

Founder of American Rangers Still Very Much Alive to Men

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—A great leader never quite dies altogether. He lives in the spirit he kindled among those who followed him.

So it is that, in a very real way, William Orlando Darby, founder of the American Rangers in the second World War, is still very much alive, although he died two days before the war closed.

"Even after all these years we can't think of him as dead," said Charles Contrera, who served as driver-interpreter for the brilliant young West Pointer from Fort Smith, Ark., whose career was ended at 34 by a German artillery shell on the Italian front.

"To us he was almost a God. To the men he seemed superhuman. He was wounded three times, but we never really believed he could be killed—he had been through so much."

Hollywood recently "discovered" Col. Darby, an officer many believed was destined to be Army chief of staff, and Warner Bros. has told part of his story in a notable film of battle action called, "Darby's Rangers."

Contrera was one of a number of former Rangers who attended a preview of the picture here the other night. Now 38, Contrera is an upholsterer by trade. He and his wife, Lucille, have bought a home and are hoping to adopt a baby.

He rarely fights the war anymore "except sometimes at night in his sleep," said his wife, but when he does think of it, his thoughts turn always to Col. Darby.

Charlie was one of the first to volunteer when Darby was given the assignment of creating an elite spearhead force for the Army, a force comparable to the U.S. Marines, but smaller.

As a FFC, Contrera landed with the Rangers in Africa, but it wasn't until after the group had stormed the beaches of Sicily that he came to know Darby well.

"He wanted a driver who could also act as an interpreter," Con-

trera recalled, "and when I told him I could speak a couple of Italian dialects he said, 'get behind the wheel. Let's go.'"

"I didn't know what that would mean to me—or I might have kept my mouth shut. We lived on the front line. We were in tight squeezes all the time."

"The Colonel liked to do his own reconnoitering for his night attacks. When we couldn't go any further by jeep, we'd climb aboard donkeys. And when we got to places in the hills where even the donkeys balked, we'd jump off and go on by foot."

Contrera remembers later in Italy how, day after day, he had to speed his jeep across a 75-yard open area of road swept by machine gun fire.

"The Colonel got a kick out of timing the enemy fire and beating it," he said. "We could see the bullets kicking up dust behind us, but nothing ever bothered him. And, somehow, I felt safe with him."

Only one time did Darby ever

lose his composure. That was at Cisterna, on the Anzio beachhead, when a German division surrounded and largely destroyed two battalions of Rangers as he was trying to break through to their rescue.

"Don't give up. Infiltrate back," Darby kept pleading into the field phone. "Don't give up! Don't give up! Don't give up!"

"When he was told the men couldn't infiltrate back because they were trapped," said Contrera, "the Colonel put his head down on his arm and cried for several moments. He broke down. He had always put the safety of his men first, and he couldn't stand the thought of what was happening to them."

"But none of us ever blamed him. It wasn't his fault."

The last time Contrera ever saw Darby was when the Colonel came to visit 119 surviving Rangers at Camp Butner in North Carolina.

"He never made a speech to us—just talked to us one by one, or in small groups. He was very sad."

After 11 months on the Army general staff in Washington, Darby returned to the Italian front as deputy commander of the 10th Mountain Division. A German shell killed him soon after, as he was inspecting front-line positions.

"I have never before or since, looked up to a man as I did to him," said Contrera. "After his death they made him a Brigadier General, and that was nice of them. He was all soldier."

Ironic Twist Throws Communist in Prison

SEATTLE (AP)—A woman who renounced communism and turned state's evidence became through an ironic twist Monday the only person to serve time in prison from the Northwest's celebrated Smith Act trials of 1953.

Mrs. Barbara Hartle, for years a leading Communist Party functionary in this area, recanted after her arrest, pleaded guilty and testified freely against the six others also charged with conspiring to teach and advocate the forcible overthrow of the government.

She and four others were convicted in October, 1953, one was acquitted and one took his own life during the trial.

Monday the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed the convictions of Henry P. Huff, 58; John S. Daschbach, 42; Terry Pettus, 52, and Paul M. Bowman, 34, and freed them. They cannot be retried.

Mrs. Hartle, star witness for the government, served 20½ months at the federal women's prison at Alderson, W. Va., and was released on parole in January, 1956. She retired then to comparative obscurity on a chicken ranch north of Spokane.

Huff was Pacific Northwest chairman for the Communist Party, Pettus Northwest editor of the People's Daily World, Bowen, a party functionary in the Seattle area and Daschbach chairman of the Washington State Civil Rights Congress.

Karley Larsen, an official of the International Woodworkers of America, was acquitted. William Pennock, head of the Washington Pension Union, committed suicide while the trial was in progress.

The appellate court decision Monday represented a setback for U. S. Atty. Charles P. Moriarty of Seattle, who had recommended that the convictions of the four be dismissed and they be retried.


Ukraine Pravda Assails Religion

MOSCOW (AP)—The newspaper Ukraine Pravda, official communist party organ for that Soviet republic, said Monday that while religion persists in the Soviet Union primarily as a curiosity, it remains a problem and must be stamped out.

Religion persists among "unstable and uneducated" elements, the paper said, and anti-religious lectures alone are not enough to combat it.

"All the forces of ideological influence must be mobilized in a struggle against religion—the cinema, radio, television and class and individual discussions," the newspaper said.

Some of the restrictions on religion were relaxed in the Soviet Union after the death of Stalin in 1953, but atheism remained the official doctrine of the ruling Communist Party. In recent months the party has returned to the offensive against religion.

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Proposed Legislation to Require Unions to Make Records Public

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP)—Secretary of Labor Mitchell Monday said President Eisenhower will ask Congress for legislation requiring unions to make their financial records public.

This is part of a "middle of the road" labor program which the President will propose, Mitchell told a breakfast meeting arranged by the Clark County Republican Central Committee.

The President's proposal will

call for penalties for unions which refuse to disclose their records on handling of union funds and pension programs. These penalties would include the loss of the union's tax-free status and loss of certification as bargaining agents by the National Labor Relations Board, he said.

Two Librarians to Travel to Meeting

Head librarian, Carl Hintz, and documents librarian, Elizabeth Findly, will be in Chicago Jan. 28 through Feb. 1 to attend the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association.

Hintz is vice-chairman of the University Libraries section of the Association of College and Reference Libraries and Miss Findly is a director at large of the ACRL.

Aspergillosis Claims Portland Penguin

PORTLAND (AP)—Portland lost another penguin from its flock yesterday. The bird, one of 67 flown here from the Antarctic last November, apparently died from aspergillosis, a fungus disease of the lungs.

The disease has claimed 10 other penguins here and at other zoos where the penguins were shipped.

Portland still has nine Adelies, smaller size penguins, and 15 Emperors. At least one of the surviving Emperors is believed to be suffering from the disease.

KWAX Schedule

- Tuesday**
 6:00 Sign on
 6:05 News
 6:10 Dinner Hour
 7:00 Perspectives
 7:30 Concert Hour
 8:00 Concert Hour
 8:15 Concert Hour
 8:30 Easy Listening
 8:45 Easy Listening
 9:00 World News
 9:15 Music on Deck
 9:30 Assignment Middle East
 9:45 15 on 78
 10:00 Campus News, Sports
 10:15 Miller's Maladjustment
 11:00 Sign off

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