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(Speeches: D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, 06/06/1984)
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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo (215060)	Robert M. Kimmitt to Richard Darman, re President's draft speech for Omaha Beach ceremonies	5/28/84	PS
COLLECTION: WHORM: Subject File			ggc
FILE FOLDER: SP891 D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, France, 6/6/84 (215060) [1 of 2]			3/4/96

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(e)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-5 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

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WS

Memorandum

OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

WE STAND TODAY AT A PLACE OF BATTLE, ONE THAT 40 YEARS AGO SAW AND FELT THE WORST OF WAR. THEY BLED AND DIED HERE FOR A FEW FEET OR INCHES OF SAND AS BULLETS AND SHELLFIRE CUT THROUGH THEIR RANKS. ABOUT THEM, GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY LATER SAID: "EVERY MAN WHO SET FOOT ON OMAHA BEACH THAT DAY WAS A HERO."

NO SPEECH CAN ADEQUATELY PORTRAY THEIR SUFFERING, THEIR SACRIFICE, THEIR HEROISM. PRESIDENT LINCOLN ONCE REMINDED US THAT — THROUGH THEIR DEEDS — THE DEAD OF BATTLE HAVE SPOKEN MORE ELOQUENTLY FOR THEMSELVES THAN ANY OF THE LIVING EVER COULD, THAT WE CAN ONLY HONOR THEM BY REDEDICATING OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE A LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION.

TODAY, WE DO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THAT CAUSE. AND AT THIS PLACE OF HONOR, WE ARE HUMBLLED BY THE REALIZATION OF HOW MUCH SO MANY GAVE TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND TO THEIR FELLOW MAN.

SOME WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLE ON JUNE 6TH, 1944, ARE HERE TODAY. OTHERS WHO HOPED TO RETURN NEVER DID.

"SOMEDAY, LIS, I'LL GO BACK," SAID PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PETER ROBERT ZANATTA, OF THE 37TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, AND FIRST ASSAULT WAVE TO HIT OMAHA BEACH.

"I'LL GO BACK AND I'LL SEE IT ALL AGAIN. I'LL SEE THE BEACH, THE BARRICADES, AND THE GRAVES."

THOSE WORDS OF PRIVATE ZANATTA COME TO US FROM HIS DAUGHTER, LISA ZANATTA HENN, IN A HEART-RENDING STORY ABOUT THE EVENT HER FATHER SPOKE OF OFTEN. "THE NORMANDY INVASION WOULD CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER," SHE SAID.

SHE TELLS SOME OF HIS STORIES OF WORLD WAR II, BUT SAYS FOR HER FATHER "THE STORY TO END ALL STORIES WAS D-DAY."

"HE MADE ME FEEL THE FEAR OF BEING ON THAT BOAT WAITING TO LAND. I CAN SMELL THE OCEAN AND FEEL THE SEASICKNESS. I CAN SEE THE LOOKS ON HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS' FACES, THE FEAR, THE ANGUISH, THE UNCERTAINTY OF WHAT LAY AHEAD. AND WHEN THEY LANDED, I CAN FEEL THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF THE MEN WHO TOOK THOSE FIRST STEPS THROUGH THE TIDE TO WHAT MUST HAVE SURELY LOOKED LIKE INSTANT DEATH."

PRIVATE ZANATTA'S DAUGHTER SAYS:
"I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY I CAN FEEL THIS EMPTINESS, THIS FEAR, OR THIS DETERMINATION, BUT I DO. MAYBE IT'S THE BOND I HAD WITH MY FATHER...ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES TO THINK ABOUT MY FATHER AS A 20-YEAR-OLD BOY HAVING TO FACE THAT BEACH."

THE ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY WAS ALWAYS SPECIAL FOR HER FAMILY, AND LIKE ALL THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO WENT TO WAR, SHE DESCRIBES HOW SHE CAME TO REALIZE HER OWN FATHER'S SURVIVAL WAS A MIRACLE.

"SO MANY MEN DIED. I KNOW THAT MY FATHER WATCHED MANY OF HIS FRIENDS BE KILLED. I KNOW THAT HE MUST HAVE DIED INSIDE A LITTLE EACH TIME. BUT HIS EXPLANATION TO ME WAS 'YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO AND YOU KEPT ON GOING.'"

WHEN MEN LIKE PRIVATE ZANATTA AND ALL OUR ALLIED FORCES STORMED THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY 40 YEARS AGO, THEY CAME NOT AS CONQUERORS, BUT AS LIBERATORS. WHEN THESE TROOPS SWEEP ACROSS THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE AND INTO THE FORESTS OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, THEY CAME NOT TO TAKE, BUT TO RETURN WHAT HAD BEEN WRONGLY SEIZED.

WHEN OUR FORCES MARCHED INTO GERMANY, THEY
CAME NOT TO PREY ON A BRAVE AND DEFEATED
PEOPLE, BUT TO NURTURE THE SEEDS OF
DEMOCRACY AMONG THOSE WHO YEARNED TO BE FREE
AGAIN.

WE SALUTE THEM TODAY. BUT,
MR. PRESIDENT, WE ALSO SALUTE THOSE WHO,
LIKE YOURSELF, WERE ALREADY ENGAGING THE
ENEMY INSIDE YOUR BELOVED COUNTRY —
THE FRENCH RESISTANCE. YOUR VALIANT
STRUGGLE FOR FRANCE DID SO MUCH TO CRIPPLE
THE ENEMY AND SPUR THE ADVANCE OF THE ARMIES
OF LIBERATION. THE FRENCH FORCES OF THE
INTERIOR WILL FOREVER PERSONIFY COURAGE AND
NATIONAL SPIRIT; THEY WILL BE A TIMELESS
INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO ARE FREE, AND TO ALL
WHO WOULD BE FREE.

TODAY, IN THEIR MEMORY, AND FOR ALL WHO
FOUGHT HERE, WE CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF
DEMOCRACY.

WE REAFFIRM THE UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES WHO FOUGHT A WAR AND THEN JOINED WITH THE VANQUISHED IN A FIRM RESOLVE TO KEEP THE PEACE.

FROM A TERRIBLE WAR, WE LEARNED THAT UNITY MADE US INVINCIBLE; NOW, IN PEACE, THAT SAME UNITY MAKES US SECURE. WE SOUGHT TO BRING ALL FREEDOM-LOVING NATIONS TOGETHER IN A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO THE DEFENSE AND PRESERVATION OF OUR SACRED VALUES.

OUR ALLIANCE, FORGED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF WAR, TEMPERED AND SHAPED BY THE REALITIES OF THE POST-WAR WORLD, HAS SUCCEEDED. IN EUROPE, THE THREAT HAS BEEN CONTAINED, THE PEACE HAS BEEN KEPT.

TODAY, THE LIVING HERE ASSEMBLED — OFFICIALS, VETERANS, CITIZENS — ARE A TRIBUTE TO WHAT WAS ACHIEVED HERE 40 YEARS AGO. THIS LAND IS SECURE. WE ARE FREE. THESE THINGS WERE WORTH FIGHTING — AND DYING -- FOR.

LISA ZANATTA HENN BEGAN HER STORY BY QUOTING FROM HER FATHER, WHO PROMISED HE WOULD RETURN TO NORMANDY. SHE ENDED WITH A PROMISE TO HER FATHER, WHO DIED 8 YEARS AGO OF CANCER. "I'M GOING THERE...DAD, AND I'LL SEE THE BEACHES AND THE BARRICADES AND THE MONUMENTS. I'LL SEE THE GRAVES AND I'LL PUT FLOWERS THERE JUST LIKE YOU WANTED TO DO... I'LL FEEL ALL THE THINGS YOU MADE ME FEEL THROUGH YOUR STORIES AND YOUR EYES. I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH, DAD, NOR WILL I LET ANYONE ELSE FORGET — AND DAD, I'LL ALWAYS BE PROUD."

THROUGH THE WORDS OF HIS LOVING DAUGHTER — (WHO IS HERE WITH US TODAY) — A D-DAY VETERAN HAS SHOWN US THE MEANING OF THIS DAY FAR BETTER THAN ANY PRESIDENT CAN.

IT IS ENOUGH FOR US TO SAY ABOUT PRIVATE
ZANATTA AND ALL THE MEN OF HONOR AND COURAGE
WHO FOUGHT BESIDE HIM FOUR DECADES AGO,
WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER. WE WILL ALWAYS BE
PROUD. WE WILL ALWAYS BE PREPARED, SO WE
MAY ALWAYS BE FREE.

#

(Dolan/RR)
May 30, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellow man.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday, Lis, I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; and like all the families of those who went to war, she describes how she came to realize her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'"

"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

When men like Private Zanatta and all our allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy 40 years ago, they came not as conquerors, but as liberators. When these troops swept across the French countryside and into the forests of Belgium and Luxembourg, they came not to take, but to restore what had been wrongly taken. When our forces marched into a ruined Germany, they came not to prey on a brave and defeated people, but to nurture the seeds of democracy among those who yearned again to be free.

We salute them today; we also salute those who were already engaging the enemy inside this country -- the French Resistance -- whose valiant service for France did so much to cripple the enemy in their midst and assist in the advance of the invading armies of liberation. These French Forces of the Interior will forever offer us an image of courage and national spirit, and will be a permanent inspiration to those who are free and all those who would be free.

This day, we celebrate the triumph of democracy. This day, we reaffirm the unity of democratic peoples who fought a war and then joined with the vanquished in a firm resolve to keep the peace from that time on.

From a terrible war, we learned that unity made us invincible; now, in peace, that same unity can make us secure. We sought the inclusion of all freedom-loving nations in a community dedicated to the defense and preservation of our sacred values. Our alliance, forged in the crucible of war, tempered and shaped by the realities of the post-war world, has succeeded in this end. In Europe, the threat has been contained. The peace has been kept.

Today, the living here assembled -- officials, veterans, citizens -- are a tribute to what was achieved here 40 years ago. This land is secure. We are free. These things were worth fighting -- and dying -- for.

Lisa Zanatta Henn began her essay with a quote from her father, who frequently promised he would return to Normandy. She ended her essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She promised him, ". . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words a loving daughter -- who is here with us today -- a D-Day veteran has given us the meaning of this day far better than any President can. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him four decades ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

Joe Rod's
Ireland, UK
Brieting Book
5/29

MEMORANDUM

Received 4279
1984 MAY 29 AM 9:07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DARMAN

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT ^{Boh}

SUBJECT: President's Draft Speech for Omaha Beach
Ceremonies

Attached at Tab A is a revised version of the draft Presidential remarks to be delivered at Omaha Beach. The attached draft, written by State and NSC, refocuses the speech-writer's draft -- which concentrated heavily on one personal experience -- toward a broad tribute to the sacrifices of the American and Allied soldiers. It also draws attention to the role of French Resistance which is important given the fact that President Mitterrand will attend the ceremonies with the President.

Attachment
Tab A - Draft Speech

cc: Ben Elliott

A

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:

I come before you today as President of a country which has buried many of its war dead in foreign soil. I look out on the crosses and stars-of-David bearing names familiar to every American and feel an overwhelming sense of awe for the supreme sacrifice these men have made. From all parts of the American nation these men came to a foreign land to face a powerful foe. They died to free Europe, knowing at the same time that they were fighting to keep America free.

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much so many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellowman. One such hero, Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion, was one of the first to hit Omaha Beach.

"Someday I'll go back and I'll see it all again," he promised his daughter Lisa, "I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Lisa Zanatta Henn recounted these words in an essay about her father who bravely fought, and ultimately succumbed to, a battle with cancer eight years ago. "So many men died," she wrote, "I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'you did what you had to do and you kept on going.'"

Lisa is here today, fulfilling a promise made to her father that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. "I will never forget what you went through, Dad," she concluded, "nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

When our allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy 40 years ago, they came not as conquerors, but as liberators. When these troops swept across the French countryside and into the forests of Belgium and Luxembourg, they came not to take, but to restore what had been wrongfully taken. When our forces marched into a ruined Germany, they came not to prey on a brave and defeated people, but to nurture the seeds of democracy among those who yearned again to be free.

We also salute those who were already engaging the enemy inside this country -- the French Resistance -- whose valiant service for France did so much to cripple the enemy in their midst and assist in the advance of the invading armies of liberation. These French Forces of the Interior will forever offer us an image of courage and national spirit, and will be a permanent inspiration for all free peoples.

This day, we celebrate the triumph of democracy. This day, we reaffirm the unity of the democratic peoples everywhere who fought the war and then joined with the vanquished in a firm resolve to keep the peace forevermore.

We learned from that terrible war that our unity made us invincible. Now, in peace, that same unity would make us secure. We sought the inclusion of all freedom-loving nations in a

community dedicated to the defense and preservation of our sacred values. Our Alliance, forged in the crucible of war, tempered and shaped by the harsh realities of the post-war world, has succeeded in this end. In Europe, the threat has been contained. The peace has been kept.

As I look out on this sea of gravestones, my final thoughts dwell on the heroism, patriotism and supreme sacrifice of our men and women buried here. They are fittingly honored by this memorial. For those, such as Private Zanatta, who bravely fought and returned from these shores, we rejoice in their return to the hopes and dreams they had left behind. Yet I cannot help to look into the faces of the living here assembled -- officials, veterans, citizens -- and say this is the greatest tribute of all. We are free. This land is secure. And our peoples are enriched because democracy was worth fighting -- and dying -- for.

(Dolan/BE)
May 25, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellowman.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; she describes how, as she read more about it, she realized her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'

"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

"My dad is gone now. It's been eight years. He died fighting a war against cancer. Even then, the experience of D-Day was on his mind. When he was just about ready to go into surgery, I asked him how he was doing. He looked at me and said, "Lis, I fell just like I did at the Invasion of Normandy, I don't know if I'll live or die."

Lisa Zanatta Henn began the essay with a quote from her father about how he would return to Normandy. She ended the essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She vowed to him, ". . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words his loving daughter -- who is with us today -- a D-Day veteran has described the meaning of this day far better than any President will today. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him that day 40 years ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

The President has seen _____

CAMP DAVID

MEMORANDUM TO DICK DARMAN

FROM: DAVE FISCHER *def*

SUBJECT: SPEECHES SENT TO CAMP DAVID

The President made only a few changes on the Ballyporeen speech; those pages with changes are attached. The other speeches were acceptable.

The President noticed that in one speech Irish Americans number 13 million while another speech uses the figure 40 million. Which one is correct?

27 May 1984

(Dolan/BE)
May 25, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

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"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

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46

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, 5/29

SUBJECT: _____ REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
(5/25 - 3:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY <i>ok 5/29</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN <i>no comment 5/29</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING <i>no obj 5/29</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIRTHLIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Da comeo to (P) 5/25 3:30

(Dolan/BE)
May 25, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

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Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellowman.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; she describes how, as she read more about it, she realized her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'"

"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

"My dad is gone now. It's been eight years. He died fighting a war against cancer. Even then, the experience of D-Day was on his mind. When he was just about ready to go into surgery, I asked him how he was doing. He looked at me and said, "Lis, I fell just like I did at the Invasion of Normandy, I don't know if I'll live or die."

Lisa Zanatta Henn began the essay with a quote from her father about how he would return to Normandy. She ended the essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She vowed to him, ". . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words his loving daughter -- who is with us today -- a D-Day veteran has described the meaning of this day far better than any President will today. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him that day 40 years ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

THE WHITE HOUSE (504 MAY 29 11:10:46)
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks
for Omaha Beach Memorial

Our office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks,
which seem very appropriate for this occasion, and has no
legal or other substantive objection to them.

cc: Richard G. Darman ←

1984 MAY 29 PM 1:20

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, 5/29

SUBJECT: REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
(5/25 - 3:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIRTHLIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK

M. Rogues

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

(Dolan/BE)
May 25, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

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Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

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She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

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She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special, she describes how, as she read more about it, she realized her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'

"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

"My dad is gone now. It's been eight years. He died fighting a war against cancer. Even then, the experience of D-Day was on his mind. When he was just about ready to go into surgery, I asked him how he was doing. He looked at me and said, "Lis, I fell just like I did at the Invasion of Normandy, I don't know if I'll live or die."

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Through the words his loving daughter -- who is with us today -- a D-Day veteran has described the meaning of this day far better than any President will today. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him that day 40 years ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ^{Received} \$ S

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

1984 MAY 29 PM 2:26

May 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: BEN ELLIOTT
FROM: ~~AL KEEL~~ (A)
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Omaha Beach
Memorial Remarks

We have reviewed the draft and have no comment.

✓
cc: Dick Darman
Dave Gerson

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT ^{Bob}
SUBJECT: Omaha Beach Remarks

The NSC concurs with the latest draft of the Omaha Beach remarks. However, given the time guidelines (3-5 minutes) for the speech, we have indicated where we feel the remarks could be trimmed, including a suggested revised and shortened conclusion.

Tab A - Omaha Beach Remarks w/suggested revisions

cc Dick Darman

R. M. S. 4279
ADD-ON
1984 MAY 31 PM 3:12

(Dolan/RR)
May 30, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests:

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellow man.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday, Lis, I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

[Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."]

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; and like all the families of those who went to war, she describes how she came to realize her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'"

["My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."]

When men like Private Zanatta and all our allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy 40 years ago, they came not as conquerors, but as liberators. When these troops swept across the French countryside and into the forests of Belgium and Luxembourg, they came not to take, but to restore what had been wrongly taken. When our forces marched into a ruined Germany, they came not to prey on a brave and defeated people, but to nurture the seeds of democracy among those who yearned again to be free.

We salute them today; we also salute those who were already engaging the enemy inside this country -- the French Resistance -- whose valiant service for France did so much to cripple the enemy in their midst and assist in the advance of the invading armies of liberation. These French Forces of the Interior will forever offer us an image of courage and national spirit, and will be a permanent inspiration to those who are free and all those who would be free.

This day, we celebrate the triumph of democracy. This day, we reaffirm the unity of democratic peoples who fought a war and then joined with the vanquished in a firm resolve to keep the peace from that time on.

From a terrible war, we learned that unity made us invincible; now, in peace, that same unity can make us secure. We sought the inclusion of all freedom-loving nations in a community dedicated to the defense and preservation of our sacred values. Our alliance, forged in the crucible of war, tempered and shaped by the realities of the post-war world, has succeeded in this end. In Europe, the threat has been contained. The peace has been kept. * Recommend drop last three paragraphs, substitute shorter paragraph [see insert]

[Today, the living here assembled -- officials, veterans, citizens -- are a tribute to what was achieved here 40 years ago. This land is secure. We are free. These things were worth fighting -- and dying -- for.]

[Lisa Zanatta Henn began her essay with a quote from her father, who frequently promised he would return to Normandy. She ended her essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She promised him, " . . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words a loving daughter -- who is here with us today -- a D-Day veteran has given us the meaning of this day far better than any President can. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him four decades ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

(Insert for Page 4)

As I look out on the sea of gravestones, my final thoughts dwell on the heroism, patriotism and supreme sacrifice of our men and women buried here. They are fittingly honored by this memorial. For those, such as Private Zanatta, who bravely fought and returned from these shores, we rejoice in their return to the hopes and dreams they had left behind. Yet, I cannot help to look into the faces of the living here assembled -- officials, veterans, citizens -- and say this is the greatest tribute of all. We are free. This land is secure. And our peoples are enriched because democracy was worth fighting -- and dying -- for.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, 5/29

SUBJECT: REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS
 (5/25 - 3:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>TUTWILER</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WIRTHLIN</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>HENKEL</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

no OCA staffing

Richard G. Darman
 Assistant to the President
 Ext. 2702

5:30
(Dolan/BE)
May 25, 1984
3:00 p.m.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

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