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Rangers

BRITISH COMMANDOS, WWII

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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NOTE: BRITISH COMMANDO 14 & AMERICAN INDIANS

Did 14 Commando, a British long-distance raiding unit of WWII, include American Indians? Sources here are insufficient to answer that. In the Special Service section of Order of Battle, Second World War, 1939-45, Vol. II, by H.F. Joslen (London: HMSO, 1960; D759.J68v2), p. 454-55, No 14 Commando appears in the spring 1943 organization, but does not reappear in the organizations of Nov 1943 and later.

A brief reference to the unit appears in Hillary St George Saunders' The Green Beret: The Story of the Commandos, 1940-45 (London: Joseph, 1949; D760.C63.S39), pp. 211-12 mentioning that a portion of the No 14 Commando, serving under Northforce, went on the mission from which no one returned. More importantly, it describes the unit's personnel as including "Canadians and Red Indians," implying, perhaps, that the Indians were from Canadian tribal areas, not those of the United States. It is possible, too, that the Indian volunteers were Aleuts or Eskimos, experienced in the rigors of Arctic conditions.