when the Pointe-du-Hoc battery began extensive fortification in the summer and autumn of 1943. As a result, attention began to center on Pointe-du-Hoc and the associated radar station located on the coast 2½ miles east near Le Guay. Both sites were troublesome for planners, as they were located 90–120ft over the sea on the cliffs so common in this region of Normandy. Assault from the landward side by airborne forces was problematic due to the extent of German defenses against such a threat, including extensive minefields and anti-glider obstacles.

LIEUTENANT AND MIDSHIPMEN: UNIFORMS, WEAPONS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Lieutenants wore a blue coat with white piping on the lapels, three buttons with one row of white piping on the cuffs, blue collar with white piping and no epaulettes. From 1812, lieutenants wore a single plain epaulette on the right shoulder, while commanders wore two, also plain, but with bullion around the edges. Sub-lieutenants, a rank introduced in 1804, were dressed as lieutenants, while midshipmen had no lapels, three buttons on their cuffs, a blue collar with white collar patch and no epaulettes. A lieutenant often carried a swagger stick.



As a result, the plans were in a state of flux through late 1943. Although there were some arguments about the best methods of attacking the batteries, there were no doubts that it was vital to eliminate them prior to the main landings.

The Raiding Force [A-head]

The initial assault on Beach Charlie was assigned to the 2nd Rangers, in two groups. The main raid against Pointe-du-Hoc was assigned to Ranger Force A consisting of Assault Cos. D, E, and F. Force B consisting of C/2nd Rangers, had the separate mission of landing on the right side of the 116th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) near the Vierville draw, and advancing overland along the top of the bluffs to assault the German strongpoints on the Point-et-Raz-de-la-Percée, which posed a dangerous threat of enfilade fire against the eastern side of Omaha Beach. It would then continue to march overland to Pointe-du-Hoc, eliminating the radar station at Le Guay in the process. The 116th RCT consisted of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division, along with its supporting units such as the 743rd Tank Battalion, and was commanded by Col. Charles Canham; it was initially under the command of the 1st Infantry Division.

If the initial assault on Pointe-du-Hoc succeeded, Force A would be followed by Lt. Col. Max Schneider's Force C, which consisted of the 5th Rangers, along with the remaining Cos. A and B from 2nd Rangers. If the

In an LCA in Weymouth harbor on June 4, we see troops of E/5th Rangers, including Sgt. Sandy Martin (upper left), Sgt. Joseph Markowitz (upper right), Cpl. John Loshavio (lower right), and Pvt. Frank Lockwood (lower left). (NARA)

OPPOSITE
Sgt. Joseph Markowitz (upper right), Cpl. John Loshavio (lower right), and Pvt. Frank Lockwood (lower left). (NARA)