



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2014 – Week 1

Air Date: June 1 – June 7 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: RUDDER'S RANGERS

JUNE 1944... AND A TEXAN SCALES THE CLIFFS OF HISTORY,

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 6, 1944. NORMANDY. D-DAY. THE LARGEST INVASION FORCE IN HISTORY HEADS TOWARD THE SHORE TO TAKE FRANCE BACK FROM THE NAZIS.

THE MOST DANGEROUS POINT IN THE LANDING ZONE IS POINTE DU HOC – WITH HUNDRED FOOT TALL CLIFFS CROWNED BY NAZI GUNS.

IT'S SO HARD TO ATTACK, SOMEONE JOKED THREE OLD LADIES WITH BROOMS COULD DEFEND IT.

AS THE INVASION BEGINS, THIRTY-THREE YEAR OLD ARMY OFFICER JAMES EARL RUDDER FROM EDEN, TEXAS LEADS HIS ARMY RANGERS UP THE CLIFFS UNDER HEAVY FIRE. A THIRD ARE KILLED OR WOUNDED AND RUDDER IS HIT TWICE. YET, THEY HOLD POINTE DU HOC AND HELP SECURE AN ALLIED VICTORY.

JAMES EARL RUDDER LATER SERVED AS COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE AND PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M.

RUDDERS RANGERS CLIMBED INTO HISTORY 70 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

William N. Todd IV and Gerald Knape, "RUDDER, JAMES EARL," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fru06>), accessed May 22, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Small Unit Actions: Pointe du Hoe, 2nd Ranger Battalion, 6 June 1944," *US Army Center of Military History* (<http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/smallunit/smallunit-pdh.htm>), accessed May 22, 2014.

"Pointe du Hoc," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pointe_du_Hoc), accessed May 22, 2014.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
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